

NORTHERN UFO NEWS

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WILL EXCHANGE MAGAZINES PLEASE ALTER RECORDS TO ABOVE ADDRESS

Subscription Rate £6 for six issues (Payable to 'NUFON')

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J R Comments:

Nick Redfern is a busy boy at the moment, perhaps helping to dispel the legend of the so-called 'Buxton Book Factory' as a little bird (well, alright, Andy Roberts) tells me my output is described.

Nick's second book is reviewed elsewhere this issue and it's a good one too. His two big books produced inside six or seven months is some going and just another indication of how UFOlogy has achieved a new found status. However, it is one that is in danger of being killed *off* by too much of a good (or rather far too much of an often not so very good) thing.

In early 1998 the new breed of newsstand magazines have been dropping faster than trees in Rendlesham Forest. First we lost 'UFO Reality' and then 'Alien Encounters' announced it was scaling down operations.

'Sightings', I am sad to report, did the far less decent thing. They chose to dump their editor and stopped their writers from sending in new material and *yet* still produce occasional issues to appease their subscribers despite these issues being formed of reprinted articles from earlier issues that presumably many of those subscribers have already paid for. These are not even old issues. Some only appeared last year!

No doubt letters of complaint are winging their way to Exeter (or if you are being treated Like this then they ought to be) and I cannot see this most unimpressive tactic paying off. Rest assured I am not - repeat not - writing for them or being paid for any of my stuff they publish again without my permission. Both Jonathan Dowries and I openly offered to write brand new material for nothing and they turned us down flat So they are doing what they are doing out of their choice. If you think 'Sightings' are treating subscribers unfairly (as I do) then I would not just sit there and take it

This still leaves a few magazines battling on against what I understand to be rapidly shrinking readerships. 'Fortean Times' continues and will surely survive given its uniquely quirky style covering such a diverse range of subjects. Even if - God forbid - John Brown pull the financial plug should sales dry upright across the supernatural board - then I am sure their team will return to its subscription mag heritage and still produce some version of FT for its loyal readers. At least I hope they will do so as this one would truly be missed.

More interesting is the position of 'The X Factor'. This Marshall Cavendish pan work appears fortnightly and has been in existence now for about 18 months. The resources of its parent company and the way it attracts professional writers gives it an edge but it seems unlikely that it cannot also be subject to some of the same pressures.

There has undoubtedly been a two or three year period of 'X Files' euphoria. Before then there was far less public interest in the paranormal and what magazines had been tried on the newsstands (even in the USA) had had limited success. Here they were much more modest (eg "The Unknown' or 'Exploring the Supernatural'). These were successful for a time but the market could only sustain one and the latter - launched as a clone to cash in on the same territory - quickly ensured that both died

A not dissimilar process has occurred in the late 1990's. There have simply been too many newsstand magazines about UFOs and they have all ended up producing the same (often trashy) material in such a way that inevitably people eventually got fed up. The 1997 anniversary bubble burst quickly and even the X Files TV series is losing viewers as it gears up for the August release of its first big budget movie. Indeed Japan has cancelled the show altogether due to failing ratings and the new series on Sky is barely topping 1 million viewers.

Even the new big budget 'British X Files' - the BBC-1 aliens and UFOs series 'Invasion Earth' - has bombed with just 6 million viewers. This is little more than my UFO documentary in 19% made by the exact same partnership (BBC and the Sci Fi Channel) for a budget of under 0.1 per cent of that given to the new drama! We aired on BBC-2 at the height of the UFO interest and this is the key reason for the difference - not just that my show was far better! (Overseas readers should note that BBC-2 audiences are limited to only 20-30% of BBC-1 figures and so to get 6 million on BBC-2 would produce that weeks top rated show but would spell a near disaster on the parent channel.)

It is clear that media market greed has strangled itself and the same may well happen to the book market There are far more UFO titles appearing in 1998 than in 1994 and I do not believe that they can sustain big sales to the X Files crowd as they must pander towards in order to gain more than a moderate print run. Some publishers will continue to publish quality titles with less regard to making big bucks, but others may give up if the cash stops rolling in.

'UFO' magazine is the one magazine that I have not mentioned. This is alive and well and will continue to be so. It is very shrewdly produced by real UFOlogists and has built up its reputation through a good subscriber base. I have no doubt that on the premise - there can be only one - it will be the one to survive.

It is no secret that I do not always support the beliefs of some of its promoters or the overtly ET stance that it tends to adopt. But I do admire the sincerity of its production team and their undoubted skill at commercial marketing. It has always been a magazine *for* UFOlogists *by* UFOlogists rather than one out to pan the short terra glob in 'dem dere UFOs'.

Indeed, there are signs that the Birdsall brothers may rather enmity open up *its* pages to a broader range of coverage by inviting contributions from people who might not normally be associated with 'UFO' magazine or its ethos. In this way I predict it could well win over a broader cross section of the UFO community than it already has and this will guarantee its survival.

That is a typical example of why the erstwhile local group - the Yorkshire UFO Society - has turned into the most commercially successful UFO organisation in the world when big business entering from outside tends to fail. They know their stuff, have long since sussed out what their readers want and have the knack of balancing output just right to maximise readership without seeming ludicrous. Whatever you think of the brand of UFOlogy that they most often promote you cannot but respect that kind of approach and I have heard even their fiercest critics say similar things in private.

So where will we be by the Millennium? Who knows, but I doubt any of the glossy newsstands will be here. 'The X Factor' no doubt sees itself as a two or three year project and I doubt it will outlive that. It has tentative plans to try something new, but even that may lose out to the dramatic fall in public interest.

Yet the two magazines - there before the media industry jumped on the bandwagon - will survive. They are in it for the marathon - not the sprint - and are joined by the army of journals - like NUN - published within UFOlogy but not tailored as profit making ventures. As such they can live through fluctuations of public interest because the modest subscriber list will probably always be there:

Personally I will be glad to see the good old days come back. UFOlogy is way too money minded for its own good right now

RENDELESHAM RETURNS

Just when you thought it was safe to go back into Rendlesham forest - the case that skeptic Ian Ridpath famously termed 'a ghastly embarrassment to UFOlogy' is back. And back with a very big bang!

I said what little I was able to say in the last NUN, but since then the source to which I referred has decided to release news on the internet and try (so far unsuccessfully) to get the national media to feature his 'expose' of the case. So I am now free to talk openly.

There is not space here to do full justice to assessing recent events. However, I have written a lengthy article that analyses the new revelations and this will - hopefully - appear in 'International UFO Reporter' this summer. I would urge anyone who is interested in what has long been considered Britain's premier UFO Case to seek out that article before deciding what to now believe about matters.

In essence this is what has happened. Late last year Quest UFOlogist James Easton chanced to find that a US group had in their possession some key documents about the famed 1980 UFO incident in East Anglia. These were the original witness statements compiled by then deputy base commander Colonel Charles Halt during the few days immediately after the close encounters. These statements include the written reports by witnesses who have since gone public and become key figures in the case (USAF officers Jim Penniston and John Burroughs). But there are also signed statements by a number of other military personnel whose involvement was either not previously known or who were known to have been involved but had for various reasons chosen not to go public since 1980.

All told there were five significant written statements - which presumably formed the basis for the famous report to the MoD written and then sent to London by Halt on 13 January 1981. This was released under the US Freedom of Information Act in June 1983 but the original statements were not then revealed and the British government has long denied they even have copies. It is not yet clear how or when the US UFO group got copies of these files. But there are clues that indicate it might have been years ago! If so, the lasting secrecy is baffling:

I have recently discovered that Halt himself was stunned that these documents are now in the public domain. James Easton gave one copy before Christmas but asked me not to go public about them as he was checking out their origin and seeking comments from the witnesses themselves. Much as I could have used the documents to sell on to a newspaper and hugely promote my book on the case (by chance released just days later) I did agree. But now I feel the need to protect these files is long gone.

My understanding is that Halt has a major book contract for a new Rendlesham title and this will appear later in the year. He assumed that he was the only person to possess these documents and, I suspect, might have been hoping that they would form a vital asset in promoting his book as something new given that it would be the fifth one to come out about this case. I may be wrong in the above guess but if true then that could be why the US group had never released the statements. Possibly they had them only under some strict secrecy clause.

Whatever the case, I had to respect James Easton's decision. But I was put in a very difficult position because I got these files just as 'UFO Crash Landing' was being sent out to the press by Cassell. It was - of course - far too late to effect what I had written but I had media interviews and a series of bookshop lectures lined up in January. It would have been very difficult for me - knowing what I did about these statements - to not even take them into account in what I said during my lectures. As a result a compromise was reached where I did not release the files as requested and said only what little was in the last NUN. This was unsatisfactory.

I was a little disappointed to discover later that Easton got no witness comments as hoped but produced a lengthy report for the internet quoting from our exchange of letters about the files (somewhat selectively I felt). He also chose to go public via the Daily Telegraph. This paper spent a week in March putting two reporters onto the case, but made no effort to even talk to me. As such they were left unaware of vital aspects to the case relating to these files that are surprisingly not in Easton's paper.

These implications are fully debated in my IUR article. But in essence they are mitigating circumstances that make the seemingly damning witness statements rather less negative than they otherwise appear. Any objective evaluation of this new evidence has to take these matters into account and it is a pity that the Telegraph thus never got to see them

Oddly the Telegraph editor twice pulled the plug within hours of this major article appearing in April 1998. It is not clear why, but as James Easton is still trying to get his work published it may yet turn up in some British newspaper. If it does bear in mind that it might not tell the whole story about these documents.

I will briefly note what Burroughs and Penniston say in their written reports - these being the two witnesses who are extensively quoted from interviews in 'UFO Crash Landing'.

Both confirm the date as 25/26 December 1980 - as indeed my book established based on various facts. Burroughs statement gives the time as 3 am (an hour later than he had verbally suggested - Penniston gives no time in his statement). The timing is vital as the famous 'meteor' that Ridpath believes was seen to 'crash' into the forest triggering the initial misperception was timed at 2.50 am.

Essentially the written statement by Penniston is very brief. It relates only to he and Burroughs pursuing a light into the forest, not getting too close to it, seeing it zig zag away, reporting that it was 'mechanical' in nature and - frankly - leaving much further data out that features in his in depth verbal testimony in 'Crash Landing'. But little really contradicts his story if you carefully compare the two.

As for Burroughs, his written report is (as typical of the man) more open about what was seen. He also refers to the fact (as Penniston does not - either in his statement or in his verbal testimony) that a third airman was with them in the forest. This is something that is discussed in my book (written - remember - before these documents surfaced). From that it is clear that this third man was in the forest with Burroughs and Penniston but has been kept out of the public eye by the other two witnesses. This 'third man' has clearly chosen not to come forward.

In my book, based on reading between the lines of the interviews with the two witnesses, I termed this third man 'Kavanasac*'. This is phonetically correct but it is really spelt 'Cabanasag'. The written statement by this 'third man' is also included in the new files, but he has still not come forward to comment upon it

Airman Cabanasag reports how he drove out to the scene with Penniston after Burroughs had called the base to make report of a sighting of a UFO in the forest. Going into the forest with Burroughs and Penniston. Cabanasag then also saw - as they did - 'blue, red, white and yellow' lights. The yellow light was later identified. The others never were.

Cabanasag relates how the unsolved lights span round and vanished. Master Sergeant Chandler came to the site to meet them and he remained at the edge of the forest as a radio go-between whilst the other three proceeded deeper into the trees to pursue the UFO.

This is the first serious discrepancy with the new documents. The involvement of Chandler was unknown. He has again not come forward and neither Burroughs nor Penniston had referred to him. Indeed Penniston had stated in interview (see my book) that Cabanasag was the man led behind to act as a radio relay inside the forest. This may have been done to protect both he and Chandler who seem to have chosen not to publicly speak out about the case.

Chandler's written statement is very reasonable and concurs with the others. He reports being called out by Penniston, remaining as a relay, himself seeing nothing from his position. But Penniston called back to say that he could see something ahead that was definitely 'a mechanical object'. He then chased a light that was eventually resolved to be the lighthouse. However, as Chandler adds, 'this was not the light or lights he had originally observed'. In other words, the appearance of this man and his statement is positive evidence that supports most of what Burroughs and Penniston had long said. In many ways it is the most important new data.

In his report Cabanasag tells of what happened when he and his two colleagues went deeper into the woods. This is where it becomes more disturbing for Cabanasag's written report alleges that they did not see the UFO or have any close encounter. Moreover all they saw as they walked through the woods and across the field was a yellow light that they established to be the lighthouse - but only after some minutes walking through the woods towards it. When they found nothing - and indeed walked right through the spot where they had earlier assumed the white, blue and red lights ahead of them to be - they were ordered back by base who terminated the investigation.

This reference to the misidentified lighthouse by Chandler and Cabanasag is further confirmed by Burroughs who speaks of things in more detail and more like his later verbal statements (including seeing things after they had deeper into the woods). But he confirms (although - oddly - Penniston does not) that they chased a yellow-white light through the forest for some minutes before realising that it was just the lighthouse beacon.

At no time in their subsequent interviews have Burroughs or Penniston ever mentioned this 'phantom lighthouse'. Indeed Burroughs has long insisted that he could not possibly have been fooled by the lighthouse because he was very familiar with it. Halt has made similar statements. Indeed in my book I report on the three way conversation between Halt, myself and the Orford Ness lighthouse keeper as recently as June 1997 in which the very idea was dismissed - seemingly cogently. And yet these reports by Chandler, Burroughs and Cabanasag reveal that the three witnesses were fooled by the lighthouse (although they did identify this source eventually). Halt clearly knew this because he used these written statements for his report to the MoD. So why have these men kept silent?

In fact, there are various important matters that arise from this news. And they are not all as damning as this suggests.

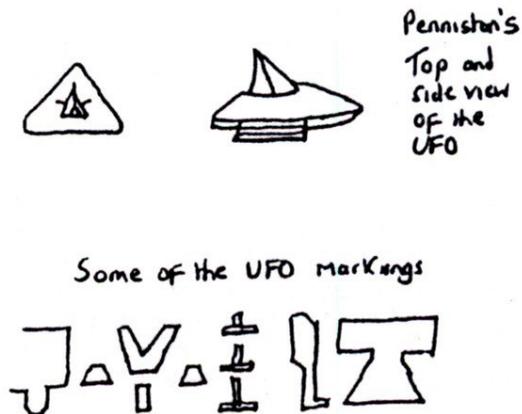
Firstly, we can see that the witnesses recognised the lighthouse (in the end) and are clear in their reports that this was **not** the original UFO. That scuppers the lighthouse interpretation for the UFO itself - as indeed do other clues in the statements obvious only if you had been to Rendlesham Forest at night many years ago before tree felling and a hurricane fundamentally changed the perspective. It is clear that the original UFO cannot have been the lighthouse, regardless of what this later 'error' implies.

Even more important is a band written note on Cabanasag's statement (put there by Halt) that confirms this is not the air man's full story. As my book reports Burroughs and Penniston have always said such things. Long before these written statements surfaced they explained why the written reports were deliberately limited to just a few lights.

In other words, it really is not justified to dismiss this case simply on the grounds of the apparent differences between these written statements and the subsequent verbal testimony of Burroughs and Penniston - not when these other factors are put into the equation.

There is still much to be said about this case and the discovery of these written statements is clearly vital. James Easton has done a good job reporting them and I respect his views. But I do not think he yet fully understands this complex case. It may well be that the threads that weave this story together are unwinding and this case may turn out not to be what it once seemed. But I think it is definitely premature to say that Rendlesham is dead. At least not yet.

The new evidence also includes original witness drawings. These show the 'mechanical craft' encountered at close quarters, the ground traces and the markings on the side of the object. These are reproduced below.



In order to fully understand this naturally quite detailed article you unfortunately need to read my book 'UFO Crash Landing'. That title - incidentally - is Cassell's and not mine. I have read criticism of it (e.g. from Peter Robbins and Larry Warren) as no UFO 'crashed' as such. However, I have long told readers of NUN that I called the book 'Friend or Foe: The Rendlesham Forest Case. Sadly the publishers insisted on using their title despite my extensive efforts to get them not to do so. So please bear that in mind instead of Bussing over semantics.

This book was published in January and presents the testimony of witnesses such as Burroughs and Penniston and sets it in context with the civilian witness reports, themselves not taken into account by Huston's report.

I know that this all seems like a commercial, but I can honestly say that I did my best to present the facts about this case and my book is a snapshot of things as they stood immediately prior to these new revelations via the dramatic witness statements. As such the two interweave and cannot be separated.

If you read these things carefully together then you hopefully can get a good picture.

To help out a little I may be able to offer a limited number of copies

The MoD admits a 'space division'

Readers of my book 'Men in Black' may recall how I set out the discovery that the MoD use a defence intelligence unit - DI 55 - to visit witnesses and secure sighting information. These appear to be the probable origin of the men in black stories as reported by some UK witnesses (e.g. fireman Jim Templeton).

You may also recall from NUN how last years release of files onto the PRO from the MoD (30 years old as always) revealed that a Wilmslow policeman was so visited in 1966 after his close encounter. I have been attempting to get his side of the story. The man no longer lives in Wilmslow, but I have his address. Unfortunately he has so far declined my invitation to talk about his case despite offering him a copy of his own MoD file. I will continue to try.

Now, Nick Redfern reports some 1998 files released onto the PRO. There are no new MIB cases but some interesting data about policy. This reports how (in 1967, of course) the then equivalent of department Air Staff 2 A had a mandate to check with the early warning radar at Fylingdales in Yorkshire. If they were able to identify the cause of a sighting (e.g. as a satellite) then the case was to be closed as solve. If Fylingdales could not explain the matter then Air Staff 2A were to cease investigation and hand the study over to DI 55. Indeed this group was even given the name 'the space division'.

Something of a 'debate' has arisen between Nick Redfern and Nick Pope over this. We must assume that 1967 rules apply today. But Nick P is adamant that 'special staffs' like DI 55 and Fylingdales are only there to assist his erstwhile Air Staff team. They were - and are -the UFO unit so far as the MoD is concerned.

I suspect that part of the problem here may be that Fylingdales (especially in 1967) was deeply concerned with seeking out invading nuclear attacks and had to be able to tell quickly if a UFO report might relate to one of these. To do that they had to eliminate such things as space junk or satellite burn ups rapidly and learn what they could about the space technology of foreign powers. In the USA a team called 'Project Moondust' worked with the USAF UFO team on cases where space technology may have been involved. DI 55 may well have a similar role

That paragon of truth - *the Daily Mail* - was at it again in April claiming a big scoop. A source had told them of a major incident 'about two years ago' in which a giant UFO had headed for the UK. Apparently Fylingdales radar had detected the huge triangle over the North Sea off the coast of Holland. Dutch Air Force jets then gave pursuit but the UFO left them for dead at 24,000 mph. It streaked across Britain and was last seen beading out into the Atlantic.

But the most intriguing aspect to the report was the claim that the radar film was to be handed over to a panel of scientists at a UK defence gathering in June. Whilst these would not be made public other UFO trackers would.

So - is it true? Once upon a time to appear in the Mail would have made that a fair bet, but today most of their UFO stories should start with those words 'once upon a time'. They do now have equal credibility with Goldilocks.

I called Dave Clarke, the new BUFORA press officer (congratulations by the way - bet he's feeling glad all over - that's a joke for readers over 40). He used his journalist contacts to check it out for me and - blow me - the MoD denied it. Yes, there is a conference. But there is no film. As for the story they attributed it to a disgruntled ex MoD employee who they felt was going round telling tales in a sort of revenge trip. Even more remarkably they named him, but I'm not about to get sued so you won't be reading it here. And - no - it definitely wasn't Nick Pope!

So, did it happen? The MoD claim they told the Mail reporter the above but he went ahead and published anyway. That reporter said that he stands by his story and his source was an RAF officer and not the ex MoD man. I guess we do have to wonder if there is a direct link back to this vendetta and I find it extraordinary that the MoD would risk all by naming someone in a fraud unless they had some good evidence.

This is a tale that someone will fathom out and if this film does end up being shown to a conference this summer who knows. But it struck me as interesting that this story leaked just before the BBC debut of 'Invasion Earth'. I did a show in Derby last year with its writer, Jed Mercurio. The first episode (echoing Roswell and Bonnybridge) featured a military jet pursuit over the North Sea with the chased UFO then streaking across Britain. Mercurio said that he used RAF and MoD contacts during the script writing. Maybe as a result he innocently gave someone down Whitehall way a bright idea.

New twist on the circle mystery

A new type of crop circle turned up in March - this time made out of stone. The location is the remote Morvern Peninsula in western Scotland looking out towards the Isle of Mull. Two sites are involved - one near Ardtornish Castle, the other at Kingairloch. Locals from the isolated hamlets nearby say the appeared virtually overnight.

Both circles are easily visible from the surrounding hills and are 20 feet diameter swirl made out of boulders up to 4 feet wide. A local antiquarian insists that it would have taken two strong men a full day to dig out and roll the often heavy rocks distances of up to 50 feet from where some appear to originate. The links with Bonnybridge and alien abductions have already been raised in the minds of some reporters!

News Snippets:

The new Midnight Books catalogue is out with its usual mix of bargain new and second hand UFO tomes. A great source for those hard to find titles.

Anyone need a UFO cartoonist? Allan Bail lie has created 'Spaced Out' as a series and can offer this is single cartoons or a story strip.

Michael Hudson is offering a new service to UFOlogists - PC Text This has over 5000 text based files and 300 images. All formatted to Word for Windows 6.0 (with other formats on request).

Quiz Time:

Congratulations to Joe Kerr of Ireland for winning the comp in issue 178. *You can't say which book you wanted so let me know and it will be on its way.* For those who did not have a clue here are the answers:- 'Alintel was a novel by Jacques Vallee, the gruesome tailor story penned by Peter Hough (UFOlogy's own Stephen King) and 'A tale of two settees' is one of my short Sci Fi stories published in Dream magazine - who else would use a title like that!

UPDATES

Howards End

I owe a bit of an apology to UFOMEK (UFO Monitors East Kent) after the story in issue 178 about the 8 March 1997 UFO above the house of then home secretary Michael Howard. As most no doubt appreciated my report was really an attack on the way this case was presented by the media. But UFOMEK have put me right on the importance of the sighting itself. It is clear that an interesting case did occur.

Indeed, UFOMEK have put together a fine special report on the case - *The Burmarsh Incident* - that I would recommend to anyone interested in the events. This explains how there was a whole series of sightings in the area between 2.10 and 3.30 am that night. Some more impressive than those referred to by the press. Two firefighters saw the triangular object right over the Howard home - so there was indeed a direct link. It is no wonder the politicians got worked up in the run up to the election.

The Burmarsh Incident is available from UFOMEK

Nick's knack:

When we met in London recently I had the chance to ask Nick Pope about the story (178) about his 'abduction' in Florida. Nick tells me that a new paperback edition of *The Uninvited* is out this summer. So will it feature the revelation that he was Peter in the 'Peter and Jenny' story? Apparently not was the answer, although he did not deny this was so. The time is not right - he believed - and Nick explained that he did not want journalists besieging him if they felt he might be an abductee. But - I pointed out - it's an open secret and much of British UFOlogy knows he is the man in the story, so why decline to come down here? His answer to that was (hat if most people already know then there is no need to tell them).

I have sympathy for Nick. He seemed a bit embarrassed by all this and I can imagine he would rather not court the publicity and possible MoD wrath by making this a big deal of a fairly minor case. But the fact is that he freely *chose* to put that story into his book. If he did not want the problem this has inevitably created then surely the case should have simply been left out of the book in the first place. What do you think? Am I being unfair to Nick? If so, tell me, please.

My Nick knocking knack

Nick Redfern writes with regards to my review of his book 'A Covert Agenda' (178) - which on the whole I liked a lot and gave a 70% rating. His gripe concerns my argument that the MoD files 'reveal lack of investigation, little interest in UFOs and a complete failure to appreciate any subtlety behind the data'.

In response he says; 'In my opinion the files tell a different story. For example, we know that as far back as 1953 the entire RAF received a restricted circular stating that all UFO reports should be forwarded to Whitehall for study...'

He adds 'there is the now proven involvement in UFO investigations on the part of the Provost and Security Services at Rudloe (Manor). The official files confirm this, yet neither Pope nor Noyes had any inkling of their involvement.'

Then he cites p. 235 where Nick Pope confirms that DIS (defence intelligence Staff) data on UFOs by-passed him, despite the fact that it was dated 1992 - during the time he was supposedly the MoD focal point for UFO data.'

He further notes the involvement of Bentley Priory in UFO investigations (p.241/2) and the MoD claim that they destroyed AI Tech 5b military UFO files (p. 79 - 82).

I take this on board, but I think we are arguing at cross purposes. I have no doubt (see my book 'MIB' and the forthcoming 'Something in the Air') that the MoD is more deeply involved in UFO study than admitted. But this is at a covert level via files we do not get to see and (I suspect) is often for reasons not connected with aliens but with witnesses who stumble upon secret technology or other factors such as sightings of foreign power spy activity. I do think there is more to it than that, of course - for instance the option that natural energies behind some UFOs can provide defensive and offensive knowledge (useful for building weapons) and that the MoD would rather do this in secret.

Consequently, I am arguing about the visible files from Air Staff 2A not the unseen ones. The Air Staff files show incompetence, lack of case follow through (often less good than the hardly wonderful Project Blue Book!) and no sign that they perceive UFOs in broader terms as UFOlogists understand them. To the MoD they seem either misperceptions or unproven reports of alien spacecraft. In my view UFOs can be of far more scientific interest than that but this never comes out via records at the PRO.

Either way, Nick's book is a good one.

MAJOR ARTICLES ELSEWHERE

Quite a few newcomers to report this time. The demise of some of the newsstand magazines is being quickly replaced by some fine offerings.

'First off, though in short supply in hard copy I gather, is ETH Bulletin. An offshoot of Magonia and edited by John Harney this monthly 4 p news sheet aims to question, challenge and report on the evidence - or lack of it - for the ETH (extraterrestrial hypothesis) and so so with an open but critical mind. It is off to a very impressive start assessing cases such as the Travis Walton affair and getting comment from the likes of Phil Klass. If you can then do get a copy but I cannot say what plans Magonia have for distribution (although it will be on their web site).

A totally different kettle offish is The Parranormal (with a double V'). This is a very funny set of strip cartoons that takes the micky out of UK UFOlogy a bit like a visual Armchair UFOlogist. If you have no sense of humour you may blow a fuse, but if you appreciate wit you 'll love the exploits of Timothy Budd's 'Beyond and Above', 'Nick Pope - The UK Fox Mulder', 'The Paranoid World of Bob Doddman - UFOlogist 'Tim Matthews in me and my shadow' and, er. Something called 'Jenny Randles and her magic sandals'. Even the adverts are hilarious. Only the UK could produce UFO mags in the style of Monty Python and get away with it. I loved it. More please!

Finally, a new group magazine is The Researcher - journal of MARA, the Mersey side team. At 46 pp it's a whopper and covers all kinds of strange phenomena, with UFOs in there but having to compete for space alongside such odd bedfellows as Spiritualism, urban myths and a lot mor. But with good articles on such diverse areas as UFO detectors, IFOs and the objective v subjective debate in abduction cases this is a cracking start to what looks set to be one of the top regional journals. And there are plenty of good ones already out there.

Awareness 22/3 (Contact UK Box)

Still to the same NUN style A5 format that it has had for years Contact always provide plenty of sightings, especially from the South Midlands. Margaret Fry gives her detailed report on the Llandrillo case - worth a look to compare with Andy Roberts (reputedly damning) on site re-evaluation just carried out and due for publication as a one off booklet this summer.

Magonia 62 Feb 98 (editor John Rimmer).

Two articles probe the link between UFOs, abductions, obsessions, the unconscious, suicide and ink blot tests. The South Africans will love it - especially new age guru Nelson Mandala.

Abduction Watch 7/8/9 (editor Kevin McClur')

Delighted that this is back in full swing. The most important new mag for years - a monthly news sheet that critically assesses the abduction scene, notably in the UK. Essential reading. 8 & 9 feature an important in depth assessment of the recent Jean Ritchie book about a child abductee with telling lessons for all UFOlogists.

Armchair UFOlogist 3

Printed news sheet style with each sheet a different gaudy colour. You'll either love it or hate it as that implies. Andy is sharp, witty, cutting, cruel but he knows his UFOlogy as his comments on all things blight and bountiful in the UFO world (and its parallel reality) indicates. I would not dare publish half what he does. But he is often spot on. If you need to know which famous UFOlogist is in court for threatening to shoot a neighbour's dog after it chased his cat up a tree then Andy tells all in his typically titled piece - Apocalypse Maoiw. Lawsuits to the Brighthouse address as shown above.

Naro Minded Feb 98 (NARO)

Sleep paralysis analysed by a first hand experienter is just one of the interesting pieces in this issue. Peter Hough also marks the 10th anniversary of the infamous Ikley Entity photo case with an update and position statement

Strange Daze Feb 98 (editor Dave Newton)

If you are not on the internet and want to know what you're missing this is the best substitute. It carries lots of news snippets from net UFO pages

Phenomenal News 8 (SEMR)

One of the cheapest magazines on offer. Scottish strange stuff including human invisibility!

Haunted Scotland (editor M Fraser)

A chunky look at all sorts of Scottish mysteries from Nessie to big cats and a UFO update section with mid Scottish case reports each issue.

Less concerned with cases from Hampshire than with its excellent media coverage. A fine regular catalogue of UFOs on TV, radio etc is a plus.

Journal of Meteorology 226

Meteorology with a Fortean twist. Aside from regular coverage of Tornado activity in the UK this is the best source of ball lightning cases as they happen. Also recently featured an Angel Hair case from 1997. This issue has in depth coverage of the Selsey tornado in January - Britain's most destructive in years.

The Circular Autumn 97

Entertaining CCCS journal (membership included in the above price). A glossy look at the latest crop circles - not just UK but all over the world Lots of nice photos and diagrams of new patterns. Theories and speculation ranging from the sensible to the near potty it seems to have survived the media disinterest in circles. If you want to know what the situation is in this long neglected area of research you'll find this useful.

The Ley Hunter 130

The place to keep up with earth mystery and new earthlight data. Expertly put together.

IUR Spring 98 (CUFOS, USA)

Finding government UFO documents on the internet, plus an interesting retrospective on the famous 1959 American Airlines case from 1959,

MUFON Journal (MUFON, USA)

Jan: More on Or Marcel's hypnotic memory 01 the Roswell wreckage... Feb: Animals am abductions and physiological reactions during such cases... Mar: CIA UFO documentation

Ohio UFO Notebook

Always a treat with a wide range of articles on US cases. Issue 16 is a special devoted entirely to the testimony of Dr Marcel. In case you are unaware of this new twist to the Roswell case the witness (Major Jesse Marcel's son) has been regressed to his memories of seeing the wreckage and these have not revealed quite the expected fantastic technology.

UFO Afrinews Feb 98 (Zimbabwe)

Cynthia Hind offers a terrific collection of cases from the African continent via her globetrotting. Easily the best way to keep in touch with a part of the world too little talked about in UFO terms.

BOOKS OF THE MOMENT

The Roswell File

280 pp paperback

by Tim Shawcross £6.99 Bloomsbury

Tim was director of the 1995 Channel 4 documentary on Roswell that included the famed alien autopsy footage. This book sets out the considerable research that his team did putting the programme together and has scope to update events since transmission. The result is a thoroughly engrossing investigation into this celebrated case and autopsy film. The fact that its done by an outsider to the field with no obvious vested interest is all to the good. Filled with masses of documents its one of the best books on the case I have yet seen. It is responsible and fair and you really can't ask for much more.

Randles Rating 75%

Gods of Eden

372 pp hardback by Andrew Collins

£18.99 Headline

Once upon a time Andy was a terrific UFO investigator chasing some of the best UK cases of the 1970's. How things change. He has now - deservedly - made a name for himself in the new boom industry of ancient mysteries - a sort of modern style Von Daniken but with rather a lot more investigative and research methods to bring to bear.

To be fair, Andy cannot be said to have jumped the bandwagon. He has been doing this kind of thing far longer than most of today's celebrated writers and in some ways is even responsible for helping to legitimize the field. The approach of the Millennium is another factor where there seems an undercurrent of doom facing our civilisation (see all the media and movie interest in great comets and asteroids) and the consequent need to find out what happened to great races long into the past

At times this blend of the supernatural with history comes over as contrived. But I have never seen that in Andy's books. He digs deep and provides you with so much documentation that you come round to his way of thinking with little effort. Moreover, Andy is a superb writer. He marshals his evidence well and he knows how to tell a story.

The result is that you always get an excellent read. Referring to himself now as an 'investigative historian' (and that certainly sounds more legit than being a psychic questor) Andy here explores the building of the pyramids.

As you might expect the book does not follow the party line. He places the origin of these structures further into the past and suggests that evidence points firmly to a race of highly advanced beings who possessed fantastic technology - eg manipulating sonic waves. Who were they? Where did they come from or go to? What has happened to their God like legacy? It's a fascinating detective story.

The book is less directly tied to UFOs than some of Andy's previous research (or it would rate a higher score). This probably helps him gain respect amongst his professional (and often a bit stuffy) peers. That is going some for a man without their academic background and that millstone of being an ex UFOlogist dragging him down. But you can only admire his commitment and tenacity to root out the evidence.

Randles Rating 65%

Alien Abductions

***176 pp hardback by Peter Brookesmith
£15.99 Blandford***

Peter is starting to challenge the Buxton Book Factory with the sheer number of his UFO tides. Following recent large format, very visual hardbacks on 'government files' and 'UFOlogists' here he is persuading his usual economy minded publisher to produce a similar style glossy tome on alien abduction evidence.

The result is a coffee table book with a hard centre - very sceptical, as you would expect from this author, but well argued. My only real concern is that there are two books fighting to get out here and the result is a sort of compromise that sees neither fully escape.

In one sense this is a guide to abductions greatest hits written for the layman. There are boxes and small pieces on most of the top cases in an easy to read style. That is fair enough and nobody can say that Peter does not do an admirable job explaining the problems such evidence is beset by. However, you do rather feel at times that the market for such a book will not appreciate these difficulties and treat the text more as a case reference. Sadly, it is not well designed to provide them with that.

On the other hand, the book is liberally sprinkled with cogent commentary on abductions –

from the dearth of physical evidence to missing observed abductions. This is important stuff and the outcome is a sober assessment of a complex phenomenon. However, it rather gets swamped amidst the fluffy stuff dressed up by the publisher to make the case files look good.

In addition I rather found the structure of the book a bit hard to fathom. It seems to take a meandering path through cases - dropping bombshells at random - and in the end one is left feeling a little as if you have just wandered across a minefield and not been entirely sure why you made the effort to get to the other side.

There is a good book in here. In fact, as I said before, there are really two good books. It is a pity that the author and publishers chose this composite approach rather than to make a good stab at one or the other of them. Of course, I know the commercial pressures as to why it happened this way. In many respects Brookesmith makes just about as good of a job out of this as anyone could. By no means is the outcome a bad book. Indeed it is in parts a very good one. Just not quite what it might have been.

Randles Rating 65%

The FBI Files

**352pp hardback by Nick Redfern.
£16.99 Simon and Schuster**

It is only a few months since Nick's first book - on UK government files. Now he is back with a similar volume that looks into the files available in the USA. These tell the story of the FBI and its association with UFOs. If you enjoyed his first book there is no doubt that you will be pleased by Nick's follow up. It is in the same style - telling the story chronologically, sprinkled with documents. As such it provides a very good guide to this extensive material. Indeed the two books fit together neatly as one.

Again there is an assumption that UFOs are alien and the consequent reading between the lines in that context. I only see that as a minor hardship since the files are the thing. However, there are two additional problems that this book has. The FBI files are much better known than the PRO records on British cases. For 20 years they have been written about in ufology and several books have assessed them to some extent. Yet there is no popular book exclusively devoted to them, and that gives this one an undoubtedly useful role on anybody's bookshelf. I just feel that many UFOlogists will either have the documents or have read about them, limiting the book's impact to the

hard core of UFOlogy -although probably not for the general public.

The other problem is that most FBI records dry up many years ago so this book is largely one talking about the period 1947 - 1967. One area where it does step into more modern times - that is the 1970s- is to address the issue of animal mutilations. This is fascinating as not many Ufologists will be familiar with how the FBI got mixed up in that debate.

Right at the end Nick discusses men in black. His conclusions are closely akin to those in my own MIB book published a year ago. Nick tells me that we reached these views quite independently since he wrote this book before he read mine. Maybe more people will now take note of the implications for UFOlogy as few have so far. I doubt that we are both wrong in our interpretation and Nick got there via the FBI files whilst I followed a trail of UK cases. Just ask yourself what this all may mean for UFOs.

Nick is already writing book three (*Cosmic Crashes*) - no doubt his take on UFO crash retrieval cases. It will - I am sure - keep up the fine work of these first two titles.

Randles Rating 75%

INVESTIGATIONS.



Peak District crash case solved?

Thanks to some excellent investigation by Dave Clarke (see his reports in earlier NUN we may have a partial answer to the 24 Mar 1997 'UFO Crash' over the Derbyshire peaks.

As you might recall a fireball was set to fall across the moors west of Sheffield, mysterious 'aircraft' was seen passing over (an even video filmed) and two 'explosions' were heard. The resulting search and rescue by police and mountain rescue continued at great expense into the next day but nothing was found

Initial diagnosis was a fireball meteor coupled with a light aircraft possibly on some illegal mission. But police were never able to confirm that 'guesstimate'.

Since then UFO speculation has been rife with the internet buzzing about an alleged dog fight between a military jet and a UFO and a Derbyshire reservoir around which an air exclusion zone was placed the next day. This being the 'crash point' of the shot down spaceship. Alien bodies were even reputedly recovered - although I was told by one Ufologist the 'shocking truth' was actually that the UFO blown out of the sky was an RAF space plane from the future.

Working with Hillsborough MP Helen Jackson, local reporter and UFOlogist Clarke, has had the MoD on the run. Questions were tabled in the House of Commons in April after a success the previous month from a similar pressure had brought first confirmation that there was indeed a military exercise over the Peaks that night. Readers may recall how in my initial NUN report I mentioned that I had not seen the UFO but had witnessed a large amount of air traffic whilst out observing a big comet

Under Secretary for Defence, John Spellar, told MP Jackson on 7 April that the exercise permitted low flying over the Peak District between 20.30 and 21.07 on 24 March. The UFO sightings were about 20 minutes after this. The MoD insisted that aircraft were governed by normal 'supersonic flying' rules but Edinburgh University seismology unit had recorded a 'sonic event' that night! Did military jets break the sound barrier - and if so then why? As a result Dave Clarke spoke with his MoD contact, Squadron Leader Tom Rounds.

Rounds was quick to confirm that two Tornado GR I Strike Aircraft from RAF Marham in Norfolk were flying at 250 feet over the Peak District that night I can confirm that this often happens. Every now and then as I type NUN the house shakes and a Tornado makes another bombing run on our chimney pot. But there is no way on earth you would ever mistake one of these fast moving, very noisy and quite scary passovers as anything but a military jet

Witnesses at Dronfield last March report a 'huge triangle' at 21.30 that had 'pinkish coloured lights around its curved edges and a blinding blue light on its underside'. This emitted a noise that droned 'like on electric substation' and said that the hills were lit as bright as day by its passage. Three minutes after the UFO flew over two military jets - very audibly - followed its path. Then two more.

So - the question has to be - what were the Tornadoes doing half an hour after the exercise supposedly ended, seemingly creating some booms by flying illegally fast and in apparent pursuit of a strange droning triangle? Were the UFOlogists right about a dog fight after all? The MoD seemingly flatly denied it

Air Staff 2 A's Alan Pattison told Clarke - without actually replying to his direct question - that 'this was a regular training flight involving two Tornado strike aircraft'. He added they are not of the type 'which would be employed to intercept a threat to UK airspace'. Ralph Noyes always told me from his MoD days that they were taught never to lie. So - if you had to answer a question that you did not wish to answer - you tried to answer a different one instead. Here Pattinson correctly explains what the tow flying exercise was about and (no doubt truthfully) tells us that these Tornados were not of the type used for intercepts. But maybe a UFO turned up during a routine exercise and these jets were just in the right place to investigate?

It would seem not. Because Pattison then insisted in summation: 'We did not chase a UFO and there has been no cover up.' The air exclusion zone was created, but only to protect aircraft heading into Manchester during the search and rescue. As to this the MoD say: 'We responded to a request by the police for help to search for a crashed aircraft and sent a helicopter from RAF Leconfield. We don't know what caused the sonic events and the whole thing is a mystery to us too.' No cover up? That *is* a liberal interpretation of what happened I would have to say!

But for the pressure by Clarke and Jackson a year after the events the MoD would presumably never have mentioned the 'exercise' So one has to wonder if they told police and mountain rescue people on the night If not was a lot of money wasted when the police might quickly have assumed the 'explosions' were of military origin?

Yet if the Tornados were not in pursuit of a UFO then what did they chase? The MoD insist that sonic booms (timed by Edinburgh at 21.52 and 22.06) are unexplained. But confirm that the British Geological Survey did contact them to ask whether aircraft created sonic booms that night The MoD 'could not confirm' to the scientists any RAF involvement but admit it was possible. This rather sounds like a cop out to me.

Indeed the Geological Survey now insist there are only three sources of sonic boom. Concorde was not flying. There were no space re-entries The third cause is supersonic military aircraft. And remember we have not just one event here - but two of them - 14 minutes apart and after the exercise was officially ended - all soon after a triangular object was seen to cross the same part of the moors.

We obviously have not heard the full story here. It is possible that the booms were the Tornados, or other military jets, climbing high in pursuit of this triangular UFO. It is more likely that the triangular object was not a UFO but some type of secret aircraft - a target drone, RPV or even the infamous HALO project - then being tested within

the exercise. Maybe something went wrong and the jets were authorised to break the sound barrier in a pursuit of an out of control device - or even one that crashed and was subsequently recovered.

The MoD themselves admit to a third possibility. As Pattison says: 'Our pilots know very well they should not fly at twice the speed of sound over land. It is not impossible that a pilot might have accelerated to supersonic speed in order to take avoiding action if a civil aircraft was detected in their flightpath.' (Fine - in theory - but surely this would be reported and investigated to avoid future repetition so the MoD and CAA would know all about it?). Or -the MoD man adds: 'It is also possible a pilot might have covered his tracks if he had broken the rules... We could never rule that out'

Maybe so, but the question remains as to what the triangle was and whether this double 'accident' of the sonic booms was unconnected. We may never know, but thanks to David Clarke we know a lot more than the MoD wanted US to.

Lost in Space

The story of NASA's UFO 'haunted' shuttle

The NASA space shuttle 'Discovery' is fast gaining the reputation as a haunted craft. It has now been involved in its third major UFO episode during an orbital mission and this time the evidence is very interesting indeed

Previous escapades of the shuttle began in March 1989 when mission STS 29 produced the saga reported in detail in the book 'Looking for the Aliens' by Peter Hough and myself. In essence a radio message purported that the mission was aborted early after an electrical fire brought about through a UFO contact Investigation had seemingly indicated that the episode was a hoax by a ham radio enthusiast who tapped into a NASA relay frequency.

Then, during flight STS 48 in September 1991 Discovery took some still fascinating video footage of fast moving lights that appeared to be skimming the earth's atmosphere. The debate has raged ever since as to whether these are a new anomaly, or ice comets, or even UFO probes.

Now satellite TV enthusiast John Locker from the Wirral (who has an interest in UFOs) became witness to the third confrontation between the fated shuttle and UFOs. When we were making the 'Strange but True? Live' programme last year we told part of the story but John declined to appear on it and was appalled at how the matter was treated. It seems appropriate to discuss this matter in proper detail here.

Locker has - as I do - a movable satellite system (although with a lot more frills than the one I have operated since 1988). Rather than just point at the Astra satellite and watch Sky TV we can move the satellite on an arc, just like the far bigger dishes at Jodrell Bank, and pick up news feeds and programme links as they are shot all over the world. With Locker's expertise he regularly watches feeds direct from both Russian and NASA space missions - not just the few minutes that make it onto TV news but most of the mission links back to Houston. These are relayed via a number of satellites.

In February 1997 Discovery's latest star trek was STS 82 - the mission that set out to repair the Hubble space telescope and allow it to fulfil its potential severely limited since it was launched with a faulty mirror. As a space walk (EVA) was scheduled to take place at 1 am (UK time) on 18 February Locker set his VCR to record the night's feed - with amazing results.

Locker watched the tape of the E' and at 06.38 it was ended and the crew were entering the airlock to return to Discovery. NASA were still assessing whether to send them out again but the two crew were returning for a rest. The visual on the feed switched from I crew to the waiting technicians at Mission Control (where it was late night even in the US by now). With the EVA over all was quiet all the astronauts voices started to get excited.

'What was that flash?'

'What?'

'That light flashed by here. There it again. I thought I must be seeing things.'

'What?'

'I just thought it was my imagination.'

The conversation between a crewman's and ground control is much like the famous Halt tape in Rendlesham Forest exhibiting obvious excitement. But the idea that it was imagination was soon dispelled by another crew man adding

'I saw it too - so its not. There were two of them'

'There's another one. What are they?'

'I just saw the lights flashing in here'

'I wonder if they're taking pictures'

'What is that?'

'There's this thing that passed right there front of us.'

A third crew member joins in to say

'Where are the lights?'

'Which ones?'

'I dipped surveillance for a second but had that one the whole time.'

'Yeah -I got that one too!'

At this point the picture on screen showed a NASA technician get up, walk over to a colleague, flip a switch and the feed cut to a test card. It was evident that NASA had decided to pull the plug on any interloping viewers.

John Locker discovered that a different feed (digitally encoded and harder for amateurs to tune into) did not cut out. But there was no further reference to the strange lights. It simply concerned the termination of the space walk and the decision to abandon plans for another EVA.

Locker made efforts to fathom this out. He was able to establish via the NORAD data base of orbiting objects that there was no space junk in visual range at the time of the sighting. NASA themselves merely suggested that a light on the Hubble telescope might have reflected off the shiny spacesuit of one of the EVA crew. But he found this hard to believe as crew were split between the airlock and flight deck. They said the object flew past the front of the shuttle.

Locker says that he is unconvinced there are any aliens and thinks that the UFO phenomenon is used by the military to hide the testing of secret aircraft - a view becoming more popular in British UFOlogy these days.

As such he searched for all sorts of rational answers - from micrometeorites to high energy particle glows. That's when he came to us at 'Strange but True?' offering his video for the programme. We were able to air a digitally enhanced soundtrack but NASA - despite having a month's notice - kept saying they could not trace the original tape of this part of the mission. Just before the programme aired they claimed to find it but said they could not now get it to the UK in time! In the meantime Locker had used his own contacts to get a US satellite enthusiast who had heard (but not recorded) the conversation. He went to NASA, accessed the library of master tapes from shuttle missions. That of STS 82 had a 19 minute gap of missing tape at the appropriate tune!

On the day of the live show NASA had 'fed' one of the sceptics on the panel the answer to this case so he could release it on air. This was that they had traced the light to a warning light on a console that went off unexpectedly. Nobody had recognised it. As to why the NASA tape does not record this eventual recognition we do not know.

Also how the light mystified the crew in the airlock and on the flightdeck and fooled them into believing it was flying past the front of the shuttle.

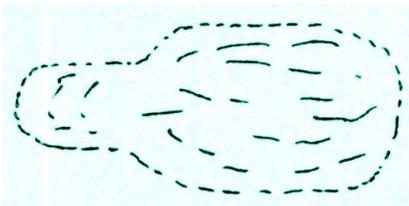
Viewers of 'Strange But True?' may also recall that the live satellite video link with NASA astronaut Ed Mitchell, who wanted to express his positive views on UFOs, was dogged by poor reception to such an extent that it had to be cut short. You may be interested to know that Locker, who was not in London (as I was) watching this happen live, was instead back home viewing the feed via the Intelsat K satellite from which it was initially relayed from the USA. The 'interference' that bugged millions of viewers was not present. A perfect picture and sound was originating *from* the USA - but somehow this was not reaching the LWT studios in such good condition.

Precisely what happened during this latest shuttle mission may well never be revealed. It is possible that it was all just a misperception of a mundane light as NASA came to contend, but you do have to wonder at the apparent lengths they went to and that seem to suggest that - certainly at first - they were more concerned.

Can you solve this one?

Mark Fraser, editor of the magazine Haunted Scotland, has asked me to ask you whether you can solve this one. He was the witness.

It was the late 1970 's (a summer evening) and he was travelling on the top deck of a bus in Hall Road. Hull on Humberside. Suddenly he saw a bright light in the sky. It was more 'pear shaped' and very big. The colour was 'pale red and orange' and the object seemed to travel very slowly - almost 'ambling along'.



He is adamant that it had a solid structure and was not a cloud. But he says that it more resembled some son of floating life form rather than a structured craft. Indeed he has nicknamed it 'the sky slug'.

Although he did not keep the cutting he knows that police reported that others called in to report the same object and the Hull Daily Mail recorded this. In 1993 a co-worker at Hull Maternity Hospital told him that he had been one of the witnesses when he was on a bus at Noddle Hill Way. He described how the object appeared able to change shape but that it accelerated away at tremendous speed and was gone from view within seconds.

Do you have any ideas or similar cases? If so then let us know.

To me the drawing best resembles the various sightings of what witnesses often termed a 'mania ray'. There were a lot of these seen in the period 1977 - 1979 and they featured often in NUN at the time. My book 'The Pennine UFO Mystery' has several reports on these incidents - including significant cases at Whaley Bridge in Derbyshire and Sproston Green in Cheshire. One sighting was seen on a course from Sussex heading north to the Pennines and we did recognise a link between these objects and both power stations and oil refineries. There were typical cases at Carrington (beside the Shell Oil complex) and Pitsea in Essex near the big refinery.

We never found out what these things were.

Bigfoot in Scotland

Mark Fraser also reports a strange set of sightings from the summer of 1994 in Torphins, Aberdeenshire, Scotland He wonders if you know of any UFO reports that might tie in?

The closest encounters were in July when two witnesses were walking down a forest track through these woods 20 miles from Aberdeen. They saw a bigfoot like figure run across the track in front of them. The 'non human' face was seen peering through trees soon after but fled as one witness threw a rock at it!

A second encounter occurred a few weeks later some two miles away. This time a 'great muscular, hairy figure' bounded from the trees and chased the car at 40 mph - catching it without getting out of breath. Describes as being covered in jet black hair, some 6 feet 6 inches tall and with red glowing eyes the creature appeared to be 'curious' rather than aggressive. In the end the bigfoot stopped and let the car proceed

Mark reports a further witness - a woman living in an isolated cottage on the edge of the woods - who says that that same summer the creature has watched her home twice. She also noticed the red glowing eyes in particular. Apparently this area is beset by a local legend as a 'haunted' spot. Reports of phantom horses hooves have been reported here and are linked with a man who reputedly chopped his horse to bits in a frenzied attack and then killed himself.

You silly Ufologist

Ufologists making asses of themselves is nothing new. But in May 1998 the disease spread to international footballer Paul Gascoigne who announced his passion for flying saucers to a delighted newspaper. The England team were already suffering ridicule in the build up to the World Cup after coach Glen Hoddle entered into a legal battle with Uri Geller. Geller had previously been associated with aiding his local team Reading, but his efforts to build success (with apologies to fan Paul Fuller) did not work and the team went down to Division 2!

As for Gascoigne, he is reportedly so keen to see a UFO that he has bought a telescope. Just a spot of advice, Paul, you stand a far better chance of seeing a UFO if you watch the full sky. A telescope magnifies a tiny patch and so greatly reduces your prospect of a close encounter. Still I guess if he does get lucky he will then have to convince the boss. *Way aye man that unidentified flying object also had this evil man in black standing wee it.* Sorry Gazza -that was just the referee with the ball.

Mind you this still has some way to go to beat Maxwell Cade. Starring on the hilarious 'Crystal Balls' - a BBC documentary that looked at some ludicrous predictions about how we would be living today as put on film by pundits in the past. Once a big name in the British UFO community (luckily no group was embarrassed by being connected with him on screen) good old Max excelled in explaining how to contact ET. Because aliens might not understand language (but would know smells) it's obvious - you show them a map of 'the plough' made out of onions.

Enough to make you weep, isn't it!

DATES TO NOTE

1-2 August 1998: South Wales conference with Nick Redfern, Serena Roney Dougal, Reg Presley and more. Power House Llanederyn Cardiff. £20 day, £30 w/end

3-4 October 1998: UFO 98 conference with Tim Matthews, Eric Morris, Jenny Randles and more. Butlins Grand Hotel Margate Kent. £10 day, £15 w/end (Butlins holiday package deals also available)

Northern UFO Network Groups in Region

SPI	Alloa Scotland
SEMR	Bridge of Allan
SRUFO	East Colder
NUFORA	Newcastle
Connect	Ikley
NLUFOIO	Morecambe
LUFOS	Lancaster
LAPIS	Blackpool
MARA	Liverpool
NARO	Gatley
Dragon Trees	Staffs Moor
PRA	Derby
SUFOG	Rugeley
Federation	Llangernvw Wales
IUFOPRA	Dublin, Ireland