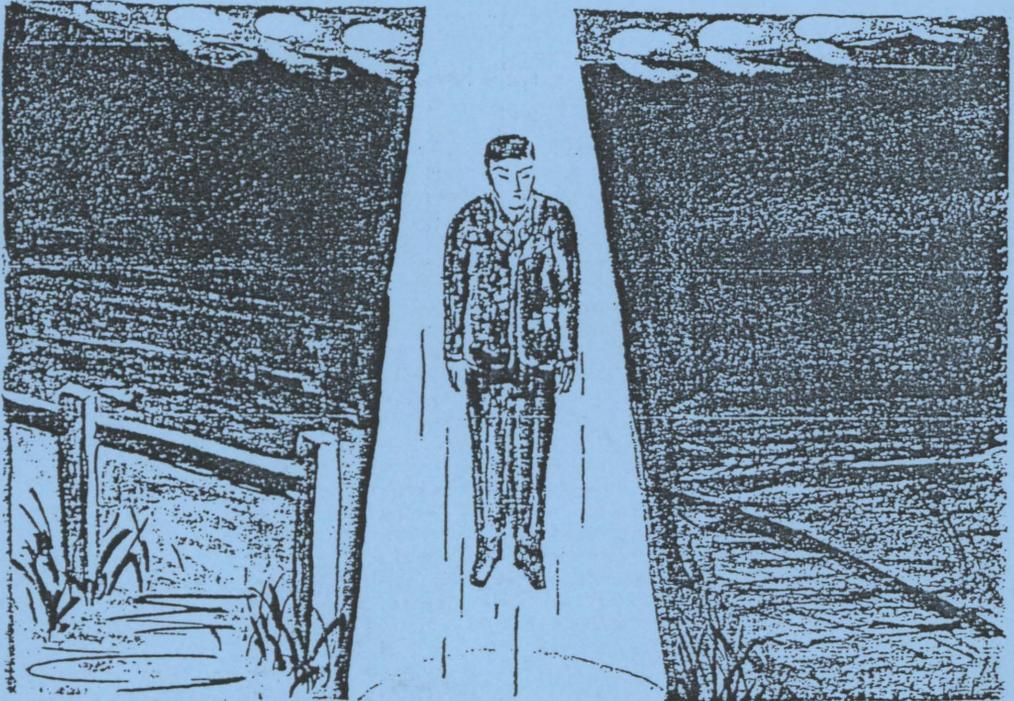


NORTHERN NEWS

UFO

132

JULY -
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NORTHERN UFO NEWS 37 HEATHBANK RD CHEADLE HEATH STOCKPORT CHESHIRE SK3 0UP

J.R. Comments... *Readers sometimes ask me why I never comment on the contents of the Yorkshire UFO Society magazine "Quest". One answer is that we are a UFO journal not a Monty Python Appreciation Society.*

A joke, true, but sadly not by very much. "Quest" seems to have one aim in mind these days, attacking self respecting UFO researchers who behave in a rational manner. I feel sorry for their readers, who appear to face some difficulty working out the facts. Yet YUFOS and "Quest" seem to have many admirers, particularly in the USA. I hope they contemplate their allegiance.

A case in point is a reported sighting from Leeds which occurred on the night of 30 June 1988. This is a brief review of what YUFOS tell their current readers over the course of a very lengthy attack on BUFORA and IUN.

On Friday 8 July two men were interviewed on Radio Aire. A 21 year old ex special policeman claimed he had been walking through Roundhay park eight days previously when he saw a purple glow, felt numb and lost consciousness. In the next few hours he recalled only a few images of being inside a UFO where he was studied by female aliens covered in fur. A total stranger, 23 year old rock band member, found him in a daze still in the park, when he jogged by at 06.30 on Friday, 1 July. The mystery then unfolded.

Following the discovery of this story YUFOS set up an amazing weekend "mission" (investigation is far too mild a word for it). Immediately suspecting the case a hoax they set about digging up confidential background data on the two witnesses in order to "Smash the rumours currently being generated by BUFORA members".

What rumours? What BUFORA members? They appear to mean our associates from the group IUN, who allegedly phoned the Yorkshire Evening Post as soon as they heard the case on the radio in order to 'grab' it first.

So the intrepid YUFOS set out to expose "Britain's most notorious hoax" (as they had already concluded). By great fortune this happened on their patch. Otherwise, they deem to advise all you thickies ... "Had it happened anywhere else in the country (it) may have become a classic".

Modest as ever the dashing ufologists were involved in what (again unnamed) sources have reputedly praised as the greatest field investigation of its type ever mounted. During the Saturday and Sunday (9 and 10 July) they worked round the clock. This uncovered some information that suggested the witnesses had suspect backgrounds and had been involved in recent publicity stunts. Also that the special PC was an ex-PC because of not exactly favourable circumstances. Crucial negative evidence.

At the same time wicked BUFORA/IUN was desperate to secure the witnesses before YUFOS and was going around telling everybody that the case was genuine. The Yorkshire Evening Post carried a small story mentioning BUFORA and quoting, they say, Philip Mantle. YUFOS believe that this was brainwashing the media into "wide acceptance" (even though this mild account was the ONLY press story to appear anywhere on the case!).

YUFOS finally attempted to talk to the witnesses on the Sunday, when in a retinue of several cars (using hazard warning lights to flash messages!) they trailed them and arrived at one man's door to "surprise" him. Then they set off to find the other, said to be playing tennis, and hung around en masse near courts by his home until the neighbours got suspicious!

YUFOS were now certain they had proof of a hoax (the witness had contradicted himself slightly, had said he was interested in selling his story, etc). But silly old BUFORA was still hyping it up. YUFOS had "first

hand quality data" about everything we did (via some sort of spy network). This included an "amazing" IUN decision to visit the site - without even talking to the witness - there to "dig up the park"!

In addition we had supposedly set up an appointment with a "Dr Hopkins" to examine the witness. Determined to stop the hysteria being created by a sensation-seeking BUFORA (a "blood lust approach" as YUFOS graphically term it!) their 'sources' leaked this covert meeting. So YUFOS "monitored the area" (ie spied on us). They knew the men had "fled", thanks to their actions, so could laugh when the BUFORA team waited for nothing.

This was the final straw. Especially as a 'disgusting' campaign was afoot involving (more unnamed) BUFORA members calling YUFOS 'in disguise' and pretending to be enquiring journalists. Oh yes, and your editor had allegedly instructed the Yorkshire Evening Post that the case was genuine and to refuse to print the YUFOS claims of a hoax. They didn't. So this intrepid YUFOS "Mission Impossible" was hushed up by my dastardly deeds. BUFORA, they contend, had sought to pervert the truth about a clear hoax.

Strong stuff and I assure you it's just a mild summary of the astonishing 'KGB style' investigation and extremist attacks of YUFOS. You might care to hear what REALLY happened in those few days.

On Wednesday, 6 July, five days after the sighting, the witnesses contacted Hugh Pincott of ASSAP stating that they wanted anonymity but would appreciate an investigation. The details reached me from ASSAP and on that same day I briefed Philip Mantle. We had the addresses of both witnesses from the very start and in that first conversation agreed that the case was suspect. There was never any question of pronouncing it 'genuine' without investigation. Or of getting it 'before YUFOS', as they claim. We had the case days before them anyhow, by pure circumstance.

As BUFORA's Director of Investigations my view of how to evaluate a case is shared by the AIs who were involved (Andy Roberts, David Clarke and Philip Mantle - all excellent workers). The witnesses had to be contacted by post. An interview was quickly arranged for Sunday, 10 July.

In the meantime discrete enquiries began and a number of suspect facts emerged about them, suggesting that the two may not have been unknown to one another before their meeting in the park. There was absolutely no question of attempting publicity on such a vague and improbable case.

But the witnesses went to the media (a fact you might find suspicious). The Yorkshire Post, far from being fed the story by BUFORA, picked it up naturally from the radio broadcast in Leeds on the Friday. Arnold West, BUFORA chairman, was called by the paper. He said nothing to be ashamed of and the press reported; "(BUFORA) say it could take months to find out if the experience, witnessed by several independent callers to the YEP, can be put down to freak weather conditions. If it cannot, it will become one of the five per cent of unexplained anomalies in the world."

As you can see there was NO quote by anyone, only press comment that a proper investigation was underway. Also no hype. This is what YUFOS describe as 'blood lust' publicity that distorted the truth and created a sensation around the country. Would YOU say that was a balanced description?

The BUFORA team met the witnesses, got their story and went with them to the site where soil samples were taken. This was a perfectly sensible approach, even though the case was by now dubious. Taking samples as early as possible is standard practice, as is visiting the site with the witnesses.

As for the rest of the YUFOS fairy tale. Dr Hopkins exists only in never never land. When the 'secret agents' from "Quest" were spying on that 'session', Andy Roberts was there to meet only the witness. It takes little

imagination to guess where the name Hopkins came from in connection with an abduction case. It would therefore seem that the "first hand quality data" being fed to YUFOS by their agents were not as reliable as they believed.

The BUFORA team concluded its work. The case has problems and could well be a hoax, even though the witnesses deny it. But our aim was (and still is) to investigate in a diplomatic and careful manner by way of correct procedure and interviews. No publicity was sought or engineered. The claim that I told the Yorkshire Post to stifle the 'brave' YUFOS attempts at exposing this case is absurd and without either foundation or evidence.

You must be the judge of who handled this case properly and who behaved like cast offs from a James Bond movie.

But also ponder the motives YUFOS might have for these wild accusations. It is disturbing that honest and intelligent people have yet to see through the pretensions of this fast expanding group. Tim Good, for example, is one of their greatest supporters. There are many others.

Doubtless YUFOS will now claim that I am afraid of them and their success. Not so. It does reflect the sad truth that ten times as many people prefer UFO illusions to the less exciting, if honourable, realities of our field. Yet in my view what counts is the quality and integrity of the things you say and do, not how many are cheering you on from the sidelines.

NEWS ROUND-UP:



:: I was recently approached by a US publisher and asked to assist them in providing data and pix for a book on UFOs in a series about the 'Universe'. I got suspicious when told the author was Isaac Asimov. I knew the SF writer to be anti-UFO and refused to continue until I saw the text. It was poor; old, hackneyed, misleading and in places wrong. As usual it was all anti-ET as if this 'solves' the UFO mystery. The entire book is just 8 sides of A4 text long! No wonder they needed photos. I discovered that Asimov had refused to write it as "a UFO book has no part in a series dealing with the mysteries of the universe". He was persuaded otherwise "but stated he would take a negative view". Having got exactly what they were promised, the publishers then had the cheek to ask me to help rewrite it in less biased form. I preferred to suggest places they might relocate the manuscript.

:: People often ask about my books (which make only rare appearances in shops) I have been able to obtain a limited supply of some of these to offer to NUN readers at exclusive prices.

The best bargain is the 1986 UK paperback edition of "Sky Crash" (with its new final chapter updating the case post the hardback). I can offer this for just 80p (post inclusive).

I also have a few hardback copies of my Robert Hale books "UFO Reality" (1983) and "Sixth Sense" (1987) available for £9 and the brand new 1988 edition of "Abduction" for £10 (all representing £1 savings on shop prices and again including free postage)

Unlike NUN subscriptions (cheques/pos to "NUFON")- any orders for these should be made payable direct to "Jenny Randles". Overseas orders are possible. But bank exchange rates might make it uneconomical. I am happy to listen to any alternative suggestions that interested overseas readers might have. A US edition of "Sixth Sense" does exist (Salem House), but none of the others seem at present likely to reach the USA direct.

A MYSTERY CIRCLE 'UP NORTH'



This time of year all regular readers of NUN know what is coming. More reports of 'mystery circles'. The controversy rages again, as if these patterns in cereal fields have never been seen before. On the one hand lies the BUFORA study, chapioned by Paul Fuller and involving serious research with meteorologist Dr Terence Meaden. On the other is the FSR touted theories of Pat Delgado and Colin Andrews that they are "an unknown force" controlled related to landing or hovering, and seemingly invisible, UFOs.

You will know where my sympathies are from the co-authoring with Paul Fuller of the 1986 BUFORA publication "Mystery of the Circles" (still the definitive work it is sad to say). But this year, whilst circle sets of most of the usual patterns (from single rings to quintuplets) have turned up in considerable numbers, fewer have been publicised. Action has centred on the personality and theory battle in the media, which has really hotted up.

Dr Meaden and colleagues from his research team TORRO (which co-funded a research project with BUFORA last year) have published papers in places such as 'New Scientist' and the Observer carried one article denigrating the UFO link and supporting the complex fair weather whirlwind theory. Even the Christian Herald (2 July) featured a sober account of the 'stationary whirlwind' theory, which FSR have seen necessary to attack of late with snide personal insults but, as usual, no presentation to readers of what the hypothesis actually represents.

Meanwhile a circle set has turned up in our region. It is NOT the first (some in Yorkshire are on Dr Meaden's files already). But it is the first to achieve press and TV coverage outside the south west.

A pilot discovered the pattern in a field near Oadby, Leicestershire. It was featured on Central TV on 6 July, soon afterwards. The pilot thought a UFO might have caused it. A geologist consulted suggested a secret test plane. Several BUFORA/LUFOIC/NUFORC investigators went out there to get precise measurements and Ernie Still says that two men (apparently Andrews and Delgado) were there taking radiation levels and using what looked to be a dowsing rod! One claimed to be connected with NASA. They also had a bag with Ralph Noyes' name on it, Ernie insists. Ralph has apparently developed an interest in these circles of late. Perhaps he would explain his reasons?

Meanwhile, Dr Meaden travelled up to Oadby. The Leicester Mercury (8 July) includes a photo of the ring (the type with one inset inside another). This was (according to Still's measures) 53' in radius, but there were three very small rings in a triangle around the main one (these being only approximately 4' 6" each).

The article was a good one, quoting Dr Meaden at length explaining the theory and adding comments by BUFORA's regional coordinator, Clive Potter of LUFOIC, making very sensible comments and disassociating the rings from the UFO mystery.

Five days later, the Mercury reported that something was up. Delgado (interestingly quoted as a "NASA radar expert") lashed out at Dr Meaden and the whirlwind merchants and insisted that he and Andrews had "the data to prove these circles are intelligently locating themselves. And there are even more facts that we dare not release. It is chilling."

What is certainly chilling is that strong evidence for a natural phenomenon is being twisted to help in tarnishing the image of our subject. But judge for yourselves. BBC-1 are screening a half hour 'Countryside unit' documentary on the circles, on a Sunday afternoon in either late September or October.

FOR YOUR PERUSAL:-

Major articles elsewhere



A new publication to note is "UFO Afrinews" edited by the much travelled Cynthia Hind. In 46 pps of A5 size it reports all the latest news and cases from the South Africa/Zimbabwe region. At the remarkable value of £1 (\$2) per issue (it seems to be intended as an irregular publication) I would heartily recommend it for data on a little known part of the world. Details:- Box MP 49 Mount Pleasant Harare Zimbabwe Africa.

JTAP Mar (in BUFORA sub £15, 16 South Way Burgess Hill Sussex RH15 9ST) Detailed study of the TORRO/BUFORA mystery circles research survey from Paul Fuller...An excellent piece by Ken Phillips/Dr Alex Keul updating their Anamnesis results and showing creativity factors in UFO witness backgrounds...replies from Evans and Randles to Stuart Campbell's 'solving' of the Alan Godfrey abduction as a misperception of venus.

MAGONIA Aug (£3, 4 issues, from 5 James Terrace, London SW14 8HB) If you like your ufology deep and psychological you should look no further. Good pieces from Hilary Evans on the development of theories, Nigel Watson on TV and its presentation of UFOs, and Roger Morgan describes the data he found in using the 30 year rule to access 1950's British UFO files.

NUFORC May (from 30 Stonebridge Ct Lings Northants...No price quoted) Mostly a long and perceptive article by Clive Potter on the links between synchronicity and the UFO medium. I wish they'd change that awful print!

NUFOIS News 12 (£1.25 from 443 Meadow Lane Nottingham NG2 3GB) Once NUFOIS were the archetypal solid, skeptical investigation team. Now they seem to be on the verge of a split with all the old stalwarts going into a group investigating earth mysteries and Dennis Harriman editing the UFO side. I did a radio programme in Leicester with him recently and he seems oddly persuaded that some rather doubtful UFOs (eg the 9 December 1987 sightings - see this issue) are REAL. Quite a change of mood for NUFOIS.

BOOK OF THE MOMENT:

UNINVITED GUESTS by Richard Hall 1988 381pp Unillustrated softback
\$14 US from Aurora Press PO Box 573 Santa Fe New Mexico USA 87504

24 years ago Richard Hall, consulting editor with International UFO Reporter (probably the world's best UFO journal) gave us what was then the world's best UFO book. "The UFO Evidence", as its title suggests, was a survey of the main case histories then known. It remains essential reading.

The sequel has been a quarter century in coming. Given my high expectations I must admit to some vague disappointment. Not that this is a bad book. On the contrary, it is one of the best American titles for years and is a genuine offering by a genuine investigator. It surveys the field in its own way and overviews entity, abduction and crashed UFO cases (taking little note of anything else). That, at least, deserves a hearing.

A lot of the space is given over to reprinting documents (all the MJ-12 stuff, for instance). Even more to a catalogue of around 100 precisised

cases listed chronologically from the Fargo case of 1948 to the Alaska JAL sightings of November 1986. This is laudable and useful, but I am not at all sure of its real value. Its selection appears very individual. Most cases are American, naturally, but the global perspective is offered. Yet this is peculiar, because countries like Australia, Finland and Belgium donate several cases each, whereas Britain (with more documented cases on most catalogues outside the US) chips in with just one - the Aveley abduction.

A lot of statistical information is tabulated from these (there are similarities with "UFO Reality" in parts). But this is where my unease about the potentially misleading nature of this selection surfaces. When entity types are discussed only the cases with entities 3-4 feet tall of the standard US appearance make the transfer. The Aveley entities gets 'lost' and one is left wondering if this is because they did not fit the theory. There may be another quite reasonable explanation, but I got the impression at times that the data was being squeezed to fit the proffered ET solution, not the solution worked out from a study of the data.

That said, this is an American book and illustrates better than anything the gulf between ufology on this continent in the eighties (where the ET reigns supreme and little seems to have changed since that 1964 book) and Europe (where new wave psycho-social theories are all the rage). Either one (or neither) (or, as I suspect, both!) will prove valid, so it is wrong to dismiss a book because we do not 'believe' its conclusions.

This is a well written text, it marshalls a lot of material very well and comes over as a book BY a UFO researcher FOR UFO researchers, rather than a popularised potboiler as most volumes still are. For that reason alone this is worth your money. If you suspend your convictions it can be educational. After all DISBELIEF in the ETH is as biased and likely to be mistaken as BELIEF might be... Ponder that whilst you read "Uninvited Guests"

UPDATES:

The Mrs B Abduction...Ray Broderick adds to NUN 131 that the date WAS 20 June 1987 when Mrs B had her abduction. He answers why it was so similar to the "Dynasty" story seen by the witness the night before she reported her encounter. "That was the mind jogger to her memory...The difference is the Dynasty cast got paid quite well for playing house. Mrs B went through a real event. The only payment she wants is peace of mind."

Mundrabilla...Keith Basterfield and Ray Brooke have provided some update news on this classic case from Western Australia, 20 January 1988. It has been mentioned in several earlier issues of NUN and in most UK national newspapers at the time. Bill Chalker has now found Graham Henley, the missing truck driver witness and the first person to meet the family after their vehicle was 'attacked' by the UFO. However, whilst he confirms seeing a 'bright light in the sky' pacing behind his truck, he NEVER saw it in the vicinity of the Knowles family car as press stories of the time claimed. Meanwhile Dr Richard Haines in the USA has done another analysis of the mystery dust found on the victims car, again without any unusual results. The car involved was apparently repossessed by the finance company in June and then sold. UFORA are trying to obtain the damaged tyre from the new owners for study. Finally, Nippon TV from Japan have been in Australia to make a documentary on the case. They hypnotised Mrs Knowles for the programme, but no new memories emerged from this regression experiment.

MEDIA MATTERS: -

A look at UFOs in the public eye

((((()))



Three major review pieces by independent writers appeared recently. None were in any way satisfactory.

The most inane was "More" (29 June) where Jane Cameron investigated "sexy green aliens" (not a promising start!). Built from fragments of the worst press stories in the past year we were treated to ripped-off tidbits ranging from serious books to the Daily Star. Billy Meier is plugged as genuine, MJ 12 is called P 140 (?). 'Dr' Richard Lawrence is interviewed yet again; "the Bible is the biggest source for recorded evidence of Flying Saucers. Jesus came from venus on the Star of Bethlehem. But its absurd that it could have been a star, so it must have been a flying saucer". All they quoted from a long interview with JR was "The government are as baffled as anyone else". 'Dr' Lawrence had the last word; "Spotting flying saucers is like train spotting. It gets tedious.".... Well, some one does!

Meanwhile "Chat" (18 June) had Mary Keenan writing what she promised would be a definitive article on abductions. Aside from including (yawn!) that confabulated Cheshire abduction (see March-April editorial) it was exclusively a rip-off from 'Abduction' (which they conveniently forgot to mention!). It focused on what it quoted JR as calling "mental rape" and interestingly quoted an MoD spokesman as saying; "We do not dismiss UFOs out of hand, but we have no real proof"

Best of the lot SHOULD have been the major piece by Michael Thompson-Noel for (most surprisingly) the "Financial Times" (25 June). Even more surprisingly, considering he spent six months interviewing most senior British UFO researchers, it was dire. "The bizarre new religion of UFOs" the sub-heading called it, and it went downhill from there. For instance, this research produced the startling news that there are just 7 UFO groups in Britain (check p.16 - theres more than that in NUFON!). He adds that the "ufology's most obvious weakness" is the "non-existence of its evidence" and claims he got this from reading "UFOs: 1947-1987". Then goes on via several diversions to discuss "the wacky world of ufology" and emerges, with his brain hurting from all the psychobabble after "weeks of grappling with the rubbish mountain of non-evidence on which ufology is perched". As you can see, this was hardly the most favourable article we have ever generated!

On a lighter note I did promise to keep you in touch with the antics of the "Sunday Sport". They are still at it. Dennis Harriman of NUFON espoused his obvious knowledge of the mystery circles (19 June) by warning folk to stay away from these radioactive 'landing sites' and advising somberly; "We don't know exactly why these beings keep landing in fields... One theory suggests they may be using lakes (?) for fuel". After explaining that a 'top secret scientific team' lead by Colin Andrews is probing the mystery, Harriman cautioned that the UFOs hide in the lakes during the day and then take to the fields at night... "An invasion is something which can't be ruled out". No wonder NUFON are splitting.

We then learnt (26 June) that a Spanish alien has died from poisoning in one of its two stomachs after eating a cheeseburger. This was accompanied by the handy hints column "10 ways to keep your alien happy" - eg feed them mars bars, don't let them mate with your vacuum cleaner and don't let them use the phone (think about it). The Sport (which- unbelievably - goes DAILY this autumn!!!) concluded (10 July) with a Durrant's Freudian slip par excellence. They stuck it on a sheet proclaiming it to be the NEW STATESMAN

not the Sport!!! This gave the amazing news that pop star Sabrina is looking for "an extraterrestrial stud". The ever obliging Dennis Harriman (not offering his services) advised her to hang around a reservoir and wait to be picked up... "Its not that they are lousy at sex - that depends how many hands they've got."... Well it would, wouldn't it.

And NUFONIS once had the cheek to say that WE were unscientific!!!

BRIEF CASES: -

Some current investigations



"A VIEW ON THE SKY"... Astronomer, Gary Anthony, will in future issues be offering notes about up and coming sky phenomena a month ahead of the issue date. He notes that during August and into September, both Jupiter and Venus are very bright sky objects ('the brightest stars'), Jupiter rising before midnight and venus soon after. August is also a very active month for meteors with the Perseids reaching a maximum around the 12th. Since there was no moon at the maximum in 1988 there would be many bright ones visible (around one a minute at peak) - so bear this in mind for any mid August UFO sightings with short durations.

THREE TIMES LUCKY!

An American reader, Professor G, from New York State University, writes to describe his three encounters with the unknown.

In Summer 1951 or 1952 he was working as business manager at Harriman Interstate Park (sic- see above!). Driving back from the town of Tuxedo with his wife (camp nurse) it began to RAIN tiny frogs. At the time he was convinced this was just an illusion. Now he has read about such things he believes the creatures did descend onto the road and car hood.

Later, in 1956, he was driving from Manhattan onto Long Island, where La Guardia airfield is situated. He saw three hemispheres above the airport. They glinted sunlight in the late afternoon and he stopped the car on the Van Wyck Expressway trying to flag down traffic. Everyone ignored him and the objects sped off, growing smaller as they moved away.

Finally, sometime later, on a thundery afternoon in a kitchen with an open window a small ball of light appeared just outside as he was closing the window. At that instant "an illuminated wire" shot from the tiny ball and hit him square on the forehead with a 'click' sensation. It all happened in an instant and the ball of light had vanished. He used to tell people that he had been struck by lightning and survived, but now wonders if this was ball lightning (as it sounds) or a BAP.

Professor G, who teaches English, is a high calibre witness who had simply picked up "The UFO Conspiracy" by chance. He might represent one of the few people to have experienced three different kinds of Fortean event in close encounter fashion.

Does anyone know a witness who has a better track record?

A UFO VISION

Case 8655 MUFORA Early 1986 Wythenshawe, Manchester Inv: Randles/Sandbach

J is a 29 year old nurse in a cancer unit, born of a British woman who never married her father, a GI from Topeka, Kansas. J often visits Texas, where he now lives and would like to move there permanently.

She also married a Persian man (about whom she had a vivid precognitive dream before they met), but is now divorced. She regards herself as very artistic and has painted and written poetry in a highly creative way for many years. Her dream life was described as 'very vivid' Intelligence is definitely above normal and she was walking and talking when only months old and has a memory right back to life in the pram! These factors support various 'creative witness' and 'fantasy prone personality' theories about close encounters (see my book 'Abduction' and recent articles by Keith Basterfield in the UFO literature - eg International UFO Reporter)

A good deal more personal information was obtained on interview, but her main experience comes from a Jan/Feb 1986 date when she went to bed at 9.30 pm because she was on early shift at the hospital. Her body clock was mixed up by earlier shifts and, unable to sleep, she lay there with thoughts going through her head as she tried to relax. Her eyes were OPEN, then suddenly she was hit by a 'thump' and was 'wide awake' and 'reliving a memory' that 'completely took me over'. She had an all senses experience of being in an alien reality with desert rocks below. Standing on a ridge she was looking at the sky where 'very bright balls of light' were flying about. Her sense of mood was the thought 'why have I not been taken?' It was like being left behind as a small child and a voice was speaking into her mind ("like lots of flash pictures") She has no knowledge of any detail. Then a single ball split from the others, flew straight at her and entered her body around the abdomen. She felt very relieved.

Upon 'coming to' it felt like hours had passed, but she knew it was only moments. She fled straight into her mother's room in astonishment. MUFORA believes this a very important subjective experience full of major clues.

CASE 8744 MUFORA May 1987 Middleton, Gtr Manchester Sandbach C 3-3

A 20 yr old labourer saw through his landing window (around 22.00) what he took to be a 'floodlight'. He watched it stationary for about 30 seconds and then concluded it was a plane coming towards him. It then became clear it was moving in zigzag motions around a static point so he then guessed a helicopter. He ran for his video camera and set it up, but by the time he did so (5 minutes later) it was fading into a dot in the SE. He took 30 seconds of tape but the machine malfunctioned and chewed it up. It never worked properly again, so he replaced it. When we spoke to him he had taped over the UFO! He blamed bad tape, plus the fact you could hardly see the white dot. MUFORA believes this was either a plane, or more likely venus or jupiter.

CASE 8810 NLUFOIG 26 March 1988 M 62 Lancs/Yorks border Barraclough B 3-4

A 53 year old grocer was returning with 4 others from a YUFOS conference in Rotherham! At 21.00, crossing the Pennines on Moss Moor near Rochdale they saw an object come out of dense cloud. It had two white searchlights and a mass of red, blue and white lights on the underside. It headed in a south to north direction. From the witness accounts this seems to have been a brightly lit aircraft (seeming lower because of the height ASL of the motorway); either from Manchester or heading into Leeds/Bradford. There is no reason to conclude otherwise.



DEEP SEA FISHING FOR UFOs

Case 8811 MUFORA Late April 1988 River Mersey, Liverpool B 5-5

This did not have an auspicious start; a story in the Sunday Sport (29 May). But for once appearances were deceptive. "Too close encounter" the story reported, telling how witness D 'hooked a fleet of alien spaceships'. Few details other than this (wholly misleading) point were included.

However, working on half an address we traced and interviewed D. Aged 41 and an unemployed decorator he spends a lot of time sea fishing in the Mersey Estuary off Seaforth. It was just after midnight and he had been with half a dozen other fishermen and had taken his two sons, Carl, aged 10, and David, who is 13 and disabled (he frequently visits the US for major surgery and is nicknamed 'the 2½ million dollars man' because of the costs incurred). They were on the rocks in the middle of the estuary near the computerised lighthouse when the objects began to arrive.



Five of them appeared, one after the other, and 'swooped' into the water. They then remained submerged. D estimates they were about 20' in diameter and a banana shape, coloured a deep orange. They were not visible below the water (remaining there about 5 minutes). As they had vanished they talked about them amongst themselves, speculating about a secret government device. "They stayed the same shape," D said "Everybody was very shaken and frightened. Carl was shaking and crying and insisted on coming home. We had planned on staying hours. It was scary. I have never believed in flying saucers before, but this was real scary."

The objects emerged in the same way, one after the other, and climbed off to the NE (from whence they had come) heading out to sea towards Ireland. The spacing between objects (arrival and departure) was about a minute apart. Carl has been so frightened that even two months later he refused to go back out there for what had been regular weekend fishing jaunts. D told the Liverpool Echo, who were not interested. But they passed it onto the Sunday Sport! He added; "If it was a wind-up I'd tell you. But it was genuine - honest."

Case 8812 NLUFOIG 9 May 1988 Morecambe, Lancs Barraclough (B 2-2)

A 55 year old salesperson at 23.00 observed a creamy white light like a 'large star' through her bedroom window. It moved from the south east and was in view only about 8 seconds. NLUFOIG believe this may have been satellite (or could have been either an aircraft or bright meteor)

Case 8813 NLUFOIG 10 May 1988 Thornton-Cleveleys, Lancs "" (B 4-4)

One of the witnesses to the M62 'UFO' also saw this phenomenon at 15.15 hrs. She was walking home when she saw a silver flash in the sky and looking up saw a rugby ball shape in the north. It was drifting slowly towards the south and after a few seconds a darker silver 'band' appeared at each end around the centre. It then drifted out of view, total duration about 30 seconds. The witness 'felt good' afterwards, and whilst NLUFOIG do suggest an aircraft they think this might be unexplained. Without weather details it is difficult to tell, but it is not unlike a balloon and Cleveleys is a holiday resort on the Fylde coast.

Case 8814 NLUFOIG 29 May 1988 Grwdle Glen, Isle of Man "" (B 3-3)

The same witness again as the M 62 and Cleveleys cases. This time she was on the electric railway climbing towards Laxey over the coast when she saw in the NNE what seemed to be a car on the road. It was 15.30 and the oval object glinted white in the sun. It then traversed the headland and seemed to fall INTO the sea; although no splash was heard (interestingly the Liverpool fishermen - see case on previous page - also heard no splash - and these two sightings have similarities). The investigator has no suggested explanation.

The Staffordshire UFO returns: (See Case 8807, last issue)

You will recall there were many sightings of a triangular shaped object around Stafford on 16 May and JR had been supported by aviation experts in suggesting that F-19s might be on test exercises 'disguised' as UFOs. Stafford MP, Bill Cash, has become so intrigued by the events he actually made a newspaper appeal for witnesses to report to HIM! (Staffordshire Newsletter, 24 June) (sic!)... This MUST be a first. Several new reports were forthcoming, including a married couple from Hillcote Hollow near Stafford. I suspect this was NOT the same thing as they talk of the object 'appearing and disappearing in the same spot several times' and remaining in view for many minutes. This was also on that date of 16 May (21.50 hrs), but sounds like an astronomical object. Mrs W of Littleworth watched it through binoculars and is sure it was ONE object, not two, as previous reports suggested. "It was an array of bright lights, orange red and blue... We couldn't see any markings or anything to identify it. The amazing thing about it was that it was so quiet. It was going very slowly." Another witness said he stood directly underneath the same object in 1981 when it drifted over his car at Brocton. JR repeated the suggestion that some form of military technology would be the culprit for these repeated sightings. Yet MP, Bill Cash, satisfied with the integrity of his constituents advised on 1 July that he was filing a detailed report with the Under Secretary for Defence, Roger Freeman. Stay tuned on this one... and I advise any Midlands investigators with triangular UFO reports to contact Bill Cash. You never know he might get somewhere... But don't hold your breath.

CASE HISTORIES

THE PERFECT ABDUCTION? (Part 2) MUFORA Report by Peter Hough

Case 8744 1 December 1987 Ilkley Moor, W. Yorkshire Level A (SP 9-5)

The alleged encounter of Philip on the moors between Ilkley and East Morton has already flashed around the world, thanks to Steve Balon's disgraceful actions. Readers are urged not to take any note of the media tales as MUFORA, the investigator, and the witness have not cooperated with any of them... so you can judge their accuracy from this fact alone. Also, the silly story in the current "Quest" is based on no investigation, however you might have read it, and appears to have been the YUFOS attempt to explain to their readers why they were not involved in a case on their own doorstep. Peter Hough is the only investigator competent to provide the facts and it is strongly suggested you form your conclusions only from his work.

In a story where photographic evidence of an alien is alleged, investigation of that evidence is vital. In the next issue the research carried out on this aspect will be reviewed. However, a number of readers will know that some days after the Daily Star abused the photograph and carried it without permission, and after immediate warnings from both Peter Hough and myself that they had neither copyright release nor the witnesses consent to do so, the Star deliberately ignored this and ran a second article. Peter Hough has already initiated legal moves and it is best to say no more on this.

That second article alleged that the case had been 'solved'. Supposedly, Jack McHale, an insurance salesman, recognised himself immediately. The alien is Jack clambering up the hill in blue jacket and grey trousers and carrying a briefcase! Anyone who has seen the original prints (which give better definition and are in colour) will know this to be unlikely; although several ufologists have been taken in by the 'Star' (who were probably attempting to 'get rid' of the case because their illegal use of it had now been thwarted).

Peter has talked to this salesman. He did NOT recognise himself. A friend suggested it to him. Whilst he does appear, half heartedly, to think the image MIGHT be him, there are major problems. Not least that the picture was allegedly taken hours before he ever walks the moors and taken on a Tuesday (although McHale makes his round of the farms on a Thursday). The detail on the picture also does not match close inspection. However, there is a superficial plausibility about the claim which may seem attractive.

Of course, IF this is true then 'Philip' is lying through his teeth. Whilst MUFORA is being very cautious about making pronouncements, it must be said that during the extensive work on the case the witness has barely offered any hints in this direction. He remains, despite the recent publicity and offers from magazines and American TV producers, totally disinterested in money or publicity and has received none of either. His sole concern is his reapplication to join the police force. If this were a hoax it is hard to imagine why such a sensible and intelligent man would jeopardise that.

An illustration of the care that has gone into the investigation concerns the alleged anomaly on Philip's compass. This, if you recall, had 'reversed polarity' after the encounter. Dr Spooner, head of the Department of Electrical Engineering and Electronics at UMIST, cooperated in a series of experiments to attempt to discover how this might occur. It was demonstrated that only a pulsed magnetic field would achieve it. If exposed the compass would permanently reverse and reverse back as often as you like. A number of ways in which this could be achieved without too much fuss were isolated. For instance, a trick with coiled wire and the house mains was possible (but very dangerous!). Use of something like a hospital scanner could work too. Dr Spooner added that the field was, small enough to be produced by all methods, but was still so much larger than the earth's field that it ought to have left detectable changes in the rocks at the site.

Liz Kelly, from the Manchester University Radiological Protection Service, was then taken to the site to conduct a survey of the soil and rocks. No readings above background level were detected. Peter points out that whilst this seems not to support the witness story (although he assisted totally in all this work) IF he WERE telling the truth any exposure might NOT have

occurred on the ground. The two hour time lapse had hinted at some missing memory and hypnotic regression was about to further strengthen the theory that the compass effects might PERHAPS (if one can accept that any physical abduction ever takes place) locate themselves a long way from the site.

To be continued...

THE BIGGEST SIGHTING - EVER! Case 8741 (Everywhere!)

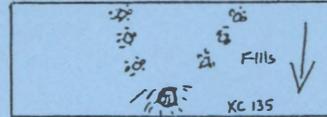
On Wednesday 9 December 1987 a massive UFO sighting hit northern England. At least 100 sets of witnesses are known. If NUFOIS estimates in Nottingham are to be believed the figure is more like 300. Most saw essentially the same phenomenon. Sightings concentrated on two areas, Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire and Humberside... although population density and mass media coverage are the main reasons for this. Other scattered sightings in Lincolnshire (the county inbetween) are known.

The sightings around Nottingham (timed between 16.50 and 17.10) attracted the attention of the national press and Dennis Harriman (see pages 8/9). Daily Mirror (11 Dec) "Riddle of Huge UFO" was typical, saying that a 'UFO the size of a football pitch' was seen 'late on Wednesday night' (sic!) and they 'moved slowly, flashed lights and gave out a deep hum' according to the baffled local police. Harriman was saying from the word go (10 Dec, Derby Telegraph) "It does not conform to anything I have investigated before - it sounds a bit special".

Meanwhile reports were arriving into BUFORA and JR via readers of her books (demonstrating the huge number of people to see the sky spectacular on their way home from work). For instance, Woodville, Derbyshire, 17.00... female businesswoman saw "mass of light, cigar shaped tinged pink, with another light extended outward, white in colour... as big as a house... drifted over fields heading east and changed plain as it moved... sound, a low humming"... Or, Stapleford, Notts, 17.05, housewife... "a large spotlight in the middle and red lights either side, then lots of little red ones accompanying... passed over slowly with definite hum... like a plane or helicopter... but it was too wide for that... lights were in V shape... 3 minutes later another row of lights came from the same direction... this time in single straight line... could now see green lights too in the mass... heading SW to NE"

Over on Humberside IUN investigators Gary Anthony and Philip Mantle had been deeply immersed in the 50 witnesses they had traced. There were many similarities... large masses of lights, in two waves, heading east along the Humber into the North Sea, making a deep humming sound and extremely large. Timings here were a bit later, between 17.15 and 17.45 mostly (focusing around 17.30). To anyone studying these facts it has to be obvious that the same stimulus caused them all, crossing Notts/Derby around 17.00 and moving out to sea over Humberside twenty minutes to half an hour later. That's a distance - Woodville- Stapleford- Humberside of about 80 miles in a straight flight over mostly rural Lincolnshire at around 180-200 MPH (perfectly consistent with air traffic). Suspecting this immediately that is precisely what IUN looked for, via RAF Binbrook and the MoD in London. It is also precisely what they found.

Meanwhile, back in Nottingham, Dennis Harriman was in a flap. The claim "it was as big as a football field" was a boon to the media, who made great capital out of it. The East Midland Airport said to have no answer and they



were quoted (as were the West Drayton centre) of having no radar trace of the now very well vaunted UFOs. Almost daily press stories in Nottingham made the case ever stranger. On 14 Dec Harriman told the Evening Post "This is very spectacular". Everyone was certain it was a UFO. Oddly, the Nottingham press was totally ignoring the identical Humberside stories. A major full page Evening Post article on the 16 Dec ("Notts UFOs: Aliens or a big secret?" continued the theme; all sources were baffled, aliens were responsible etc. On 23 Dec Harriman slammed the "wall of silence" over the cases and the clear MoD cover-up. The NUFOIS reports had now reached 90 and stretched to witnesses in Leicestershire and Staffordshire. The police, on the other hand, evidently fed up of endless calls, had suggested it might have been a small micro-lite aircraft! That it most definitely was not.

I happened to do a Radio Nottingham programme in February and took the opportunity to explain the incidents. The radio presenter refused to accept it. Dennis Harriman still seems to believe even now the 9 December 1987 case is a major UFO. But there is a positive solution to the Humberside events (and, therefore, the others as well). RAF Binbrook notified just 9 days after the sightings; "We made appropriate enquiries and were eventually satisfied that the reports concerned 2 USAF KC 135 tanker aircraft each with up to 7 F-111 aircraft in trail; these aircraft were from Mildenhall (in Suffolk) and were operating with Midland Radar". Clive Neville, current respondent at the MoDs Air Staff 2 confirmed a month later that it was a refuelling exercise, which involves many aircraft flying in tight formation and at great height (hence the faint hum or drone heard and relatively slow travel). Because of this proximity they were heavily strung up with brilliant fluorescent anti-collision lights. The exercise occurred over the North Sea, but the formation appears to have lined up over the Midlands around 17.00 as it headed out to intercept the coast at the Humber Estuary.

There seems no reason to question this evaluation which clearly fits facts.

YOO-HOO IT'S A UFO FROM TYPHOON

Report by Ron West of BUFORA

The story first appeared in the "Sun" in mid April as "Tea bag UFO zaps Pauline", but investigation turned it into a far more interesting case. It occurred at 19.35 on 2 March 1988 at the town of Godmanchester in Cambridgeshire. 14 yr old Pauline was in the garden mucking out her animals with a transistor radio playing by her.

Suddenly a faint vibrating roar started. She took no notice, assuming it to be plane, (RAF Alconbury - of F-19 repute - is only 3 miles away). Then it grew louder and a terrible powerful odour hit her despite the horsey smells... ultra vile 'rotten eggs'. The radio went off, she looked up and saw an object approaching from the east, 'blacker than black can be' and square with 'little perforations' inside. On each corner was an 'antenna'. It was only about 3-4 feet long and very thin. The noise was now a dreadful vibration as it raced NW. The moment it passed by the smell stopped and the radio came back to life. Pauline ran indoors. Here



it took a while for her parents to calm her, but they then went back out and found the horse trembling by the wall. The mother and father both heard the sound. They say the house shook and the oxygen was sucked out of the room! They smelt the odour too. Many checks were made to find any air traffic or corroborative witnesses. No explanation emerged. Such was the reaction that Pauline was under the care of her doctor for several weeks. He also had her checked in hospital. She suffered hysteria, blurred vision and enlarged pupils, refused to go out at night, slept in the same bed as her mother. The GP confirmed his bafflement. Three months after the sighting Pauline still refused to go back to school (where children ridiculed her after the "Sun" fiasco). An education welfare officer called JR to try and find a way to get her back. Other factors complicate this saga, but there has been no doubt in the mind of anybody connected with it that this very honest girl suffered an experience that had undoubted serious consequences.

FINAL
WORDS

It is sad to have to report the death on 7 August of Peter Johnson, one of BUFORAs original investigators. RIC for East Anglia for over 25 years and responsible for many significant cases. His most recent work on the 'East Anglia Airport' case from April 1984, which typified his respect in the community. Whilst he died peacefully and mercifully from a horrible form of cancer, he will be sadly missed and is truly indispensable.

CALENDAR

The new BUFORA lecture series is about to start. As usual this will be at the London Business School near Baker St Tube, from 6.30 - 9.30 pm.

3 Sep Professor Arthur Ellison on 'The reality of the paranormal'

1 Oct Andy Roberts on 'The view from the hill' (Pennine cases)

23 Oct will see a one-day conference closer to home. Lectures not yet finalised but will include Peter Hough and Jenny Randles. Organised in Morecambe by NLUFOIG (and by invitation only) - so if you are interested in the years only regional full day conference, then write to NLUFOIG at the address below

NLUFOIG Regional Groups

SPI	(Scotland)	4 Woodlea Park, Branshill, Sauchie, Alloa	FK10 3BG
NEUFOI	(Tyne & Wear)	10 Barrow St, Sunderland,	Tyne & Wear SR 5 4NP
NLUFOIG	(Cumbria)	89 Bare Lane, Morecambe,	Lancashire LA 4 6RN
MUFORA	(Lancashire)	6 Silsden Ave, Lowton,	Lancashire WA 3 1EN
IUN	(Yorkshire)	1 Woodhall Dr, Healey Lane, Batley, W. Yks	WF17 7SW
CUFOSC	(Shropshire)	117 Earle Street, Crewe,	Cheshire CW 1 2AG
SSPR	(Derbyshire)	17 Old Quarry Ave, Wales,	Sheffield S 31 8RW
BASE	(W. Midlands)	2 Chapel St, Kingswinford, W. Midlands	OY 6 0JU
LUFOIC	(E. Midlands)	31 Grove Road, Leicester,	Leics LE 5 3HJ
PARASEARCH	(Worcester)	79 Sandringham Rd, Stourbridge, Worcs	OY 8 5HL
NUFORC	(Northants)	46 Occupation Rd, Corby,	Northants NN17 2EF