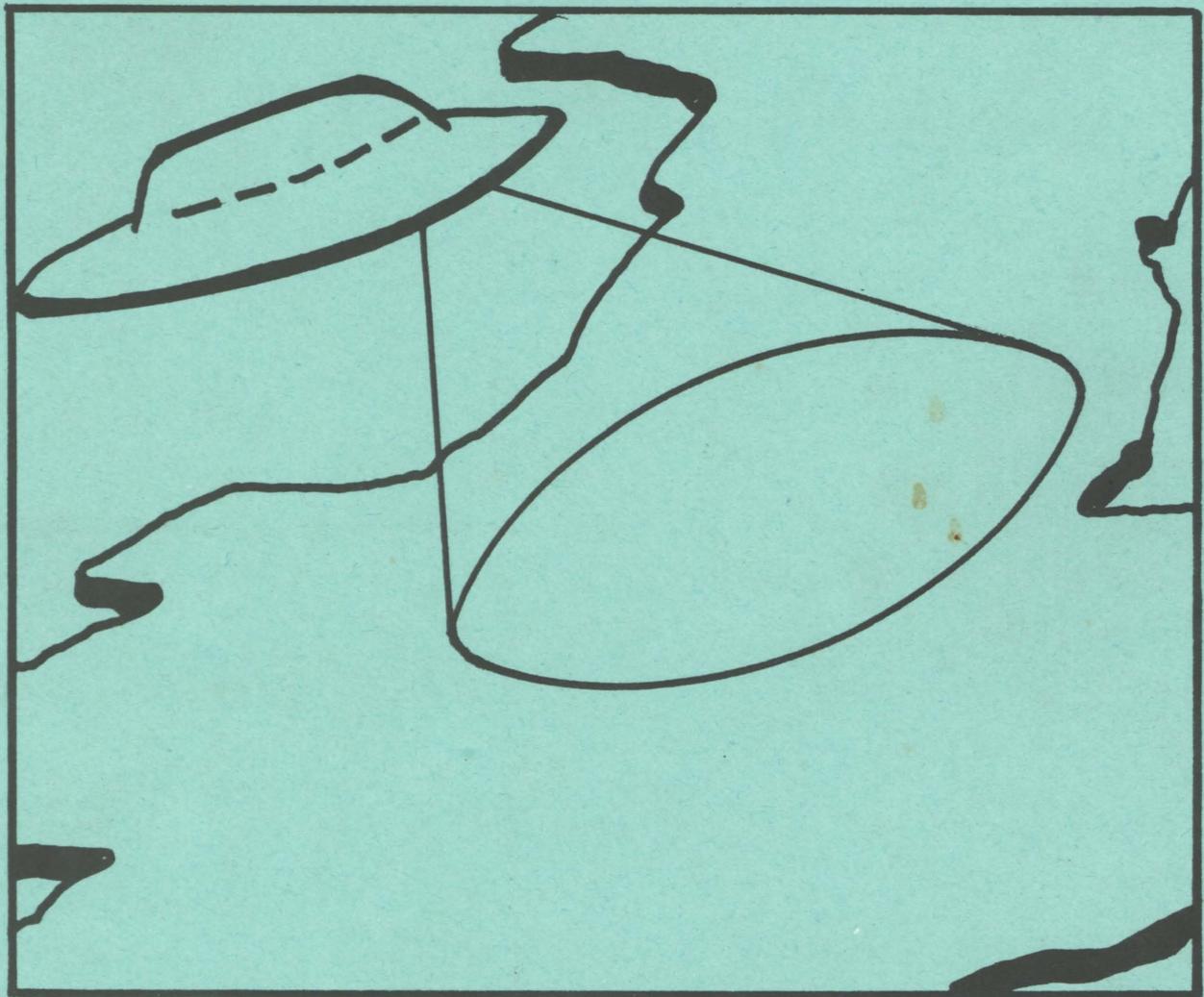


NORTHERN UFO NEWS



NEWSLETTER OF THE NORTHERN UFO NETWORK
(NUFON)

23, Sunningdale Dr. Irlam. Gt. M/c. M30 6NJ.

"Nufon is a liaison system for independant U F O organisations and researchers in Northern Britain. It acts as a coordination centre for investigation, research and general information".

CONTENTS:

P.2	ENGLISH UFO PUBLICATIONS - A Review	
P.3	STATUS REPORT ON WORLD WAR III	ALTERNATIVE FOUR!
P.4	HOW GOOD ARE OUR FIELD INVESTIGATORS?	J.B. Delair (CONTACT UK)
P.5	NUFON AREA DIVISIONS	Reports: Cheshire, Greater Manchester, Notts
P.6- 10	Reports; Cheshire, Greater Manchester, Leicestershire, North Humberside, Lancashire, Staffordshire	
P.10	NUFON COORDINATED SKYWATCHES	NUFON CONFERENCE 1977
P.11	NEWS ROUND-UP Paul Whetnall	NUFON SERVICES- Addresses

EDITORIAL: 'What is the point of NUFON?'

Paul Whetnall, in his new column (p.11) has found a divergence of opinion about the value of NUFON. This is something to be expected, if one considers the fact that there are two types of ufo society. These are the hobbyist and the researcher. I fully realise that these comments will not be greeted favourably by some, but I will look at the question posed by this editorial from both points of view.

The hobbyist group is probably the starting point for most currently active organisations. A group of people interested in UFOs get together for something to do in their spare time. From their point of view they would only 'join' NUFON if it was useful to them. The adverse reaction Paul has encountered comes from such people who ask, "What do WE get out of NUFON?" In truth the material rewards are not great. They exist of course. NUFON participants have direct access to some 800+ reports from all over the north (to expand considerably with the SUFON files - see P.3). Alone they only have direct access to a handful from their own locality. NUFONs are quite happy to provide photocopy material from the files at cost price (address p.11). Other concrete benefits are the reference library of overseas publications and cassette tapes of ufo lectures (again p.11). This is apart from the meetings and conferences, which enable one to meet other ufologists if so desired. Since it costs nothing to join NUFON (even the £2 subscription to NUN is not - I hope - exorbitant) then surely the most isolationist of groups must see some usefulness in the above.

Should such people wish to belong to a society with a more general appeal than they may, for example, pay £5 each and become an individual member of BUFORA. I doubt, however, if they will find too much extra for their money. Indeed some would say less.

Now, a research group would rarely even ask 'What is the point of NUFON?' They are not primarily involved in ufology for what they can get out of it, but for the higher objectives of contributing to the search for answers to one of the most baffling mysteries man has ever known. It would be futility in the extreme to try to do this alone. Ufology is far too complex. Scientific progress is made by people having access to isolated bits of information from many sources and occasionally making these fit together. The NUFON community fosters this ability by reprinting salient details of all your reports, and making the full details available to others on request (via the files). It also provides a communication medium which brings news of developments going on around you right up to date (hence the importance of the monthly schedule of NUN). The other benefits, mentioned above, are incidental - although not unimportant.

This dichotomy will continue, although hobbyist groups do make the transition. If they do not they eventually fade away into oblivion, because of course they have no goals to reach towards. At least if they had participated in NUFON their work is preserved for posterity, and they may feel that whilst having fun in their hobby they had contributed to man's search for knowledge. I do not decry either type of group. Both have roles to play. Ufology can be fun, but it can be serious hard work too. Whatever the purpose of your organisation, or yourself as an individual NUFON needs you. If you look beyond the basic questions of what you immediately get out of it you will see also that you need NUFON.

ENGLISH UFO PUBLICATIONS:

I thought it might be useful to present an updated survey of the publications scene for those who wish to expand their range of data input.

FSR (Independent) West Malling, Maidstone, Kent £4.20 6 issues (32pp full glossy)
Britain's most respected publication, famous throughout the world. Essential for all serious researchers. Will now contain full reports on all important UK cases.

MUFOB (Independent) 11 Beverley Rd, New Malden, Surrey £1.25 4 issues (16pp litho)
Mostly new ufology, eg parapsychological aspects. Essential to all but ETH supporters

FORTEAN TIMES (Indep) PO Box 152, London N10 1EP £3 4 issues (litho)
Catalogues anomolous phenomena, some of which may well be relevant to ufology.

CNK (Independent) 37 The Close, Dunmow Essex 25p per issue, quarterly (Duplicated)
Informal. Generalised articles. Of interest especially to newcomers to the field.

BUDC Bulletin (BUDC) 10 Park Ct., Park Hall Rd, London SE21 £2 4 issues (photocopy)
Very serious research articles, many from scientists. Every issue to date has had a significant article within. Essential to all serious researchers. No ufo reports.

CONTACT UK 19 Cumnor Rd., Wootton, Boars Hill, Oxon £3 membership. (Duplicated)
Membership covers quarterly AWARENESS - general articles and serious research work and UFO REGISTER - weighty annual research report. Excellent value for money.

BUFORA 6 Cairn Avenue, Ealing, London W5 5HX £5 membership (20pp litho)
Unlike CONTACT publication can only be received with membership. Bi-monthly journal features general articles and occasional detailed sighting reports.

UFO RESEARCH REVIEW (NUFOIS) 443 Meadow Lane, Nottingham, NG2 3GB 25p per issue
Nuts and bolts ufology. Well respected. One of the best group publications. Transcends local content. Quarterly (16pp litho)

PROTEUS (UFOSIS) 136 Cleveland Tower, Holloway Circus, Birmingham B1 1UE
General articles and reports from West Midlands Twice yearly (Photocopy)

LINK (MUFORA) 125 Beresford St, Manchester M14 4RY Free Restricted (Duplicated)
Published occasionally. Limited availability only on request. General articles.

SKLINK (WUFOS) 760 New Chester Rd, Bromborough, Wirral Approx quarterly (Duplicated)
Local news and articles from Merseyside.

SKYWATCH (MAPIT) 92 Hillcrest Rd, Offerton, Stockport SK2 5SE 20p per issue
General news and articles. Ufology's 'chat-show' style Approx quarterly (Duplicated)
publication. Good medium if you have something to say.

PULSAR (PULSE) 29 Bairstow St, Preston PR1 3JN Quarterly (photocopy/litho)
Articles relating ufology and the study of ley lines and such phenomena.

LANTERN (BSIG) 3 Dunwich Way, Lowestoft, Norfolk 85p 4 issues (Duplicated)
Covers ufos, folklore, ghosts etc in East Anglia. Good research material.

JOURNAL (EUFOSG) 16 Raydons Rd, Dagenham, Essex £2.50 6 issues (Duplicated)
Fine publication covering ufos in Essex. General articles and detailed reports.

FOUNTAIN JOURNAL 78 Portway, Warminster, Wilts £4 12 issues (litho)
Warminster phenomena and some general articles, including SF and astrology.

SCAN (BUPRG) 8 Southill Rd, Winton, Bournemouth 25p per issue (litho)
Twice yearly review of Dorset UFOs and other anomolous phenomena

WATSUP JOURNAL 9 Norman Rd, Southsea, Hants 25p (Duplicated) Occasional only.
Very wide range of articles on anomolous phenomena in Hampshire, inc UFOs.

The above is not intended to be a complete guide. One or two publications have been omitted if they have only had one issue or have not appeared for some time. One which must be mentioned outside of England (the only one in the UK so far as we know!) is IRISH UFO NEWS. Available from 19 Cairnshill Ave, Belfast BT8 4NR at a special rate of 50p for its twice yearly issues it is an excellent review of the Irish UFO scene. (Duplicated).

One thing I notice from the above. Southern publications have a far wider scope than northern ones. Considering the obvious relation of ufology to other paranormal events this is sad. Maybe it is about time something was done about it.

STATUS REPORT ON WORLD WAR III - Or 'Mount Everest from an ant-hill'

I have no intention of perpetuating this stupid row between BUFORA and myself, but for your benefit will give a status report.

I have sent a letter of resignation to BUFORA explaining clearly the position. This takes effect from the date it is printed - unedited and complete - in BUFORA JOURNAL. This is only fair to the membership, who have a right to know why I have been forced out.

Lionel Beer continues to stir up the confrontation by saying that I have set BUFORA up as the 'common enemy' with yourselves and done damage it will take a long time to repair. I leave it to you to form your own opinions on that. You know the kind of treatment you have had from BUFORA in the past - reports being swallowed up, no credit given, and photos and samples stored for months without action. I will not argue the point. We have more important things to do than to continue battling as MUFOR put it 'closer to the schoolyard than serious ufology'. You have a totally free rein what you do about BUFORA. No incitement is given.

However, UFORA Staffs ask it to be pointed out that they have withdrawn all support from BUFORA, as have MUFORA, UFOSIS and WUFOS. Peter Warrington and Derek James have resigned as RICS for the North West and North Midlands. I gather that other NUFON associates have reacted in a similar vein. To be fair it should be said that BUFORA Yorkshire maintain their support for their parent organisation - a factor which is respected. It should not effect their involvement with NUFON.

In the south group involvement with BUFORA is sporadic, but a SOUTHERN UFO NETWORK is at last underway. The driving force, John Makin (a policeman member of WATSU@) has the full support of the Essex UFO Study Group, SCAN, SIGAP and others less known in the north. The mood has dramatically altered in recent months and this time it seems certain that SUFON will take off (they already have headed paper).

Preliminary talks have begun to form a close working relationship, leading (both sides hope) to a British Network. However, the continuance of NUFON and SUFON as independent regional sections is viewed as important. It is planned that the SUFON files will be stored at the NUFOIS HQ in Nottingham along with the NUFON files, making available to UK researchers a vast repository of data. This can be nothing short of a major development for ufology in the UK and we wish John and his colleagues all the best. By the September conference we hope to have more concrete ideas for the future for your consideration.

ALTERNATIVE FOUR!

It is rare to have an hour long, networked TV programme of direct relevance to review two months in succession, but with the transmission of Anglia's ALTERNATIVE THREE on June 20th it has happened.

For those who missed this 'hoax' it concerned a supposed documentary interlinking anomalous phenomena - such as strange disappearances of top scientists, the sudden curtailing of space missions, secret broadcasts from the moon and the recent world-wide weather upheaval. The programme led to a conclusion that a top secret mission to transport a colony to Mars existed, in view of the imminent collapse of the world's ecology. Everyone was supposed to accept it as genuine - as with Orson Welles famous broadcast in the 30's - until all was revealed at the very end. However, reaction was not earth shattering. Anglia did get a large number of calls afterwards, and reviewers complained of the waste of money on such a poor joke. But nobody ran out into the streets in panic. (At least not in Irlar - though it is quite possible Irlamites do not believe they live in the same world as everyone else!)

Maybe this is all there is to be said, but it is just possible that the whole thing was hinting at something more. There are questions to be asked such as:

Why transmit it simultaneously to several countries? (It seems this was not a ruse)
Why was the acting so pathetic that it was obvious to anyone who watched with care that the supposed interviews were faked?
Why make it glaringly obvious at the end that it was a PLAY, not just a joke?
Why - if transmission was scheduled for April 1st - was the date so emblazoned on the end credits?

ALTERNATIVE FOUR Cont...

It seems possible that the programme was 'aimed' at the intellectual audience. They will be the ones asking the above questions. Everyone else would pass it off immediately as a silly joke. If the intention was to fool people it largely failed - perhaps deliberately. It could have been far better, and the producers (given peak viewing time don't forget) must have known this. One might even conceivably see it as an elaborate experiment to test reaction.

However, put yourself in the position of a TV producer who comes up with startling facts which he cannot prove. Maybe he does not have them all, or maybe he just sees a link between apparently unrelated facts. How would he present them? If factually the programme would probably not go out, or he would be challenged without hope of proving them, but as a drama which was deliberately interspersed with clues to show to those who thought deeply about it it may work. If challenged he could always point to the quite clear indications that it WAS a play, but if truth were there he would expect results from the relevant sources.

I am not saying that the film of a landing on Mars was real. Nor am I saying that even most of the programme was true - but could there be an Alternative FOUR? It is worth considering and do not forget that contactee Mrs Hamilton recently told of disappearing people being taken to the dark side of the moon....mmmmmm.

HOW GOOD ARE OUR FIELD INVESTIGATORS? J.B. Delair (CONTACT UK)

For many years ufologists have decried official statements about UFOs, and the often patently ludicrous explanations put forward to 'explain' specific sightings. There is no doubt that quite a high proportion of reported 'UFOs' turn out to be mundane or natural phenomena viewed under certain conditions. That these should be isolated from the main body of truly inexplicable reports is, of course, eminently desirable. This is a policy every self-respecting ufologist and ufo study group continuously adopts to all in-coming sightings.

Laudible though this is, the writer has noted a large number of printed conclusions in recent months that simply cannot be accorded any serious consideration. One becomes aware, on reviewing past issues of NUN, of apparently hasty interpretations by individuals who attempt to impart a lustre of respect to their field investigations. One is naturally appreciative of attempts to identify even quite odd looking aerial phenomena in familiar terms PROVIDED that is PRECISELY what the phenomenon actually was.

In NUN April/May 1977 Report 76/137 the investigators conclude that the light was a satellite because they 'felt' that the witnesses may have exaggerated the lights apparent size, in effect impugning their observational ability. We are not told if any satellites were around at the time but a check shows that the nearest fly-past was 48 minutes later! The interpretation is, therefore, extremely suspect. This is but one of many examples which could be cited.

One difficulty is that an investigator usually deals with only a solitary case from the locality. Were he aware of activity over a wider area simultaneously he might arrive at different conclusions. His role is thus partially compartmentalised, and this enables him to focus on a case without his views being coloured by contemporary events which may have no bearing. But it has the disadvantage of suggesting over-mundane explanations for events that may be caused by anything but mundane agencies. The example cited occurred on October 12 1976, when four different Australian localities were visited by UFOs, another in Switzerland, one in Canada and four in the USA (one involving a diminutive occupant). Many more reports may yet filter in. Field investigators cannot be aware of this world picture at the time, of course, but factually accurate and closely reasoned conclusions should automatically result. Such results often appear to be missing.

UFO investigations are in a sense the bricks from which the ufological house is built. If cracks (as with reports such as these) appear we must repair them now.

(EDITOR: Bernard further points out that it would be wise practice for UFO investigators to have to report on their own investigation and not just the sighting in question. Checks for aircraft, satellites etc should always be made

HOW GOOD ARE OUR FIELD INVESTIGATORS Cont...

He further suggests that we adopt a policy similar to that of CONTACT where only trained investigators work on a case. CONTACT have produced an exam to help teach basics. Of course NUFON cannot force groups to do this - but if you are interested in trying this out contact me and I will obtain a copy of the examination papers (if Contact do not object). Note also that the points above give a further benefit of NUFON - see editorial - since the NUN is able to quickly notify of any dates when high incidence of phenomena occur thus allowing reappraisal of investigation before it is too late. This happened with the date cited, October 12th, when we were able to note the number of UK cases that had occurred. It has happened on Mar 4, Mar 8/9 and Apr 28 and May 21 this year. Satellite information can be obtained from the TRACKING CENTRE at Slough.)

NUFON AREA DIVISIONS

Some details are available on agreements over investigation areas within NUFON. The next stage is for these to be confirmed by the participants and for a hot-line number to be set up for an area, using the person who is most accessible to a phone for most time. This number can be publicised with the media, police etc and reports directly channeled through and via it to the relevant group or investigator. This system works remarkably well in the South East where it has been operating for some time. NUFON regions not yet organised should please try to make agreements as soon as possible.

NORTH EAST Bill Muir (TYNESIDE plus Northumberland, Durham and N. Cumbria), BUFORA Yorks (North and West YORKSHIRE), Phil Fergus & Derick Shelton (North Humberside), UFORUM (South YORKSH RE), SUFORS (South Humberside, Lincolnshire)

NORTH WEST Ian Cresswell (South Cumbria), RIGAP (North and Mid East Lancashire) FAPURG (West Lancashire), DIGAP (South East Lancashire), MUFORA (Greater Manchester) WUFOS (Merseyside, North West Cheshire)

MIDLANDS FUFOR (Mid and South Cheshire), UFORA (Staffordshire, West Derby) NUFOIS (East Midlands), UFOSIS (West Midlands), Ian Sanderson (Southern parts of West Midlands), Alan Knight (Salop and Welsh borderlands).

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SIGHTING REPORTS

NB It has been proposed that the term 'Reliability factor' (see last issue) be altered to INVESTIGATION LEVEL. This seems more appropriate and is thus adopted.

REPORT 4502 Approx 1945 Shavington, Cheshire Level A FUFOR

The area is farmland south of Crewe. Two men reported a whistling noise followed by a streak of light, lasting a few seconds, and a thud as a red object struck a field. Investigation of the site did reveal a circular depression, about one yard in diameter with grass of a slightly different colour but no confirmed trace (not surprising after 30 years). Investigators suggest that one of the witnesses may be correct when he states that it might have been a meteorite.

REPORT 6611 June 1966 Northwich, Cheshire Level C MUFORA

Single male witness (was ten at the time of incident) reports a silver disc with a row of portholes seen at 3pm on a sunny day. It was low, moved very slow and was in view for 20 minutes before moving out of view behind scattered cloud. His grandfather witnessed object also.



REPORT 6910 Unknown 1969 Alkington, Gt M/Cr Level C MUFORA

Witness saw a gold/white light which seemed to rotate. It moved 'fast' but was in view five minutes (hardly having moved according to her report). Seen around lunch time it was in view five minutes and was still there when last seen.

REPORT 7015 11 AUGUST 1970 Newark/Grantham, Notts Level B BUFORA

Three witnesses saw a cigar like inclined tongue of flame and took a movie film of it. This is a famous case investigated by BUFORA, who on analysis of the film were of the opinion that it was a vapour trail reflecting setting sun.

This is a very interesting account and it is a great pity that it was not discovered at the time. Nevertheless, interviews with Mrs Mitchell (now 55) who is the principle witness have revealed considerable detail on the event. She was walking past Patricroft baths at 19.00 on her way home when a small boy approached her very frightened at 'something in the sky'. At first she was unable to see anything when she looked up but then out of a cloud she saw a metallic craft flying eastwards. It glinted in the sunlight and was in the shape of a disc with a dome UNDERNEATH. It also took the top part of the cloud with it as it separated, and this formed a halo above it. She watched amazed as it moved quite silently and she saw many people around her looking up at it (although none came forward afterwards when the case was mentioned in the local paper). Mrs Mitchell had just left her daughter and son-in-law and they were walking in the opposite direction. She called to them but trees obscured their view. After being in sight for three minutes it suddenly stopped and hovered for a few seconds. All of the time it was spinning on its own axis. It then began to rise vertically and made a humming buzz (not unlike that of bees), and this was heard by her daughter and son-in-law. The object then rapidly accelerated, diminished in size and was lost to view.



REPORT 7224 28 APRIL 1972

All Saints, Gt M/Cr

Level A DIGAP

An elderly lady had retired late to bed and at 01.59 saw a brilliant golden sphere outside her window. It illuminated cars parked outside and moved almost imperceptibly over the course of two hours. It was surrounded by white 'cotton wool'. She also saw a figure 'like an astronaut' filling the front of the object as if floating in space. The investigators, however, feel that this was an induced effect caused by the bright light. After two hours it simply faded out. On checking astronomical sources now I see that the moon was full on the 28th and in a position to account for the sighting. I think there is little doubt that this is what it was, and it is odd that it was not checked for at the time. This sighting is remarkably similar to that of Mrs Richardson at Bignall End, Staffs on December 31 last (see NUN Feb 77, FSR Vol 23-1) - even to the point of the entities filling the front of the craft! However, the moon could not have accounted for that observation if the date was correct which may make this of more interest.

REPORT 7468 5 AUGUST 1974

Irlam, Gt M/Cr

Level A MUFORA

This report came to light following a radio broadcast by Jenny Randles on June 14th and is taken from preliminary discussion with the witness (where he gave the date as 1976). However, he corrected this to 1974 at an interview with Ron Sargeant of MUFORA. Basically the man reports two white lights. One coming from over Chat Moss and one from the Shell Refinery at Partington. They swiftly came together and met with no flash, explosion or sound. They one began to waltz around the other and sway from side to side (like a leaf in the wind). After thirty seconds one of the lights shot away northwards over the Moss, whilst the other remained stationary and grew in brilliance and size until it was of a noticeable size. Then in a sudden blur it disappeared. The time was 22.00, after a fine, sunny day and there was still some light left.

REPORT 75/148 ?? 1975

Levenshulme, Gt M/Cr

Level C MUFORA

The witness reports a yellow ball of light with a tail which flashed across the sky in a matter of seconds, heading on a downwards path. Although the date is not recalled and so it is impossible to check this observation appears to the investigators to be representative of some type of fireball.

The witness is a person who claims some small psychic powers. He feels he is able to effect telekinesis. At 16.30 On a sunny afternoon he saw a bronze coloured oval hovering in the west. It was wobbling and flashing (probably reflecting sunlight). He positioned it between two bungalows and then decided to tell someone else. He found another potential witness, but on return the object had vanished. Whilst observing the object he said that the neighbourhood went very quiet. It should be pointed out that the witness was positioned within a mile of Barton Airfield, in fact looking directly along the main runway. This is very busy, particularly at weekends, with light plane traffic and there is every possibility that what he saw was in fact an aircraft either landing or taking off. The hovering would be a line of sight effect due to his alignment with the runway.

REPORT 7770 15 FEBRUARY 1977 Offerton, Gt M/Cr Level A MAPIT

A young boy spotted a red glow in the sky. It came from the north, along the line of the main Manchester Airport runway, but then swept very fast to the south and then to the north west before disappearing. Time was 18.07 and a Boeing 707 departed at 18.09. Allowing for time discrepancies and the fact that conditions were hazy, MAPIT feel that this may well have been the said aircraft. However, no other witnesses to the event came forward.

REPORT 7771 19 FEBRUARY 1977 Stockport, Gt M/Cr Level A MAPIT

An elderly lady reported a rotating white light travelling past her window at 04.30. It moved towards Ashton and then in the distance went out as if just switched off. She is well acquainted with aircraft from Manchester Airport (the flight path passes over Stockport), but a Boeing 727 departed at 04.30.

REPORT 7772 26 FEBRUARY 1977 Crewe, Cheshire Level B FUFOR

There are two independent sightings here, which may well be related in some way. At 19.45 two teenage brothers travelling by car from Crewe saw a white light in the east. They kept it in sight for some while as they followed the A5020 and then A52. At Gorsty Hall they stopped. The object was now orange in colour and moving north. They perused it once more towards Englesea Brook where the object accelerated and headed north towards Sandbach leaving the car behind. It was in view a total of 11 minutes. At 20.00 in Crewe itself FUFOR member Mark Tyrrell was wiping ice from the windscreen of his car when he spotted a white oval shape low over the Rolls Royce works and moving slowly along the line of the railway tracks. It was heading north north west. It was only in view 5 - 10 seconds before disappearing behind a house.

REPORT 7773 27 FEBRUARY 1977 Leicester Level C NUFOIS

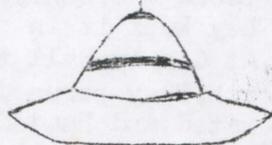
At 19.00 a man and his wife were driving towards Fleckney along an unclassified road when they noticed two sets of red and green lights. They were stationary and puzzled by this they stopped the car. Two further sets of lights were now seen by their side. Then in a matter of seconds the lights first seen headed towards the car and stopped overhead. Here it was seen that they were attached to a 'Zeppelin' shaped object which was slightly wider at the bottom. The lights were half way up the side, but not in the same configuration as on an aircraft. Suddenly a brilliant white light on the object was switched on, enveloping the rear of the car. The witnesses then proceeded to drive fast away into the village where they stopped at the first house to ask directions to the nearest police station. The occupants of the house noted the agitated state of the witnesses, but on coming outside the object had receded to a star like light with the other objects spaced equally around the village. Frightened by this the witnesses waited for a car to pass through the village and followed it all the way to the police station at Wigston (some five miles away). When the duty inspector went out to look for the object/s there was nothing to be seen.

As you will know from recent issues of NUN March 4th was quite a night for UFO observations in the north (see Reports 7735-7737, 7756 & 7757). On this occasion there are three witnesses who independantly saw an object described by Tina Kelley as 'a three point star' with three red lights on the middle portion and two yellow lights on the outside. It seemed to be rotating, and moved out of sight over the Ribble Estuary. The time was 22,00 and reports were made to the police who checked with both Blackpool and Warton airfields. Both confirmed that there were no aircraft in the area at the time.

At 18,12 Steven Cleaver observed a black cigar shape moving north south against a fading blue sky. It was in view 7/10 seconds and its speed was judged as 600mph as compared to an aircraft travelling east to west.

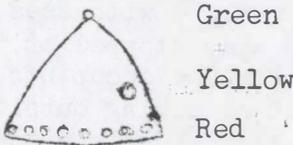
It is interesting to note that this occurred on the same date as the Nelson Vehicle Interference case (to be featured in full in FSR Vol 23-2). There were many other observations on the night of March 8/9 and in view of the notes above about March 4th it seems that this may well have been the centre point of quite a flap. It has been noticeable how even the expected low periods of 1977 have produced a glut of reports (eg February and May) - many of these are high stranges (several landings in May, with traces, from the south). We already have twice as many reports on file for 1977 than for the same periods in 1975 and 1976 and with June onwards normally showing a growing rise in sightings we might expect to be inundated during the autumn and winter coming.

This is a most interesting observation which we hope to follow up in more depth. It concerns Steven Cleaver and Nigel Brown, passengers in a car which was approaching Sydney Bridge at 19.30. Although Mr Cleaver insists that the object was plainly visible and came close to the car Mr Brown did not see it at all during the twenty five seconds or so that it was in view. It was described as a disc with a dome on top containing some form of dark band across. The colour was brick red or rust. It was initially stationary but then it moved off to the west. Mr Cleaver was able to stop the car and take one picture of the object as it moved away into the distance. This film has not yet been developed.



Two men working the night shift at the British Rail works saw a bright white light, a red light and a cluster of light of undefinable shape. It moved north westwards at an estimated speed of 50 mph and was in view approximately 30 seconds. It made a noise like a powerful beating. Time of observation was 00.39.

Three girls (aged 17 and 18) were walking along Holden Bridge at 21.50 when they saw an object in the sky which reminded them all of a flying car. It had two yellow searchlights on the front and seemed to be coming towards them. It was in view for 10-15 minutes as they stopped to observe it. Whenever they moved not it flew fast, towards them, and whenever they did it stopped suddenly in mid-air. It continued to perform these strange stop start movements and turned to reveal a dome shape with red lights underneath and a flashing green light on top. It was completely silent and during the sighting they were able to compare it to an aircraft which flew over. This had no lights like those observed and was audible. The object finally vanished by dipping down towards Hanley in the south east as a red blur of light.



REPORT 7779 14 MAY 1977

Blackpool, Lancs

Level B

FAPURG

On the nights of May 14, 15, 16 and 17 a series of white lights were seen by the witness. They usually moved north to south or west to east and were in view a matter of seconds or a minute. On May 17 a brilliant spherical object like Venus at its brightest moved west to east. His daughter was witness to observations on the last two nights. He said that at first he thought they might be satellites but their movements and changes in speed made him think again.

REPORT 7780 13 MAY 1977

Salford, Gt M/Cr

Level C

MUFORA

At 18.50 eight witnesses saw a white light (seen by one of them to go into a cloud as a disc). Over the course of the next twenty minutes it was in view on high in the south west, hardly moving and changing shape. It appeared as a cigar, ellipse and arrowhead. When last seen it appeared as a rod with bands across it. Ringway airport is in the south west and they release weather balloons on the hour. It seems quite probable that this was one of these.

REPORT 7782 22 MAY 1977

Alderley Edge, Cheshire

Level E

MUFORA

The minister at the village Methodist church observed a strange object at 20.35. It was silver and spherical with flashing lights inside. It climbed from 300 feet or so on passing over the village heading towards Great Warford. Investigation later proved this to be a model aircraft!

REPORT 7784 25 MAY 1977

Failsworth, Gt M/Cr

Level C

MUFORA

At approximately 13.00 witness was watching a Boeing 747 jet at about 17,000 feet when a small silvery sphere was seen above and behind the aircraft. It then suddenly swooped down towards the aircraft and when within an estimated 1000 feet it did a sharp and instantaneous ninety degree turn and flew upwards and away at a tremendous speed.

REPORT 7785 25 MAY 1977

Bransholme, N. Humberside

Level C

Derick Shelton

Philip Fargus

Three teenage boys were throwing stones into the River Hull at about 20.00 when some jets flew past heading south. They looked up and saw a conical object in the clouds moving northwards. It was silvery and completely silent. It remained in view for about a minute before vanishing into a cloud. It seems that there was a short gap between the sighting of the jets and that of the object and the investigators do not feel it likely that there is any connection.



REPORT 7786 27 MAY 1977

Bridlington, N. Humber

Level C

Derick Shelton

Philip Fargus

Three witnesses returning home by car at about 13.10 on a fine, sunny day saw an object which they at first took to be an airship hovering over the rooftops. It was in view for two minutes before it moved away very slowly north to south over the houses. It was shaped like a rocket with a tail fin but no wings or windows. The colour was that of dull



aluminium. There was very little wind.

REPORT 7788 3 JUNE 1977

Cheadle Hulme, Gt M/Cr

Level B

MUFORA

The witness is highly educated and was in a dark field with his wife at 22.50. He saw the light coming from the direction of Bramhall. It was yellow/white and just appeared as a streak. It broke up into five pieces similar to a sky rocket and disappeared instantly. He is insistent that he was able to take this detail in although the object was in view for no longer than $\frac{3}{4}$ of a second! In view of the lack of detail and the numerous possible explanations for this phenomenon no further investigation was done.

REPORT 7789 7 JUNE 1977

Bridlington, N. Humber

Level C Derick Shelton
Philip Fargus

A retired man and his wife saw a strange phenomenon at 21.57 on the night in question. It was a vertical cigar shape made up of three round lights. At first it glowed orange in colour but then it changed to a brilliant white. It was descending slowly out of view behind the roof tops opposite and was in view for two minutes. It had just gone dark and the object was seen in the west.



REPORT 7790 9 JUNE 1977

Oldham/Rochdale

Level B MUFORA

There appear to be a number of independent witnesses to this sighting, although they are proving hard to trace. It was described as an orange oval shape with a diffuse glow surrounding it. It was in view 1 1/2 minutes or so travelling up a valley in the Pennine foothills below the line of the hills. Manchester Airport and Jodrell Bank had nothing to account for the observation.

REPORT 7791 13 JUNE 1977

Withington, Manchester

Level D MUFORA

A white light, flashing one time every second, was seen to move northwards across a clear sky. It flew silently into the one cloud visible and was still seen through this, though partially obscured. It then stopped suddenly and instantaneously reversed its path finally disappearing out of view over houses.

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AS YOU WILL NOTE THERE ARE MANY MORE SIGHTINGS THAN NORMAL THIS MONTH. THIS TREND SEEMS TO BE CONTINUING AND ALREADY (BEFORE I EVEN FINISH TYPING THIS ISSUE) REPORTS ARE PILING UP FOR THE NEXT ISSUE! THE FLAP IS GOING TO BRING LARGER SIZE ISSUES FOR SOME TIME IT SEEMS. I DOUBT IF YOU WILL MIND THAT!

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NUFON COORDINATED SKYWATCHES

In view of the foregoing comments about the build up to the projected Autumn/Winter flap it was decided at the NUFON meeting in February to hold a series of coordinated skywatches. Although I realise many groups see little value in such exercises as a joint programme they can provide valuable training in communication, as well as recognition of natural phenomena. I would urge as many groups within NUFON as possible to take part in some or all of the projected dates. Send details of your sites to the programme coordinator:

IAN SANDERSON 69 HIGH STREET, RYTON-ON-DUNSMORE, COVENTRY (TEL: Cov 304119)

It is best to hold skywatches in groups, but if you are only able to act as an individual then notify Ian nevertheless. We wish to try to cover as much of the region as possible. It is also understood that several organisations in the south are contemplating joining in. If so I hope that they too will contact IAN. NB FOR FAIRLY OBVIOUS REASONS IT IS FELT BEST NOT TO OBTAIN PUBLICITY FOR THIS VENTURE. SKYWATCHING IS ALWAYS PRESENTED IN A VERY POOR LIGHT BY THE MEDIA.

THE DATES ARE: AUGUST 20 SEPTEMBER 17 OCTOBER 15 NOVEMBER 19

These are all Saturdays. A central phone-in number will be given with added details in the August issue.

NUFON CONFERENCE 1977

It has been confirmed by NUFOIS, this year's hosts, that the event will take place on SEPTEMBER 10 at the TRENT POLYTECHNIC, Nottingham.

This will be in the Byron Lecture Theatre, Shakespeare Street. (Central but with adjacent parking). The session will be open to the public from 10-12.30 and from 2-5pm the session will be exclusively for ufologists. Topics to be covered include investigation, skywatching and ley-line study. All lectures have not yet been confirmed (details next month) and if YOU have something to contribute (even if not wishing to actually speak) then present a written paper to the organisers as soon as possible. Proceedings will be available on the day.

NUFON CONFERENCE Cont...

Tickets are available at 50p each. Since this is a joint venture all groups are asked to take at least five tickets. It is hoped that many of our friends from the south will be able to attend. Details of accomodation are available from NUFOIS on request, as I am sure many will want to make it a more leisurely meeting by staying on after the conference is over for informal discussions round the bar. From experience these are one of the most popular aspects of any conference!

Coffee and biscuits may be ordered at 25p per head. This must be requested with the booking of the tickets.

TICKETS obtainable from: John Cree 443 Meadow Lane, Nottingham, NG2 3GB

NEWS ROUND-UP from Paul Whetnall (WUFOS)

(This is a new feature which will be included every month. Paul will be getting in touch with you so keep him informed of what goes on in and around your area)

RIGAP are apparently none too happy with NUN. They do not elaborate, except to say that they cannot accept the comments that the reports submitted to NUFON might have natural explanations. In this respect they should read the comments by J.B. Delair, and I understand Jenny has promised only to print comment on the evaluation if supplied by the group. Hope that will appease RIGAP. Between Jan 2 and Mar 31 they say they had 177 reports of ufo activity. PULSE wish to hear from people interested in the relation between ley lines and UFOs from all over the UK. They are not exclusively a Lancashire group. Their address is found on P.2. Kathy Preston is giving a talk on the Lemanche Zodiac to the IGR symposium at Cambridge on July 9th and the Lancs Society for Psychical Research at 7.30 on August 23 (Windsor Castle Pub in Preston). It is nice to announce that SUFORS (Nigel Watson 1 Angerstein Rd, Scunthorpe, DN17 2LZ) have reformed. The flap has proved very timely for them and they have recommenced monthly meetings. They are apparently working closely with Derick Shelton and Philip Fergus on Humberside cases (see this issue) and the flap has prompted local MP, John Ellis, to write to the Minister of Defence for the results of the RAF investigations. Nice to have an ally such as that, although I doubt if it will stir up the MOD. Bill Muir from Newcastle tells of the success of an exhibition held at the Newcastle library (holders of the largest UK archives of ufo material). A seminar which he hosted with Raymond Drake and Dr. Chris Evans (whom Bill says DOES believe in UFOs despite his provocative book 'Cults of Unreason') attracted 200 people and a continuing public display is bring favourable reaction.

(Incidentally, Paul told me on the phone last night that the worst response to his letters has come from the associate groups. Come on now. This column is for you to tell others about what you are doing. Keep Paul informed. EDITOR)

:: Many thanks to Derick Shelton for sending more detail on the Prime Minister of Grenada's statement to the United Nations (given 7/10/76). He said, "... one wonders why the existance of UFOs continues to remain a secret to those in whose archives repose useful information and other data....."

:: Gary Lanham, co-founder of UFOSIS, is returning to the UK in November after 18 months in Canada where he has become a highly respected figure in the ufo community. He would like any confidential information on MIB activity. Write to Ste 4 647 Roch Street, East Kildonan, Winnipeg, MANITOBA CANADA R2K 2P9

:: News that LAPRO, the erstwhile Leicester group, may re-emerge as UPROL comes from Trevor Thornton (45 Elsmere Rd, Leicester).

:: THE NUFON 1976 REPORT IS NOW AVAILABLE AT 20p. FORMAT SIMILAR TO LAST YEAR WITH FULL CATALOGUE OF 146 REPORTS, STATISTICS AND GRAPHS. AVAILABLE FROM NUN.

NUFON FILES (NUFOIS) 443 Meadow Lane, Nottingham NG2 3GB
OVERSEAS DATA (FAPURG) 23 HASTINGS Rd, Thornton-Le-Fylde, Lancashire
LECTURE TAPE LIBRARY (WUFOS) 760 New Chester Rd., Bromborough, Wirral L62 7HD
NEWS ROUND UP Paul Whetnall 18 Buckingham Ave, Vicars Cross, Chester