

NORTHERN NEWS



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JR Comments... Publication of Clive Penting's book "The Right to Know" (Sphere, £2.50) raises many crucial issues. He, former head of the MoD division DS 5, was prosecuted under the official secrets act in January 1985. This book recounts the reasons and consequences, concerning what he has no qualms terming a "Cover-Up".... involving a very familiar "double act", Minister of Defence, Michael Heseltine, and forces minister, John Stanley.

These names will be very well known to all students of that other "cover-up" of the current MoD establishment, Rendlesham Forest. John Stanley was the man who responded to Sir Patrick Wall's (vague) questions on the case in the House.

There will be a full review of this important book in the next issue, but in the meantime do go out and buy it. Here I want to take the opportunity to add a few remarks about the ongoing saga of the Rendlesham Forest affair.

Sadly, British ufology seems not to have learnt its lessons. Whilst in many respects we are very forward-looking, the abject refusal to take this matter in any seriousness since January 1981 (when Brenda Butler, Det Street and I first got involved) remains puzzling. One of the best of all "Sky Crash" reviews was in UFORAN (Australia's premier UFO magazine), where Bill Chalker perceptively detected the strengths and flaws in the case and the book. The American reviews have been almost entirely exuberant (everly so, in some instances, I think). What about Britain? The place where it all happened (whatever it was that happened)?

Whilst the Japanese have cleaned up on two 90-minute documentaries, the American ufologists have seized the initiative and provided a four-part series of features on national TV (on successive nights) and have now "sold" the movie rights in the case (they knew how to manipulate ufology ever there, that's for sure!) we in Britain have slumbered on as if nothing particularly special has taken place.

British UFO media reviews of "Sky Crash" have been negligible, with the exception of YUFOS: "Quest". And I have been liberally accused of paranoia and McCarthy witch-hunts because I have dared to suggest that the total lack of media concern in this country might be due to maneuverings on the part of the Thatcher government. Anybody who does not believe a politically sensitive issue like Rendlesham can be, and would be, censured ought to read "The Right to Know". It's the same players in a different game and tells a lot about the way their minds work.

Recently I had a letter from a scientist (astrophysicist and social, my major). She told me that Ian Ridpath's "it was a lighthouse" thesis had been totally persuasive until she read "Sky Crash", by accident. NUFOIS, in Anomalous Phenomena Review, praise Ridpath for having rid the case of the fancy notions put out about it, i.e. that it was anything other than a lighthouse. And "Magenia", a magazine I normally have great respect for, has in my view behaved shamefully over the Rendlesham Forest case, typifying the British ufological reaction of "it can't be, so it isn't, and lets print everything we can that says it isn't and ignore the rest." That's a bit of a sweeping statement, since their May 1985 issue does carry a piece by Dr Willy Smith attacking their negative approach to the case. But readers ought to be aware of how "Magenia" have developed their attitude to this affair.

"Magenia" were the source which first carried Ridpath's desperately weak explanation for the story. Since that time Brenda, Det and I have repeatedly answered his allegations with a barrage of facts, demonstrating why the lighthouse theory is totally inadequate. We have exchanged letters with Ridpath, met him, offered him time at lectures to state his case, and enjoined in a TV debate (in which he ensured beforehand he got the majority of the air time). Yet when he published his worn out ideas in "The Guardian" this January (for which we were not allowed space to reply)

he took into account none of our counter-arguments and excused his dismissal of our work (for which we were described as nameless 'UFO buffs' and other such terminology) with the pathetic reply that he had no obligation to refer to facts as his article carried opinion.

Ian Ridpath, it must be made clear, has not interviewed a single witness to the events in Rendlesham Forest. His views are based upon the testimony of one young forestry worker (who is not convinced himself of what he says) that he found some marks in the woods one month after the events which he thought were rabbit holes and which might have been the ones allegedly left by the UFO.

"Magenia", in reviewing "Sky Crash", took the line that the evidence in the book could not be trusted and tried to blacken the integrity and credibility of the authors (a sure sign that the facts cannot be debated so new tactics are required).

I wrote a response to the "Magenia" review, which was sent back by "Magenia" as "inadequate". I was asked to write something longer. So I did. I compiled a 4000 word article entitled "Grounding the Lighthouse" - which point by point demolishes the Ridpath argument. It was about time I did this, I thought.

Admittedly this was after my first reaction to the initial "Magenia" rejection slip; which was to tell them I had better things to do than write and rewrite articles for them... things like investigating the case, for instance. However, I was pricked by my conscience. If I do not respond to the scurrilous attack then many sensible ufologists might understandably conclude there was no reasonable defence to the Ian Ridpath distortions, deceptions and grossly inadequate field study.

"Magenia" sent my article back with the strange comment that it concentrated on things which did not "directly relate to the contents of the book", or the review thereof. Since the whole anti-Rendlesham attitude is based on the "there must be an explanation - and Ridpath has it" interpretation then I refute that. Especially as "Magenia" have so championed the cause of the lighthouse. Indeed in the issue for which my article was rejected a letter from Ridpath on the subject is printed!

As I said earlier I have much respect for "Magenia" and am saddened by what seems to be very disproportionate view by this generally excellent magazine. In printing Willy Smith's short but fine rejoinder to the Roger Sandell book review Sandell makes some crack about "outraged authors" with an "axe to grind". My only axe to grind is the truth. When ufology has a major case, for which huge questions still remain, yet champions a theory full of holes without defending itself, then I fear we have one or two problems.

I do not know what happened in Rendlesham Forest in December 1980. I doubt very much that it was an alien spaceship (although it might have been). But I knew that the facts prove conclusively it was more significant than a lighthouse, some rabbits, and radiation levels taken by high-ranking USAF officers who don't know how to use geiger counters (God help us if anyone lets them have silly things like cruise missiles!). We will never find out what really did occur by running away from the case.

* I will gladly photocopy my article "Grounding the Lighthouse" for any reader who is interested in seeing the defence against Ian Ridpath's ideas. 80 p will cover costs and postage. Unfortunately it is too big to publish in NUN along with all our case material (which cannot be dispensed with). But any magazine interested in publishing it need only ask for a copy and I will send one.

NEWS ROUND-UP

David Clarke tells me he and Granville Oldroyd (of NUFOIG) are well into a fascinating study of some "ghost lights" seen over Burton Dassett Hills in Warwickshire in 1923 and 1924. They are producing a detailed report but hope to summarise some notes for a future issue of NUN.

Following the book review of Jehn Grant's "Dreamers" last issue Jehn writes to tell me that he apologises for the blurb and had to send out copies saying "Please ignore it...Its not my fault, guv." He also assures me that "The truth about the Flaming Gheulies" (who are apparently a psychic rock group?) comes in paperback this autumn - as does his "riposte" (or should that be rip -off) or "von Daniken, Berlitz, Steiger et al ", entitled, "Sex Secrets of Ancient Atlantis"! A review copy has been premissed - don't swamp me with requests to do the review!



FOR YOUR PERUSAL:-

Major articles elsewhere

FSR 30 - 3 (£7.50, 6 issues, NEW ADDRESS FSR Publications, Snedland, Kent ME6 5HJ) Yet more reprints from International UFO Reporter back issues, from which FSR is increasingly cloned. Totally ignore the landing case on p.27 as BUFORA AIs (Ken Phillips and Dave Pearson) solved it months ago. Positively explained, as FSR would know if they resided in the real UFO world, not cloud cuckoo land.

The Shaman 9 (£2, 4 issues, 5 Egton Drive Seaton Carew Hartlepool TS25 2AT) The first comments about Ian Watson's brilliant sci-fi 'novel' on UFOs, Miracle Visitors, I have ever seen in the UFO media. Also a piece on the renumbering of a British Rail train following a psychic prediction (which I checked out for my book Beyond Explanation? and can vouch seems to be true)

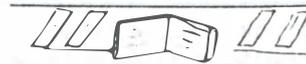
WYUFORG NEWS (50p plus post per issue 19 Bellmeunt Gardens Bramley Leeds LS13 2ND) Now widely available as a 'monthly'(?), duplicated A-4 size. Relates WYUFORG cases in the Yorkshire area, and commentaries by editor Paul Bennett (is he the only UFO contactee editing a UFO mag? Does anybody know?) Some 1908 local research and a rejoinder to YUFOS with their 23 July 1984 "helicopter" theory (see past NUNs). WYUFORG have a CE3 case for that night!

FATE (New £1.05 per issue, thanks to the exchange rate - subscription still \$16 US for 12 issues; 500 Hyacinth Place Highland Park Illinois 60035) There is Bruce Maccoabee UFO stuff in all three current issues, April, May, June 1985. May (No 422) has some old Blue Book files reopened and a fascinating Michael Goss investigation into "Pete Marsh", the "Bag Man", discovered last year in Cheshire.

IUR (6 issues, CUFOS sub \$25 US brings it, PO Box 1621, Lima, Ohio, 45802) First issue (to start tenth year) since Allen Hynek retired as International UFO Reporter editor. Jerome Clark is new editor. A debate on "Cattle Mutilations" and a JR article "The Case against the IFO". As I received a letter of praise (well almost praise!) from Philip Klass after this, you had better see what I did wrong (or right?). Associate Newsletter fills in the missing months, if you pay \$35 instead. Feb/Mar 1985 has a Stuart Campbell investigation of a 1980 Pitlechry photo case. (And no - it wasn't found to be ball lightning, merely a toy balloon)

AFU NEWS 1984 (Po Box 11027 S-600 11 Norrkoping Sweden) Sad news, as this is the last issue of this super review of Scandinavian ufology (for a time at least). Almost entirely in English it contains a fascinating study of time and place UFO statistics in Sweden, related to earthquake activity. Plus a study of 1946 "ghost rocket" sightings which has long been overdue. (It is partly to produce a book on government files referant to these events, now released, for which the publication suspension has been planned). Come back soon!

BOOKS OF THE MOMENT



SKYWAYS & LANDMARKS REVISITED by Philip Heselden, Jimmy Goddard & Paul Baines 44p, plus maps, photos, index. £1.22 from 170 Victoria Avenue Hull HU5 3DJ

In 1961 earth mystery researcher Tony Wedd published a little known booklet, "Skyways and landmarks", which took a series of Surrey UFO sightings, plotted them on a map and linked them with "leys". It was the first UFO-ley connection, something for which Wedd seems to have escaped recognition.

The aim of this book was to re-evaluate the alignments and visit the sites. Using a computer their accuracy has been validated. The book is very well set out and lucidly written. You lack nothing with the right maps and photos. The text of Wedd's original articles is included, plus much new speculation based upon it.

I am not qualified to judge on the validity (or otherwise) of the leys, and I am a little doubtful about how many of the "UFOs" used to compile them would really be IFOs if investigated thoroughly today. Whether this matters might be an interesting question in its own right.

Certainly, whatever the truth, the authors should be congratulated on a splendid compilation of their research. For the price it is heartily recommended to anyone intrigued by the possibility that UFOs and earth mysteries could be related. In the past - "EarthLights" world I guess that ought to be a lot of ufolegists.

THE KNIGHTS OF DANBURY by Andy Collins Earthquest Books, 1985, 86 pp Available £2.20 from 19 St Davids Way Wickford Essex SS11 8EX

Andy has come a long way since he started to investigate UFO sightings back in the mid-seventies (remember the Aveley abduction?) More recently he has become a professional journalist, a delightful writer, and branched out into the in-thing of the eighties, "earth mysteries". He was intimately involved in the "Green Stone" saga but backed out of the book published on the events; penning in fact his own sober appraisal ("The Sword and the Stone") (Earthquest 1982) He followed this the next year with "The Running Well Mystery", an earth mysteries/rural archeo-historical investigation, which sold out all 1400 copies. Now comes this brand new work, which is so beautifully produced, written and laid out (glossy paper, stiff cover, masses of photos, bibliography, references, indexes etc) that it is hard to imagine it as a self-published book. It puts many of the big gun publishers to shame. It is an absolute delight just to look at, never mind to read.

The content has nothing much to do with UFOs, being an investigation into a centuries old mystery of "pickled Knights" in an Essex village. Paranormal phenomena play a part in the resolution, but mostly it is an excellent insight into how to conduct an investigation. Expertly done, spiced with controversy, and so well written you won't want to put it down.

For those of you still arguing the "Green Stone" saga must be nonsense, and its characters scurrilous rogues, read what Andy is up to now and remember - he was there!

(NB- Andy also edits the irregular "EarthQuest News", relating all that's weird and wonderful on Essex; alien animals, mysteries, psychic battles, a Menecan legend comes true and knocks spots off the "Green Stone" - exciting stuff. 95p an issue.)

PAUL DEVEREUX Comments... Many thanks for the mention in 112. May I clarify a few points? My colleagues and I concluded shortly after publication of "Earth Lights" that friction-induced exo-electron effects (triboluminescence) in rocks might be a mechanism to explain production of lights by geological processes. We stated this in New Scientist (Sept 1 1983). I have never thought piezo-electricity was the underlying

mechanism (and when I told Persinger he said he was open to any other mechanism) Last year I saw the results of research being carried out at a British university on luminescence in minerals. They had produced lights from NON piezo rocks, in a vacuum. Light enhancers were needed to see the effect, which appeared as feathery streamers of light on photographs. Now in the landscape situation there are piezo rocks (eg granite) and there is an atmosphere. Sp piezoelectrical and triboluminescence almost certainly occur, but probably as side effects rather than as the root cause. More over, when rock like granite is pressured (even just by its presence alone) the incidence of radioactive radon gas is increased, and it was put to me that this may well interact with this fundamental process ... causing ionisation and other effects. What the root process is we still do not know for certain.

I should add that I am not convinced seismic movement is necessarily the prime "meter" behind earth lights (as opposed to their cousins earthquake lights). Other things happen around faulting, including electrical and magnetic anomalies which may be important factors. But earth lights are unknown natural phenomena and it would be ridiculous to expect anyone to understand their full mechanism at this stage.

Incidentally the 'earth light' photo in Anomaly was also in the 1983 New Scientist.

MEDIA MATTERS:-

A look at UFOs in the public eye



The number of press cuttings relating to UFOs is at an all-time low, since I became BUFORA Director of Investigations in 1981 and started to receive them via the cuttings agency. Less than 50 cuttings have been forwarded in the last four months. It is usually upwards of 100, even during recent lean years.

Few of these which are arriving relate to sightings. Most seem to be new groups or investigators (especially in the ever active Pennines) Huddersfield Examiner (Mar 30) describes the formation of the "Pennine Anomaly Research Group", formed by NUN subscriber Andy Roberts. So I hope they intend to associate with us.

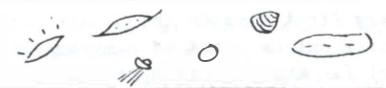
Bradford Star (Mar 28) does relate the CE3 from WYUPOFG last July (see p.4) when a Therpe Edge couple "saw a glowing structure on four legs standing in Colverley Woods, which both of them believed was a spacecraft", through binoculars they then saw "some small, almost reptilian, humanoids collecting specimens". Sounds weird. More on this, in due course, I hope.

The Sunday Times (Mar 10) (yes I didn't believe it either!) carried easily the best account of the recent USSR sighting with much additional data, headed "Russians see light on UFOs". Replete with a cartoon showing a vodka bottle flying past the cabin of the Tupolev jet, you might not have expected much. Especially when James Oberg is quoted explaining it as a secret rocket launch (his explanation new for every UFO sighting in Russia, after he got it right, once, a few years back!) The flight (8852) was from Tbilisi to Tallinn and was 75 miles from Minsk at 30,000 feet when the UFO was spotted at 04.10. The light display, illuminating the ground and then the plane, might sound like a space launch, as might the green cloud left behind. But when the cloud tailed the aircraft, was tracked on ground radar travelling at 300 mph and "changed shape into a plum, then a square and finally 'solidified' as a giant needle-nosed wingless aircraft with a curious animal like tail illuminated by a green and yellow light" I think Oberg is stretching his explanation a bit! Ground radar at three sites (Riga, Vilnius and Tallinn) all tracked aircraft and UFO before it left.

To conclude I like the Private Eye account of the Australian woman, on a beach near Perth, who saw "a hot black blob about the size of a crummet" land from the sky. She was about to pick it up when a man rushed up preventing her, saying, "I am a scientist and this will lead to new knowledge about the formation of the universe." Then he ran off and nobody has seen him since.

BRIEF CASES:-

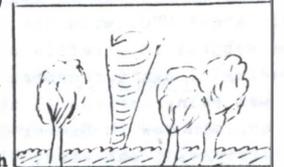
Some current investigations



More on the whirlwind mystery:

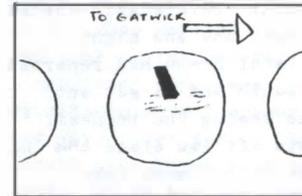
Following the southern counties "circles" mysteries, and last issue's "stationary whirlwind" sighting at Rhyl, reader Paul Wilson (a computer scientist) describes a personal experience which he and his fiancée had in Summer 1979 (more precision is not possible; although it was just after corn harvesting.)

The place was Maidenhead, Berks, and the time was 2-3pm on a hot and sunny day. There was no wind and the air was still (conditions typical of the stationary whirlwind phenomenon). The first sign of an effect was stalks of corn rising in a spiral above a hedge some 100 yards away. It was a "lazy" affair which petered out just above tree top height; although some corn stalks went a little higher before settling back to earth. There was no sound and the spiral (staying put in one position) lasted between 60 and 90 seconds before just stopping. Some of the stalks which descended to earth right by them were studied and looked normal. Unfortunately, there was no easy access to the field and this, coupled with lack of undue concern, prevented the state of the ground beneath the "whirlwind" being examined. Any bets that a circle would have been present?



Scientist spots UFO over Russia:

In view of the recent Aeroflot UFO sighting (see media matters) this is a fascinating account made by witness, Mr GC, new 79, and a retired experimental nuclear scientist. He was with a party on a "Saga" (over 60's) holiday to the USSR and had visited Yalta and other places. They were returning to Gatwick, having left Leningrad, on the afternoon of 5 July 1984 (time approx 14.00 local). They were flying at 35,000 ft, air-speed 560 mph, and about half-way through their flight. (ie about 2 hrs 55 mins from touchdown). Suddenly in a mere or less blue sky a pile of heaped cloud was seen midway towards the horizon (looking south). Sticking out of this, at an angle of about 25 degrees to the vertical, was a jet black cylinder. It was very distinct and clearly outlined. In appearance it resembled "a sausage sticking out of a plate of mashed potato" (1)



The object was pointed out to the passengers immediately ahead and behind, and both saw it. One of them (a woman) commented "that's a mighty long telegraph pole!" The other, a man who was a retired "aircraft inspector", said he was baffled. The phenomenon did not alter in appearance during the 3 minutes observation time and was eventually obscured by cloud passing in front of it. The witnesses were certain it was a physical object and not an optical illusion (eg a shadow of the aircraft on distant cloud) - although I feel leathe to rule out that option. Sadly no photographs were taken, as the airline "Aeroflot" ban camera use on board their planes! (Suprise, surpriset)

Sit Thi Deawn... Have I got a story to tell!

Popular Lancashire folk group "The Houghton Weavers" are well known in the north-west for their music and humour. They have produced many records, have had their own TV series with the BBC for six years, and have a global fan-club with 3000 members init. But one Friday in February it was a big day for them. They were doing a national show

for the very first time. On the Stuart Hall Radio Two "Chat Show" they were to present their unique blend of cameraderie (which makes their TV show "Sit Thi Deawn" so popular) for the whole of Britain. It was a good day for me too, because whilst they sang the songs on the show I provided the chat element, discussing UFOs and the paranormal for an hour on this live programme. Before, and afterwards (into the early hours of Saturday, as the show goes out round Midnight) I had plenty of chance to talk informally to the boys as the BBC liberally supplied us with 'green room' lubrication. Here I learnt some fascinating things.

Tony Berry, lead singer, introduced himself to me, when he heard I had arrived to talk about UFOs, with the words "Perhaps you can help me? I've just won a book about the subject in a raffle at a fete I opened. Can you tell me whether it's worth reading? I can't remember who it's by, but it's called something like "UFO Study"...". He was being serious (I think!) Having advised him to avidly digest it, he proceeded to explain how in Summer 1975 he was at Berwick Hall, near Carnferth, Lancs, with a girlfriend. It was about 05.00 and they were out in the fields (watching the dawn, so he assures me!) Suddenly in the west an orange "spot" appeared, which inside 20 seconds grew into an oval and then a cigar. It was at about tree-top height and there was no sound. Even the birds had temporarily stopped singing, he added. Then "whumph" @t just vanished. They presumed it was a reflection of the rising sun, but this appeared a good half hour later in a slightly different part of the sky. What was it they saw, he asked? He had heard that the Hall was haunted. Maybe it was a ghost? Or maybe not.

Guitarist Jeff Hill struck me as a much more down-to-earth person. Whilst I was unsure, even several hours later, if Tony Berry was being serious (although I spoke to his girlfriend when the group were in the studio and I could be alone with her - and she insisted it was true) Jeff was currently reading Kusche's solution to the Bermuda Triangle mystery and was genuinely interested in real investigation. He described a red light seen in the late seventies over the village of Culcheth (between Leigh and Warrington). It hovered for some time over a farm and then zipped off. He was willing to entertain a helicopter, but said he heard absolutely no sound although it was a quiet night. Similar red lights have been seen in Culcheth before, as I advised.

But the most intriguing story came from the groups road manager who one night was driving past a field in Leigh, where a few days before the local press had reported a "UFO landing". He too could see a distant orange glow to the south and so got out of his car and walked into the field. Quickly he realised he was seeing the burn-off from the huge oil refinery at Carrington (which when it reflects off low cloud this has been a source of many IFO reports in south Lancashire); although Peter Hough (who investigated the original 'landing') does not believe it was the answer in that case. The road manager, having satisfied his own curiosity, was all set to leave when he noticed two men in a car parked in the field. He asked what they were doing and they explained how they were looking for "flying saucers". He would have argued with them, but spotted a revolver on the back seat. They saw him looking at it and added, "Well - you never know who's going to get out of one of these things, do you?"

He left the field in rather a hurry and was a bit put off UFO spotting after that!

Case 8416 December 14 1984 19.15 Ashby, Sth Humberside Inv: SUFORS (N. Watson)

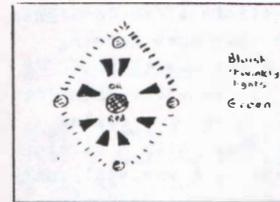
Mr FM had just arrived home after making a telephone call when he observed a bright white ball above his head, as he craned his neck to look at the stars. He was so surprised he nearly fell over. Readjusting his balance he looked again and saw the round object, which was now yellow in colour with dark shadings on it. It had also moved to the north east. It then faded to a reddish colour and vanished. Total duration was about 10 seconds. FM assumed it was the moon he had seen, but was puzzled by its

motion and colour changes. It brightly illuminated patches of cloud below. About three hours later FM observed the real moon, in a different part of the sky, having just risen. It was not even full and so did not look round. He reported his sighting to RAF Binbrook. Nigel Watson investigated the sighting and says that FM used to work at the Lormanby Park Steel plant, but now works (in the summer only) at a Holiday Camp, as entertainments manager. It is possible this object was a bright meteor, with duration slightly exaggerated. FM is sure it was pretty well elevated above the ground... so, in view of his job, it's a case of the UFO that was "high di high".

MYSTERY ENCOUNTERS OVER BURNLEY

Case 8501 MUFORA (Peter Hough & Mike Sacks) Case 8502 WAPIT (Carol Halsall)

At about 21.15 hrs on January 23 1985 JS, a 47 yr old headmaster from a Burnley school, had a close encounter with his family from their home at Brierfield. (Case 8501)



JS was first alerted by a "thud", which he presumed to be snow (which blanketed the ground) falling off the roof. But there was no sign of anything, and then, thinking it might be youths throwing snowballs, he went out to investigate. In the NNW an extremely brilliant light was visible moving slowly towards the school. Puzzled after watching its approach for a few minutes, he called to his wife and three daughters (aged 15 and twins aged 13). They all came out as it passed overhead.

The height was estimated as no more than 500 ft and when it got almost above them the bright light went out and a distinct diamond or 'kite' shape was visible. This had four distinct green lights at each apex, a red/amber central light, dark black 'vanes' or 'holes', coming out like spokes from the centre, and twinkling bluish 'fairy' lights scintillating around the edge. They debated the prospect of it being an aircraft, because aircraft inbound to Manchester are often seen on this NW-SSE flightpath. But it was extremely unusual, moved so slowly it appeared to 'drift' and made no sound at all. They watched it for a further period of time (making 15 minutes in all) as it vanished in the general direction of the Pennine Hills, between Oldham and Leeds. A couple of additional points... JS says the street outside was very dark because the streetlamps were temporarily broken. Also the road was unexpectedly devoid of traffic and very quiet during the encounter (classic Oz Factor Effect). A staff member at the school also heard a thump on the roof at the time, but did not go outside or see anything. MUFORA has been unable to provide any evidence that this was an aircraft, and a very sensible group of witnesses remarked "(if it was) it was very unusual and remarkably silent."

Even more remarkable is the striking similarity between this sighting and the one in south Wales on Jan 19 1983 (shape, light patterns, Oz factor, slow movement & silence). I followed this up at length with the BBC, for a 30 minute documentary screened only in Wales in June 1984, based upon an MoD report leaked to me, first alerting us to the case. Part of the evidence is related in MUFORA Bulletin 015/016, in my article "UFOs Cymru" - but the BBC uncovered a lot more for the programme. The UFO in these two unusual cases looks almost identical - something of very great significance, as the south Wales case is probably unknown outside Wales and MUFORA readership.

The next night, January 24 1985, according to WAPIT case 8502, the Andersen family of Burnley (no more details) observed a silvery/green light three times over the course of one hour, which faded in and out and was not a star. No other details have been reported, so it is not clear if these events are related.

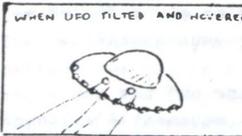
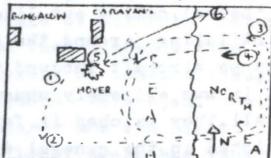
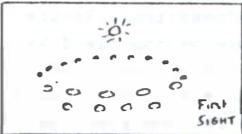
The Saltfleet Encounter Case 8418 April 22 1984 Saltfleet, Lincolnshire

I had been holding off publication of this case pending receipt of a final report from WYUFORG, who have investigated it for us. However, I have been asked to summarise what we know for overseas ufologists who have picked up somewhat distorted press stories about it. The account is based upon a sight of the WYUFORG report last October (which I was asked to return) and a talk to the principle witness, who attended the Bradford conference. Readers will note it is yet another major case in the seven day period between April 18 and 25 last year (to add to events such as the East England airport landing, the RAF Lakenheath encounter and the Blairgowrie CE4). Another significant case (dated April 23 and involving the MoD and photographs) will be featured next time.

Saltfleet is on a remote part of the Lincolnshire coast, about 40 miles ENE of Lincoln. It boasts a caravan site at which 33yr old Mrs M was staying. She had settled her two boys into bed and at 22.10 was watching TV with her mother. Then she heard sounds from them and walked over to their caravan, which was adjacent, settled them again and was returning to the film she was enjoying. On the way she spotted a circle of white lights, a formation of smaller red lights above and a bright white light atop them. Rubbing her eyes and looking again she satisfied herself that something weird was there.

Mrs M called to Mrs B (her mother aged 53) who came out. Then (at 22.17 by her watch) the boys (aged 13 and 7) also got called out. There was now a clearly structured oval shape with a circle of 9 W lits and red, blue and green lights above. It was stationary quite near to them and at a height estimated as 500'. Suddenly many more lights now came on and the whole thing began to revolve. Once steady lights were now flashing and the speed of rotation increased until all the colours blended into a sort of blur. There was no sound as the object moved off south. The object was now visible as only a diamond of four white lights with some central red lights (see Burnley case, p.9!). It turned sharply and moved eastwards out to sea. Both Mrs M & B were taking a turn at watching through binoculars and saw the object as it moved north, parallel with the shore, very slowly, taking about 2 minutes until level with them. It then turned again, now to be heading westwards, straight at them! At this point it switched on a brilliant searchlight beam directed at the ground, illuminating first the sea and then the land beneath it. When it came on dogs all around the area began barking furiously. It was on just a few seconds and then switched off. The object came within a quarter mile, then

turned south and completed a second slow circuit similar to the first. By about 23.00 the object was back out at sea heading towards them again! Meanwhile Mrs M went into the caravan to get coats so they could go out onto the beach for a closer look. Their two dogs (a Jack Russel and a pup) were ignoring her; rigid on a seat staring out at the sea towards the object through closed curtains. Both were trembling in fear. Upon going back outside the object had headed straight for them as before, with Mrs M looking directly at it through binoculars when the beam came on. She dropped the binoculars and was blinded for several minutes by the glare. Her elder son was forced to comfort her. The object now did not turn south, as before, but came right on top of them, descending to around 100 feet. The "beam" was seen as two headlight rays. Mrs M, now recovered (as it had taken several minutes for the approach to complete), was waving at the object screaming "Come on you b... come closer and let us have a good look!" It did so. It hovered right over their heads, totally silent, beaming onto them and illuminating them in a spotlight! Then the spotlight dimmed and they got a fantastic view of the craft, with the lights revolving and a smoky glass dome.



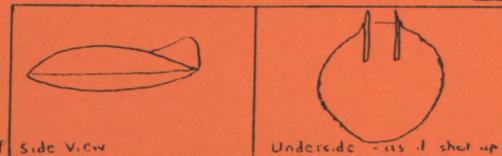
The lights glowed almost fluorescent with a sort of hazy effect. The craft tilted at a 45 degree angle to reveal itself fully. It hovered for 2 minutes like this with the eerie silence contrasting with howlings from all the dogs for miles around. Then all lights but for four red ones went out, the object climbed vertically and went out to sea. There was a sequel, in that a family who owned a beach bungalow arrived, saw the lights and watched in astonishment as the object did another two circuits. The woman in this couple, Mrs W, held a baby in her arms. It was staring straight up at the object as if transfixed by it! Mr W went back inside, reported that his two dogs were strangely 'uneasy' and returned with his camera to take some pictures of what were now just high flying lights. They moved out to sea; were joined by a second set of lights, seemed to 'blink' to one another, and moved off north out of view at 23.20.

Obviously there is a lot more work to be done on this amazing case. My mind did think of air-sea rescue helicopter missions or exercises. But the proximity and silence seems to refute this. Besides, the M family have visited the same site each year since 1972 and have never observed any such activity. I hope we get a full report in due course

ANYTHING YOU CAN DO - UFO CAN DO BETTER

Case 5509 February? 1955? Bescombe Down, England MUFORA:- Hough, Randles & Sandbach

When JR was doing her Radio Two chat show in February (see p.7) a former RAF pilot (TW) phoned the BBC and asked JR to call back afterwards, which she did. He advised of a personal experience in what he claimed to be Feb 1955 (recalled because the 30 yr MoD secrecy rule on it had expired). In a subsequent interview at his home he told the three investigators (Peter Hough and aviation expert Roy Sandbach also were present) that he was unsure of the date; they meted 1958; which we quickly demonstrated was improbable for the type of experimental aircraft he was flying. He agreed and then suggested 1952 - "in the summer sometime! He was vague and woolly on several other key details, when on the phone he had not been. We got the distinct impression he had backed off, and although he admitted that he had talked to his old RAF base between our chat on the phone and the interview a couple of weeks later, he says he was not warned against speaking in any respect. TW began flying in 1939 (age 28) and at the sighting date was a Flt. Lieutenant. He specialised in radar development and in 1958 left to become a Principal Scientific officer with the MoD, in charge of new aircraft/radar systems, working at an experimental RAF base. On the date of the sighting he and a fellow pilot of similar rank (name unrecalled, so he claims) had cleaned out a souped-up Canberra PR7 jet, so as to lighten it sufficiently to climb up to an unusual height. They needed this to test some top secret radar which was plagued with anomalous prepegation effects. Leaving RAF Bescombe Down and climbing beyond all traffic over Salisbury Plain (heading NW) they reached 55,000 (then a world record) at about mid-day on an almost cloudless day. They then detected a target at 5 mile range, pinging them immediately behind. Assuming it must be prepegation or malfunction (although they had come so high to evade these) they did all necessary checks and finally satisfied themselves there was nothing wrong with the radar. TW then went up to the turret and looked behind, where he saw a flat-disc shape glinting sunlight off a metal surface. Meanwhile the pilot tried to increase speed (maximum achieved was 225 knots) but the thing just "hung in there". TW then asked the pilot to make a "big radius turn" to the right; which they did. As the radar was a rearward facing one they lost the target - but visually ahead saw the object. They had now been observing it (on radar) 7-8 mins and (visually) a couple of minutes. But they and the UFO were now



closing on each other: fast! An excellent view of the object was now obtained both by TW and the pilot. It was a flat oval, not unlike a "venom", with a thin twin stabiliser at the rear. TW claims to have seen nothing like it before or since. No windows, doors etc were visible. Then, in an instant, the craft rose vertically upwards: "fifty, sixty, seventy thousand feet - as quick as you could say it", as TW puts it. With no trail, and just a glinting flash, the object disappeared upwards to an "impossible" height. The Canberra completed its mission, landed, reported the events verbally, but nobody was interested. "Once we satisfied them it was not a Russian plane then they weren't interested". TW briefed the radar manufacturers and they all concluded it was a real blip not a propagation effect. All in all he was remarkably blasé about the whole thing. He claims that at no time did they enter into radio contact with the ground during the several minutes of the event, or afterwards. Nor does he believe ground radar tracked anything other than them. Nor does he find this odd. MUFORA were left with a distinct impression TW had, for whatever reason, clammed up after his telephone chat and was being deliberately cagey to ensure vague details gave no prospect of real investigation. We will keep our eyes on this one! - - -

FINAL
WORDS

Congratulations to YUFOS on organising an excellent conference in Leeds, on March 23. They managed to cram a lot into the short time, and judging from the media reviews Tim Good's suave presentation on "the cover up" was well received. Despite limited promotional support around 90 people were there - which shows what can be done when you try. Lets hope the 1985 NUFOR conference is as successful.

Readers are reminded that back issues of NUN are available (issues 100 onwards; Jan/Feb 1983). Some are in short supply and (to clear) a discount rate of 60p each (post inc.) is being offered. Photocopies of pre 1983 issues (back to 1975) are also available at 90p per issue. (Block rates can be quoted if facilities available):-
Cheques/po's to NUFOR please.

CALENDER				
Jun 1	NUFORA Lecture (Final of season)	6.30pm	London Business School	
Jul 27	Ley Hunter Meet 85 (Henry Lincoln: "Holy Blood & Grail", Tony Morrison, Paul Devereux et al)		College of Ripon & York St John, York. (£8 - from TLH Po Box 13 Welshpool Powys)	
Sep 7	NUFORA lecture season starts again at LBS (planned inclusions will feature Dr Bertil Kuhlemann, Paul Devereux and "National Enquirer" journalist John Trux, of the infamous anti-Alan Godfrey 'Time Out' article. (Details 30 Verment Rd London SE19 3SR)			
Oct 26	Northern Earth Mysteries Meet in Sheffield (more details next time)			

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