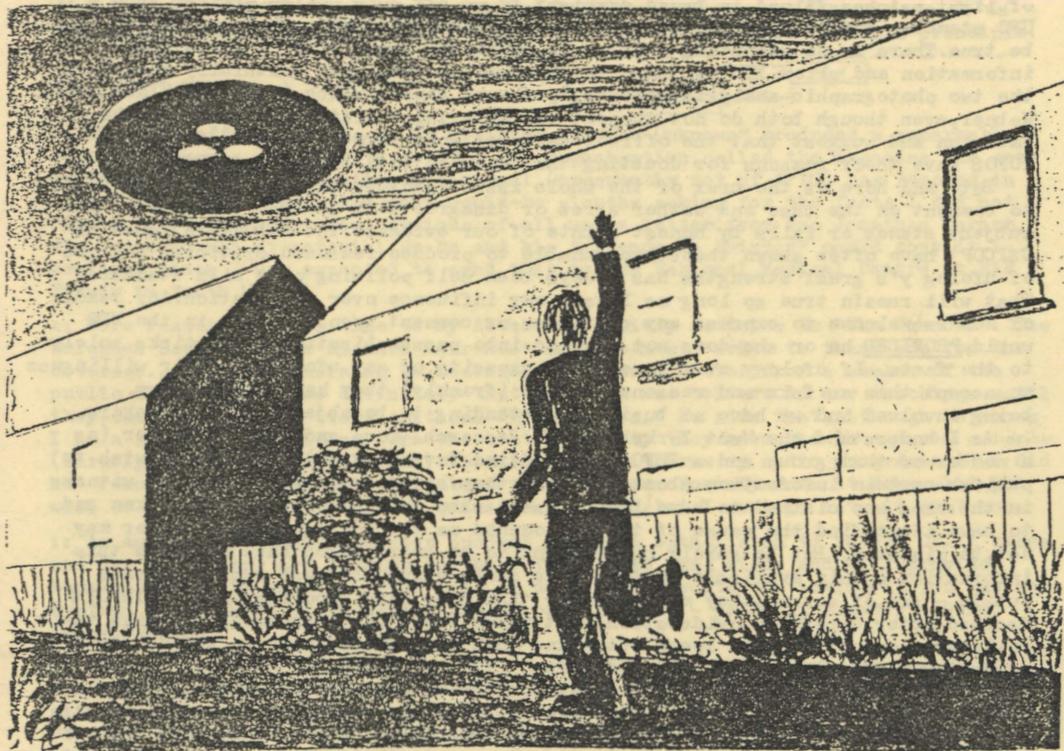


NORTHERN NEWS

UF

122

NOV - DEC 1986



Cover design:- Bill Callaghan (From NUFON 119, NUFORA case 6728)
"...and called out 'Welcome to our world!'"

Editor:- Jenny Randles 8 Whitethroat Walk Birchwood Cheshire WA3 6PQ

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Lancashire

"A VERY HAPPY CHRISTMAS TO ALL READERS EVERYWHERE"

Jenny Randles

J.R. Comments... There has been a good deal of reaction to Nigel Mortimer's comments on the Cracoe Fell photographs (p.15-16 last issue) The Yorkshire UFO Society were very angered by my decision to include them. But my intention was not in any sense to provoke acrimony. The matter is of fundamental importance...

I am not (repeat not) taking sides on the matter of the Cracoe Fell case itself. According to YUFOS and their special report the photographs of a formation of light patches filmed in broad daylight by an off duty police officer show a UFO standing astride the sheer cliff face in North Yorkshire. That may, or may not, be true. There is no disputing that, as is usual, the group offer a great deal of information and allow YOU to judge for yourselves. They also faithfully reproduce the two photographic analysis reports, by Ground Saucer Watch (USA) and Klaus Welner, even though both do not support the material reality of what is on the emulsion and suggest that the officer captured some form of light reflection. YUFOS have their reasons for doubting that, and are entitled to put them.

But - and here is the crux of the whole issue - anyone else has a perfect right to comment on the case and either agree or disagree with the UFO evaluation. Our subject stands or falls by honest debate of our evidence. The debunkers (such as CSICOP) have often shown themselves unable to produce reasoned criticism and one of ufology's great strengths has always been self policing of a high standard. That will remain true so long as I have any influence over publication. Any reader of NUN is welcome to express any criticism, or comment upon any case in the UFO world, PROVIDED he or she does not descend into personalisations and sticks solely to the facts. If ufology ever loses that capacity, or any ufologist their willingness to accept this as fair and reasonable, then (frankly) they have no business being involved and we have no business pretending to be objective researchers.

As I understand the West Yorkshire UFO Research Group and Nigel Mortimer (as a member of that group and a BUFORA Accredited Investigator) they simply wish to publish certain information about the case they have acquired from an eye witness in the area who claimed to have been present when the photographs were taken and to have identified the cause of the phenomenon on the photographs. He may, or may not, be mistaken. But he surely has a right to be heard. YUFOS have not made this information openly available in the three years since the case was first made public - and, of course, they may consider that they have good reason. But WYUFOFG decided, after careful consideration, that three years was long enough to give their colleagues opportunity to speak out - and that they should open up the debate by producing this data.

Now that - so far as I am concerned - is the entire issue at stake. It is precisely nothing to do with politics, inter-group bickerings or personal attacks. YUFOS chose, in their Jul-Aug issue of Quest (which as I write on Dec 1st has yet to be followed by their next issue), to announce to their readership that they would expose a scandal involving a BUFORA investigator. Whilst I remain in the dark as to the details of this - having only got one side of the story (and only YUFOS are to blame for that) I have to say that from what WYUFOFG and Nigel Mortimer have told me, none of their described actions are scandalous and are indeed merely designed to expedite fair debate on this important case. Everyone's interests are thus served. For YUFOS to consider otherwise is perplexing.

What emerges in this situation remains to be seen, and doubtless it is bound to simmer on. Both sides should, of course, have their say - and you must decide for yourself where the answer lies in this case. But it would be absurd to incite yet another pointless squabble over a genuine desire (shared, I trust, by both groups in this affair) to merely reach a solution (if there be one) to this case.

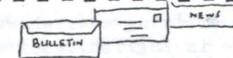
In Northern UFO News I simply allowed WYUFOFG to make clear, as was their right as a NUFON associate group, that they had no interest other than truth. That they were willing to sit down and talk out the case. That they were not calling any individual guilty of dishonesty or even inefficiency. And that they were just expressing their right of freedom of speech to suggest an alternative to the UFO hypothesis.

There is enough secrecy in government circles. I defend our right to speak

our minds in a decent, honest and friendly fashion. I would expect it from YUFOS and QUEST. I see no fault in offering it to my readers.

Reader Raymond Broderick reminded me that if we fight amongst ourselves there can be but one winner. And you can bet it is not anyone concerned for UFO truth. Let us recall that there are always wider issues. This dispute over the answer to a case is in many senses a storm in a teacup. But I will under no circumstances recede the right of myself or anyone else to challenge a 'UFO' explanation (and that includes CSICOP, Ian Ridpath and any NUFON group). This is something none of us should ever sacrifice, and is why I have lent support to WYUFOFG on this principle.

NEWS ROUND-UP:



:: The APEN affair rumbles on. My articles in "The Unknown" produced a remarkable response. Someone, alleging to be from the organisation, called the magazine and gave warning of a lawsuit. Another individual (presumably not of APEN) has reacted in a similar manner. And I had many would-be sleuths asking for the facts I did not reveal. There are none! Most curious of all was a letter from one Jonathan Turner, who required all my material so he and his "friends in Swindon" could copy it. I declined, since I was expected to send this to the Regional Medical Centre at RAF Brawdy in South Wales!

:: More reaction - this time to my Aetherius Society articles in "The Unknown". The European Secretary "Dr Richard Lawrence" says he must "write to thank you for the coverage... Only this morning we received a charming letter from a member of the public who stated quite definitely that they did not believe in our teachings until they came across your (very critical-JR) articles." He adds that, although he knows I am a sceptic, my articles were the best publicity they have had in ages. One authority (largely thanks to Jodrell Bank) threatened to withdraw my radio programme if I did not remove my critical material about the Aetherius Society from it. Make what you will of that. The full story is quite complicated, but I won't go into it just now.

:: An Amstrad 464 based computer project has been established to record CEIII cases and the organisers are looking for help. The scheme uses disks and will provide back-up copies to you /or print outs of data. Sounds worth contacting if you use an Amstrad system. Project Bécassine can be contacted at:- 9A ne St Exupery 92160 Anony FRANCE.

:: The new ARCTURUS BOOKS (PO Box 2213 Scotia NY 12302 USA) catalogue is out. If you want to know what the fuss over the Patrick Moore/Cedric Allingham affair is all about, they have several copies of this long out of print book going cheap. Over 260 other titles (including the rare Condon report). For £10 you can order all six 1987 catalogues as soon as they appear. Could save you pounds in the long run.

:: Intrigued by those press stories you see in 'Media Matters'? BUFORA have a new venture just for you. Mike Wootten is offering photocopies of the best, in a magazine format at 50p. First issue contains more than a dozen UK and US articles from 1986 - including the mystery circles, the Patrick Moore hoax, Prince Charles 'UFO' and others. More issues to follow. Send see for details to Mike at:- 4 Ivy Road Leyton London E11 8HX

:: Hot off the press from ASSAP comes the 1987 "Paranormal Research Diary" - acting as a diary and lots of other information. Cost £2.50 (30 South Row London SE3 0RY)

BOOK OF THE MOMENT



CAT FLAPS! by Andy Roberts 1986 48pp booklet (with illus & photos) £2 (inc)

Who has not heard about the mysterious big cats seen around Britain in recent years? Well - at least - those down south. But, it may surprise you to know, there have been many unsung 'cat flaps' in the north. In this purr-fectly delicious little book Andy reviews the panthers, cougars, lions etc seen roaming Yorkshire, Lancashire and elsewhere north of Brum. The serious vein that runs throughout is the concept of misperception - very relevant to UFO study. But the Rossendale big cat actually

turned up in a UFO hot spot, prompting suggestions of a possible connection. If you add to the thought-provoking text some delightful cartoons, plus several photographs, this book is worth £2 of anybody's money. Nine out of ten owners said their cats preferred it to Whiskers.

Available from:- 84 Elland Rd Brighouse W.Yorks HD6 2 QR. (Andy Roberts)



FOR YOUR PERUSAL:-

Major articles elsewhere

Computers are arriving everywhere—even in UFO circles. New is "The Computer UFO Newsletter" — in English, despite its country of origin. Editor Maurizio Verga (pay by money order to him) offers it on exchange with other mags or at 15,000 [Italy] Lire (about £8) for six issues. It has already produced five issues, discussing the of software, data-bases and methods of computer use in UFO research. If you have any kind of computer you should get this. (via Matteotti 85, 22072, Cernenate)

Also look out around January for "New Meanings" — yet another news-stand glossy, from the publishers of YOGA Today! This will be exploring consciousness and psi. The old faithfuls continue. "Beyond Science" has started to look at the mystery circles (very naively so far). Exploring the Supernatural (90p) is back onto a schedule. Still very mystical and into fortune telling, aside from series mentioned last issue, continued in Nov & Dec, there is nothing much about UFOs, but Dec does have an interview with Lyall Watson and JRs soapbox is about how to handle TV and radio interviews. The Unknown (99p) still comes out tops for UFO stuff. Nov (MIBs, UFOs over a Wirral motorway, photo hoaxing and-for Brookside fans—an interview with 'Annabelle Collins' about her ghost). Dec (UFO movie films, Hilary Evans on Martian CE4s from the 19th century).

BUFORA (In BUFORA Sub:- £14 pa 16 Southway Burgess Hill Sussex RH15 9ST)
Sept JTAP (Terry Dutton's 'commended' paper to the New Scientist UFO Competition about mathematical calculation of UFO flightpaths, quite a lot on computers and Stuart Campbell's latest theory about the Livingston CEII — it now being viewed by him as a daylight mirage of the planet Venus)
Nov Bulletin (a good UFO report from Robert Moore, but not a lot else this issue)

EARTH 3 (£4, six issues, 61 Ranelagh Ave Ravenscliffe Bradford W.Yorks HD10 0HF)
Must be the weirdest UFO mag in the world (if not — please send in your entry — I'd love to see it!) Magic, witchcraft, demons, fairies, you name it — and the most diverse suggestions about UFOs and days of the week you have ever read. Different.

INFINITY Vol 4/4 (SAE to 73 Torbrex Rd Cumbernauld Glasgow Scotland G67 2JU)
Malcolm Robinson discusses the Anamnesis project and a copy of the entire form is included, if you want to know what it's all about. Heather Ward on the 10th planet.

TLH 101 (£5, three issues, PO Box 5 Brecon Powys LD3 7LU)
The Ley Hunter prints the recently discovered earthlights photo taken at Santa Cruz, California, by the San Andreas fault and assesses it with Paul McCartney.

MUFON Journal (£30 US, 12 issues, 103 Oldtowne Rd Seguin Texas 78155-4099 USA)
Aug:- Reviews the 1986 MUFON symposium and presents a new CEIII case from Minnesota. Also comments on Rendlesham and senatorial involvement. Most illuminating.
Sep:- Hilary Evans paper that opened the 1986 Anglo-French symposium on science and UFOs. Dennis Stacy on early CIA involvement. An emotive 'shuttle' cover too.

ACUFOS Bulletin Oct (£20, Aus, 4 issues, PO Box 728 Lane Cove NSW 2066)
Glad to see news from Australia returning. Not as grand as UFORAN was but packed with news and brief case reports from the southern continent..

FORTEAN RESEARCH JOURNAL Oct (£15, US, 4 issues, PO Box 94627, Lincoln NE 68509 USA)
Owing to reader interest this special issue devotes its 22 pages to excellent re-productions of nine of the hottest Freedom of Information Act memos on UFOs. Worth the yearly subscription just to get full size copies of these.

JOSEPH AND HIS AMAZING MULTI-FACETED DREAMCOAT (2) Clive Potter

The intelligence behind these messages seems to keep a pace ahead of current technological development and maintains certain consistencies:- localised events, limited physical traces, symbolical contact and links with psychic phenomena or psychic witnesses. Such things imply that we are dealing with a psychic phenomenon that is capable of interacting with matter, just as poltergeists or stigmata in religious visions might do. It is further demonstrated by the singularity of the events and their preference for nocturnal time periods.

The tendency of the UFO phenomenon to be concentrated in certain areas may, according to the work of Devereux et al, be the result of geologically induced electrical activity. Although this is almost certainly responsible for material UAP it leaves open the possibility of energy interaction producing hallucinatory experiences, much coloured by individual preconceptions and the cultural climate.

This link between place and event dominates other forms of fortean phenomena (spooklights, alien animals, falls from the sky etc). These are also often demarked by a change in state of consciousness of the witness — often signalled by the 'Oz Factor', not at all far from medieval descriptions of initiates entering fairyland.

The establishment of similar consciousness triggers in such a diverse set of experiences as UFO contacts, apparitions and premonitions (plus many others) still leaves open the question of what triggers the trigger. We may yet need to seek an alien intelligence to explain the persistence of the message. We may believe that some form of intelligence is exerting a controlling influence over mankind, using the human mind as its point of contact to deceive and confuse. Or is it merely our inability to comprehend?

Wherever the source of the UFO material it seems to be of vital importance, as it has smouldered within our psyche for centuries. If we strip away the prevailing cultural preconceptions we are left with the concept of a higher authority which is maintaining a benevolent/malevolent watch over us, occasionally intervening but always remaining outside definitive proof. It is possible this is a collective influence from the higher reaches of the 'species field', as Sheldrake postulates. An updated version of divine intervention. The arrival of the UFO does appear to have been a social response to technological development during the first half of this century.

The contactees of the fifties were just another form taken by the visionaries who have propagated the myth of divine intelligence for centuries. They inherited the rich store of archetypal images and were aided by the media, who fostered the legend. Once started, the process fed on itself like a contagious disease throughout the species field, manifesting in slightly different guises according to respective cultures.

Today the UFO itself has undergone alterations, responding to collective ideas on a grand scale — precisely as one finds within the UFO phenomenon as a whole. It is a sort of education programme reinforced by synchronicities. The growth in the CE 4 experience is clearly important, but whether Randles is right in theorising (in Alien Contact) about a response to collective fears and possible premonitions about the future of the earth remains uncertain. But this may be what we would expect the species field to generate if it were true.

Indeed the future of UFO research should be centred on CE 4 percipients who seem more sensitive to the species field than non-psychics. However, one must beware of the danger of transferring one's own expectations onto the percipient. If the idea of a species field is correct our own thoughts could affect a case under study. Could this be the real solution to the problems of the Green Stone and Eye of Fire oases? Randles has pointed out the comparisons with the fictional Donaldson books 'The Chronicles of Thomas Covenant', and other UFO fact and fiction 'coincidences' are easy to discover. However much it might strain credulity — what if the testament that some of these events 'really' happened is true? It must alter our concept of the chameleon like UFO phenomenon, and Randles may not be too far wide of the mark in suggesting that the real-world 'dungeons and dragons' of these psychic quests are fulfilling a need in our psyche. Taking over from traditional UFOs and acting as the forerunner of the next manifestation of the UFO phenomenon.

To an extent the Spielberg imagery in 'Close Encounters' was like the opening of a valve in consciousness, creating a void that had to be filled by a new form of dream. Randles might be right when she says he killed the UFO. Perhaps the timing of the psychic quests (immediately after the movie) is no coincidence. All that has actually occurred (exactly as with UFOs) is that an old myth has been adopted (in this case the grail quests, as opposed to the fairy realm) and clothed in the guise of the twentieth century.

But if these are archetypal images, no more, what is their purpose? Is it simply a reflection of modern needs and fears in this tragical world? Or is it the species field manipulating the consciousness of man, like a programmed computer, forseeing events and transposing these images in the most powerful way it knows - as semi-religious visions that can dominate a culture?

 MEDIA MATTERS

A look at UFOs in the public eye

Press cuttings for 1986 are lower than for any year since 1982, when I started receiving them for distribution to BUFORA investigators. Further evidence of the death of the UFO? November provided just 7 for the entire UK - many due to a MUFORA publicity drive for new cases.

The Cambrian News has two big pieces lately, entitled "Mysterious Lights in the Sky". They ran a competition for the best light in the sky case sent in! On Sept 19 they reported a Mrs R and husband from Lampeter, who at 8pm on a late Spring 1986 evening saw an "orange globe-shaped light float across the sky". Bigger than a star, but not as big as the moon, it moved SE to NW and vanished after ten seconds of slow motion on the other side of Cefn Bryn heading towards Temple Bar. But the winner has to be the one reported in the Sep 5 issue. Here an anonymous agricultural sales rep described his repeated encounter with a very odd light whilst driving at night through "Kilvert Country" (?). It was "a brief reflection on his windscreen" and "seemed to be that of a label of some kind, red lettering on a white background". After seeing it on a couple of nights he slowed and got a close view of it but could not read the letters as they appeared 'bent'. Anyhow, he stopped the car, went down a verge to relieve himself and there, buried in the grass found a used drinks bottle with a label exactly as he had seen reflected in his car. There is no way this could have been visible, he claims, but the odd thing is that a mouse was inside it. The poor animal had crawled inside and, being unable to get out again, had died of starvation. Had it tried to put over its distress and had the driver detected a 'message' that was translated into this hallucination effect? Weird.

New Scientist (9 Oct) reviewed The UFO World '86 in their Ariadne column. Incredible: as UFO books hardly ever make it. Complete with a cartoon of the obligatory aliens the review (which gave no price, no address and no indication of BUFORA involvement) started off well "I was pleasantly surprised at the scepticism which seems to flourish in such circles". It then descends into jokes about the UFOs being "engaged only on a long round of farewell performances, like Frank Sinatra", added that UFOs pinch their ideas from Ray Bradbury and that "some of the UFO's crews have never heard that their original ship, drawn and photographed by George Adamski in 1947, was admitted by him to be a fake". Whoever wrote this is a very good author of fiction but does not, of course, take the credit for his load of cobbles. I wrote to NS, but got no reply. I suppose we ought to have expected the editor sitting there, pondering a semi-favourable report on UFOs and wrecking it with the words "I did it my way".

Finally, Yorkshire Evening Post (13 Oct) has a nice story 'City team in a close encounter'. Not on the field. They got clobbered 3-0 by Bristol City. But, after getting used to seeing a round leathery UFO heading in the general direction of their goal net, the team coach encountered a UFO forty miles out of Bristol heading north on the sad trek home. All the players, the manager, directors and Yorkshire Evening Press sports writer Malcolm Huntington saw it. It was some sort of flattened white light - which has interesting comparisons with a strange photographic case from Wales to be recorded next issue. So watch out for that.

PS:- Keep your eyes on SHE magazine. The Feb issue (out late Jan) has a special ESP competition, arranged by your editor, and the Mar issue will feature a Peter Hough UFO article.

((()))



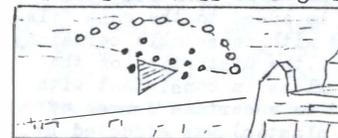
NORTH WALES FLAP (3) Margaret Fry

During February and March 1986 there were more sightings in North Wales. But there were also quite a few bright fireball meteors (for instance the one Prince Charles' VC-10 encountered over the North Sea). That does not account for what two adults and a child encountered on 9 February at 17.00 whilst turning off the M6 and heading west. They were at the Sproston Green turn-off-scene of the classic encounter mentioned in last month's editorial. The object seen in this case was in view for 30 minutes on a cold day with snow and no sun visible. It looked like flames and it is hard not to regard this as some sort of effect caused by the setting sun - although the investigator & witnesses do not seem very happy with such a possibility. Any other ideas? (8621)



Case 8622 happened on 1 March at 23.10 when three teenage boys were driving home to Llangernaw and saw a horseshoe shaped red object with a yellow rim when one mile from Llanfannan. It seems to have passed over the Denbigh Moors very fast and was almost certainly one of the spectacular space debris re-entries.

Meanwhile, back on Deeside, case 8623 takes us to the evening of 5 March. A taxi driver saw a mass of lights (white arc at top, red in centre and green cone at base) near the BSC Shotton plant. He was very disinterested and at 20.40 was off to get a fare so failed to stop. Three hours later, at 23.30, a second taxi driver saw a sequence of flashing green and white lights over Flint. It seemed to be hovering. He was at the time travelling along a road in the area that will be very well known to readers of Alien Contact - Coed On Lane in Oakenholt!

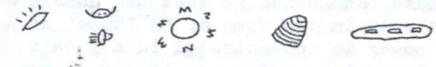


The wave (temporarily) abated on the night of 2 April when the entire Waring family at Prestatyn observed a UFO "red and green flashing and hanging" at 21.15. It was first seen over the MANWEB electricity board shop and stayed there for about ten minutes. Then it moved slowly and descended behind the Church spire. A pinhead sized object had now joined the larger one and was trailing in its wake as the formation moved unhurriedly away inland towards the Meliden Mountains. The family do not seem too keen to talk about these events, although Margaret says that there appear to have been other experiences since. (Case 8624)

That was it - for several months. But October was to bring a new spate of incidents, which are fascinating. They include photographs and a poltergeist outbreak which made both the BBC and ITV news. Margaret has completed enquiries into these events - which also focus on Prestatyn - and we shall begin to look at these in the next issue.

 BRIEF CASES:-

Some current investigations



I am grateful to Roy Sanbach of MUFORA for the following material quoted from "Wings on My Sleeve" by Captain Eric Brown, a Star Paperback. Brown, a navy fighter pilot, was Air Commander running day to day business at RAF Brawdy in South Wales. According to his memoirs (page 190-191) for February 1956 - "one evening, just as the last aircraft were returning to the airfield, we had a phone call from a lady schoolteacher near Fishguard to say that she could see a flying saucer. My scepticism almost made me laugh outright as I listened to her, but I promised that I would ask one of the returning aircraft to have a look.

Jokingly we told one of our pilots over the radio what had been reported. To our surprise he said, "Yes, and I can damn well see it, too."

Again I was anything but convinced, especially as he said it was rapidly moving out of sight. Minutes later one of our air traffic controllers called down to my office to say that he could see it with the naked eye from the control-tower roof. I shot upstairs and saw what did look like a saucer in the air.

I decided it was interesting enough to go and have a look at it, and leapt off in a Vampire to see what I could make of it. I climbed to about 40,000 feet but the shape was still above me and moving fairly fast, and in the now half-light of dusk I could not identify it. But I am certain it was not a cosmic research balloon which was the only tangible thing I thought it might be.

The shape continued to be identified along the entire Bristol Channel coast that evening without any explanation of it ever coming out. Where I once scoffed - I now have an open mind"

Later - he did chase a real balloon, so was able to compare the two events.

One more hidden case in the MoD archives, which of course no longer exist - **THEY SAY!**

* 'The Mario Luisi case' *

I am grateful to NLUFOIG for clarifying the situation about the Mario Luisi case and their report. It was, to a degree, misunderstanding on my part - and their very detailed case file will now enter the NUFON archives. They wish to state that they do not consider his first sighting a hoax, but a genuine (although subjective) experience. Their in-depth contact with the case makes them in an ideal position to judge. Subsequent elaborations (or fabrications) seem to have a good deal to do with how Mario interpreted internal images and envisaged his 'mission'.

Gordon Barraclough and Ian Cresswell also send a copy of their analysis of the torch. This is the third independent study of it and will be added to the case file.

I will note some quotes from it... "It could be assumed with reasonable certainty that the whole torch was intact when the damage occurred... the distortion on the surrounding area of the plastic component which held the glass is consistent with what would be expected were the central portion subjected to a certain degree of heat... It would seem most likely that the damage (to the plastic) was effected by some form of electrical discharge, or something of like nature... For simple physical heat, temperatures in excess of 65°C would be necessary. This would also tend to blacken the plastic and leave sooty deposits - none of which is in evidence in this particular case"

As you will see this appears to contradict the written report by electrical engineers, obtained by Harry Harris for MUFORA, and the verbal report (they refused to put anything in writing as it was done unofficially) by the police forensic laboratories in Chorley, Lancashire. However, the NLUFOIG (self conducted?) report goes on, "To achieve such an effect by means of a blowtorch would require it to be set at a very high temperature for a very short period of time - but this would also tend to distort the surrounding plastic of the casing, making it very difficult to achieve an effect similar to that of the Luisi torch. However, a form of relatively 'cold' heat - such as with an Oxy-Acetylene torch - would produce more favourable results. This would, though, imply an ingenious and elaborate hoax which, in the Luisi case, appears most unlikely."

The ultimate conclusion is that the damage was carried out by a "source (electrical, or other)" in the form of "a 'tube' of heat, in which the highest temperature or point of power is concentrated in a localised area, and the perimeter would have a much lower temperature or lesser charge..."

Whether this makes the reality of the aliens in the Luisi case more probable must be left up to you to judge.

* 'The Mystery Circles' *

Finally, I must comment on a letter sent to 'Exploring the Supernatural' (after I wrote about the mystery circles in there). It had no address but a Tamnton post mark and was signed Lee Kennedy. It claims that "as a kid I did the same thing to a farmers field near me". Lee claims further that it was done with a thin stake and ball of string to measure out a perfect circle and the field was entered using stilts to leave minimal damage. "That is all you need to make these 'alien' rings. I know because I did it years ago, when I was young and thoughtless. I only trampled a six (foot?) circle, but you couldn't see where I had walked because of my stilts."

I suspect local researchers will be dubious of this suggestion - but there is a simple way to test it out. Anyone good at stilt walking? (As a thought - has anyone checked circle dates and locations against possible circus or fair visits?)

ASSORTED LIGHTS IN THE SKY

MUFORA Case 76-101 10 Oct 1976 20.10 hrs Aldingham, Cumbria Level C (SP 4-6)

First reported in the North-Western Evening Mail (13 Oct), reported at time by NLUFOIG - a report form (signed 22 Nov) by the eye-witness at Peter Warrington's behest has recently surfaced. CP was 19 year old naval architect and was at the time driving with three friends of similar age along the A5087 Rampside to Aldingham. They saw a central orange light surrounded by a hazy glow (like a neon light) low in the ESE. It was over Morecambe Bay and after about a minute faded out into cloud. Two minutes later a second one appeared, split into three and for 20/30 seconds one moved upward into cloud and the other two at right angles from it travelling parallel with the road. "No - it wasn't a flare, nor the moon or stars through cloud" he says. This period in October 1976 generated several similar cases.

Ernie Still Case 76-175 6 Dec 1976 17.40 hrs Rushden, Northants Level E

Waitress Pat Sherry (honest!) was called out by chefs Andy Stokes and Stephen Lack at the Ski club, because a disc of light was hovering over the golf links. It was flashing green and white. After five minutes it moved off towards Higham Ferriers. Miss Sherry did not consider this a trifling affair and said she was frightened but enjoyed it. "It was like science fiction in real life". The club planned to hold UFO watch parties - but no results of these are known. Not so much a case of the Oz Factor as the Booze factor, perhaps? (SP 3-3)

MUFORA Case 76-176 Unknown 1976 Evening Atherton, Greater Manchester Level C

KH, then 29, and a friend were taking a stroll before dark on a mild (late summer) evening. Emerging from local woods they saw an object in the south that they presumed to be Venus, appearing before any other 'star' in the twilight sky. They carried on down a slope and began to talk to three boys who were playing football. After five minutes his friend pointed out that the light was rising upwards and climbed silently into clouds directly above. It could now be seen as a distinct ball shape that was golden in colour and surrounded by a complete circular halo. Its brightness was considerable. KH still recalls it vividly. (SP 3-5)

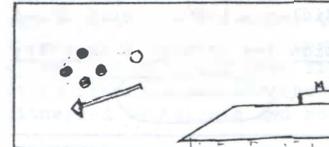
Ernie Still Case 77-341 5 Sep 1977 Evening Kettering, Northants Level E

Three boys (aged 9-11) saw a series of white and red spheres zooming across the sky at an estimated height of 1000 ft. Details are so sketchy that these could have been anything (aircraft? meteors?). However, an interesting follow-up report came in the Northants Evening Telegraph (14 Sep) alleging that a Mrs Garlick had found mysterious marks in a field at Tywell. These are described as "a perfect circle 15 feet across with two outer rings about a yard apart and a much smaller ring in the middle". They were found six days after the three boys saw their LITS and six miles from where they were. However, there is little doubt what would be the result if these circles had turned up in 1986 instead of 1976! (SP 2-2)

ANOTHER FOR THE NIGHT OF INFAMY

Case 79-171 24 February 1979 00.00 Beeston, Leeds, W. Yorks MUFORA Level C SP3-5

The night of 24 February 1979 (especially the hours 2-3 am) will be well remembered as of much significance. It was then that UFOs were seen all over the north-west, that Mike Sacks had his quarry encounter at Bacup, that something damaged a caravan park near Southport and shook Blackpool pier. It is the night when then Labour MP (now TV star) Robert Kilroy-Silk took the worries of his constituents to the MoD



and got the oh so familiar run-around. Now another case has surfaced, from the other side of the Pennines (although the witness lives in Lancashire, hence MUFORA's investigation). SM, aged 27 at the time, was helping a distant friend move house when they saw a 'helicopter' in the south-east moving towards them and heading north

west. It seemed to be about 1000 feet up in the air and was only considered to be a

helicopter because of its slow motion (taking a couple of minutes to pass over) It remained utterly silent throughout, although as it was late the area was quiet. The light configuration was very odd with a circle of orange/red lights at the front and a less defined light behind it. An aircraft had flown over shortly before, and this was much higher but clearly audible. The contrast emphasised the strangeness of the event. There was, of course, a USAF 'special exercise' supposedly on.

MORE REPEATER BALL LIGHTNING? Clive Potter

Case 79-172 MAY/June 1979 18.30 Redditch, Worcestershire LUF0IC Lev:A SP4-5

JL, now 18, wrote to JR earlier this year and Clive followed up. The case turned out to be more interesting than had first appeared. He was returning home with a friend when he saw the silvery sphere, about 1½ feet in diameter, hovering outside the bedroom window. After five seconds (during which he at first thought it to be a light shining on the window) it manoeuvred away through trees at the bottom of the garden. An 'oversized ball-bearing' is how JL describes it, and adds that a sickly odour was associated. Weather was dry and dull, though it had drizzled earlier. The repeat performance came two years later (late August/early September at about 20.00). It was a hot night and JL was about to open the curtains to his bedroom when he saw the same object in the same position as before! He stared at it for about a minute, wondering (as he put it) what it wanted with him. It seemed to be rotating clockwise about once every two seconds. It was about .2 feet in diameter but only 1 foot from him. A slight glare from it was noticed on the window glass. It moved away unexpectedly and accelerated out of view. He believed that he could have touched it, but held back because it might be poisonous. Later he felt sickly but he put this down to having had a big tea! Clive conducted an Anamnesis session and this produced information about a loner, living with divorced mother, interested in sci-fi and fantasy and believer in ET origin of UFOs. However, he was also seen as a truthful and solid person (who enjoys tinkering with electronics and radio). He has no psychic experiences to relate. But does add one clue that might be important. During the first sighting, when the object moved away, he thought he heard a very high pitched noise like a dog whistle, or scratching record. Ball lightning? UAP? Earthlight?

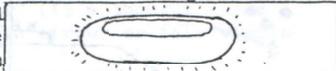
Case 8423 6 June 1984 09.34 Kettering, Northants Ernie Still Lev: B SP 4-2

This was Ernie's first field investigation for MUFORA, and a splendid job he did too. The witness RG (who describes himself as a "part-time decorator, writer and artist") filled out a form at the time of the event when getting books about Adamski from Lionel Beer. He claims to have seen a grey/black cigar whizzing across the sky in a W-E direction and visible for less than 10 seconds. It sounds like a bright meteor (there was one at 6.30 am on 4 June 1984). But upon interview Ernie became very unhappy with the witness. He tended to exaggerate and romance. In his R1 he claimed that 9 jets had chased after the UFO. On interview he was far less certain of this and reduced the number to three. He mentions that a friend who disbelieved in UFOs was pelted by stones when he said so. Now he claims that kids just did it. In his written statement he alleges that he has seen many UFOs and been visited by a MIB. But he refused to discuss this. He has read many pseudo-mystical UFO books, is a great fan of Grey Barker and Adamski, believes UFOs come from a hollow earth and talks in mysterious terms (without any evidence) of how the UFO group he used to belong to had all its files confiscated by a "man in uniform" who had no ID and borrowed them (without leaving his name) but never gave them back. Ernie Still considered this case of very low probability - even if it happened.

DAYLIGHT DISC OVER BIRMIN GEAR Clive Potter

Case 8539 10 August 1985 13.03 Harborne, Birmingham, W. Midlands LUF0IC Lev: C SP2-4

Clive worked with Mark Sampson of BASE (British Association for Strange Encounters - the new name for the former BUFOs). They had evaluated the case as a UFO, but Clive was well able to demonstrate the improbability of this. Witness was a 68 yr old man



who saw the object from his bedroom window. It was in view five minutes drifting away and spinning slowly on a SW to NE course. It was silvery and oval. According to BASE there were no local play areas and the wind was not conducive to the object being windborne. In fact Clive found a park area precisely where the object first appeared and the wind was gusting up to 27 mph in the precise direction needed to convey something NE. As the description and size estimates tally very well with one of the new oval balloons used at fêtes, etc., and this was an August Saturday, the suggestion that this should be identified as a toy balloon must be acceptable to any objective investigator.

MUFORA Case 8617 23 April 1986 17.30 Bolton, Ctr Manchester Level C SP3-3

MB, company director, and both wife and daughter observed the object. MB was in the bathroom when he first saw it (as a bright white light in the NE) and called his family. He also got binoculars and watched it through these, seeing it as a white elongated shape. It moved slowly east and disappeared once, but reappeared, flew into cloud, emerged from it and then disappeared again. Total duration about 3 mins. The matter was reported to the police and featured in the local press, linked with the December 1985 Edgworth sightings. Peter Hough began an investigation but MUFORA aborted when it became clear that there is absolutely no reason not to assume this was one of the dozens of highflying aircraft that pass over the area each day. Catching the sun it could well glint in this fashion.

A UFO AMIDST THE CIRCLES? MUFORA Report by Jenny Randles

Witness, Melanie, wrote to JR following reading one of her books. She lives in Stourbridge but had moved to Manchester University to study ancient history and archaeology. Attempts to contact her there have failed and we only have her initial report to go on. She claims that the events occurred in July 1986 when she and her brother were staying with their grandmother "in Wiltshire"... Hankerton, a small village near Malmesbury." This is, of course, in the midst of circle country during the hiatus this year. It was about 22.45 on 15 July when her brother was trying to show her Jupiter (very clear that night). They also saw a "red point of light low on the horizon". Then "red sparks started to shoot off from the red light and it began to move in a very illogical manner - up and down and left to right very quickly." It then drifted slowly out of view, still low to the ground. Before they could discuss options for the event, a large red/orange light appeared and moved silently over their house. Small points of light surrounded it and it looked no more than a bright moving star. Melanie's brother, who is ten and into astronomy, reacted with the word "Wow!" They continued watching after the 'star' had gone until just after 23.00, when across the fields behind them "large drifting lights began to appear. They moved quickly across from the right and covered large areas of ground... It was almost as if there was something travelling above which was casting light onto the ground beneath." Three such patches of drifting light appeared, one after the other, spaced five minutes apart. Nothing else was seen that night, or for the next few nights, despite looking out. On the morning of the 16th the TV set was not transmitting programmes. "Points West" apparently announced that this was due to "strange unknown problems with the transmitter" and it took some time to sort this out. (Can any reader from the area look into this and comment, please?) Melanie's report was detailed and careful and she enclosed a photograph of the view from the window. In our response (which was not answered) we mooted the idea of some sort of military exercise using parachute flares. It turns out that RAF Lyneham is eight miles in the direction they were looking and (in fact) the three UFOs I saw (and describe in Alien Contact) were seen five miles from Hankerton in line of sight with these. It is likely I saw parachute flares then, in September 1980, and all the events witnessed by Melanie and her brother have a military explanation.

CASE 8618 12 September 1986 21.44 Bulwell,Notts MUFORA Level C SP2-2

This 'masterpiece' report submitted to MUFORA by witness AB (who describes his occupation as 'UFO watcher') was not followed up! We can just about ascertain from the form that whilst "glazing through telescopes at the moon" a star-like UFO and a pie-shaped red object were seen. We are told - "Caught glimpse of what seemed to be a UFO. When took closer look it seemed to look more and more like a UFO. The End."

CASE 8619 10 October 1986 Night Norris Green,Liverpool MUFORA Devel C SP2-2

Letter and subsequent RL from 17 year old unemployed youth who spends his time looking for UFOs. After having reported several LITS to other UFO groups without getting any answer, at least MUFORA offered him that. Not that he was happy with it! Whilst looking south at Jupiter he saw a bright white light heading west on a steady course. He knew it could not be an aircraft because there were no blinking lights. After trying to focus his telescope onto it he lost it. But moments later it, or another similar object, appeared lower in the sky but at the same position heading east. Since he was looking straight at the approach to Liverpool Airport and aircraft often come in here with landing lights blocking out any flashing lights, MUFORA has no doubt this is what he saw. The witness has withdrawn cooperation and will continue to watch for UFOs. If he continues to mistake aircraft he certainly has better prospects of UFO spotting than he does of getting a job in Liverpool.

CASE 8620 22 October 1986 08.50 Chester-Le-Street,Durham MUFORA Level C SP3-2

RB, yet another 17 yr old unemployed youth, wrote to JR to describe his encounter "on the way to get my GPO" (unemployment pay). His letter was penned the same morning of the sighting (he went straight to the library to find an address). An RL was sent and filled out on 27 October. "At first I thought it was a normal



aircraft" RB says. "But then I got the shock of my life. It was a very clear disco shape. It had no wings, flaps, propellers - nothing". It was seen to catch the sun for a brief moment only, but reflected metallic. It headed out towards the coast and South Shields 'quite fast' and was 'quite high'. He adds "I would say it was about half the size of a passenger aircraft". Duration was about 15 seconds, before

the object was obscured from view by rooftops. RB was adamant, "I live near Newcastle Airport and it was not heading that way, as all the planes do. I am 100 per cent positive it was not an aeroplane, airship or cloud." To all intents this seems like an interesting and unusual sighting. It is well described, by an uneducated but clearly sensible witness. There was no thought of notoriety involved, just a desire to tell someone who might listen. Had the case been reported some weeks afterwards then there would have been no prospect of any investigation and the case would have had to be left enigmatic. What that fact says for our other unexplained sightings is difficult to judge - because this case does have a very simple answer. By virtue of having the report within 48 hours of the event MUFORA wrote immediately to Newcastle Airport. JR asked three questions. Were there any aircraft in the Chester-Le-Street area at the time? Were any non-civil traffic reported on radar? Did any controller at the airport see anything unusual or receive public reports of anything else that day? We are very grateful to senior Air Traffic Controller G Riddick for his detailed reply. There were no other reports. The radar was monitoring traffic up to 60 nm of the airport and only one aircraft was in that zone. This was a Britannia Airways Boeing 737 bound for Heraklion which, due to the unrestricted situation, was given freedom to route direct to the sea and a height of 23,000 feet. It passed over South Shields at an estimated height of 8000 feet at 08.52, heading in exactly the direction RB claims. The 737 is a small jet by normal standards and there can be no doubt this is what was seen, watching the sunlight, and mistaken for the UFO. The tremendous disadvantage of not getting UFO reports instantly - and the patchy cooperation from airports is clearly illustrated.

CASE HISTORIES

THE CASE OF THE RELUCTANT BOTANIST



AP, current age 57, might be described as a trained observer. He is a chartered surveyor who has an MSC, awarded by London University for research into the development of Sarawak (a country where he was land superintendent for several years). He is also a reluctant botanist, being the only person to have discovered an officially accepted new species of Orchid in Britain for one and a half centuries. He is extremely concerned about observation and had been utterly put off 'ufologists' by the two on the BBC 'Out of this World' documentary some years ago, whom he calls "zero ratings" and who (as Peter Warrington and I learned to our cost when working with producer Hugh Burnett) appear to have been actors deliberately slotted into the programme at the very last minute. I won't give anyone ten guesses as to why.

Having been persuaded by 'Science and the UFOs' that ufologist need not be another word for fruitcake, he has offered his track record of sightings for our study. They begin in winter 1935/36 (when he was six or seven and living at Sherringham in Norfolk). It was 7pm on a clear night and he was in the garden emptying tealeaves when a reddish object the size of the moon appeared towards Cromer and travelled parallel to the coast with a stream of sparks. Sounds like a fireball meteor.

His next sighting came one summer evening in 1960 when living in Sutton Coldfield, West Midlands. In bed recovering from an illness he saw a white light rise up into the sky from the north. Having seen Sputnik he assumed this was a satellite and got out of bed for a better look. It then made a dramatic right angled turn to the east and in seconds simply vanished.

Two sightings then followed from Kuching, Sarawak, Malaysia - and it was the 1958 Kuching sighting in 'Science and the UFOs' which really prompted him to take the chance and write. Both his experiences were in 1966. The first at 6.30 pm when in the garden with wife and children and a white light was seen to cross the sky. The second, some time later, came after it had grown dark and involved a fast moving white light which was not orbiting but made a direct straight course.

Upon return to England AP moved to Ponteland, Northumbria, where he still resides. On two nights (a week or so apart) in January 1970 he observed a pulsating pink glow in the sky to the north west, with a red star at the centre. It covered a very large expanse of a cloudless sky and was stationary throughout its duration.

On 5 November 1973 at the same location he, his wife and three children saw one red and one white light pass slowly across the sky to the south west. Duration (10 minutes) was sufficient for them to be viewed through a powerful telescope and all conventional explanations (including fireworks!) were ruled out.

We move to midnight on a summers night in 1975 when AP was returning from a botanical slide show. He was passing Newcastle Airport when a flashing white light "the appearance of a car headlamp at about twenty feet" raced past and ahead of him, vanishing in a few seconds, despite its massive size (compared with say an aircraft that might have flown over).

But his most spectacular sighting occurred at Middlesbrough, Cleveland, at 11.25 am on a May morning in 1981. He was then county valuer for Cleveland and was in the fifth floor office of a council colleague, looking east towards Egton Hills, when "from behind the nearest tall building" came a small dark globe. It was several feet across and only a few hundred feet high. "What the bloody hell is that!" he called out, as the object seemed to hover. It then began a mysterious flashing behaviour.

What occurred was this. Its entire surface began to flash in red and white, in a seemingly random pattern. Between flashes it remained dark for a few seconds. The sky was dull and this did not seem to have anything to do with the sun but was a self generated light, evenly distributed over the surface of the globe. Other chartered surveyors arrived to watch as it began to drift towards the Billingham

Chemical complex. Total duration was about six minutes.

We have since attempted to establish the exact date - a d 12 May 1981 seems to be favoured. AP says his friends were elated afterwards - 'I've seen one!' one of them cried, dancing around the office! : t after a brief discussion the matter was soon dropped a d they reverted to their reluctance to talk about UF s.

The various LITS might see to be aircraft, a d we d d propose to AP that some form of meteorological balloon might be involved in the Middlesbrough sighting. Th s he doubted, b cause of the long period of hovering a d the light emission he was sure the object displayed. B t why did more people in this busy tow centre not see the object? A not uncommon question!

As for aircraft, A points out he flew the in : r eo a d is one of the few civilians who has navigated for the RAF when they need to take helicopters on active missions into the jungle.

VISITORS FROM THE THIRD SOLAR SYSTEM

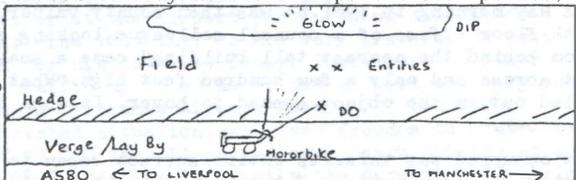
Case 8540 9 May 1985 04.30 Lwton, Lashire MUF R Level A SP 9-3

The first notification of this case came to Peter Hug of MUFORA during the late summer of 1985 via Nora Oliver, who had been contacted by the witness. The details were of sufficient interest for action to be taken. Darren Egerton and Philip Whitehead made an initial visit. Peter Roug himself subsequently did so, and he was responsible for background investigations. The case is certainly one of the weirdest MUFOR has encountered in recent years. Sadly, its quality does not appear live up to expectations. t with cases such as this - who can ever be sure?

D - a young, unemployed man, had moved from Liverpool to Old . At the time of the events he was living with his girlfriend at a relatives (they now have their own house). However, as the move had only just taken place D often took trips on his Suzuki motorbike to see his friends in Liverpool. This has occurred on 8 May and he was taking his usual route back (the A 580 East Laes Road). He tended to drop this in the early hours, to take his time a d stop several times to drink tea from a flask. T at was his situation as he parked beside the deserted road in a darkened area we have had considerable difficulty establishing with a certainty.

Whilst DO was able to give some clues about the precise location, a d th s matches a part of the A 580 (around Lowton/Leig) where at least one other CE III has taken place (in 1978) a d not far from where a time lapse abduction case also is alleged by researcher Harry Rris, the details offer a d fail to link up with a yet to be discovered site a d he seems unable to find it again other than generally.

However, at this spot (wherever it was) D claims he heard a humming sound from the adjacent field. Going to the edge of the field, or entering it (his accounts varied) - a d still carrying a cup of tea - he noticed a silver glow coming from a dip in the field a ead of him. B t he had little time to take notice. Two figures (as silhouettes) were coming towards him across the field. It was hard to see details as there were no street lamps a d the only illumination came from his motorcycle headlamp (deliberately left on a d pointing at an angle so that it lit up part of the field). t he assumed they were either poachers or police, come to see why he had stopped. Deciding to return to his bike he suddenly heard a voice say "Don't be afraid" a d turned to face a : an a d a woman that he could now see about five feet away from him. They wore suits of a lurex like material and the woman was a little smaller than the man, at about five feet in height. Each had shoulder length blond hair and carried a egg-shaped object on a belt attached to their waist.



DO asked these people where they came from, a d the woman replied (apparently with no obvious accent) "We are from the third solar system". It was here that the witness claims he pinched himself to ensure he was not dreaming, a d it hurt! The woman did all the talking as the man merely watched. D told them there was only one solar system a d she replied, "In your glass". The woman went on to explain that they had come to make minor adjustments to their craft a d when DO asked how it worked she told him it used the earth's magnetic field a d gravity for propulsion b t "If we try to explain a y : ther you would not be able to comprehend". After five minutes of conversation, which allegedly did not last too long, they returned to his motorcycle a d his tea. Within a minute the humming (which had continued in the background) 'increased' (the frequency did not change but the duration which the sound was switched on a d off increased ???). The glow also became brighter. Then a cigar-shaped object appeared a d climbed to about 200 feet above the field, where it hovered for a few seconds a d then left vertically "at a speed you would believe". It likened its brilliance to a fluorescent light.

D told his fiancée on arrival home, b t she was sceptical. He then called Manchester Airport a d asked if there was any military activity in the area where he was. They wanted to know more, b t he declined to discuss his sighting a d says he gave neither name nor address. : t - on Sunday, 13 July 1985 (a date recalled because it was the day of the Live Aid pop concert) he was alone in the house at 11.15 a : a d a sweetened the door to find two MI6s standing there!

At first he assumed they were business men, a r tly dressed in what looked like brand new suits - black, with white shirt a d black tie. They looked about 40 a d were both clean-shaven with dark hair. He particularly noticed their shiny shoes. They had allegedly arrived in a mack Ford Canada estate which looked brand new. It was Americanised.

At subsequent visits D s claims became even more extreme. He related a second visit by an RAF officer. As with the first he knew all about the case. However, his approach was soft. Whereas the BI:s had told DO to "keep quiet" a d "you did not see it" this officer merely reasoned with the witness. The RAF man had turned up late at night with his fiancée in bed. Despite staying some minutes DO did not get her to come and confirm the man's presence. He allegedly wrote down the car registration number, b t lost the piece of paper. In neither case does he know where knowledge of his sighting came from.

Whilst Nora Oliver appeared to consider this a impressive case, and in many respects D was plausible and the descriptions offered typical of many other CE III cases, M R became very unhappy in its group case discussions. As DO began to talk about a previous poltergeist attack when he lived in Liverpool it was only the development we might have predicted. However, it also proved the key to the case.

Possibly DO did not expect us to be contacted to check this affair out at source. I t he gave us sufficient data to do so. Not a single thing that Peter Houg checked about the poltergeist was verified. Worse still, a local vicar who had been involved in the story, conveyed confidential information about D which leads to grave doubt about the authenticity of any of his claims. As you will possibly have realised there is nothing in this tale that could not have been easily extracted from widely available UFO books. The aliens have much in common with the "Mario Luisi entities. The MI6s seem to be taken straight out of the literature (eg the Dr Popkins) a d have none of the novel features (within a pattern), or indeed the testimonial support of reports such as the Selley & Mea story - which, so far as they can judge, l : s : s does consider to be genuine.

This is a complex a d fascinating witness study from which JT R learnt a lot. : t we see no reason to believe that the CE II reported should be considered valid. It is planned that Peter Houg will write a detailed case report of this for one of the newsstand magazines (Exploring the Supernatural or The Unknown) in the near future.

Of course, a CE II by its very nature is bizarre. Perhaps this was just not bizarre enough. It was too much like all the others.

