

UFO DATA MAGAZINE

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Reports, Reviews and Articles from the world of Ufology

UFO DATA MAGAZINE

The UK's only Glossy UFO Magazine

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UFO DATA
MAGAZINE ISSUE 2

Russel Callaghan
Editor

Many have suggested that the subject has been missing a big story in recent years. As serious researchers, UFO DATA accept that such occasions don't come along like No. 72 buses, but as one would expect, UFO reports tend to come right out of the blue.

In November last year it transpired that a 'big' UFO event happened and took place in front of several witnesses.

Chicago O'Hare Airport workers witnessed a large UFO over their workplace and it caught the media's attention.

Welcome to issue 2 of the new format UFO DATA Magazine.

A glossy magazine reporting the UFO subject like it is.

Russel Callaghan.

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PLUS Abduction case files, reports, reviews and a whole lot more across 68 information-packed pages in this issue of UFO DATA Magazine...

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Close Encounters of The Peak District Kind...

Dr David Clarke

David Clarke is well known in the UFO community for his 'in-depth' research with colleagues into historical and government documents. Not always credited as a believer, David presents some interesting reports in this article.

Sprawling across mile after mile of barren, bleak, yet beautiful, countryside, the Derbyshire Peaks stretch from south of Sheffield into the Pennine hills and the backbone of England. It is an area where the weather changes in minutes, from glorious sunshine to howling gale, or from a slight breeze to a blizzard. During the British winter, the dreaded Snake Pass (a major road across the peaks) is regularly closed by heavy falls of snow and it is not surprising that people experience unusual, sometimes terrifying, events in this desolate area of natural beauty...

"It was a clear night following a heavy snowfall and we had driven out to Stanage Moor to admire the landscape when we first spotted a light moving in the sky."

Student Nicholas Glossop and his girlfriend Georgina Kamsika had a close encounter with a strange flying object on the Peak District moors one bitterly cold winter night in April 1989. The pair, both aged eighteen, had driven out in Nick's Mini to see the spectacular snowfall which blanketed the Derbyshire hills earlier that day and decided to return and admire it once more in the darkness. When they reached the highest point of the deserted moors overlooking the Derwent valley and the village of Hathersage, they parked their car. It was then that they noticed a peculiar red and white light spinning across the sky with amazing speed. This transformed itself into a 'top-shaped' object which had a row of white lights around its centre and a red light above, the whole spinning rapidly in a vertical motion.

"It disappeared into a red dot, then reappeared again closer to where we were, which frightened us. No aircraft could behave like that and we started to get worried," Nick told me. Georgina recalls urging Nick 'let's get out of here' and, wasting no time, the pair leapt into the car, started the engine and drove off at speed. The UFO remained visible all the while in the rearview mirror behind them.

"Looking behind at the hill where we had been, we could see the whole place was lit up with a very bright, white light as if this thing had touched down," said Nick. "Then all of sudden, a large, white light appeared behind us and seemed to hover above the road at a level with the height of the car roof... it was completely silent too."

"It was like a big spotlight," added Georgina. "We drove faster, but it seemed to keep up with us as if it was following us. I was scared but, if I'd had a camera, I would have wanted to stop and take its picture."

Nick took up the story from here: "As we reached Ringinglow, on the outskirts of Sheffield, I decided to see if it was a vehicle and we slammed on



the brakes. The light then stopped still behind us. Then it disappeared and, all of a sudden, it was replaced by two lights the same size as the one we had seen. They were almost, but not quite, like a car's headlights, but they glowed and it was too wide a distance between them. When we drove off again, these two lights followed us, but as we got closer to the houses, they seemed to turn off and just disappeared in a flash." He added: "When we got home later, we both felt very shaken. It was almost as though we had been involved in an accident."

A day later, when the couple nervously returned to the scene of their brush with the unknown, they were amazed to find a wide pathway melted away across the snow where the brilliant, flying object had briefly appeared to 'touch down.' Said Georgina: "Something very hot had melted a path through the snow, scorching the grass and turning it yellow. We also noticed what looked like footprints in the snow, but they were not the same as footprints, more of a long, diamond shape."

Musing afterwards on the encounter, Nick recalled that the light in the sky had initially hovered as if its occupants were observing the lights of the city of Sheffield, which were visible in the distance on that cold, clear night. "We don't know what it was, but it must have had a perfect view of the city," he mused.

The Peak District UFO window

Do creatures from other worlds regularly visit the skies of the Peak District to observe the comings and goings of humans, or is there another, more down-to-earth, explanation for the many dozens of sightings reported every year?

Many parts of the world now have their own 'hotspots' or 'window' areas which have been haunted by UFOs for generations and the Pennine hills, including much of the northern Peak District, has been identified as one of these. In 1958, a 'flying saucer' organisation called the Aetherius Society chose the summit of Kinder Scout - one of the highest hills in the Peak - as one of eighteen special mountains that were selected to be charged with 'spiritual energy.' This spiritual energy, they claimed, could be used to defend the Earth against evil forces from outer space. The Aetherians are a religious group who believe their leader, the late George King, was in direct contact with ascended 'masters' who live on Venus, Saturn and other planets in the solar system. Today, long after his death, society members continue to make their pilgrimage to the rock on Kinder Scout which King charged in 1958. In the summer of 2006, I attended one of these ceremonies and found that a number of the society members believed they had seen UFOs and detected the presence of

other intelligence on the Peakland hills.

George King and the Aetherius Society were just one example from the post war period of individuals and groups in the western world claiming they had made telepathic contact with benevolent aliens who wanted to warn mankind about the dangers of experimenting with atomic energy. The growing number of 'flying saucer' sightings seemed to back up the claims that something was going on. It was at this time that a blind musician called Phillip Rodgers claimed to have recorded disembodied voices and messages on a tape recorder both in and around his home at Grindleford in the Peak District. Rodgers believed the voices were those of the occupants of UFOs, which he believed had already arrived on Earth and had established secret bases in certain areas. Many of his friends claimed to have seen lights and disc-shaped objects in the sky over the moors and foothills below Kinder Scout and to have 'channelled' messages from the space people, often by telepathic means.

Many UFO reports have just the same eerie, elusive quality which is associated with the apparitions and supernatural lights that have been recorded in the folklore of many peoples. These psychic and spiritual links increase dramatically when the 'close encounter' cases are examined. They contain motifs highly suggestive of the mystic visions and travels to the Otherworld, which are more familiar to students of folklore than of astronomy. In earlier centuries, strange, moving

lights in the sky were always described in ways that were familiar to the popular culture of the day, for example as will o'the wisps and fiery dragons in the Middle Ages. At the time of the Industrial Revolution, strange objects in the sky became fabulous airships invented by secret, Jules Verne-type inventors. For instance, in the folklore of the Peak District, there are many stories describing ghostly carriages lit up by eerie lights, such as the 'Cromwell Coach', which rides along the lane from Ilam to Throwley, above the Manifold ravine. This can be heard only during the day 'though at night one can see its lights.' Derbyshire folklorist, Clarence Daniel, wrote of a strange, phantom house 'with illuminated windows' reported by one of his informants, a description which conjures up images of the fairy hills and entrances to underground worlds found elsewhere in folklore. In these stories the 'little men' which are so typical of modern UFO accounts become fairies, goblins and evil spirits intent on enticing humans into fairyland.

The category of experiences described by UFO abductees has some intriguing parallels in folklore where there is a strong tradition of abduction to fairyland by creatures who behave suspiciously like today's 'Greys'. A story from the Calver area of Derbyshire, dating from the latter part of the nineteenth century, tells how one dark night, as a man was riding homewards across the moors, he passed a large and mysterious house 'which

was all ablaze with light.' From within it came the sound of music and dancing and, although he knew it was haunted, curiosity got the better of him and he walked in through the front door. Soon he was invited by the revellers, who appeared to be ordinary men and women, to supper and sat down at the table, ready to eat. Before he began, however, he asked his host to say grace. The guests refused. Realising his hosts were really evil spirits, the stranger shut his eyes and prayed devoutly to himself along with the words 'devils, fear and fly.' When he opened them all was still, the inmates and the strange house had melted away and he was left alone and in pitch darkness on the moors. Stories such as this usually feature a period of 'missing time', with the visitor to fairyland finding that what appeared to be several minutes spent in the Otherworld were actually weeks or even years when he or she finally returns home.

Bonsall - UFO capital of the UK?

Stories about 'seeing things' at night on the way home across the moors are no longer a laughing matter in the village of Bonsall, near Matlock, in the White Peak. This village of 800 souls has a long tradition of weird encounters. Villagers have been seeing lights in the sky around the old lead workings on Bonsall Moor for as long as anyone can remember. Once upon a time, local story-tellers entertained visitors with stories about ghosts and boggarts. Today, these have been replaced by tales of flying saucers and aliens.

More than



Kinder Scout, Photo Mark Baker (C) Inset George King, with followers (C) Aetherius Society

five years have passed since Bonsall was proclaimed by a national newspaper as 'the UFO capital of Britain'. The title of UFO mecca has been held over the years by a motley collection of places. In the 1960s, UFOs and 'crop circles' plagued the town of Warminster on Salisbury Plain. More recently it was the turn of industrial Bonnybridge in Scotland.

Bonsall's UFO hotspot has since been featured on TV and in April, 2001, UFO walks organised by one local resident were featured on the BBC's *Country File*. As a result, the village has become the centre of pilgrimage for UFO enthusiasts from across Britain and indeed the world. Enthusiasts from as far afield as the USA and Australia have dropped in to walk the moors and to scan the skies. On one occasion, the village hall has played host to a public meeting by the local branch of the Aetherius Society who were eager to spread the message that kindly intelligence from Venus were behind the UFO flap.

Landlord Alan Webster, who has had several 'sightings' of his own, catered for the interest by making his pub, The Barley Mow, a base for UFO-spotting expeditions. He encourages visitors to discuss their experiences and adds them to a growing list of stories he can recite for visitors. "We've had people arriving who have heard about Bonsall and want to see for themselves where these things have been seen," said Alan. "Once they know you have seen something, they will open up and we've had many people who have told their stories for the first time when they visited the pub.

"The first one I saw was years ago at a football match in the village when this object came over, like a silver coloured cigar and very low down. Someone shouted that it was like an aeroplane without wings, but the game did not stop. That's how commonplace these things have become."

Alan was quick to see the potential of UFOs as an added attraction to draw tourists to the dale. For six years he has been taking groups of walkers on short, guided strolls around Bonsall Moor, Masson Hill and Ible. On the way, Alan shares his knowledge of

local geology, folklore and archaeology with stops at places of historical interest, which include the remains of some of the deepest underground lead workings in the Peak. As word spread, Alan began to include UFO stories in his walks, pointing out locations where weird sights had been reported. To date, more than 3,000 visitors have enjoyed the Bank Holiday walks and there is no sign that interest is on the wane.

But when did the idea of Bonsall as a hotspot for UFOs begin and is there any substance to the stories? It appears that stories first began to circulate shortly before the Millennium, with 'spooky' visions of eerie fog, columns of cloud and rainbow-coloured lights on the moors above Matlock. Over a period of four months, there were 19 separate sightings reported from the village and surrounding moors, all faithfully chronicled by the local weekly paper, *The Matlock Mercury*. Other strange sightings included a 'ball of fire' in the sky above Matlock, a 'multi-coloured disc' over Carsington and 'a pink glow, vertically-shaped like a shoebox' seen by a man walking his dog.

But it was a sighting near Bonsall which propelled the local mystery into national - and international - headlines. This time there was concrete proof - six and a half minutes of camcorder footage of a classic 'flying saucer.' It was just after 9pm on a dark, October night in 2001 and Sharon and Hayden Rowlands were watching TV in their cottage at Slaley, near Bonsall, when the drama began. Sharon had spotted a bright light in the dark sky through the cottage window which appeared to be above Middleton Woods. Rushing to the window, the couple could see the light appeared to come from a disc-shaped object around two miles away. Despite its closeness, there was no sound as one would expect if it was an aeroplane. Luckily, the family camcorder was loaded with batteries and Sharon was able to capture the UFO. Sharon was

reported as saying: "It resembled a giant disc with a bite taken out of the bottom. It had yellow, orange and blue lights - with intricate markings and a dark circle in the centre. It came really close at one stage and I thought it was going to land in the field... you can hear me on the video say 'Wow!' It was huge and through the lens it looked as if it was going to



Bonsall published image

hit me. I can't explain it - it's like nothing else I've ever seen." Soon the story spread around the village and the Rowlands invited neighbours to a see the footage. As a result, many who were sceptical



Nasa astronauts filmed similar objects on shuttle mission STS-75.

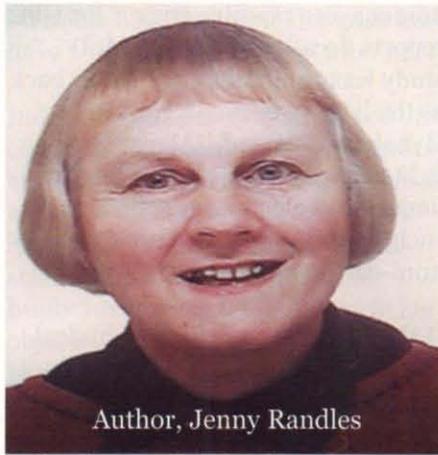
about UFOs were converted. Word reached journalist, Andy Darlington, who became one of the first - and last - to see what has been proclaimed as 'the best UFO video ever taken'. Andy, who admits he is 'a believer', told me: "It is mind blowing. It could not have been an aircraft because it makes no noise and it is disc-shaped. I have never seen an aircraft which looked like that. During the filming it grows, getting bigger and then smaller like she is zooming in and out with the camera. This goes on for four or five minutes and then the UFO flips over and you can see two white lights. It faces sideways and goes from right to left

across the screen before it disappears.”

The story reached as far as Los Angeles where it was seen by Bob Kiviat at Fox studios, which specialises in UFO documentaries. Kiviat was reported to have negotiated an exclusive contract worth £20,000 for the rights to the film. He claimed he was interested because of its similarity to a UFO allegedly filmed by the crew of the Space Shuttle *Columbia* in 1996. Despite these sensational claims, five years have passed, no documentary has appeared and today, Sharon Rowlands will not, or cannot, comment further. The footage - according to local rumours - remains locked away in a bank vault and, in true *X-Files* style, the most promising piece of evidence remains strangely elusive.

It was this UFO footage that propelled Bonsall into the media spotlight as the place for ET visitations and, in the process, gave the tourist industry a welcome, if most unusual, boost.

But many questions remain unanswered, not least of which is the obvious one - if extraterrestrial visitors are behind these experiences, why would they be so interested in the Peak District?



Author, Jenny Randles

Why the Peak District?

Since the 1960s the growing number of sightings have led UFO researchers to rank the hills of the Peak as one of the UK's most active 'window areas'. Huge, silent, triangular objects, ghostly, moving lights and classic 'flying saucers' are just a few of the visions reported from the region during the last twenty years of the twentieth century. But what exactly is it about the Peak which makes the region such a magnet for strange aerial phenomena? Veteran ufologist, Jenny Randles, who lived for time in the High Peak, has investigated dozens of 'close encounters' with UFOs in the Pennine region and believes the explanation for many sightings could be more down-to-earth than otherworldly. Jenny has collected hundreds of UFO reports from all parts of the UK, but she says the one region which stands out from

the statistics is what she describes as 'the Pennine Window'. This upland area can be roughly defined by drawing a triangle between the cities of Manchester, Sheffield and Leeds, a zone which covers much of the northern part of the Peak District National Park. This small region, which encloses just one per cent of the population of the UK, has generated ten per cent of all the reported 'close encounters' and no fewer than thirteen per cent of all the Close Encounters of the Third and Fourth Kind, which involve contact with 'alien' crews. "This is clearly statistically the most active region in Europe when sighting numbers are matched against the generally low population density," Jenny said. "It is clear that here there is evidence of a very high level of UFO activity in a generally quite sparsely populated location."

Jenny believes the puzzle can be accounted for by two factors. The first is the simple fact that the northern Peaks lie below a major international flight path for commercial aircraft and is an occasional training ground for low-flying military planes. Many people who have seen giant UFOs gliding across the moortops have been shown to have sighted aircraft approaching Manchester airport. High up on the moors it is easy to fall victim to an optical illusion whereby aircraft in the final stages of

Manchester Airport with Peaks in the distance.



landing appear too big and too low to be planes, especially if no noise is heard. Jenny points out that both civilian and military aircraft use the area regularly. "Many people passing through on the A6 across the Peaks don't realise how close they are to Manchester airport and can be deceived," she says. "At night engines are throttled back so they pass over quietly, often being seen through the low mist that commonly shrouds the Peaks. This can leave just the sight of the lights - not the plane itself. Rescue helicopters and traffic spotter planes are common in the area too."

The second is the theory that the region is ideal territory for the creation of what she calls UAPs or Unidentified Atmospheric Phenomena. UAP is a phrase that was coined by Jenny and the late Dr J. Allen Hynek, former advisor to the USAF Project Blue Book, long before it was appropriated by the Ministry of Defence for their 'Project Condign'. The author of the Condign study concluded in 2000 that the small number of inexplicable UFO reports were likely to be sightings of rare and little-understood natural phenomena such as atmospheric plasmas (although MoD defined UAP as 'unidentified aerial phenomena'). This is, of course, not a new idea as ufologists such as Paul Devereux and Jenny Randles were writing about 'earthlights' and other natural phe-

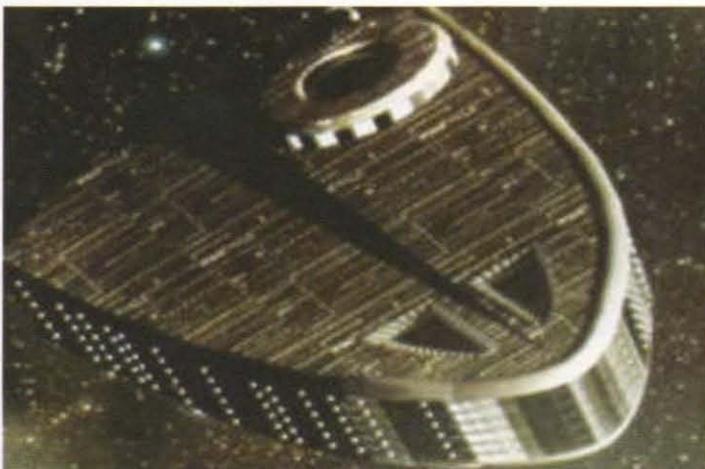
nomena as a possible trigger for UFO reports decades before the MoD study was commissioned. As far back as the late 1970s Jenny and Dr Hynek had defined UAPs as glowing lights generated by natural but little-understood electromagnetic forces such as the energy field produced by mini-earthquakes.

"I think there is a definite, physical phenomenon which is natural in origin which people see as pulsating balls of light in the night sky," she explained. "But because people are so turned onto the idea of aliens from outer space through films and the media they see what they want to see not what's really there."

Although the tiny band of dedicated UFO researchers who have tried to make sense of the mystery have been able to demonstrate that more than ninety per cent of sightings have down-to-earth explanations, puzzles remain about the source of the 'unexplained' cases which appear to describe large, metallic, flying objects which could not possibly be plasmas or any other 'natural' or man-made phenomena such as aircraft or Black Projects. Sceptics claim even this residue could be explained if enough information was available and reports were investigated quickly enough. Believers in extraterrestrial visitors point to the numerous instances where reliable observers

such as police officers and airline pilots have reported close sightings of apparently structured flying machines which they claim could not possibly be accounted for as conventional aircraft, bright planets or balloons.

This was the stance taken by an airliner crew who reported a 'close encounter' with a UFO which passed alarmingly close to a Boeing 737 jet on its approach to landing at Manchester Airport. One overcast evening in January, 1995, this aircraft, carrying sixty passengers from Milan, was descending to 4,000 feet above the Peak District hills, in preparation for landing, when suddenly, a glowing, wedge-shaped object appeared, apparently following a course directly for the plane. Captain Roger Wills told an Air Miss Investigation that the 'UFO' was in sight for two seconds and created no apparent sound or air displacement as it moved. He said the UFO was lit up with a number of small lights, making it resemble a Christmas tree. The first officer, Mark Stuart, instinctively 'ducked' as the UFO went past. He told investigators how he saw 'a dark object pass down the right hand side of the aircraft at high speed; it was wedge-shaped with what could have been a black stripe down the side... he felt sure that what he saw was a solid object - not a bird, balloon or kite'.



6th January 1995

8 Nm S/E Manchester

18:48 Hrs

Final Approach, 4,000ft

British Airways 737 60 passengers reports an air miss with unknown wedge shaped craft.

Below released RT conversation with ATC

B737 (1848) - c/s we just had something go down the RHS just above us very fast.

Manchester - Well, there's nothing seen on radar. Was it er an ac?

B737 - Well, it had lights, it went down the starboard side very quick.

Manchester - And above you?

B737 - er, just slightly above us, yeah.

Manchester - Keep an eye out for something, er, I can't see anything at all at the moment so, er, must have, er, been very fast or gone down very quickly after it passed you I think.

B737 - OK. Well, there you go!

The year-long official Air Miss Investigation conducted by the Civil Aviation Authority was unable to trace any civilian or military aircraft which could have been in the vicinity at the time of the incident.

Manchester Airport took the incident very seriously, to the extent that, for the first time in recent years, they preserved radar tapes and tried to reconstruct the event as part of the investigation. Despite much effort, nothing was spotted on the radar tapes at the time the sighting was reported.

The CAA concluded that reports such as this 'are often the object of derision, but the Group hopes that this example will encourage pilots who experience unusual sightings to report them without fear of ridicule'. It added that the sighting had been submitted by 'two responsible airline pilots' and there was no doubt that both 'saw an object... that was of sufficient significance to prompt an air-miss report'. The conclusion read: "Unfortunately the nature and identity of this object remains unknown. To speculate about extraterrestrial activity, fascinating though it may be, is not within the Group's remit and must be left to those whose interest lies in this field."

This was an impressive case which, on the surface, seems to leave little doubt that an unknown, structured craft was indeed present above the Peak District. However, the CAA team did point out that almost all unusual sightings of this kind can be explained by a range of known natural phenomena. In this case, Jenny Randles was able to suggest one possible solution which had apparently been overlooked by the inquiry: a bolide or fireball meteor. These are chunks of rock from outer space which create a spectacular display when they burn up in the earth's atmosphere, creating vivid colours and trails. Sometimes these can be visible for several seconds, and it is possible for witnesses - even experienced pilots - to fall victim to an optical illusion, believing an object many thousands of miles away in the upper atmosphere is actually very close by. In this instance the lack of any air displacement in the wake of the UFO and its failure to show up

on radar tapes suggests this case may have a natural explanation after all.

Indeed it has been demonstrated on countless occasions that eye-witnesses, including 'reliable' observers such as police officers and airline pilots have misidentified aircraft, bright stars and planets, satellites and bright meteors as unidentified flying objects. As US scientist, Dr Richard Haines, has observed, judging distance at night when only lights and a dark sky are visible 'is one of the most difficult things for a human being to do'. Add to this total the factor played by mysterious and little-understood natural phenomena such as ball lightning and atmospheric plasmas (Unidentified Atmospheric Phenomena) and it becomes clear the UFO mystery is far more complex than the simple 'aliens from space' theory promoted by ufologists and the media alike.

Further reading:

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Jenny Randles, *The Pennine UFO Mystery*, London: Granada, 1983
---*Something in the Air*, London: Robert Hale, 1998

EDITOR:

Graham Birdsall and I went to Bonsall to interview Sharon Rowlands for UFO Magazine. She was having none of it, almost running away from Graham and I. We also returned to the village to be taken on one of these 'UFO Walks'. The landlord was entertaining but had little or no knowledge of the UFO subject, ad libbing with what to an enthusiast might have been labelled 'bull****'. But the walk conveniently ended back at the pub, just in time for tiffin.

In a recent conversation with Bob Kiviat, he told me he had never seen the Rowlands footage, but offered to buy it on the word of a researcher. In 2007, he has yet to sign a cheque or see the footage...

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IRAN UFO reported...



In mid-January reports began to come out of Iran that glowing UFOs had been sighted by numerous witnesses. The first reports appeared in Iran's semi-official *Fars News Agency* bulletins on Wednesday 10th January, 2007¹.

A 'radiant UFO' was said to have crashed in the Barez Mountains in the Kerman province of Iran on Monday 8th January, 2007. The Deputy Governor General of Kerman province, Abulghassem Nasrollahi, stated that the crash was followed by an explosion and a 'thick spiral of smoke'. He said that there were no casualties or property damage.

Nasrollahi denied reports that an aircraft had gone down, claiming that all planes and helicopters in the area were accounted for. He did not rule out the possibility that it was a meteorite, but eyewitnesses appeared to refute this explanation, claiming that the object was 'on fire and smoking' before it hit the ground.

The next day, rumours began to spread about the internet that the explosion was nuclear in nature². There is no indication, however, that what hit the ground in Kerman province was a weapon, nuclear or otherwise, but we will come to the alternatives later.

On Tuesday 16th January, 2007, *Fars News* reported that a UFO had been spotted in the sky over central

Sepidar, in Western Iran, which covers the provinces of Khuzestan and Kohkiluyeh/Buyer Ahmad. The object was observed for a whole hour as it moved in a southerly direction on Monday evening (15th January). The object appeared again at about the same time on Wednesday 17th January.

Eyewitnesses described the object as being 'as big as a ball, with a yellow ray and a bright reddish colour in the centre' and that it was flying at low altitude. Officials have declined to comment.³

Police and 'relevant authorities' were said to be investigating the crash on the 8th of January, but many are of the opinion that it was a US spy drone that came down. This was bolstered by reports that Iran shot down an American surveillance drone as it crossed the border between Iraq and Iran⁴. How a drone could traverse five hundred miles of Iranian air-space to the Kerman province before being noticed is a question that has yet to be answered.

SJ

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2 - <http://mypetjawa.mu.nu/archives/186028.php> - Nuclear Explosion in Iran (The Jawa Report)

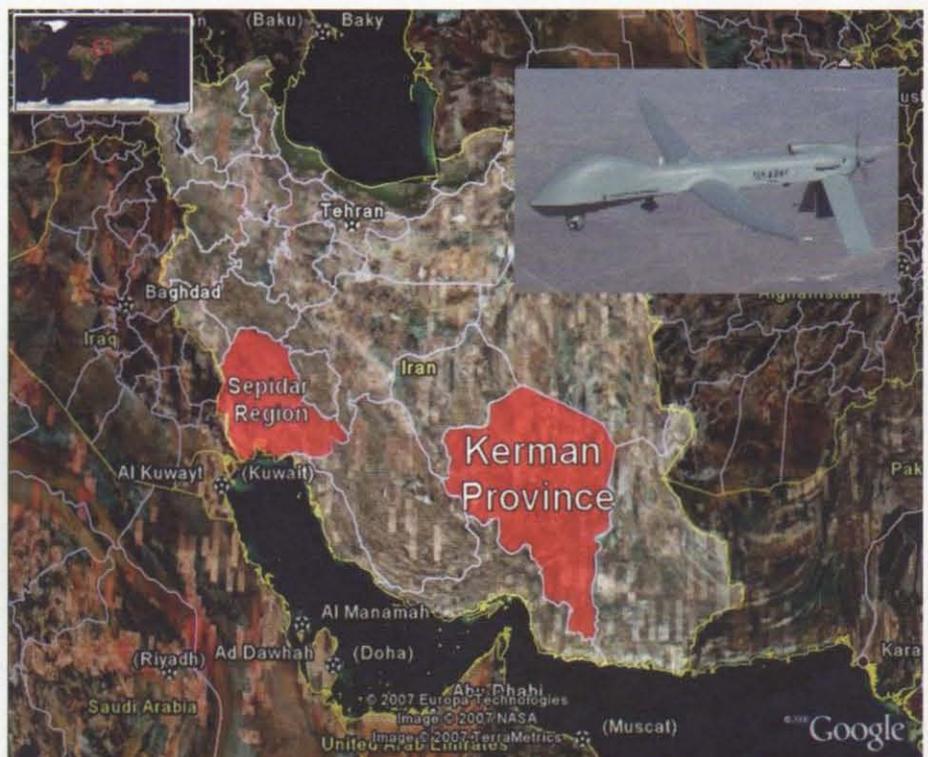
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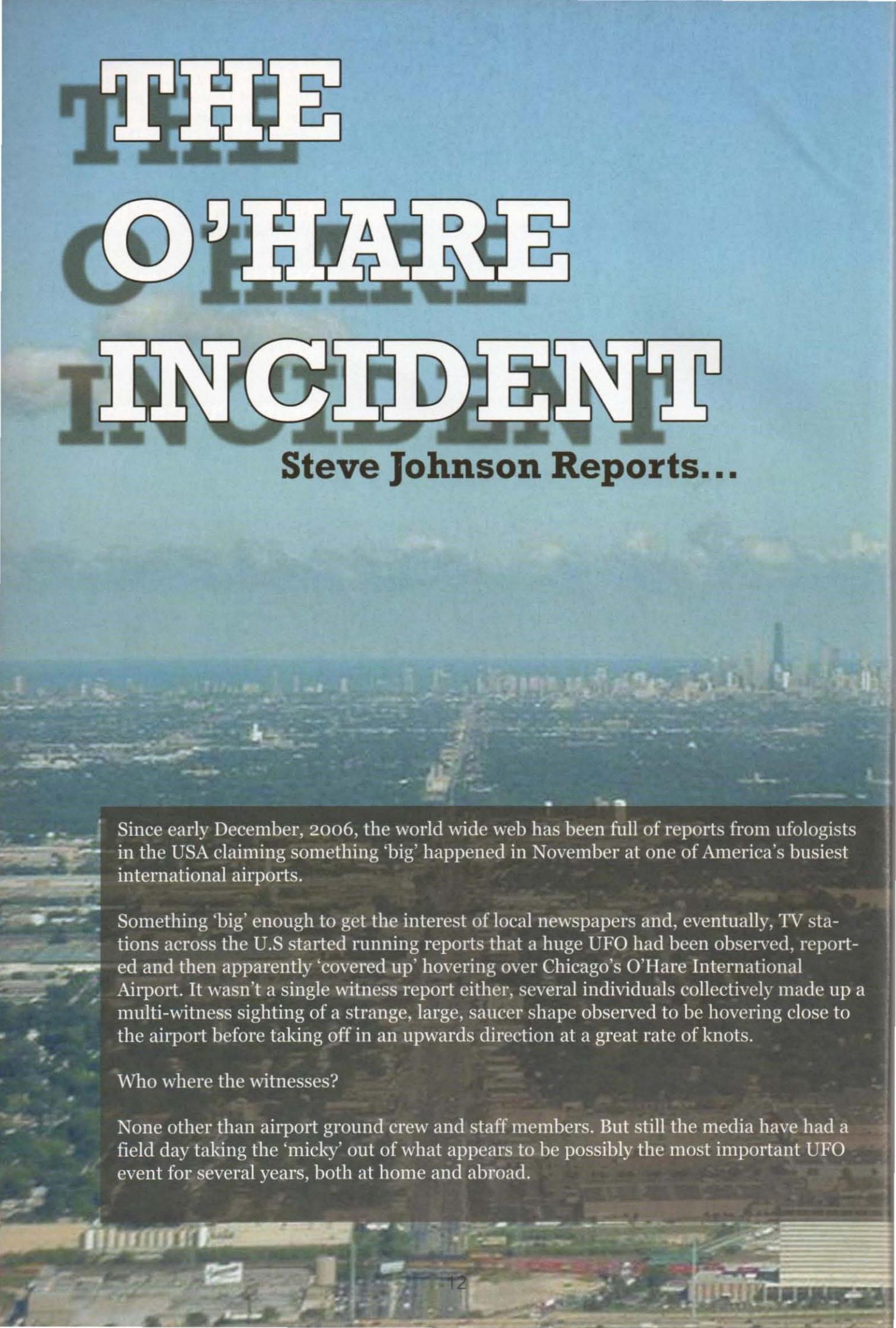
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<http://english.farsnews.com/newstext.php?nn=8510260294> - Iran Shoots Down US Spy Plane (Fars News Agency)



An aerial photograph of Chicago, Illinois, showing the city skyline and O'Hare International Airport. The title 'THE O'HARE INCIDENT' is overlaid in large, white, outlined letters. Below the title, the text 'Steve Johnson Reports...' is written in a smaller, bold, black font. A dark grey rectangular box contains three paragraphs of text. The page number '12' is at the bottom center.

THE

O'HARE

INCIDENT

Steve Johnson Reports...

Since early December, 2006, the world wide web has been full of reports from ufologists in the USA claiming something 'big' happened in November at one of America's busiest international airports.

Something 'big' enough to get the interest of local newspapers and, eventually, TV stations across the U.S started running reports that a huge UFO had been observed, reported and then apparently 'covered up' hovering over Chicago's O'Hare International Airport. It wasn't a single witness report either, several individuals collectively made up a multi-witness sighting of a strange, large, saucer shape observed to be hovering close to the airport before taking off in an upwards direction at a great rate of knots.

Who where the witnesses?

None other than airport ground crew and staff members. But still the media have had a field day taking the 'micky' out of what appears to be possibly the most important UFO event for several years, both at home and abroad.



Time has passed since the original sighting but UFO DATA Magazine's Steve Johnson has collated the information that is available.

A word of caution though to our readers:

Although we have photographic evidence 'of sorts', as editor of the magazine and an objective researcher, I have to ask several questions, some might be answered in this article.

Like the old chicken and egg question, 'what came first?'

In this case the story broke, but I am led to believe that the original investigator sat on it a while, trying to gather as much information as he could before going to the press with the story. The photographic evidence turned up several weeks down the line and I personally would have expected some CCTV footage of the area to be offered, whether or not it showed anything. To press this has not happened but the witnesses are sticking with their story, so here it is...



UFO Seen by Multiple Witnesses in Chicago...

2007 got off to a flying start with the *Chicago Tribune* publishing a report on January 1st about multiple witnesses, including pilots and ground staff, of an unidentified object over Chicago's O'Hare International Airport.

The sighting actually occurred on November 7th, 2006, and was first reported at Peter Davenport's National UFO Reporting Centre (NUFORC)¹ website on November 14th. It was the *Chicago Tribune* coverage that set the mainstream media alight, however, and for a few days it was the biggest UFO story on the internet, with news sites giving the story extensive space. Not bad for a report with no photographs or video to back it up. That soon changed, however, as Davenport stated that photographs of the object do exist and that he is working to bring them into the public domain. Several alleged photographs appeared on the internet in late January, but a little more about that later.

At approximately 4:30pm on November 7th, 2006, a worker at Gate C17, on Concourse C at the airport, reported seeing a 'perfectly round' object that was metallic and 'appeared to be spinning' almost

directly above his position. He was 'pushing back' an airliner (Flight 446 to Charlotte, North Carolina) at the time and contacted the flight deck of the aircraft about what he was witnessing. He also contacted his superiors and reported what he was looking at. The object was visible to him for about two minutes.

Two weeks later, an aircraft mechanic contacted NUFORC to confirm that he had also witnessed the object. He was taxiing a Boeing 747 from the International terminal to the Company Hangar on the north side of the airport when he heard the mention of the UFO over the radio. At first he laughed, but then he saw it for himself. He described it as a 'dark, grey, hazy, round object' and that it appeared to be 'trying to stay close to the cloud cover', which had a ceiling of about 1900 feet that day.

He finished parking the jumbo jet and when he looked again, the object had gone, but a 'perfect circle in the cloud layer where the craft had been' was now evident. He said that the hole disappeared a few minutes later.

Peter Davenport was

a guest on Jeff Rense's radio show on December 12th, 2006, and he introduced a witness to the event.

The witness, who claimed to be an airport worker, whose job it was to relocate aircraft from one part of the airport to another, and saw the UFO from the cockpit as he waited to move the plane. He described hearing the radio chatter about the UFO and wondered what was going on. Then he saw it 'plain as day'. He said it was grey and at least 700 feet above the ground and below the cloud base. He said that the top of the object was well-defined, but the edges appeared blurred, as though distorted by heat haze. He saw no lights on the 'craft'. He was aware of the ridicule that surrounds the UFO subject, but he was sure of what he saw. He estimated that the object must have been visible for about twenty minutes, based on the first radio call to the time he parked the aircraft. He said that many pilots had come on the radio saying that they also saw the object. He also suggested that Air Traffic Control (ATC) controllers had to have seen it, although they never mentioned it beyond joking dryly with the ground staff.

When asked by Rense to estimate the size of the object, the witness calculated that it was probably about 20-40 feet in diameter, but probably closer to 30 feet across. He could not explain why the object was apparently not detected on radar, but he was certain that what he saw was a solid object and 'some sort of craft'. He also said that the hole in the cloud



Jon Hilkevitch

Chicago Tribune Transport writer



If you have access to the internet, YouTube has a 9-minute video with the interviewer talking off-air about the incident. Type in the URL below:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wXkeJuzlWI8>

layer was about the same size as the object itself, describing it as though 'somebody had taken a cookie cutter' to the cloud deck.

In conclusion, the witness agreed with Rense that a 30-foot object hovering over an airport is an impediment and a possible danger to local air traffic. He added the provision, though, that he believed that any intelligence controlling the craft would not allow any collision to occur.

On January 1st, 2007, John Hilkevitch of the *Chicago Tribune* ² wrote his piece that would capture the attention of the world's media. Hilkevitch gathered quotes from several O'Hare employees:

O'Hare controller and union official Craig Burzych: "To fly 7 million light years to O'Hare and then have to turn around and go home because your gate was occupied is simply unacceptable."

A United Airlines (UA) mechanic, who was taxiing a Boeing 777 to the maintenance hangar at the time: "I tend to be scientific by nature, and I don't understand why aliens would hover over a busy airport, but I know that what I saw and what a lot of other people saw stood out very clearly, and it definitely was not an [Earth] aircraft."

A UA manager heard the radio commotion and rushed outside his office in Concourse B: "I stood outside in the gate area not knowing what to think, just trying to figure out what it was. I knew no one would make a false call like that. But if somebody was bouncing a weather balloon or something else over O'Hare, we had to stop it because it was in very close proximity to our flight operations."

Other witnesses were extremely affected by what they saw, with one being 'very shaken' and 'experiencing some religious issues' about the object.

The object was seen to accelerate upwards at great speed, 'punching a hole' through the cloud deck.

Richard Haines, of the National Aviation Reporting Centre on Anomalous Phenomena (NARCAP), was quoted as saying: "There have been documented cases where safety appears to have been implicated, and more and more we are coming to the point of view that we are dealing with an intelligent phenomenon. We must be proactive before an aircraft goes down." His preliminary research concluded that no weather balloons were launched over O'Hare that day and stated, "It's absurd that the military would be conducting aerial test flights."

Hilkevitch then went on to document

the authorities' reactions to the event:

A United spokeswoman said there is no record of the UFO report. She said United officials do not recall discussion of any such incident.

"There's nothing in the duty manager log, which is used to report unusual incidents," said United spokeswoman Megan McCarthy. "I checked around. There's no record of anything." United employees contradicted this statement by saying that UA officers instructed them to write down what they saw and draw pictures of the object. They were also told not to discuss the incident.

The Federal Aviation Authority (FAA) initially told Hilkevitch that they had no information about the incident, but soon backtracked when he filed a Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request. FAA spokeswoman, Elizabeth Isham Cory told the reporter:

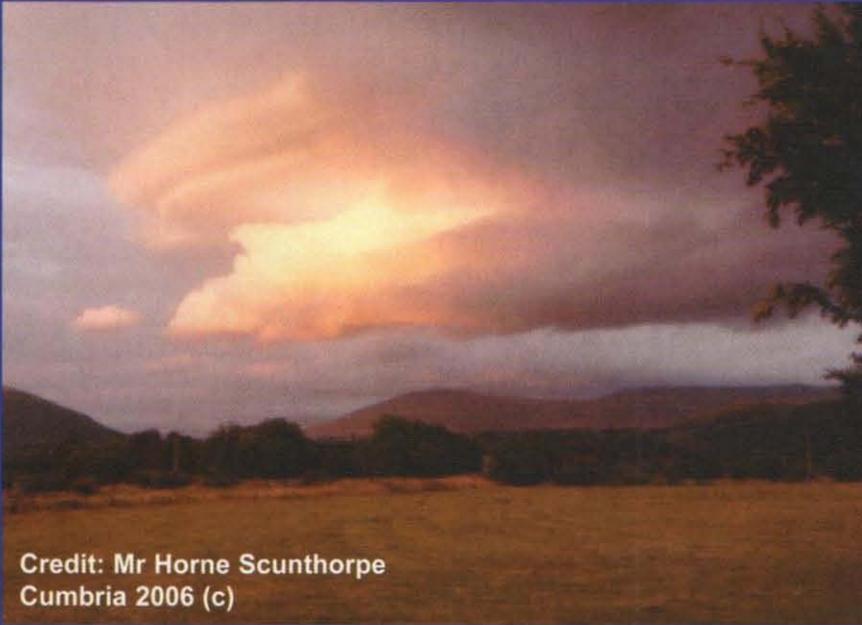
"Our theory on this is that it was a weather phenomenon. That night was a perfect atmospheric condition in terms of low [cloud] ceiling and a lot of airport lights. When the lights shine up into the clouds, sometimes you can see funny things. That's our take on it."

Later that day, Hilkevitch was interviewed by Melissa Block on National Public Radio ³. In a staggering display of arrogance, Ms. Block asked if Hilkevitch found it odd to be working with NUFORC. Hilkevitch replied: "Yeah, I mean, they kept wanting me to say this was a visit from some other world and further proof that, uh, we, on this planet are visited regularly by other beings..."

Peter Davenport has refuted this statement on his website.

After the Tribune story broke, the internet became abuzz with similarly-themed accounts of the O'Hare incident.

On January 2nd, Alan Boyle, in MSNBC's Cosmic Log website ⁴, reported arch-sceptic James Oberg's response to the incident. The space analyst and UFO debunker said, "It's just sad that we keep getting these reports which are of zero evidential value. It's sad because there's a lot of



Credit: Mr Horne Scunthorpe
Cumbria 2006 (c)



Credit: Heather Beadle (c)

Strange Cloud Effects 'Nature does funny things'

strange stuff in the air that we do need to know."

Oberg went on to maintain that aviation professionals are not reliable UFO witnesses because 'they tend to favour flight-related explanations for what they see'. He went on, "NTSB investigators say that the worst observers of an aviation accident are aviation personnel. It's because a pilot will usually want to understand what happened, and in his initial perceptions and later retellings will stress the facts that support his initial interpretation."

If that's the case, I'm never flying again!

On January 4th, MSNBC published an interview by Jessica Bennett with Davenport 5. Peter was astonished that it took so long (almost two months) for the story to break in the media:

Jessica Bennett: "Do you think there has been an effort to downplay it?"

Peter Davenport: "My strong suspicion is that this case showed up on the 8th of November-the day after it happened-in the intelligence briefing document that the president apparently reads every morning. Are we to believe that a UFO can appear over a major U.S. airport and the American intelligence community is not informed of it? That proposition is absurd."

Jessica Bennett: "If that's the case, why would the federal government keep those findings from the public?"

Peter Davenport: "You've got to go directly to the government or to United Airlines [for the answer to that question]. I'm shocked by their response to this, except for the fact that we've seen this kind of response-certainly on behalf of the government-for the past 59 and a half years."

Jessica Bennett: "And you think [the witnesses in the O'Hare case are] credible?"

Peter Davenport: "The witnesses [in this case] are not only responsible but they're qualified by virtue of the fact that they've worked in the aviation industry for decades-each one of them. They're familiar with aircraft, they're familiar with weather phenomena. United Airlines and the FAA have apparently taken the posi-

tion that it either didn't happen, or if it did happen it was a weather aberration. Well, the written communications that I have in my possession clearly belie that position."

Jessica Bennett: "Why is there so little debate on this subject?"

Peter Davenport: "People think that UFOs are strange. But in my opinion, the reaction of the American press to the UFO phenomenon is stranger still. They're not interested in what I consider to be the greatest scientific question of man's existence of all times: are we alone in this galaxy or are we not? From my vantage point, the clear answer to that is that we're not. And it appears that these objects visit our planet on a regular basis."

On January 11th, the *Daily Herald* published an editorial entitled *Internet needs less Saddam and Britney, more UFOs* ⁶. The author, Burt Constable, found it inconceivable that no photographic or video evidence of the O'Hare UFO was forthcoming:

"Saddam Hussein can't drop dead without a cell phone camera recording his demise and a post-mortem sequel for distribution on the Internet.

"Britney Spears can't totter through one night as a trollop without photographic evidence popping up the Internet.

"YouTube.com has video of a costumed Tigger appearing to punch a teen in the face at Walt Disney World.

"Little kids can't drink from hoses, fat people can't sit in spindly chairs, old ladies can't get off poorly docked boats, and dads holding pinatas can't get hit in the crotch without cameras capturing the hilarity for TV's *'America's Funniest Home Videos.'*"

"You can't even go to work without a camera recording you filling up with gas, buying coffee, running a yellow light, zipping through a toll booth or entering your office.

"But search the Internet for a clip of the UFO reported hovering Nov. 7 above O'Hare International Airport,

Several photographs have turned up on the internet claiming to show the object but none are impressive...



These two shots seem to originate from a cameraphone.



Close up left of object in top left of main image. Could be an added effect but the picture was taken through glass so an internal reflection must not be ruled out.

Below similar to above but this could be created easily in an art package. It is also claimed the object was added to a photo taken from the internet.



and you come up empty."

Constable goes on to pour scorn on UFO footage from other cases that are posted on website such as mufon.org and nuforc.org, describing them as 'Bright lights, shaky video and fast-moving specks in the sky [that] just don't impress a generation accustomed to the movie UFOs of *War of the Worlds*, *Independence Day* or even the 30-year-old footage from *Close Encounters of the Third Kind*.'

Sam Maranto, of the Mutual UFO Network (MUFON) told him, "I think most people are so mesmerized, they don't want to take their eyes off it for one second. Anything that is genuine is emitting a frequency, and it looks more like a distortion. So you are never going to get a perfect picture. If you have one that is a perfect picture, you have to wonder if it is a hoax."

The *Herald* reporter also contacted Peter Davenport:

"I'm not in the mood to take criticism," growls Peter B. Davenport, director of the National UFO Reporting Center in the state of Washington. A month after he posted the O'Hare sighting on his Web site, an exasperated Davenport finally tipped off the Tribune's Hilkevitch, who says it took him a while to win the confidence of witnesses, find additional sources and get the goods for his story.

"It's frustrating for me, too," says Davenport, who doesn't have the resources or power of the mainstream media. "I can do nothing about your disappointment. Give us a budget, give us a staff. Tell the government to open their records."

"Davenport says photos of the O'Hare event do exist, and (along with all the other UFO work he does every day), he's trying to get them made public."

In late January, the Above Top Secret website, one of the world's most popular 'alternative' forums, hosted several images allegedly taken on camera phones during the O'Hare incident 7. Award-winning journalist, Linda Moulton-Howe, interviewed

co-owner of abovetopsecret.com, Mark Allin, for her website, earthfiles.com 8. The interview also appeared on Whitley Strieber's Dreamland Radio Show on Saturday, 27th January, 2007.

Allin stated that two photographs posted by anonymous members of his forum had been analysed by professional image analysts. They discovered that the images appeared to be genuine i.e. they are not fabricated in, say, Photoshop'. That said, they did admit that the second image had been cropped, perhaps to hide a reflection of the photographer in the window in front of the camera.

Mr Allin said: "The absence of artefacts, the absence of obvious edit points, the absence of typical hoaxer manipulations of images. And it's the inclusion of things you would expect to see of something in the atmosphere. You would expect in certain channels - you can kind of see interaction with the atmosphere. They are there."

Moulton-Howe updated her website by claiming that the digital experts now believed the second image was a hoax. The shot of the airport was apparently lifted from another website and the UFO inserted later. It just shows that even the experts can be fooled 9.

At least two obviously-hoaxed images purporting to be the O'Hare UFO have appeared on the internet, but that is to be expected, one might suppose.

On the UFO Casebook website, two photographs were published, again claiming to be taken by an employee at O'Hare 10. The photographer submitted them, saying: "You can believe them or not, but I am washing my hands of them and never want to see another UFO again! I do not need the hassle."

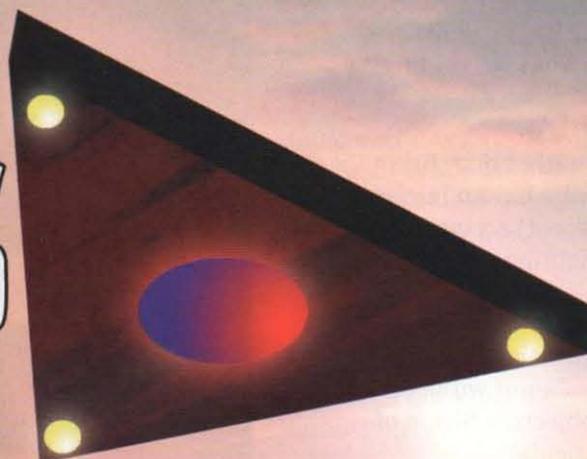
We will keep an eye out for developments in this case and if anything new, particularly those photographs, crops up, we will let our readers know through the magazine. Of course you can always keep up to date, 24-hours a day, through the website and forum.

- Steve Johnson

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UK UFO REPORTS



SHROPSHIRE

On January 4th, 2007, the *Shropshire Star* reported that a retired police officer had witnessed 'a long, cylindrical thing, about 1,000ft up in the sky...traveling at more than 100 miles per hour'.

He went on to say:

"I've never seen anything like it before and am completely lost to know what it is. It left me feeling quite uptight. It seemed to be on fire but it looked nothing like an aircraft and made no noise at all.

"I wish I'd had a camera but by the time we thought about it, it had gone. I'd be surprised if nobody else has seen it."

(<http://www.shropshirestar.co.uk/2007/01/ufo-seen-burning-up-in-sky/>)

WALES

The BBC News website (news.bbc.co.uk) reported on January 24th, 2007, that a bright light sighted from all over Wales was probably a meteor:

The light was first seen at 0730 GMT, with one eyewitness describing it as a "long line, thicker at one end, bluey-green and flashing".

Reports of the light came in from the Llyn Peninsula through to Swansea. Jay Tate from Spaceguard UK said it was most likely to be a piece of space debris entering the earth's atmosphere. "It was frightening," said Morfudd Parry Roberts from Aberdaron, Gwynedd.

"I was sitting having a cup of coffee by the window when I saw it (the light) move from the north towards the south.

"It was a long line, thicker at the front end. It was quite frightening because it seemed so big."

"It was a bluey-green and flashing. It was at least 50 times bigger than a shooting star and seemed to be gliding through the sky quite low down, not falling."

Witnesses said the light lasted for a few seconds.

(http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/wales/north_west/6294099.stm)

Editor: Shropshire is very close to the Welsh border, sounds like these two reports are of the same object.

MORE FILES RELEASED!

On January 25th, 2007, British tabloid newspaper, *The Sun*, reported about the French government releasing UFO files to the public and how it was exciting researchers in the UK. Nick Pope, former head of Secretariat Air Staff 2a in Whitehall,

was reported as saying: "There is a lot of files [sic] which have not seen the light of day.

If the MoD published them, it would be a huge step forward".

(<http://www.thesun.co.uk/article/0,,2-2007040056,00.html>)

SCOTLAND

On January 28th, 2007, Brian Vike's hbccufo website has an intriguing (albeit not recent) account of a triangular UFO sighting in Falkirk, Scotland:

Location of Sighting: Back garden via window. Number of witnesses: 1
Number of objects: 1 Shape of objects: Triangular

Full Description of event/sighting: I was about 7 or 8 years old when I was in my mum's room talking to her while she was putting out her washing or bringing it in. It was a dark night but quite light in some areas. I looked up and saw a triangular shaped object hovering above the house in front of ours. I shouted on my mum who had just came back [sic] into the house but she was too late. It was a large black triangle with 3 lights in each corner. It was their [sic] for about 1 and a half minutes.

(<http://www.hbccufo.org/modules.php?name=News&file=article&sid=1523>)

RADIO STATION WEBSITE

In early January, Manchester radio station, XFM, posted a video on its website (it also did the inevitable YouTube rounds) of a 'UFO' captured by one of the company's CCTV security cameras.

Although not very clear, the footage has caused something of a stir on internet forums (including our own), with opinion divided as to what is actually seen.

(<http://www.xfmmanchester.co.uk/Article.asp?b=onair&id=335729> and <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YmMZAHzsTH4> - thanks to Chris Parr for alerting UFOData Magazine to this story)



They say most DJ's have 'a face for radio', well Manchester's XFM could take a leaf out that book, because we reckon on the same token they have discovered the perfect broadcast media, for their UFO footage. It's worse than anything to come out of central America. The camera seems to be filthy, the resolution is that of the back garden from the toilet window and it probably shows a carrier bag being blown on the wind. Hey guys, you do the music, we'll do the UFOs...

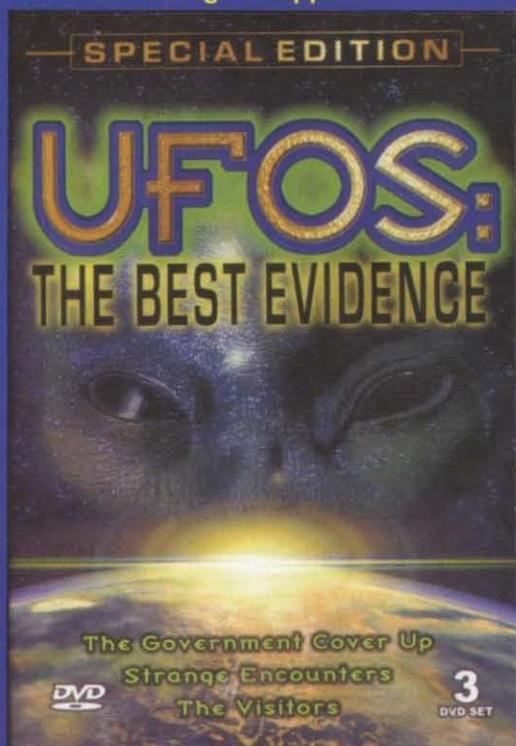
This three disc set from UFOTV is not short of evidence.

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Disgusted from Tring

It's always nice to open letters from our readers. Some are comments and kind words, some are observations or short reports of unusual activity, some are funny and some more serious.

If you feel the need to take pen to paper then do it and let the world hear your shout.

Since the format of *UFO DATA Magazine* has changed to a full-size, A4 publication, it seems we have upset one of our readers' 'status quo', No not Derby & Joan's equivalent to My Chemical Romance Status Quo, but the other one.

"It's awful!

It's awful that it doesn't fit on my little shelf with all the others.

It's awful how you've made me read it cover to cover.

It's awful how you've produced an excellent mag that just keeps getting better and better!

Yes, it's just awful

Nicky.

Nicky, we're awfully happy to keep sending it.

Well!! what can I say the new format magazine dropped through my letter box yesterday and one word sums it up:-

Fantastic, 'out of this world' enjoyed reading all the topics it's great to see an A4 size mag again.

Kirk.

Well Kirky that's five words but we don't mind the exaggeration.

*I went to Kiev for Christmas and the New Year and was a bit depressed coming back here but lo and behold when I got home there was my copy of *UFO DATA Magazine*.*

I've finished reading it now, took two nights of bedtime reading to do it, just couldn't put it down.

Told the guys at work about it and they think I'm mad, I just can't wait until the day of full disclosure so I can give them a big I told you so.

'CRACKIN' MAG GUYS AND A BIG THANK YOU.

Malla Newcastle.

*Newcastle has it's own Alien super heroes in Ant n Dec, but *UFO DATA* has a real ally, Malla, stick a subscription form under their noses.*

Enough praise for now though. can anyone shed a little light on this reader's observation:

*Hello *UFO data UK.**

*If anybody in *UFOdata* group is planning to go to southern France on holiday.*

I suggest a visit to Carcassonne in the department of the AUDE in Languedoc-Rousillon region.

*I lived there through the 1980's and during one of my trips to the ancient City of Carcassonne, found within the Romano-Gothic Cathedral there, an ancient tombstone with a very much *UFO* related engraving on the cracked surface.*

The ancient cathedral of St-Nazaire is divided into two architectural halves, clearly delineated. One half is Roman, the other Gothic, the building work was halted between the phases, and so it is in fact a true Romano-Gothic cathedral.

*An ancient tombstone it had a clear image of a landed *UFO* with the legs at each corner down on the earth and a single humanoid figure perhaps with some kind of headgear standing by it. This may sound a bit far fetched but I will swear over the*

Bible that it is true. Perhaps the headgear is something I have incorrectly added due to the time elapsed since I saw this last. The rest is absolutely reliable.

There is also included in the image a large skull and cross bones (!) icon engraved onto this horizontally laid tombstone.

Maybe the tomb was some kind of a warning about a local person who claimed to have seen flying disks and subsequently been judged insane. Or the fact that the image includes a very clearly defined flying disk (landed) a humanoid and a skull and cross bones, could indicate that somebody or something was buried underneath the stone. I remember having some thought like: 'this is not an adult sized tombstone'.

The tombstone was, from memory positioned in the far left hand corner, or left hand upper section of the Cathedral in relation to the main entrance doorway. I think it may have been in the Gothic section, I can't be certain about that. It was, I think about 4ft in length and a perhaps 2½ ft wide.

Again my guesstimate.

I have a vision of either Easy Jet or Ryan Air being swamped with requests for cheap flights to southern France sometime soon. Seriously, anyone going on holiday to the area, please, please take a camera and get a picture.

I will be in Perpignan at the end of February, but it is for a filming commitment for Leeds Rhinos and unfortunately it's a 48-hour turnaround or I would be there.

**Letters to the editor
UFO DATA PO BOX 280
LEEDS
LS26 1AN**

UFOs Over The Blue Mountains

Rex Gilroy

In all walks of life there are those people who study, those people who observe and there are those people who get out there and get their hands dirty.

Ufology is full of examples of this and there's nothing wrong with that. There are those, however, who sit on their behinds and pick fault with everything we offer from the comfort of their favourite chair.

Rex Gilroy is one of those guys who gets out there and gets his hands dirty.

Here, Australian Rex looks at stories and encounters from the Blue Mountains of Sydney.

UFOS OVER THE BLUE MOUNTAINS

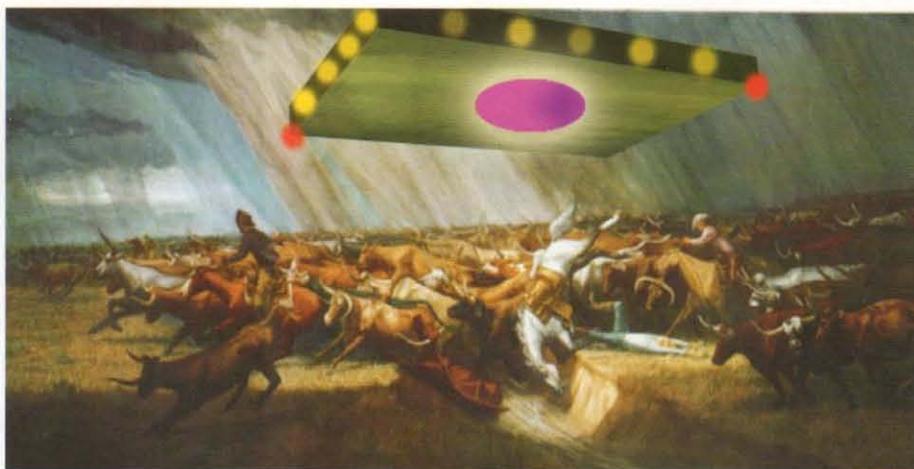
Rex Gilroy © 2006

From the files of the Blue Mountains UFO Research Club

The Blue Mountains, which lie west of Sydney, New South Wales, possess a wealth of UFO sightings, ET abduction cases, 'Time Window' experiences, and other related phenomena going back to the pioneer days in the 19th century.

Early incidents from the Blue Mountains took place in 1875, when a gigantic, squarish flying craft was seen by day over a wide area of the Blue Mountains. It glided over farms, frightening stock and the settlers. In the Kurrajong area, a great number of people left their homes in panic, in sulkies, wagons or on horseback, gathering in droves in a paddock where many thought the world was about to end and began praying, while others talked about where they might escape from the mysterious, giant craft. However, it disappeared as mysteriously as it had appeared and was not seen again.

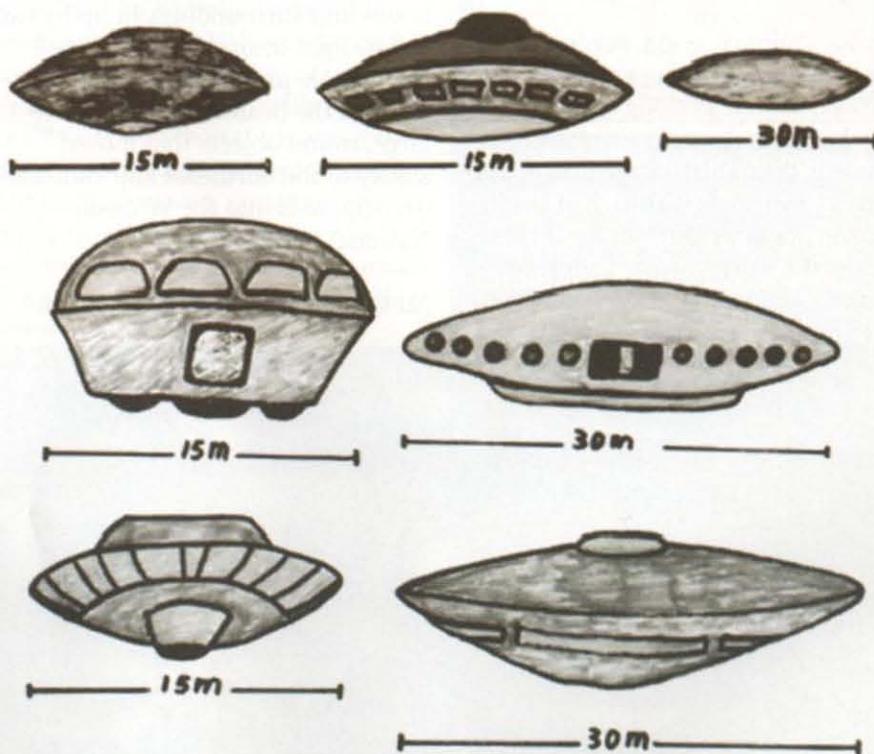
Extra-terrestrial encounters were not confined to early pioneers of the Blue Mountains; there are a great many ancient Aboriginal myths and legends which speak of visitations from the skies, by 'gods' who lived among the ancient tribespeople in the long-ago 'Dreamtime'. One myth concerned "Biame the Sky God" who created the Earth out of a big ball of mud. He took stones from the Earth's surface from which he created all the animals and plants, as well as the first Aborigines. Then he flew back to his home in the sky. However, Biame had forgotten to give the first Aborigines the power to think; as a result they began starving to death because they did not know how to hunt for food. So, together with his culture heroes, Biame came down from the sky and, in a big Dreamtime hunt across the Blue Mountains, he gave the Aborigines the spear thrower and boomerang, teaching them how to hunt their food and how to make fire. Then Biame and his culture heroes returned to the sky.



The Blue Mountains UFO Research Club is actively pursuing UFO activity throughout the Blue Mountains region, which has included alien abduction cases, as well as experiences of people who have stepped in and out of 'time windows'. Some time ago I learnt that a 'Mothman' had been claimed seen at Wentworth Falls by campers, not long before the devastating 1956-1957 bushfires that ravaged the Blue Mountains valleys and towns. A 'Mothman' was again seen by several people at Wentworth Falls, in January 1965, just prior to a bad train wreck that happened on the edge of the town. More recently, several 'Mothman' sightings occurred in the New South Wales Central

West and on the western edge of the Blue Mountains in the months leading up to the bad drought at the beginning of the 1990s, and another of these winged mysteries was seen by campers at Kanangra Walls one evening as they sat around their campfire one January night in 2001.

Interestingly, ancient Aboriginal traditions of the Australian Alps speak of the "Great Bogong Moth Men" who always appeared in the air as a warning of natural disaster, such as bad storms, drought and other calamities. In fact, just before the horrific Canberra bushfires in January 2003, a 'Mothman' was claimed to have been seen in the Tidbinbilla Range by an Aboriginal



Burraborang Valley UFO descriptions



group. These beings always appear prior to some disastrous event and I have been told many years ago by people that, not long before the beginning of the Second World War, people saw 'apparitions' of this kind on the Blue Mountains and in the Sydney district.

Undoubtedly the great numbers of UFO sightings on the Blue Mountains keeps our Club members busy. The following are just a small sample:

During January, 2004, several people living in Megalong and Kanimbla Valleys, as well as along Jenolan Road, reported seeing six orange-glowing, triangular-shaped craft, perhaps 15 metres in width, flying swiftly from north to south in the direction of the Burratorang Valley, on two occasions around 10.00pm at



night. The craft made no sounds.

On the night of February 1st, 2003, while I was walking my dog out on Narrow Neck Peninsula [which lies south-west of Katoomba township] around 7.30pm in fading light, from the summit of a knoll, I happened to see a saucer-shaped, blue-glowing object hovering high above the western escarpment of Megalong

Valley. I watched it for a few minutes until it was obscured by a cloudbank.

During March, 2004, I received a phone call from a Springwood man who informed me that two 15-metre-wide, yellow-glowing, saucer-type 'airships' had been reported to him by friends living on a bush property at Clarence. Their encounter took place about December 15th, 2003, about 1.00am when they were woken up by a loud humming sound. Looking outside they found their house and surroundings lit up by two yellow light beams that enveloped their whole property. They then realised the beams came from two large, round objects that moved slowly to the northeast and vanished over the hills into the Wollemi National Park.

Mr Ces White, while driving from

Bell to Bilpin around 2.00pm on January 5th, 2004, spotted, high in the sky, a "large black, hexagonal-shaped object" flying swiftly from north to south over Bilpin. Another couple may have sighted the same object half an hour later at Warragamba as it flew over the dam on the edge of the town.

UFOs do not always fly over the Blue Mountains, they land here as well! "Saucer nests" have been found across the region for generations. In recent months, a blue-glowing object has been seen to land somewhere in scrub on the western edge of Narrow Neck plateau, its glow rising high above the trees. It has afterwards been observed moving high over Megalong Valley to vanish over the western horizon.

On 1st July, 2005, Mr and Mrs K & C of Springwood, while driving on the Bell to Mt Victoria road at 1.00am, observed high in the sky to the west, eight silver lights moving in a roughly circular formation from south to north. They stopped the car and got out to watch the lights from the roadside. The lights moved slowly, taking 15 minutes to move out of sight across the horizon. Mr John E and his passenger, Miss S, stopped their motorcycle around 5.00pm on May 12th, 2005, outside Yarramundi to watch a blue and silvery saucer-shaped object moving rapidly from the northwest high above them. The craft appeared to suddenly slow to a halt, hover for a minute or two, then proceed to move off to the southwest, increasing speed as it did so, vanishing out of sight over the Blue Mountains in the direction of Springwood.

Three glowing, silvery 'light balls' were claimed spotted over Newnes around 5am on February 10th, 2003, by a group of young campers. The objects were coming from north to south, high above the trees. And five orange-glowing 'balls', the size of cars, were described by Mr J of Penrith, hovering high over Penrith around 8.00pm on August 6th, 2004. Two moved off in the direction of Sydney, another moved in the direction of Warragamba Dam to the south, while the other two simply faded away.



One night in December, 2005, while walking along a road beside South Katoomba Golf Coast, I spotted high in the sky above cloud level and to the north-east of Katoomba, a blue-shining object, star-like, moving from the north-east over Katoomba. It was at this point that it appeared to change course, moving more rapidly westward, before turning southward from a point above Oberon to the west of the Blue Mountains. It then moved rapidly out of view over Burratorang Valley. This same object was seen by a great many people, from Oberon eastward across the Blue Mountains, and also in Sydney's western suburbs. Club members were able to add many reports of the same object to my own sighting.

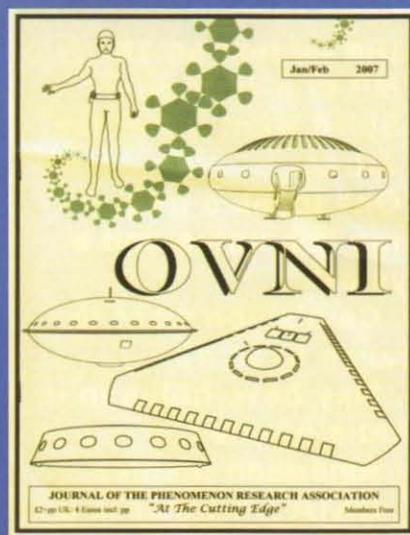
A red-glowing, triangular craft, house-size, has been claimed sighted on several occasions during November-December 2005, moving from the north over Lithgow southward over Megalong Valley. Further investigation by us produced several more sightings reports of this mystery craft, made by locals over a wide area of the Blue Mountains over a several day period.

There have been sighting reports of a cylindrical, clear object seen high above the clouds over Kurrajong Heights, the Grose and Wollemi Valleys by numerous people since January 2006, some descriptions suggesting a length of from one to two kilometres. Another three kilometre-length cylindrical UFO has

also been claimed seen high over the Kanangra Walls area, moving above cloud level to the south-west.

The Blue Mountains are among the most prolific regions in the world for UFO sightings and related incidents and there have been some truly spectacular incidents over the years. Back in 1966, then Blue Mountains City Council alderman, the late Frank Walford, told me of a "huge, bronze-coloured, round, doughnut-shaped craft" that he had watched as it hovered over Newnes Valley in broad daylight one winter's day in 1943. Frank was camped out with a mate beside a creek when the monstrous 200-foot wide and 50-foot tall craft suddenly appeared, coasting over the valley from the north. As they watched it turned eastwards to move to a point at the far end of the valley where it hovered for a time. "My mate ran for the truck to get his binoculars. There were many windows, both round and square, in two or three rows around the side of the airship. We decided we would leave at this point, which seems silly now, as the thing was so far away, and then the monster rose high into the sky and suddenly took on great speed and vanished over the mountains to the northeast."

The Blue Mountains UFO mystery continues, and the reader can expect more from the Blue Mountains UFO Research Club in the future. In the meantime... Watch the Skies!



There are a group of people who are the real foot soldiers of this subject. One of these is Omar Fowler who, along with colleagues, heads up the Phenomenon Research Association in Derby. They produce their own journal which is free to members and meet up at The Royal British Legion, Allerton, Derby on the last Tuesday of each month.

Contact Details.

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www.phenomenonresearch.com

COFFEE BREAK CROSSWORD

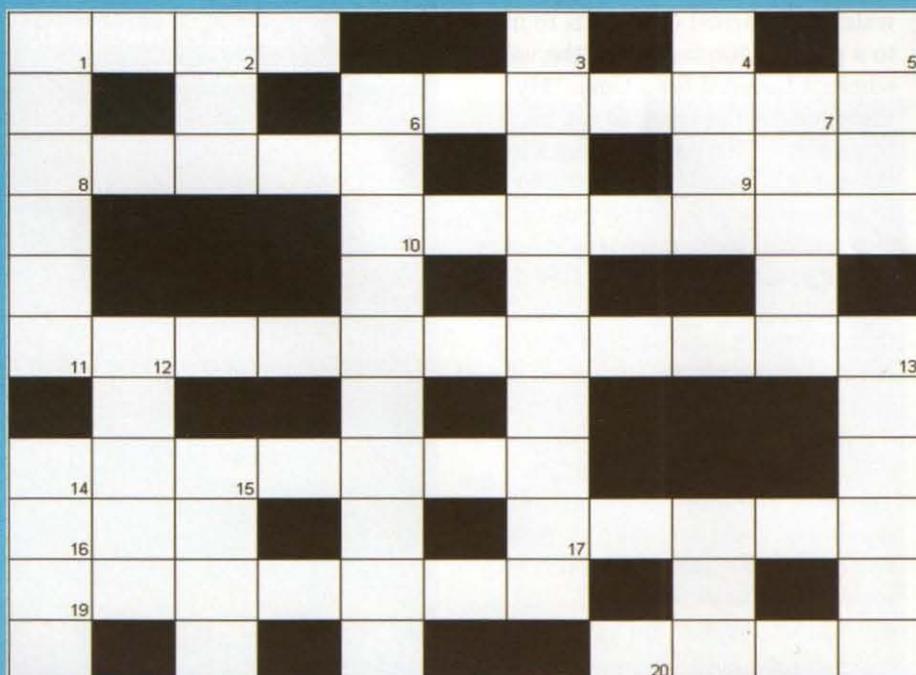
It might look easy but our 'Prize Crossword' can be a little cryptic at times. First three correct answers out of the bag will receive 'Alien Autopsy: A Little Bit of This' and a selection of ebooks. Entries by 7th April, 2007, drawn 10th April, answers and winners published May/June issue.

CLUES DOWN

1. Creighton or Bennett
2. Not even as strange as an 18
3. Sleep walking? sounds robotic
4. Did he test an 18?
5. MP in a cartoon
6. Spirit went in earlier to attract
7. One loses a ring, gains two notes and a crystal
12. Cain's son went to Heaven in an 18
13. May have holes in it. What a puzzle?
14. American insides
15. DATA's brother is a know-it-all
18. But this data is what you're reading

CLUES ACROSS

1. Tim's top Secret?, That's excellent
6. Surrounds an identified flying object
8. 18 may be seen on this
9. Essential Buddhism
10. May be felt when seeing 18
11. Witch of Endor
14. There was one of these at Rhodes
- 16 A little environmental study for a warrior
17. 18s often don't make any
19. Sacramental oil
20. Nick or Benedict



answers on a postcard
to:
CROSSWORD
UFO DATA
PO Box 280
Leeds LS26 1AN

Crossword compiler
Diana Lyons (C) 2007

The UFO subject has been a big part of my life for many years, too many years in fact - I'm starting to sound like my Dad, bless him.

You know you are getting older when you need more than one pair of glasses, not because you are blind, but because you can't remember where you put the other bloody pair. My mother-in-law has seven pairs, but don't tell her I told you.

To digress further for just a moment, I was going to work the other morning at 04:30 (somebody has to do it) and, as usual, I had the car radio tuned in to Radio Leeds, the Daft O Clock show is presented by a young whippersnapper called David Smith and I actually think that sometimes there are only him and me up at that time. Dave was looking at celebrity birthdays and just mentioned that Liza Goddard was 57 that day. My God, I thought. I used to fancy her when she played Clancy in Skippy. I also used to think: I've no chance, that flippin' helicopter pilot will be there like a shot.



Back to the matters in hand, though, no matter how much of your time you dedicate to this subject, it is rare that something that could easily be dismissed by both sceptics and researchers as a camera shake effect or mistaken identity comes along and starts you thinking.

The following pages feature a series of photographs taken by a South Yorkshire researcher we will call Andy. What he photographed will come under scrutiny, but there are factors within the images themselves that defend that quality rarely found in a UFO photograph.

The witness saw the phenomena with the naked eye before taking the photos.

THE MANSFIELD INCIDENT

It is very easy for some people to have an opinion, but it's a lot harder to learn.

We as humans have caused more damage to the environment and still we don't learn. Mother Earth is just one lump of rock in the middle of nowhere, but it would appear that throughout our history aliens seem to find us interesting. Is this because they are an advanced, distant nation with problems we can't yet imagine. Suns don't last forever and let's not forget black holes - they can be a right pain in the wrong place. Or could they just be inquisitive travellers?

As for the governments and other powers-that-be, well, UFOs don't exist and to mention otherwise is just like putting yourself in front of the media firing squad.

Let's hope we learn how to look after our planet, making our survival as the whole human race a priority instead of letting segregation and religious unrest determine our fate.

We may not be gods, but the future is in our hands. Let's hope we know what we're doing.

Since experiencing the UFO phenomena first hand, I have looked back at

historical references to UFO/Flying Saucer sightings and reports throughout history. A couple jumped right out of the pages at me and I could but help notice the similarities to my experience many years after what others had reported.

Extract from
'NEED TO KNOW'

by TIMOTHY GOOD(c)

Ronald R. Claridge, a holder of the Distinguished flying cross served as a wireless operator on Lancaster bombers with Number 7 Squadron RAF during the second World War. On 11th August, 1944, his aircraft, as master bomber, had led a raid on the oil refineries in La Pallice, France.

"We were returning to our base at Oakington (Cambridge) and still flying over France, which was a hotbed for German fighters, so we were very alert," wrote Claridge.

"I was the radio operator and as such was concentrating on my 'Fishpond' screen, looking for the blips of German fighters. The first I knew that anything untoward was happening, was when my screen went blank - I thought it was an electrical failure. I was reporting this to the skipper when he shouted over the intercom, "What the hell is that?"

"I moved into the astrodome, which gave 360-degree vision. I stood looking into the night. On our starboard



side was a sight I have never forgotten. By the time our Lancaster was flying straight and level, there was a string of lights which stretched ahead and behind us for what seemed like miles. The lights along our side were the largest and brightest, fading into the distance. We could only hear our own engine noises and there was no turbulence only the lights.

"As my night vision improved, I saw a grey, saucer-like object emerge as part of the lights. It is still difficult to describe its size ...

"Our Lancaster was a large airplane but the only comparison I can make is that we were but a dot on a sheet of foolscap paper. We all watched this object for about three minutes. We watched it shoot away 'it was just like a flash of light and the vast size was gone in less than a second, without any noise or turbulence.'

"There was silence among the crew, and I only gave my own reactions. I seem to know whatever it was had been watching us. I was left with a feeling of complete calm and the feeling that I was finished with war, which I must say never left me.

"I was warrant officer: we finished our tour of four more operations and, as far as I was concerned, I finished my active service then. It was some time before I thought we had met the ultimate weapon no one left willing to fight wars!

"I often wonder if this encounter had any affect on our lives. Personally I believe it did. I remember that during those few minutes I felt no fear whatsoever and why was it that the gunners did not open fire?"

When the crew returned to Oakington, it seemed that more intelligence officers than usual were present at the debriefing. "They just took notes of our experience and did not seem at all surprised at what we reported. We were not even debriefed about the raid," Claridge explained. "One thing I remember is that we were told not to discuss what we had seen, even among ourselves, and I think we respected this."

You could say this is a hard statement to accept, even then, but it just

goes to prove that something from the past can validate something in the future, our present.

From the Lancaster crew's experience of 1944, we come forward in time to 15th April, 1992. George Winfield graduated in 1966 with MA hons. degree in Natural Science. He was employed briefly at the Royal Greenwich Observatory, Herstmonceux, on stella spectra and Earth's magnetism and for many years worked at IBM UK Ltd in the field of system engineering.

He became interested in crop circles when visiting Westbury, Wiltshire, where a number of crop circles had appeared in August, 1987. He and his wife, Gloria, went to a lecture on the crop circle phenomenon at the Smithsonian Institute in Washington DC. George Winfield recalls:

"We arrived at National Airport at 4.20pm on the afternoon of 13th April, 1992. We had flown from Raleigh/Durham, North Carolina, and we were welcomed by Susan Webster, an Englishwoman who had lived in the area for many years. Although we had corresponded, neither of us had met Susan until that day. She drove us from the airport and pointed out many landmarks in the city. The weather was bright and sunny with hardly a cloud in sky.

"We stopped the car by the Tidal Basin of the Potomac to wander in the sun and look at the cherry blossom, which was at its finest. I suggested that we walk to the Washington Monument which entailed crossing two busy roads. There were dozens of tourist there,

mostly in a straggle line around the base waiting to ascend the inside of the great obelisk. Enquiries indicated we would have to wait thirty minutes if we wish to go up in the elevator. I took several photos of the 555-foot high monument with my Canon Autofocus camera and, just as we were leaving, I remarked that I must get a photograph of the White House from this vantage point and stepped to one side to do so.

"However that photo was never taken, as I walked to get into position I glanced up towards the apex of the great pillar. Over the top of the monument, travelling silently towards the west at great altitude, was a bright disk and, as if this was not astonishing enough, there followed behind it a small fleet of seven lesser objects also shining brilliantly as they swept silently above the obelisk. Although there was no way of telling for certain these all appeared to be at great altitude- say 30,000 feet or



more. The estimate is based on comparison with jet aircraft at a similar height, but quite clearly these were not aircraft.

"The large disc must have been about one-quarter of the full moon. Gloria and Susan immediately saw what I was pointing at and watched the objects moving silently above. I motioned to several people standing nearby who also looked up but without showing much interest. One boy did ask me what the circular object in the sky was. "That," I replied, "is a UFO." He looked somewhat puzzled. Another boy had a pair of binoculars and I borrowed them to look at the object, adjusting the focus with some difficulty. I was able to see that it appeared translucent and circular.

"By now, the smaller objects had faded and only one or two remained in sight. Possibly their initial brightness had been caused by reflecting sunlight in the position where we had spotted them all had wheeled above us and receding again towards the east in the direction of the capitol. Soon, only the large disc could be seen in the sky now dwindling in size

as it flew away from us.

"Then Gloria and Susan both spotted a further small object, apparently much lower, flying rapidly westward, before it went behind the monument, it halted in flight, flew back again, reversed westward, and brightened suddenly, then apparently vanished into thin air. This object I failed to see despite looking along Gloria's arm in the direction indicated.

"By 6.00pm, perhaps fifteen minutes after the initial sighting, the largest object had faded to a minute dot and was eventually lost to sight. In due course we headed back towards the Tidal Basin, where the car was parked, excited and bewildered by the totally unexpected sighting, we felt almost honoured by this peculiar fly past. Then yet another object appeared, flying roughly on a path from the Capitol towards the Pentagon, which was not visible from where we stood, this object seemed to drift silently across the sky, shaped like a cross, then perhaps a cigar, then like an aircraft; in fact its only conceivable resemblance was to an enormous irregular cluster of bal-

loons strung together and tumbling across the sky.

For information about this sighting please read, TIMOTHY GOOD'S book, *ALIEN UPDATE*.

I have also read of a similar sighting elsewhere. It was described as a luminous string, with fiery balls attached, floating across the sky.

On the 10th June, 2006, England played against Paraguay. Well, I say 'played', I mean the first half wasn't bad, but the second half was rubbish.

"I'd just finished watching the televised game and at about 9.30 p.m. ,while standing in the back garden having a cigarette, I noticed something in the darkening, summers' night sky, to the south. I just couldn't believe it. I've seen many strange objects in the sky, but this took the biscuit.

Taking a second glance to make sure my eyes weren't deceiving me (and they weren't) I ran into the kitchen to get my digital camera. Trying to hold





the camera as steady as possible to avoid the 'camera shake' that you sometimes get when taking a photo at long distance. I was watching this long, luminous string, like lightning being paused in the sky, floating from the south, moving eastwards, like a jellyfish flowing with the sea current, but this was travelling across the sky without a care in the world.

"Attached to this phenomena were numerous balls of light, like baubles on a Christmas tree being pulled along the sky in this most elegant way. Above this strange object and high on the horizon was another object which moved to the west in a

downward motion.

"Both objects are now moving in opposite directions. At this stage I've taken three photos. Checking the camera, I'm amazed to see the camera had caught it! I just managed to get the last photo as it vanished over the eastern horizon - my fourth and last photo.

"Previously on 10th February, at a approximately 7.15 pm, I was just about to take some reusable shopping bags back to the car, after just cleaning up in the kitchen. I was amazed to see two large balls of fire. Nothing to do with earthquake lights or quartz movements underground,



as reported by some scientists, this was intelligent control of a highly advanced craft of some kind, I'm sure. Anyway, I ran upstairs this time to get my camcorder, only to find the battery was flat, so ,grabbing the mains supply, I powered my camcorder but this had taken several minutes to sort out!

"So here I am, recording a pair of UFOs moving about the sky. It was a dream moment, amazing. The balls of fire danced round the sky, sometimes independently, some times together this was a truly remarkable vision. The best part of this footage is when the object started to pulsate, and there, suddenly in front of my eyes it separated in a spectacular way almost like I'm watching in slow motion. The two objects continued to move backwards and forwards with such ease.

"I worked out that the horizon was approx. 2.5 miles away and converting this measurement to metres then multiplying it by the size the object at arm's length, which was somewhere between 6-8mm, giving me an approximate size for the objects of between 80 -120 feet in diameter (I prefer to put the final dimension in feet).

"Now back to the photos. If the objects in the photographs are of a similar size to my camcorder footage estimate, this would suggest that the total length of the luminous streak is approx. 2,080 feet and something like 12 miles distant.

"Was I the only person to see this strange and beautiful phenomena?

"Remember, I'm not an idiot making this up, it's the camera that produces the image, I just took the pictures.

"I hope you enjoy reading this article and remember life is for exploring. If you only look as far as your next bill or shopping trip, then think again when you next do your washing up near the window, or closing the curtains at night, or even when you're putting rubbish in the dustbin just have a look up you never know what you might see."

Andy. Mansfield.

There will be many sceptical people looking at Andy's evidence and claiming that what we are seeing are the effects of 'camera shake'.

The first thing I wanted to know from Andy was 'Did he use a tripod?'

The answer was no, he did not. Andy also confirmed that what drew his attention to the phenomenon was that he saw it while standing in the garden having a ciggy. It was then he went back indoors and grabbed his digital camera.

I also thought of lightning as a possible culprit, but this was ruled out by the way the photographs were shot and also the fact there are actually three photographs of the 'Nexus chain'-like object.

If the photograph was a forced long exposure shot of, say, a helicopter flying across the night sky with its tail beacon flashing, then we might just get a result similar with a hand-held shot, but it would have to be held very, very steady and even the action of releasing the shutter would cause some movement.

Basically the options are limited.

1 - Andy saw the objects and took the photographs, the resulting images were proof of the encounter.

2 - Andy didn't see the object as it appears in the photograph, but when reviewing his shots he noticed the strange red trail.

If this is the case, then I believe we are seeing camera shake but what prompted Andy to dash inside and get the camera in the first place?

3 - Andy was experimenting with his digital camera and realised that, under certain conditions and camera settings, he could produce some pretty interesting images, images that could be perceived as UFOs.

'I know, I'll do some experimenting and send the best shots to UFO DATA and make up some cock and bull story to support my claims.'

Well, I know what a lot of you might be thinking and in the style of Noel Edmonds' *Deal or No Deal*, I'm



going to go with box number 1 and my reasons are that Andy is referencing his encounter with similar reports. He has constantly been in touch with me and given me images to work with and any additional information I have requested.

Manual control of a camera shutter can be very useful. In the image above, courtesy of the University of Florida, we have a long exposure 20 minutes or so on a tripod that has captured the rotation of the Earth. The circular tracks are star trails, created as the earth rotates on its axis. The bright, red flares are car lights or even a laser pen or mobile phone LED or similar.

Andy's example above shows a hot spot that appears six or seven times

in the image. This could be the object responsible for creating the trail of pink light.

Remember, you can make up your own mind as to whether or not the details in Andy's report are accurate and truthful. Having spent time with him, discussing the case on the phone *and* studying what evidence is presented to me (underline the *and* several times (Stan Friedman effect)), I believe that Andy is being totally truthful with me and this case could be very important. But on the other hand if this is fabricated in any way, I believe I have covered UFO DATA's back.

Russel Callaghan.



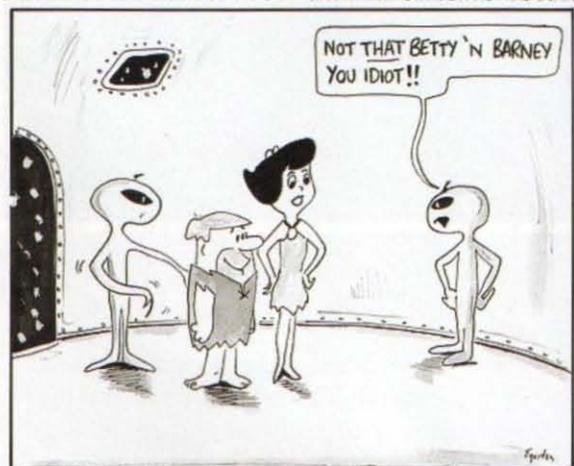
BAD JOKES GOOD JOKES

The police answered a call from the local convent about a strange object circling overhead. When the officer arrived, he asked the Mother Superior what kind of object it was. "I can't say", she replied, "but sister Elizabeth says she knows exactly what it was, do you want to speak with her?"

"That's ok", said the policeman, "I'll just put it down as a nun-identified flying object."



Looks Familiar
Three well known faces in very early roles.



Many will recall that on July 8, 1947, witnesses claim an unidentified object with five aliens aboard crashed on a sheep and cattle ranch just outside Roswell, New Mexico.

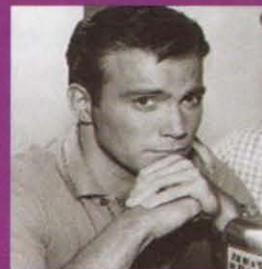
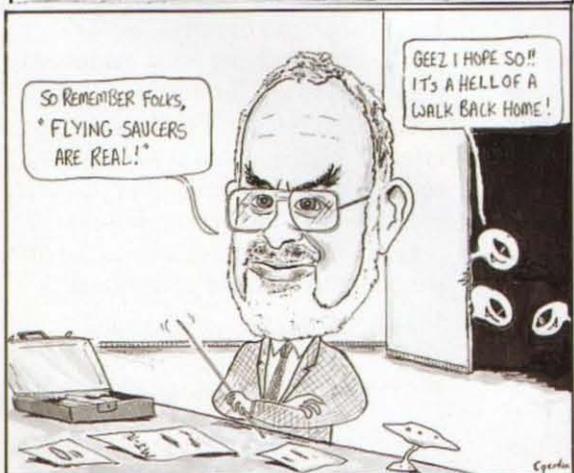
This is a well known incident that many say has long been covered up by the US Air Force and the federal government.

However, you may well NOT know that in the month of March 1948, exactly nine months after that historic day, Albert Arnold Gore, Jr.; Hillary Rodham; John F. Kerry; William Jefferson Clinton; Howard Dean; Nancy Pelosi; Dianne Feinstein; Charles E. Schumer; and Barbara Boxer were born.

That piece of information has now cleared up a lot of things.

Q What did the Chinese Astronaut cook for lunch.

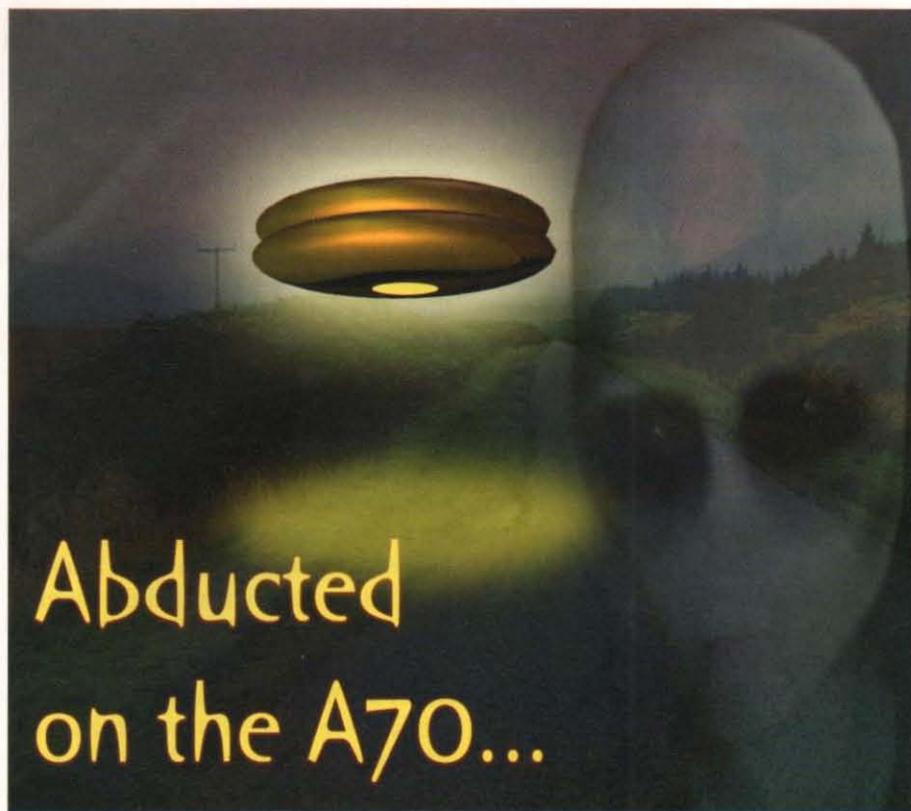
A An Unidentified Frying Object, silly.



All three boldly went on to become interstellar superstars.

please send us your best offerings to:

UFODATA
PO BOX 280
LEEDS LS26 1AN
email jokes@ufodata.co.uk



the believers' camp. Now this was no mean task, as I have always considered myself a very sceptical UFO researcher and somewhat of a 'canny Scot', which in layman's terms means 'someone who takes great care in what they are doing by thinking things through as logical as possible'. And the case that 'did it for me' was what's now known as the 'A70 Incident'.

The case concerns the abduction of two Edinburgh gentlemen, gentlemen who were not interested in matters relating to UFOs, but were more interested in going out with their wives and doing ordinary, mundane things - just your ordinary men in the street, basically. Becoming involved with this case, as I inevitably did, changed my whole perception of ufology. It changed my whole perception on life. It changed the way I viewed things and, even today, I am still very much touched by their event.

The following account that you are about to read, may sound incredible, it may seem unreal, but, by golly, it happened alright and it didn't just happen in their minds, as some sceptics would have you believe. Dealing with these individuals and working with them ever so closely, I became captured by their sincere honesty. They were not out to pull the wool over my eyes or the eyes of my fellow researchers, they wanted answers and they wanted answers badly. So badly, that they were prepared to go to the ends of the Earth to find them.

They found SPI (Strange Phenomena Investigations) and what you are about to read may seem incredible, but it is consistent with other worldwide UFO abduction accounts. Within their account is the biggest kernel of truth that you will ever find. It is a fascinating, if not disturbing, account of a night, which is now firmly etched into both their minds. This article uses information to which other authors didn't have access and I hope that you, the reader, will be concerned enough through this account to realise that mankind is most certainly dealing with other 'beings' from other 'worlds'. Let us now take a look at Scotland's most impressive case of UFO abduction on record, The A70 Incident.

Malcolm Robinson Reports.

DATE OF INCIDENT:

17th August 1992.

LOCATION OF INCIDENT:

On the A70 near Harperrig Reservoir, Lothian District, Central Scotland.

We all go through life and we learn various things. They say that life is an education, that each and every one of us takes on board lessons that either we learn from or ignore. Wisdom may come through searching and learning various facts and information. Life is the proverbial school and we are conditioned by television and radio to buy certain brands of breakfast cereal because "they" say that "their" product is better than anyone else's.

I've asked before, 'What constitutes proof!?' Is it a good UFO photograph or a good UFO video? People believe in a whole range of things for a whole range of different reasons. People can be convinced that a certain brand of washing powder is better than another. The media, the powers that be, can be persuasive and the campaign to get you to change your mind can be extensive.

So what am I driving at? What I'm asking is, "Why do people believe in

things?" Now that is a big question, of which, no doubt, some would argue has many connotations. Do people believe through reading various books? Do people believe in things simply because other people do? Millions of people believe in God and yet they have never seen Him. Thousands of people, if not millions, believe in UFOs and may not have seen one. I believe that humankind is being visited by 'other intelligences' which are far superior to our own.

Now this is not something that I arrived at on the spur of the moment. It came after much UFO research, in which many of what appeared on the surface to be strong and very impressive UFO events, tumbled into identifiable, mundane, explainable UFO reports. But from this potpourri of UFO reports came nuggets of cases which appeared to defy all rational explanation.

Most, if not all, serious UFO researchers the world over will tell you that in all their own personal UFO files, there are one or two which shine out above all others. Cases of which even the most hardened sceptics would find hard to disprove. It wasn't until 1993 that this actually happened to me, in which a case was presented to me, which took me straight off the proverbial sceptical fence, and placed me slap-bang into

AUGUST 17TH, 1992 - THE NIGHT THAT CHANGED THE CONCEPTION OF THE WORLD FOR TWO EDINBURGH MEN.

It was a warm, cool August night, just after 11:30pm, when Garry Wood and his friend, Colin Wright, left Scotland's capital city of Edinburgh on a short half-hour drive down the A70 to a friend's house in Tarbrax, West Lothian. The reason for the journey was to drop off a satellite system.

The A70, in part, is a very desolate stretch of road and is bordered by fields on either side. Only the odd house, dotted here and there, can be seen popping out of this rough terrain of land. During the journey, both men were discussing the day's events and what they intended to do for the following week. In the background, music could be heard coming from the car's CD system. Garry's G-registration Vauxhall Astra was travelling at roughly 40 miles per hour and there was very little traffic on the road.

The car had just passed Harperrig Reservoir, which brought them towards a blind bend in the road, when Colin, who was sitting in the passenger seat, called out, "What on Earth is that?" Garry immediately looked in the direction of where Colin was pointing and was confronted with an unearthly sight. Hovering around 20 feet above the surface of the road was a strange-looking, 2-tiered, disc-shaped object, which looked decidedly out of place.

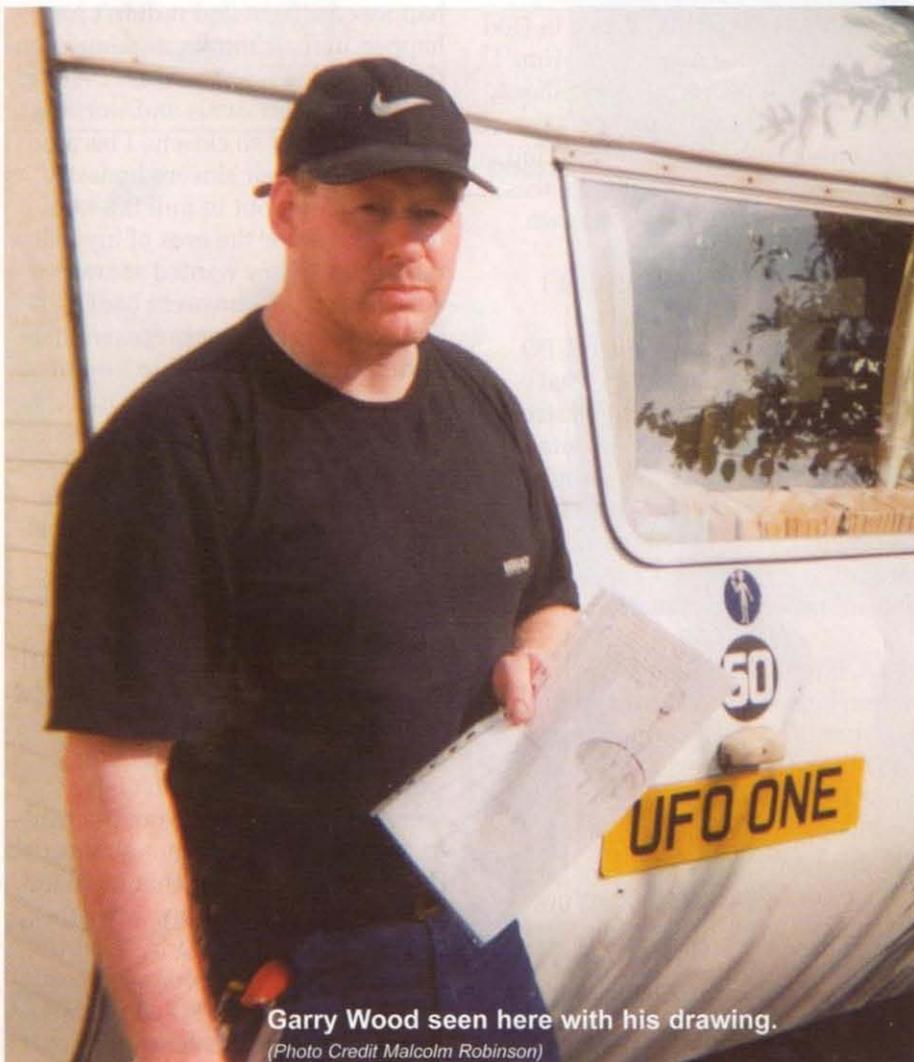
Both men knew straight away that this wasn't a conventional aircraft or helicopter. This was something totally out of the ordinary and foreign to their perception of normal aircraft design. At this point, both men became very alarmed, more so as they were now heading in the direction of this strange-looking object. Garry decided that his best course of action would be to not perform a 3-point turn on the road and head back the way he came, rather he felt that it would be better to put his foot down on the accelerator and drive quickly underneath this hovering object, whereby getting away from it as fast

as possible. This he did and he slammed his foot hard on the accelerator and the car screamed underneath the object. At the same time, with his elbow, he pushed down to lock the car door.

Soon the car was heading quickly towards the object and he noticed that it took up the entire width of the road. Garry stated to the author that the object appeared jet-black in appearance and was quite shiny. It had no windows or exterior structures and appeared to be made of a solid, metallic substance of some sort. Garry, who works as an ambulance repair man, went on to inform me that, as he is a trained mechanic who works with a lot of metals, he found the structure and polished effect of this object most unusual.

At this point, however, things began to get strange, for as the car was fast approaching it, the object emitted some kind of silver, shimmering mist. Garry likened this effect to what one can see when a television set is tuned into an offset channel, with no picture, just a maze of hazy, shimmering lines. This silver, shimmering effect then touched the car and, as it did so, both men were enveloped in total and inky blackness. They couldn't even see themselves. They couldn't see the dashboard of the car. It was a complete and utter black void!! Seconds later, or what appeared to them to be seconds later, they regained their sight. There was a huge shudder from the car and they could now see the landscape around them. Colin recalls that, at this point, Garry was driving 'like a bloody madman' in an effort to get away from this alarming scene.

Fighting hard to control the car (as it was on the wrong side of the road), Garry screamed away from the area and continued on to his destination of Tarbrax. As they arrived at Tarbrax, Colin reached down to unfasten his seatbelt and was startled to find that it was already unbuckled! As Colin is very safety conscious in a car and always ensures that he secures his seatbelt, he found this most surprising. He surmised, however, that perhaps he had taken it off somewhere along the A70 and had forgotten to put it back on. Both men were quite distressed by now and



Garry Wood seen here with his drawing.

(Photo Credit Malcolm Robinson)

Garry recalls 'banging' on the door of the house where they were dropping off the satellite system.

He was surprised that no one was answering and thought that perhaps they weren't home. Some minutes later, though, the occupants of the house answered the door, whereupon they asked Garry where he had been and that they were about an hour and a half late! Garry, at this point, was very confused, as he knew only too well that this journey, a journey that he had made many times before, should only have taken him around 30 to 35 minutes. How on Earth had it taken him an hour and a half?

Garry and Colin quickly entered the home and began speaking about what they had both seen on the A70. They even asked for some pens and paper in order to draw what they had seen. Catrina, the lady of the house, remembers that particular night only too well and, in a phone call to the author, recalled the fear and distress that both men were in. She further stated that in no way were Garry and Colin making all this up. She had known both men for a number of years and she knew them well enough to state that they were not in the habit of telling tall tales.

After a period of time in Catrina's home, they left to return to Edinburgh. Garry related to the author that he could remember very little about his journey home that night, but does recall that he took a different route! The following day, Garry found himself extremely tired, more tired than he had been for a long time.

As the days progressed, Garry knew deep down that 'something else' had transpired that night. He was bothered by strange dreams and his sleeping patterns had changed. He developed severe headaches, so much so that he had to attend his local doctor, who suggested that he should have a CAT scan. This Garry did, but nothing unusual was found. Garry also had a spinal tap, of which again nothing abnormal was found.

"What could that object have been?" he thought to himself. He knew that it wasn't conventional and began to think that perhaps it was one of

those strange Unidentified Flying Objects that people had reported throughout the world. Garry didn't want to accept this, as this was certainly not an interest of his. He had no interest at all about UFOs and had read very little about the subject, only what he had come across in various newspapers. Colin, too, was certainly not interested in UFOs. Both men were more involved with work and their families and UFOs did not come anywhere into their daily life. But, still, Garry harboured these intense feelings that 'something else' had happened that night. What could he do about it? Who do you see about it?

Eventually he decided his best course of action would be to go along to his local library and try to find some UFO books, where he might be able to get some answers. This he did and, in checking, he came across the address of my society, Strange Phenomena Investigations (SPI). I remember the night when Garry Wood called me. I listened intently as his strange tale unfolded and I knew straight away that something, which was head and shoulders above the normal mundane close encounter experience, had indeed occurred to both men.

I quickly arranged for Garry and Colin to visit my home in Alloa, where I would have the chance to speak directly to both men and discuss with them in length exactly what they saw. That day came and the honesty and conviction coming from both men really had to be seen to be believed. I had never, ever met such sincere and honest individuals as Garry Wood and Colin Wright. One could readily see the intense emotion and trauma that both of these men had suffered (and, to some extent, were still suffering). It was a gripping story and one that sent shivers down my spine and I had heard and read a lot in my time. After both men had recounted their experiences, there was a silence in the room, a silence which was eventually broken by my comments that I 'believed' in them, that it was clear to me that 'something else' had happened that night and that one of the ways that 'might' elicit possible further recall of that night's events would be to put both men under hyp-

notic regression.

I explained to both men about hypnosis and also that it was not always the best tool to extract any possible hidden or subconscious memory. People could and can lie under hypnosis. Hypnosis stood upon shaky ground as far as its use goes on UFO abduction witnesses. The UFO world was divided on its role in abduction cases and that there would always be, no matter what, a division of opinion on the validity of it being used. However, I explained to both Garry and Colin that, as a researcher, it was my job to get to the truth and, in doing so, I felt that I should get to that truth by using any method available to me. It would not be professional to throw out any means of assistance to a case study simply because a number of people say that I shouldn't use it.

I strongly accept that hypnosis has its pitfalls and it may not be the best means of finding out what a witness experienced, but at the end of the day, I do honestly believe that the use of hypnosis can unlock certain doors of the mind which can release previously-suppressed information or memories which are too painful for the conscious mind to recall and, in effect, forces it back to the recesses of the mind. None of us wish to remember events in our lives which prove painful and the human mind has a great capacity for suppressing these memories. The point, though, is those memories are still there and they will never go away unless in perhaps extreme medical conditions, a severe knock to the head, for instance, which has happened to numerous people when they totally forget their own family and friends.

I went on to inform Garry and Colin that some police authorities the world over use hypnosis and recognise the importance of doing so, that they have used it sparingly, only when they felt it would benefit the case they were working on. At the end of the day, I told both men that I felt that whatever information we can provide to assist in the uncovering of the UFO phenomenon must be for the good. As a researcher, it was my job to get to the truth and, if I felt that the use of hypnosis would assist me in getting to the truth, then I cer-

tainly would use it. However, it should only be used by people who knew what they were doing, by people who were qualified and were not 'fly by night', 'backstreet' practitioners. It would be a sad day indeed if we kicked into touch a means of enquiry which might show us the way in the understanding of the UFO subject.

Having discussed the whys and wherefores with both Garry and Colin regarding the use of hypnosis, I asked them what they felt. Would they like to try it or would they rather leave this avenue alone, particularly as it might indeed lead to further recall and that recall might well cast up images and information which they might not like? The choice was theirs. I did not at any time force them or put any pressure on them whatsoever to go through with hypnosis. I left it for them to decide. Again, a quiet period followed, after which Garry broke the silence by stating that if hypnosis helped him find out what was the cause of his experience, he was more than happy to go through with it. Colin nodded, "Me too." I again asked if both of them were really sure that they wanted to go down this avenue, to which they both replied that they were. All that was left was to find a hypnotherapist.

My first thoughts on who to use was a colleague of mine and someone whom I trusted implicitly. Her name was Helen Walters. Helen was not only a qualified hypnotherapist, but she was also a gifted psychic and someone of whom our society had used in numerous case investigations. I approached Helen and gave her as little information as possible about this case, ensuring that she would not be knowledgeable about all of what happened, whereby she might be forearmed and use leading questions. Helen was more than happy 'not to know' any main facts about this case, other than the obvious fact that 'something' strange had happened to these two men on the night of the 17th of August.

A date was set and both Garry and Colin travelled over to the small town of Alva in Clackmannanshire, where Helen lived, to have what would be the first of many hypnosis sessions.

Garry recalls his first hypnosis session as not what he expected. He burst into tears and was emotionally distraught. On the other hand, Colin seemed to handle this first session better and remained calm throughout, with only the occasional movement of his head and body. At this first session, Garry recalls seeing only vague shapes, but it was clear to see that 'something' was trying to surface and that 'something' just had to come out.

Prior to the hypnosis session, I had asked both men not to read up on any UFO material, but to keep their heads away from any UFO literature which might colour or invalidate what might come out under hypnotic regression. This they agreed to do.

I remember those early hypnotic regression sessions well. Each man went separately into a back room, in which Helen carefully guided them through an introductory explanation, which gently eased them back to that August night. Both men, although they were under hypnosis, were still very much aware of where they currently were and who was in the room, a common feature of most people who go under hypnosis. I not only audio taped and videotaped most of these sessions (I couldn't attend some sessions due to work commitments), but I also took notes as well and monitored the reactions of both men whilst they were under Helen's influence. Many times both men's bodies jolted on the hypnotherapist's chair. This was in direct response to their recall of an event that 'surfaced' under hypnosis.

The following weeks saw more visits by both Garry and Colin to be placed under hypnotic regression and I shall now go through and inform you, the reader, exactly what came out under hypnosis. It makes for harrowing reading.

HYPNOTIC RECALL, THE MEMORIES SURFACE.

Firstly, let me make it quite clear that both men under normal recall only remember witnessing this large, black object as it hovered above the road, followed by the unusual curtain of silvery light, which descended down upon their car. They do not

recall any 'aliens' or seeing inside what could be termed a UFO. The following information was gleaned purely from hypnosis and is presented here, in depth, for the very first time.

Under hypnosis, both men stated that the car was stopped on the road, after which both the driver and passenger doors were opened by three, small entities. Colin recalled that he saw Garry being placed on what looked like some kind of stretcher, but with the major difference that none of these three, small entities appeared to be holding it! One entity stood at the front of this stretcher, whilst another stood at the back. Garry, it must be noted, cannot recall himself being placed upon this 'free floating stretcher'. Garry also experienced, at this point, tremendous pain in his abdominal region. He described it to me as if all his internal muscles were being pulled in all directions and this caused him considerable discomfort and was quite distressing to him. Garry also recalled another entity, which appeared to be lurking or hiding behind part of the UFO. Colin recalled being led up a ramp into this object by some of these entities, which took him directly into a bright, white light. He also recalled, at this point, being led around a curving corridor, which eventually led into a round room. This room was devoid of any furnishings or instrumentation of any kind, apart, that is, from one, unusual chair. This was a curved chair (rather than a flat chair) which featured what appeared to be an arm rest. Colin was stripped naked and placed upon this chair, after which some form of medical or clinical examination was conducted upon his person. Colin also recalled looking up at the ceiling in this room and noticed that it was not flat, like a conventional ceiling, rather it appeared corrugated (curved) and there were some kinds of diffused lights shining through it.

Garry, too, remembered being taken into a round room which was devoid of any furnishing or instrumentation of any kind, apart from a raised table (not a chair). Garry too was stripped naked and placed upon this table, during which time words came into his head, words stating that no harm

would come to him. This brought no relief, for by now Garry was terrified. Garry informed me that he was brought up in the Niddrie, a working class area of Edinburgh, and he knew how to handle himself. Garry had never looked for trouble in his life, but when it happened, he knew how to protect himself. This situation, however, was a different ball game and he found himself in an environment over which he had no control and one which he found extremely distressing.

The following are but some of the further hypnotic recollections that both men experienced:

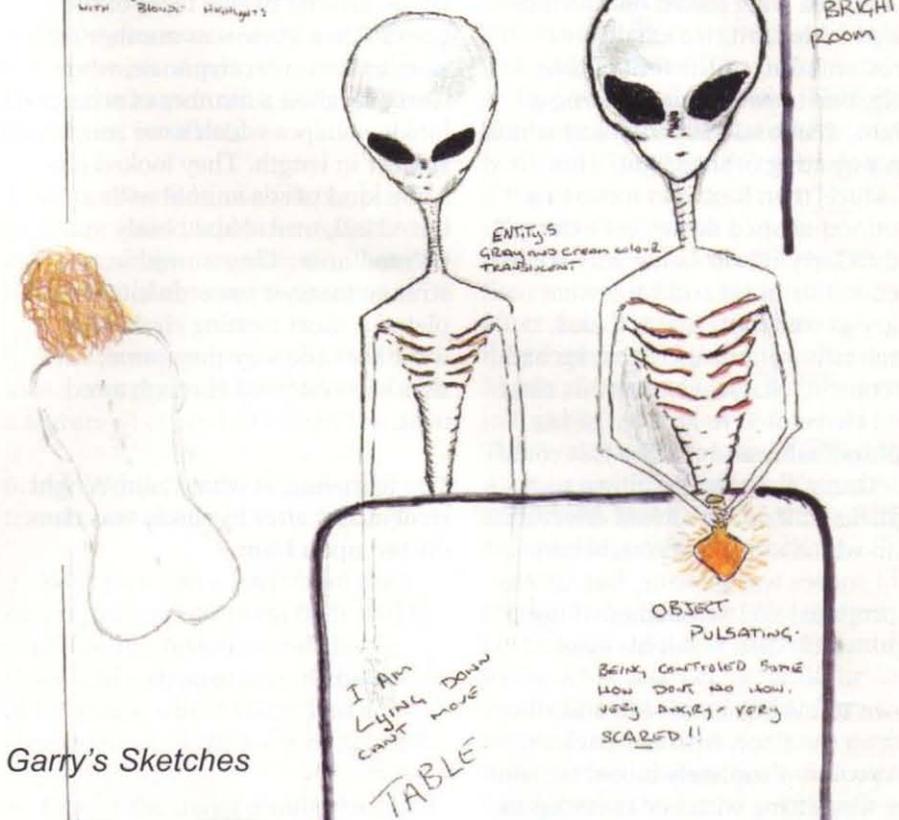
GARRY WOOD

Most of Garry's recall had him describing scenes only from the point of him lying on this flat, raised table, which was the only feature in the round room. Garry stated that as he was lying on this flat table, unable to move, he became aware of a black, lens-shaped device, which was free-floating in the centre of the room. Garry explained to the author that it appeared to be 'folding in on itself', it was turning and twisting and he couldn't for the life of him fathom out what it was or what purpose it served. Garry described the device as around five to six feet in width and was roughly two and a half feet in breadth. This device was also making some kind of 'whooshing' sound and Garry was totally in awe of this 'thing'. As Garry lay there, mesmerized by this object, with his eyes totally fixed upon it, a small and thin, translucent, grey arm with long fingers suddenly came into his line of vision and dropped onto his chest near his head. At this point, Garry shot out of hypnosis, such was the fright and surprise that this small, grey arm gave him.

Garry related that not only did he observe the commonly reported 'Grey' being i.e. small, grey-skinned being, roughly four and half feet tall with a child-like body, large, pear-shaped head with large, inky-black, almond-shaped eyes, but he also saw small, brown beings as well with heavy folds of skin which folded all over their faces. Garry was extremely frightened of one of these brown 'beings', but doesn't know why, as it

GIRL SITTING ON FLOOR WITH
HER BACK TO ME
GIRL LOOK AT ME
SHE WAS CRYING, SHE
HAD HER ARMS CLASPED
ROUND HER LEGS TRYING TO
COVER HER NAKED BODY
SHE WAS SHIVERING WITH
THE COLD. IF I SAW HER
I THINK I WOULD RECOGNISE HER
SHAGGY LONG BROWN HAIR
WITH "BLOND" HIGHLIGHTS

I SAW THIS ALL AT ONCE



Garry's Sketches

never harmed him in any way during his experience. Not all of the grey beings were the same height. Some were slightly taller than the others. Some were roughly six feet tall, whilst the others were roughly four to four and a half feet tall. Incredibly, though, Garry also related to the author that, in one of his recollections, he remembered seeing a small man dressed in a black suit complete with tie. This puzzled him somewhat and was totally out of place in this already strange environment.

Another recollection that Garry had was, again, when he was on this flat table. He recalled seeing what appeared to be like a pool of liquid gel which suddenly appeared on the floor of this room. While he was watching this, a can-shaped device rose up from the floor and appeared at the right hand side of his head. It was roughly three and a half feet tall and one and a half feet wide. This device was making some kind of motor noise and was spinning around slowly. Suddenly, a part of

this can-shaped mechanism rose up and extended from the main part of the device until it was horizontal with Garry's eyes. At the tip of this flap were situated two small, red dots. At this point the pool of liquid gel began to vibrate and then, suddenly, a small, thin grey 'creature' (resembling the Grey) started to pull himself out of it. Garry stated that this 'creature' was very frail-looking. It looked like a skeleton with the thinnest of flesh around it. It was fairly tall and had long arms. The 'creature' was predominantly grey, but the flesh over its ribs seemed bruised and red. Garry's best description of this 'creature' to the author was that, "It appeared as is it had a really hard time!!"

Garry also explained to the author that he felt as if there were 'more creatures' in this pool of gel, although he only ever saw one. He also thinks that this 'creature' was somehow controlling this can-shaped device, again, for what purpose he couldn't imagine. This was another

segment of the hypnosis session that Garry immediately came out of (without the usual run down by the hypnotherapist). Probably, what could best be described as the most amazing aspect of Garry Wood's recall under hypnosis, something which even surprised him, was when he recalled lying naked on this flat, raised table with two small 'creatures' standing at the foot of this table, one of whom was holding a bright, diamond-shaped object which was pulsating orange light. This 'creature' then began to move this diamond-shaped device over Garry's body. Garry recalls being very frightened at this point and somewhat angry as well, but, again, found, much to his annoyance, that he had no control whatsoever over his situation. He wanted to lash out at his captors, but found that he just couldn't. Garry also noticed, down to his right-hand side, an arched doorway from which a tremendous, bright light source was glowing, but he was unprepared and astonished at the sight which then befell his eyes.

Down to his left-hand side and sitting on the floor, with her back to him, was a completely naked female. She was sitting with her knees up to her chin, with her arms grasped tightly around her legs. She was softly crying and was shivering with the cold. Garry also noticed that she had shaggy, loose-permed hair with blonde highlights. Suddenly, but very gently, she slowly moved her head around in the direction of Garry, whereupon he noticed that she had tears running down her face. She then moved her head back to look at the wall. No words at all were spoken between the two and Garry stated to the author that if ever he came across this woman again he would immediately recognise her.

Garry also explained that such was his desire to find out why these 'creatures' were doing this to him, that he actually said in his mind, "Why are you doing this?" The strange and totally surprising reply that he got was the word, "Sanctuary." Another unusual aspect of Garry Wood's abduction was when he related that he found himself standing beside rocks in a cave. This was a huge, open cave in which he saw a strange craft, just off to the left-hand side.

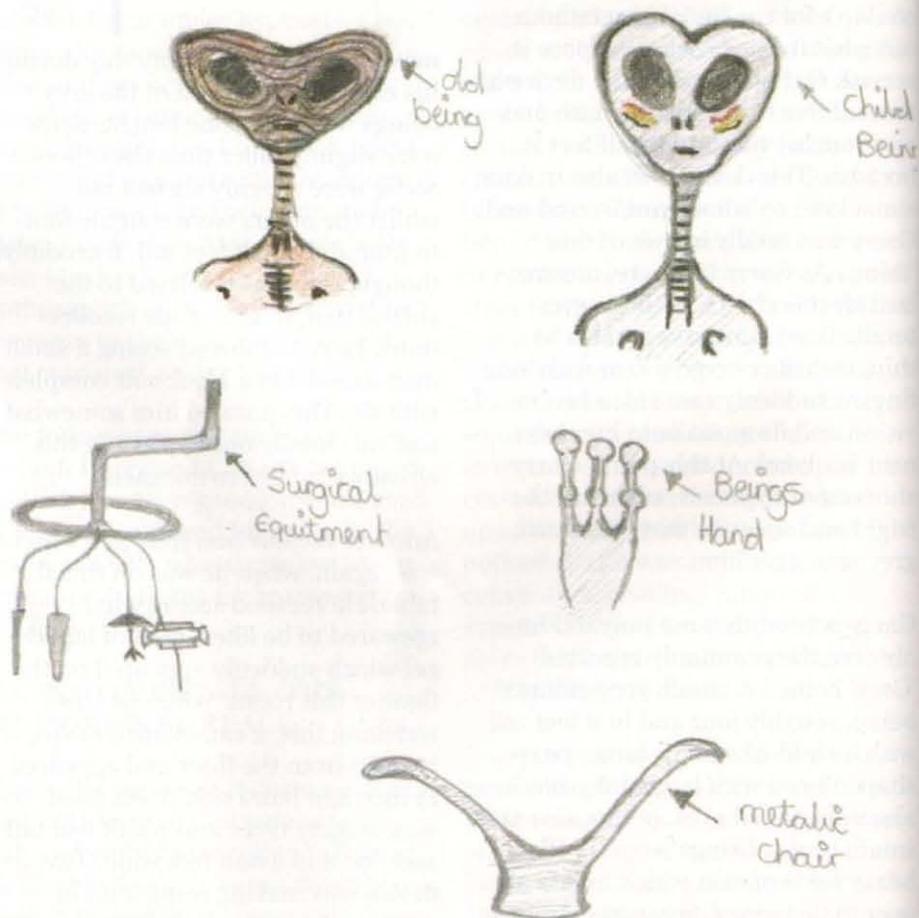
There was not much light in this cave and it was quite dark, although Garry recalled that the cave itself was quite warm. On another occasion, Garry found himself in some kind of built-up environment, a very strange-looking place and, looking up into the sky, he saw, within the confines of a circle, around twelve faces of the Greys. Then there was another occasion, again under hypnosis, when Garry recalled a number of strange-looking shapes which were roughly six feet in length. They looked like some kind of sea animal with a boxed tail, oval shaped body and a pointed nose. They moved in a strange manner towards him, completed a short turning circle and went back the way they came. All this, was observed through a red mist!

The following, is what Colin Wright remembers after hypnosis was conducted upon him:

COLIN WRIGHT

We have already learned what Colin Wright recalled under hypnosis, stating that he was taken out of the car and led up a ramp into a bright light, whereupon he was led around a curving corridor into a round room which had one strange-looking, curved chair. And although most of what Colin experienced was similar to Garry's accounts, Colin also experienced quite different and somewhat traumatic events as well.

Under hypnosis, Colin found himself contained within a large glass or Perspex chamber. He was totally naked and was strapped by the wrists and ankles. As he looked out of this chamber, he observed that there were many other chambers all situated around him, each containing people (male and female) who were also completely naked. Colin found that he could not move any parts of his body and could only move his head



very slightly. Blowing around outside his chamber was what looked like mist. It reminded him of dry ice, he stated. He also observed one tall 'creature', which was standing next to a doorway and there were three other 'creatures' that were looking in at Colin from outside his chamber. Suddenly, and quite unexpectedly, this glass or Perspex began to frost up. At this point Colin began to get alarmed and started to cry. No sooner had Colin begun to cry than this frosting effect stopped and he could once more see with ease outside this container.

When the glass or Perspex began to clear, Colin observed a strange-looking device which rose up from the floor and became level with his eyes. This was different from what Garry Wood experienced, when a can-shaped device rose up from the floor to become level with his eyes. Colin stated that this device featured a long rod with a triangular-shaped part at the top, with two red lights at the front of it. There was also some appendage in the middle of this rod and the rod itself was joined at the bottom with a box-like effect. This device continually moved up and down and rotated from left to right. This went on for about two minutes, whereupon it then slowly descended back into the floor again. Some of the unusual aspects of Colin's recollections were his descriptions of the 'creatures' that he saw. Some of them appeared to have indented heads and did not resemble the round, pear-shaped heads so commonly reported by many other abductees. However, having said that, he did also observe other 'creatures' that did have this pear shaped head.

I would just like to point out some similarities and differences which this case had in regards to other cases world wide:

SIMILARITIES

1. There was a device that inserted itself into Colin's eye, similar, it must be said, to the device that was seen in the movie, *Fire In The Sky*. This film was about the abduction of a forestry worker, Travis Walton. Colin assures the author that he had not read the book of this incident, neither had he seen the film. (The film did not

appear on any cinema screens till well after our society began our hypnotic work).

2. Some (but not all) of the small 'creatures' that were seen by both men are similar to what other UFO abductees have witnessed.
3. Both men experienced a coldness in their room. Again, this is consistent and common with other UFO abductees' recollections.
4. Garry found himself being placed on a flat, raised table in a round room, again, yet another similarity to other UFO abduction accounts.
5. The curving corridor that led out into a round room, this has also been a feature of other UFO abductions.
6. All of these 'entities' had grey, translucent skin.
7. Both men came back from their encounter with scars on their bodies which were previously not there. Colin had a strange scar at the base of his penis, whilst Garry had a strange mark at the back of his neck.
8. One of the major similarities that I found with this case and which has been a feature of many other world wide UFO abduction accounts concerns this strange mist-like effect that people encounter. I will now briefly mention four of these:

THE AVELEY ABDUCTION

This incident occurred to a family from Aveley in Essex on the evening of Saturday August 14th, 1977. This case is quite extensive and is too much to go into here, however, the salient point in regards to our study is the fact that this family, which comprised of three children accompanied by their mother and father, were travelling in their Vauxhall Victor estate car and nearing the town of Aveley. One of the children noticed what appeared to be a large bright star which seemed to be following them. Then just as their car was about to turn round a bend (remember the blind bend in Garry and Colin's case!), they encountered a large fog or mist which appeared in the road about 30 yards from their car. (Remember the misty fog-like

effect that both Garry and Colin encountered which descended from beneath the object that they saw!). This fog or mist that the Avis family saw they described as green and was about eight to nine feet in height. The top of this mist was flat whilst the bottom of this mist touched the road's surface. As the Avis' car entered this mist, it shuddered very violently as the mist curled around it. As the Avis family entered this fog, they experienced a total and unearthly silence. They couldn't even detect if the car was even moving! Then after what appeared a second or two (both Garry and Colin felt that as their car went into this mist, the effect only lasted a few seconds), they experienced the car jolting again (again, Garry and Colin felt their car jolting as it came out of this mist). The Aveley case was investigated by Andrew Collins, Andrew Walmsley and Philip Mantle of the then (IUN) Independent UFO Network.

Clearly then, there are strong similarities with the Avis case in regards to the A70 case. Let us recall the moment when Garry and Colin entered their mist, for as soon as this mist touched the car both men were enveloped in total and inky blackness. This blackness was also a feature of another famous British UFO abduction case, that of Mrs Elsie Oakensen.

ELSIE OAKENSEN

Elsie had her own strange UFO experience on the evening of the 22nd of November, 1978, as she was heading back to her home in Church Stowe, near Northampton. For our part, though, the interesting feature which bears a striking similarity to the A70 case, was the point when Elsie mentions that her car was stopped on the road. It lost all its power and she was left sitting in what she described as, "Velvety blackness." She knew that she was sitting in the car, she felt her hands on the steering wheel, but she couldn't see the car, the road, or the trees which had been a feature of both sides of the road. This blackness, as we know, was a strong feature of the A70 case.

Another case which features a 'mist like effect' was related by author and researcher Jenny Randles in her

1993 book, *Aliens, The Real Story*, (Robert Hale Books). She tells of the experience that occurred to three people on the remote Island of Mull in Scotland, back in October, 1981. The widow of a colonel, who was a deeply-committed Christian, was driving with two American tourist friends over the remote Salen forest, when, all of a sudden, a strange mist surrounded the car which solidified. With this mist came a heavy pressure and a vibration that shook the metal body of the car. Suddenly this instantaneous mist just 'vanished' and everything returned back to normal, except that was, the by now terrified feelings of the occupants of the car. However, they did notice that something else was not quite right. They noticed that the sun had moved quite a distance in the sky from its original position. They were all disoriented and they noticed that the digital watches worn by the American couple had 'stopped' at the precise moment that this strange mist had appeared. The car's electrical clock had also stopped.

THE BEAGARIE CASE

Another interesting case, again from Britain, concerns the Beagarie family from Dunstable in Bedfordshire. This family had a strange experience on the 8th of August, 1992. They were driving from their home in Dunstable to Milton Keynes, a familiar journey of approximately 12 miles. As their car was turning right towards the small town of Hockcliffe, about four miles into their journey, they encountered a strange bank of fog or mist which just 'suddenly' appeared before them. Surprisingly, Mrs Beagarie didn't see this, she only saw a heavy downpour of rain. Mr Beagarie didn't see this rain, he only saw the mist (!!!). Again we must reflect on this strange, instantaneous mist, a feature of the A70 case. I should point out, however, that no structured object (UFO) was seen by the Beagarie family.

THE PATRICK FORSYTH CASE

Patrick Forsyth was travelling in his car, accompanied by his two young children, heading towards the Scottish town of Stirling. As he was driving along the A872 at roughly 45 miles per hour, he observed a black,

disc-shaped object roughly 100 yards away from him. This object was hovering roughly 30 to 40 feet above the road's surface (the object that both Garry and Colin observed was hovering roughly 20 feet above the surface of the road). The next similarity was when Mr Forsyth then witnessed the formation of an instantaneous mist or fog bank which just suddenly appeared in front of his car. Mr Forsyth likened it to a large sheet of cardboard, with the difference being that it was made out of fog. The edges were sharply defined and it was roughly ten feet in height. This fog bank stretched from the verge on the left-hand side of the road to the middle of the road, touching the white marker lines. He slammed on his brakes and looked round to notice that this fog bank had disappeared. Patrick has no recollection of anything other strange happening at this point and didn't really notice if there was any time that was unaccounted for.

The above are but some of the many cases which feature similarities, so let us now look at some of the differences that I noted from the A70 case in regards to the many other cases noted:

THE DIFFERENCES

1. The shape of the entities' heads. These were not typical of what other overseas witnesses related, to my knowledge. In the majority of cases which feature these small, grey entities, witnesses always relate to them as having pear-shaped heads. Some of the entities that both Garry and Colin saw had what appeared to be 'indented' heads!
2. The free-floating stretcher that Colin saw Garry being placed on. This is most unusual and I have never seen any reports of this type of thing anywhere in all the UFO literature that I've studied. Colin was apparently led by these small entities into the object and was not placed on a stretcher. One may ask, why was Garry and not Colin as well placed on one of these stretchers?
3. From the drawings that both Garry and Colin completed for me, one can clearly see that the entities' necks extend out onto their chest

region. Usually in overseas' cases this is not reported and the neck sits firmly on the torso.

4. Some of these entities had what appeared to be perforations under each eye that were coloured red, yellow, and green. Again, I am not aware of any other case which features this effect.

5. Garry saw a very wrinkled and brown entity, which he felt was very old and wise (it was just a feeling that he had). Garry also had the distinct impression that this entity was somehow in charge.

6. All of these entities, according to both Garry and Colin, had what appeared to be ribs sticking out from their chest region. When I quizzed Garry more on this point and asked him if he felt that these may not be ribs, he paused for a moment and suggested that they might not be, that they could, in point of fact, be heavy folds of skin. However, he wasn't entirely sure about this. While we are on the subject of 'alien ribs', I came across a case in the book, *Alien Identities* (written by Richard L. Thompson, published in 1993 by Govardhan Hill Inc, P.O. Box 52, Badger, CA 93603, U.S.A.), which mentions ribs.

7. Many witnesses in UFO abduction cases very rarely mention the hands and fingers of their captors, and when they do, there appears to be a difference of opinion on the matter. Some state that they recall seeing four fingers, whilst others claim to have seen three. In Colin's case, he clearly recalls seeing three fingers (no thumb). Each finger had a bulbous segment to it. Where one's knuckle would be on a human finger, there was a deep, circular piece of skin. This was also a feature at the end of the finger.

There was a case which occurred on a road near the town of Cimarron, New Mexico, where a 28-year old woman and her six-year old son witnessed five UFOs near a cow pasture. Under hypnosis, which was conducted by Dr Leo Sprinkle, she not only saw small 'alien' creatures who were surgically removing organs from the cows in the pasture, but she described these small 'beings' as hav-

ing a thin waist with many ribs, more ribs than we humans have. Are the A70 and the Cimarron cases just isolated incidents of this nature, or are there other cases 'out there' which also have these same features?

When we look at the similarities and differences that the A70 case has, it strikes me on how many times I have come across this strange mist- or fog-like effect that just suddenly and mysteriously 'appears' in front of the startled witnesses. Also, this bend in the road has been noted not only by myself, but by many other ufologists, as a big feature in some UFO abductions. What we have to ask ourselves, however, is why, if we are dealing with an alien technology and culture, were Garry and Colin abducted from this lonely road? Why couldn't they have been abducted from the safety of their beds, as has been the case with countless other UFO abductees? To me, this doesn't make any sense and I have puzzled over this for many a night.

INVESTIGATIONS

As with any UFO investigation, our society ensured that all avenues of investigation were followed. We checked with airports to see if perhaps there were any aircraft in that vicinity on that particular night. There were none. Neither was there any helicopter activity in that area that night. No members of the public had telephoned to report any unusual objects in the sky to their local police station.

Even though both Garry and Colin specifically stated that what they saw did not appear to look like a conventional aircraft, we nonetheless had to find out if there was a possibility that there might have been one in the area, as I mentioned above. There were none.

Various other avenues of research were undertaken, all of which proved fruitless in providing a rational explanation for the A70 case.

So, we had a major UFO incident that had no corroborating witnesses. This, however, isn't that uncommon and this in no way should be seen as a black mark on this particular incident.

FURTHER HYPNOTIC RECALL

Both Garry and Colin had a number of hypnotic regression sessions with hypnotherapist, Helen Walters. I'll now go through a couple of these sessions and bring forward some more pieces of information that both men relayed on those occasions, starting off with Garry Wood and a regression session that we conducted with him on the 14th of June, 1994.

Firstly, Helen took Garry back in his mind through the years to the time just after the initial UFO abduction experience. Garry remembered finding himself outside his home, clad only in his underwear, but couldn't understand what he was doing out there, especially as all the doors were locked. Under hypnosis, however, Garry couldn't somehow go back to that point and we never did find out any more about that.

Helen then took him forward through the years until she reached the year of August, 1992. Suddenly, Garry explained that he felt that he was 'going away' and that he would never come back. This was in direct reference to him being taken towards this object/UFO - call it what you will. He had the very strong impression that 'this was it', he wouldn't see his family and friends again. He also remembered that he was crying while being taken. He remembered that he kept looking for Colin, but could never find him. While he was being taken towards 'an object' (he stated that he was definitely moving and felt as if he were lying down), he remembered seeing three strange shapes. Garry found it very hard to put into words exactly what these shapes looked like. "They looked like people," he said and the only way that Garry could describe them was to state that the outline of their bulky bodies were 'like American football players', as if they had large shoulder pads. He only saw the outline of their bodies and their heads, of which their head was extremely round. He got the impression that he was looking at the backs of these 'beings' (or whatever they were), in fact one of them actually floated down towards the ground and joined the other one which was already walking forwards. Further on, towards the object, he saw a small 'being', which Garry said

looked as if it was hiding behind something, and that it was 'peeking' out to have a look as to what was going on. The surprising thing Garry said was that this small 'being' had sort of zigzag lines under its eyes, red and yellow markings, like make up, he said. He only recalled seeing the one eye of this 'being' as it 'peeked' out from behind some structure. Garry recalled to me, after coming out of hypnosis, that he felt extreme anger towards these 'beings' that were taking him, but couldn't do anything about it and this was the most worrying thing about it all.

Eventually, he found himself in a large and spacious room which was filled with bright white light. He also saw a strange shape that was up against a doorway. Another unusual aspect to come out of this session was, when Garry later related that night to Helen and myself, that when Helen asked Garry, whilst he was under hypnosis, to look around and try and see as much as he could in this strange room, Garry opened one eye (in Helen's room), but quickly had to shut it again, the reason being that he said that as he looked at Helen, her face began to change. Into what, he doesn't know for he quickly closed his eyes again!

In another hypnotic regression which took place, again, at Helen Walters' house in Alva in Clackmannanshire, Garry related the following. He found himself flying above a crater, a very large and open crater, moving up from its base and up the sides, but he felt as if he wasn't in control, for he was being moved every which way. He had no control. When he tried to look at something, he was moved around. Nothing was actually holding him, but he had no free will of his own to move. At this point he remembered seeing jagged rocks, many jagged rocks, very sharp and slate-like. He also saw other rocks behind which were standing a number of 'beings'. Garry likened his flying experience as similar to that which one could experience in a small light aircraft as it swooped and dived, twisted and turned, that was the best way that he could describe it.

Another strange aspect of this particular session was when Helen Walters

kept on asking Garry to ask 'them' what they wanted. After a moment's silence, Garry continued with one word which was totally unexpected and surprised everyone in the room, for Garry replied, "Sanctuary."

We didn't know quite what to make of this. Later on, after Garry came out of hypnosis, he stated that this was indeed what was said to him by one of these Grey 'beings', it said it wanted 'Sanctuary'. Garry couldn't understand this and neither could the rest of us. Why would it have said something like this!?! Garry also recalled seeing what he described as a short, fat and podgy, small girl, with long dark hair, running towards a taller Grey, whereupon the taller Grey put its arms around her to comfort her. Garry believed that it was he that somehow scared this little girl. Garry kept going on about how podgy this small and naked girl was. He estimated that she was around 8 to 10 years of age. Garry also recalled seeing one of the Greys that performed a movement which really surprised him. He stated that one of the Greys actually moved its neck in a snake-like manner! It was moving all around, this way and that, and twisted behind itself to more or less look over its own shoulder. This really surprised Garry and gave him quite a start. Garry also recalled seeing one of the Greys wearing a black suit and looked decidedly out of

place.

The main thing that came out of this particular session was afterwards, when Garry said to us all that he now knew that he should not be frightened anymore. From now on he knew that things would be okay with him and that he would be able to handle further regressions. Helen and I were most pleased and Helen, I recall, stated that this was a tremendous step and made it much easier for Garry to continue with further regression sessions. Garry also said that he knew that these 'beings' were not going to harm him, but the most vociferous statement that Garry kept saying repeatedly was that, "They want to come here."

Without a shadow of a doubt, these 'beings' definitely want to come here. He continued by saying that they are not too far away at the moment and were somewhere near Earth. Garry also stated that he is sure that there will be many more abductions occurring all over the world. "They need us," he said, "we are very important to them. They don't want to destroy us, they just need us!"

One final point that I should mention about this October, 1994, session was that, after coming out of hypnosis and discussing with us what he recollected, he calmly stated that he had the distinct feeling that 'something'

was in the room with him while he was under hypnosis. He felt that most strongly.

Let us now take a look back at some of what Colin Wright also recalls under hypnosis. The following is taken from a session conducted with Helen Walters on the 4th of August, 1994, at Alva in Clackmannanshire.

Colin found himself on a strange, curved and very smooth chair. He was naked and was extremely cold. One of the smaller beings came towards him, whereupon Colin asked why they wanted him. He was startled by the reply, which was, "It is Garry we want." This left Colin wondering why, then, was he sitting naked in this strange curved chair!?! A short time later, while still in the chair, a small 'being' came towards him and touched him gently on the face. This touch felt extremely cold and gave Colin the impression that it was 'cold blooded' (like a fish, amphibian or reptile). Colin felt that he was left sitting in this cold chair for quite a period of time. During this time, he noticed that the walls of the oval-shaped room that he was in appeared grey and metallic. He had the impression that there was a room behind him, but he couldn't look around to find this out for sure. In this room, he heard strange noises, noises which he couldn't explain. They came nowhere near to anything



that he had ever heard before. One thing which he found most interesting was the fact that these small 'beings' did not have flat, emotionless faces, for he recalled seeing their facial muscles move, from a frown to some kind of smile, so much so, that when they did this, they would create furrows on their scalp just like humans would do.

In another hypnosis session that took place on October the 17th, 1994, Colin related about finding himself enclosed within a glass or Perspex chamber (of which I touched on earlier). He stated that he was seated, was naked and was strapped down. There was a mist billowing all around the outside of his chamber. He also observed that there were many more chambers outside of his one, each with men and women, old and young, who were themselves completely naked. It was cold in this chamber and at one point the chamber glass started to freeze. He got the distinct impression that 'they' were trying to freeze him! A short while later, he actually felt quite warm in this chamber, indeed, at this point, Helen during the regression, actually noted a warm glow on Colin's face, as if it was a hot flush.

Science writer and author, Steuart Campbell from Edinburgh, felt that the real cause of the A70 Incident was the direct result of both men witnessing an astronomical mirage and simply became confused about the time, an explanation that didn't go down too well with both witnesses. At the end of the day both Garry and Colin are left feeling bemused by what happened to them. They go about their lives not thinking what is beyond the stars, but concerning themselves with the ordinary, mundane duties that each and everyone of us perform each day. Their lives may have changed, but they are still the men they were, albeit with a different perspective on life.

Adapted by *UFOData Magazine* from an original article by Malcolm Robinson.

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www.spiuk.net

Since publishing an article in Jan/Feb 2007 UFO DATA Magazine, I was contacted by Mr Graham Allen who requested the following letter to be printed:

Staffordshire UFO Group
Graham Allen: Co-ordinator

It is with some surprise and disappointment that I have learned that the latest issue of UFODATA has included a story on Group Captain Burgess CBE, RAF (Rtd).

I have not read the article, though I understand that a group in Staffordshire is alluded to as being the source for the information which provides the basis for the story referred to above which has been printed about the Group Captain. Although it does transpire that the group eluded to is Staffordshire UFO Group, I would like yourselves at UFODATA and your readers to know that the group has played no part in the release of the partial information (transcript) of a lecture presented at a Staffordshire UFO group meeting some years ago.

I would like to make it very clear that Staffordshire UFO Group has not released the information as printed and has neither sanctioned nor condones the release of the information which has been passed to UFODATA magazine by a former member of Staffordshire UFO Group (Robbie Graham).

I would also like to make it clear that Staffordshire UFO Group has a strict policy with regard to witness confidentiality and that the information as passed to UFODATA breaches our code of confidentiality which is paramount in engendering trust between an investigator and information provider. I am most disappointed that information has been released in this way particularly by a former member of our group; copyright does not belong to Robbie Graham.

The transcript as depicted in the article was not carried out on behalf of Staffordshire UFO Group as previously stated and is solely the work of a former member of the group as rightly attributed within your article. A more complete and accurate transcript of the meeting lecture does exist and forms a part of an investigation of the subject generally by Staffordshire UFO Group and is not intended for public release unless appropriately and specifically sanctioned. I would further iterate that at no time has the material printed in UFODATA been the subject of inquiry with Staffordshire UFO Group.

I would like further to offer my apologies on behalf of Staffordshire UFO Group to those who may be affected by the release of the material.

This letter is intended for free release through your UFODATA magazine.

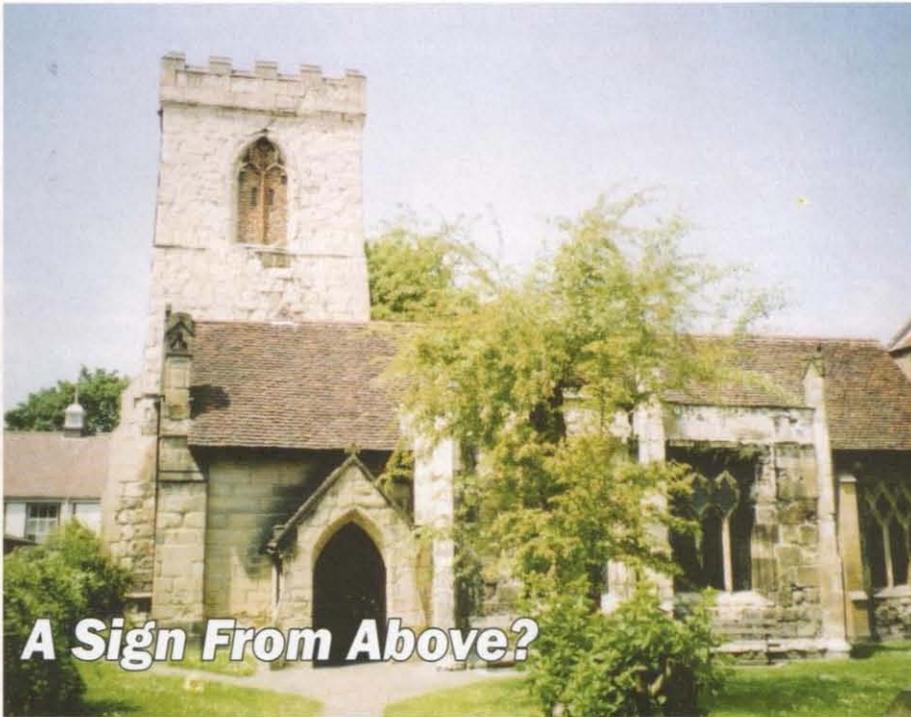
UFO Data Magazine is about sharing quality information relating to the UFO subject. Articles are accepted for consideration from researchers and correspondents at their word. Referenced material speaks for itself but it's accepted on the understanding that permission has been obtained to publish by the author.

UFO DATA has no problem in accepting aliases to protect witness confidentiality where and when requested.

The lecture concerned was a lecture to an invited audience, where a fee may or may not have been charged by the speaker and the audience may or may not have paid the organisers to attend.

The lecture was recorded with or without permission, but it was presented to a small audience and anyone with a dictaphone or microphone would have been obvious. The transcript is accurate, so much so that the words that can't be heard correctly are omitted and referenced, nothing added whatsoever, what was said was transcribed.

I have corresponded with the speaker who does not want his comments publishing. I also believe that in my pre-publishing communication with the author, Robbie Graham, he was convinced that there was no problem in publishing due to earlier correspondence with the Group Captain.



Disappointment is often the case when a new photograph crosses the desk here at UFO DATA.

'Why on Earth would a UFO magazine editor say that?' I hear you cry.

Well, nine times out of ten, the attached notes to said photos contain the phrases 'didn't see anything at the time of taking the photograph' and 'digital camera'.

So why should this be such a concern? Well, not seeing an object whilst framing the shot suggests that there was nothing there to see in the first place and the object, whatever it might be, is simply a digital artifact created by the camera's own internal processing of the image. Secondly, 'digital camera' means an electronic image that could be easily altered on one of many Photoshop-type imaging software packages.

This image is different.

I know I'm double-calling my own words here, but the photographer did not see anything at the time of taking this image, but there are good reasons for this.

The photograph was taken by a professional stonemason. He needed the photograph as part of a survey he was carrying out on the church.

If you think you recognise the church, it is St Saviours Church at

Goodram Gate in York.

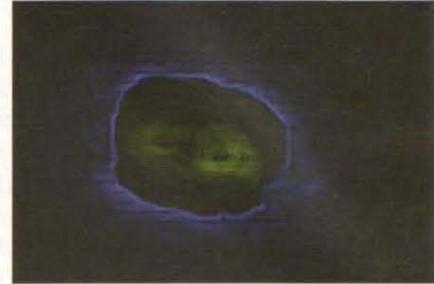
It was only when the 35mm film was developed that an unusual addition to the shot was noticed. Could it be a meteor or a piece of space junk re-entering the Earth's atmosphere? It could be either, but whatever it is, I believe it is actually on the film. There appears to be light reflecting off the yellow edges. Another intriguing aspect of this image is when it's turned on its edge. It actually resembles an angelic figure! Such figures have been reported over Central America in recent years. The stonemason who took the photograph tells me it was taken about six years ago. It seems after capturing this strange image, he has since kept more of a lookout for things that aren't quite the norm.

22nd December, 2006
Robin Hoods Bay, Nr.
Scarborough, North Yorkshire.



1200 dpi scan untouched.
 (C) P Moore

The time was 17:45, looking out across the North Sea, he noticed two white lights, vertically following each other. They were zig-zagging and moving up and down around each other. His partner commented that she thought they seemed to be mapping something. Although she is not a believer, as such, she is now aware

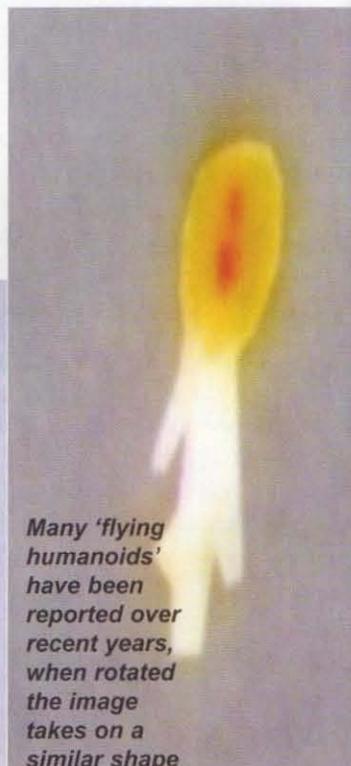


that some things can't just be explained away.

22nd January, 2007, Barnsley/Wombwell, South Yorkshire

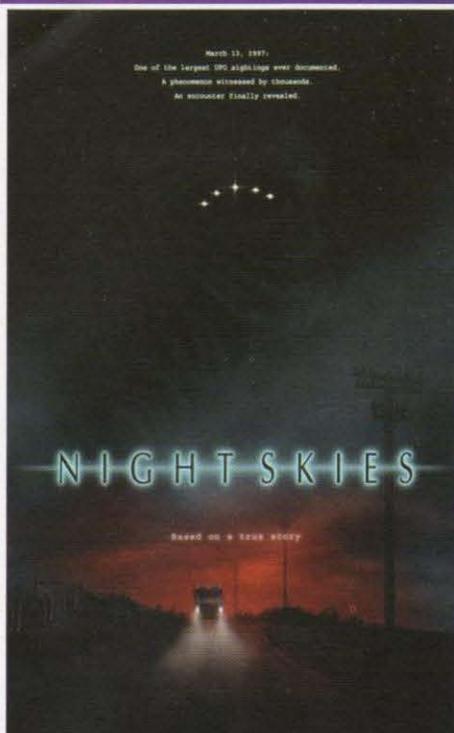
The witness noticed a simple, silver ball - no lights, no navigation beacons, no noise or movement other than the direction it was heading. The time was 12:15pm. He was with colleague who had served 15 years in the Royal Navy as a gunner and was used to aircraft observation. Both men agreed what they were looking at was no plane or balloon. They watched the object for about 10 seconds before losing it in cloud cover.

Thanks to Mr P Moore, Rotherham.



Many 'flying humanoids' have been reported over recent years, when rotated the image takes on a similar shape

One to watch



Released on Region 1 DVD on 23rd January, 2007
Distributor: Sony Pictures
Director: Roy Knyrim
Starring: Jason Connery, A.J. Cook, George Stults, Ashley Peldon and Joseph Sikora.
Guest appearances by Senator John McCain and Michael Dorn.

On the evening of March 13th, 1997, an event would occur that would inspire and divide the UFO community in equal measure. That incident was, of course, The Phoenix Lights.

Many documentaries have been made claiming to have the facts of the case, both for and against the argument that unidentified objects glided over Phoenix, Arizona, on that Spring night, ten years ago. It was only a matter of time before Hollywood got in on the act, but that it has taken a decade is possibly a greater mystery than the event itself.

Night Skies claims to be based on a true story. It may very well be based around the sightings of those enigmatic lights in the sky, but the story itself is pure fiction. Do you know what, though? I liked it!

The movie begins at a real-life press conference, in which Senator John McCain is asked about UFOs. He says that he is interested in the subject and mentions the Phoenix Lights incident. We then cut to a young woman running, screaming, through the woods. Something is obviously after her and, with this scene, we get a flavour of what is to come.

Night Skies isn't a UFO movie per se, it is a science fiction horror chiller, pretty much like most other popular films of its ilk. We have a group of attractive, young people, who are driving through Arizona in their RV. There are the usual social types among them: the aggressive leader (Matt), the solid and brave heroine (Lilly), the husband and wife comedy duo (Joe and June) and the highly-strung, over-sexed teen (Molly). Of course there is also a 'name' star in a cameo role, this instance being Michael Dorn (the Klingon, Worf, in *Star Trek: The Next Generation* et al)

They see the lights as they traverse the lonely, dusty roads of deepest, darkest Arizona and, with their attention fixed on the gradually-forming arc above them, almost run over Richard (played by Jason Connery - yes, Sean's lad), who's pick-up truck has mysteriously conked out in the middle of nowhere. They hit a tree, terminally breaking their camper van. During the crash, Joe somehow manages to get a knife stuck in his shoulder and is bleeding

to death.

Oh, no! They're stuck in the middle of nowhere, with no first aid kit, no transport, their buddy is losing claret rapidly and now there's a Will Patton look-alike who may or may not be a nutter. Really, Jason Connery is the spitting image of the *Mothman Prophecies* and *Armageddon* star!

Oh, and there's aliens watching them from the woods as well...

What ensues is standard stuff: lots of glimpses of figures flitting about in the trees, lights in the sky and hysterical people going off by themselves to 'check it out'. Finally, we get to see the aliens and they are pretty good, actually, with the final act being more or less a remake of the *Fire in the Sky* abduction scenes. Sort of.

Taking the events (okay, taking the video of the arc of lights appearing over the city) and weaving them into a low-budget sci-fi chiller, the producers have created a film that steals beats from many other movies, such as *Signs*, *Fire in the Sky*, *Predator* and *The Hills Have Eyes*, to name but four.

The film is well-shot and edited, with enough 'jump out of your seats' moments to make it worthwhile. The acting is not bad, especially from Connery, playing a man with a past, who has to come to terms with a terrible mistake, very well. The special





effects are not bad for a low-budget movie, even if the aliens are rarely seen in their full glory.

There are some great little shots in the film that made me smile: a star that suddenly moves in the background, the alien silhouetted beside the barbed wire fence, the reflection of the Lights in the RV window and the alien examination in all its shocking glory.

If, like me, you like movies made for peanuts, then *Night Skies* is well worth a look. Whether or not it is a worthy release to celebrate the tenth anniversary of ufology's most noted cases is open to debate. A word of warning, however, it is not a family film and there is quite a bit of bad language, sexual references and its fair share of blood-letting.

There is a website for the movie that can be found at <http://www.nightskiesmovie.com/>

Steve Johnson



The Real story - The Lights Appear

Evidence points to March 13, 1997 as the onset of this extremely compelling account of various and sundry phenomenal lights which moved over the state of Arizona. These lights, though referred to as the "Phoenix Lights," were actually witnessed in at least five other cities. Phoenix has the distinction as the first Arizona city to report the unknown light sources, which were initially spotted over Superstition Mountains, east of the city, at about 7:30 PM. The first reports indicated an object of six points of light, immediately followed by a report of eight connected lights, with a separate ninth, which moved in unison with the eight.

The formation was seen again over the Gila River just before 10:00 PM. In a matter of minutes, the enormous, lighted structure had made its way over the southern part of the city of Phoenix. At this time, literally thousands of people witnessed the object or objects. It was at this time, that the first photographs and videos were taken. The final sightings of the night were in Rainbow Valley. Witnesses there reported a distinct "V" formation. This sighting occurred at about 2:00 AM on March 14.

Read more about the events at:

www.ufocasebook.com/phoenixlights.html



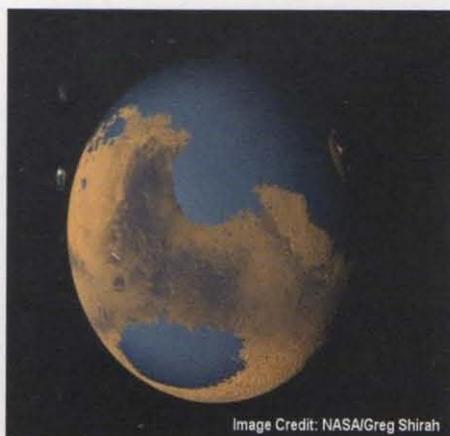
Flowing water on Martian surface...

In the last issue of UFOData Magazine, we promised a full report on the breaking story that evidence of flowing water had been found on the planet Mars.

On December 6th, 2006, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) announced that the evidence came from a series of photographs, one set taken in August 1999 and the newer set taken in September 2005, from the Mars Global Surveyor (MGS) spacecraft. MGS may now be lost forever, with NASA being unable to contact the probe since November, 2006, so this discovery may well be its last.

What the new images show are trails of light-coloured deposits flowing down the crater walls, absent from the earlier photos. The craters are in the Terra Sirenum and Centauri Montes regions of the Red Planet. Mars' thin atmosphere does not allow water to remain in a liquid state for very long, so it is thought that the flows were a mixture of water and sediment, creating a frothing, slushy stream that ran for a few hundred metres.

continued...



"The shapes of these deposits are what you would expect to see if the material were carried by flowing water. They have finger-like branches at the downhill end and are easily diverted around small obstacles," Dr. Michael Malin of Malin Space Science Systems in San Diego said.

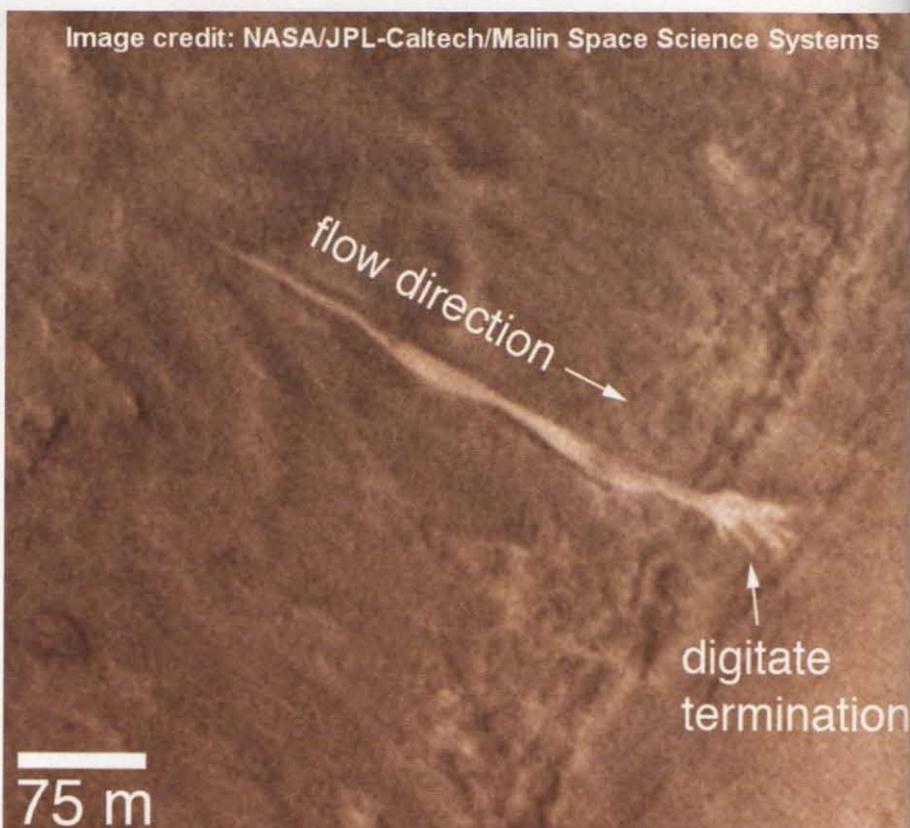
The light shade of the flows may be caused by surface frost or salty deposits from the water.

The latest images from MGS also showed at least twenty fresh impact craters. This is exciting, as it implicates that Martian terrain with few craters is quite young, with the older surface being replenished or covered over by new material.

The discovery of liquid water on Mars was bolstered in January, 2007, when European scientists, analysing data from the European Space Agency (ESA) probe, Mars Express, discovered that huge reservoirs of water may be locked beneath Mars' surface.

The prevailing theory was that the planet had lost most of its oxygen and carbon dioxide to space quite quickly, but the new data, studied by a team at the Swedish Institute of Space Physics, have concluded that the rate of loss was only 1% of that previously thought.

It is believed that Mars once had a large ocean, at least six hundred metres deep. The rate of loss calculated by the Swedish team suggests that only a few centimetres of that would have gone. Either some other process removed the water or it is still locked in a frozen state beneath the surface. Leader of the team, Stas Barabash looked at the earlier MGS images and said:



"...there might be some possibilities for water existing in liquid form even now. If water is there, I think it will put all ideas about human missions to Mars on a completely different level. It's not only water to support [future travellers to Mars], but also a potential fuel."

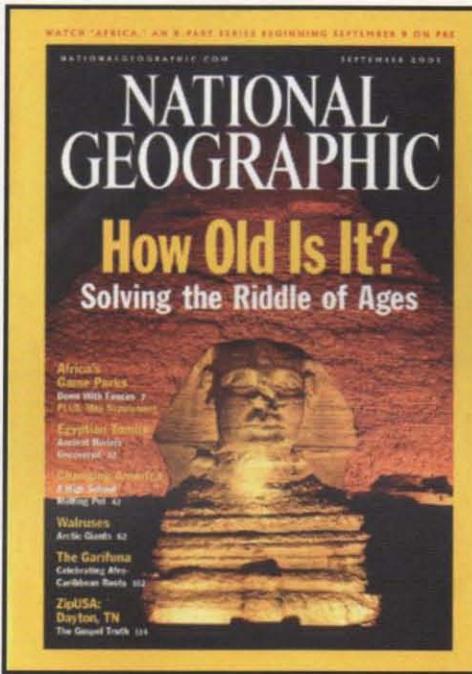
The team is quick to point out, however, that there are several processes that may have removed the water more quickly, such as comet or asteroid impacts and violent solar and magnetic storms early in the history of the solar system.

Steve Johnson

NASA broke this news via NASA TV December 6th, 2006, and via the internet. The media had known something was about to be announced as a press release was put out several days earlier. It's funny, but whenever anything goes wrong at NASA, they always find some big story to make their requests for more funding legitimate.

Only days before NASA announced the loss of Mars Global Surveyor, oh, and by the way, there's breaking news about liquid flowing on the surface. Well that had been talked about for years.

Nothing changes...



We know what happened at Roswell

The flagship publisher and broadcaster, *National Geographic*, have jumped aboard the media bus ride heading for the Sixtieth Anniversary of the infamous Roswell Incident by claiming 'they know what happened back in the summer of 1947'.

Internet 'blogmaster', Frank Warren, got caught up in the claims defending some of ufology's most loved and respected characters.



The headline read:
UFOLOGISTS ARE PIETISTIC - EYE WITNESSES ARE DEMENTED - AND THE POWERS-THAT-BE ARE VALIDATED...

Who would have thought that after all these years, all the investigative work, countless investigators, declassified documents, eye witness testimony, newspaper reports and (4) different stories from the military that "*National Geographic*" would be the one to "set the record straight in regards to the "Roswell Incident!"

Yes folks, that's right . . . turns out it was only "scotch tape and balsa

wood" (where have I heard that before?). In case you missed it, NG aired, "*Under Cover History: The Real Roswell*" ad nauseum; it airs again tomorrow night-grab a bucket or a plastic bag-don't miss it!

I have to admit that I was looking forward to seeing what I understood to be a documentary . . . I mean it is/was "*National Geographic*" and all! However, a documentary is a film or TV program presenting the facts about a person or event, and allows the viewer to interpret what he or she is assimilating, not so in tonight's episode, there was a message . . . nay a definitive conclusion

i.e., ufologists are pietistic, cultists if you will, incapable of seeing the truth!

Witnesses are demented, and have succumbed to age and the senility that accompanies it, and finally the military, and or *the powers that be* are "true blue" and were only keeping "Project Mogul" secret . . . you know national security and all!

There's a little irony that this episode aired a couple of hours after another bona fide speaker was at the podium! Initially, I was pleased to see Dennis (Balthaser) and Stan (Friedman) figuring so prominently throughout the show; however, that delight turned to disdain once it became clear that the producers of the show had a goal to accomplish!

To the layperson, one might come

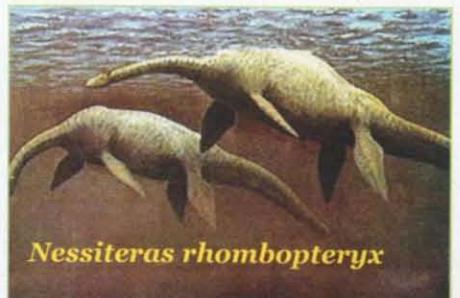
away thinking that these two long-time researchers were either in agreement with the end conclusion i.e., a scotch taped balsa wood Mogul Balloon, or they're incompetent as intimidated by the narrator! I assure you neither are the case! Quite frankly, this show, this "type of production" is a reminder for those serious researchers/investigators to stipulate "signing off" on a project "only" after one sees the "end product!"

The innuendo, the off-putting adjectives and the point blank misinformation and falsehoods is not anything new, for those of us who pay attention to these things; however, I'm sure I'm in good company when I say that we hold "*National Geographic*" and the work they do to a "higher standard."

For any ufologists reading this . . . if you're getting a feeling that someone is watching you don't fret, it's only Phil Klass and Karl Sagan looking down and getting one last laugh!

Editor. Don't you just love it when a major player decides to have a go at the not so easy to explain away.

Suggesting we are all crazy is one approach, but I'm old enough to remember when that fine institute of *National Geographic* got taken for a ride back in the 70's - April 1st of all days. The late naturalist, Sir Peter Scott (1909-1989) presented his painting of *Nessiteras rhombopteryx* The Loch Ness monster from the



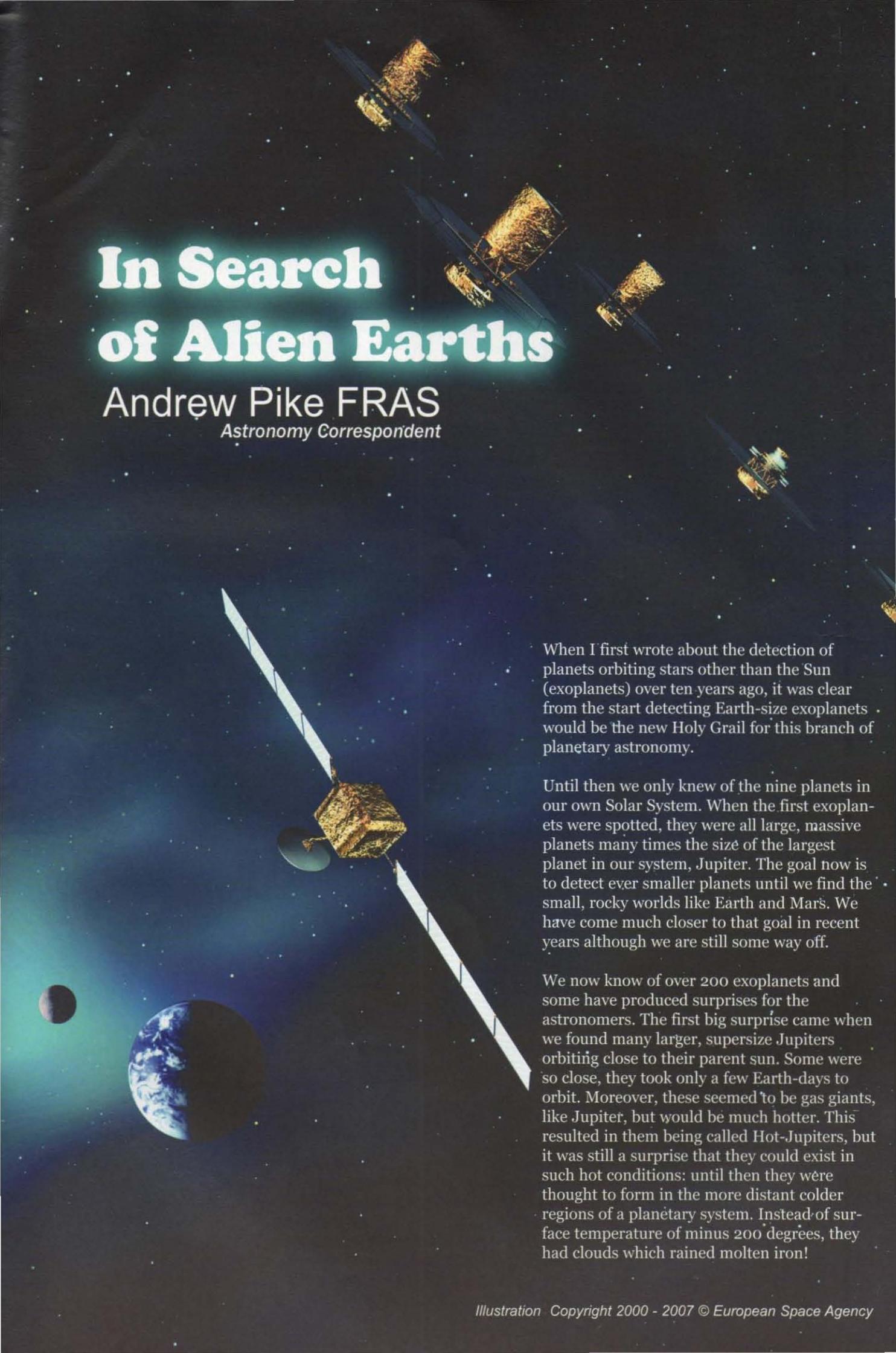
famous Rhinnes photo.

In short, Sir Peter was having a laugh and all the world's media wanted a piece of the action.

Nessiteras rhombopteryx, no not the Latin name for a new species but an anagram.

Monster hoax by sir peter s.

Gotcha.....



In Search of Alien Earths

Andrew Pike FRAS
Astronomy Correspondent

When I first wrote about the detection of planets orbiting stars other than the Sun (exoplanets) over ten years ago, it was clear from the start detecting Earth-size exoplanets would be the new Holy Grail for this branch of planetary astronomy.

Until then we only knew of the nine planets in our own Solar System. When the first exoplanets were spotted, they were all large, massive planets many times the size of the largest planet in our system, Jupiter. The goal now is to detect ever smaller planets until we find the small, rocky worlds like Earth and Mars. We have come much closer to that goal in recent years although we are still some way off.

We now know of over 200 exoplanets and some have produced surprises for the astronomers. The first big surprise came when we found many larger, supersize Jupiters orbiting close to their parent sun. Some were so close, they took only a few Earth-days to orbit. Moreover, these seemed to be gas giants, like Jupiter, but would be much hotter. This resulted in them being called Hot-Jupiters, but it was still a surprise that they could exist in such hot conditions: until then they were thought to form in the more distant colder regions of a planetary system. Instead of surface temperature of minus 200 degrees, they had clouds which rained molten iron!

Another surprise came with the discovery of Jupiter-size planets further out which were rocky and icy rather than large blobs of gas. Again it was thought that rocky, terrestrial planets would be not too much larger than the Earth, certainly not as large as gas giants. However, in a strange way, these surprises resulted in many of the answers to our questions.

One problem with Hot-Jupiters is they might have formed further out and slowly spiralled in towards their parent sun, swallowing up any terrestrial planets as they went.

However, with ever increasing numbers, these discoveries and the differences between systems allowed astronomers to look at the astrodynamics in greater detail. We now think these large Jupiter-like planets might help Earth-like planets form further out by throwing material out into the more hospitable regions of the system to form rocky, icy, terrestrial worlds. This has suggested the possibility there are solar systems out there which are opposite to ours, with large gas giants close to the parent sun and rocky Earth-like worlds further out.

It was no surprise that all the early detections would be large supersized gas giants, simply because the bigger the planet the easier it is to detect. There are a number of ways to detect such exoplanets. We can look directly for the light they reflect from the parent sun, we can look for any which pass directly between us and their sun so that they appear to cross, or transit, the alien sun's disc, or we can look for an effect called gravitational microlensing. It is the last of these which is the most difficult and really the only way at present to detect small alien Earths.

It works by using the gravity of a nearby star to magnify starlight coming from beyond. The additional gravity of a small alien Earth has an added effect to this technique giving itself away and some of the planet's details, like mass. It is a very sensitive observation but the skill of astronomers working with this method has developed over the last twelve months such that it is now producing good results with a number of new, exciting discoveries.

One such discovery is of a ball of rock and ice only five times the size

of Earth, called OGLE-2005-BLG-390Lb. It is the closest thing to home we have detected so far. This mass is way down on Jupiter which has 318 times the mass of the Earth. So, a mass of only five times the Earth is too small to make it a gas planet, it is therefore likely to be rocky like a terrestrial planet. The period between the blips of light tells astronomers it orbits three times as far from it's sun as Earth is from our Sun. However, OGLE-2005-BLG-390Lb orbits a cool, red dwarf star, very different from our sun. The feeble heat and light from the star will certainly make this planet a very cold, icy world, with a much reduced chance of supporting life as we know it.

The result is important, however, because it now suggests that the discovery of such a terrestrial planet so early on means that maybe 20 per cent of stars will have terrestrial planets. With something like 100 billion stars in our galaxy that might add up to millions of alien Earths waiting to be detected. Not all these alien Earths will be at the correct distance from their parent sun to be in the habitable zone where liquid water and life may stand a chance of

Continued...



existing. Moreover, not all parts of our galaxy have conditions suitable for such solar systems anyway. But even if we look at the results in the worst possible light, it still allows for many tens of thousands of alien Earths like our own.

Another surprise has come from several exoplanets discovered close to the centre of our galaxy, where it is crowded and where there is a super-massive black hole. In October, 2006, the Hubble Space Telescope discovered 16 candidate planets orbiting stars 26,000 light years away at the centre of the galaxy. Although there is a certain amount of uncertainty associated with these discoveries, some at least seem genuine. The problems is, these observations strain even Hubble's instruments. If alien Earths exist here it would make an interesting view for any creatures on their surfaces; this is a dense part of the galaxy with little distance between neighbors compared to our outer region on the galaxy's edge. Conditions will be extreme also, especially with radiation from the central black hole.

Nevertheless, life has a habit of surviving in very extreme conditions of cold and heat. As we have found here on Earth, life can be happy at temperatures well in excess of the boiling point of water, or the depths of cold at the Earth's polar regions. It can survive with little, or no, light and a limited supply, and choice, of food. However, these are the simple life forms, what about life like us? Well, with enough discoveries, planets close to our own are more likely and with it intelligent life, maybe more so than ourselves, maybe less so. The key is in numbers and as things stand now that looks very promising.

One further surprise to come from recent research is the size of parent stars. It was once thought that large stars would burn out before planetary systems could form around them, let alone life getting a foothold. Large stars need a lot of pressure to hold them up against gravitational collapse, so they burn their hydrogen at a far greater rate. Smaller red dwarfs, or medium size stars like our Sun, last longer because the gravitational forces trying to pull the star down are far less; as a result less

hydrogen is converted to helium to hold up small stars.

Recent discoveries with the Spitzer Space Telescope have shown several large stars with alien Kuiper Belts. Our own Kuiper Belt is a band of icy debris at about the distant of Pluto on the edge of our planetary system. It is the belt which has now suggested Pluto might not be a true planet and might just be the largest of these Kuiper objects. There was considerable hostile reaction when Pluto was downgraded to a dwarf planet last year as a result. Some from myself, I think for historical reasons Pluto is a main planet, and to me will always be so whatever the International Astronomical Union, or one of my old Professors at the IAU (Iwan Williams) say!

This type of debris is the building blocks of planets and, if similar debris is found closer in to these stars, planets might form and, in doing so, produce planetary systems like many others we have found.

So what does all this amount to? Well if we extrapolate these discoveries across the 100 billion stars in the Milky Way, maybe as many as six billion gas giant and Hot-Jupiters exist in our galaxy. Now factor in the number of alien Earths we are unable to detect, but based on evidence so far may well be hiding out there, and we find maybe tens of millions of planets, with maybe in excess

of 20 per cent being alien Earths. Moreover, this is just our galaxy and there are as many other galaxies beyond ours as there are stars in our galaxy!

The big question is: How many are in that all important habitable zone around their sun? That remains to be discovered. But even if large planets exist in these regions, too large for life to exist upon, they may still have moons the size of terrestrial planets like so many large planets in our Solar System. The idea of uninhabitable planets with habitable moons means we can have life inside, or outside, these zones. The reason for this is found in our own Solar System where Jupiter's gravity provides a great enough gravitational tidal force on the moons orbiting it to heat them up and give them liquid oceans and heat sources in a region otherwise too cold.

I am in no doubt we will find the first alien Earth soon. From there we will have to detect the types of environment they have and whether life might get going under those conditions. We already know how that might be done, and what signs to look for. There is a lot of work to do, but we are at least able to say the evidence suggest there are billions of possible worlds out there and it will only take the detection of life on one to tell us we are not alone.

Andrew Pike.



THE LEEDS FIREBALL

Time 09:30

Location Bridgewater Place, City of Leeds, West Yorkshire

Date 2nd February 2007

This object was first reported by taxi passengers on their way to work in the busy city of Leeds in the North of England, then UFO DATA writer, Sacha Christie, managed to capture this brilliant photograph on her camera phone.

Full story on the next page.



Photo copyright Sacha Christie 2007



Imagine the scenario, you're in a taxi with your mates on your way to work. It's 9:30 in the morning, you're heading into a busy city on a busy road and the taxi driver suddenly says, "What's that up there?"

Well, Austin Greenwood found himself in just that situation.

Thursday, 1st February, is a date the people of Leeds won't forget in a hurry. That's if you are one of the few lucky people who managed to catch a glimpse of a possible visitor from outer space.

What the taxi driver could see was a very unusual contrail in the bright morning sky. Heading up the trail was a huge fireball. Austin grabbed his phone, turned on the camera and managed to capture a few seconds of the overflight on it. Not sure what to do or where to go with his amazing little film, Austin contacted the BBC in Leeds.

There, Trevor Gibbons who is the Leeds and Bradford area webmaster for the BBC hosted the clip online, so the world could see it. Slowly but surely, a few more eyewitnesses made contact with Radio Leeds and I picked up on the story when afternoon presenter, Bob Walmsley, ran the story. I spoke to Bob's producer, who put me in touch with Austin, who in turn told me his story and sent me the film. The original clip was a good bit sharper than the Real Media version on the BBC website and I was able to see a hint of the fiery front end of the phenomenon.

We hosted the clip on our forum along with the story and waited for replies.

I was pretty sure we were looking at space debris or a small meteorite, burning up on re-entry, but I wanted

to be sure. There were no reports of aircraft in trouble and, as far as we could ascertain, no rockets had been launched from anywhere that we might have caught a glimpse of. So space debris or similar looked a good prospect.

I made enquiries to RAF Fylingdales in Pickering. They monitor all known space junk as part of their remit. I spoke to a very helpful desk officer, who put me in touch with the Squadron Leader who could possibly give an answer. I'll just refer to the officer as Squadron Leader out of courtesy, but she asked me for as much detail as we could give and I also sent the film clip for their records.

A little later on, Bob Walmsley rang me and asked that we keep him updated.

Then, lo and behold, we get a really good result. Sacha Christie, who writes for the magazine, was skiving - I mean taking a well-earned ciggy break - at Bridgewater House in Leeds at about 9:30 and are we glad she did. The same object caught a half-mile across the city was now right over Sacha's head and not only did she have her stash in her pocket, but she had her camera phone - a posh one with a 3.2 mega pixel camera on it and, yes, she pointed at the object and took one brilliant photograph. The images speak for themselves.

An astronomer from New Chapel Observatory emailed me and later rang me to explain that he thought he knew what Sacha and Austin had filmed: 'A sun dog. An effect caused by bright sunlight hitting ice particles and casting a reflection'. I listened to him and then did my own research, looking on the internet for images. All the examples I found looked nothing like what we see here, but all had a similarity to each other. For instance, as the sun hits the ice, the reflection nearest the sun has a prism/rainbow effect (see example below) and the



flare or tail of the 'dog' always streaks away from the sun.

In these images the tail or vapour trail is pointing in the direction of the sun, totally the opposite to what you would expect to see in a sun dog.

Thankfully, our astronomy correspondent, Andrew Pike, saw the thread on our forum and passed comment:

I'm surprised an astronomer thinks it's a sundog. That wouldn't be my first guess.

Sundogs, or mock suns, are so-called because they have a white tail sticking out horizontally, like a dog. They can occur when there are halos when there are two either side of the sun, giving three suns lined up. They are usually hazy white or rainbow-coloured. This looks two 'wavey' for that.

It is more likely to be a piece of space junk, or rock. These fireballs are usually so massive they leave a long trail lasting a long time due to their size and the amount of material burning up.

I'll check through astronomical channels, but I am sure it is not a sundog. I think Russ is correct the tail seems to be in the wrong direction for a sundog.





MORE FIREBALLS

Illustration UFO DATA

Investigation into the Object Reported Flying Over Leeds on 1st February, 2007

RAF Fylingdales, 7th Feb, 2007

A report was received by Sqn Ldr Darling from a Mr Russel Callaghan giving details of an object flying over Leeds (West Yorkshire) on 1st February at 0930. Two photographs of the phenomena were provided.

We carried out an investigation to determine if the object could have been a satellite decaying in the atmosphere and to determine if Fylingdales radar had detected the object.

Data from AF Space Command indicated that there were no satellite decays worldwide on 1 February \pm 24 hours. The complete satellite orbits database was also processed through our own decay prediction software, which produced the same result.

It is possible that some of the uncatalogued pieces from the Chinese payload that was destroyed a few days ago could be burning up in the atmosphere, but these pieces are very small and unlikely to cause the display as shown in the photographs. They would also be travelling North to South or South to North rather than the West to East direction reported for the Leeds object.

A search for uncorrelated targets showed none for Earth orbiting satellites at the time of the event \pm 1 hour (i.e. Fylingdales identified every satellite detected in the surveillance beam).

A similar search was performed using the history tapes data for possible meteor detections. There were no meteor head or meteor trail detections during this period, although it should be noted that a meteor over Leeds would have been well above the Fylingdales surveillance fence elevation and would have never passed through it.

Our assessment is as follows:

The object was unlikely to be a satellite burning up on re-entry.

Although Fylingdales did not detect a meteor, it is unlikely that a meteor would have penetrated Fylingdales' surveillance coverage. [End]

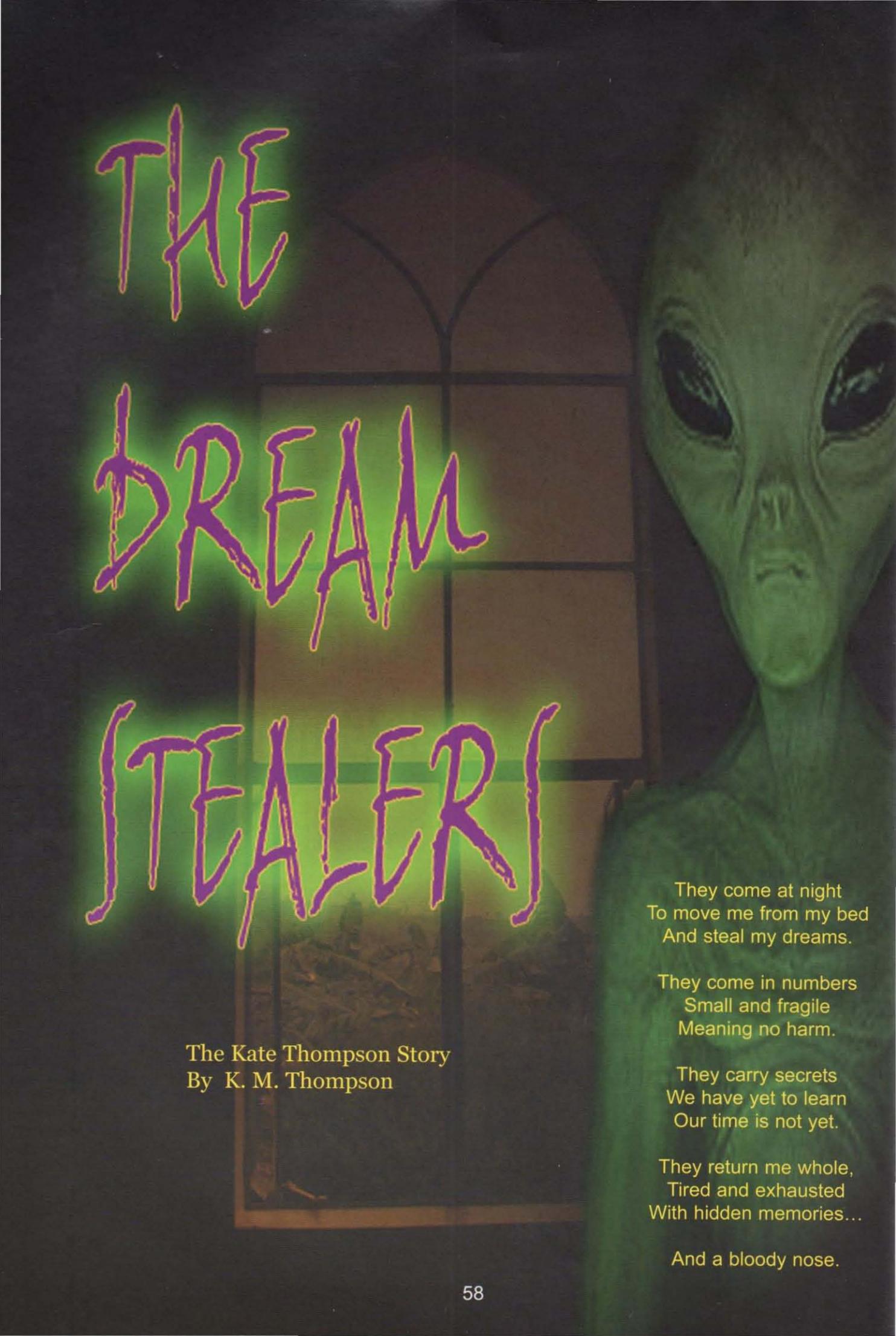
On an interesting note I took a call at our office on the 7th February, 2007, from a friend in Warrington who had a work colleague who was taking a bit of ribbing at work over what he had observed the previous evening. Dean came on the phone to me and started to explain that between 19:30 and 20:00 on Tuesday night, he was in Sankey, near Widnes, looking out towards the Runcorn Bridge (made famous by the BBC series, *2 Pints of Lager*), when he noticed a bright object in the night sky. As he watched, it appeared that this object was burning in a bright fireball and trailing thick smoke. Dean was quite concerned that the object appeared to be heading in a downwards direction and possibly heading for an impact. Although he didn't see it come down, as he lost sight of the object, the smoke trail hung in the air for some time after.

The direction of travel was south, down the Wirral coastline.

There will be members of the astronomy community who will still cite 'sundogs' as the cause of what was filmed, but even the RAF at one of the most sophisticated tracking bases in the world didn't suggest light reflections and searched for solid objects.

It seems ironic that two similar objects, sighted less than 60 miles away from each other remain unidentified. Although we can't count out the remnants of the Chinese satellite destruction as culprits, officially the objects will remain unknown, so we will label them **Unidentified Flying Objects...**

UFO DATA are extremely grateful to the RAF for their help in this matter.



THE DREAM STEALERS

The Kate Thompson Story
By K. M. Thompson

They come at night
To move me from my bed
And steal my dreams.

They come in numbers
Small and fragile
Meaning no harm.

They carry secrets
We have yet to learn
Our time is not yet.

They return me whole,
Tired and exhausted
With hidden memories...

And a bloody nose.

Throughout the fifty-seven years of my life, I have had innumerable metaphysical, extraterrestrial and terrestrial experiences. Four years ago, I put together a book of verse that describes my journey. Although I put the book together myself - literally writing it, printing the pages, glueing the spine, designing the front and back covers, and copyrighting it, I did not formally publish it other than displaying excerpts of it on my website. I gifted several friends with copies, but that's all as far as it went.

In retrospect, I now see the above effort was a partial attempt to diffuse the ever-expanding mountain of emotions I have been struggling to keep hidden. It is one thing to write about emotions after meditating on a pleasant subject such as nature, or to be intensely involved in a creative effort, both examples of experiencing real time in the present, and quite another to go through an unexpected experience that results in surprise, confusion and the ultimate exclamation of ...

"What the hell was THAT?!"

I now realize I must share the true account of my experiences with others if I am to live with even a modicum of inner peace in my remaining years. If the sharing of these experiences helps even one person, my effort will have been worth it.

Many of the events involve ESP, OOBE's, abductions, and some events that I haven't been able to fully grasp in their entirety yet. Some of the events are so intricately tied together, it is difficult to separate them. I am still in denial over some of these events and can only speculate as to what their meaning is. I am leaving out all but a few experiences with ESP phenomena and concentrating mainly on extraterrestrial events in this writing. I will save those for publication at a later time, after the emotions involved in recall have settled. My encounters with ESP, entities such as ghosts and other spirits has been "a cake walk" compared to the encounters with different alien species.

I don't recall exact dates and times of many events, so I am unable to provide an accurate chronology. I can

only approximate my age within the context of single decades. It wasn't until 1974 that I began to keep a journal about these events, and many of them are on paper that is now yellow with age. Nonetheless, what I am able to remember about these events is fixed in memory and I leave it up to the reader to decide how to interpret what I've written.

The First Ten Years

Around twenty-odd years ago, I recalled being a toddler walking under the kitchen table. To make certain I wasn't imagining this, I called my mother and asked what type of child I was: Was I a good child, easy to rear, or was I difficult to handle? She told me I was a 'perfect child' and then exclaimed, "You started walking when you were eight months old!" From her kindly, yet unexpected response, I deduced that my memories were pretty much intact.

At the age of eighteen months (as near as I can recall), I had my first out-of-body experience. I was lying on the kitchen floor nearly smothering from the weight of two larger bodies on top of me, wrestling with each other. I left my body, staying just outside of my head, until the wrestling stopped. This was not an abduction but rather a case of intentional or unintentional abuse by family members in which I was either the target or an innocent victim who happened to be in the way. Whichever it was, having to resort to leaving my body left an indelible mark in my memory.

At the age of around three or four, while by the house, in the back yard, I saw a man standing just inside of the tree line. He was wearing old, dirty clothes and suspenders were attached to his trousers. I wasn't quite sure what to make of it as we lived on a farm, away from the constant presence of others.

My mother was in the kitchen, so I went to the doorway and told her there was a man in the woods, and she came out of the house and 'round back, holding my hand as I led her to the place where I had seen the man. The man was still visible, but my mother couldn't see him.

My mother said, "Tsh, tsh, now, there's no man there. You must be imagining him", and the man began to fade away.

Memory of exact times, even years, are blurred between seeing the man in the wood line, but I do recall a rapid escalation of bizarre events that took place after that.

Until around the age of six, my two older siblings and I shared a room while renovations were taking place on the old house where we lived, and after the renovations were complete, we were given our own rooms. It was after we were given our own rooms that the abductions began to increase. (I write that 'the abductions began to increase' because I can't be certain that they had or had not been happening before. This is a pivotal time of remembrance for me.)

I remember my brother being so frightened at night that he couldn't sleep unless the hall light was on. I remember him waking up with a bloody nose and yelling for our mother on more than one occasion, and my mother telling me that my brother had hidden in the closet. I also remember a light shining through his bedroom window and a tall, skinny figure, along with barely discernable other beings, directing both my brother and I to go out of the window.

I thought, "How odd. They want us to go outside in our pyjamas."

I don't remember what took place after going through the window, but I do remember coming back inside, through the same window, feeling energized, and both my brother and I were wearing soaking wet pyjamas as if we had been caught in a downpour of rain. The next morning, life went on as usual, with no mention of what took place the night before.

The next memory I have is of being in my own room after bedtime. All the lights were out, even the hall light, but there was just enough light coming from outside to make out a figure standing in front of the mirror on the dressing table. There appeared to be a woman, with long hair, slowly turning around as if trying to see herself in the mirror. "That

must be my sister", I thought, so I called out her name.

Nothing happened, the figure didn't move, so I called out my sister's name again, and as I did this, I remembered that my sister didn't have long hair. In a flash, I jumped up on the bed and grabbed the light string. When the light came on, the figure disappeared. Now, you may think this is just a story about a child's imagination playing tricks with the mind, in the dark, but two of my cousins also saw the same figure. None of us talked about it until at least twenty years later and, as a teen, I frequently heard footsteps both approaching and receding from my bedroom door.

The next memories I have about abductions and alien contact around this time period are, perhaps, not as numerous as some abductees have had, but they were upsetting enough to result in life-long trauma: bizarre dreams, PTSD and dissociation included.

I had just gone to bed. The hall light was turned off. As I lay there, eyes wide open and trying to wind down from the activities of the day, I saw the corner of the closet curtain move. I tried to get my eyes to focus on it so I could see if it was just my imagination or if it was really moving.

It moved again! Out of the depths of this small human's lungs came the cry,

"DAD"!

My father quickly responded, "I'm coming!"

He turned the hall light on, came up the stairs and entered my room. After checking things out, he reassured me there was nothing there. The same scenario took place once more and, this time, my father turned the hall light on, stood at the bottom of the stairs and reassured me there was nothing there. The third time it happened, he yelled from the master bedroom for me to "Be quiet and go to sleep"!

Neither of us knew what was really happening when the curtains moved, but the events that followed may

have been an indication.

The hall light was on, due to the previously-described episode involving my father's efforts to 'rescue his daughter' and, ultimately, giving up on the idea. I was in bed, tossing and turning about in order to get comfortable enough to go to sleep, when my eyes landed on a small, dark figure in the hallway.

"What's that? It's there. I know I saw it..."

"There it is again, no taller than the doorknob. What is that?"

"I wish it would stand still long enough for me to tell what it is. It's just my imagination. I'll close my eyes and it will go away."

I closed my eyes and pulled the covers over my head, stayed motionless for a short while, then slowly pulled the covers off my head and reopened my eyes, but the figure was still there, looking through the space between the door and the door casing, peeking at me, watching me. From my previous experiences of yelling for my father, I knew it would be useless to try that again, so I lay perfectly still, hoping that whatever it was that lurked in the hall near my door would not see me, or perhaps think I had disappeared.

As I lay there, I noticed another small, dark figure in the corner of my room where the closet curtain had moved.

"Oh God, it's inside my room! There, by the closet. Scared. I'm scared, and I can't yell for dad. Oh God, now what do I do? It's real. I'm not imagining this one! It's moving, coming closer to the bed."

As I lay motionless, allowing only my eyes to move, I scanned what I could see of the rest of the room and then looked toward the door. The one that had been observing me was approaching the bed.

"Oh, there's more than one! Go away! You're not real. This is my imagination," I thought to myself, but it was not my imagination. Suddenly, more of the small, unusual figures seemed to be 'coming out of

the walls', approaching the bed, in a group.

"I'm sunk. Dead meat. A goner. What do they want? Are they going to hurt me? Oh! I want to scream for dad!"

Two of the figures came to the right side of the bed, two remained at the foot of the bed and yet another moved to the left side of the bed. I could see them more clearly: little hooded characters with no faces.

"Where are their faces? They have no faces, just a hollow spot under their hoods. I'm tired, sleepy. Maybe this is just a really bad dream, and I'll wake up from it in the morning."

But I didn't go to sleep: I remained in a subdued state of mind.

After the small, hooded figures had stationed themselves around my bed, a slight glowing began to appear in the room, and I saw that the hall light was no longer on. As the glow began slowly expanding, I saw more figures materialize by the window closest to the area where the closet curtain had moved. As they approached my bed, I saw them more clearly: a short, skinny thing with big eyes and a tall human with blonde hair who was wearing some type of sash over his shoulder. There were two or three other figures that appeared with them. However, memory as to what they were fails me at this time.

While my eyes watched the figures approach the bed, I was, for just a moment, shaken out of the subdued condition I had been in and was compelled to jump up and run out of the room, but the overwhelming urge to do so was quickly squelched when I found I couldn't move.

"What is this I'm feeling? I can't move! Oh, oh my God - I can't move! I'll never get out of here. I have no choice but to let them do whatever it is they're going to do."

By this time, the hooded figures were securely holding my feet and arms, and the figures that arrived after the hooded ones were standing at my bedside. The skinny one with the big eyes looked squarely at me, then I

heard a gentle voice say,

"Don't be afraid. We aren't going to hurt you",

but the small mouth on the skinny figure wasn't moving. As I absorbed the message, I saw the arm of the skinny figure nearing my head.

It held a long, slender device that I can only describe as being similar to what my father used to retrieve tiny vials from a tank of dry ice during his job outside of the farm. I wondered how the figure could hold the device because it only had three fingers and a thumb located too far from them to be of any use.

Then came the 'crunch' - the feeling that something had broken inside my forehead, between my eyes. I blacked out for a moment, and when I came to, I was out of my body, floating next to the ceiling, watching what was happening below.

It seemed 'like forever' before the unusual crowd of 'others' left, and when they did, they filed out slowly toward the window, vanishing as they went.

The next morning, I awoke with a bloody nose and no conscious recollection of what took place the previous night. However, on some level, I must have remembered enough to convince me I needed to be ever vigilant in case it should happen again, so I frequently practiced leaving my body to hover around the ceiling where I hoped I would be unseen. I didn't consider that my body was still there, on the bed. I also remember having to hide in the closet, like my brother did, buried under whatever I could find, in order to escape detection.

Throughout these early years of life, I had been a trusting child, going with the flow of things. This innocence was about to end. I was around six or seven and had been going to Sunday School for only a short period of time when the next event took place.

I remember sitting in one of the rooms designated for use as a classroom, with other kids my age. The teacher had been writing on the

chalkboard. She turned and asked the class a question, to which I knew the answer, it was pertaining to a specific question about an event in the life of Jesus. I raised my hand and was called on to answer, which I did. After giving my answer, I began to feel as though I was no longer able to stay in the room. I felt nature calling, so asked if I could go to the bathroom and I was momentarily dismissed. I went downstairs to the bathroom and, after having relieved myself, I went to the sink to wash my hands.

While washing my hands, I looked out the basement window and saw a beautiful, clear blue sky. The next thing I knew, I was coming back through the window from outside and the teacher was in the bathroom, reaching for my hand and saying my name. This all happened in what felt like about a twenty minute time period. I don't recall where I went or what happened to me when I was gone.

Shortly after this event, the effects of the contacts and abductions, along with outbursts of family strife began to cause depression. I felt as though I were a mutant, an unlovable and crippled child with no place on earth at which I would be safe, so I decided to go live with God, in heaven - after all, God was supposed to love all children no matter what their condition. To my thinking, there was only one way to get there and stay there on a permanent basis: leave the body behind.

A few days had passed since making this decision, when I saw my father driving a tractor on the drive that went through the yard. He was moving at a pretty good clip in my direction and I saw an opportunity to finally be rid of my body. I stood at the side of the drive, waiting, until the tractor was close enough to do the job, then quickly jumped out in front of it!

My father, being a good driver, managed to swerve the tractor away. I still remember hearing him yell over the sound of the tractor engine, "What's the matter with you! I could have run over you!"

Those ugly feelings of uselessness

came flooding through my body once again - shame, shame on you, Kate.

From the first accounts of contact at the beginning of this writing until the age of eight, I frequently saw the small, hooded figures in different places on the farm: sentinels keeping an eye on their human subject in the woods north and west of the house, in the lean-to attached to the small granary, in and behind the barn. There was nowhere to avoid them, nowhere to escape to until the day finally came when I was old enough to go to the lake by myself... or so I thought.

At the ripe old age of eight, after having discussed the possibility of my partaking in what the older kids on the farm considered to be a rite of passage, my mother finally granted permission for me to go to the lake by myself. I had become a 'big kid', no longer a 'stay-at-home little kid' like the two who remained behind me in years. With all the pride I could muster, I fantasized the rest of the day and into the darkness of night about what I would do at the lake, by myself: climb trees, build sand castles surrounded by moats, watch butterflies and birds flitting about. The world was my oyster, and I would finally be safe from the constant presence of 'them'. I determined that the beach would be my place, not theirs. I would breathe again! I would move freely about, out of sight from their beady, little eyes, if they really had any eyes. I was in heaven!

The next day arrived and, while trying to be patient, I occupied my time with other activities and waited the morning out. I had agreed to go to the lake after eating lunch and stay for only a short while, although I don't recall what length of time the 'short while' really was. By half past noon, I had finished eating my lunch and was heading toward the lake. It was about two short city blocks away.

For once, I felt powerful. I was free to come and go as I pleased in spite of the oppression cast upon me by my jailers. It seemed as though I would soon enter an entirely different universe, far away from those prying, creepy little characters and

the experiences I'd had with them. I crossed the cow pasture, ducked under the barbed wire fence and began to proceed down the path leading to the beach. Then, I saw it standing at the edge of the woods, in an open space between the trees and shrubs.

I started walking more cautiously, counting the small, hooded characters as I went - three in all.

"Oh, God, I'll never escape them. They're wherever I go. Maybe, if I run really fast, I can fool them - leave them behind and they won't be able to find me."

I ran down the path as fast as my legs could carry me and, upon arriving at the beach, I felt sure I had left them in my dust.

Over half the small lake was surrounded by private property and afforded us peace and quite, and ample opportunity to just "be kids."

In the past, I had shared this space with my siblings, but that day, it was mine alone. I lay down on the light-gray sugar sand and, with hands joined under my head, began to imagine I was able to fly with the birds, first to the closest tree, then the one a bit farther away from the first one. When the birds flew up into the sky, I followed. I don't know how long I indulged in this endeavor, but when I came to at the edge of a cloud, I could sense the tiny speck on the beach below that was my body and I was not in it! I felt an urgency to get back into my body and return home so my mother wouldn't worry about me.

Within what seemed to be only a few seconds, I sped downward and entered my body. After fully entering, I got up and headed down the path, determined to run for it if those little hooded creeps were still there. They were. I ran to the fence, crawled under it and kept running until I was in the entryway to the house.

My mother exclaimed, "Where have you been! I was about to go looking for you. You've been gone all afternoon!" To me, it felt as though only twenty minutes had gone by.

Having tasted a bit of freedom, I looked for another opportunity to go to the beach. I thought I had escaped the scrutiny of 'them' in the long run, so I decided I would break out in a full run toward the beach the moment I got up from climbing under the fence. To my surprise, I didn't see them there, so I walked at a leisurely pace.

When I was midway between the fence and the beach, a young boy, who appeared to be around my age, appeared on the path. He wore clothes that were not from the present era: knickers with suspenders, black shoes, a jacket and a hat. I didn't even question where he came from, after all, I was a big kid by now, and I was also used to strange events taking place around me on a regular basis. I asked him what his name was and he told me it was Jonathan.

Well, I didn't want anyone ruining my time, so I gave him the cold shoulder. In spite of my indifference to him, he asked if he could come to the beach with me and I curtly responded, "NO." He stayed there and I went on to the beach.

The time came for me to return home and I headed down the path once more. Again, midway between the fence and the beach, 'Jonathan' appeared. There had been a serious infringement on my being able to practice being a big kid and I was about to set things straight between me and this Jonathan guy. I told him I didn't want him following me or hanging around the path. He responded by telling me he would protect me from what was in the woods.

"God, he knows. What's happening here?"

I told him I didn't want his protection, and that he needed to just leave me alone. The brief communications that took place between him and me were not done vocally, but through thoughts alone. I never saw him again after that. In time, the small, hooded figures stopped appearing there also. To this day, I don't know if 'Jonathan' was a ghost or an alien in disguise. What I do know is that he was not an imaginary playmate -

imaginary playmates that I know of are created to keep highly creative, but lonely, children company. I hadn't asked for 'Jonathan' to come into my life and when he did, I quickly made it known to him that he was an intruder.

By the time the above described 'Independence Day' took place, I must have had enough experiences to make me familiar with the coming and going of extraterrestrial visitors.

One morning, I flew out of bed with the feeling they had been there. I had to get outside to see if I was right. I shoveled my breakfast into my mouth as quickly as possible while listening to my mother's unwelcomed comment and inquiry, "Slow down. What are you in such a hurry for?"

The moment I finished eating, I went for the door. They were there. I knew it. I had to see. I ran straight for the drive that went through the woods to the north and west of the house, but before reaching it, I remembered that 'they' kept watch from those woods, so I did an abrupt about-face and ran behind the house and around to the back of the woods. There, I spotted a perfectly round circle in the alfalfa with four, equally-spaced indentations. I was right.

What would I do now? I decided to show one of the older kids.

They'd understand... they were older, after all. Without telling them about my having sensed an alien presence had been there the night before, I convinced Mary Ann and my older sister to take a look at it. Neither of them had much of an opinion on what could have caused it. That ended that. Today, if I were to ask either of them if they remember the incident, Mary Ann would laugh and make light of it, if she remembered it at all, and my sister would go into a lengthy explanation that would dance around, but never land on, the subject.

At school, I tried hard to feel as though I fit in, but never quite achieved doing so. During my fourth or fifth year in elementary school, I remember arriving at school and settling into my assigned desk while other students filed in and did the

same.

Since the bell didn't ring until 8:30 and there were a few more minutes left before class began, I took the opportunity to gaze out of the window at the billowing, white clouds far up in the sky. The next thing I knew, the teacher was calling my name, "Kate. Kate, it's lunchtime."

The classroom was empty of students except for me. I didn't remember leaving the classroom, but I did remember coming back into the classroom through the window I had looked out of three and a half hours earlier. I got up and proceeded to go to the lunchroom.

By the time my tenth birthday rolled around, I had made two more attempts to leave my body permanently and, as you can plainly tell, both failed. It was the failure of my last attempt that left me feeling that there was a hole in my heart where

God used to be.

Also, by this time I had begun to have dreams about saucer-shaped ships returning to the field just on the other side of the fence to the north of my parent's property, behind the barn and to the west of the woods behind the house.

Sometimes, they were on the ground, motionless. At other times, they were moving slowly above the ground, sometimes taking off and at other times, about to land, and I remember the skinny ones chasing the pigs without really putting their feet on the ground, as if running in the air. I was also becoming perceptive: knowing when a car was approaching our driveway, knowing who was going to visit. I used to make a game of it by paying attention to my perceptions, then watching out the kitchen or living room window to see how accurate I was.

Sometimes I was right, other times wrong.

This is the end of my account of my first decade of life, and although the experiences I remember having during that short period of time were plentiful, they pale in comparison to the ones that followed. I will write about them at a later time.

K. M. Thompson

I wish to offer my gratitude to Robert Morningstar for his encouragement and feedback while putting this piece together.

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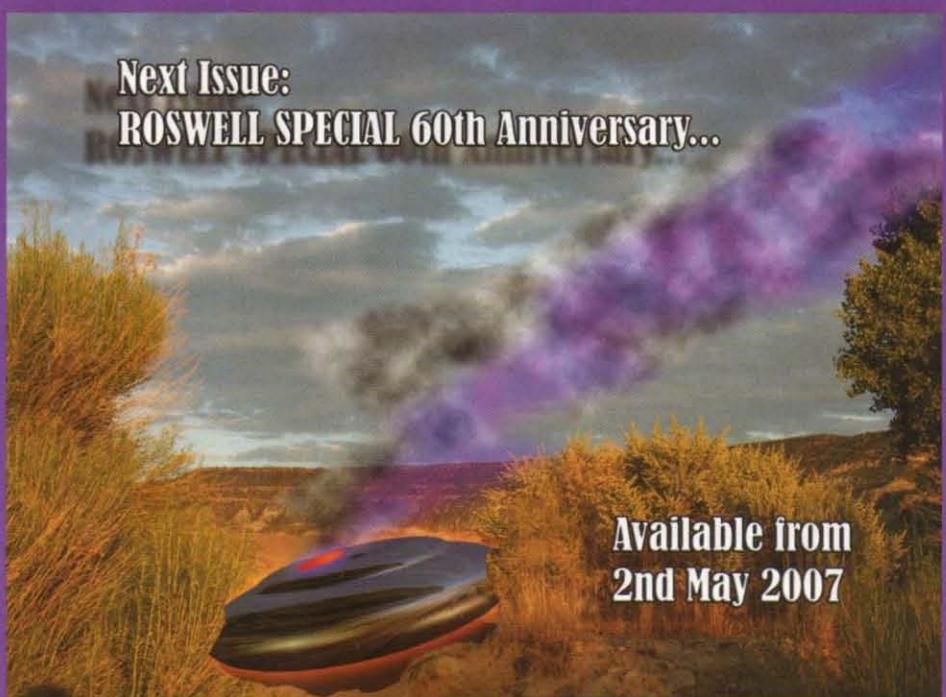
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Diary of a skywatcher

The Belgium UFO wave (1989-1993)

Eighteen years have gone by since the first reports of triangular UFO activity in Belgium emerged and shook the UFO community around the world.

With thousands of credible eyewitnesses and reports, the scramble of F-16 interceptors that locked UFOs on their onboard radar screens and the unprecedented move of the Belgian Government and Air Force to share its results with civilian investigators and the public at large, this story is one of the most compelling in UFO history.

And still the reports are coming in.

A few weeks ago, Christophe Luycks, a 36-year old computer technician from Leuven, Belgium, told a remarkable story on "Shoreline radio" (available at www.ufoplaza.nl) that dates back to December 1990. Christophe was in the army and, at the end of the month, he and 60 of his comrades were part of a training exercise that led them through the woods of Wallonia in the eastern part of Belgium.

At the end of the day, December 30th, the men laid out their bivouac on a small open spot between the trees and prepared to go to sleep. It was a cold night with thousands of stars shining brightly above their heads. The men were tired and fell asleep one by one. Not so Christophe; he watched the stars, longing for home, his girlfriend, a comfortable bed and a stove.

All of a sudden he noticed a strange 'floating' object that darkened the stars in the skies and was hovering above the treetops a few hundred meters away.

Dumbfounded, he stared at a triangular-shaped object, sparsely lit by three white lights on each corner and a red, flashing light in the middle. There was no noise and, as the object slowly started moving towards him, he woke up a few of his friends and asked them to look up and verify the sighting.

There it was, straight above their heads, a strange and silent craft, a messenger out of nowhere that didn't fit in any of his theories about how reality should behave.

The triangle was there for about ten minutes until it vanished as silently as it appeared and was seen by many of the soldiers.

Christophe, reflecting on the event, made a remarkable statement.

"You know", he said, "what impressed me

most, was the reaction of one of my superiors.

"He looked up, shrugged his shoulders, murmured some words and just walked away, as if it didn't interest him at all.

"Either it didn't fit in his concept of reality or he knew something more that he obviously wanted to share with us."

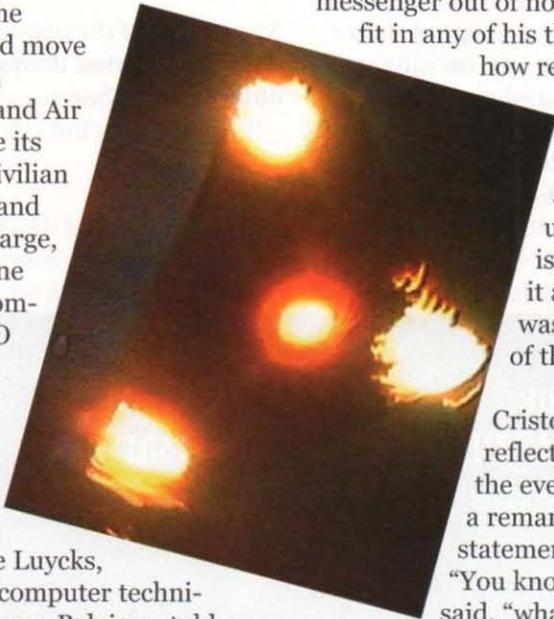
That the sightings of triangular-shaped objects in Belgium didn't stop in the early nineties was made clear by Niels Claes, an eighteen-year old student from Dressel, in the neighborhood of Antwerpen. His report popped up at the desk of ufoplaza on January 2nd, 2007. The sighting occurred at Brasel, at the end of the "Kwademeer". Date: October 23, 2005. Niels and his girlfriend went out for a walk and witnessed a huge, triangular craft that made strange and 'impossible' movements across

the sky. At first glance, Niels thought it was an F-117, but the movements of the object were so strange and out of the ordinary that he had to change his opinion.

The object was about 20 meters in diameter and suddenly vanished, leaving the stunned couple behind. This sighting took place in broad daylight.

Because of the media attention in the early nineties for the observed triangular UFOs, the Belgian Air Force organized a press conference and released various military reports concerning the sightings. General-Major Wilfried de Brouwer, former Adjunct Chief of Staff of the Belgian Air Force played an important role in this unique event.

In his foreword of the book, *UFOs Over Belgium*, written by the late John van Waterschoot, former professor at the University of Leuven, Wilfried de Brouwer says: "The UFO flap in Belgium from 1989 to 1991 was and is an enigma which remains

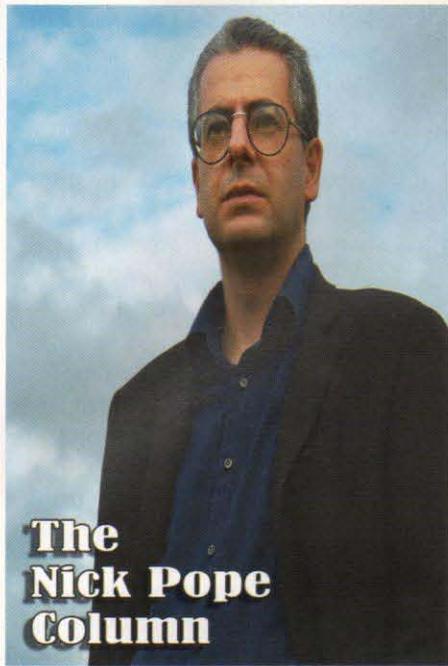


unsolved."

Last week, I made a phone call to Wilfried de Brouwer; he is no longer on active duty and is working for the Red Cross (UN - Geneva).

I asked him to be my guest on "Shoreline" and share his opinions and views on those remarkable "triangular years" in Belgium with the internet (UFO) community. Guess what? General De Brouwer agreed... It made me very happy. The interview will be done at the end of March; a report will follow as soon as possible. The story continues, the truth is down here.

Jan Blei



The Nick Pope Column

Ufology and Science

By Nick Pope

Introduction

What is the relationship between ufology and science? "You get an ology, you're a scientist". So said the character "Beattie" in the famous 1980s British Telecom TV advertisement. That said, the scientific community clearly doesn't recognise ufology as a legitimate part of science, standing in its own right alongside subjects such as biology or psychology. Some ufologists are scientists and some scientists are favourably disposed towards ufology, but generally speaking the scientific community regards ufology as a hobby, if indeed it pays the subject any attention at all. Does any of this matter and what, if anything, can be done to change this state of affairs?

History

At official level, science and ufology have cohabited, though they have been uneasy bedfellows. We should not forget that in America, long before his involvement with the Center for UFO Studies, the astrophysicist Dr J. Allen Hynek was appointed as scientific consultant to the USAF's UFO projects, Sign, Grudge and Blue Book. The MOD's UFO project owes its very existence to a scientist. Papers declassified by the Ministry of Defence in 2001 and released under the Freedom of Information Act show that the Flying

Saucer Working Party - the UK's first official study into the UFO phenomenon - was set up as a direct consequence of the MOD's Chief Scientific Adviser, Sir Henry Tizard. In response to a wave of UFO sightings in the UK and indeed all around the world, Tizard's view was that "reports of flying saucers ought not to be dismissed without some investigation". Earlier still, in the Second World War and immediately thereafter, another famous scientist - the MOD's Director of Scientific Intelligence, Professor R V Jones - had probed mysterious reports of so-called "Foo Fighters" and "Ghost Rockets". The forms which Project Blue Book and the MOD's equivalent used to record UFO sightings were designed with input from scientists, so as to facilitate the recording of the information required for meaningful investigations to be undertaken.

Science versus Government

The position of scientists within government has always been odd. The civil service, the military and the intelligence agencies all know they need scientists, but somehow they are a breed apart, misunderstood and sometimes feared. Sometimes they can wield enormous power, as in the case of Frederick Lindemann. Lindemann (later Lord Cherwell) was Churchill's key scientific adviser. Nicknamed "The Prof", Churchill invariably deferred to him on most scientific matters and it is interesting to note that it was Lindemann's agreement with the Air Ministry's sceptical assessment about UFOs that almost certainly persuaded Churchill to take no further action or interest in the subject, following his famous July 1952 enquiry about UFOs. But people like Lindemann are the exception. From Peter Wright to Dr David Kelly, government scientists sit within the Establishment, but are somehow not quite a part of it. The relevance of this is that official UFO projects such as Blue Book, the MOD's UFO project and others have never really made as much use of scientists as might have been the case. Even Hynek was somehow set apart from the rest of the United States Air Force team, as opposed to being an integral part of the project.

The British Position

The British Government's UFO project had no full-time scientific adviser. Arrangements have varied over the years, but during my tour of duty and at most other times, staff undertaking UFO investigations have been able to call on scientific expertise on an ad hoc basis. This has generally involved specialists in the Defence Intelligence Staff, in particular those working in scientific and technical intelligence. Clearly this is an area about which I can still say little, despite the MOD having released some documents detailing the liaison. Of course, I would have liked to have had a full-time scientific consultant, embedded in the project. An astronomer or an astrophysicist perhaps, or maybe an aeronautical engineer. A psychologist would also have been useful. But I can think of few managers who wouldn't want more resources and, as ever, there are numerous competing requirements. So the scientific advice I received was delivered on an "as required" basis. Whether I wanted a radar tape interpreted or a photograph analysed, there was always somebody who I could call on for assistance.

Project Condign

I should make mention of Project Condign, not least because it has its roots in discussions that I had with scientific and technical intelligence staff in 1993, years before the study was actually undertaken. Famously, we convinced people to endorse such a study by dropping the loaded term UFO and replacing it with UAP (Unidentified Aerial Phenomena). But I'd left the UFO project by the time Project Condign was undertaken and whereas I worked hand-in-glove with the Defence Intelligence Staff, my successors, for a number of reasons, did not enjoy such a close working relationship and remained, at best, not involved and, at worst, entirely unsighted on the work. The final report was a disappointment. Though the single author worked tremendously hard, he had been hampered by the secrecy of the study. Consequently, none of the consultation and peer review that one would expect in a proper scientific study was undertaken. This was, essentially, one man reading some of

the MOD's old files and scouring the literature for papers on atmospheric phenomena. The irony was that by straying into such areas, the author ended up trying to explain one mystery for which there is no scientific consensus (UFOs) with others (exotic atmospheric plasmas, earthlights and the effect on the brain of electromagnetic fields). That's bad science.

Science versus Ufology

Outside official government projects, the position has always been more difficult. Scientists have often been fierce critics of ufology. From Donald Menzel to Sir Patrick Moore, many scientists have been ufology's harshest critics. The irony here is that good ufology should be indistinguishable from any other scientific programme. Good examples of such "scientific ufology" include the Hessdalen Project in Norway, or BUFORA's Anamnesis Project. Sadly, much ufology is not scientific, either because investigators (sceptics and believers alike) are conclusion-led, or because they lack the appropriate expertise and resources, or both. This is a shame. I have met both scientists and ufologists, and discussed ufology at science festivals and the Science Museum. With their passion for knowledge, the two "sides" have more in common than they might first realise.

Two Studies and Two Results

Let's not get drawn into absolutes. Science is a broad church and even on a very narrow subject one finds different theories, with different conclusions often being drawn from the same data - not unlike ufology! Often, there is no "scientific consensus". A good example of this is the debate surrounding the nature of the hypnotic state and the validity of regression hypnosis in recovering memories. What can better illustrate this lack of consensus than comparing the Condon Report with The Sturrock Report? The Condon Report was the result of a study undertaken by scientists at the University of Colorado and its sceptical conclusions led to the USAF's Project Blue Book being

formally terminated. The Sturrock Report was compiled by astrophysicist Peter A. Sturrock and others and was based on the work of a panel of scientists who reviewed data in some of the most intriguing UFO cases. Billed as the first major scientific inquiry into UFOs since the Condon Report, Sturrock and his colleagues effectively overturned the Condon Report conclusions.

Science and Abductions

None of this is to say that we should blame scientists for not taking an interest in ufology. As I said earlier, some scientists have become involved in ufology and were great friends to the subject. Dr J. Allen Hynek is one example, changing his views and becoming involved in civilian ufology after Project Blue Book was closed down. Dr John E. Mack is another, more recent, example. Mack was Professor of Psychiatry at the prestigious Harvard Medical School and was challenged by Budd Hopkins to look at the alien abduction phenomenon. He took up the challenge and became a great champion of the subject. Although often criticised by ufologists and labelled as debunkers, scientists such as Susan Blackmore, Chris French, Susan Clancy and Richard McNally have at

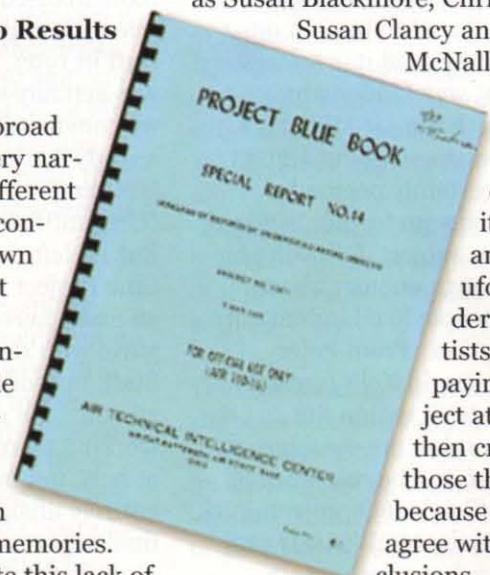
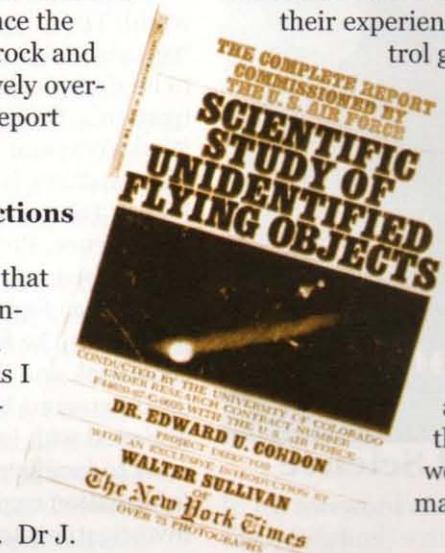
least got involved. Ufology cannot have it both ways and yet many ufologists deride scientists for not paying the subject attention, then criticise those that do, because they disagree with their conclusions. Despite their obvious scepticism that any of the abductees have been taken on board an extraterrestrial spacecraft, ufologists might find some common ground with the likes of Clancy and McNally if they looked hard enough. As a result of experi-

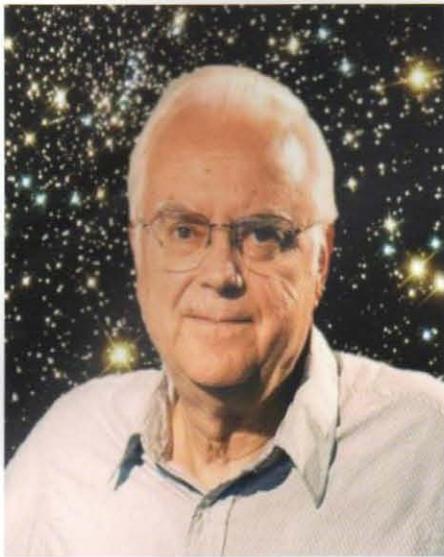
ments, both Clancy and McNally have said there is no evidence of any psychopathology in the abductees - they're not mad. Furthermore, because the abductees exhibit physical symptoms (e.g. increased perspiration and heart rate) when recalling their experiences, when a control group asked to

retell a fictitious but traumatic account display none, Clancy and McNally think it unlikely the abductees are lying. Ufologists and the abductees themselves should welcome this and make more of it.

Ufology versus SETI

Nothing typifies the current state of affairs better than the relationship between ufology and SETI. Here are two groups of people who should regard themselves in an overlapping field. SETI practitioners use radio telescopes to listen for transmissions from other civilisations, while many ufologists believe extraterrestrials have already visited Earth. Generally speaking, each regards the other's activities as silly and pointless. SETI practitioners close their minds to the faster-than-light travel (or other exotic travel such as use of wormholes) that is required for viable interstellar travel. Ufologists question whether extraterrestrial civilisations would generate detectable radio signals at all (Writer and philosopher Terence McKenna once said, "To search expectantly for a radio signal from an extraterrestrial source is probably as culture bound a presumption as to search the galaxy for a good Italian restaurant"). Logically, SETI supporters and ufologists should be saying "Look, I don't know much about your discipline, but it seems to me that we're both interested in the same thing, though we're coming at it from opposite ends of the spectrum and trying two very different approaches. I guess we're covering all the bases". But they don't. They bicker and fight and disparage each other, making both





YouTube UFO Video of the month

UFO Cluster - Dickinson North Dakota

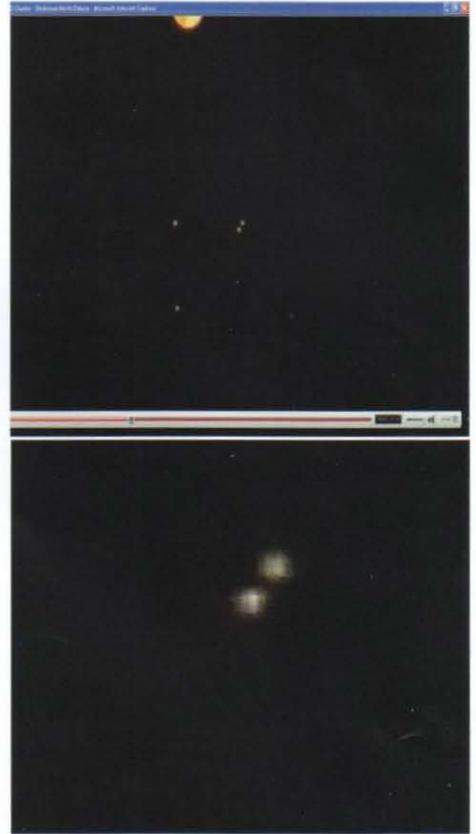
The video starts with the cameraman shooting the moon from his garden. A few minutes into the clip, he notices several, small, illuminated spheres.

During the filming, the cameraman keeps remarking that he can't see the objects with his naked eyes, only through the viewfinder of his camcorder. After viewing the tape, I noticed that the objects, although not moving very far, actually seemed to be switching the illumination on and off. There is also a tree in the garden, which can't be seen very easily, but could be responsible for the 'on and off' effect.

We could be seeing 'floating lanterns', sorry 'Bloody Floating Lanterns', which have become the bane of ufologists over recent years.

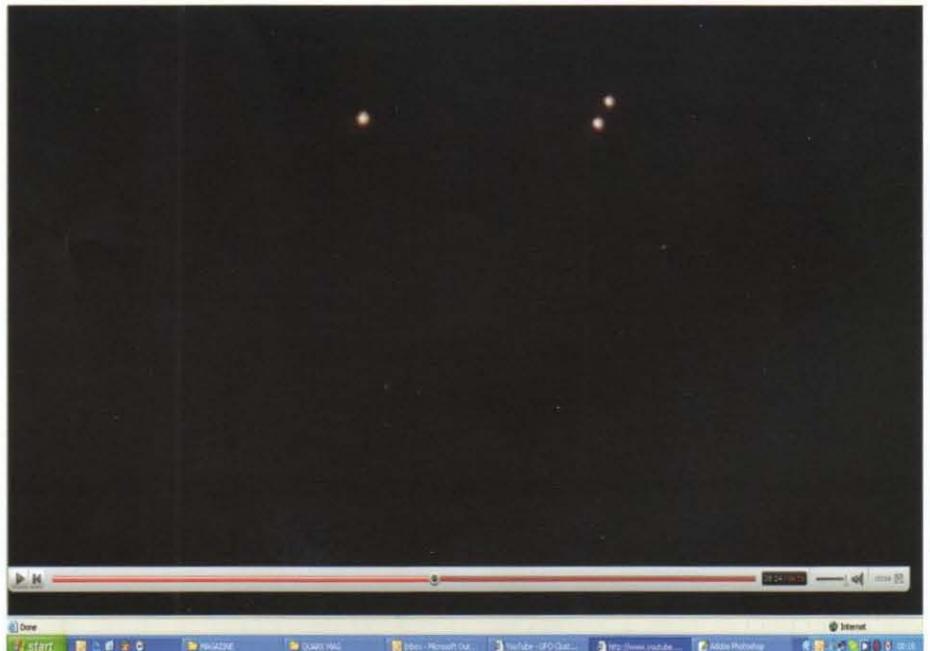
Naturally, there is a lot of kidology and obvious fakes aired on the YouTube network, but sometimes the odd interesting clip comes along. Thanks to Chris Parr for alerting us to this clip.

Check out the clip if you can and make up your own mind.
- UFO DATA



The video sequence runs for almost ten minutes
To view it type in this link:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=u42TjcqqHel>



sides look foolish and wasting valuable time that could be better spent on research and investigation. Some of the biggest names in both fields are guilty here, though I'm pleased to say that when I met Frank Drake (generally regarded as "the father of SETI") he seemed genuinely interested and open-minded about ufology. My own view is that SETI might beat ufology to the finishing line. Proof is difficult in ufology and short of the archetypal landing on the White House Lawn, it will be difficult to convince society as a whole that extraterrestrials exist. But a signal from space? It couldn't be faked and it couldn't be denied. Of course, picking up a signal doesn't mean any extraterrestrials have ever actually visited the Earth, but it would prove the existence of other civilisations - a good start for any pro-ETH ufologist.

Conclusion

Investigations undertaken by government UFO projects have generally been carried out in a scientific manner, though even they have struggled to obtain the full-time scientific support that would have been more desirable. Ufologists and scientists are generally wary of each other, though some bridges have been built. More can and should be done. Good ufology (official or private) should be science-based, but it often isn't. Ufology is a quest for knowledge and if done properly should involve the application of a rigorous investigative methodology. It seems to me that this definition isn't that far from the definition of science itself.

Nick Pope.