

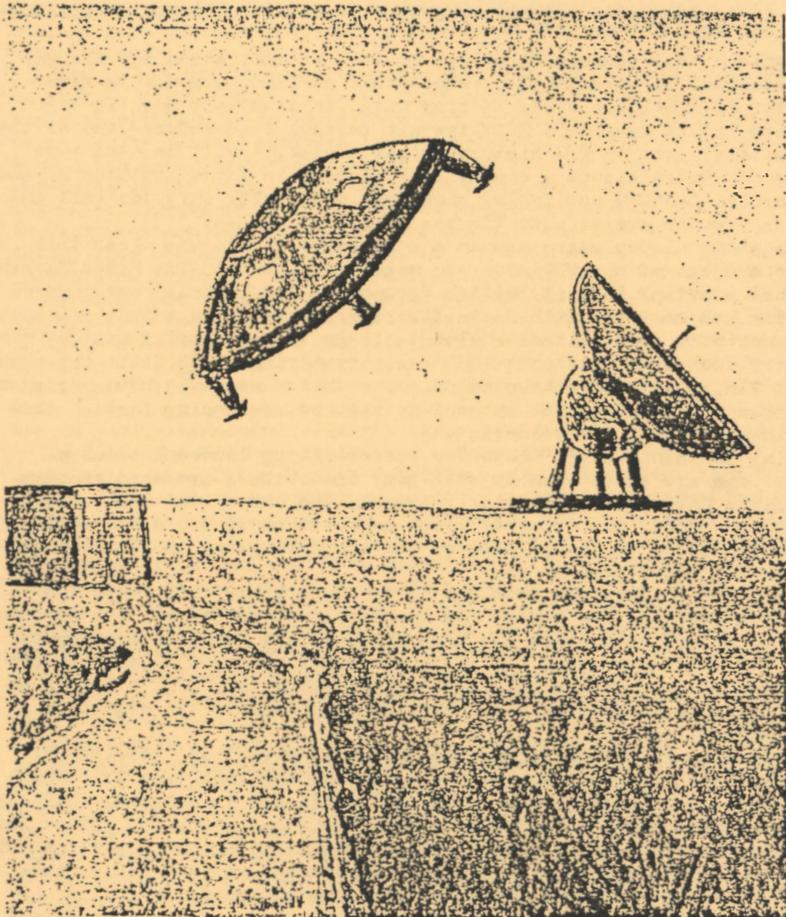
NORTHERN NEWS



Northern UFO News is published by NUFON

126

JUL - AUG 1987



Editor:-

Jenny Randles

Cover Design:-

Bill Callaghan

Printed by:-

EMJAY Reprographics
17 Langbank Ave
Rise Park
Nottingham

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Address:- 37 Heathbank Road

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Subscription:- £5.40 (6 Issues)(payable
to 'NUFON')

J.R. Comments...

The appropriate topic for discussion right now seems to be the question of UFO secrecy. My book 'The UFO Conspiracy' was published by Blandford in May and I was asked by one sincere investigator who is very high in my estimation (Paul Fuller) why I was so 'brave' in writing it? Having since seen the superb book by Tim Good ('Above Top Secret' published July by Sidgwick & Jackson) I am wondering too.

Tim Good's book is an undoubted milestone. Whether it turns out to be a millstone as well remains to be seen.

I had better explain that comment. Firstly, I am full of admiration for the way in which Tim has succeeded in persuading a respectable publishing house to give him almost a quarter of a million words to play with. The resultant book is big and chunky and costs £15. It remains a MUST for all serious researchers - one of the few truly indispensable works in UFO history. But, of course, it will be much more difficult for Sidgwick to sell such a costly book on UFOs to large sections of the public. Everyone involved in UFO publishing knows the difficulty only too well and will probably be as much in awe at what Tim has achieved as I am.

I first met Tim about eleven years ago at a conference and it was clear then that a book on the subject of the UFO cover-up was in him. At the time Peter Warrington and I were just starting 'UFOs: A British Viewpoint' and I recall our bemused looks afterwards. Tim had come out with facts, figures, rumours, speculations and some amazing personal anecdotes about aliens - almost all in the same brief chat. My view at the time was very much that the 'cover-up' was a hysterical myth. Peter was even more sceptical. Yet Tim, as we both acknowledged, spoke things we would have regarded as utter twaddle from any other source in such an assured, unassuming fashion that we were left shaking our heads and wondering.

That same feeling is inspired by 'Above Top Secret'. It is indeed a strange rag-bag of stories. Some are exceptionally well gone into. Others are mere rumours that are left dangling. More still (especially towards the end of the book when crashed UFOs and alien bodies are debated) leave no doubt about Tim's conviction that the ETH is correct, this is the purpose of the conspiracy, and that aliens are even walking around the earth amongst us.

This is a lot to take in from one book and is the only aspect of 'Above Top Secret' that really worries me. The reader has to stretch their credibility horizon not a little bit (to accept that there are UFOs and they are being covered-up by official sources) but a long, long way (to embrace several races of alien entities which the authorities plainly know about). Whilst this may, or may not, be true I am rather uncertain that such assertions will help the book achieve the object it could, and should, achieve.

Tim's motto appears to have been to include virtually everything possibly of relevance. On the one hand that motive provides a fascinating book that is chock full of stories and clues. Anyone who merely throws it all out is deluding himself. But on the other hand it tends to dilute the strong stuff and gives the option for this delusion - and there are many who will wish that option, because any alternative is anathema. I wonder if this escape clause should have been provided and whether a more focused aim might have allowed the book even greater conviction.

Nevertheless these are quibbles - not minor ones, in my opinion. But they do not destroy the significance of what is a virtual encyclopedia of the cover-up.

To be honest, had I known that Tim was doing this book early enough I might have held fire on 'The UFO Conspiracy'. It was too late when I did hear about it to stop myself, as the book was virtually completed. And when I saw the gulf between my meagre efforts and his I was left temporarily embarrassed that I was asking people to purchase what was in effect a watered down version of his production. I do not like to feel I am cheating readers and that fear certainly crept over me.

From a personal point of view I wrote the book for simple reasons. It was an aspect of the UFO subject that I had not paid a great deal of attention to. I felt a kind of residual aversion to it. And I have long appreciated that to be an honest ufologist you must lay aside your theories and look at everything.

Of course, I had been forced into an awareness of the cover-up through the Rendlesham Forest case (see elsewhere this issue). But I had not really tried to work out its implications. Many ufologists shy from the subject for some reason. (I note with considerable interest, for example, that on two recent occasions - at the MUFON conference in the USA and in the BUFORA book - Hilary Evans has cited all my books bar one - that one being 'Sky Crash'). I greatly admire (and to a very large extent concur with) Hilary's theoretical views on close encounter cases, but to dismiss the Rendlesham case, as he has quite specifically, as a side issue that lead ufology into shame, rather implies that he is running away from the true relevance of the cover-up.

This is not WHY they are covering up. (Tim and I reached differing conclusions on that, he feeling that it is to avoid panic of ET awareness and I because I suspect the authorities hate to admit they don't understand what is going on). More important to me is the area of evidence being concealed. It cannot be hallucinations (what's such a big deal about that?). It is hard to imagine a cover-up of rare meteorological phenomena or UAP. Look at who the authorities continually employ on UFO research - not psychologists or sociologists, but engineers, physicists, space scientists. They seem to feel (and may well be mistaken, of course) that some kind of extraordinary technology lies behind some UFO. Indeed the 1976 CIA memos which describe their work into 'propulsion systems' based on UFO sightings virtually PROVES that!

Now I do not happen to believe, on present evidence, that we are dealing with spaceships. However, it is feasible that a more obscure technological answer might apply. Or, indeed, my belief might be prejudiced. It is this awareness of what the cover up seems to suggest that intrigues me. If I am going to pretend to be an honest ufologist I cannot avoid looking at it. I have to give it the time of day. This is why, when approached by Blandford to write a book for them in 1985, I talked them into the 40 year governmental research angle - to fulfill that promise to myself.

In fact, 'The UFO Conspiracy' was originally contracted as a Javelin paperback at £3.95 sale price. These factors determined size and content to a degree. The decision not to release as a paperback was made at a very late stage (just a few months before publication and after page proofs - indeed I still have the Javelin cover showing the £3.95 price!) The reason? Blandford was sold to a London publisher who thought UFOs 'uncommercial' and wanted to maximise what little profit they expected. I was less than chuffed at the switch to hardback and the £10.95 price, although as any writer knows, this is something they can do little about. However, as I write (two months after publication) I gather the book has (unexpectedly for the publishers!) sold out its first print run (which was fairly modest) and they have now decided after all to bring out the Javelin paperback edition this winter.

I will certainly feel less guilty of a book at half the price, instead of marketing what I was thinking of as 'The UFO Con' (!) alongside Tim's. It will, of course, reach a quite different audience - and is, in fact, quite different in its evaluation and intentions. For instance, I purposely kept out a lot of material about 'top secret files' offered to me by 'moles' and other sources - some of which are rumours, others of which are considerably more than that, but yet (in my estimation) sufficiently questionable to be best left from the book. I am worried about attempts at disinformation and the current hiatus over supposed documents proving the reality of covert American study of aliens smells fishy to me. These are the talk of America right now, thanks to publicity for Stanton Friedman and Bill Moore's procurement of some such files. Tim delves into this also and seems to have been fed some of the material too. I was approached whilst writing the book by someone offering similar (but actually more extensive) files. I purposely involved Peter Hough as a witness and second opinion. This, plus our scepticism and background checks, might have been the reason why the affair took an interesting turn for the worse. We will probably write on this in the UFO press at some point, but so concerned was I that it might be a 'set up' I kept it out of the book, however dramatic it was.

There is a danger, I feel, that whoever is responsible for the cover-up may be trying to seed false data on ultra-fantastic material (eg dead aliens and crashed UFOs) with the express purpose of making genuine evidence on the cover-up appear absurd amidst the contamination. In the next issue I will review the media reaction to both Tim's and my book to see what we can glean. I hope the data Tim has on these matters turns out to be genuine. It could be erring on the side of caution. But if it isn't - therein may lie the millstone I spoke of.

FOR YOUR PERUSAL:-

Major articles elsewhere

The erstwhile British UFO Society, now incorporated into BASE (British Assoc. for Strange Encounters) has recently launched DATA BASE, a duplicated magazine in the old fashioned style. Since BASE involves Larry Dale and Maureen Hall - both of whom were predecessors of mine as BUFORA Director of Investigations - great things should be expected. Issues 1 and 2 have some interesting articles, including cases and a review of 'new' ufology. There's a way to go yet, but it shows some hope for better things. There's an odd review of UFO WORLD, however, claiming it is biased because it only mentions BUFORA, YUFOs and local groups affiliated to NUFON. What about the rest - it pleads? These others are apparently the 'backbone of British ufology', but as I am aware of only two or three groups outside the ones just cited I would be curious to know whom BASE means - other than BASE! We shall watch the progress of this group with interest. BASE (which reminds me very much of NUFON in its formative days a decade or more ago) is £6.50 per annum (6 issues, I think) via :- DATA BASE 4 Lulworth Close Halesowen West Midlands B63 2UJ

On the national magazine front the news is the demise of 'The Supernatural'. The only real UFO piece in the final two issues was Peter Hough revealing his personal involvement in the Patrick Moore/Cedric Allingham 'hoax' saga (July). The Aug issue says nothing about the sell-out - which is odd, because I was told long before it appeared and had a copy of the 'new format' which editor Lin Wieland was bravely trying to sell. It looks nothing like the old one (A 4 size, for instance) and is retitled 'Your Future'. As this implies, it will be yet another hopeless astrology-tall your fortune by the number of moles on the back of your little finger - offerings of no conceivable interest or relevance to ufology.

However, 'The Unknown' soldiers on. Now at £1.10 per issue (WH Smiths or on global sub from 1 Clarendon Rd Croydon Surrey CR0 3SJ) it will have to fight to regain readers lost to its defunct 'rival', but I am sure it will be trying hard. Plenty of UFO interest in here. July (Chinese UFOs, the search for ET life, spooklights and a British CE 4), August (the start of a new series on UFOs worldwide focuses on Australia and Peter Hough provides an interview with Whitley Strieber)

UFO Brigantia May/June (£5.50, 6 issues, 84 Elland Rd Brighouse W. Yorks HD6 2QR) A bumper 44pp issue with the usual cases, reviews etc plus David Clarke on UFOs & the paranormal overlap, Robert Moore proving what we knew all along (but it was good to see proven anyway!) - that the 1967 wave was largely venus, and another major article by Ian Cresswell on the subjective/objective interface of UFO encounters.

Fortean Research Centre Jul (£15 per annum PO 94627, Lincoln NE 68509 USA) A complete issue with all the MJ-12 documents in - source of the current fracas in the US (see editorial this issue). Make up your own mind on their status.

IUR Mar/Apr (E32 from CUFOs 2457 W. Peterson, Chicago, Illinois 60659 USA) A complete issue devoted to a review by Dr Bruce Maccabee of the Nov 1986 Japan Air Lines case - based on the full official data released. A recent press cutting told of a new British group formed to end the cover-up, such as that imposed by the US authorities withholding data on this most famous recent case. The extent of data that is available is produced here and shows how absurd that media claim is!

OVNI Presence (8OFF AESV HP 324 F-13611 Aix-en-Provence Cedex 1 FRANCE) An entire issue devoted to Britain! If you can read French this is a must. Theories from Hilary Evans, 'circles' from Paul Fuller, photos (not Cracoe!) from Graham Birdsall, airships from Nigel Watson, spooklights from David Clarke and Granville Oldroyd - plus an overall revue of British ufology from JR. It's all in there.

Earth 6 & 7 (£4, 6 issues, Paul Bennett 61 Ranelagh Ave, Ravenscliffe, Bradford HD10) Indispensably original. Aside from masses of other weird stuff, worth the money for Peter Southwood's articles on quantum mechanics and UFOs and the Sheldrake morphogenetic fields and UFOs, which as any reader of my book 'Sixth Sense' will know I happen to agree are VERY relevant.



:: PROJECT PENNINE is well underway under the auspices of WYUFORG, David Clarke and others. If there is anyway that you think you might be able to help contact Andy Roberts or Martin Daglass at the WYUFORG address (see page 16). You can assist indirectly by purchasing car stickers - bright, multi-coloured and promoting the project at a cost of 60p each or three for £1.50. NUFORA have also agreed to work in coordination with WYUFORG on some joint Pennine skywatches this late Summer/Autumn. Fancy getting pneumonia in the sake of UFO research? Contact WYUFORG (An Andy Roberts)

:: Clive Potter asks me to point out the results of his investigation into the mysterious 'UFO Studies Investigations', which West Midlands media have been recently promoting as being funded by British Aerospace! Needless to say, this remarkable claim caught our eye. However, after much detective work and the hunt for the elusive John Huxley, said to mastermind the operation, rum goings on have been revealed. Mr H gave several false addresses and his phone numbers turned out to be (a) a public phone kiosk and (b) Birmingham City Football Club! Needless to say, British Aerospace have been advised of the situation and that, if they have been paying for his team to investigate UFOs on their behalf, they have seemingly been fronting a con man!

:: HOTLINES are certainly all the rage right now. Forgetting the dubious Aetherian one (which I have just realised I might have given them the idea for, by calling my exposé articles in the 'Unknown' last year 'Hotline to the aliens!') there is the more sensible effort by Philip Mantle. Now Philip, you may recall, was the Yorkshire UFO Society overseas liaison officer who saw the light (or rather the reflected light) on a certain fell and quickly extricated himself with honour from the debacle. He now organises YUFON (Yorkshire UFO Network), has joined BUFORA in an official capacity, and the hotline number they are operating around the Pennines (0924-444049) is proving a great success - with many promising cases resulting, including one or two potential classics. More anon, I am sure.

:: The past few weeks has been a time of conferences, on both sides of the Atlantic. The BUFORA event (whilst modestly attended by about 80 people) was full of good papers and made a small financial profit for the freelance organisers. The major event in the USA was stunning in its extent (500 there and dozens of media men!) But it, unhappily, had enormous expenses and made a loss. See page 16 for more on this. However, the two days were an amazing experience for those of us who attended and NUFON-FUFOR must be congratulated on a remarkable effort. CUFOs are in fact producing a video of some 'edited highlights' of the cover-up panel discussions (including Jennie Zeidman, Dr Bruce Maccabee, Dr Stanton Friedman, Bill Chalker, Barry Greenwood, Bill Moore and your editor). It will probably not be compatible with UK systems - but you can check via the IUR address on page 4. NUFON has already published the full proceedings, with most of the papers - available from 103 Oldtowne Rd Seguin Texas USA 78155

:: Ever needed a 'Whos Who' of UFO investigation and research? Well one is being published. You must be active and be able to prove that you are so - and you must contact the compilers by 31 Oct. If you think you qualify, write to Robert Boyd at 'Annual UFO Phenomenon Whos Who (1988)', PO Box 66404, Mobile, Alabama, USA 36606

:: Finally, I note a new science fiction magazine called OPUS features a story by one Bruce Baker entitled 'Dim-Dam-Kneesy-Ack', in which a certain character expounds the theories of someone called Jenny Randles and the 'Oz Factor' in the midst of the plot! I knew my ideas were far out - but this is a bit much. For those who have never read any of Bruce's stories - a treat is in store. They are truly different and about as 'out of this world' (and 'out of his head') as you can get! OPUS is available on £3.25 subscription from House 2 Broxbournebury, Broxbourne, Herts, EN10 7PY

CALLING ALL BUDDING ARTISTS We are running short of covers for Northern UFO News. If you want to avoid a return to the continuous cover design, which you asked me to replace with new designs each issue, then it's up to you. Get drawing. You've seen the superb covers from the likes of Bill Callaghan (this issue). Can you do as well?

A RENDLESHAM FOREST SCENARIO Jenny Randles

Many things have conspired in recent months to force me to comment on this infamous 1980 case once more. The interest in the USA remains high. Dot Street is planning to release a combined tape/booklet allowing you to hear the witnesses this autumn (write with SAE for details:-15 Blackberry Way, Oulton, Lowestoft NR32 3HF) And Robert Moore, a BUFORA AI from Somerset, has been making some interesting speculations about the UFO really being a secret test aircraft.

I also gather that YUFOS have some new data on the case (essentially the tale of a sailor whose vessel anchored off the Suffolk coast on some secret mission during the events in the forest). All of which begs the question - what did occur in that wood? I believe there are quite a few clues in 'Sky Crash' to suggest that something happened on the first night (27 December, early am) and this was hidden by the invention of a 'UFO crash'. By spreading that rumour around base. By telling intelligence officers (such as 'Steve Roberts') to go out to Brenda and Dot and spin the yarn. By giving the same cock and bull story to the radar men at Watton, in the sure hope that they would talk. All of this made certain that if any news of what went on reached the public it would be news of a 'silly' UFO crash - that no self-respecting media source would listen to. The result - time to ensure that the consequences of whatever took place could be effectively hidden.

However, there was another string to the bow of the myth-makers. The so-called sightings of the second night (29-30 December). I believe this whole show was deliberately contrived...to add confusion to the matter. By setting up witnesses to more UFOs, nobody would know who was talking about what, even if someone on base did talk. By preparing a report on the events to send to the MoD and file away until needed (if ever) the perfect 'set-up' was complete. For now others could suggest the obvious answer (perhaps with a little help in the way of hints!), and even allowing for the fact that neither the MoD nor USAF could ever admit that their men saw stars and lighthouses (and they didn't on the first night) everyone would assume they did and not take the story seriously.

Here is what I think may have happened. After the events of the 27th December a ploy was needed to distract attention. It was suggested that some false 'traces' be 'discovered' in the woods and Halt take out some men to study them. If this was an official mission, do you really believe they would have gone to the trouble of doing it at midnight and carting out lightalls? Of course not! They would have done it in daylight as soon as they were found. The reason why they waited three nights until the 29/30th is because that night was slightly misty. This was a key factor in the sighting that was being engineered.

The senior officers, knowing full well what they were doing, selected inexperienced men from the base. Dustinza says this in his testimony. They came to the motor pool and chose who they wanted to take with them. What other reason could there be for picking someone like Larry Warren - 18, only on base a few days, and an admitted 'UFO nut' who was steeped in UFO lore. If you think that was a coincidence then you are as daft as they were trying to make us seem.

Halt conveniently had a tape to record all this - as if he was expecting something to happen. He was! Then, after conditioning the men in the dark of the forest, someone cries 'look at that light!', on cue, and Halt starts acting. 'Gees' and 'Wows' tumble from his lips as he ensures that the men are in a part of the wood where they can misperceive the lighthouse through the mists and a UFO. He even leads them off toward the coast - where, most conveniently, the HMS Norfolk was anchored (according to YUFOS) Were they about to set up a coupe de grace lightshow (eg some lasers or a flare?) The already panicky men would be certain to believe something stranger was occurring. And it was all recorded on tape for posterity. But that tape was not sent to the MoD for the records. Nor were the photographs and plastercasts of the 'traces'. If any of these things were genuine, that omission would be absurd. Why send only a tepid written report, without the hard evidence you have? If you want to convince others you don't hold back the best bits!

No - this was all a put up job. The memo reposed in the corridors of power, where it could be released if ever the story became public. As soon as it did in 1983 it became necessary to release it. The authorities knew that most of its content refers to totally explicable things (the lighthouse, stars, a few stray lights). It was probable somebody, like Ian Ridpath, would see that. However, the publicity got a bit much. The House of Commons questions were hot. 'Sky Crash' in 1984 was another potential threat. This is why the release of the tape was sanctioned then, ten weeks before publication.

If you listen to the tape there is no way you can conclude any other than that explicable lights are being seen. It was a gamble to release it, because it effectively proves Ian Ridpath right. It vindicates him and totally demolishes the credibility of the case...or rather the sightings of the night of 29/30 December.

This is exactly what it was intended to do. A brilliant smokescreen has hidden the truth about what took place on the night of 27 December...when the real 'Sky Crash' occurred.

This scenario (which I have carefully worked out over many years) may, or may not, be correct. But I would be interested if you can see any faults in it. Incidentally, it even answers my only nagging doubt (and may have been a key reason why such a bizarre operation was cooked up). The MoD (in the form of Lord Trefgarne, Defence Minister) has specifically insisted that there is no question of the events having been the crash of an aircraft or the testing of a secret device. If, as many now suspect, it was, how can this 'lie' be justified?

Simple. All the MoD do is claim they were talking about the night of 29/30 Dec. The Col. Halt sighting. The case the News of the World and everyone else stressed. The red herring. That was not the testing of any secret device. It was a con trick!

BOOKS OF THE MOMENT



It has been a good year so far for UFO books. The momentum has been picked up by BUFORA too. The mammoth Hilary Evans/John Spencer edited 'UFOs 1947-1987' has just arrived from 'Fortean Times' and is exciting. It will be reviewed next issue. More modestly (although anticipated, as there have been many queries about it) - 'The UFO World '87' is available (see below) - and more goodies are to follow. At least two new BUFORA publications are scheduled before next year's 'UFO World', in a new series of booklets just sanctioned by council for the Investigations Team to compile. These will be 'Case Histories', detailed 28 or 32pp reports on single important cases - which will hopefully become an ongoing BUFORA project with at least one a year planned to add to the two already in the pipelines for late '87 and early '88.

This will help establish investigation in Britain by promoting its best cases to the world. And BUFORA will even further demonstrate their position at the helm of global UFO publishing with the major venture 'Phenomenon: - From Flying Saucers to UFOs', due for simultaneous hardback/paperback release on 17 March 1988 at very low prices for its 110,000 words. This significant venture will be a kind of commercial version of the just issued BUFORA book. The same editors (Evans and Spencer), chapters compiled by the leading UFO researchers in the world, but all entirely new and original and exciting. This will probably be the most important UFO book to hit the bookstores in this country in forty years and it will carry the BUFORA logo and be hailed as a BUFORA venture. McDonald/Futura are publishing and are bound to give it a hard sell.

As I write I have just discovered that Tim God's 'Above Top Secret' has amazingly become the number two best-selling non-fiction title in Britain. Utterly unprecedented and along with all else that is happening a clear indication that ufology has 'arrived' - at last!

THE UFO WORLD '87 - 28pp A5 format, reviewing the world's major UFO events in 1986. Cases, books, leading articles, and news from the researchers around the world. The best way to keep bang up to date. £1.25, cheques/pos to BUFORA Ltd, copies from:-
37 Heathbank Road Cheadle Heath Stockport Cheshire SK3 0UP

THE COMMUNION FACTOR

In the next issue we shall look at the factors which have turned Tim God's book 'Above Top Secret' into a best-seller. I hope by then Tim will give us some figures for exactly how many it is selling, but it is sure to be more than 'UFOs: A British Viewpoint' (which in 1979/80, at 20,000 hardback copies, is the largest recent UK total I am aware of ... dwarfing every other UFO book I have ever written).

On the face of it 'Communion' by Whitley Strieber was a sure-fire smash hit. At one million dollars for the advance it compares with £300 Peter Warrington and I go for UFOs: A British Viewpoint. And the author, already well known for his horror fiction, had previous best-sellers to call on. He was then given the best possible boost with a number one seller in the USA and over 200,000 copies sold in the first few weeks of hardback release.

Yet when the book appeared in Britain in May it flopped. Why? It is interesting to look at the publicity the title generated, which in fact was utterly swamped by the staggering hype the Aetherius Society created. In a two month spell only 30 press clippings less than the entire haul for 1986 arrived on my mat - and 75 per cent of them were about the Aetherius Society. During May no serious ufologist had a look in and even Whitley Strieber faced an impossible task.

Everyone recalls his infamous appearance on 'Wogan' (18 May) where he was really laughed off the screen. He looked decidedly unhappy and on his last day in Britain (21 May) told Peter Hough in an interview that he had been highly displeased with the way British journalists treated him like a fraud. Jokes about his being a 'Kook book' were rife and he told me a month later, when we met in Washington, that he was just extremely homesick and glad to be out of our scathing, sceptical land.

At the few media stories he did get were long, and hyped his book a great deal. Few failed to include a photo of that eerie cover painting of the alien. It was the tone that they took which was most damaging. The first, Mail on Sunday (10 May) advised that "You can expect a spate of sightings in coming weeks" (which never happened) and tongue in cheek explained that the author had asked that everyone be assured "he is not several boosters short of a complete rocket". The title of the piece, 'The Man Who Talked to ET' demonstrates how the media cling to their idealistic and simplistic view of UFOs... something which, incidentally, Strieber himself does not. He has never claimed (in his book or at any public time I have seen him) that he met aliens. He constantly says he doesn't know what they are and calls them simply 'visitors'.

Interestingly, the few local papers that met and interviewed him were gradually won over. He is an extremely plausible talker. The Portsmouth News (22 May) showed great sympathy for his confrontation with Terry Wogan and said that "scepticism dissolves in the face of his unflappable, matter-of-fact retorts and his willingness to subject himself to lie detectors". It also related his latest adventure, prior to arrival in Britain (the 'visitors' are still visiting, you see, and there is the movie and the sequel next year to think about). In this escapade he grabbed his oat and took her with him into the UFO. The poor moggy ended up with a sore thigh, from where the visitors injected her, and slept for 36 hours (mine does that without being abducted!)

But that was about the limit of the seriousness. The London evening papers had great fun. 'Take me to your reader' was the clever headline from the (now defunct - (I wonder why) Daily News (20 May). It made great play on the supposed similarity between Strieber's face and that on the female alien on the cover! Anyone not intoxicated will find that amusing, as they will the papers description of him as a 'terrestrial toy boy'. After numerous snide remarks about him turning mauve at dinner parties a more accurate description of his appearance, though wicked, was trotted out. 'Like John Denver after a particularly tough night'.

The Evening Standard, same night, was even worse. It was brilliant in its understated cynicism. "Whitley Strieber has written a true story. In case you doubt this it's printed in italics at the bottom of every page of his book." It tells how when he entered the building the photographer muttered, 'Oh God, he's a looney' and then gives further disparaging remarks about his appearance, describing him as looking like "he has just stepped off the bridge of Fireball XL 5"



I do feel a little sorry for Whitley (not a lot, as they say, but a little). He is after all now a very rich man, and he does go to great lengths to tell the media that 'UFO buffs', as he calls them, should not be allowed anywhere near close encounter witnesses. In one interview he described a 'typical UFO buff' as 'someone like Jenny Randles, who is only involved in UFO research to make money' - which given the Grand Canyon between his bank balance and mine has got to be the most absurd thing he has ever said. And there's quite a contest for that distinction! Even his promises to me in Washington, and his comments like 'UFO Conspiracy is a nice book', won't get round me that easily.

Nevertheless, it is possible he is telling the truth and is now seeing exactly what it is like to face the confusion of UFO reality and have to try and ride the rapids of the media. Those 'UFO buffs' he attacks have had to live through this for years.

The three national press stories (Star, Mail and Guardian) were predictably to line. The Star's looney headline was "Kidnapped by ET Invaders - they operated on my brain!". Nuff said. Val Hennessy in the Mail actually did a nice middle of the road piece ('Close Encounters of the lucrative kind') which took no sides and ended by saying, 'Friends tell me he's been overworking lately. More than that I dare not say.'

However, of all the articles the best was certainly Ann Shearer in the Guardian (20 May) "A man who got carried away". From that clever title onward it was an excellent review of the facts, a perceptive interview with the man about the effects on his life, and several paragraphs looking at options other than the ET abductions theme.

Sadly, the Guardian only has 400,000 readers. The opinions of the rest were forged by Wogan and the Star and it is hardly surprising that the majority will have formed the conclusion he is a con man.

I don't think he is. I believe this matter may well be a bit deeper than that. But good old British conservatism ensured that a book that is at least semi-serious ufology got little notice whilst the Aetherians became a major cult. Somewhere amongst that ~~poor~~ there is a message which we had better heed pretty quickly.

(((<)))



MEDIA MATTERS:-

A look at UFOs in the public eye

Inevitably the UFO hotline in Yorkshire created some news. "Lines hot up as the Space Invaders go north", said the Bradford Telegraph & Argus (22 Jun). Philip Mantle was quoted as saying, "We feel there is an interesting phenomena (sic) that should be investigated scientifically."

WYUFOR's Andy Roberts went one better and in the Huddersfield Examiner (25 Jun) published his own article, "Has ET gone home for good?" - a perfectly sensible review of UFO events in the town from 1913 to date and ending up by pointing out that few serious researchers now look to the stars for an answer. God work, Andy.

Of course, the 40th anniversary was bound to generate articles. On that famous date (24 June) I was winging across the Atlantic on an IFO (British Airways variety) and the Liverpool Echo, complete with a cartoon depicting a UFO flying past the earth and the co-pilot saying, 'Keep going Zok - it's still raining', were laughing at the death of the UFO sighting. "Have the little green men given up on us?" the story asks, and then suggests they just got bored, or we just got bored, or... well, as anyone who has been reading NUN will know, nobody has gone anywhere. UFOs are still around.

The London Evening News (21 Jul) had a lovely tale, 'Prepare to meet these aliens!' This reports how, because of increasing UFO sightings in Rome, some by Jesuit scientists, the Vatican is to start a "UFO section" in September. Priests will now be trained in how to handle UFO reports and deal with the aliens when they finally land!

But if that was true, I very much doubt Celebrity magazine (for which some myth-maker called Peter Hough is about to begin a UFO series). Their 14 May issue (not one of his I hasten to add) is headed "Aliens wiped out crew of doomed ship". It seems that the Ourang Medan, a freighter lost near Japan in 1948, was wiped out by a gang of ruthless aliens. The ship sank shortly after rescue crews arrived and found all on board dead "with eyes wide open staring in horror". On absolutely no more grounds than that Dr Nakamura (a "leading UFO investigator from Japan") has decided that "the aliens ordered (the crew) into a room, obtained the information they wanted and then ruthlessly executed them with intense fear." Quite. Zigmund Adamski strikes again.

BRIEF CASES:-

Some current investigations

Firstly, some letters that don't really qualify as case reports but are interesting even so.

A decidedly old case, and second hand at that, comes from Mrs B in Essex who reports that in 1953 she was living with her uncle and grandmother in Hackney, East London. Her uncle went into Epping Forest alone to pick blackberries and returned saying he had seen a 'flying saucer' above a lake. Whilst Mrs B was more interested in boys than UFOs at the time she recalls he sent a sketch to the Ministry. The reply came and told him "not to say anything as they were working on something similar themselves". After receiving his letter her uncle continually complained about being followed by men in dark suits who he insisted were from the Ministry. He even wrote to them and promised he'd say nothing if they'd stop following him! As Mrs B says, she thought nothing of it 30 years ago - now in the light of MIB claims she wonders. Sadly her uncle is dead, so we are unable to get his story.

Another 'dead mans tale' (dead womans actually) comes from Mr G of Manchester. It concerns his stepmother and happened in the mid sixties. She lived in a bungalow at Lees, Oldham, a classic UFO hot spot on the edge of the Pennines. This overlooks a valley containing the Cairo Mill, a big factory owned by Ferranti Engineering. It was a warm day and she had the back door open. She heard what she thought was an unusual large swarm of bees, buzzing loudly. Going outside she saw no bees, but instead a round object, like a circular disc, above the Cairo Mill. After a few seconds it rose straight up and vanished into low cloud - the buzzing stopping immediately. What is most interesting about this apparently bona-fide and never reported sighting is that in October 1972, a classic close encounter (also involving a buzzing) occurred at that exact same mill. The coincidence appears to be quite astonishing. ('UFOs: A British Viewpoint' has details of the 1972 Cairo Mill encounter.)

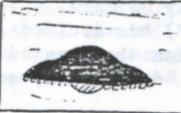
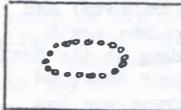
"It was about 3.30 am and I was awoken from sleep by a strange noise", says Zena from Hull. "It sounded a bit like electricity vibrating all over my bedroom" This was in 1971 and it has happened since. Zena claims that whilst the sound appeared she saw nothing, being paralysed in her bed. But strange images were coming into her mind. These bedroom 'buzzing' encounters are really rather interesting, and we seem to be collecting a spate of them of late. Does anyone have any ideas? Meanwhile there are psychic dimensions to Zena's case which are being probed.

NLUFOIG Case 6730 Morecambe, Lancashire SP 7-5 Gordon Barraclough/J. Robinson

This is an interesting 'repeater' case concerning Mrs P, a middle aged lady who is a salesperson. There are three sightings involved, the first two with her husband Charles and the last one alone. The first occurred on either the 17 or 18 June 1967.

It was about 1.30 am and through their open bedroom window overlooking the Royalty, Morecambe, they observed a rotating disc of lights. Mrs P saw it first and woke her husband. Charles told the local press at the time, "It was not the colour of a star; something far brighter." Mrs P says that it was circular, although no shape was seen behind the lights. It was in view about 60 seconds, making a faint whirring sound, and then accelerated to the south towards Lancaster. The same week Dennis Esplin of Heysham supposedly saw a 'greenish/brown disc' over a field behind his house. "It came down and stayed rock still for 30 seconds... then went up in a perfect vertical line as if being controlled by some sort of magnetic pull." He succeeded in taking a photograph of the object, considerably enlarged opposite, but still showing no detail and with an ominous fuzzy diffraction ring which implies a small object close to the camera.

Mrs P's other sightings came much later. In January 1982, during the early hours, she and Charles saw a fast moving orange ball that was surely a fireball meteor. Then, in October 1985, at 6am, and whilst in Eastbourne now widowed, she saw a dark bodied domed disc with a dark amber light underneath and a rim of yellowish lights on the edge. With another like it they moved as pieces on a chess board around each other then flew off.



A NEW FISHERMANS TALE

MUFORA Level D

Case 79-176 Late July 1979 21.30 Diggle Canal, Upparmill, Lancs SP 3-5

DA from his account seems a well balanced witness. He was fishing with a friend on the canal side near Oldham. Dusk was falling, so they were straining to see their floats. It was now so dim they decided to pack up for the night and were just putting their gear away when four bright lights appeared over a nearby hill. They each seemed about a quarter the size of the full moon and were bright white and spaced equidistant apart. They formed a horizontal line, but no object was visible behind them. Reconstruction at the site since has confirmed to DA that if they were on the side of an object (invisible in the gloom) this must have been huge and he cannot understand why nobody else saw or reported them. They seemed to come out of cloud, totally silent, and head straight for them. They flew in unison, and did suggest they were attached to a body. The men began to cheer at the lights to 'come on', but in fact after a few seconds they went out one by one, as if the object was turning away. MUFORA can only posit the idea of flares (military exercises do sometimes go on in the Pennines - although rarely around here.)

THE PILHAM LIGHTS Investigation Clive Potter (LUFOIG) & Nigel Watson (SUFORS)
Case 8426 25 November 1984 18.30 Blyton, Pilham, Lincs Level A SP 4-8

This is an extremely detailed and well put together report of what is in effect a LITS observation. The location, a disused railway station on the Kirton Lindsey to Gainsborough railway line, not far from the small village of Pilham (which also figures in the case). It was a winters night, and in good conditions the totally flat Lincolnshire terrain gives remarkable visibility. From personal experience I have been fooled by stars and aircraft from the bases in the area.

However, that said, we are here dealing with a multi-witness case. At least 8 people observed these lights between at least 6.30 and 7.10 pm (with some suggestion that they were seen until around 8pm - and with some of the witnesses seeing lights on the following night). One witness was ex-RAF aircrew.

The lights were of various colours, some blue, some green and some red. Others seemed to change through a variety of colours. However, the suspicion that they might therefore be astronomical bodies showing the normal atmospheric scintillation effect is not borne out by the extensive study of the case. A computer simulation by the investigators failed to reveal any suitable stars or planets and the weather data did not support the mirage hypothesis favoured by Stuart Campbell.

Oddly, some of the witnesses were not particularly impressed by the lights (which remained just that at all times, but moved in a seemingly erratic and undulating path around the skies). A maximum of three were visible at once in the air. This might suggest that aerial activity from one of the bases (aircraft, helicopters, flares etc) might be the culprits - despite the nature and odd colours of the lights (blue, for instance, is not permitted on aircraft - but I have seen green aircraft lights that I would positively have described as blue had I been a witness - JR).

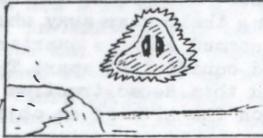
Police - to whom the sighting was reported - favoured the aircraft hypothesis, even though the investigators were able to visit the only likely air base from which flights could have occurred, checked their records and found that no activity seems to have been going on that night. In addition, at least one of the lights (encountered later in a field at Pilham, when some of the witnesses took a car and drove towards it) was seen very low down and close. It remained totally silent.

There were attendant stories of animal interference and car-stop effects. However, the dog which barked (mentioned only by one witness) could have done so merely due to the melee of excitement. The car (which failed to turn over for a few seconds on the way to the chase of the 'big' light) could very possibly have failed due to the cold weather. It was 11 years old. The investigators do not consider either of these things to be relevant.

They are pursuing the option of possible 'earthlights', although no fault lines have been identified in the area. The case is currently pending, following the difficulty in getting the local police to give any data on their investigations into the matter - perhaps resolving why, in the face of so much contradictory evidence, they appear to support the aircraft hypothesis.

Case 8543 August 1985 23.00 Benllech, Anglesey, Wales MUFORA Level C SP6-4

Readers familiar with Margaret Fry's Welsh reports will understand why this case is relatively interesting. Unfortunately, whilst one witness (18 yr old student, Gary, with 8 'O' levels) cooperated fully - there were three others with him at the time who do not wish to do so. They were at a caravan at Traeth Bychan, near Benllech (Gary's home village) overlooking the sea from the top of a cliff. Through the window Gary saw a red pulsing light which was bigger than an aircraft light. He sees these all the time as RAF Valley is just a couple of miles inland from where he lives. Going outside with his 13 yr old brother and two family friends (elderly men in their sixties) they watched the very strange object move extremely slowly from north to north west - seemingly out over the sea, heading inland. The most peculiar feature was the two 'holes' that were inside the light, giving a 'hollow' impression. The size was much bigger than an aircraft light and a very distinct rounded triangle was visible. This is very much akin to sightings over the North Wales coast reported in recent issues and there is cause to wonder if a secret test aircraft of some sort (like the fabled F-19) might not be involved.



Case 8544 5 November 1985 18.30 Edgeley, Stockport, Cheshire MUFORA Level C SP 2-2

Miss RH was returning from work on bonfire night when she saw a red light below cloud travelling east-west very slowly. Anyone who ever has the (mis?)-fortune to visit your editors home (about 400 yards from this sighting location) will quickly see that many 'UFOs' pass over on exactly this course each hour. They are aircraft on final approach into Manchester Airport, 3.5 miles away.

Case 8640 26 December 1986 23.40 Martley, Worcestershire UFO/M/LUFOIC SP 3-5

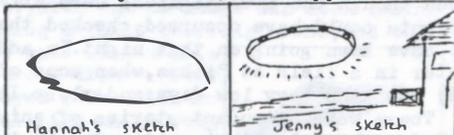
Excellent case report compiled by S. Keeley. Witness aged 75 but seemingly a good observer. It was a cloudy night and she was in her bedroom. Attention was caught by a sudden illumination through the south facing window and on going to look what it was she saw a bright orange ball (possibly pulsating) that remained quite stationary in the area over Berrow Hill. Thinking a school might be on fire the witness went to investigate, but found nothing. On return the orange light had gone. The only obvious natural solution is some sort of flare, but if witness estimate of 3/4 minutes stationary observation is correct this is not possible.

IN A DRUNKEN STUPOR? MUFORA Investigation by Tony Mann

Case 8703 29 April 1987 22.30 Killay, South Wales Level B SP 4-3

MUFORA was first alerted by an item in the South Wales Evening Post, "UFO buzzed us says family". The case looked impressive so Tony Mann despatched RI forms and then interviewed the primary witness, 26 year old model Jenny Bates.

Jenny had been to St Davids, Dyfed, to see the mother of Nick (her boyfriend and not husband as the media claimed). He is an experienced UFO witness, having seen several lights around the area and one 'ghost'. She freely states, "we stopped at many pubs on the way home - so were a little drunk." They had reached home and Nick was putting the car into the garage. Jenny was leaning against the door waiting with four year old daughter, Hannah. The girl kept tugging at her mother and pointing at the sky, saying "look, mum, ghosties" - this being her word for anything unusual. She was doing this for about 1-2 mins and had set off to walk across the garden, when Jenny turned and saw an oval object with a ring of green lights beneath it. She estimates it was only a few feet in diameter. Not as large as a car. She felt unable to move or to call out to Nick, but after 4 seconds the UFO shot off at terrific speed and vanished almost in a flash. Hannah was dragged back (she had been talking, as she walked towards it!). With it gone Jenny rushed to find Nick. He said that he had seen green lights reflecting off the car before he parked. Because of the circumstances, Tony Mann does not rate this case highly. The local police and the press received no other sightings and Jenny lost a part-time job as a barmaid, when after constant leg-pulling she squirted the boss with a soda siphon.



CASE HISTORIES

MORE FROM THE WELSH WAVE Margaret Fry (Contact UK)

These reports concern a family living in the Clwyd village of Llanfair Talhaiarn (henceforth Llanfair TH). This is a rural spot in Clwyd, due south of Abergelle, and astride the River Elwy. Very steep lanes with fields lead up from the tiny housing conglomeration to hills in the south-east. The people in these parts are of farming stock, who scratch a living from several odd jobs and with almost no interest in things such as UFOs. We are dealing with Mr Hughes (who is a gardener and builder), his son Paul, and E.T. (!) Ainscow and his son Michael. E.T. is the brother of Mrs Hughes (a nurse). She, and the family's daughter, have been called out by the menfolk to see lights in the sky but were utterly disinterested, beyond acknowledging that they had seen them. Mr Hughes and Mr Ainscow are in their late thirties. Paul and his cousin are teenagers. There are many events involved in what is effectively a series of repeater witness sightings.

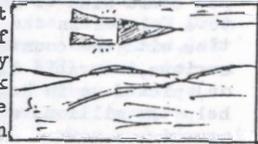
Mr Ainscow (whilst a very young boy) (about 1951) lived in Rochdale, Lancashire. He recalls a major factory fire which he and many spectators watched. During the fire he claims he saw a elongated saucer over the mill, which rose quickly into the sky and vanished. Neither CONTACT nor NUFOON records list such an event.

Much later, at about 16.00 one day in 1969 E.T. was working at a market garden in Abergelle when he saw three objects out to sea, drifting slowly from horizon to horizon. They were gold (reflecting sunlight?) and comprised a large cigar in front and two smaller round discs trailing in its wake.

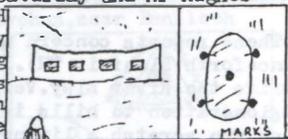
However, his most spectacular report comes from 1980 when he was living in a house on top of a hill above Llanfair TH. It was bad daylight and the object appeared below cloud, at an estimated height of 200'. In total silence it flew overhead, accelerating to a very fast speed and vanishing into clouds. It comprised a grey/black triangle at the front, two bright rear struts and 'fins'. Size is described as "like a battleship". Allegedly two police-men in Prestatyn saw it also. Mr Ainscow says, because of its silence, "it could not have been one of the new prototype craft from RAF 'Happy' Valley on Anglesey.

Son Michael describes one of the most impressive of the LITS sightings over the village. It was 18 November 1986 (time 20.00). He was sat on the bridge over the river when he looked north-west and saw a red and white light side by side atop the steep hillside. They flew in a silent pattern circling the village - completely together as if part of one object (although no shape was seen to be behind the lights). They completed 340 degrees of the circle and then took off towards Rhyl. About two minutes later an RAF jet appeared, plainly discernable as just that despite the darkness. It travelled very low and fast across the village and went off in the same direction as the lights. It had to climb extremely steeply to avoid the hilltop.

Paul Hughes had first alerted Margaret to these various sightings by calling several times to report strange red lights in the sky above the village. Of course, as with all north Wales reports the question of military activity has to be borne in mind. Low flying aircraft on training exercises are seen every day. Military manoeuvres go on. But it seems extremely improbable that this has anything to do with the sighting by Mr Hughes, senior, which then came to notice. For he had seen a landed UFO, but was treating it in such a matter of fact way that it was hard to investigate "when I got within 50 yards of it I stopped," he said. "I knew it was a UFO." He seemed to regard it as no surprise, as UFOs were always being seen around there!



The exact date of this is hard to pin down. It was August. Mr Hughes thinks in 1984. Paul, who was told immediately, thinks 1982. It was a Saturday and Mr Hughes had been up at the top of the mountains above Llanfair TH working on a building there. The path leading down is very steep and he was carefully edging his motorcycle along when he stopped at a small layby beside a friends fields because he thought someone had illegally placed a caravan inside. Deciding to go in and warn them, he went through the gate and began to walk back up the field towards the thing - quickly realising that it was not a caravan. It took a couple of minutes to get towards it and he saw it very clearly as a rectangle with curved top edges and four square windows emitting red light. Before he could reach it the object silently 'took off' and vanished instantaneously. However, he went back in daylight with Paul and looked at the field of burnt out grey grass. At the spot where Mr Hughes had seen the UFO there was an oval patch of 'rejuvenated' green grass and five 'markings' in a circle. Unhappily no photographs of this effect were taken. Not reported until 1986.



 THE CASE OF THE UFO POLTERGEIST MUFORA Case 8179 Inv: Roy Sandbach/Jenny Randles

In December 1985 Jenny Randles taught at a weekend seminar at Manchester University. Part of the course involved hosting a small discussion group on UFOs and their paranormal associations. Later one of the members of this discussion group, Mrs Margaret Whitehorn, put Jenny in contact with a friend of hers from Cheshire - whom we shall just call Dawn, as she wishes anonymity. Dawn had two extraordinary stories to tell, which she related first to Roy Sandbach at an interview and later at a separate tape recorded interview for JR. Several follow-up sessions have occurred.

Dawn, a very pleasant lady in her early sixties, is one of the most honest people you could wish to meet. She is a deeply committed Christian, married for many years to a Colonel in the R.E.M.E. who was stationed in India. She is now widowed, but her ties with the country continue. Despite opposition from the Indian government and a serious, incurable illness (which causes her to go gradually blind as the day wears on) picked up in her stay there, she works feverishly for charity organisations to help the millions of poor and needy in the villages. She also appears to be extremely psychic.

Briefly, a couple of examples of this are as follows. When aged 3 (in the mid 1920's) an uncle stayed with the family long term and she was moved out to share with her brother. One day Dawn moved all her toys back into her room and was told off for this. 'My room' she kept saying. Later, after her mother had moved them back, she did it again and explained that 'Uncle gone' and that he was 'on a big thing looking at dirty water' (she had never seen a ship - living inland as she did). In fact the uncle never came home from work and much later wrote to explain that he had secretly gone to Liverpool, hopped on a boat and emigrated to the USA.

Many years later Dawn had an absolutely classic OOBEE during surgery, in which she saw many details of the operation later verified with the surgeon (to his horror!)

In another chat, as I prepared this article, Dawn told your editor. "I have always been able to read minds. I know whether people are sincere or not. I just sense it."

These traits are clearly relevant as they occur too often in close encounter witnesses for them not to be. In my view, those who dismiss the ESP connection do so because they never probe this aspect of a case. It is impossible, once you do, to be unaware of the phenomenal inter-relationship.

Dawn's first of two extraordinary close encounters came in Autumn 1947. Sadly, both this and the more recent events will have to be heavily precised here. I hope a more detailed account of this astonishing case can be published somewhere, although it is still being looked into. Regression hypnosis would be extremely useful in this case, but unfortunately Dawn suffers from heart disease and this would be most unwise. Hence the decision to provide this interim report.

Dawn and a party of several other missionaries were travelling from Dehra Dun, through Nepal, into Tibet (where she later discussed psychic phenomena with the Dali Llama - being one of the first English women to meet him). Dawn's husband and a Gurkha sergeant were in one truck of a convoy of six. They had all stopped in a flat valley with incredible mountain backdrops, somewhere in Tibet, when a strange 'pressure' occurred. The truck vibrated and, as she says, "we had this funny feeling". Down the valley six balls of grey swirling matter appeared, heading towards them. Many of the natives panicked and fled. "My husband ran to the front of the truck and fell". He was quite badly shaken and said the force had thrown him to the ground. The objects came towards them and solidified into an object "sort of with wooly edges" that "moved slightly and went around the back of the truck". It was "solid in the middle, but the outside seemed like a vapour". She helped her husband up and the thing just floated off.

Superficially this sounds like a dust devil, or whirlwind, and MUFORA took this option up very carefully. Dawn was adamant this was not so. If it were, it would be incredible in view of her second experience (see below). An amazing coincidence. And the physical effects are hard to equate with this.

During the close encounter, Dawn says, "I felt prickly - as though my hair was standing on end. I came out in goosebumps... It was almost like an electric shock, but not so severe... a tingle, but it went on for quite a long time". These are almost identical words used by the witnesses to the classic 1977 Nelson car-stop case, or the Shelley Branes encounter in 1976 in Bolton. And there are other similarities.

After the events, as they sat calming down, they all felt ill. "We all felt very sick, and I was sick... Nobody could eat for the rest of the day." Then "after some hours we noticed we had come out in a rash. An itchy rash. It was bright red and quite frightening." It effected all the parts of her body where she felt as if she was being touched (a sensation also described by the Gurkha, but not her husband, prone on the ground). These areas were her face, neck, arms and legs. It persisted a couple of days.

Skipping lightly over Dawn's association with a 'blond haired, blue eyed man' who seemed to be German and 'spoke with an unusual accent', with whom she discussed UFOs a great deal (remember this was 1947 - and UFOs were almost unknown in England, let alone Tibet!) we come to her second encounter. This was in October 1981, when she was widowed and on a tour of Scotland with a group of church friends. They had hired a brand new car and driven to the Isle of Mull on the ferry with two Americans, a married couple. Dwight, the husband, had been attacked by bandits in Turkey and was not easily scared.

It was a fine sunny day and they were in the deserted hilly part of the centre of this lonely island when they stopped for Dwight to take some photographs of the panoramic sea view. Suddenly "there was a feeling and we all three saw something". A grey mist surrounded the car and began to cut out the light. The Americans were horrified and buried their heads in their hands, ducking below the dashboard. Dawn, for some reason, was more calm and expecting to see what she saw in Tibet. Instead the dark mass came right up to the windscreen, a silvery shape moved about, then all sense of time disappeared. The next thing they recall is coming to their senses some while later. The sun had moved appreciably across the sky and the boot was open with its content scattered about. The electric clock in the car and the two Americans quartz digital watches had both stopped at the same time. Dawn's wind-up watch was working, indicating around 20-30 minutes had passed. The car engine was not turning over and it took several minutes to get it working. Then they had no further problems.

Almost immediately after this experience the Americans began to deny it. They said the boat had been attacked by an animal. They could not remember the mist. They then told Dawn they would rather not talk about it. Later, when phoned, they simply denied any memory of the event, but were plainly only interested in getting off the subject altogether.

For obvious reasons they did not report the matter to the hire car company, simply saying the clock had stopped. The two watches were taken to a jeweller and he was able to get them working again quite rapidly. A slight recurrence of the rash (less severe) bothered Dawn afterwards, but so far as we know not the two Americans.

There are obvious suspicions of a time-lapse in this story. Dawn, although she did not venture this until the fourth interview, says that she feels there is something at the back of her mind about this case. Gentle probing has revealed some interesting new 'ideas' that simply 'came into my mind', as she puts it. These concern the origin of UFOs, which she is convinced ("and you will think I am mad") don't come from space but from here. "They are all around us all the time. They don't come from anywhere. They are just here and we don't recognise them 99 per cent of the time"

This is one of those stories we might not have heard the last of just yet.

FINAL
WORDS

:: CONFERENCES:- FIRST AND MOST IMPORTANT PLEASE NOTE THE SCOTTISH UFO OPEN DAY WILL NOT NOW TAKE PLACE ON 17 OCTOBER. Malcolm Robinson of SPI tells me that the reason for a postponement (which is all it is) is to "add something very substantial" which will make it a day "with a difference". As it was already that, being the first combined UFO lecture programme/exhibition and UFO inspired rock concert by CETIV, the 'surprise' (and, no, I don't know what it is!) must be good. I believe personnel changes in CETIV and a tripling of membership in Scottish UFO circles are other factors, but the event will finally go ahead in Spring 1988 - still in Glasgow - and more details will hopefully be available very soon.

Meanwhile, the NUFON conference in the USA was an enormous success - in all but financial terms. FUFOR, who organised the event, desperately need your help to pull it through the aftermath. A donation of £10, or equivalent, would be much appreciated - and you'll get their badge in return. This bright yellow 'rally call' cries out 'Forty Years is Long Enough'. JR, who has worn hers several times since the congress, has already had to explain, (a), that she isn't 40, and, (b), that she has no intention of committing suicide either. But if you can put up with this somewhat unfortunate wording the badge might help end the cover-up. Otherwise, you can help FUFOR by ordering some of the conference material. Good value is a four-pack of audio cassettes (at £ 25), containing all the main speakers and the abduction/cover-up panel discussions... and (at £ 5) detailed summaries of the 24 contributed papers on a range of subjects (includes Whitley Strieber, Stanton Friedman, Larry Warrens - 'Art Wallace' of Rendlesham fame, and JR) (These papers are not in the £ 10 main congress proceedings, available only from NUFON). Send £ 5 extra if you want air mail delivery to:- FUFOR Bx 277 Mount Rainier Maryland USA 20712

CALENDAR

FUFORA lectures are at the London Business School, near Baker Street tube, 6.30 - 9.30 pm.

5 SEP Peter Warrington "A new look at radar cases"

3 OCT Timothy God "Above Top Secret" (The low down on his current best-seller)

UFO RESEARCH NORTH...NUFON Regional Groups

SPI	(Scotland)	4 Woodlea Pk, Dranshill, Sauchie, By Alloa	FK10 3BG
NLUFOIG	(N. Lancs, Cmbria)	89 Bare Lane, Morecambe, Lancashire	LA 4 6RN
WAPIT	(S. Lancs)	16 Sinclair Place, Pemberton, Wigan, Lancs	WN 5 9SP
NUFORA	(G.Mcr, Cheshire)	6 Silsden Avenue, Lowton, Gtr Manchester	WA 3 1EN
WYUFORG	(N. Yorks)	19 Bellmount Gardens, Bramley, West Yorks	LS13 2ND
YUFON	(W. Yorks)	106 Lady Ann Rd, Soothill, Batley, W. Yorks	WF17 0PY
SSPR	(S. Yorks)	17 Old Quarry Avenue, Wales, Sheffield	S 31 8RW
LUFOIC	(E. Midlands)	31 Grove Rd Leicester Leics	LE 5 3EJ

*NUFON archives at the Catholic Chaplaincy, St Peters House, University, Oxford Rd, Manchester... by prior appointment or via NUFORA (call 0942-604265)