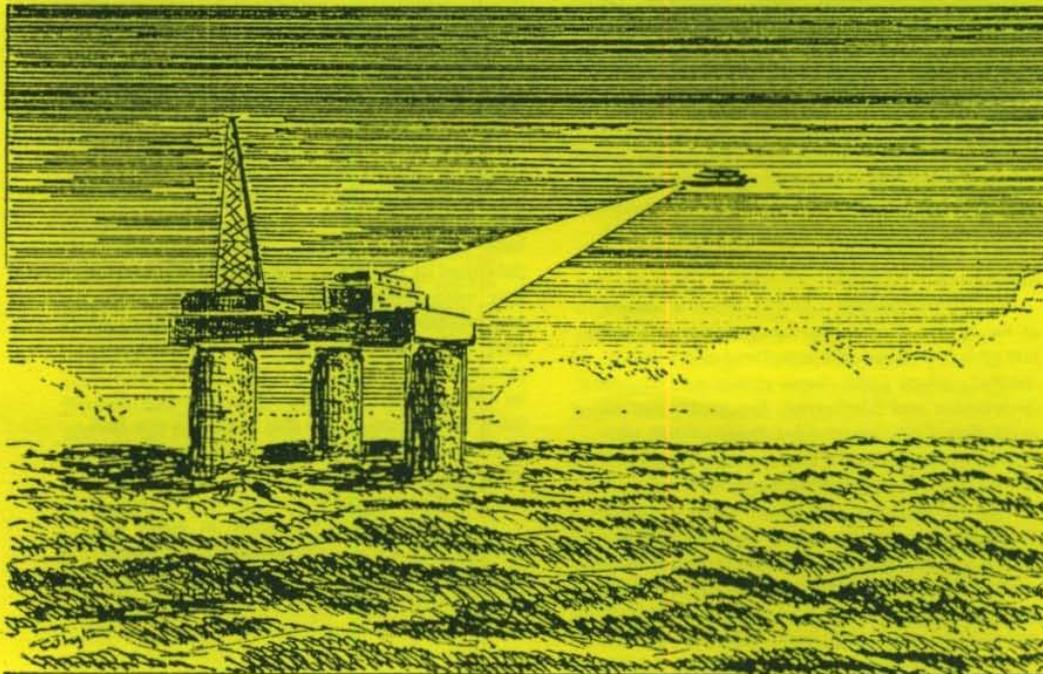


NORTHERN UFO NEWS

177

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COVER DESIGN: BILL CALLAGHAN EDITOR: JENNY RANGLES

NB: Will all exchange magazine PLEASE use the new address

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Late again! It almost goes without saying - doesn't it? But I do have a genuine excuse this time. I was in hospital having an operation during August/ early September. All sorts of rumours were doing the rounds of the UFO gossip factory. The truth was probably rather less dramatic than some of the tales, but - hopefully - the surgery to remove a blockage from one of my kidneys will have solved the ill-health that has bedevilled me for some months. I will not know whether a further operation will be necessary for a few weeks. However, I am already much better than of late and hope to be back in action varing to go by the time of some conferences planned for November. Unfortunately, I had to cancel a lecture to the Staffordshire conference which occurred just after I came out of hospital and also a trip to Australia where I was due to give some lectures in Brisbane and Melbourne. But health had to come first. I also must thank those of you who heard (on the grapevine) and sent cards and well wishes. These were enormously appreciated.

As soon as I was able I turned to NUN as my first priority for all you loyal supporters. Thank you so much for making this publication what it is - one of the longest running UFO journals in the world. It is not acknowledged and did not make a certain magazines selection of the top half dozen UFO publications in Britain. But I will keep on trying to bring to you commentary on the UFO world so that you can be as well informed as possible as to just what is going on. That is my remit. I certainly will not be telling you what to think.

Before I went into hospital I managed to conclude a few scheduled lectures in Sheffield and Liverpool. At one of these I found myself browsing through a bookstore at which I came upon a new book on UFOs that I had not seen before. The title was 'Aliens' and it was a 1997 release. No author featured on the cover and when I turned inside to read the text it began to look rather familiar. Then it struck me - those rotters at Orbis were up to their old tricks again.

In 1980 Orbis launched a weekly magazine that built up into a fabulous encyclopaedia. Its title was 'The Unexplained'

This terrific venture ran for three years and included articles contributed by a wide range of excellent researchers. UFOs featured very heavily in each issue and the 156 editions built up into a series of volumes with over 3000 pages that I still often refer to today.

The company paid a fee that was very reasonable in 1980 terms on a per article basis. In fact today "The X Factor" pays a fairly similar amount (£260) even though it was obviously worth a heck of a lot more 17 years ago! So none of the contributors complained about a one-off reproduction fee, despite the evident plans of Orbis to reprint the magazine at a future date.

Reprint they most certainly have - endlessly! Indeed, they have, in my opinion, reached the point where they are not playing fair. I have lost track of the number of books that have appeared since 'The Unexplained' published its final issue. The first time I realised they were extracting articles and putting them into compilation books was when I chanced to hear my local radio in which someone was promoting 'his' book and I recognised some of its content. The final ignominy came when they ran a competition to win that book. All you had to do was call the radio station with my address - as it was in the book. I called knowing the answer, of course, but did not manage to win!

Later I saw this book in shops and realised what it was articles from the magazine pooled together into a themed UFO book Some of them were mine, others by writers in the UK and beyond But just how many who already owned the part-work bought this book thinking it was something new and ended up disappointed?

At first the books spawned by "The Unexplained" were fair enough. They made their genesis clear and relevant authors were credited for the 'chapters' they had written, even though nobody was paid any more money, of course. However, that was 10 years ago and as the saga of these spin-off books has continued the situation has deteriorated badly. After many incarnations under various guises of what are effectively the some compilations of articles, not only are none of the authors being paid a bean for what may be vast numbers of copies sold, but they have even been censored out of existence.

I have contributed several chapters to this latest book on wide sale (I have even seen it in Woolworths) but all names are missing and. so far as I can see, not even credited in microscopic print

in the front or back. But my real concern is not for authors but for the unsuspecting public.

Hopefully, the well informed will have figured out what is going on by now and will not have bought the same book several times over in one of its various disguises - especially not if they already paid to get hold of the part-work in the first place. I just think that there is something not quite seemly about this practice.

Certainly one cannot blame publishers for making the most of their commodity and there are new readers interested in UFOs who were not even born when 'The Unexplained' first appeared I just find it disquieting to see these articles recycled and I thought it was time that I spoke out as nobody else seems to have done so.

In my view we live in a cynical age where making money now supersedes almost any other consideration. I have no problem with that, as such, provided the customer is getting a good deal for their money and is purchasing in full knowledge of what they are obtaining. When Piatktis chose to release a new mass market paperback this Spring of 'The Complete Book of UFOs' they did not make it look like a completely new book - but made it very clear to readers who may have already purchased the 1994 editions. Moreover, they asked Peter Hough and I to go through it and properly update it so that it was at least a new edition.

The problem with the Orbis catalogue of books is that they have never asked the authors of the original articles to update or improve material. Indeed, they have never even told any of us when they decide to issue the next version in this by now steady stream of cheap books. The suspicion has to be that this is because if you get the authors to write new material or update old chapters then they might expect to be paid again in return!

Yet, interestingly, Orbis have contracted new material. In this 1997 book - for example - is a short piece on the Ilkley entity case by Peter Hough. I know it is by him because he is the only person credited in the book even though at least three well known Ufologists have contributed a much greater percentage of the text. This article clearly postdates 'The Unexplained' as the case occurred after it ceased publication. So they must have bought it recently and paid Peter for that. Maybe he will tell us how much and what deal he received?

But my main fear is to ask if it is right. That people are led to buy a book basically 17 years out of date and for which they may own much content already in one form or another. Tell me what you think.

FOREST OF CONFUSION

Larry Warren's new book assessed

The events in Rendlesham Forest, East Anglia, in December 1980 are renowned in UFO circles as probably Britain's greatest ever close encounter. Over a weekend just after Christmas several UFO sightings took place and these involved numerous civilian witnesses and a whole slew of military personnel from the twin USAF bases of Bentwaters and Woodbridge. Now closed after the cessation of the cold war these bases were at the time alive with activity and gave this case its extraordinary edge.

The encounters involve landings with physical traces, excess radiation in the trees, radar trackings and much more. But they began with stories that swept the area as a mass of rumours concerning a major military figure (Brigadier General Gordon Williams) allegedly communicating with little aliens floating in beams of light beneath the UFO.

This case is an incredibly complex affair. It has taxed the UFO community for 17 years. Yet documentary evidence is in its support - notably a report sent to the British MoD by Colonel Charles Halt a tape recorded live during some of the sightings and the taking of samples and photographs at a landing site - made by Halt and featuring several other officers. There is also written affirmation by the MoD that this case is unexplained - itself almost unprecedented

In 'Magonia' I have a forthcoming piece debating in depth the latest revelations, but I have written two books attempting to make sense of things. *Sky Crash* appeared in 1984 and in it Brenda Butler and Dot Street (two local women who did an amazing job following up tales from villagers about lights in the sky and craters in the forest) combined with my attempts to trace the official story. This book in retrospect got much wrong, being based on 50% true stories and 50% tall tales that were being fed to us by 'wannabees' on the base. At the time nobody knew which was which. Some airmen who missed out on the sighting made up for it by fibbing, after hearing the stories that were spreading around Bentwaters and Woodbridge.

Sky Crash was an important first step, but it never appeared in the USA. My follow up book - *From out of the Blue* - did in 1992. But conversely never made it to the UK!

From out of the blue is a more accurate portrait of what happened. It is more accurate because in the 9 years since *Sky Crash* had been written several military witnesses left the USAF and spoke out. These include Sergeant John Burroughs - the only man involved on both of what are two major nights of close encounters.

From out of the blue triggered the 1994 TV documentary on the case in which most of the key witnesses spoke for the first time. This 'Strange But True?' special garnered the biggest ever TV audience for a UFO programme in Britain - over 12 million viewers. One man not on this show was Larry Warren. He was not there because some witnesses expressed disquiet about appearing alongside him. Put simply they felt Warren was telling a version of the events that they could not themselves support.

In early 1998 my new book on the case - '*Friend or Foe?*' (refilled by an ever helpful publisher as the awful - '*UFO Crash Landing*') will appear. In this I believe I have been able to piece together as accurate a picture of what really happened in that forest on those two nights

- and why. I build this picture from my talks with both civilian and military witnesses and it presents a chilling scenario. What this scenario does not include from any of the witnesses I met
- is direct evidence of either aliens or Williams presence as in Larry Warren's version of events.

This is the big problem with the major new book - '*Left at East Gate*' (Michael O'Mara). It appeared in June and was accompanied by a massive PR campaign and series of lectures. The book is co-authored by Peter Robbins (a New York researcher who has worked with Budd Hopkins) and Larry Warren - a man who claims he was a 19 year old newly arrived on Bentwaters in December 1980 and who was thrust into the close encounter officially, seeing the alien contact and more.

That Warren was on Bentwaters in 1980 is not in dispute. That he could have experienced the things he claims is undoubtedly possible. That he has some support (from one or two airmen as well as sources who first reported the case to Brenda Butler and myself) enhances his position. However, his story still disagrees with the more moderate version of events offered by John Burroughs and Jim Penniston (the two airmen who confronted the first landed UFO at very close quarters) and with Colonel Charles Halt - the most senior officer who admits to being involved in the case and who penned the official report that has transformed this case.

Of course, this does not mean that Warren is lying. Perhaps there is a way to accommodate both sets of stones together. Maybe Warren was elsewhere when he saw what he saw and the fact that these other witnesses claim that they never met him during the incident becomes irrelevant. But you cannot avoid the fact that Warren's incredible tale of alien contact throws up considerable problems. This is particularly so when you realise (as I have done) just how much of this case revolves around secret NSA experiments into electronic weaponry that were then taking place so close to where these strange lights were seen.

I have no doubt that this case is a wonderful detective story waiting to be solved. It is riddled with clues, many of which are missing from '*Left at East Gate*' - despite it being nearly 500 pages long. Warren's story is, of course, part of the puzzle and cannot be ignored. But I worry how this book - which goes out of its way to term 'Sky Crash' as 'Sky Trash' and blacken Brenda, Dot and I as fools could never once mention any of these important issues. Indeed it never even mentions my more recent (and undoubtedly more accurate) book - '*From out of the blue*'. How can you evaluate a case and criticise researchers whilst omitting all reference to 50% of what they have written on the events?

I have seen some remarkable reviews of '*East Gate*' from people whom I respect - such as Malcolm Robinson. But I fear they have got it badly wrong in praising this tome as the most important thing since sliced bread, as have the highbrow names (eg Tim Good, Nick Pope, etc) who endorse Warren's version of events in such glowing terms. These people seem to want his alien account to be the correct one - and, of course, it may well prove to be just that. But they will come to see - I hope - that there are huge question marks still hanging over this case and over Warren's claims about it. Vital side issues cannot be ignored. These include the NSA experiments, the comets in the sky between 9 pm and 3 am on the night of the first encounters, the disinformation games played by the powers that be and the change of orbital path displayed by objects in space at the crucial time. Such things mask a quite remarkable hidden side to this case.

Do read '*Left at East Gate*' as a powerful contribution to our knowledge about this case. However, I urge you to think long and hard before assuming you have then heard all there is to hear about Rendlesham. No book by anyone (myself included) could do that and this case is far too important to judge on half a story.

NEWS ROUND-UP:

New Group launched to fight alien threat:-

I was surprised to receive an invite to support 'UFO Concern' - a new body that has been launched to try to combat the alien threat.

Billed as an 'informal association of very concerned citizens' it is set up to warn the earth of the possible satanic threat posed by aliens. Created by Lord Hill-Norton, former chief of staff at the MoD and Admiral of the Fleet he says that 'non human intelligences are operating increasingly amongst mankind, frequently in a manner which should cause real concern...Reported contacts with them have seldom been beneficial.'

The new band shows key promoters as including Nick Pope. If ever there was a sign of how the world has changed this is it Imagine suggesting such a group would be led by both the ex chief of staff and the former UFO officer at the MoD. The UFO community of even just a few years ago would have laughed at you!

My real puzzlement is why such people are supporting a body that appears to infer that aliens are demons. That is certainly how I read some of the words surrounding the launch. Nor am I alone. For in the *Dorking Advertiser* Stephen Bailey, rector of Betchworth. hit out at the apparent desire to 'demonise the things (we) do not understand'.

He notes that - 'if an alien intelligence did fly thousands of light years across the universe to visit us are we seriously going to accuse it of being in league with the devil?'

His fears stem from a report in Church Times about the creation of UFO Concern noting Hill-Norton's comments about the religious nature of UFO encounters. Of course. I respect this as a legitimate opinion and know that Gordon Creighton of FSR magazine has been expressing such sentiments for many years. But the backing UFO Concern has already won is bound to lead to it being taken very seriously by the media and the public at large. Have all those who give support to this venture really thought through the possible consequences?

Sorry - but I will not be joining them.

Aliens are a threat - says Stephen Hawking

Indirect support for UFO Concern comes from Professor Stephen Hawking -widely considered the world's greatest living physicist. He told The Sunday Times that the movie 'Independence Day' may well have got it right and the earth could be in real danger!

He feels that there may well be aliens 'out there' and that if they came to earth then it would result in something akin to Columbus greeting the native Americans and 'I don't think they were better off for it.'

However, those who see his words as support for alien contact cases should note what else he had to say. He is puzzled that we have not been contacted already' and 'I don't think UFOs are evidence that we have been visited by aliens.' Risking the wrath of many he adds: 'Why reveal yourself only to cranks and weirdos? I think such visits would be much more obvious and probably more unpleasant.'

Sadly, even great professors are not immune to saying stupid things. Much as he may well be correct in his view that UFOs are not evidence of alien visitors, the feeble view that all witnesses are crackpots demonstrates his desperate unfamiliarity with real UFOlogy and the pathetic prejudice of too many scientists.

Having a dozen PhDs does not mean you cannot look like a real twit. Sorry, Dr H.

Sue speaks out about aliens:

Psychologist Dr Sue Blackmore at least knows UFOlogy rather better than Dr Hawking, and is far more reasonable. In an article for 'The independent' education section she tells of her views on alien contact stories.

She notes some of her reasons to doubt the veracity of abduction stories. These include the point that aliens can supposedly travel through space and pass through ceilings without disturbing the paint, yet are dreadfully inept at blocking out memories of their activities or incapable of genetic experimentation without crude methods such as extracting eggs from thousands of women one by one.

As Dr Blackmore astutely points out 'Ridicule is easy, but it doesn't actually answer the question However hard the whole idea of alien abduction seems, it just might be true - and no scientist ought to proclaim with absolute certainty that it cannot be.'

She then adds how she used the resources of her university to test an implant.

Sadly, but not to my great surprise, the chemical composition of the small object studied under a scanning electron microscope proved that the implant was of identical structure to a dental filling. It was very terrestrial in form.

Sue Blackmore believes that most abductees are really suffering from the effects of sleep paralysis and attendant hallucinations or dreams. Whilst any researcher in this area will know that these things are relevant (and indeed first pointed out by Keith Basterfield decades before DR B got interested in the matter *after* she presented a Horizon programme on UFOs). But I think it highly unlikely to be the root cause of the abduction phenomenon, per se.

A brave try Sue - and at least an honest evaluation of the facts. But the truth? I doubt it

The sceptics come out in force:

1997 is a good year for sceptical UFOlogy. NARO Minded magazine has started publishing some first rate critical material. Paul Fuller has passed on the reigns of 'Crop Watcher' magazine to concentrate on making 'New UFOlogist' an A class sober publication. And there are two brand new - and rather heretical - publications available as well.

Abduction Watch has been launched by Kevin McClure to police the shores of the alien abduction mystery. It is obvious he intends not to hold back in his campaign to stamp out irresponsibility in this field. He will be regularly commenting on all that is controversial and in his view unethical in what has become a hot bed of highly dubious practices. This is an excellent venture and well worth your support.

Hot on its heels comes the most irreverent UFO magazine of all time. It makes Saucer Smear look like a parish circular. The *Armchair UFOlogist* is the brainchild (some may say nightmare) of Andy Roberts and is full of his dark humour and no holds barred commentary on British UFOlogy. You need a thick skin, great sense of humour and a good lawyer (if you are up to naughty things). Some may find it offensive and he pulls no punches in telling it like it is. But UFOlogy needs a 'Private Eye' style mag like this and it's huge fun. If you want all the gossip and the stories nobody else will dare print this is the place to go. Cost £8 per year.

Booklists:

Two new catalogues to report. The latest from Midnight Books has 44 pages of new and second hand bargains on UFO and paranormal titles - including magazines and videos. Lots of things you won't get elsewhere.

Also Andy Collins has a new ABC Books list with 24 pages of titles on a range of phenomenal topics.

UPDATES: Get a GRIP!

Incredibly, the GRIP insurance company - involved in the infamous Joseph Carpenter million pound payout scam (reported last issue) are promoted in a new article in the Weekly News. This claims that 4000 people have already paid out £100 in premiums to be insured against alien kidnap and 1000 of these are in 'Bonnybridge Triangle'. Work it out -that's £400,000 in premiums and their one alleged million pound payout was according to the abductee a fabrication. GRIP told the paper they would pay a million if the abductee has "compelling evidence such as video or photographic, that an abduction has taken place.' Some people - and some so-called newspapers - never learn. Lets hope there are not enough mugs out there to keep this company in business.

Knighton Supported:

Support for Carlisle United chairman Michael Knighton has come from a man in Halifax who claims he saw the same UFO as the much pilloried soccer millionaire.

Mr S says he was on his way to work at the former Crosrol factory when he saw a cross shaped object in the sky above a pub. As reported in NUN last time there were other sightings of this light in the area; although Mr S says he has kept quiet about his encounter and only came forward to offer support to the beleaguered football chief.

Mr S says that the light disappeared very suddenly and he remained silent because he was ridiculed by workmates when he told them of his encounter. This event occurred in late 1976; although Michael Knighton says his sighting was the following year.

PEAK DISTRICT CRASH UPDATE
Report of investigation by David Clarke

Northern UFO News Page 7

In the last NUN we featured a report on the alleged crash of a UFO on 24 March 1997 above the northern Peak District and the Derbyshire and South Yorkshire border. Local journalist and UFOlogist David Clarke was one of the first on the scene at daybreak and his in-depth report contains much new detail.

The main focus of the incident came when South Yorkshire police received a series of calls judged reliable between 10 and 10.30 pm that night which persuaded them that an aircraft might have crashed on the moors near the Denvent Valley. This led to the involvement of fire and Mountain Rescue teams and mounting publicity brought in many further sightings - up to 60 in all. However, some of these were clearly of objects unconnected with the main incident.

According to DC the key events are as follows:- At 10.20 a mother and son at Bolsterstone called to report 'a small plane flying very low' east to west over Ewden Valley. Then they saw a red flash over Margery Hill as if the plane had exploded.

At 10.10 a special police constable and her husband (a light aircraft pilot) were driving in the same area looking for the Hale-Bopp content and saw a low flying light plane drop behind trees. They noted how 'it did look as if it was heading for a crash landing.' They lost it below 1000 feet over Broom head Reservoir -where it 'looked like it was in trouble'

A farmer at Edge End in Stocksbridge (scene of various ghost and UFO stories in the past) told of a plane heading low towards Margery Hill. Having lived in the area for 30 years he had never seen any craft so low before.

Finally there were vague reports of an aircraft trailing smoke and sounds of an explosion from a gamekeeper at Strines who spotted the smoke over the Woodhead area.

It is obvious why the rescue services would be mobilised based on such consistent reports with the clear suspicion that a light aircraft had gone down.

The publicity brought in a good back up sighting from a woman at Stannington who had a panoramic view over the moors. At just after 10 she saw a 'plane' come from the hills over High Bradfield and head west towards Strines. It glowed as if on fire.

One of the mountain rescue team called to duty also described seeing something as she was crossing the Woodhead Pass around 10.10.

When near Salters Brook Bridge she saw a 'fire' on the moors to the south and stopped her car near Fiddlers Green for a better look. It seemed on ground level near Featherbed Moss and was bright white. Next night she returned to the spot and could see nothing that compared. Her sighting was before the rescue operation got underway and not part of that.

The most intriguing evidence to come to light afterwards was a video film studied by police. It was taken by a 16 year old boy and his friend at Parson Cross. They said the time was just after 10 - known because they were waiting for a movie to start on TV. However, the tape includes a sequence in which one boy asks the other the time and this is given as ' 10 34 and 25 seconds' in reply. If correct this post dates by half an hour the reports of the crash.

The video clearly shows a light aircraft flying low and banking to reveal wingtip lights that give the illusion of a triangular shape. The audible sound of the plane is very apparent. It was heading towards the Stocksbridge area. The aircraft was filmed whilst the boys were trying to take shots of Hale-Bopp. Police investigated and checked all civil and military airfields but could find no origin for the plane. They did - however - conclude that it was an ordinary light aircraft.

Detective Inspector Christine Wallace of Sheffield CID coordinated the 17 hour search that employed many personnel, the police helicopter and two RAF Sea Kings sent from Kinloss in Scotland. Thousands of pounds were expended on the ultimately futile quest to find any evidence of a crash. The explosion was checked with Edinburgh University Seismology unit who reported that there was no evidence of a ground impact but that their recording site at Leeds did detect a sonic boom type noise. They suspected a large fireball meteor - a bolide -may have caused this as it burned up in the atmosphere.

Rumours of a radar tracking at RAF Linton-upon-Ouse reported by a UFO magazine, were checked by both the police and David Clarke and appear to be untrue.

In conclusion DC says that he shares the police interpretation of this case - that it was a series of unconnected events that were linked together. Police suspect that these may include the probability of a bolide creating the explosion and glowing mass of light that seemed to cross the sky as well as a light aircraft of unknown origin flying low in the area at about the same time. This may have been on some kind of covert operation - possibly even drug smuggling.

ELSEWHERE***The New UFOlogist***

Coming out on schedule now. Issue 5 includes analysis of the Roswell autopsy by Kent Jeffrey, a ground traces case from 1964 found in the government files, Ralph Noyes on the ghostly nature of UFOs...Issue 6 features amongst much else special debates on the Belgium wave (featuring Wim van Utrecht) and on Bonnybridge (Malcolm Robinson battles with Ron Halliday). All very pertinent stuff.

UFO Times 44 With BUFORA Sub

Under Mike Wootten - whose departure as editor after this issue is deeply regretted - this has become the magazine BUFORA always should have had but never did. This excellent issue features well illustrated articles with Derrel Sims on his implants recovered from abductees, a South African video case, the full story on the Israeli alien frog analysis and a huge amount more. The new editor will have to go some to keep this standard up.

Sightings Newstands monthly at £2.95 (Or subscription £25 for 12 via Rapid Publishing. Also now available in Europe for £45 and in USA for \$71.40 (where it appears on the newsstands under title FROM BEYOND).

In my view the best of the UK monthly's; although output includes some dubious articles as well as well researched material so you have to be selective and the monthly columns by Nick Pope and myself - now joined by a gossip column from Georgina Bruni. June:- Dutch abduction research, the Allingham abduction story analysed, BOLs and mysteries of a new US plane...July: RAF Machrihanish, Was Socorro a big red herring?, Tuplas and an interview with Hilary Evans on aliens...Aug: Rendlesham special with interviews and articles, the new release of NSA flies analysed.

Magonia 60 (Editor John Rimmer)

Reviews conspiracy theories with perceptive articles by Peters Brookesmith and Rogerson.

IUR (USA)

Spring:- Latest in depth report on the search for the Roswell archeologist and start of a very detailed analysis of the Manhattan Transfer case. Continued in Summer issue and the most objective look yet at this highly rated abduction.

MUFON Journal USA

Apr. The legal ramifications of capturing an alien!
May: The Arizona mass sighting case.

Naro Minded (NARO)

Aug: Debate on MIB, the Abram UFO wave, lots of critical comment on recent conferences. This has also turned into a smashing magazine under the editorship of Andy Blunn and Mervyn Gale. Mostly, but not solely. UFO related.

OVNI (PRA)

June. Omar Fowler hits out at the mediocrity in UFOlogy today with poor standards (apart from Tim Good) all round July: Looks at sightings from the East Midlands.

The Grey Area (LUFOS)

New magazine (also in a glossy format for £14!) Contains latest on Tim Matthews quest to hunt the flying triangles and UK stealth aircraft plus sober comment on other UFO sacred cows.

Strange Daze (Editor Dave Newton)

The North East's own magazine by the man (Dave Newton) rumoured to be favourite to take on UFO Times. July has reflections on 50 years of UFOlogy by him. Andy Roberts and Malcolm Robinson.

IUFOPRA Journal Spring 1997
(IUFOPRA Dublin, Eire)

A terrific range of articles on UFOs and new science. Ireland's leading paranormal magazine by quite some margin.

DragonWatch (Welsh Federation, Cardiff)

Magazine of the Welsh Federation, UFO articles mix with other stuff. Detailed look at martian mysteries plus a major feature on life after death.

Phenomenal News 5 (£4 for 4 to SEMR)

Scottish A5 magazine always full of good sense. If you want to have a rational view on Scottish UFO activity there is no better place to turn.

Visitors 6 (Editor N Mortimer)

Reports on UFO activity in the Wharfedale Window. Revisits the death of Zigmund Adamski with a retrospective investigation

Just Cause (CAUS, USA)

The objective quarterly update on the quest for UFO documents from the US government. If you want to keep up to date with this you cannot do it without reading Barry Greenwoods commentary.

The Ley Hunter (TLH) 128

TLH is the sort of magazine few UFOlogists read - to their detriment. Primarily the organ of research into leys and stone circles, as well as other earth mysteries, it also updates Paul Devereux's investigation into earthlights. No serious UFOlogist should be ignorant of that but all too many sadly are.

Third Stone Summer 1997

From the same school as TLH; although under new editorship now that Danny Sullivan has moved to edit that mag. Has a somewhat broader perspective looking at legends and supernatural events as well as earth mysteries. UFOs crop up from time to time with sensible commentary.

Journal of Meteorolgy

Hardly cheap but often features new sightings and investigations into ball lightning activity -one of the group TORROs main priorities. If ball of light UFOs interest you this is worthwhile.

The Circular Spring 97 (CCCS).

Yes. amazingly, a decent glossy mag on crop circles is still appearing. The articles are certainly a mixed bag of speculation and research but if you like lots of pictures of exotic hoaxes (oops, sorry, real circles) then this is the place to be. Seriously, there is a need for a monitor of what goes on and the CCS do try very hard

Dead of Night July 97 (Editor Lee Walker)

Merseyside's own paranormal magazine. A real hot pot of stuff from ghost stories, to weird human behaviour and with its own UFO section each issue that is several pages long. A bit like an anarchic version of FT. Really enjoyable.

Anomaly 20 (ASSAP)

Looks at ghosts and hauntings but also an interesting piece on witness credibility.

Of a whole series of general magazines in newsagents here is what is happening.

The best by far. of course, is FT (Fortean Times) - monthly at £2.50 pretty well everywhere. July had a feature on Kenneth Arnold, September had Janet Bord looking at UFO photos and October promises a Paul Devereux article on earthlights. There's a UFO column in each issue as well.

Nexus is also on sale at many stores. Bi-monthly, this is the UK edition of the Australian original. Whilst UFOs (in an ET sense) crop up it is more to do with newo-philosophy and new age thinking. What it sets out to do it covers well and the ads are a treat!

Finally, the original (FATE) is still going strong after 50 years. Very hard to get in UK shops but some specialist booksellers have it at £2.30 per month. The best bet for easy to read paranormal articles.

BOOKS OF THE MOMENT***UFO 1947-1997***

272 pp Hardback edited by Hilary Evans and Dennis Stacy Pub:-John Brown

Undoubtedly the highlight of the fleet of 50 year anniversary books. This is rather like an all new version of the book that Fortean Times co-produced with BUFORA to mark the 1987 anniversary. But it's more slickly put together by the FT parent company publisher.

A series of articles that have been contributed by a staggering range of serious UFOlogists around the world it is presented in chronological order but does not pretend to be a history or definitive. What you get are a series of perspectives - often from the people most closely involved in the issues debated. Nothing here is less than responsible. Often it is brilliant.

Ken Arnold tells his own story. Blue Book head Hector Quintanilla offers his. There are reports on cases and global perspectives from the likes of Jerry Clark (US), Bill Chalker (Australia), Chris Rutkowski (Canada), VJ Ballester-Olmos (Spain), Cynthia Hind (Africa), Vladimir Rubtsov (Russia) - and many more. Then there are fine commentary pieces by the likes of Jacques Vallee and James Moseley. This list leaves out many first-class articles and contributions about top cases and broader reviews. The scope of the book is unprecedented.

It will not sell a million. It won't set the public talking. But it's the best UFO book of 1997 by miles in terms of its genuine contribution to the subject. At £16.99 don't miss out - and try to win yourself a copy (see next page!)

Randles Rating 95%

The truth about alien abductions

192 pp Softback by Peter Hough & Moyshe Kalman Pub: Blandford £9.99

Blandford (or Cassell - they seem unable to decide what they are called these days!) are churning out UFO titles by the ton. Some are dire. Many have naff titles imposed on authors by the editors (like this one was). But a first rate book emerges here and augurs well for more fine titles they will be bringing out in 1998.

There are many books about alien abductions on the market these days and a general reader will not know how to distinguish

between them. Sadly the Nick Pope book (see later) is far more likely to be read by the average person than this one because of sheer hype and bookshop marketing tactics - even though there is no contest when it comes to deciding which one adds most to UFO knowledge.

The book presents a series of case histories (all British - although one of these occurred in France) investigated first hand by Peter Hough of NARO and followed through (usually via hypnosis) with the aid of Manchester psychotherapist Dr Moyshe Kalman.

The depth of coverage of each case is good and you get to see some of the investigation that has gone on - without presuming an ET explanation. Another plus is that several of the cases are unpublished anywhere before - which is certainly unusual in an abduction book about UK cases. There is some sensible attempt to review possible solutions, but that is not really the point of this book. It sets out the questions that confront us via the real life stories. These present the true mystery of alien abduction in a refreshing way rid of American bias, endless grays and with proper objective investigation as well.

Entertaining and enlightening it ought to be read by many more people than it sadly ever will be. Don't be one of the unlucky ones.

Randles Rating 85%

The Uninvited

316pp Hardback by Nick Pope Pub: Simon & Schuster £15.99

You can hardly have missed Nick Pope's follow up to 'Open Skies, Closed Minds'. It was serialised by the increasingly down-market and paranormally obsessed *Daily Mail* and had a brief foray with the best-seller charts this summer. But is it up to its hype?

Well, it's a better book than his last one - surprising in a sense as the MoD study of abductions is pathetic to say the least. This probably stems from the fact that Nick has read a few more decent UFO books since his last effort and - via all the PR and lectures - had chance to get a feel of the UFO community and its views.

When I saw him in April at a conference he told me that UFOlogists would find this rather sceptical. So I expected rather more of that. But Nick appears to conclude that 'aliens are kidnapping humans and - whilst he mentions some of the more rational thinking - aims squarely at the popular market.

Having read some of the better books on abductions the author digests their findings quite well - so this is not bad as an introductory survey of the field. Of course, most of its readers will regard it rather differently - as a kind of authoritative guide to abductions because of Nick's MoD status. Unfortunately, nobody knows what is going on during abductions and there are many aspects to the subject not brought out by what is a moderately shallow overview. Even those who have studied the subject for decades with many first hand cases have yet to write an authoritative guide - so Nick's inexperience serves him even less well. But it is not a bad first try and a not unreasonable place for people to start exploring this complex area.

That said, I find the story of Peter and Jenny on the toll road in Florida (discussed over one full chapter) disturbing. The choice of these pseudonyms for the witnesses is interesting. The case was in the original draft of 'Open Skies' with the man's real name used and the alleged identity of Peter makes this fairly innocuous case far more significant than it appears. The story vanished when 'Open Skies' appeared but has resurfaced here in this masquerade version. I do wonder what Nick Pope is doing playing such games with his readers.

No doubt he will tell you sooner or later the identity of Peter and you will see (as I can see) how this puts both the case and Nick Pope's approach to UFOs in a new light. For that reason I consider it morally wrong that he has chosen to cover up the background to this case. Sometimes we do need to protect peoples identities, but this situation is different. For if Peter did not want to be identified then his story should simply never have been told. Sony - Nick - in this instance you cannot have it both ways. When the truth does emerge about Peter's apparent identity (assuming it was correctly stated in his earlier draft) then I fear the damage could be severe. Andy Roberts claims to report Peter's real name in his 'Armchair UFOlogist' magazine (see page 6) if you cannot work it out for yourself by now!

Randles Rating 55%

UFOs: A report on Australian Encounters 254 pp paperback by Keith Baxter field Pub: Reed Books)

Keith Basterfield is one of Australia's best investigators. This book first appeared in 1981 as 'UFOs: The Image Hypothesis' but it has been completely updated into this new paperback version and it's a real treat.

The first half of the book assesses some of the questions surrounding UFOs as illustrated by many of Keith's own investigations during the past 20 - 30 years of Australian UFOlogy. Then he provides us with a terrific catalogue of close encounter cases from down under complete with maps and potted descriptions of each case. The sort of book that is both informative and readable, it can serve as bedtime reading and the source of research for years to come. If you can get hold of a copy on import via one of the major booksellers or through one of the specialist paranormal outlets - then do not hesitate. Books by true professionals are rare in this subject and ones as good as this are even rarer.

Randles Rating 85%

Competition Time

All you have to do is look at some odd facts about UFO authors. The names of ten possible authors follow. Match the correct author to each fact. Easy! If you don't know - then guess.

- 1: Was an English Lord
- 2: Worked for the MoD during Gulf War
- 3: Is a qualified referee and once officiated at a Soccer match at a former Premier League ground
- 4: Wrote a book called 'Fun in Bed'
- 5: Has published horror stories - such as one about a demon tailor
- 6: Has penned a hit country and western song

Options in alphabetical order- (Jerome Clark, Budd Hopkins, Peter Hough, Allen Hynek, John Keel, Nick Pope, Jenny Randles, John Spencer, Brinsley Le Poer Trench, Jacques Vallee.



An Alien Love Song

Mr R of Nottingham has fascinating, if complex, tale to report. It began in 1955 when on a train near Prague, Czechoslovakia. He awoke from sleep to find a strange woman with beautiful skin and blue eyes talking to him in a musical voice. She implied they would meet again - which they did a couple of years later in Nottingham city centre when she appeared to him in a coffee shop, walked up to him, held his hand and asked if they could get married. Then she disappeared.

Baffled by these events, Mr R soon after observed a zig-zagging light above Bulwell. It moved like a bright star through the air and changed colour as it passed to the south west. Still unphased he was then confronted by two beautiful looking men who approached him in a pub. The one 'in charge' had piercing blue eyes and spoke in a sing song voice just like the woman on the train. He asked out loud of Mr R if he knew about a crashed UFO, which he denied but as they left the blue eyed, blonde haired 'Nordic' type being whispered in the ear of the startled witness: 'we come to help you.'

Early next morning Mr R was awoken from sleep by a 'beautiful chanting voice'. He went to the window of his first floor flat and there below were the two men from the pub -with the blue eyed figure serenading him! As Mr R was still undressed he could not go out immediately and found that he was struck oddly dumb in any attempt to communicate his intentions. Before he could react he heard the musical voice say: 'he is not coming to the door. We may as well leave.'

With that the cosmic (hands up those who rather unfairly said comic) adventures of the alien Romeo came to a sad end

This case certainly has a quaint old fashioned feel to it. Why do we nowadays get tales of ugly dwarves bent on mindless experiments rather than friendly aliens who can belt out a good tune? As Mr R asks 'It is a fact -is it not - that the space people have musical voices?' Any suggestions what advice we should offer to this bemused witness?

The silver man

Summer 1963 Gee Cross, Cheshire

Mrs A - who now lives in Hereford and has a highly influential government post - was a schoolgirl in Hyde at the time. It was 16.15 on a sunny day and she was taking a short cut across fields on her way home from class. She was in the middle of the grass with no path anywhere nearby nor a farmers field.

Suddenly she spotted a strange figure staring at her from just a few feet away. He seemed of normal - or slightly below normal - height and human in appearance. But he wore an all over silver suit like bacofoil. It glistened in the sunshine.

The two engaged in a staring match for a few seconds and then the man seemed to duck down behind a hedge. Moments later, when she reached this spot he was not to be seen and there was nowhere for him to have run across open land

Mrs A says the memory is still as vivid as yesterday and she has never understood who this being was. As she has grown up she has experienced a number of other paranormal phenomena - notably out of body states where she found herself being 'called' to a strange land that she never saw. The psychic episodes were especially prevalent during childhood but have been much on the wane ever since.

Stone the crows

Summer 1970 Millon, Cumbria



Mr B and his sister (now a GP in Yorkshire) were playing in some 'forbidden woods' at a village called The Hill. A farmer had bedecked the entrance with dead crows to ward off other birds and poachers. As they were aged just 10 and 12 they were naturally reluctant to go inside and investigate the matter any more. But as they passed by there was a sudden commotion and a big flock of black birds -probably crows -took to the sky and made a frightful racket in doing so. As they stared at the trees the two youngsters saw a gun metal grey saucer like object that was rotating and seemed to be around 5 feet in diameter. A row of lights surrounded this. The object appeared to land in the woods, but the witnesses had understandably fled by now.

Case 7142 28 February 1971 Preston, Lanes
Investigation by:- NLUFOIG

The witness was a 12 year old boy at the time when he spotted a green egg shape with a large black picture window in the front and a red glow on the underside. The object drifted slowly away towards the west and was also seen by two other witnesses at Ingol who reported it to the local paper.

Possible options:- Could this have been a hot air balloon at a time when such events were less of a commonplace sight?

Sky Crash Over Dee Estuary
Case 9330 April 1993 West Kirby, Wirral

Mr G had been metal detecting on the beach and was on the promenade leaning on the railings looking south west across the Dee Estuary towards Flintshire in North Wales.

It was 15.45 on a clear day when he spotted an object moving between fluffy clouds and heading westwards towards Point of Ayr. It had an elongated shape but was neither an obvious aircraft nor a helicopter and moved too fast for an airship.

Suddenly, whilst over the estuary the object changed direction and plunged at a 40 degree angle into the sea. It fell into the water but left no trail of smoke.

Mr G was at first convinced he had seen a plane go down but there were no such reports in the media and now he is baffled by what he did witness. Readers of 'Alien Contact' (the first book with that title in 1981!) will recall that Gaynor Sunderland - star witness in these Flintshire close encounters that this book describes - had a rather similar experience from near her home in Flint as a child

However, she was able to see that the object that fell into the estuary clearly was an aircraft. Checks later revealed that a plane had indeed gone down here - but during World War Two. This provoked the speculation as to whether Gaynor had witnessed a timeslip replay of this historic event. On the other hand - as the book further shows - this part of the North Wales coast is awash with UFO activity.

Intriguingly, there are obvious similarities here with the UFOs seen (and March 1997 'sky crash') above Dark Peak east of Glossop. As we have reported in the last two issues this area is also filled with sightings of a crashing aircraft that 'replays' a May 1945 event.

Hello Earth!
Case 9452 April 1994 Ecclesfield S Yorks:

Mr A had been reading of the methods of CSETI - a group that tries to initiate alien contact using large searchlights. This American team is headed by Dr Stephen Greer and has been active in Gulf Breeze, Florida and in British crop circles. Mr A decided to test their methods by using a high powered flashgun and halogen spotlight and meditating on the possibility of a visitation.

Upon arrival home a few days later at 23.30 Mr A suddenly spotted a brilliant white light in the north western sky. It seemed to be only about 500 feet above the ground and half a mile distant. As he stepped from the car it moved in a slow arc and then hovered. A series of flashes then began from the object.

Mr A put the car in the garage and returned outside 30 seconds later to find that the object had disappeared. The sky was cloudless and he cannot understand how it vanished so quickly. As he notes; 'I am not saying for one minute as some people would that it was no coincidence and that I must have made alien contact. It just makes it very intriguing to me.'

Possible options:- The motion of the object sounds rather like Autokenesis (i.e. it was the motion of the witness — not the object — that created an illusion). The light could have been any distant aircraft — for example one with landing lights on full beam heading into Manchester Airport, or a rescue helicopter. The CSETI technique for attempting to initiate contact has already led to one embarrassing hoax apparently pulled on the team by some spoilsports! However, at least this witness seems not to have got carried away by what he saw and its possible link with his experiment.

Case 9547 29 December 1995 Fulwood, Lanes

Mr W observed a golden ball of light through his window. His attention was grabbed by the reflection in the sunlight. It was first seen in the west and drifted away towards the north. The total duration was about a minute. Seen against the sky it was shaped rather like a lightbulb before it is fitted.

Possible options:- Once again the shape and the motion of this object are suggestive of a hot air balloon. It is in the same area as the earlier sighting where this idea was mooted.

MORE WELSH WONDERS

Investigations by Margaret Fry

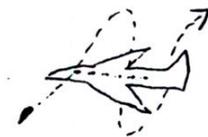
The ever reliable Margaret continues to collect UFO activity from North Wales, where she has set up home since her retirement. Despite ill health she has never flagged in her efforts to document the countless reports from these rural and hilly regions, bounded by the holiday resorts on the coast. She deserves wide recognition and a big thank you from us all.

Case 9544 involves a couple who were parked in a car around 05.00 on 23 September 1995. Being at Prestatyn they had a fine view across the Dee Estuary towards the Merseyside and Lancashire coast. When they saw some unusual lights out to sea they at first thought it was Blackpool illuminations - then possibly an oil rig. There was, in fact an exploration rig 15 miles off the Dee Estuary at this point so that idea must be considered. However, the couple claim that the lights were very strange indeed. They saw a 'round yellow glowing object' and 'bright white stars' either side of it. To the right were 'eight dull tadpole shapes' and behind them several 'strange vehicles in the sky' (kite shaped). These all had multiple coloured lights. The couple were by now quite frightened having watched the lights for up to two hours. They drove off from the car park in trepidation.

In *Case 9545* the witnesses were at Trefnant in the Vale of Clwyd on 6 August 1995. It was 21.15. Two men, in their 20's, were the witnesses - one being a qualified audio-visual technician. They were watching a commercial jet aircraft passing over at a height of several thousand feet - possibly outbound from Liverpool. They then became aware of a small half moon shaped object roughly a quarter the size of the tail fin of the plane. The object flew past the jet, circling its fuselage and zig zagging away from the wings. It then did a U turn and flew away from the aircraft at speed. It was silver in colour. This type of UFO sighting is remarkably common and is quite similar to the famous radar-visual encounter near Gatwick Airport in Summer 1991,



Case 9544



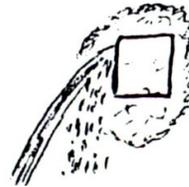
Case 9545

Moving to *Case 95-16* the location was the Little Orme in Llandudno on 10 November 1995. A man and his girlfriend were the witness to a white light over the Irish Sea. After hovering for several minutes at 18.00 it shot away. Later a brilliant white light 'several times brighter than Venus' was seen above Ross Point. Both witnesses were adamant it was unlike any normal star or planet as they studied astronomy.

UFO brings in the New Year

The most intriguing case in this selection occurred just after midnight on 1 January 1996. The witness was an 83 year old woman living in a spectacular house at Deganwy that overlooks the station and the harbour.

Hearing a metallic rattling noise she feared intruders. Her daughter lives in a house just a few doors away and was summoned but concluded with her husband that the noise was probably New Year revellers. However, the witness was unconvinced and went to investigate further. Then from her large picture window she saw an amazing sight.



Hovering only a few feet away from her wall over the steep rocky slope down towards the harbour was a box like object. It appeared to be dark and was stationary for 10 minutes. The woman was naturally stunned by this sight and then noticed how a mist enveloped it and a shower of sparks began to emit' from the side as if an electrical arcing effect was occurring. As the mist cleared it was now apparent that a curved blue beam was emerging from the side of the box and projecting down the cliff side towards the harbour. At this the beam streaked away and the box like object simply disappeared leaving the witness deeply shocked.

Next day the woman began to develop severe headaches, like painful migraines. An inspection of the garden also found some tiny crushed rock scattered on a layer of snow.

The Welsh Federation, called into the case some days later, arranged for a radiation expert to check the house. It was clear. But a slate tile had slipped from the roof by the spot where the large box shape had hovered. The debris could have come from this. The witness thinks that the object - whatever it was - had been attracted to her house, with its large picture window because this was the only one lit at that time of night and was in such a prime position.

BIG BANG OVER SCOTTISH ISLAND

The full story of the Lewis case

Northern UFO News Page 15

At around 4.10 pm on the afternoon of 26 October 1996 a mysterious explosion occurred in the sky of western Scotland. An object was seen to spiral down from clouds and crash into the sea in the area surrounding the Isle of Lewis. The story made brief headlines in the media about a UFO crash and how 'Mulder and Scully' were being sent for. Then silence. So what really happened in this intriguing case?

The coastguards at Stornaway started to receive calls just after 17.00 - some 50 minutes after the incident. All told they received a dozen reports from the island and around Stornaway itself. They were sufficiently consistent to lead to a full search operation.

A builder at Port of Ness reported how he saw three flashes of light and heard two explosions before rushing outside with several customers from a store. They were all in time to see a spiral of smoke descending from the sky. Sightings in the village of Cross told of how what appeared to be fire persisted on the water for some minutes after the sky crash.

As Lewis is far to the north west of Scotland it took time to put plans in motion but the possibility of an air crash was uppermost in the minds of Stornaway coastguard. So they did launch a helicopter and requested help from an RAF Nimrod. The lifeboat was already on route to the scene of the reports.

The search that night lasted until midnight but proved fruitless. It resumed at dawn - when by now it was obvious that no known air traffic was missing. However, several further hours of investigation followed - running up a bill to the taxpayer of some £200,000 before the search was abandoned. An RAF spokesman said on 27 September: 'It has been a fairly massive search but a complete blank has been drawn. We remain puzzled by what could have caused this.'

Early candidates were offered by Simon Riley at the Stornaway coastguard who suggested 'a meteorite burning up in the atmosphere' as the most feasible solution. But he added that space debris re-entering the atmosphere was a possibility as well; although 'extensive enquiries' had failed to verify this possibility.

Nick Pope was soon in on the act.

He appeared in the Scottish press saying that he was investigating the matter and debating alien UFOs. There were some reasons for his interest. RAF Kinloss had coordinated the search and confirmed that earlier on the day of the sighting three UFOs had been sighted over the Scottish borders 'heading north' and a report had been logged with the MoD. Moreover there was another report filed with the MoD from early October in which a passenger on a transatlantic jet (the route for which regularly passes over the area at around 30,000 feet) had seen an explosion in the sky. This was once more over Lewis.

The MoD investigation of the case took them to RAF Fylingdales in North Yorkshire but high powered radar here had apparently failed to track the object.

Meantime the data from all the eyewitnesses was being coordinated and a very interesting picture was being drawn up. All those who saw the initial stages of the event say that they saw an object in the sky which lit up brightly and spread into a dark cloud. Two separate fragments then fell into the sea and hit with a bang. There were several reports of the initial explosion followed a minute or two later by the impact sounds of both sections smashing into the water. The duration between the first bang and these latter two indicates that whatever it was had fallen from some considerable height.

By 'coincidence' a major NATO exercise began less than 48 hours after the explosion. This involved 32 ships, 7 submarines and 80 military aircraft. It centred on the Isle of Lewis - covering the ground of the just abandoned search and rescue operation.

This raised speculation about a possible recovery of a downed secret aircraft - eg a US stealth. However, RAF Kinloss insist that they checked with the US government and they were adamant that they had no missing secret aircraft. Of course, if it was that secret they were hardly likely to admit to it were they?

Our correspondent James Sneddon who monitors Scottish air traffic kept pace with the search during Saturday 26 and Sunday 27 and says: 'There could be more to this case.'

He describes initial reports as describing the object's that fell into the sea as being 'possibly larger than a helicopter'. The air search began at 19.00 - three hours after the explosion. It resumed at 07.00 on the Sunday. At 08.00 a communication between the RAF Nimrod and Kinloss control referred to the discovery of an object 'six feet long and three feet in diameter' in the water.

By 12.30 all aircraft had returned to the mainland with no new reports. But Jim picked up a weak transmission some hours later on a military frequency that referred to coordinates 0655 west and seemed to imply that a low key continuation of the search was underway.

According to John Morrison of SEMR in Scotland the mystery object was later resolved by a helicopter search of the spot. It turned out to be a large cardboard box floating in the water! This information came via a further radio interception that was reported on the Internet

However, the mystery was far from over. Two weeks later the top secret Sandia Laboratories in New Mexico became involved in the case. Sandia is heavily involved in covert government UFO activity (see my book MIB) and is said to have been at the helm of star wars type weapons research. Professor Mark Bailey at the Armagh Observatory reported on his contact with the American scientists and said that 'This is a very strange incident' although he was torn between a fireball meteor and a military weapon as the possible cause.

Six weeks after the explosion the 'truth' was revealed. The Sandia team had concluded that the object was just a one ton iron ore meteor that exploded high above the earth. End of story.

Or was it? For the rumours persist. Margaret Ewing of the Scottish National Party claims that they had reports of a Naval Frigate hauling wreckage from the sea floor in the crash area. This was a few days after the explosion and during the NATO 'exercise'.

As late as April 1997 came mostly neglected reports of an unidentified substance that appeared to be some kind of fuel. This had washed up on Tangusdale Beach at Barra - not far from the site of the explosion. Its possible link with the incident six months before was pointed out by a Fraserburgh man in a letter to the Aberdeen Press who cited the prevailing tides and winds carrying any residue from the sky crash precisely to where the debris was found

So what is the truth here? Did a secret aircraft or weapon cause this affair? Was the NATO exercise a coincidence or used to mask the recovery operation in strict military secrecy as opposed to an uncontrolled civilian operation? Why were military aircraft involved in the search within hours when the MoD deny this (or rather stale rather curiously that they have 'no record' of their involvement)? Or was Nick Pope right to suspect a UFO incident?

My best guess for now is the military. I see this as a new Llandrillo or Rendlesham.

Latest News:

Tim Matthews of LUFOS reports two new initiatives. In late September they got together with several small Lancashire groups to agree to combine their efforts into a joint magazine. They also intend to create one UFO sighting report form for overall use. NUFON began group coordination way back in 1974. of course. That is why this magazine exists. So we warmly applaud this move. The combined team also agreed to mount a sober campaign to try to persuade the new British administration to stand by their championing of a Freedom of Information Act and release so UFO files well before their 30 year sell by date. If you are interested in taking part in either of these initiatives contact LUFOS.

Coming Soon:

No major UK conferences have been reported to me for inclusion Please do advise of any for early 1998 for the next issue. SUFOI (Scandinavian UFO Information) have a one day conference in Copenhagen on *Sat 1 November* featuring Clas Svahn, Per Anderson and (in English) Richard Haines, John Spencer and Jenny Randles. Then on Saturday *8th November* IUFOPRA host the first Irish UFO conference in Dublin, This is in conjunction with Quest. Details of speakers are not yet to hand -

Northern UFO Network Groups in Region

SPI	Alloa, Scotland
SEMR	Bridge of Allan
SRUFO	East Colder
NUFORI	Newcastle
Connect	Ilkley
NLUFOIG	Morecambe
LUFOS	Lancaster
LAPIS	Blackpool
MARA	Liverpool
NARO	Gatley
PRA	Derby
Dragon	Leek, Staffs
SUFOG	Rugeley
Federation	Rhyl Wales
IUFOPRA PO	Dublin, Ireland

Sorry this is not the promised 20pp special But I wanted to get an issue out quickly. Next time!