

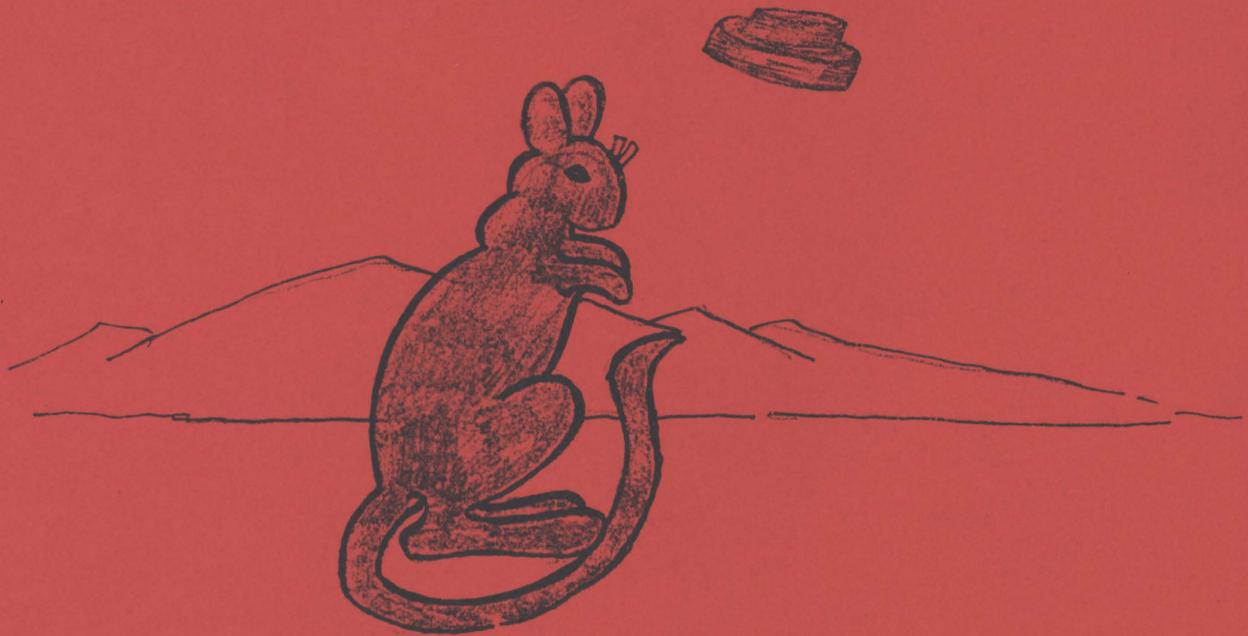
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**PROJECT RED BOOK**

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(Vol 5, # 12, June 2002)



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YORKSHIRE UFO SOCIETY  
224 BELLHOUSE ROAD  
FIRTH PARK  
SHEFFIELD  
SOUTH YORKSHIRE  
S5 6HT

Tel (0114) 2497270

e-mail: [davbak@blueyonder.co.uk](mailto:davbak@blueyonder.co.uk)

website [www.yufos.org.uk](http://www.yufos.org.uk)

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Editor, Chairman & He-Who-Speaketh-The-Most Dave Baker

Web-master, Group-secretary and Chauffeur to the Editor, Chairman & He-Who-Speaketh-The-Most Richard Moss

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"Around the survivors, a perimeter make"

# THE JOHN KEEL INTERVIEW (part 2)

Andy Roberts

(Originally published in *UFO BRIGANTIA*, Winter 1992)

*(Editor's note -My favourite UFO/paranormal book of all time is John Keel's The Mothman Prophecies. Whether read as the absolute truth, a tongue-in-cheek piece of faction, a good scary horror story, or a mix of the above, it remains a benchmark of the genre for both breathless Believers and Sniggering Sceptics alike. It had always been my wish to interview Keel, but for numerous reasons, not least of which Keel's age and health, and the mass media assault on him surrounding the release of the Hollywood blockbuster version of TMP, it seemed that the interview was not to be. However, David Clarke & Andy Roberts came to the rescue to provide the next best thing: the opportunity to re-publish a 10 year old interview with Keel from their classic publication UFO Brigantia. I think you will find that much of what Keel has to say in 1992 is relevant even in 2002.)*

Ever since I was about 11 years old and read Keel's first book, *Jadoo*, I was obsessed by him. Others felt like that too, apparently, as I later came to find out. He's one of the few people to have revolutionised how we think about ufology and strange phenomena generally and I'd long wanted him to speak at a UK UFO conference. It took three years to get him here but as many of you know Keel spoke at the annual IUN conference in August this year. Although debilitated by jet-lag, the effects of diabetics and the unwanted attentions of Men In Black from BUFORA Keel still managed to give a stirring speech to the troops which left many people leaving the hall shaking their heads and muttering "That's wiped the floor with Bill Moore's explanation of Roswell." This was the first time he had publicly spoken in the UK and he may not come this way again. If you missed it it just serves you right. I spoke to Keel at length over the three days he spent in Sheffield and learned many things, some of which I agreed with, some of which I didn't. But what struck me overall was Keel's grasp of ufology, the perspective he has and his sense of humour. When the conference was over I managed to get a 'formal' interview with him. Here it is....

AR: Do you think that this phenomenon, the one behind the lights, helping psychic surgeons and so on, do you think it is conscious or merely reactive?

JK: When I was investigating UFOs I realised that somebody was playing games with us in fact there's a chapter in *Operation Trojan Horse* about the cosmic jokers, a phrase which caught on by the way and people all over the world are using that phrase, 'cosmic joker' now. You get involved in a situation which seems very real at the time and then as it progresses, if you're smart enough, you realise it's really a joke and somebody's playing a joke on you and it has no meaning at all. Now some people are too dumb to realise that and then it just keeps growing and developing because this phenomena sort of feeds on it.

AR: Can you give us an example of how that manifested itself to you?

JK: Yeah, 'They' had me running around New York looking for a mysterious gold cross (AR:

*shades of psychic questing!*) and if I could find this gold cross I would save the world! And for a while I was playing these games.

A very well known American ufologist Ted Bloecher, well Ted spent 30 years of his life, he's in the theatre, he's a song and dance man but he spent 30 years of his life spending all his spare time researching UFOs and he would be with a dance troupe in a small town he'd go to the newspaper and go through their files and get all their UFO reports.

Well he finally got involved in some contactee stories in New York state where there were landings and UFOs supposedly contacting people and so on and he got deeper and deeper into these and then it finally occurred to him that 'somebody' was playing with him, that it wasn't real, that it was a joke that they were playing on him and that whatever his interpretation was the phenomenon would then mould itself to it. So he quit ufology and he's made statements to people that he's very sorry he spent 30 years on it, he regrets now that he

wasted 30 years when he could have been out chasing women or whatever.

AR: Do you think there was any connection between the collapse of the Silver Bridge in *The Mothman Prophecies* and what was going on?

JK: Well, some of the people who died on the bridge were people who had seen the mothman and it was all very strange, there were millions of coincidences and strange, interrelated events, for example there was a family in West Virginia with the rather unusual name of Walmsley. Now the Walmsley family was an integral part of the mothman mystery because several people in this family had seen the mothman and as you know in small towns in America one family will have three hundred different units in the area, cousins and grandparents and so on. Well in Budd Hopkins' first book he talks about the first UFO sighting in New Jersey that he got interested in and it's the Walmsley family in New Jersey! And a couple of the Walmsley people in West Virginia went down with the bridge. There does seem to be a lot of things interacting with us on this planet that we don't...

AR: Why that particular area, why West Virginia for so many strange occurrences?

JK: We're not smart enough to figure it out! Some of these things of course have no meaning at all and some of them, there may be real meaning like those two men who materialized on a street to a woman, dressed in clothing that was way out of fashion, clothes from the 1940s and these men seemed very odd and sinister to her – they may have been on a special mission of some sort. Their mission was to go to a store and buy all the Keel books and take 'em to the next dimension!

AR: In several of your books you mention that you've been contacted by witches and magicians who've had similar experiences to you. Do you think that's perhaps because witches and magicians can manipulate, 'call up' if you like, these energies by the power of emotion?

JK: They have studied the same thing but they haven't studied it from a ufological point of view. They've studied it from a religious point

of view and incidentally in Point Pleasant where the mothman was appearing, after all the publicity that mothman received, the town was inundated with witchcraft cults and things and the power plant where the mothman was first seen, the walls inside the power plant are now covered with graffiti from witches and magicians, pentacles and that kind of thing.

AR: Do you think that as a result of an interaction with an invisible environment that humans are actually meant to understand the universe and it's mysteries or are we fighting a losing battle, doomed to play, as you say in one of your books "It's the only game in town".

JK: I think the human race is going very slowly, step by step, towards some goal that we don't understand and I think you can see in the last forty years how we have evolved with our New Age movements and things. Now this doesn't mean the whole human race, it means a fragment of the human race has gotten an understanding they didn't have before and it really started in 1848 with the Fox sisters and spiritualism. That was the first real New Age movement. A lot of other things happened in 1848 but it was like that one was the beginning and whatever the phenomenon is it's outside of us so each generation is carried a step further but our generation is carried a step further but our generation doesn't matter.

As you know many of our ufologists are now dead and they died without knowing anything about all of this. Some of them carried it a little step forward. It may take another hundred years before we know what this ultimate goal is.

AR: Have you any ideas what this 'ultimate goal' may be?

JK: Well, a very smart fellow, an Englishman by the way, named Arthur C. Clarke, wrote a book called *Childhood's End*, which is about this very thing, about the evolution of the human race until the logical end of evolution is a spiritual state and no longer a physical state and that's in his book. I have come to think that that's true too, that our physical bodies are very limited and very fragile and not worth very much, but our spiritual existence, whatever it is – we don't understand it, is the key and if there's such a thing as evolution and reincarnation and so on, it's the endurance of

this fragment of energy that we each carry around with us.

AR: Do you think its connected to the Earth in any way? In your talk last night the first slide you showed was of the Earth from space and that's the first time I've ever heard a spontaneous round of applause during the lecture at a UK UFO conference.

JK: Yeah, I think it's the Earth. The American Indians you know believed that they were part of the Earth, that the Earth owned them, that they didn't own the Earth and I think that's probably true. I think the Indians and a lot of these so-called primitive people had a great understanding of all this and it was unfortunately lost when the white man came over. Look what happened to the Indians in South America, we destroyed their written records in the name of religion. On Easter Island they had written records and the first thing that the Spanish priests did when they arrived there was destroy the written records as being the 'work of the devil'.

AR: A long time ago, I don't know if you can remember it, you once said in the pages of *Fortean Times* that "we are the source of the phenomeon". Have you anything to say on that, for instance about contactees, are we contacting ourselves?

JK: It's like do you hear the sound of a tree falling in a forest? If we weren't here would there be UFOs here? I think the UFOs are definitely connected directly to us and we're only seeing what they want us to see, what we think we're seeing.

AR: Who are 'they' then?

JK: It's a force. I tried to define it in very simple terms in my book *The Cosmic Question*. I also went into the problem of mystical illumination, which has always fascinated me because it happened to me when I was eighteen. When I was living in New York as an eighteen year old I was living in a furnished room and I woke up one night and the whole room was bathed in this very peculiar light. I thought the building was on fire! Then I started having, you can't call them hallucinations, a flood of material was coming into my mind and suddenly I understood

*everything*. I swear, I understood the meaning of everything, how the world was created, how it was going to end. I knew it all! And I said "This is terrific, boy, I'll write this all down tomorrow when I wake up!" and the next day of course when I woke up I couldn't remember anything! I remember the experience and I remember the room being bathed in this light but I couldn't remember any of this material, it must have entered into my unconscious mind.

And for thirty years I thought I was the only person in the world that had had this experience, I never mentioned it to anybody and then I started reading some of this stuff about cosmic illumination and then I started meeting other people who'd had the same experience and I realised that many people in each generation have this experience and many of them don't necessarily do anything with it and others it changes their whole life.

AR: In what way?

JK: They become teachers, scientists, politicians. I think John F. Kennedy had probably had that experience and I think also that if someone like JFK has the experience it dooms them - he got into his position of president too soon. He would have changed the world. If he had lived there would have been no Vietnam, there would have been a major space programme, which was his plan, and we would be on Mars now.

AR: Do you think this is why contactees often "self destruct", because they have 'the secret' and want to do something with it, they try to do it too fast and they bum out?

JK: No, contactees only get part of the experience. For contactees it's like false illumination. They only get part of it, and they get crazy, they misinterpret it. There are a lot of people in religion who have this experience and put it to good use. There are a lot of priests and nuns and holy people who've...that's why they get into religion, they have this experience and they've spent their lives helping other people.

Mystical illumination is a very important key to this and there are books on it, books written by people who've had the experience, books by people who've studied the experience.

A Dr. Bucke wrote the first book on it and in the early 1900's, and after he wrote the book he slipped on the ice, hit his head and killed himself. There are many people who have the experience and don't necessarily remember seeing a light or seeing anything, it just happens to them and they change overnight and they don't know why.

AR: What do you think about the current fascination in the USA for the extraterrestrial hypothesis?

JK: Well, it's been a propoganda campaign, it's been a very small group of people propogandising this, proselytising a new religion and the new religion is this notion that there are extraterrestrials out there. Now science on the other hand has backed away from the whole extraterrestrial thing.

In the 60s, many scientists thought that there was a very good chance that there were extraterrestrials. Carl Sagan for example founded exobiology and now these scientists, including Arthur C. Clarke by the way, who has made a number of statements in the past few years saying that he no longer believes there is any chance for extraterrestrials to exist.

The ET premise has been promoted by the movies and by the UFO buffs and the average person in the street now sort of accepts it, because they haven't given much thought to it and they've seen the movies or they've heard UFO buffs on the radio or TV and they say, "Well that makes sense, we're being visited by extraterrestrials" – they just simply accept it.

AR: Do you think the US government has the faintest idea about UFOs or is the only cover-up one of ignorance?

JK: I think they're pretty dumb on this. I've spent a lot of time trying to find files that would really have significant material and I've known a lot of people in the government and in the military and there are a lot of people who are interested in the subject but theres never been a unified effort to study it or discover anything, and how do you study it without actually making contact with the UFOs? So the UFO buffs have kind of dreamed up a whole fantasy world where they think the government has made deals with the UFOs. That's just the UFO buff's way out, or protecting himself, otherwise, if he didn't think that then he would be in a very vulnerable position as a UFO buff,

so he says that the reason that we don't know anything about UFOs because the government is keeping it quiet. And the alternative to that is the reason we don't know anything about UFOs is that they don't exist.

AR: In *Operation Trojan Horse* you issue a warning to people wishing to become ufologists, basically warning them off the whole idea. What brought this on and do you still advocate that caveat?

JK: Yeah, in a lot of my speeches I usually end up with a statement like that. I usually point out that individuals and civilian organisations don't have the expertise or the money to do anything and that it's a waste of time to try to investigate these things. The best they can do is go and sit on a hill and watch the lights in the sky, and say "Hey, there goes one!"

In order to really investigate this you might need twenty million dollars, to build the right instruments. This is a big project and I don't think even the government has ever undertaken that. I don't think any government has ever undertaken that. The governments around the world all assumed the American government was gonna do it.

You may remember in the 1970s Idi Amin – remember good old Idi Amin? Well in Uganda they were seeing UFOs all the time and Idi Amin had his ambassador to the UN stand up in the UN and say "Hey, do something about this!", and it was a famous speech at the UN, and of course the UN officials said "What are we going to use for money?" and "Where are we going to find the experts?"

When you think about it there isn't a single real expert on UFOs in the world because nobody has that kind of experience to be an expert. You can be an expert on submarines, because it's tangible, you can study the structure of submarines and you can ride in a submarine and all that but nobody can really do that with a UFO. So if a UFO landed in Trafalgar Square, who would the British Government call in to study it? It would be a big problem. As I said they would probably have to call in first of all aeronautical designers – you wouldn't call in physicists and astronomers, and if there were beings on board you would call in your very best medical people, forensic pathologists, biologists. The last person you would call in is a ufologist, 'cos he'd be useless, he'd stand there and stare and say "My God, it's real!"

AR: Are they real then?

JK: I'm talking about the lights and things. People do see something because I've seen them myself but I don't think they are machines.

AR: one final question John, which I'm sure an awful lot of British ufologists have been wanting to ask you for a long time. Just why didn't the moon come up on the night of April 3<sup>rd</sup> 1967? (Note to baffled readers – consult your *Mothman Prophecies*)

JK: (laughs) Yeah, I got the information on the moon rise from the local newspaper. I put that in almost as a joke, because it was a humorous

incident. I'd seen the moon the night before and then that night there was no moon- and also one night I saw the moon come up and I thought it was a flying saucer. A lot of people have done just that I'm sure.

Note by Andy Roberts: *The basic fact is that despite numerous conversations with the old fossil no-one from the IUN could work out what Keel really believes. What's more, he told different people different things, probably according to what he thought they wanted to hear...*

EDITORS NOTE: Many thanks to Andy Roberts & Dave Clarke for permission to re-produce this work.

## BOOK REVIEW

By NIKKI WRIGHT (YUFOS)

**TITLE:** Skunk Works  
**AUTHOR:** Ben R. Rich & Leo Janos  
**PUBLISHER:** Warner Books  
**ISBN 0-7515-1503-5**  
**PRICE:** £7.99 (amazon.co.uk £6.39 + P&P)

No, I'm sorry this book is nothing to do with drugs, but, it will equally open your mind to a lot of what's going on around us.

Alright, it is slightly off the beaten track of ufology, but it is a gem of a read. It has a wealth of knowledge packed in here to make you stop and think about what's really up there from our own world and the lengths governments go to to hide these facts (mainly at our expense).

This is the biography of a gentleman, a genius with a great sense of humour and ambition. Ben R. Rich was one of the world's greatest achievers. The book is a behind the scenes look into Lockheed's Advanced Development Projects "Skunk Works" ( the explanation for this strange name is in the book), covering the Cold War days to Operation Desert Storm and beyond.

Lockheed's C.V. includes the F-104 Starfighter (supersonic jet attack plane); U-2 Spy plane; SR-71 Blackbird (world's first 3x the speed of sound surveillance plane); the absolutely orgasmic F-117A stealth tactical fighter (which happens to be the backbone of the book); and not forgetting all the Skunk Works projects that were and still are unpublicised.

When confronted with the original blueprints of the "Hopeless Diamond" (F-117A), some of Lockheed's finest minds told Rich that they thought it would be easier to make a flying saucer fly, "But how?" said Rich "The Martians wouldn't tell us." (curious)

You get to find out how these "black projects" are funded. There's first hand accounts, from the Secretary of the Air Force to the test pilots and actual pilots that flew the secret missions in Operation Desert Storm, every step of the way through the life of the F-117A.

This book couldn't have been any better if it had been fiction. The characters are just unsurpassed. Take Mr. Clarence "Kelly" Johnson, this man did not suffer fools lightly, he pi\*\*ed more Pentagon and Air Force officials off than most of us could dream of. (Well, a pillock's a pillock what ever they dress up as!)

Even though this book covers some very serious topics, it's absolutely hilarious in parts, it will leave an everlasting impression on you one way or another, I promise!

Our world has some fantastic minds, yet we hear of but a tiny few. Well, here's one of them and you'd be a fool to overlook him.

"...for years we functioned as the CIA's unofficial 'toy-makers'..."

# THE VIEW FROM BRITAIN

## THE JENNY RANGLES COLUMN

(Originally published in *The MUFON JOURNAL*, May 2001)

(Editor's note :Please bear in mind the original date of publication. YUFOS extends its thanks to Jenny & to Dwight Connely, editor of *The MUFON Journal*, for permission to reproduce this work.)

My last column seems to have generated some reaction. On the one hand I had several people contacted me to agree with the idea that we should consider a new type of conference that sets out to ask and answer specific questions. I only hope that it proves possible to translate this enthusiasm into action.

However, the other response to my piece picked up on the attitude of British skeptics that I was describing in relation to car stop cases. How could they be so dismissive on the basis of one (undisclosed) incident I was asked? And did I support this nonsense, because my own stance as regards to UFOs was not made clear.

Some thought I was by inference supporting the denial of this UFO evidence.

### THE WEAKEST LINK

One thing about British skeptics that an American audience may not appreciate is their fondness for irony. Often what they say is meant as subtle humour - 50% honesty and 50% sarcasm. So what might appear on the surface as a cutting remark is in fact quite frequently more like a self-deprecating quip.

On 16 April (2001) American TV audiences saw this in full flow with the first appearance of the TV quiz *The Weakest Link*. Presented by the UK host (who has fronted this show for two years here) they saw a 56-year-old woman - Anne Robinson - being bitingly offensive to the losing contestants. The media reaction was (unsurprisingly to me) - who is this nasty woman and who does she think she is?

I had warned on the net a few weeks before, when it was known that 'Annie' was heading across the Atlantic, that the US audience would first have to get the mood - because, of course, she isn't 'really' being rude to these people. The show works well in the UK (where contestants rarely can win more than a couple of thousand dollars - since it is set up here less

as a quiz show and more as entertainment). It works because this ethos is understood by those who tune in. The audience and the contestants are in on the joke. Indeed most contestants in the UK said they would be on the show even if there were no prizes rather than the token sums on offer to the winner here.

I am not sure this will translate across cultures, because the British love of irony is very subtle and an acquired taste. But it is exactly what fuels British UFO skeptics.

They are treating UFO cases like contestants on this show, judging them endearingly and when finding them wanting issuing statements that are knowingly abrupt. In the UK we 'get' this, so we don't feel the offence as acutely than if you take the barbs at face value. We smile inwardly at the irony found within a comment - knowing that says as much about the mentality of the speaker as it does about the thing over which they comment. And whilst we accept that it is merely an opinion framed in a black jocular manner, we also know that behind the smiles (and the smirks) can be an apt remark that says something that is insightful.

### BELIEVING AND SEEING

This diversion into a quiz show was necessary to set up my main point. How we perceive the UFO phenomenon often says more about ourselves than it does about the data. For in truth we live in a world where nobody knows what is really going on here. And in fact UFO investigators are often the least qualified to judge - be they believers or skeptics - because they are merely bringing their own thoughts, aspirations and expectations to bear on a set of information of which they have no direct knowledge.

Anyone who was not present at a UFO sighting is making a value judgement about it. Nobody is more accurate or honest than anybody else. All simply ascribe a personal opinion that is

likely to say most about their own way of approaching the universe and life in general.

And witnesses - whilst to some extent better qualified by virtue of having 'seen' rather than simply 'believing' what others tell them that they have seen - are themselves subject to the same factors. They are human beings who must judge their experience in terms of their own philosophy and will be every bit as likely to deny or to accept and to confabulate or conveniently forget whatever fits (or fails to fit) their own preconditioned assumptions about strange phenomena.

Nobody in the game show that is UFOlogy is the weakest link. It is just the way human beings are. We are dynamic organisms of mind, body and spirit each following our own path towards understanding.

## THE WAYS OF THE UFOLOGIST

There are four paths to UFO investigation that I have identified.

### (a) The way of the skeptic

With some this path is through reason and reduction. To them UFOlogy is best perceived as a series of logic puzzles to be solved. All cases will have answers. We simply have to find them. Very often skeptics follow this code because it is how they view life - and UFOs are merely a part of life to be judged in the same way.

### (b) The way of the scientist

Others regard life as a quest for answers - whatever they may be and wherever they may lead. They are able to accept that not all things are soluble. Some cases may never be so within our life time. So UFOlogy becomes a quest that may lead to pre-existent knowledge or may lead us into the discovery of new knowledge.

### (c) The way of the witness

Witnesses, very often, are pushed a little further by virtue of the experience that they have had. They can skip the reductionist path and whilst they may give credit to the search for answers, deep down they will often feel - well I know this thing happened to me. I cannot honestly deny it. I respect the views of others who were not here. But I know what I saw and I know what the most likely

explanation is. Very often (and understandably) this explanation is for them that UFOs are real, probably a form of craft, apparently of advanced design and powered by an intelligence and therefore, by reasonable inference - not of this earth.

### (d) The way of the mystic

There is even a fourth path that is actually stronger in the UK than I suspect it is in the US. This accepts the veracity of the experience, rejects as a total explanation the path of reduction and reason (although accepting its applicability to some cases) but then confronts the evidence as part of a broader context.

Rather than say - yes UFOs are real - where do they come from? This approach is fascinated by the human dimension. It sees a close encounter as an experience that happens 'to' a witness rather than an event that is observed 'by' them. It seeks links with what we might call psychic phenomena - notices patterns that see close encounters (for example) mirroring the NDE (near death experience) as well as clues that point towards UFO events sometimes occurring during altered states of consciousness.

The quest for answers then becomes a personal crusade for spiritual enlightenment of which the UFO phenomenon is simply a part.

## HOW I INVESTIGATE

I suspect that all of you reading this will be able to place yourself into one of these approaches to the UFO mystery. None of them are right. None are wrong. All are viable ways of interpreting the data and, like I say, they are what they are because we as human beings are what we are.

We need to show more tolerance for alternative viewpoints and accept that all methods have things to say and that the ultimate truth could be a synthesis of parts of each.

But I guess it would not be fair to avoid placing myself into this framework and explaining where I stand. Although it has been advantageous to think this matter through, because I have been able to apply elements of all four 'ways' to my UFO investigation work.

And I think that has benefited me.

The way of the skeptic serves its purpose well during the early stages of any case investigation. I find that it genuinely helps to go into a case expecting to find a simple answer. About 95% of the time this expectation is vindicated. And focusing on the maxim - this case probably can be solved - aids in your necessary task of checking and double checking every option.

You really can gain from studying the methods of the skeptic because in the real world explaining away a case is often what we as UFO investigators have to do.

However, I find that the trick is knowing when to say that enough is enough. With hard line skeptics this methodology is flogged to death and no case is left unstoned. They are so sure that the 95% can become 100% IFOs that no point will ever be reached where the balance of evidence seems to favour something other than a mundane answer.

Not so for me. When you have battered at a case hard enough in search of an answer and no credible answer has emerged it is time, in my view, to stop that approach and move on. For one of the three other ways to do UFOlogy will likely prove to be more effective.

Although - as a caveat - I would always remind that later (maybe many years later) a clue will emerge that will return you to the sceptical approach with a particular case. No case ever should be considered immune from possible explanation, however unlikely that may seem. But - having moved on from the initial phase of rigorous skepticism - I often find that the way of the scientist is the next best step. In this method you accept that an unsolved case appears to offer evidence of something interesting but you do not actually presuppose what that something is.

I find that in this second phase of case study you can concentrate on two things - collating evidence broadly and looking for patterns and comparisons with other cases. You should never accept a case as 'over' because you have 'solved' it as a UFO. Terming a case a UFO is not a statement of success. For a UFO is still 'unidentified' and we must try to go beyond that if we possibly can.

Collecting evidence as a scientist would in this next phase more broadly involves thinking beyond the norm - asking potentially relevant questions - such as were there any odd atmospheric events that night? Did

astronomers record any coincident anomalies? What if I surveyed the traffic police - would they have cameras on the highway that might have recorded this area of sky?

The variations are endless. The questions to ask differ from case to case. You simply have to be aware of the need to move onward with the possibility that a strange phenomenon truly has been reported and then seek scientific evidence that might further your search for answers.

As for seeking out comparative cases. I often find this the best part of the scientific methodology - because by that approach I quite often dig up old cases from my own work or the work of others that seem very like the one under present scrutiny. It is by no means uncommon for these old cases to point towards new questions to ask - or new lines of enquiry to follow. The old case might even have been solved and thus kick you back into 'skeptical mode' looking anew at the possibility of an explanation that you had previously overlooked.

Either way too few UFO investigators pay attention to previous cases and yet this is a rich treasure trove of resource material built up by UFOlogy.

We owe it to those who came before us to not behave as if the world started anew when we became a UFOlogist. If you want those who follow to care about the evidence over which you are now sweating blood and tears then you should apply the same maxim to those who preceded you.

The third approach to UFOlogy - the way of the witness - is not one that I follow quite so much. It is, of course, the hardest to apply because you cannot just become a witness simply when you would like to be.

However, it has its part to play even for the most hard-bitten researcher. It is essential - for example - to familiarise yourself with what is visible in the sky. There are lots of things that people never see because they rarely look upwards at night. Practicising this - perhaps at the site where your current case has happened - is an excellent method to adopt from time to time. Not so much in hope or expectation of seeing the UFO coming back but because sooner or later you will see something interesting by doing this.

It might be a fireball meteor or an unusual aircraft or a space junk re-entry or a stellar mirage. I have seen three of these things simply by following this advice (as yet I haven't seen a space junk burn up!)

The big advantage of such an approach is that it places you in the frame of the witness. You now have seen something that others have not. They may well confront your story in the same way as you will confront a UFO witness. It is very important to get this personal insight of the other side of the fence since it brings empathy and understanding to those you must work with and it instills an awareness of the power of actually seeing rather than merely believing.

Moreover, on more than one occasion following the way of the witness has helped to solve a case. Because by being there in the same environment the 'UFO' just might return and when in past cases it has the investigator has been able to figure out what it was that the witness must have seen.

And, of course, in today's technological age it is possible to follow this route towards investigation in a wholly new way. Say your witness has seen a UFO over an adjacent mountain. You don't know what it is. You can go and stand on the mountain and look skyward and hope. But equally you can more easily locate a camcorder pointing out of the witness's house towards the mountain and film every night for say two weeks reviewing the footage of the sky here at your leisure. Maybe nothing will show up. But maybe it will. By following the way of the witness you have hope of making progress.

There are always going to be possibilities to combine the way of the witness with - as here - the way of the scientist. And sometimes that can be the key to a case. Finally, there is the way of the mystic. This is certainly the most controversial of my four suggested approaches.

Obviously it will come more easily to those who have a spiritual outlook on life and I, personally, often find myself pulled towards it by the consequences of the most strange cases with which I get involved.

I am not advocating holding a seance to try to commune with the aliens -although I know some people would even say this works for them! Rather when the ways of the skeptic, scientist and witness have all failed to progress

a case (as they sometimes do) then it is worth considering the possibilities beyond.

A simple step to take in this regard is to probe into the background of the witness. Have they ever had what we might call psychic experiences? I am no longer surprised how often this proves true. The vast majority of close encounter witnesses in my experience have had a track record of out of body experiences, precognitions, poltergeist outbreaks and so on.

Because I have found this pattern so often adopting the way of the mystic has proven to be a valid approach. Learning about the spiritual dimensions of a case does supply new data that you will not get by any other means. And who knows what importance it might have?

Similarly, it is in this way that I often find close encounter witnesses describing to me 'the Oz Factor'. This is just my term for a set of symptoms reported by witnesses during close encounter cases and that seems to infer that they are in an altered state of consciousness. They report how time stands still, how they lose touch with reality (all ambient sounds vanish, traffic disappears, etc) and how they also seem to enter a peculiar state of reverie.

Most often witnesses do not mention this oddity lest they you consider them 'weird' should they do so. You have to find a way to let them tell you these things without leading them to do so - to feel at ease enough to share out of the ordinary things that might have happened.

I find the Oz Factor often because I am alert to its existence. I am not surprised that many other investigators hardly ever come across it. But I doubt that is because it is not there in many cases.

By virtue of adopting the way of the mystic I think that I have uncovered aspects to close encounter cases that would otherwise remain hidden. So I believe I am closer to the quest for truth as a consequence.

So what do I believe?

Many people tell me that I 'sit on the fence' when it comes to giving answers about UFOs - because I will not come out and say - I think UFOs are this, or that, or something else and now I intend to prove it.

But I honestly don't see it that way. To me it is a case of investigation and enquiry - following all four of the approaches that I here set out. And each case leading to its own conclusion in the fullness of time. Some cases take us further towards answers than others. Some remain perplexing mysteries.

Yes, it is true that I don't know all (or most!) of the answers to the UFO mystery (although I do think there is more than one answer because there are multiple UFO phenomena involved in this field).

But I do think that by following the four approaches that I have isolated a number of things can be said about the UFO mystery. So here are some of my personal conclusions.

1: The vast majority of UFO sightings can be explained in mundane terms. In my view about 95% of them will become IFOs following adequate investigation. Most IFOs are fairly simple things. Others can be complex and fascinating scenarios where a fluke set of circumstances has created a big case.

Some IFO cases are as instructive as the best unsolved cases and we pay too little attention to them. For me we should regard IFO cases as successes to be learned from and not failures to be discarded. Every UFO magazine ought to regularly feature solved cases and debate their implications. Few ever do. This was the reason why Dr David Clarke, Andy Roberts and myself wrote a book called *The UFOs that Never Were* last year. Not to deny that there is any UFO reality but to champion the value of the IFO.

2: About 5% of reported cases in my view are - and will probably remain - genuine UFOs - in the sense that they cannot be readily explained as mundane things. No amount of reductionism will change that.

However, of these cases I think many are candidates for resolution by adopting the way of the scientist. That is I believe them to be natural phenomenon on the edges of - or just beyond the fringes of - known science within fields such as atmospheric physics and geophysics. Right now we do not understand them - but one day we will - when our science has advanced far enough.

I call these things UAP (Unidentified Atmospheric Phenomena) because that term presumes less as to their origin. But they are real UFOs. They are things that science is

woefully neglecting. UFOlogists should be celebrating their existence and our work to get science to pursue them because it is one success area of our field. Instead many of us concede the victory to science and regard UAP as boring or distractions from our main purpose. That being to find out what 'real' UFOs are.

3: I am completely certain of the truth behind points 1 and 2. And I think that between them they explain nearly all of UFOlogy. But I am personally persuaded that there is more going on than just these two things.

However, this is what I think right now. It is a reasoned judgement. And I could be wrong. But I do think that behind a few cases something more remarkable is happening. Although I think this 'something' is much rarer than most UFOlogists realise. Maybe only a handful of cases worldwide every year.

Discovering the nature of these few residual cases is where the way of the witness and the way of the mystic come into their own (although I totally support the continued efforts through the ways of the skeptic and the scientist to try to eliminate the need for any solution beyond points 1 and 2 above). However - right now I do believe that there is more to UFOlogy than IFOs and UAP.

4: I do not have any committed views on what else 'beyond' IFOs and UAP might be going on. I think we are not in a position to insist and instead should focus on data collection, a broader search for possibilities and a wide ranging examination of 'all' the options.

Yes, the ETH - the idea that aliens are visiting us - is one of those options. It would not amaze me if it were proven to be true as I am reasonably sure the universe is teeming with life. But I don't think the data comes close to establishing it as true that any of that life is here right now.

I have personally explored far and wide into all sorts of possible ways to interpret this puzzling residual evidence. I have looked at other states of consciousness within which phenomena might occur as 'living visions', other dimensions where the rules of space-time could be different and time travelling entities that are maybe coming from a future earth rather than from a distant planet - to name just three of the areas that I have explored.

I get criticism from colleagues that I 'cannot make up my mind' and keep 'flitting about' like a butterfly from idea to idea - to which I merely answer - quite right too!

I don't know the answer and I am looking at all sorts of possibilities to see how well they fit

with the evidence - before - maybe - one day getting close towards a meaningful resolution.

I don't consider it a weakness to admit that I don't know the truth. I just think that it is an inevitable consequence of the fact that we are all human beings with the limitations of human knowledge struggling to identify what at present may simply be unidentifiable.

## FROM AROUND THE WORLD...AND BEYOND!!!

*UFOs, conspiracies, fortune and paranormal events compiled by Dave Baker*

### STRANGE LIGHTS IN THE SKY BAFFLE BAVARIANS

*(Reuters, April 7, 2002)*

MUNICH, Germany, April 7 - Strange lights in the sky baffled Bavarians late on Saturday as hundreds of panicked callers jammed police telephone lines seeking an explanation for the phenomenon.

Reports of an unsettling late-night natural light show came from all over the southern German state as well as the neighbouring region of Baden-Wuerttemberg.

"It had nothing to do with the weather. But I don't think little green men from Mars have landed in Bavaria. It was something burning out in the atmosphere," a meteorologist said.

"It was like a huge firework," a Reuters TV correspondent in Munich said, describing the display. "You could even see it through half-closed blinds. It lasted around three seconds," she said.

Pilots flying into Munich airport radioed the control tower with reports of unusual lights in the sky.

The German police said NASA scientists initially thought the light was caused by space junk -- floating debris in the Earth's atmosphere -- but later said they were still unsure.

The German army reported no unusual movements on its radar. Scientists said the lights may have the result of a meteor breaking through the Earth's atmosphere.

"There are no signs of impact or damage. We can't say what it was," a police spokesman said.

### UFOS SIGHTED IN BEIJING SKY *(Beijing Times via Shanghai Star April 25, 2002)*

MONDAY between 7:00pm and 9:00pm, many Beijing residents were startled to spot four spiraling and sparkling unidentified flying objects (UFOs) in the evening sky near Asian Games Village, Wa Li and Qing He. Over 10 readers called local media about the strange appearance, Beijing Times reported.

At about 8:00pm, four sparkling UFOs appeared in the southwest sky, but no strange noises accompanied them, according to observations of one reporter.

These unknown UFOs moved across a wide range and were surrounded with a kind of light yellow brightness.

According to a reporter's estimates, they were flying at about 10 kilometres high. For most of the time the objects were visible, they moved in two groups of two.

At about 9:00pm, the UFOs disappeared under gradual cloud cover.

The UFOs attracted many people, with most saying they had never seen such strange things. Though there are piles of reports about unknown flying objects from home and abroad, nothing has yet been proven, according to the deputy director of Beijing Planetarium surnamed Zhang.

There has never been an official conclusion providing a scientific explanation for UFOs, according to Zhang.

Over the last hundred years, there have been more than 10,000 records of UFO sightings, according to Lan Songzhu, engineer of Xinglong Observation Station of Beijing Astronomical Observatory.

About 95 per cent of these sightings have been shown to be phenomena related to astronomy, atmospheric or the globe magnetic field. There is still no proof of the existence of extraterrestrial life, noted Lan.

Lan said there UFOs come in four types. One is the appearance of satellites, dust storms, meteor rains or sparkling clouds. The second kind of UFO can be broken piece of a flying object. The third can be big throngs of locust or butterflies. The last can be planes.

#### AT LEAST A BILLION 'EARTHS'?

(Steve Connor Science Editor *The Independent* 18 Apr 2002)

There could be at least a billion 'Earths' out there, say scientists

The chances of an Earth-like planet circling a distant star are far higher than previously thought, astronomers say.

They have calculated in a study of physical conditions needed for extra-terrestrial life to thrive that more than one billion habitable planets could exist in our own galaxy, each with a sufficiently stable orbit around a nearby sun to support the evolution of life.

A computer study of a solar system similar to ours has found small, rocky planets similar to Earth are likely to survive the gravitational disturbances of larger planets that could potentially throw small planets into deep space.

Astronomers have detected more than 70 "exoplanets" in orbit around other stars but all of them are thought to be hot "giants" too close to their own suns to support life.

Two astronomers from the Open University have estimated the chances of an Earth-like planet existing in the critical habitable region from a star where the temperatures are neither too hot nor too cold. This "Goldilocks zone" is critical to ensure that water exists in liquid

form believed to be one of the prerequisites for life. Barrie Jones and Nick Sleep concentrated on a nearby star, 47 Ursae Majoris, which is known to have two giant planets in orbit and is most similar to our solar system.

Professor Jones said: "Although we do not yet have the capability to detect 'tiddlers' like the Earth, we can establish theoretically which of the exoplanetary systems are most likely to have an 'Earth'.

Professor Jones, who presents the findings today to the National Astronomy Meeting in Bristol, said there was great potential for life in space. "There could be at least a billion 'Earths' in the Milky Way and lots more if we find systems like ours," he said.

#### WORLD RECORD GHOST HUNT IN EUROPE (March 21, 2002)

The *Guinness Book of World Records* has a new entry in it, marking the "most systematic scientific study into haunted locations". It took place at the subterranean vaults in Edinburgh, and the man who constructed the whole thing is adamant that he doesn't even believe in ghosts.

Dr. Richard Wiseman from Hertfordshire University conducted the experiment, which involved 250 people and an array of high tech monitoring equipment, including a magnetometer, thermal imagers, and air temperature and movement sensors. Approximately 125 men and 125 women between the ages of 16 to 80 took turns standing in parts of the 18th Century underground chambers, which are reputedly haunted.

Unfortunately, despite several cool and spooky tales from some of the volunteers, nothing was found that they could back up with data to prove that something had once existed there besides the human volunteer.

Dr. Wiseman considers himself an academic, and despite the apparent lack of documented "success" in his experiment, he is thrilled to have been a part of it. He insists that the entire experience was "fascinating" and that recording people's reactions during the experiment alone was priceless.

**ALIEN LIFE COULD BE OUT THERE**  
(*BBC Cambridgeshire, 30 May, 2002*)

Could aliens exist as free-floating insects?

England's Astronomer Royal says he believes aliens could exist, possibly as balloon-like creatures floating in dense atmospheres.

Professor Sir Martin Rees, a leader in understanding the birth and structure of the Universe, says he remains enthusiastic about the search for alien life.

But, in a speech on Thursday, he said that attempts to find them had suffered, in particular, from "flakey" associations with UFOs.

Professor Rees also said we should stop transmitting messages to outer space and instead, listen for signals from super-intelligent computers in the form of strings of prime numbers or digits.

Speaking on BBC Radio Cambridge he said: "You might find intelligent life so far away that signals take maybe 10 or 20 years [to get here] - so if we detect the life then we can listen for their signals.

"But there's no scope for snappy repartee, as it were, because to send a signal there and back would take decades."

Sir Martin believes life could exist in the form of balloon-like creatures the size of insects which might float freely in space.

His thoughts were made public in a speech to the Royal Society of Medicine (RSM) and the Royal Society for the encouragement of Arts, Manufactures and Commerce (RSA)

Other topics touched on what astronomers would be able to tell us 20 years from now, about life on planets in other solar systems and the long-range future for human life.

He also delved into the possibility of multiple universes, where "what we call the laws of nature would be no more than local Bylaws".

Notwithstanding his comments, Professor Rees describes himself in general as "agnostic" as to whether life exists beyond the Earth's atmosphere.

**NEXT MEETING**

Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> July 2002

7:00pm-10:00pm

The MOSLEY'S ARMS

WEST BAR

SHEFFIELD CITY CENTRE

# OUT OF THE SHADOWS

by Dr David Clarke & Andy Roberts

(available now from from Piatkus Books)

Here's a taster of some of the material to be found in *Out of the Shadows*. For further information and to see the documents themselves go to: [www.flyingsaucery.com](http://www.flyingsaucery.com)

## C.I.A. DOCUMENTS REVEAL PERMANENT BRITISH UFO PROJECT

Two new intelligence documents released under the US Freedom of Information Act reveal how the British MoD set up a permanent standing committee to investigate UFOs after the closure of the 'Flying Saucer Working Party.'

They were released with exemptions to Dr David Clarke and Andy Roberts in June 2001 following a successful appeal under the FOIA. Their contents are revealed in our book 'Out of the Shadows. We wish to thank CIA historian Gerald Haines for assistance in locating these records.

The documents, written by the CIA's Assistant Director of Scientific Intelligence, Dr H. Marshall Chadwell, also set out the "certain potential dangers which are related to these sightings" at the height of Cold War tension. They spell out the "problems of communications confusion...and the serious effects of mass hysteria" that it was feared could be purposely induced by an enemy "at a critical time by faked reports"

This interest in the potential use of UFOs for psychological warfare is underlined by other intelligence reports from this period, including the well known briefing by CIA Director Walter B. Smith from 1952. These concerns re-emerged in the conclusions and recommendations made by the CIA-sponsored Robertson Panel early the following year.

Dr Chadwell was present in June 1951 at the meeting in London of the MoD's Directorate of Scientific Intelligence (DSI) when the Flying Saucer Working Party presented their final report on 'unidentified flying objects.' The report debunked all sightings as misidentifications, hoaxes and illusions and recommended very strongly that no further investigations of 'mysterious aerial

phenomena' be undertaken unless or until solid material evidence was found.

Prime Minister Winston Churchill was briefed on the contents of the report in July 1952 following the 'flap' of radar-visual sightings over Washington D.C. that intensified intelligence interest in UFOs.

In September 1952 further sightings were made by the crews of NATO ships and planes participating in "Exercise Mainbrace" which aimed to simulate a Soviet attack on western Europe. The report which received the most publicity was the sighting of a 'flying saucer' by two RAF officers and three aircrew near Coastal Command Shackleton Squadron HQ at Topcliffe in North Yorkshire. According to Captain Ed Ruppelt, of the USAF's Project Blue Book, it was these sightings which led the Royal Air Force to "officially recognise the UFO."

In the memo "British Activity in the field of 'unidentified flying objects'" Chadwell reveals that the MoD had "a standing committee on flying saucers" set up "about 16 months ago", i.e. after the Working Party had been disbanded. This new committee was now the responsibility of Dr R.V. Jones, who replaced Dr Bertie Blount as Director of Scientific Intelligence in September 1952.

Chadwell notes that the group had concluded "that the observations are not enemy aircraft and that none have been over [Britain?]." Of interest are Chadwell's comments on what he calls "the Yorkshire incident", the sightings made by RAF aircrew during Exercise Mainbrace.

"In some RAF field, there was some sort of demonstration to which high officials of the RAF in London had been invited," he writes. "During the show, a 'perfect flying saucer' was seen by these officials as well as RAF pilots. So many people saw it that many articles appeared in the public press. This is disturbing to Jones because he realizes that the creation of the correction of public opinion is part of his

responsibilities.”

The memo also reveals that Dr R.V. Jones had expressed an interest in seeing the famous movie film of UFOs taken by a US Navy non-commissioned officer at Tremonton, Utah, in the summer of 1952. The film had already been screened to a gathering of intelligence officers at an air force base in Texas.

The British “standing committee” referred to by Chadwell was a branch of the Air Ministry's Deputy Directorate of Intelligence or D.D.I. (Tech). In 1952 the branch operated from the Hotel Metropole on Northumberland Avenue, near Trafalgar Square. The branch had five sections dedicated to the study “of the technical aspects of air and missile weapon systems of the Sino-Soviet bloc and all other foreign countries.”

A senior air intelligence officer, Wing Commander Myles Formby, led the section dedicated to the investigation and analysis of UFO reports. From 1952 to 1960 this branch was based in Room 800 in the Metropole Building.

Formby had played a leading role in the Flying Saucer Working Party and had close links with the USAF's Air Technical Intelligence Center. Following the Mainbrace sightings he was spent three weeks in the USA working on the ‘UFO problem’ with his opposite number at the Pentagon, USAF Colonel William ‘Bill’ O. Farrow.

Interviewed in 2001 Formby told us: “I was the Chairman of the Committee in 1952. It was the job of the Committee to investigate all reports of possible unidentified phenomena and to decide what should be done about them. As far as I was concerned we never really got a concrete report and I was skeptical at the time and remain skeptical. We did get reports from as far away as New Zealand. There were between four and 12 reports, all unsubstantiated. I also suspect that there were a lot that ‘never saw the light of day.’ Although statements were taken from those who had reported sightings I took it ‘with a pinch of salt.’

“The report that we drew up was used as a reference document and I spent about three weeks in America drawing up the report with my counterpart who was a full Colonel in the USAF. I don't think that the report was ever published but it was circulated at the highest level and was used as a ‘yard stick’ for future

action. I would describe it as ‘the X-Files!’”

\*For the full story of the Flying Saucer Working Party and D.D.I. (Tech)'s UFO investigations, see chapters 5 and 6 of ‘Out of the Shadows.’

For further information and to see the documents themselves go to:

[www.flyingsaucery.com](http://www.flyingsaucery.com)

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#### ENGLAND DAYLIGHT UFO PHOTOGRAPHED PLUS FLYING TRIANGLES

(Filer's Files #14-2002, MUFON Skywatch Investigations George A. Filer, April 3, 2002)

TICEHURST, EAST SUSSEX - On February 15, 2002, Mark Herbert saw a distant pulsating red light hovering over Bewl Water Reservoir at 7:00 PM, so he so he stopped to get a better look. It was then that he saw the red light was glowing in the centre of a large black Flying Triangle (FT) that was the size of a ‘Jumbo-Jet.’ Apart from the pulsating red ‘fuzzy’ light in the centre of the craft, there were three white/bluish lights positioned at each corner. Normally you can hear ducks and wild fowl in the area making quite a din, but now there was complete silence. The FT was hovering quite stationary and then began to move across the lake slowly and he could see its reflection in the water. Mr. Herbert says, “It flew point forward at first and then as it gathered speed, it slowly turned (on its axis) until it was flying ‘flat side’ forward as it passed behind me heading east. The central pulsating light began to dim and the bluish/white lights on the corners changed to amber as it increased its speed. Then quite suddenly, moving at incredible speed, it shot off and then stopped about two miles away.” It hovered over Badbury Forest and a microwave tower. The incident took ten minutes.

*Thanks to Omar Fowler of Phenomenon Research Association, Derby.*

# "GULF WAR UFO" SHOT DOWN IN FLAMES? (part 2)

By Dave Baker

## 1) "BRIGADE" OR "DIVISION"?

'B' claimed that his detail was attached to the 7th Armoured Division, but all checks I made described the Desert Rats as being a 'Brigade', not a 'Division'. In the military, this is not a simple mistake to make. As one of the veterans confirmed:

"There was no such thing as the '7th Armoured Division'. I assume your contact meant '7th Armoured Brigade'. If he really said '7th Armoured Division' then he was bullshitting you. No soldier worth his salt would confuse a Brigade with a Division. Certainly not a member of 7 Brigade."

## 2) TIME AND LOCATION

B states that the encounter took place on the night of 10th/11th January 1991, at a stronghold located "...approx. 3.5 miles over the border" (in Kuwait)

A check on the location of the Desert Rats on that date shows something quite different. In the words of 4th Armoured Brigade veteran, Marcus:

"On the 10/11th January, the only troops along the Iraq/Kuwaiti border were probably Coalition Special Forces.

"The 7th Armoured Brigade (as well as the 4th) were out in the Saudi desert training. Nowhere near the border. We started moving forward to an assembly point (KEYES) well after the 10 Jan. Even then we weren't close to the border. None of us got anywhere near the Iraqi border until Early February.

"The US 7th Corps were further forward (when Desert Shield kicked off they were first on the ground. No British Battle Groups were hitting the Kuwaiti border until after G day on the 24th Feb."

## 3) "RECON" / "RECCE" UNITS

B states: "We were a short-range recon group whose job was to go behind enemy lines to access the quality of enemy soldiers and

weaponry and report back. We would set out from one stronghold to the next, a distance of around 10 miles, over a period of 24-48 hours."

First of all, B's terminology is wrong. According to Marcus, the term should be "recce" and not "recon". Marcus goes on to explain:

"I know about close recce ...I spent 4 years doing that job, 2 of which were in Scimitars. "Short range" would mean an infantry Close Recce Platoon. They operate up to about 15 miles from the main Battle Group. They are part of an infantry battalion, they are not some independent asset available to anyone in Division.

"They (Both the 4th and 7th Armoured Divisions-DB) use Scimitar CVR(T)'s (Combat Vehicle Reconnaissance Tracked - almost the same as a Scorpion 'tank') There are 8 vehicles in the platoon with a crew of 3 in each 'wagon'. So where's the other half of the platoon? We're talking a Brigade here-a lot of people, lot of ground to cover. They would have used the whole platoon."

B, however, talks about 12 men in "jeeps" and/or "land rovers".

B also describes the land-rover's mounted MILAN. Marcus refutes this, too...

"MILAN was mounted on top of Warrior IFV's (Infantry Fighting Vehicle) in the Gulf. You don't get MILAN in Recce, there's a separate platoon (Anti-Tanks) to cater to that role. You carry too much kit in Recce without worrying about MILAN kit! (where would you put it all?)

"Special forces had MILAN on the central mount of their pink panthers."

It was always our own belief that B was trying to suggest that his 12-man unit were SAS or other special forces. This could explain his reticence in naming his regiment. Perhaps Special Forces would travel in something smaller than Scimitars...? Could this explain B's jeeps?

DAVID: "Finally, anyone who would want to do what B suggests would need f\*\*\*\*\*g big gas tanks. That was our biggest problem - fuel. Hard to imagine running out of gas in Saudi Arabia but even the lightest military vehicle gets pretty shitty mileage and the distances we're talking about are not tiny. You said there were 12 (men)? What were they riding in, a school bus?"

MARCUS: "B seems to be veering towards Special Forces territory with all the kit he had on the vehicle, and the SAS were based way out West at AL-Jouf. Special Forces are not a Brigade asset they are tasked in war by Division (and higher)."

#### 4) OTHER TERMINOLOGY PROBLEMS

##### "Sand Batteries"

Marcus: "New one on me, I take it he's talking about artillery support, which wouldn't be near 'B's position-you don't group all your units together."

David: "No idea what a sand battery is. Never saw one."

An internet search for "Sand Batteries" on internet search engine Google turned up only references, bizarrely, to the American Civil War.

##### "Camp"

Marcus: "The only camps in the region were back on the Saudi coast (Blackadder camp etc) in 'slipper city' as we called it (infantry always have a distaste for REMF's). Forward units use LUP's (lie up positions), harbour areas, etc."

##### "Laser designator"

Marcus: "I take that to be a laser range finder, which is a hand held device that fires a laser beam at a target to get a precise range from you to the target."

##### "ECM units"

David: "There were a number of ECM units but they were well behind the front line. They are not teeth arms and have no defences. They're basically radio stations blasting out noise."

#### FINAL WORDS

MARCUS: "It sounds to me like maybe this guy was in the forces, maybe he was in the Gulf (there

were an awful lot of squaddies out there: only a small percentage of us were involved in a combat role).

"There have been guys from my old unit that have come out with some incredible crap to others about bayonet hand to hand fighting, etc that was supposed to have happened. All lies! The Army has more than its fair share in Walter Mitty's, believe me.

"None of the guys who served with the 7th (including infantry Close Recce Platoons) have ever mentioned any stories along those lines. I was in an infantry company with the 4th and never heard any briefings about this."

DAVID: "I actually had a lot of contact with the UK forces near the front. I was supporting a prototype computer system and my workmate and I clocked a lot of miles visiting units. We got to know most if not all of them. We had a unique perspective. Whereas most units sat in one place and didn't know what was beyond the horizon, we knew where all the units were, who they were and what they did.

"I never heard any story about any contact with the enemy prior to the air assault or anything involving UFOs."

Marcus added in one message:

"As for any strange sightings myself, I did see a green fire briefly flare up in an African sky in early '95. I could only put this down to an asteroid entering earth's atmosphere. In the best traditions of military scepticism, I told one of the guys what I'd seen and he laughed at me and walked away. Typical."

#### CONCLUSION

There will undoubtedly be those who prefer to think that the veterans I consulted were fully aware of the UFO encounter to which B referred, and were part of the "cover-up" in their efforts to discredit him.

However, all of them are no longer in the services, and so have no axes to grind, or loyalties that I can see. If anything, considering that most are supporters of the Gulf War Syndrome theory, they probably have little love for the upper echelons of the military.

It should also be remembered that even if these veterans are still working under the Official

Secrets Act or any other such non-disclosure contracts, they didn't have to answer me at all.

Instead, they were all courteous and more than helpful, even directing me to additional websites that could give me additional information.

It should also be pointed out that even though I communicated with them on numerous occasions, none of the veterans ever actually ridiculed the UFO phenomenon, the *possibility* of such an encounter, or my interest in B's story and ufology.

Bearing all of this in mind, what can we make of B's story now?

It could be postulated that the event did actually happen to B, more or less as he related, but the date, location, and the military units involved had been changed by B in order to protect himself, or other people involved. This could explain why other 7<sup>th</sup> Armoured veterans denied the event ever happened; because it did not happen to them and was subsequently "covered-up".

Alternatively, B could have heard such vague rumours of UFO-military encounters while in service or afterwards, and simply re-arranged the details to fit around him, a friend-of-a-friend story in which much has been added and more truth lost. A number of such stories have circulated on the internet since the Gulf War, and - whether any of them are true or not - B could have heard of these at the time or since, and contorted these nebulous rumours to fit his story.

The main problem for me however, is not that other 7<sup>th</sup> Armoured veterans refute any such thing ever happened, at *any* time or place, but the undeniable fact that so many of B's details concerning basic terminology etc, are wrong. If B really was a military man, he would not have made so many errors, particularly the confusion with the correct name for the Desert Rats.

As I said in the last issue, during our interviews B did appear to use military slang and terminology with ease, enough to initially convince myself and Richard that he may be genuine. Remember though, he did have a large number of military novels and sourcebooks on his shelves, and could easily have picked up much of this from an intense interest in the military.

In the final event, it is B's testimony that the entire encounter relies upon, and consequently his reliability as a witness. Unfortunately, his refusal to name his actual unit or offer any tangible details we could use to check on his background prevents us from confirming even if he was ever in the military at all.

And if B was never in the military as he claims, then we must consider that if he lied about that, the rest of his story collapses like a stack of cards too.

Dave Baker, June 2001

## EDITOR'S NOTE

After my review of "*Rendleshem - the Elvis Connection*" in the last issue of PRB, I received the following e-mail, which I present here as it appeared to me. An initial attempt to trace the e-mail's source pointed to a Skidmarke, Arkansas branch of McDonalds but then vanished without a trace. Make of that as you will....

Dear Mr Baker,

As mush ash ah lurve the 'merican Conshtitushion, an' as mush ash ah believe in freedom of speech, ah really musht protesht at inclusion of the book by that fraudulent sumbitch Tom Bolloxshinshki in your lasht issue, suhr.

Its laahs, all laahs!

I AM... aah mean, Elvish, ish dayd! Dayd, yuh heyr me! DAYD!

An' there weren't no goddamn UFOshs either!

Tha-yu-vermush.

"Aaron".

# TALKIN' BOLLOXINSKI

*With the USA's most maverick UFO and paranormal investigator, Tom Bolloxinski*

Last month, Tom was out and about and had no time to prepare a regular column. However, he did send me a number of communiqués, as a sort of "e-mail diary". Here are just a few of them... DB

May 1, London England

Guest on morning UK talk show, featuring discussion on UFOs, promoting the release of my book "*Rendlesham - the Elvis Connection*". Set was decorated with model planets hanging on wires, host wore a *Star Trek* outfit, theme from *The X-Files* played over montage of 'classic' UFO photos and stills from *Dr. Who*. You Brits crack me up! Cheee-sey! Remind me to send their producer a copy of Fox TV's latest opus "*World's Messiest Anal Probes Finally Revealed*" to show you guys how it's really done.

Guests on the show included my good self, Nick Pope, Andy Roberts & Dave Clarke, Jenny Randles, Stan Friedman, Chris French, Sue Blackmore and Tim Good.

Some points from the show:

\*When not on camera, played game with myself, awarding points every time Nick Pope said "structured craft". Lost count at 67. *And he only spoke once!*

\*Marvelled at fact that Jenny wrote seven articles and a book during programme.

\*Tried to guess how long it would be before ol' Stan mentioned how many private libraries and records office he's visited. Lost. Said it *just as I thought it!*

\*Pissed off that super-skeptics Chris and Sue suggested I didn't exist, and described me as a "phantom pregnancy", or something. Psychobabbling limeys! Talk English whydontcha!

\*Set up wager with Andy & Dave on whose book would sell the most. Bet my signed, original copy of the MJ-12 Documents against Andy's entire Grateful Dead collection. Boy, is that guy gonna be red-faced!

Show finished with special effect of weird, orange-skinned host "beaming out".

Asshole. Shame Kilroy *wasn't* here...

May 2

Publishers threw huge, celebrity-drenched shebang for launch of my book. As I haven't spent that long over here, I kinda didn't recognise some of them, but my agent Si assured me they were definitely "A-list": Bobby Davro, Sonia, Christopher Biggins and "top rock act" Hear'Say were just some of the dazzling celebs who graced us with their presence. Si promises the book will be serialised in a quality newspaper, just like Roberts & Clarke's book. Hey, this is getting exciting!

May 7

Newspaper deal finalised! Extracts from book appearing in *Matlock Courier*. Cool! That is a big paper, right Dave?

May 9

Guest on another show, this time with husband & wife hosts. Weird... Are they for real?

My interview was sandwiched between discussion on sanitary towels and phone-in about single-parent, un-married pregnant teenagers who want body piercing. Other guest Bobby Davro. So he *is* a star!

May 11

Flew back to the States to film additional interviews for Fox TV's "*JFK-Was He Really Killed?*" and then CBS's "*JFK- Yeah, He Was, Already!*" Apparently the shows are gonna go head-to-head on the anniversary of his death. Neat.

May 13

Visited Gracelands. Wouldn't let me in. Actually got quite abusive. Don't know why.

May 15

Staying at apartment to catch up on mail and spend quality time with Poppet. Serge says he's been consulting Poppet's droppings and

thinks he may be the re-incarnation of Macauley Culkin. Bitterly disappointed when I told him Culkin wasn't dead, just his career.

Lot of mail to catch up on. Lots of promising, impressive stuff, but a lot of kooks. Here's a taster:

\*Guy from Wyoming claims he was the *real* shooter at the JFK assassination. Has clump of grass from knoll to prove it. Wants \$2000 for his story.

\*Female abductee from Cheshire has vivid memories of shared abductions with famous people. Saw shamed, has-been Brit celebrity, actually *asking* for another invasive probe. Seems like those Grey dudes are *his* kind of people...

\*Guy wants to share the real story of "The Birmingham Incident", in which he claims the Space Shuttle was shot down by a Black Triangle UFO. Reckons there is a concentrated campaign to kill him by Men In Black from secret alien base beneath Birmingham main branch of Nat West.

\*Ex-NASA console-jockey claims to have photos smuggled from Kennedy Space Centre which prove there is a man-made base on the moon. Sneaky bastards have used alien-based technology to make entire, sophisticated space-buildings look *exactly* like craters and mountains.

\*Letter from contact code-named "Phil the Greek" claims that David Icke is a seven foot reptilian.

See what I mean? Just wait till I tell you about the kooks!

May 17, New York

Power lunch with agent Si and "Shoulder-pads" Sharrillee Wazkowszch from U.S. publishers Haphazard House, who published *Rendlesham* in the States. Looking for a follow-up, and ask if there's any link between the Roswell Crash and other rock 'n' roll stars. Preferably dead ones. Told them not yet, but give me time.

May 19, New York

Going through my Roswell files, discover a quote from Mac Brazell who heard one of the

troopers gathering the wreckage shout, "Hey Buddy!"

Well, it's a start....

May 20, Los Angeles

Another power-lunch, this time with TV producer A.J. Globenstein. Spurred on by upcoming Spielberg alien abduction mini-series *Taken*, Globenstein wants to pick up *Rendlesham* as a rival in the ratings. Pencils in Brian Dennehy as Col. Charles Halt, Lindsay Wagner as Dot Street, and – if the money's right – David Schwimmer as Elvis. All goes well until he suggests John Goodman plays me. Told them it's Clooney, or it's a no go.

May 22, London, England

Arrive back in England after long flight. Discover that one of my bags is missing...the bag in which I was carrying video-tapes of secret NASA UFO footage. Was going to blow the country away, starting at next YUFOS meeting, with incredible footage of dozens of UFOs disguised as ice-crystals.

Where is my bag? And why *that* bag?

May 23

No Bag.

May 24

Still no bag. Is there an alien base beneath Heathrow?

May 26, London

Bag finally arrives from British Airways. Apparently, luggage had been "mis-directed" to...wait for it...Moscow! Still had ticket attached! Those insidious Soviets!

Videos still there, but pair of underpants missing from bag.

What does this mean?

Just remembered, underpants had not been washed. The bastards now have my DNA....