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NORTHERN UFO NEWS



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EDITORIAL: "Definitions - Who needs them?"

It appears to be the current vogue that one must define anything connected with Ufology. The BUFORA congress in London started the trend last August, and since then considerable debate on the topic has ensued. BUFORA has now published the findings of its initial "working party" meeting where "UFO REPORT" was defined (basically in terms which remove any reference to 'flying' and 'object' in the interests of 'objectivity', and thus leave the definition potentially applicable to anything unidentified!) John Hind has pointed this out (SKYWATCH 35) and Bob Morrell has made further interesting comment on the matter (UFO RESEARCH REVIEW Summer 1980).

Whilst I appreciate what the congress were trying to do, and have no desire to make it seem that I am decrying their efforts, they do serve to illustrate an essential problem. Defining Ufology just might be an inherently impossible thing. In any case I am not convinced that it is wholly desirable.

The argument goes (and both John and Bob would appear to support BUFORA over this) that a definition sets limits, which if Ufology is to become a science it must do. However, I doubt that Ufology can become a science. In reality it is a collection of sciences, and one is left with an insoluble problem. If one defines a single aspect of this collection one must inevitably leave others out. The whole is a summation of the parts, and each part is important in its own right. It is rather like attempting to define "Life". One might be able to do so in a biological sense (although even then there will be serious dispute). Even so what about the sociological context or the philosophical one? An overall definition is impossible.

John Hind has been trying to overcome this by defining both a UFOLOGY 1 (for the apparant physical phenomena) and a UFOLOGY 2 (for the psycho-social reaction cum stimulus) Now, I accept that both of these do exist as separate entities. Indeed one of the purposes of the Randles/Warrington refined classification of reports was that it took account of this division. LOW, MED, INST, CE 1 etc are categories of UFOLOGY 1 primarily. CE 3, and certainly CE 4, however, appear to belong to the realms of UFOLOGY 2 postulated by John. However, these two phenomena (or sets of phenomena) are inextricably woven together by what I called in the last NORTHERN UFOLOGY "the sticky thread of belief in alien intervention."

To my mind the importance in Ufology lies not in arbitrary definitions (which will inevitably relate to our own preconceptions about what UFOs are), but rather in whether or not an experience is considered to be within a UFO context, primarily by the witness. Often he is the central figure and his interpretation is crucial. If he regards a phenomenon as a UFO then we must study it, whether it actually is a UFO (in the sense that it is a "novel something") or whether it is not. After all we cannot be positive that there are any "novel somethings" there in the first place, but we can be sure that there is a phenomenon.

In my forthcoming book UFO STUDY my 'definition' (chosen only for preliminary guidance of investigators and not as an attempt to impose limits), takes account of these factors by describing Ufology as "the study of reported experiences, and their possible causations; which the witness, investigator or both consider related to their conception of the UFO phenomenon"

No doubt this seems like meaningless waffle, but is it not wrong to do any more than this? In any case, would it be a good or bad thing to set limitations in view of our present wholly inadequate knowledge of this subject of ours?

REMINDER

The next Issue (August) will be a NORTHERN UFOLOGY on the theme PHYSICAL EVIDENCE:- Its extent and validity. Contributions accepted up to July 31.

CONFERENCE NEWS:

The next NUFON Conference has now been arranged. It is to be co-hosted by UFOSIS and PARASEARCH at Dr Johnsons House on Bull Street in the city centre of Birmingham. It will be a full-day event on Saturday OCTOBER 11, although it is hoped that as many people as possible will stay over until Sunday to continue the debate. It is hoped also to stage a UFOIN meeting on this date. Many interesting speakers are being lined up and a theme of CLOSE ENCOUNTERS IN THE PAST, PRESENT AND FUTURE has been adopted. Further details plus facilities for overnight stay etc will be announced very shortly, but meantime you can obtain up-to-the-minute news from:-
Martin Keatman 31 Stuart Close North; Walton; Stone; Staffs ST15 OJU T: 816934

MAUFOG have also elected a working party to negotiate with NUFONs team in the organisation of Britain's first national UFO groups conference. This is presently planned for Birmingham also in the early new year. More details shortly.

Yet another Birmingham event! On NOVEMBER 8 Birmingham University are staging a one-day seminar on UFOs: The facts and Arguments. Science writer Ian Ridpath will present the "anti-UFO" case and Jenny Randles and Peter Warrington the "pro-UFO" case, concluded formally in a 'free-for-all' debate. Sounds fun.

NEWS REVIEW:

:: Leicestershire group HAPI have announced an exciting new innovation. From August 31 they will be forming a new group, to exist separately but in compliment to HAPI. This will be known as "Atmospheric Studies" and will look at IFO reports, attempting to correlate them with things such as ball lightning. Research will also be undertaken, eg the effects of humidity on sound wave propagation. Inquiries should be directed to:- 23 Linden Road, Hinckley, Leicestershire.

:: Thanks also to SKYSCAN, the Worcester group who are a member of MAUFOG. They have advised that a public exhibition is being held in the city on AUGUST 9 for details contact: SKYSCAN 12 Hazel Close; Warndon, Worcester.

:: Geoffrey Grundill is busy researching MIB claims and would like to be put in touch with anyone who has had experience of these strange individuals. If you know of any information to pass on to Geoffrey he can be contacted at:-

"Silvretta" Richmondclose Workington Cumbria CA14 4EY

:: Syd Henley of NUFOIS advises that a toilet bag has been discovered at the HQ in Nottingham, and believes it was left after the last NUFON meeting there. It is with black squares and contains shaving tackle, soap, flannels etc. If you are the owner please contact the HQ at: 443 Meadow Lane; Nottingham NG2 3GB

WHEN THE MOON IS A UFO

It is necessary to add a further note to the April 1980 editorial "The Cow jumped over the Moon", following somewhat offensive remarks from BUFORA director Tony Pace in SKYWATCH 36. Whilst a reasoned response has been contributed to this publication (without the use of emotive language which Mr Pace apparently thought was suited to such an occasion) I must note that I find no reason to call into question the integrity of investigators who have had long association with NUFON. I have every faith in this. Tony Pace may indeed have shown that the object witnessed in the Bignall End case was the moon, but I still think it valid to ask why two sensible people and a cat (!) regarded it in more exotic terms. I see this reasonable contention as no cause for the rude language and provocative statements expounded in response. Nor do I find it particularly ethical that Tony Pace should conjure up a scientific institute and feel proud that he has 'hidden his name behind it' for three years. I could just as easily ascribe these remarks to the IETP (or "Institute for the Evaluation of Tony Pace"), but see no purpose..... Jenny Randles

ELSEWHERE THIS MONTH

FSR has its silver-jubilee issue out (congratulations) featuring part 2 of the Livingston CE3 saga plus the aircraft encounter over Bolton.... BUFORA JOURNAL (May) is impressive with detailed reports on the French CE4 from Cergy, an angel hair case from Portugal and others.... UFO INSIGHT (June) from FUFOR has a piece on psycho-physiological effects & UFOs plus a critique of the Llanerchymedd case. EARTHLINK Autumn 1979 is just out with a major piece on leys and othoteny and the conclusion of an amazing Essex CE 4. A new magazine to note is PROBE from NUFOR SW (16 Marigold Walk, Ashton, Bristol BS3 2PD) subscription £1.60, quarterly.

"On Fieldwork vs Theorising" by Hilary Evans (SPR UFO Study Group)

By serendipitous coincidence, a few minutes after reading the May NORTHERN UFO NEWS editorial cri-de-coeur, I came across this passage in Evans-Pritchard's fascinating study of Withcraft among the Azande, where he speaks of the relative values of fieldwork and theorising :

"Anyone can produce a new fact ; the thing is to produce a new idea. Can it be too often stated that in science empirical observation to be of value must be guided and inspired by some general view of the nature of the phenomena being studied?"

Clearly, investigative fieldwork is the essential ground-base of all knowledge in a subject like Ufology : equally clearly, the facts gleaned by investigative fieldwork are useless until they have been combined so as to lead to valid deductions. This is why the majority of American UFO literature is both boring and sterile : it is like reading a mystery story in which all the clues are presented but nobody makes any attempt to find the murderer.

By contrast, French Ufologists have always recognised the need not merely to present the facts but to build them into a meaningful structure : the result is that there are at least a half-dozen brilliant books in the French literature which are a thought-generation ahead of anything written across the Atlantic. As for Britain, only the Randles/Warrington book has made any serious attempt to go beyond description : which is why, when reviewing it for ALPHA, I wrote "with this book, British Ufology comes of age."

That there is more enlightened consideration being given to Ufology in Britain is evident to anyone who reads MAGONIA, and occasional pieces in other journals. But most of these have pitifully small circulations - sometimes one is tempted to think they are read only by the contributors to the other journals.... Even FSR, which should be required reading for everyone with the slightest interest in the phenomenon, has a sadly small readership.

Why? It can hardly be a question of cost - a years subscription to MAGONIA costs less than a round of drinks, and the price of six gallons of petrol would bring you every worthwhile British journal! No, it looks more as though the average British Ufologist is interested more in collecting cases, as it has been said, as if they were postage stamps, rather than in making any serious attempt to fit them together to see what picture they make.

Of course I do not wish to imply that case-collecting is not worthwhile. BUFORAs vehicle interference project, Dan Butchers 1969 UFO sound catalogue for the Surrey group, and in America Stringfield's probe into retrievals, are all valuable working tools for which all researchers must be grateful. None the less, they are only tools: it is what we make with those tools that matters.

FSR FSR Publications Ltd, West Malling, Maidstone, Kent 36pp glossy £4.80 pa
MAGONIA 64 Alric Avenue, New Malden, Surrey KT3 4JW 20pp litho £1.75 pa
ALPHA 20 Regent St, Fleet, Hants GU13 9NR litho £5.40 pa

FSR and ALPHA are bi-monthly; MAGONIA is quarterly.

LOW DEFINITION INVESTIGATIONS

Ref	Date	Location	Investigator	Level	Evaltn
76-169	Oct ??	Carnforth, Lancs	NLUFOIG (M Milligan)	B	Ps Venus
Family observed large LITS changing colour W - R - G, but not pulsating. Time 19.10 Observed for 10 minutes pacing car; hovering overhead when car was stationary.					
79-137	Feb 17	Warton, Lancs	NLUFOIG (S Robinson)	B	Insuff
At 19.30 Man and woman observed orange LITS from car. Stationary, then descended out of view. Total duration 30 secs. No cause found. Female witness has seen a ghost. Incident occurred immediately adjacent to site of CE1 case 78-250.					
8021	Mar ??	Bolton-le-Sands, Lncs	NLUFOIG (G Barraclough)	B	Ps A/Cft
Two women in car observed 3 Red LITS and one green one surrounded by blue haze. Moved N over Morecambe Bay for 10 mths. Time 20.30.					
8025	July 1	Barton, Gtr Mcr	MUFORA (J Randles)	B	Aircraft
3 Red LITS in diamond seen moving W for 1 minute. No sound heard. Lights pulsated.					

MEDIUM DEFINITION INVESTIGATIONS

Ref	Date	Location	Investigation	Level	Evaltn
7233	Feb 11	Prestbury, Chesh	MUFORA (P Warrington)	C	Insuff
At 08.07 a Company Secretary with RAF experience stopped his car to observe an intense light in the N, over Bramhall. He observed it for 4 minutes as it moved away N. It was oval with a vertical bar on top and with six "light areas" on the side. Apparent size was that of a pea held at arms length. Elevation 10 degrees.					
78-264	Jun 12	Congleton, Chesh	UFORA (D James)	B	Insuff
Man driving home at 23.35 observed a yellow white oval with searchlight beams on underside stationary. Stopped car but no sound. Object moved in straight line then swerved to right. Hovered again. Then shot away in opposite direction. Apparent size of halfpenny at arms length, elevation 30 - 45 degrees.					
79-139	Dec 19	Barton-U-Needwood, Staffs	UFOSIS (J Ledbetter)	C	Insuff
Three women and two children observed an object at 17.25. Seen first as large star then manifested as two lights with red light in between moving towards the witnesses. Object moved overhead making low pitched whine. Size of 2' tea tray at arms length! Dark oval shape with cross-struts on it and series of red, green, white and amber lights. The front red light and rear amber light were flashing. Object moved away very slowly NW and was in view 15 mins. Was followed by 3 sets of lights, Red, green and white, in a row.					



7233



78-264



79-139

UNKNOWN Investigated by NLUFOIG (M Milligan) Level B June 1971 Lancaster (7136)

Mrs Batty, her young daughter, her husband, her mother and two friends all observed the object at 21.20 from 3 separate locations in the city. The phenomenon witnessed was a cigar shape, similar to an airship, and 150' long. It glowed bright fluorescent green. Seen stationary in the SW initially for 1 minute. Then moved off W, elevation 45 degrees, accelerating to fast speed and starting to emit orange sparks from the rear. Disappearance came instantantly. The witnesses home has been subject to poltergeist activity and was 'exorcised'. The daughter claims to have seen the form of her dead grandfather more than once.



UNKNOWN Investigated by HAPI Level A January 24 1978 Leicestershire (78-263)

Nine independent reports from many witnesses occurred during the period 19.30-20.05. Most refer to a hazy dark cigar shape with both a red and a blue/green light on it. Others refer to a round, oval or saucer shaped object with red lights on. The object/objects were performing a series of complex manoeuvres over the Burbage Common area of the county and were seen by witnesses in various locations. All checks for an identification, such as military exercises or civil air flights, have proved negative and the investigators have concluded that at least two different objects were present. UAPROL also had many reports for this night. See NUFON cases 7818 and 7846.



UNKNOWN Investigated by HAPI (SE Allen) Level A May 5 1980 Burbage, Leics (8023)

A 21 year old woman went to the window when she heard a loud and unusual noise. It began as low humming rising to a high pitched whine. Many others in the area, who saw nothing, did hear the noise and likened it to a jet aircraft taking off. The woman witnessed a dark silver triangle shaped object rising from the ground and moving away NW. It had 3 Red lights on the apexes of the triangle. At closest proximity the object was the size of 9 inches at arms length. She called her mother but after a few seconds, when she arrived in the room, the noise had stopped and only the lights were visible. However, she did not think it was an aircraft even so. Checks with Birmingham and East Midlands airports failed to reveal any air traffic in the area at the time.



CE1 Psycho February 1980 Old Brodsworth, Sth Yks Level A Case 8020

This report stems from investigations by Nigel and Robert Addinall at the home of 70 yr old Mrs Stanley on the Home Farm Estate near Doncaster. In late Feb and from her bedroom facing W Mrs Stanley suddenly awoke from a sound sleep to see three sets of bright lights over a nearby wood. She watched them for about $\frac{3}{4}$ hour before they merged and then suddenly disappeared. A month later, the same thing happened with just two sets and these higher. They disappeared after only a few minutes. She then told a friend who is interested in Spiritual healing and he advised her to try to contact the UFOs if she saw them again. At the beginning of April, just before dawn, she saw the two sets again emitting beams of light sporadically towards the ground. She mentally tried to contact them and they then moved off NW, giving her a good view of them as saucer shaped objects larger than cars. They accelerated out of sight. She thought she had not made contact but during the day she could not get the word "defence" out of her mind (at interview she said "Protection" but this was corrected by her daughter) Mrs S has an interest in UFOs and the paranormal and her friend (the healer) claimed that she had seen ships surveying the earth prior to a cataclysm to occur in the 1980's. Apparently all solar system planets are inhabited by beings on a 'higher octave'. There were several demonstrations of the witnesses suggestibility at interview (she claimed to have her eyesight improved by the healer although at the experiment he only claimed to be diagnosing her complaint) The investigators conclude that this coupled with the factors of observation (eg in bed, early am) and her awareness of and subjection to complex UFO theorising from her friend were relevant in this case.

UFO CAUSES SEVERE BURNING Tony Green of SKYSCAN

CE1 Physio March 13 1980 Exhall, Warwickshire Level C Case 8022

Mr G, aged 31 and a sub-contractor, was travelling E to Stratford-on-Avon at 19.50 when near the village he saw an object in the SE. It moved fast across his field of view, filling the windscreen with its size! He estimates that if it were the size of a Galaxy Aircraft it was only at about 1000 feet. He slowed down as it passed by, quite silent. He lost it momentarily but picked it up again in the NE moving out of sight. In shape it was like a cigar with enlarged ends.



Basically white the tips were reddish. As it was seen for the last few seconds in the NE Mr G became aware that his steering wheel had suddenly grown very hot. He had to pull his hands away but suffered severe burns on his left hand before he could do this. The weather was clear sky but cold

and consequently there is no rational explanation for this sighting. The case is being investigated in more detail by UFOIN.

CASES IN THIS ISSUE: 14 Insufficient data 6 Aircraft 2 Venus 1
Psychological 1 UFO 4 (28.5%)

TERROR IN THE HOUSE OF THE DOLLS John Watson of CHRYSIS

This CE 4 experience is so complex that it is impossible to do it justice here. This report will constitute just a taster for those who might be interested. A much fuller version is to be found in INVESTIGATION Issue 1, and also in UFO STUDY (a forthcoming book by Jenny Randles). No doubt it will also feature in FSR.

The events occurred in a small place near Gateshead in Tyne & Wear and involve several members of the B family. Carol B (aged 22) is the primary witness. Mother to 3 yr old Nicola B, who is also involved. Her husband Steve (aged 24), her brother Walter (aged 20) and both her mother Mary (43) and father Walter (44) also witnessed some aspects of the phenomena. These began on August 12 1979 at 01.30 with a lawnmower sound heard for some time (this was heard by everyone eventually). On August 16 at 02.00 Carol, out of bed because of toothache, saw a disc like UFO outside her bedroom and then observed a miniature version of the disc enter her room followed by a swarm of glittering lights. These pressed down on her causing tingling and a loss of energy. Both Walters experienced this too, similar to an electric shock. These attacks occurred frequently on Carol and occasionally on other members of the family between August 16 and December 1 when the phenomena vanished as suddenly as they had arrived (having brought the family

close to hysteria) At one point they were all sleeping in one room such was the extent of their fear! On September 3 Carol witnessed the disc insider her room again and about a dozen small beings (about 2½ feet tall, white cloaks, large heads, big eyes and feminine features with short 'unreal' hair) appeared around her bed, examined her and one said "She's just like any other earthling" At the time she was paralysed. A further sighting of one entity alone occurred later.

The whole sequence of experiences is an intriguing CE 4 case which appears to be of great relevance to our understanding of this aspect of the UFO enigma.

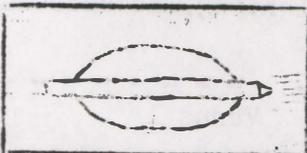
THE END OF THE WORLD IS NIGH

Jenny Randles of MUFORA

This case is still under investigation, and it is hoped that a full UFOIN report will be prepared in due course. It concerns a CE4 experience, reported by the witness after reading UFOs: A BRITISH VIEWPOINT. It occurred in Middlesborough, Cleveland, in 1964.

The witness is Bob H, a professional magician cum phoney psychic. He admits his act is phoney (although he has had several allegedly genuine paranormal experiences - including an intriguing precognitive dream in 1950 where he predicted the destruction by fire of the officers mess at RAF Cardington in precise detail) His life has been somewhat rough, married and divorced twice, and lately he has struggled for money despite daring illusionist feats where he invites the audience to try to blow him up with dynamite! Even so he hasnot attempted to make gains out of his werd experience, which he has not revealed to anyone since its occurrence.

The day before a scheduled visit to the dentist, where he was to have a row of teeth out at one go, he entered a semi-trance with the radio on playing the song "Hit the Road Jack", and received the message in his mind that this phrase would be his key to life on the morrow. At the dentists he had gas to anaesthatise him, although he tried to change his mind at the last minute. Immediately on sinking into semi-sleep he found himself outside his body, frightened and bemused. A figure then appeared, which was apparantly human with shouldef length white hair and a long white cloak. This took him by the hand and with both verbal and mental communications explained his predicament. The ceiling then 'ceased to exist' and Bob and the entity floated into the sky. He saw the earth grow smaller. He then went through the wall of a disc-like UFO ('as if it were not there') and was shown around (including complex explanations of how the UFO functioned - basically using rotating jet burners expelling hot air!....By this ridiculous process the UFOs allegedly flew faster than the speed of light!!) He was then given a vital message to impart to mankind. In the year 2500 AD the earth



blows itself up. This happens pver and over again with mankind repeating an endless series of actions. There has already been many editions number 74 of Northern UFO News and you have read all this before - frequently! Bob was shown images of the 'explosion' and the earth reforming and told his job was to help us all break off from this cycle.

Bob was dismissed rather curtly and had to find his own way back to his body. In doing so he had to fight off tiny demonic entities who were trying to possess it! Suddenly the dentist said 'Hit the Road Jack' - there was a snap - and he was back. The dentist was somewhat amazed when Bob was able to describe actions he performed whilst he was supposedly asleep.

There is a good deal more detail already available on this intriguing case, kindly supplied by the puzzled witness. Superficially it may be dismissed as a dream, but it is an excellent example of a category of UFO report which cries out for analysis. It has close correlations with the Mr L case from West Yorkshire (see BRITISH VIEWPOINT), the Mrs Hamilton affair from Belfast (also in the book) and the 'out of the body' type contacts by Gaynor Sunderland which postdated her seemingly physical CE3. Consequently one cannot dismiss as 'just a dream'. Its mechanics may teach us a great deal about the contactee phenomenon and its status as a 'real' or 'subjective' experience. The questions posed are being studied in more detail, with specific reference to the Gaynor Sunderland experiences, in a new book by myself and Paul Whetnall for publication during 1981.