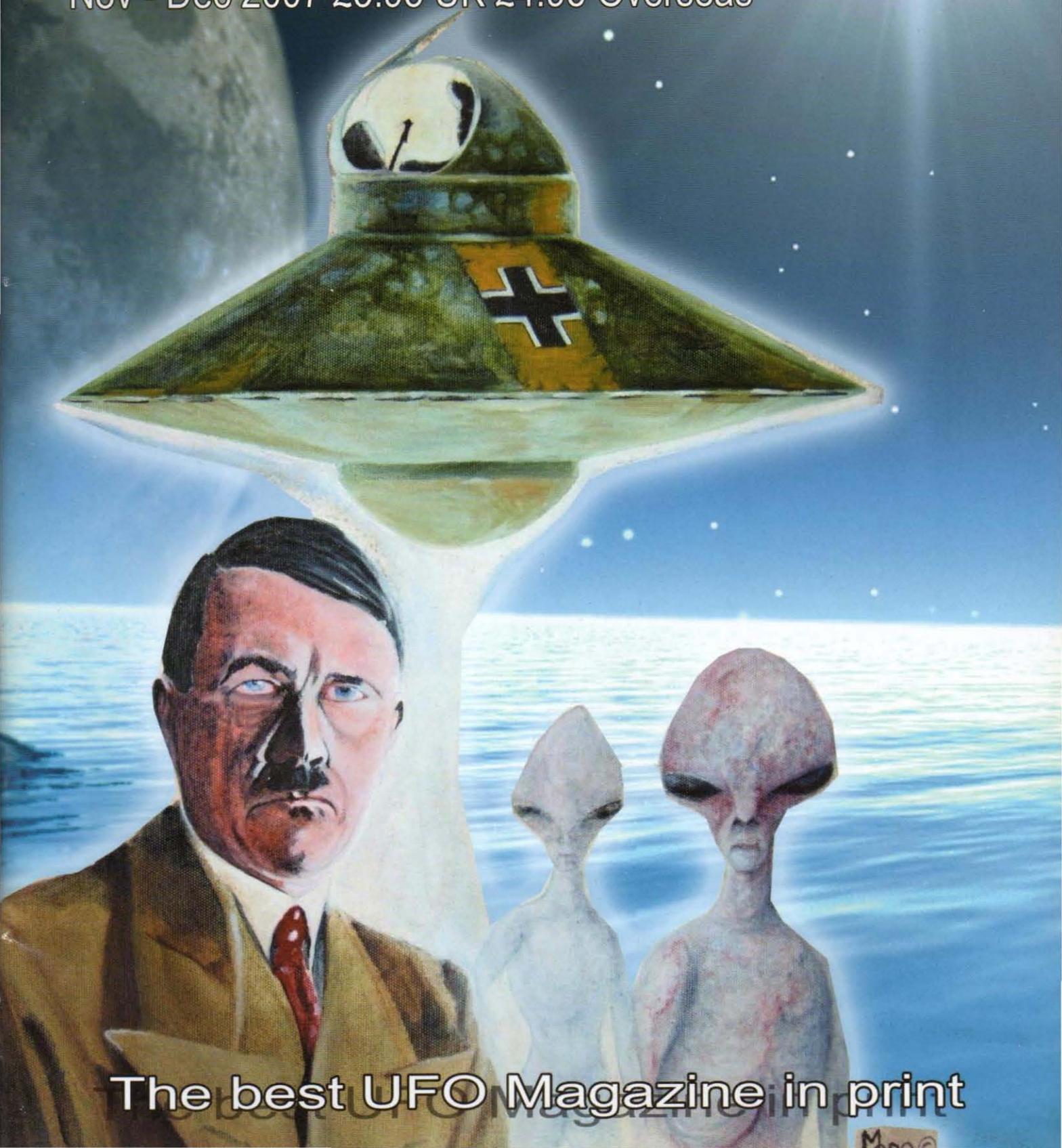


UFODATA MAGAZINE

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The best UFO Magazine in print

TWO YEARS IN PRINT. SAME OLD QUESTION



Is there anybody out there...?

UFO DATA Magazine celebrates its first year as a glossy magazine and its second year in print with this issue.

Thank you all from everyone here at UFO DATA for your continued support.

We have a very special announcement to make with this issue, but more about that later.

It has been an interesting year, with several significant UFO events taking place:

Sixty years of Roswell is a major milestone and one celebrated at our 2007 conference (review inside).

Commercial pilot, Ray Bowyer, reported seeing a huge unexplained object over the holiday island of Guernsey and several good sightings from around the world.

Thanks to our varied team of associates, UFO DATA gets the opportunity to publish articles that rest on the fringe of ufology or the unexplained and we hope to continue to publish similar reports and research in the coming years.

Christmas is coming, so make the most of it as we look forward to your company in 2008.

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UFO discovered in military training film

(BBC NEWS Online host film clip)



It has not gone unnoticed that, in recent years, UFO sightings have not been as prevalent as in years gone by.

That said, this subject is not a predictable science. Sightings, encounters and reports happen when they happen and, in some cases, that can be years apart.

Even less in abundance are sightings accompanied by quality film evidence and even rarer than hen's teeth are those sightings caught on camera whose source is undeniable. I think back to all the wonderful NASA events captured out of the blue by enthusiasts such as Martyn Stubbs or Jeff Challender.

Well, the images above are confirmed still frames from a military training exercise, recorded over Israel. We know the footage is authentic as it was acquired by the

BBC to be included in a news report. That report can be viewed online in its entirety at the BBC News website or via YouTube.

Links to the clip will be published at the end of this item.

The case was brought to my attention by a sharp-eyed researcher, Ben Lydiatt, from Oxfordshire, and then the frame analysis was done by our own Steve Johnson.

When Brett rang me, I viewed the footage whilst he was still on the phone. He pointed me to the two sequences that appear to show an unusual object flying close to the high-speed jet fighters.

The camera that was used to record the clips was mounted inside the cockpit of one of the jets. I was wary not to get too excited by what the film showed, simply because the camera was filming behind the curved, glass canopy of the plane and I immediately thought of reflections or distortions of the images when filmed this way.

However, on watching the sequence

carefully, other objects shot through this canopy show little distortion and are easily recognisable as other aircraft. So what are we looking at?

Initially, UFO DATA's Steve Johnson posted a link to the clip on a different area of our forum and at that point, he too suspected distortions through the canopy, but on further examination of the film, frame-by-frame dissection revealed an aircraft clearly passing in front of this cigar-shaped object.

One thing that was mentioned in the news report was that at the end of the actual mission, the flight would jettison spent fuel pods from their aircraft.

Remember, the film is a training mission, so it would be extremely wasteful dumping fuel pods in the desert, not to mention dangerous to release them in the flight path of other members of your squadron. Whatever we are seeing in the film makes for interesting viewing, but please see the clips for yourself at the following addresses:

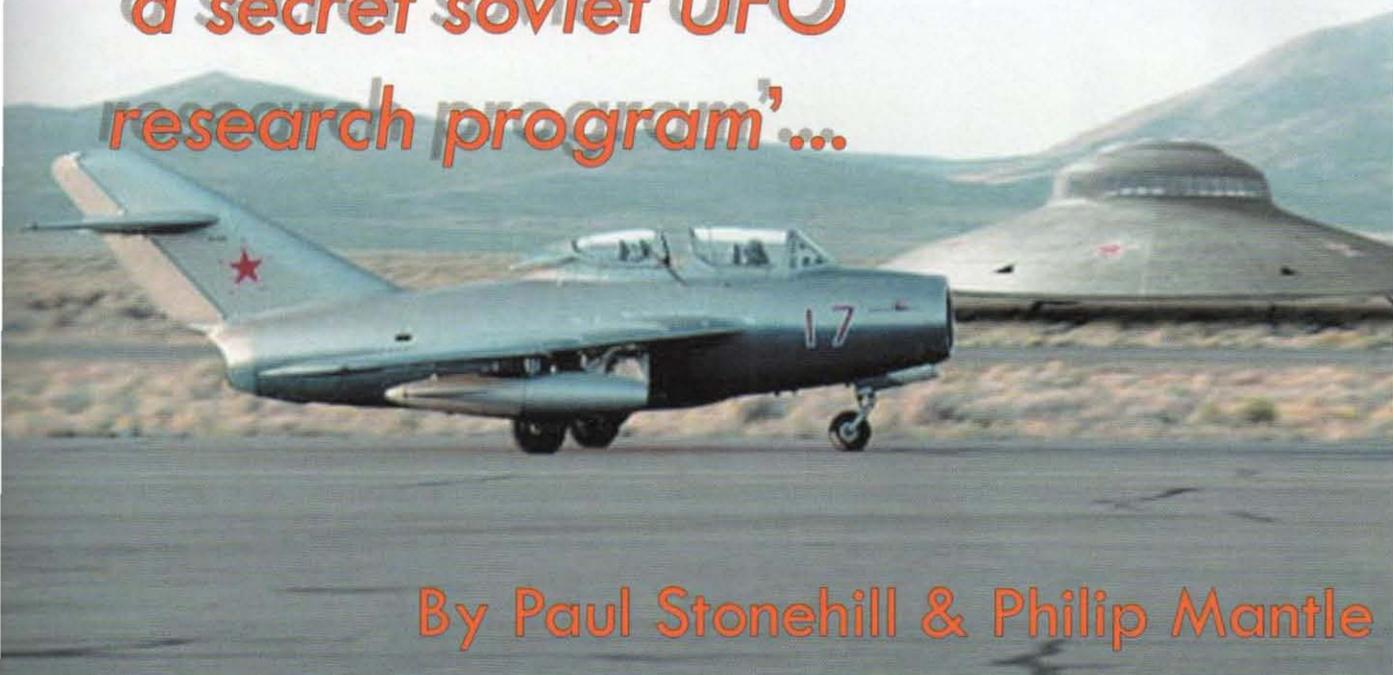
www.ufodata.co.uk/forum

www.bbc.co.uk/player/nol/newsid_7000000/newsid_7005800/7005856.stm?bw=bb&mp=rm&nol_storyid=7005856&news=1

Let us know what you think...

SETKA

“a secret soviet UFO
research program”...



By Paul Stonehill & Philip Mantle

Since the fall of the Soviet Union, researchers have made many claims about the former regime and its UFO secrets. Hollywood even got involved when former James Bond, Roger Moore, fronted the absolutely terrible *KGB Files*, a 90-minute documentary claiming to blow the lid off UFO secrecy from behind the Iron Curtain.

What transpired was the producers of the show offered hamburgers and US Greenbacks to now streetwise Russian citizens, who had very quickly learned how to become mini-capitalists and were selling anything and everything they could get their hands on. It's a wonder Lenin's mustache wasn't put up for auction on eBay, because you could buy most other things.

However, there is one UFO researcher that has managed to keep a level head since his country's new-found freedom happened. In fact, he now resides in the United States. Paul Stonehill is a good friend and co-author with our features editor, Philip Mantle, and it is that partnership that brings this feature article to *UFO DATA Magazine*...

SETKA: A SECRET SOVIET UFO RESEARCH PROGRAM

DAWN OF THE SECRET PROGRAM

By Paul Stonehill & Philip Mantle

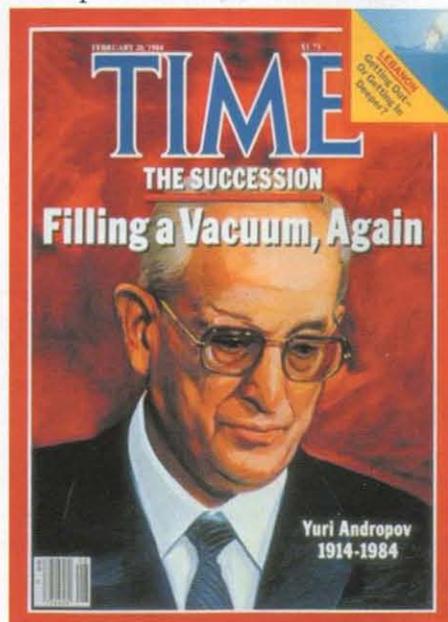
A sharp increase in UFO activity in 1977-1978 (especially, the Petrozavodsk Case) had forced appropriate departments within the USSR Academy of Sciences to agree to a research program for anomalous atmospheric phenomena. The code name for this program was SETKAN (Akademii Nauk Set'--Academy of Sciences Net, or AS-NET.)

The Soviet Ministry of Defense embarked on a similar program, dubbed SETKA-MO (Ministerstva Oboroni Set').

Reportedly, it was the Military-Industrial Commission that had ordered this research. The powerful Military-Industrial Commission decided to create two UFO research centers, one in the USSR Academy of Sciences, the other in the USSR Defense Ministry. Both centers aided each other's research and exchanged information. But we are not com-

pletely certain; there have been reports from Russia that Yuri Andropov, the chairman of the KGB from 1967 to 1982, and the General Secretary of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union from 1982 to 1984, was extremely interested in the UFO phenomenon (specifically, in one case investigated by SETKA researchers). He had enough power to give impetus to the creation of the secret program.

And so, at the end of 1978, anomalous phenomena research in the



USSR Academy of Sciences became the subject of a special scientific research program designated as SETKA-AN. Its functions were distributed among different departments, and a number of Soviet research institutes of the USSR Academy of Sciences received tasks to research various aspects of the anomalous phenomenon issue.

On the 18th of October 1978, a meeting took place in the Academy of Sciences, USSR. Those present included Vladimir Vasilyevich Migulin, Georgiy Stepanovich Narimanov, Rem Gennadiyevich Varlamov, Victor Petrovich Balashov, Vladimir Ivanovich Volga, A. N. Makarov, Inna Evgraphovna Petrenko, Evgeniy Pavlovich Chigin, Dmitry Aleksandrovich Men'kov, Zaytsev (a colonel of the Soviet anti-aircraft forces), Lev Mironovich Gindilis, Inna Gennadyevna Petrovskaya, and Yury Victorovich Platov.

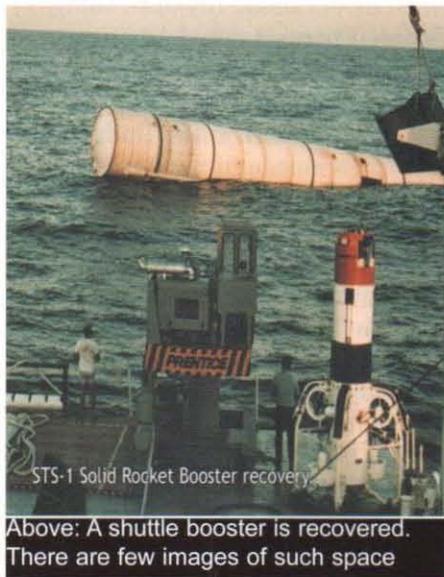
By the way, according to Dr. Fomenko, a famous Russian UFO researcher, a group of 10 or 15 researchers who later formed the SETKA core, regularly met outside their work to discuss the UFO phenomenon.

In 1981, the SETKA research program was given another name, Galaktika (MO and AN designations), and in 1986, the name was changed to Gorizont MO and AN. After the program ended (right after the failed Communist, anti-Gorbachev attempted coup in 1991, although Colonel Kolchin, a noted Russian UFO researcher, mentioned the year of 1990), a group of experts remained in the Department of General Physics and Astronomy of the Russian Academy of Sciences where they analyzed incoming reports until 1996.

THE PLAYERS

We know today that at the historic meeting Migulin and Platov represented the Izmiran (the Academy of Sciences USSR Institute of Terrestrial Magnetism and Diffusion of Radio Waves). Narimanov and Petrovskaya represented the Academy of Sciences USSR Institute for Space Studies. Varlamov repre-

sented the Moscow Technological Institute. Balashov and Volga represented the secret military unit 67947. Makarov represented the Department of General Physics and Astronomy of the Academy of Sciences USSR. Gindilis represented the Shternberg State Astronomical Institute. We are not sure who the other participants represented at the meeting. This was the genesis of the SETKA programs, a fundamental research of anomalous phenomena in the Soviet Union. The main agency of the research was to be the Izmiran. Platov was to be the chief executive at the Izmiran for the SETKA-AN. We cannot quote the complete document here, but we need to mention several crucial points. The Ministry of Defense was worried about the effects of anomalous phenomena; such effects interfered with its work. Balashov mentioned that the priority of research should go to the periodically generated phenomena. He later said that there was no confirmation of sightings by either Soviet or American cosmonauts or astronauts (they observed containers, he added; meaning that the objects they saw were not UFOs).



Above: A shuttle booster is recovered. There are few images of such space

Discussions about the organizational details were, too, very interesting (an HQ is needed at the Academy of Sciences; Platov, the CEO, was to provide it; Migulin promised to "organize" rooms in Moscow; Gindilis mentioned the central archives and the catalogue in one central place). Varlamov mentioned that there are 3000 reports coming in each year from general population. Migulin was against Gindilis's idea of

a central storage place of the data. Volga stated that the sources of primary information included the Ministry of Defense, the Ministry of the Interior Affairs, and TASS.

According to Dr. Fomenko, Migulin was chosen to lead the program while he was absent...no one else wanted to touch the dangerous subject.

In 1978, it was K. Ivanov, the deputy chief of the General Staff of the Soviet Navy (and chief of the Naval Intelligence) who was ordered to research the UFO phenomenon.

THERE ARE NO UFOS...

One of the first acts of the SETKA-AN (according to Yuri Striganov, well-known Russian researcher) resulted in official sanction of "anomalous atmospheric phenomena" as a descriptive term instead of the forbidden "UFO." The censorship chains on the UFO subject were removed in 1989.

The well-planned tasks of the SETKA programs had a terrifyingly effective impact. According to Stroganov, the "Academic Commission" did its best to prove there are no UFOs, only errors in observation of rocket launches, or at the very least, ball lightning.

SETKA-AN served as a powerful cover, creating a distraction away from the workings of the Ministry of Defense, whose SETKA-MO is said to have been, or is, more serious in its investigations than the academic group. Despite the SETKA's nonchalance there had been occasions when "anomalous phenomena" had led to the unauthorized launches of mobile missiles, and on other occasions, the appearance of UFOs during military training exercises had resulted in the breakdown of radio communications and equipment malfunctions.

There had also been reports from military personnel including senior officers, about the strange conduct of UFOs over Soviet missile bases and cosmodromes.

Scientific arguments regarding the nature of UFOs had been the least of the military researchers' concerns;

they did, however, pay close attention to the hypothesis that UFOs are manifestations of an ET civilization. Most of all, they have been concerned with UFOs' impact on military technology and on personnel; such impact could be quite unpredictable.

INSTRUCTIONS AND APPEALS

The Guidelines for the Soviet Navy had been dated March 7, 1980, and signed by Deputy Commander of the Main HQ of the Navy, Vice Admiral Saakyan. A well-known Russian ufologist, Valdimir Ajaja, who at the time had problems with the Communist ideologues and officials because of his UFO research, was given protection and work by his friends in the Navy; he helped with the writing of the Instruction.

Instructions regarding the procedures to collect information about anomalous phenomena data collection in the atmosphere and space were sent to various Soviet departments and organizations. The order came from the Department of General Physics and Astronomy of the USSR Academy of Sciences. Nedelya newspaper published an appeal by V. Migulin and Y. Platov to those who have sighted unusual phenomena to first determine on site whether the observed object was not an astronomical or another familiar object. If it was not conventional in nature, then to describe the object thoroughly, and send the report to the Department of General Physics and Astronomy of the USSR Academy of Sciences.

As Y. Platov and B. Sokolov state in their History of State-directed UFO

Research in the USSR, a decision was made to keep the programs secret. The justification was a necessity to ensure "abatement of public response". There were three reasons for that, according to both apologists for this Inquisition-like approach to UFO phenomena research:

Programs formally belonged to activities pertaining defense-related subjects; initial assumption that there is a high probability of military-technical origin of the observed strange phenomena; and possibilities that in case of successful completion of the raised tasks some of the UFO characteristics could be used for military purposes.

CONTROVERSY

We do not believe that Platov and Sokolov's publication is truthful. For example, look at their insistence that there were virtually no reports of anomalous phenomena from military objects at or next to secret testing areas and ranges. This is simply not true, for Soviet UFO researchers reported a number of such sightings. Y. Platov and B. Sokolov (the latter had somewhat different opinions when he discussed his work with George Knapp, a noted American journalist in 1993) were official participants and leaders of the programs. Also, both authors admit that because scarce funding was available for their programs, and necessary equipment to research such phenomena as large-sized plasma structures in the atmosphere was not available, their methods could not be foolproof.

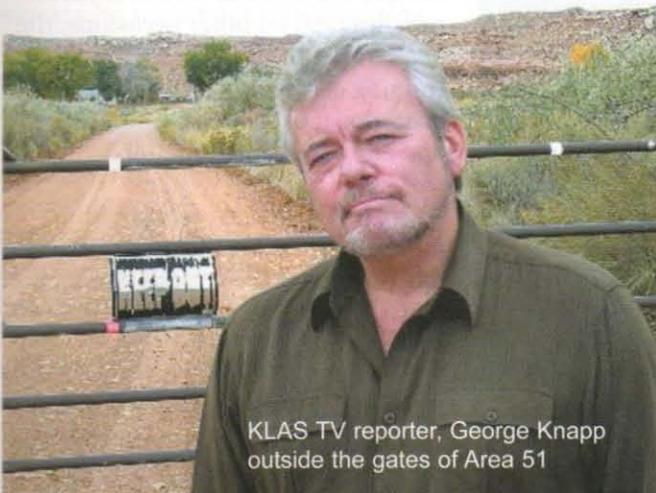
Basically, information was collected, and analyzed, and some physical models of observed phenomena were developed. But even this assertion seems to be untrue. Their publication was criticized by Russian and Ukrainian ufologists, and applauded by seasoned debunkers. There is obviously an agenda to denigrate independent UFO research, and not some "secret KGB files", as the authors state in the publica-

tion. It would be very decent on their part to inform Russian and other former Soviet ufologists as to where their archives are located (if there are any left), so that perhaps a joint commission could be formed, and reports researched again. We are not asking that a foreign representation be included, for there may be defense secrets in the archives of reports that spanned over 13 years. But we do not think that Platov and Sokolov should be allowed to dismiss Soviet and CIS UFO phenomenon with their publication. Actually, such prominent participants in the programs as Colonel A. A. Plaksin (liaison between the military and the academic programs) have recently confirmed the UFO incident in 1982 (when a nuclear war was almost triggered because the launch codes for the Soviet ICBMs had been bafflingly enabled just as the gigantic UFO appeared over the secret ICBM base in Ukraine). Although Boris Sokolov for years reported the same, he has later changed his story. We believe it is A. A. Plaksin who should be the authority in the cases investigated by the military SETKA program; or the head of the program, General Balashov. By the way, Colonel Plaksin nowadays is the leading paranormal phenomena expert of the Russian Defense Ministry.

REVELATIONS OF COLONEL PLAKSIN

And he is quite outspoken about the SETKA program (September 8 and 15, 2000, REN-TV program titled *Voyennaya Tayna* or *Military Secret*). A most curious article was published in *Komsomol'skaya Pravda* newspaper on 31st May 2002. The author was Andrey Pavlov, and its title is *UFOs helped Americans create super weapons*. Aleksandr Plaksin, who was interviewed, is called a military geophysicist. In the article Plaksin "reveals" several interesting developments.

1. Many recent achievements of the American military-industrial complex have been generated in the labs dedicated to the research of paranormal phenomena.
2. "Aliens" have nothing to do with American advanced technology (i.e., *Stealth*).
3. In his 15 years of UFO research A.



KLAS TV reporter, George Knapp outside the gates of Area 51

Plaksin had never obtained direct proof that there are alien civilizations active on our planet.

4. Americans have researched UFOs since 1954 (U.S. Air Force), and since 1974 they have operated a secret scientific research center to study anomalous phenomena and UFOs through the use of a special Earth-based station. Hence, they (the Americans) were able to create a super weapon.

(A. Plaksin goes into terrifying details, but basically his aim is to denigrate American HAARP, future U.S. policies, etc.)

5. A. Plaksin describes the creation of the Soviet program(s) to study the anomalous phenomena from 1978 on.

6. A. Plaksin goes into fascinating details; the information after all, came from Soviet military branches, the Navy, the border guards, anti-aircraft units, etc. Some of the information revealed in the interview in *Komsomol'skaya Pravda* contains fascinating details of a sighting from the Borisoglebsk airfield (the immobile black cloud). This case is described below.

This is of great interest; there have been other very strange "clouds" over the former USSR and Russia; such cases are mentioned throughout *Mysterious Sky: Soviet UFO Phenomenon* (2006).

7. A. Plaksin mentions the infamous and very dangerous 1982 case (and gives the correct date; it was the 4th of October, not the 5th; and nothing other than a UFO almost triggered a nuclear war).

8. A. Plaksin states that there were no UFO crashes in Kazakhstan in 1978; no secret storage for UFO fragments in Mitische (Moscow area), no super secret storage in Novaya Zemlya.

A. Plaksin also mentions that the laboratory he worked with after 1978 was created at the military scientific research institute TSNII-22. He started there as a junior scientist in 1979, and gradually became its supervisor, until 1991, when the program was disbanded due to the lack of funds. It would be great to compare his information to that provided by such respectable former Soviet

military officers as Gherman Kolchin, Lev Ovsischer, and others. Gershtein, Subbotin, Chernobrov should also be heard, for their research skills are diverse and vast.

9. A. Plaksin is of the opinion that the unidentified objects ("20 percent", according to him) are of physical origin that is still unknown to us. Our laws of physics cannot explain such objects. The rest of the cases have to do with UFOs that are of the plasma formation, quite natural in origin. The methodology used by Soviet military scientists allowed them to juxtapose Sun's condition and the timing of UFO appearances. They had determined that under certain conditions a stream of solar radiation penetrates the Earth protective magnetic field and assumes very diverse forms, causing influence on measuring devices and people. He mentions two fascinating episodes (1977 and 1981).

10. Although A. Plaksin states that most likely there are no aliens on Earth, he also mentions that because of military secrecy he cannot reveal everything he knows.

11. Among other projects carried out by the military UFO research lab A. Plaksin worked in was the creation of the USSR anomalous zones map. There have been dozens of such zones. The most important ones were in the Ust'-Koksin area of the Altai Mountainous Autonomous region; the Zarevshan area; the Borisoglebsk area; the Plesetsk area of the Arkhangelsk region; the Dzerzhinsky area of the Nizhegorodsk region; the Shatursky area near Moscow.

12. The military institute authorized to study UFOs had cooperated with other institutes of the Russian Science Academy to create a number of super sensitive equipment for UFO research. The equipment allowed them to estimate the size of UFOs, density, and their speeds. According to A. Plaksin, the Soviet military scientists also learned to predict UFO waves.

13. They never worked with any contactees. They were only interested in the official reports from Soviet military units; the reports were to be

measured by military technological equipment. Plaksin, obviously, is revealing more information, piece-meal. There is more to be learned from him, we hope, in the future.

Scientists in the Novosibirsk "Akademgorodok", a powerful science center in Siberia, conducted the first data processing of UFO sightings by Soviet computers. The actual calculations were performed in the Institute of Mathematics of the Siberian Branch of the Soviet Academy of Sciences. They used EVM ES 1022 computers. This was done in the framework of the SETKA-AN. Mikhail Gershtein has a copy of this historic attempt to study UFO data; the report consists of 45 pages of graphs and formulas.

Plaksin never discussed the mysterious "Arkhangelsk Dust" in his interviews, but he knew about it, as does V. Fomenko. Soviet scientists from the SETKA, as well as Novosibirsk came to Arkhangelsk to study the phenomenon. Arkhangelsk Region is situated in the North-West of the European part of Russia. Its shores, three thousand kilometers long, are washed by cold waters of three Arctic seas: the White, Barents and Kara Sea. We could not get more details of the mysterious event. We do know from Mikhail Gershtein's interview with V. Fomenko that Plaksin gave the elderly researcher some notes and information he had kept in his apartment

Overall, Russian ufologists are not certain what had actually been "caught" by the SETKA-MO. The Instructions signed by Saakyan mention two military units where the most serious UFO data collected was to be telegraphed to immediately: Unit 67947 (Mitischi city, Moscow region), and Unit 62728 (Leningrad). "Serious" data concerned the following: physical traces of anomalous phenomena, death of military personnel (as a result of contacts with the anomalous phenomena), and breakdown of technology.

We are not certain about the fate of the Krasny Kut unidentified phenomena secret archives of the Ministry of Defense that (according to retired Colonel Gherman Kolchin, a respected UFO researcher and

author) were kept at the secret testing site in the Saratov region. According to Kolchin, Colonel Sokolov had burned those reports that were not sold (400 most intriguing cases) to the American ufologists who visited Moscow in 1993. Also, according to Kolchin, back in 1997, one of the scientists involved with the program had confirmed that Migulin's commission virtually stopped its activities. The same situation was in the Ministry of Defense.

And yet, Russia of 2007 is very different from Russia of 1997. President Putin and his government may have a radically different view of the UFO phenomenon and its effects on the Armed Forces. Perhaps, some day we will find out whether other programs are active now. Nikolay Subbotin, an active Russian UFO researcher from the RUFORS organization, mentioned that in the summer of 2002 he discussed the subject with a captain from the strategic rocket forces. Captain Murtazin mentioned that in 2001 he had seen a special registration log for anomalous atmospheric phenomena (the same one that the SETKA had introduced in the late 1970s). That log contained recent entries, and the watch officer very efficiently sent the reports to a special military center that only he had information about....That means that the research program was either revived...or was never really terminated.

SOME OF THE SETKA CASES

1974, BOROSOGLEBSK AREA

The area is also named by A. Plaksin as one of the most important anomalous zones of the former USSR. That year a very interesting case took place at the Povorino airfield. A motionless black cloud appeared over the site. It was hovering at the altitude of seven kilometers. It was approximately a kilometer and a half long. The radar below indicated that it was an aircraft. A jet was sent to intercept it; there were two fliers aboard. As soon as they entered the cloud, a sharp siren pierced their helmet's earpieces. The sound was powerful, above "pain threshold". At the same time their onboard device illuminated the "dangerous altitude" reading, and the aircraft started shaking violently. The pilots were

barely able to shut down the power and with great difficulties guide the aircraft out of the cloud. The cloud hovered over the airfield for four hours, and then disappeared. The Soviets were never able to determine what that "cloud" was or consisted of.

1981, Mukachevo, Ukraine
Again, we have A. Plaksin to thank for the information about the case. It took place on September 14, 1981. A MIG-23 jet was conducting a training flight. And a fiery sphere appeared from nowhere, right in front of the aircraft. The front part of the jet was destroyed. The pilot had time to eject himself from the cockpit. A. Plaksin claimed that such incidents were never explained by his military UFO research.

October, 1982

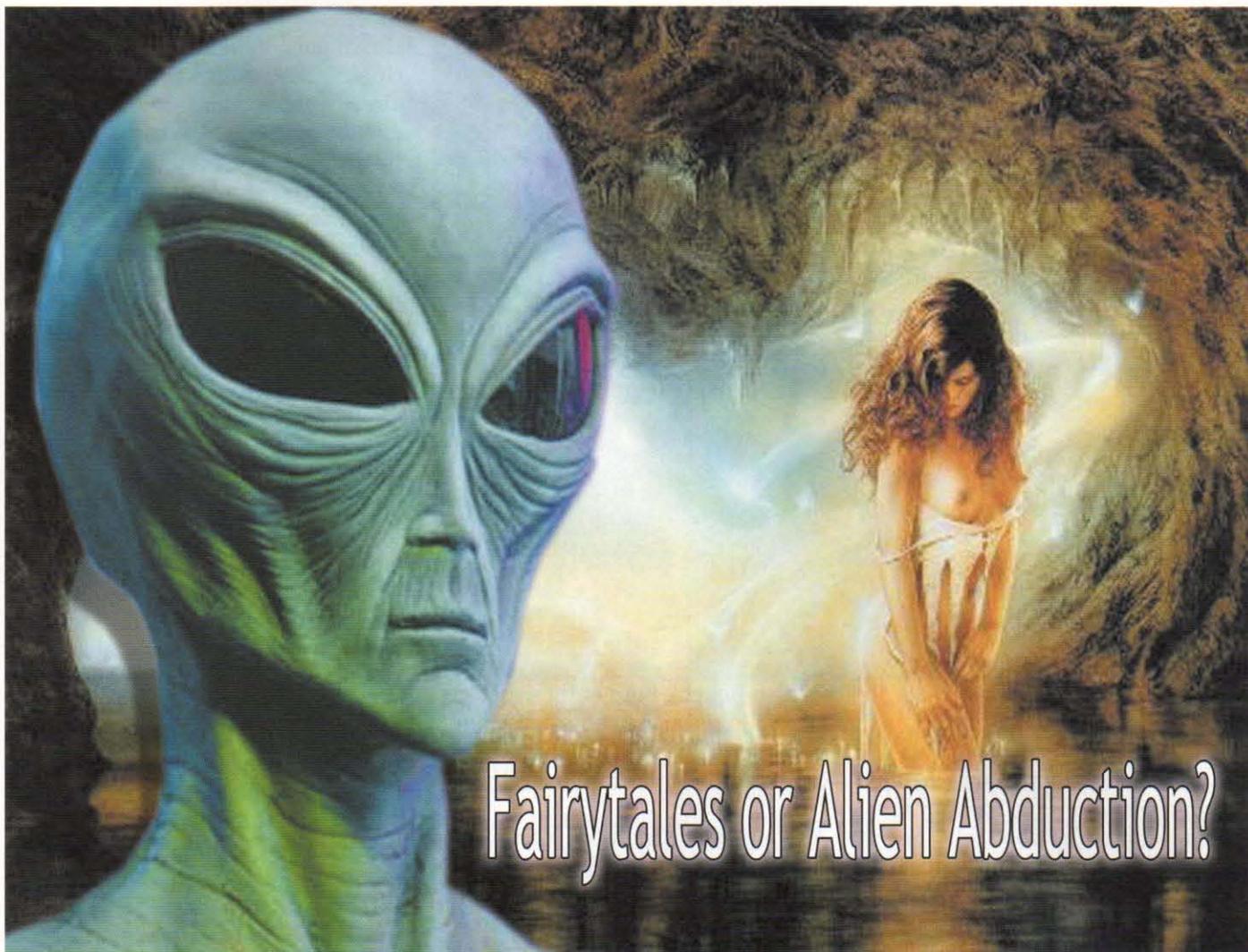
Reports received from Russia indicate that Soviet Colonel Boris Sokolov investigated the case, and on October 5, 1982, he was sent to Ukraine. Sokolov knew quite a lot about UFOs, as he was involved in the information collection and analysis per the Instruction. The reason he was summoned to the Soviet Ukraine was an urgent report from an ICBM base, sent to the Chief of General Staff. On October 4th, a UFO was observed in the area; it remained there for about four hours. But the control panel indicated that an order came in to prepare launch of the base missiles. Lights actually lit up on the panel, and launch codes enabled the missiles; there were many officers present that witnessed the incident that could have started a nuclear war. Apparently Boris Sokolov's team came to the conclusion that it was the UFO that bears responsibility for arming Soviet missiles. In the year 2000 Sokolov changed his views, perhaps under direct pressure, and came out against UFO hypothesis in this and other cases.

This case became famous in the West years later. A transcript from ABC News Prime Time Live dated October 5, 1995 describes the segment about the KGB files. David Ensor, a well-known correspondent for the network, conducted a five-month investigation of the Soviet UFO files. Dozens of Russian scientists, military and government officials had been

interviewed. Ensor found out about forty major incidents, including one that prompted fears of starting an accidental nuclear war. Ensor's team also found out about the Instruction. They viewed awesome footage of a huge triangular UFO filmed by a Soviet propaganda film crew (most likely, it was the so-called Riga UFO, 1961 incident). Other reports confirmed by eyewitnesses proved to be important. The incident that almost unleashed a nuclear war took place in 1982, on October 4. The event in question took place in the Soviet Ukraine. That day a huge UFO of perfect geometrical shape and 900 meters in diameter hovered over a nearby ballistic missile base. Numerous eyewitnesses confirmed the sighting to David Ensor. So did Lt. Colonel Vladimir Plantonev (we are not certain if this name was spelled correctly by ABC news), a missile engineer. According to him the UFO was a noiseless, disc-shaped craft; it had no portholes, its surface completely even. It made turns, like an airplane would. The missile silo at the base contained a nuclear warhead pointed at the United States. It was dismantled in the early 1990's. But in 1982 it was fully functional. Plantonev was in the bunker that fateful day in 1982. The room contained dual control panels for the missile, each of them hooked to Moscow. As the UFO hovered overhead, signal lights on both the control panels suddenly turned on, for a short period of time. The lights indicated that the missiles were preparing for launch. Moscow could have initiated such launch, by its transmission of special orders. But no order came from Moscow, and no one at the base pushed any buttons. For 15 long seconds the base simply lost control of its nuclear weapons. Moscow was very much alarmed, and sent an investigation team to verify the incident. A member of the commission, Colonel Igor Chernovshev (we are not certain if this name was spelled correctly by ABC news), corroborated the 1982 incident to David Ensor.

*Paul Stonehill and Philip Mantle
Co-authors of Mysterious Sky - Soviet
UFO Phenomenon (2006) now available
via Amazon.*

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Fairytales or Alien Abduction?

The Abduction of the Reverend Robert Kirk

© Brian Allan 2007

This article is adapted from a chapter in paranormal researcher and author Brian Allan's new book entitled, *'The Hole in The Sky'*.

Note The abduction of human beings by non-terrestrial entities is a far from recent phenomenon and one such case involved a 17th-century Scottish Presbyterian minister, the Reverend Robert Kirk. Although he seems to have been born, lived, married and died in a conventional manner, what actually became of this enigmatic man is still shrouded in mystery and speculation, and the tales concerning his ultimate fate deserve attention.

While many assumptions have been made concerning the nature of so-called 'portals' and 'window areas', in the context of the UFOlogy they are

generally assumed to be entry points into our version of reality for extra-terrestrial spacecraft, and upon occasion beings, from parallel dimensions. However, this is obviously not the only answer and since there is more than one explanation for the existence and nature of extraterrestrial spacecraft, there may be a link with more traditional interpretations of these 'doorways'. Therefore, they might also be viewed as magical openings into which people and animals either enter by mistake, or are taken by entities, that in this context are assumed to be fairies and elves or some other variation on these magical creatures. One thing to bear in mind though is that in this matter context is vitally important. Before considering the Rev Kirk, perhaps we should think about a character who appears in a popular traditional children's tale, i.e. the 'Pied Piper of Hamelin'.

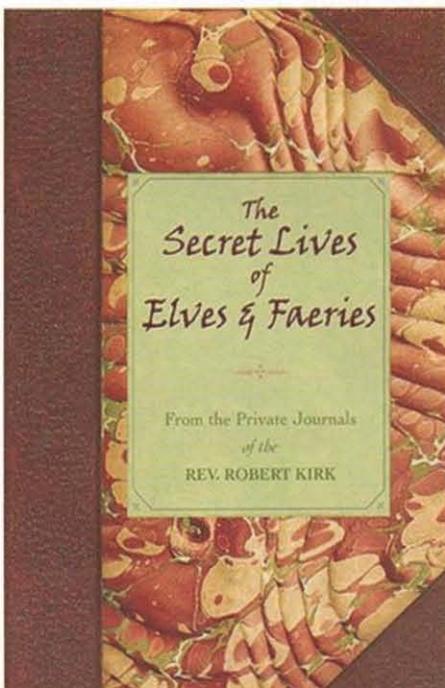
In June 1284, on being swindled out of his agreed fee by the officials of the municipality of

Hamelin after ridding the town of a plague of rats, the piper entranced the local children by playing his pipes and led them into a cavern in the nearby Koppenberg Mountains. Neither the children nor the piper were ever seen again. The portals in accounts such as these take the form of caves, fissures and other points of access below the surface of the earth,





but they also appear as fairy rings and other naturally occurring, if unusual, types of vegetation. This variant on contact with non-earthly beings tends to refer to them by the ancient term of the 'good folk', one of many facts comprehensively documented by the Rev. Kirk in his seminal book, 'The Secret Commonwealth of Elves, Fauns and Fairies', sometimes called 'The Secret Lives of Elves and Faeries'. Originally written in 1691, this volume is a meticulous appraisal of the creatures, mythology and history surrounding fairy lore. In many ways the lasting effects of the Rev. Kirk's book is similar to that of Sir James Fraser's splendid twelve volume anthropological opus, 'The



Golden Bough'. Both of these books give valid reasons to question many of the so-called truths and dogmas created by both science and religion.

Although Rev Kirk, who, interestingly, was a seventh son, is commemorated by a grave in an old cemetery just outside Aberfoyle, a pretty town in Stirlingshire, Scotland, where he was the minister, tradition insists that although there is a grave there he is not in it. Instead, local legend maintains that the 'good people' took him to a local fairy hill, led him inside and there he still remains. The use of the term, 'good people' may be a deliberate attempt by our forefathers to ward off possible repercussions from these entities should they inadvertently describe them in anything less than complimentary terms. The precautions derive from the allegedly capricious and sometimes malign nature of these entities.

An account written by his replacement in the parish, the Rev Grahame, goes some way to corroborate this tale and reveals that in 1692 the Rev Kirk was walking on the local fairy hill when he collapsed and was taken for dead, in fact the same fairy hill to which the 'good people' took him. At his funeral he reputedly appeared to one of his relations requesting them to contact the aforementioned Rev Grahame and tell him that he was not in fact dead, but held captive in fairyland. He said

that he would appear again at the christening of his as yet unborn child, (presumably his wife was already pregnant before his death), and the only way to secure his release was for the officiating minister to throw a knife or dirk over Kirk's head.

The story goes on to say that he did indeed appear at the ceremony, but the clergyman was so surprised that the knife was not thrown and Rev Kirk vanished forever. This has obvious similarities with the Pied Piper legend and implies that the same unfortunate fate that befell the children and the Rev Kirk awaits anyone unfortunate or foolish enough to venture (or be taken) into the world of the fairies. It is probably no accident that Kirk reputedly possessed psychic talents, something of which he was certainly aware, because in addition to his claim to be a seventh son, traditionally a portent of psychic potential, it was his contention that the 'fairies' lived and moved freely in the world of men. They were, however, invisible to all but those with the gift of second sight and Kirk claimed that he could see them. This echoes with the proposition that non-terrestrial entities move freely among us at this very moment in plain sight, but are so utterly and completely alien that they have no need of concealment because we cannot see them due to the fact we have no frame of reference against which to compare them.

This concept is not so bizarre as it might at first appear since it is on record that Captain Cook on his voyages of discovery was once confronted by a tribe of islanders who, although they could see Cook, his men and the rowing boat that they came ashore in, could not see the ship that they came from although it was only as short distance offshore. All they could see was that there was 'something wrong' with the ocean. They could not see the vessel until they were taken out in the rowing boat and touched it. The same is true of Native Americans, who, at first, could not discern paintings when they saw them; all they could see was a confusing multicoloured swirl of colour but no image.

In addition, the reverend was also reputedly able to heal by touch alone,

a talent rendering him something of a faith healer. Curiously enough, many of those who allege abduction by non-terrestrial entities also claim to possess enhanced psychic abilities; a facility that if not present prior to the abduction frequently develops after the event. The properties of the 'healing touch' have been attributed to many prominent figures in antiquity; not least several royal houses, but particularly the semi-mythical 7th century Merovingian dynasty in France, the so-called 'Sorcerer Kings'. It is especially interesting to note that while swimming in the sea and already pregnant by her husband, King Clovis, the mother of Merovee, the founder of the dynasty, was reputedly either raped or seduced by a 'Quinotaur', (literally five horned), an apparently aquatic, hybrid creature with implied extra-terrestrial origins.

In some manner the human and non-human DNA mingled and the birth of Merovee (sometimes called Merovech) was the result. Further compounding the mystery is the later involvement of a shadowy and secretive group known as 'The Priory of Sion'. First popularised in the book, 'The Holy Blood and The Holy Grail', they were reputedly founded to restore the deposed Merovingian bloodline to the throne of France. Although there have been several attempts to discredit this organisation, somehow it still continues to appear like some pallid, orphaned spectre at the periphery of several enigmas. Before leaving the legend of Merovee, it is interesting to note that other tales linking allegedly semi-aquatic extraterrestrials with the human race comes from the Dogon people of Mali, who claim that they received specific knowledge of the star, Sirius B, which they called the 'Digitaria star', from a non-terrestrial, fish-like race known as the Nommo, and the Babylonians who claimed that their civilisation was founded by a race of space travelling 'fish gods'. While extremely tempting to speculate upon, especially the apparent non-terrestrial genetic interference, whether or not this is all part of a long standing, obscure, extraterrestrial plot still remains to be seen.

Regarding Kirks disappearance into

fairyland; it has often been said that those who have been there have no sense of time passing, which resonates powerfully with the properties of faster than light (FTL) travel, where the person in the spacecraft is propelled to the stars at a speed greater than the speed of light, and in relative terms for them time passes as normal, but for those on earth time accelerates. Should the person on board the starship return after what was, subjectively, a journey of a few weeks or perhaps months, they would have aged by exactly that amount while those on Earth might have aged by many years or could even have died of old age. This, reputedly, is exactly what happens to the human beings taken (or abducted) by the fairies.

The implications of this are obviously far reaching and strongly insinuate that, once again, there is little or no difference between ET's and fairies, and of course their use of highly exotic technology. It may be this very anomaly that we are unable to recognise as technology in action, because it is, like their appearance, totally alien to our concept of what technology is and how it should function. This may be the result of centuries of conditioning spent applying and using Newtonian principles in day-to-day life, e.g. the absolute concept of cause and effect and that technology must be reducible to its component parts, and this includes electronic functions, as a purely mechanical process. Electronic function is included in this because it still involves movement, although in this case of electrons.

However, as we can see, when dealing with non-terrestrial and non-human entities these rules may not apply, because it is possible that non-terrestrial races have developed under unimaginably different circumstances and possess knowledge totally unlike our own. It is at this point where opinions sharply differ, the widespread assumption is that alien technology must, by implication, be superior and this is not necessarily so. Just because non-terrestrial technology is different does not necessarily mean that it is better than our own; it is just as I said: it is different. Taking the opposite stance, it could be argued that an alien being

might be equally overawed by terrestrial technology in its sheer scale and by the human race for its never-say-die attitude and sheer bloody-minded stubbornness. Perhaps it is these factors that make us an object of curiosity and therefore worthy of study, or maybe they seek to exploit and adapt our technology for their own use rather than the other way round. We might also consider why human beings find the eerie songs and unearthly lights of the fairy dance so hypnotic and irresistible; it exactly parallels nautical legends of the melodies sung by mermaids and sirens (a possible link with the Quinotaur and other aquatic races?) luring sailors to their watery graves. Is this the deliberate use of lights combined with sound frequencies employed to either repel or attract human beings, much as we use them on animals and insects?

Another curious part of Kirks story is specific mention of the use of a knife or dirk to free him from the fairy's grasp; this may be highly significant. The use of metals, water and salt, which, along with bell, book and candle, were all part of the traditional arsenal used by exorcists and others who deal with manifestations of ghosts, spirits, apparitions, poltergeists and of course fairies, is no accident. The use of all three substances suggests that there may a strong link between manifestations of this kind and the presence of electromagnetic fields, for iron and salt water are excellent natural electrical conductors, and depending of their deployment could make the successful use of electromagnetism very problematic.

One possible element of the 'mechanism' used to open portals may well be powerful electromagnetic fields. However, the standard explanation for the use of salt in such ceremonies is the fact that salt was frequently used as preservative and was therefore, by association, anathema to unclean or demonic spirits. In addition, the water was usually blessed or holy water, which for obvious reasons was assumed to provide an additional layer of protection. The use of iron is not quite so obvious other than in terms of strength, but it may be that since iron, or steel for that matter, is largely carbon based it

might either disrupt electromagnetic fields or even dissipate them, both situations are less than desirable for any entities relying on exploiting the properties of electromagnetism for their own purposes. As it often the case ancient spells and techniques are founded on sound scientific principles, although those who originally employed them did so purely because they worked and for no other reason.

The nature of fairy rings is in itself suggestive of other more conventional portals, as is the nature of how the fairies seem to operate the ring. Traditionally the fairies are seen to dance and caper in a circle around the perimeter of the ring, in other words there is rotation, something that seems vital to the physical creation of an energy field. In the conventional generation of electricity there is movement, normally circular, as a turbine or dynamo rotates with a metallic, magnetic core rotating inside coils of wiring. The rotation induces an electric current in the coil, which is then tapped off for use and the rotation of fairies at the perimeter of the ring seems to provide an analogy of this.

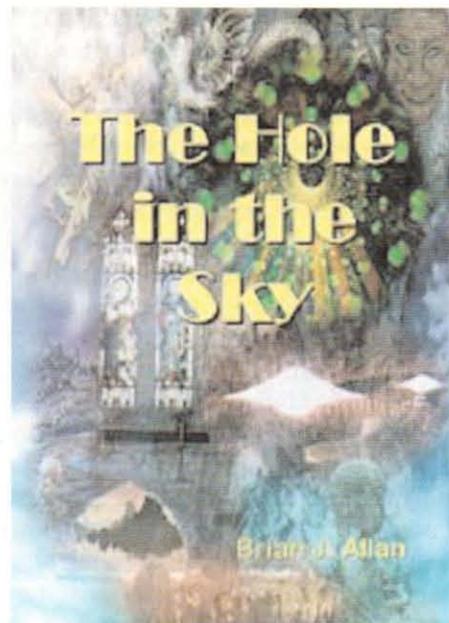
The idea of fairy portal finds similarities in books such as 'Alice in Wonderland', by Lewis Carroll, when Alice enters Wonderland through a portal, in this case a rabbit hole. In the case of the Steven Spielberg film, 'Poltergeist' (1984, dir. Tobe Hooper) the 'portals' are a television set and a cupboard, and in the book, 'The Lion the Witch and the Wardrobe', part of the Narnia series of fantasy novels by C S Lewis, and later filmed as 'The Chronicles of Narnia', (2005 dir. Andrew Adamson) it is a wardrobe. In the cult horror film 'Evil Dead II', (1987 dir. Sam Raimi) the portal is a seething, rotating maelstrom, a literal 'hole in the sky', which carries the hero to a strange, medieval, demon haunted parallel world, where magic, (or alternative technology?), is in common use. Staying with older concepts of the methods designed to make contact with a mysterious 'Otherworld', we once again find stone circles like those at Stonehenge and Avebury, and contemporary with that era, beautifully preserved burial mounds like the Neolithic graves at Newgrange in Northern Ireland and

Maeshowe in Orkney. It is also likely that other sites, like those of the ancient oracles, could be regarded as portals, they were certainly used for that purpose, i.e. communication with the departed in the 'Otherworld'.

Whether or not there is any validity in these claims is obviously open to question and rather like the acceptance of the entire subject of UFO's in general, it is a matter of faith...except for one thing. Even to day, surrounded as we are by an increasingly technological world with its professorial prophets of rationality. There is an insidious backlash that defies both the dogmatic logic and the best efforts of these eminent sceptics. Strangely enough, the very people whose work should support the sceptics supply the tools used by those who have the courage to drive and participate in the backlash, by this I mean the theoretical physicists whose arcane formulae and calculations have created what amounts to a modern class of alchemists and magicians.

These physicists are themselves producing evidence of oddities and anomalies suggesting that faster than light travel and time travel are possible. There is also evidence that we are surrounded by an infinite number of realities, some slightly different from those alongside and other utterly and completely alien to what we consider as 'normal'. There is even verifiable evidence emerging suggesting that physical death really is not the end and consciousness can and does survive the process. If this is the case, then in what form do we survive, are those who have gone before us perhaps the very entities that we seek, are we, or at least what we were, the fairies, elves and goblins of folklore. Whatever the answer is, we can only hope that when the truth does finally emerge, as it surely must, that the deniers have the good grace to accept defeat and admit that they were wrong all along. Perhaps we shall yet discover that the Rev Robert Kirk and other like him really are still alive in some reality just beside our own.

Brian Allen



You can buy brian's book at the following web address:

www.p-e-g.co.uk

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ROSWELL 60

THE REBIRTH OF BRITISH UFOLOGY



Steve Johnson

'ROSWELL 60'
The Parkside Hotel,
Pontefract, UK
20th-21st October, 2007

"The Rebirth of British Ufology"

A new, larger venue and a line-up of top speakers saw *UFO Data Magazine's* annual conference go from strength to strength. Pontefract may not be the UFO capital of the world, but the small, Yorkshire town's Parkside Hotel hosted the largest UFO conference in the UK for

years. Over the weekend more than 500 delegates passed through the doors and they enjoyed all of the lectures that were presented by our host, *UFO Data Magazine* features editor, Philip Mantle.

The first speaker on Saturday morning was **Nick Pope**. We all know Nick as the former head of the Ministry of Defence's UFO desk in the 1990s. His talk asked the question What Would Happen if Roswell Occurred Today?



Nick Pope takes question time...

Is there a contingency plan for UFO crashes? According to Nick, no there is not. He finds this very disturbing, that nobody in government appears to have even considered what to do in the event of the crash of an extra-terrestrial vehicle.

How would we deal with an alien invasion? Could

we possibly stand up to beings that possess the technology to travel between the stars? Nick thinks not. He believes that we would stand no chance against such an advanced species if they came here with belligerent intentions.

What about a peaceful first contact scenario? Nick reckons that such a meeting would inevitably be under their terms and not ours. What could we possibly offer them? What could they want from us? Nick believes that such a summit would result in an exchange of technology, cultural information and examples of human and alien art.

Nick believes that first contact will most likely happen via the Search for Extra-Terrestrial Intelligence (SETI). Professor Ian Morison of Jodrell Bank might disagree with that, recently suggesting that direct contact is most likely to happen with a physical landing rather than a radio message, like the kinds for which SETI are looking. That said, Nick believes that SETI and ufology should work together. We are both looking for the answer to the same question, after all: Are We Alone?

According to SETI, if a real, extra-terrestrial signal was found and verified by several different observatories, there would be no cover-up - everybody would be told about it. We'll see. One question is: Should We Send a Message Back? Should we expose ourselves to the outside universe? Well, we've been doing that ever since we first began transmitting radio and television signals so they know we are here anyway.

So, what would happen in the event of the crash of a UFO? Well, it would depend on where the crash happened. Nick said that the official reaction to the crash would be different if it crashed in a heavily-populated area rather than a more remote region. He said the first to respond would likely be the police and emergency services, as they would be the ones called by any witnessing members of the public. The area would be cordoned-off and treated like any 'regular' plane crash. Essentially, it would be treated as a crime scene and unauthorised people would not be allowed to tramp around the area, destroying or removing evidence.

At some point, the military would be called in under a protocol known as 'Military Assistance to the Civil Power'. Armed forces personnel would operate under the jurisdiction of the civil authorities. There could be a potential biological hazard from extra-terrestrial germs or even the aliens themselves, if any are present. Would we be able to interact with them physically? Would we have any resistance to the micro-organisms they may carry? Bio-hazard and/or radiation teams should be brought in, just like in the event of a chemical/biological terrorist attack or other emergency.

Nick believes that contingency plans should be drawn up using common sense and all the available scientific data. If no plan is available, any situation could quickly run out of control because of inadequate preparations. A standard operating procedure (SOP) should be made available to all civil authorities.

On the part of the Ministry of Defence (MoD), the UFO desk would probably be brought in first, depending on the time of day, although

there are no plans for what would happen after that! We have an SOP for plane crashes, but not for UFO crashes. Why not? Nick asked.

The government, Nick said, operates under a creed known as 'A Culture of No Surprises'. This means that politicians need to be told about what is going on. This is why whenever something happens, there is always a politician (usually the 'on-duty minister') on the TV or radio news ready to comment, perhaps albeit briefly, and appear to have the situation under control.

A briefing would then be given to ministers, senior civil servants and high-ranking members of the military and a document would be drawn up detailing the known facts, any recommendations and presentational issues (how will it look in the media). This document may be made available to the public or it may not.

Nick believes that the public would be informed, mainly just so that the government appear to be in control of the situation. Information would be released to the relevant departments with answers to certain questions laid out. There would also be what are known as 'If Pressed' responses. This would be information that the government would rather not disclose, but would if a particularly eager journalist demanded it.

The phrase 'extra-terrestrial' would likely not be used in any early statements, with more generic terms about the crash and the actions undertaken. A decision would have to be made about notifying the Queen and the possible recall of Parliament, if it is not in session.

Nick thinks that a cover-up

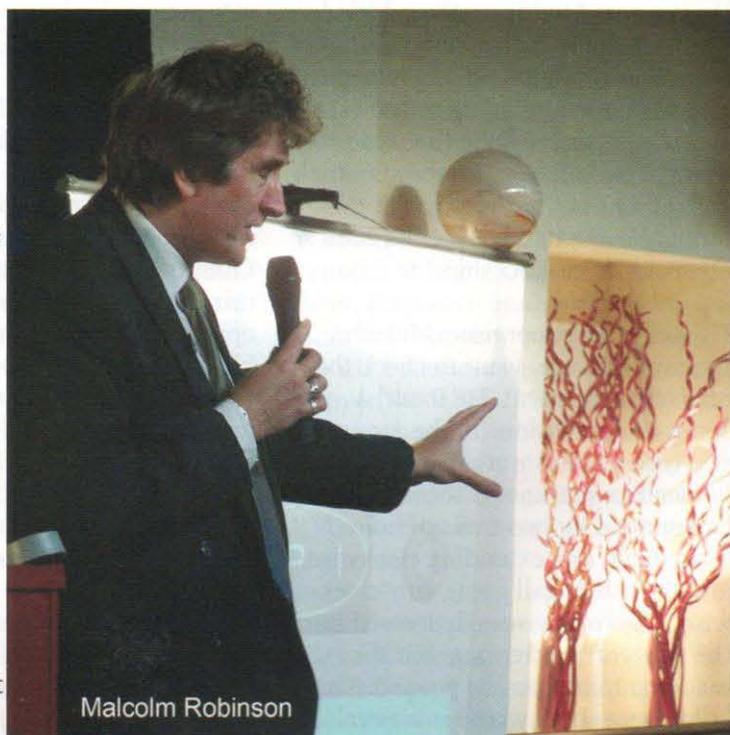
would not happen, although he admitted that, if it were up to him and depending on the scenario, he might try and keep it from the public. The technology that the crashed object contained would be invaluable to the national interest. If we could study and develop it for our own use, we could be the dominant power on the planet. Scary thought!

In all, Nick is of the opinion that these issues need to be resolved and that proper procedures need to be put into place for a Roswell-style event. He has considered drawing up a plan himself and offering it to the government.

Nick's talk got the conference off to a terrific start.

After a short break, **Malcolm Robinson** took the stage. A popular speaker, Malcolm's sense of humour always pleases the audience. Today, he was talking about one of the most famous cases in British ufology: the Robert Taylor case from Livingston in 1979.

Bob Taylor was a gardener from Perthshire, Scotland, and he had also been a tank driver in the Second World War. After the war, he helped in the building of Livingston New Town, in West Lothian, and lived there until he died on March 14th, 2007. He had no interest in UFOs whatsoever until the 9th of November, 1979.



Malcolm Robinson

That morning, he set off with his red setter, Lara, in his Land Rover pick-up to check on the Deckmont Woods, where he was a forestry worker. He had made the same journey innumerable times, but today would be different. He parked the van and set off into the woods with Lara. As he entered a clearing, he saw, twenty to thirty yards away, a domed or circular-shaped with a flange running around the centre. At times parts of the object appeared to become invisible. Lara was barking like crazy, but Robert stood, transfixed by the bizarre contraption. He said that everything went quiet - a motorway ran close by and he could no longer hear the cars or any noise from the forest.

Suddenly, two round balls dropped down from the UFO, hitting the ground with a strange, sucking sound. They resembled those spiky sea mines from the war that are now to be found in many seaside resorts with kids clambering all over them. They rolled towards him and extended rods which hooked into his trousers at the hips, ripping the thick, serge cloth. They then began dragging him towards the UFO! As he lost consciousness, he remembered an acrid, burning smell and an odd whooshing noise.

When he came round, the UFO, along with its spiky companions had gone. Bob had a terrible headache and he was extremely disoriented. He staggered to his truck and tried calling for help on the radio, but found he couldn't speak. Leaving the van, he made his way home on foot and was in such a state that his wife thought he had been attacked (which he had, but not in the way she thought!). He told her he had been attacked "by a spaceship."

He called his supervisor, Malcolm Drummond, who went to check the area of the incident. He found a series of depressions in the ground of two types. There were two rows of ladder-like marks and these were surrounded by two trails of holes, forty in all, one extending clockwise and the other trail going anti-clockwise. The tracks were depressed into the grass of the clearing, but they made no marks on the ground. The holes were shallow and in several

areas, grass around the holes had been sheared off. Drummond was convinced that something had landed in that clearing.

The local police looked into the case and they were baffled. They checked all types of machinery that might have left the marks in the clearing, but drew a blank. No helicopters had been in the area and no forestry work had been undertaken. They accepted that Bob believed what he saw, but they were at a loss to explain it. His case was treated as an assault, due to the cuts and grazes he had suffered and his torn clothing, and sent the trousers to the forensic lab. All they could confirm was that the cloth was not torn by any forest debris, such as broken branches, or by barbed-wire fencing.

Malcolm then played a video from a Scottish television programme about the incident. It was called *The West Lothian Question* and was recorded just before Robert died earlier in the year. We heard from Bob himself and also from his local doctor, who vouched for the forester's integrity.

Malcolm then told us of the debunking attempts by Stuart Campbell, a former member of BUFORA. Campbell first tried to pin the blame on ball lightning. When it was pointed out that the weather that day was not conducive to the appearance of ball lightning, he came up with the theory that what Bob saw was an astronomical mirage of Venus and Mercury!

Although Venus and Mercury were above the 'official' horizon at the time, Malcolm found that they were not visible from the clearing where Bob's encounter took place. Campbell also suggested that the mirage caused Bob to suffer an epileptic seizure, resulting in his blackout. There has been no history of epilepsy in Bob's family.

Fortean researcher, Duncan Lunan, posited that what Bob stumbled across was a 'wheelbarrow' bomb disposal device. These can run on caterpillar tracks and some have legs. Clearly this is not likely. What would one of those contraptions be doing in a Scottish wood?

Some time after the incident, Livingston Council installed picnic tables in the forest and used the UFO incident in an attempt to popularise the area. In 1992, Malcolm's organisation, Strange Phenomena Investigations (SPI) assisted with having a plaque commemorating the event being placed on the site. Numerous plaques have been set onto the cairn there, but they keep being stolen!

In the same year, 1992, a psychic visited the site and claimed to see the face of a Grey alien in the trees and a red ball moving through the forest. Psychometry, the psychic reading of objects connected to an event or person, was tried on Bob's trousers. One psychic, admittedly familiar with the case, described Bob's experience in detail. Another, also with knowledge of the event, saw three people coming towards Bob. They stuck a needle in his eye and he dropped to the ground. Lara, Robert's dog, was also rendered unconscious. They also warned Bob about something that would happen in six years.

The final psychic, who had no familiarity with the case, held the bag that had contained the trousers and said that Bob had 'fought for his life'. A ball and a Land Rover were seen and Bob was dragged towards something. He hit his head on something and was raised into the air and pinned to a tree. Bob was traumatised and lost the power of speech. Malcolm admitted that this psychic got some things right and other things incorrect.

Robert later moved to another village, but strange events seemed to follow him. A crop circle appeared in a field close by and UFO sightings increased in the area, although Bob did not report any. Malcolm is convinced that Robert Taylor was telling the truth about his experience and that something truly bizarre happened to him.

Malcolm's lively and entertaining talk ended and it was time to break for lunch. As our delegates enjoyed their break, there was a change going on in the conference hall. Sunlight streaming through the ceiling windows had obscured much of the screen upon which slides and videos were projected. So we moved the

stage and rearranged all of the seats so that this would not be a problem for the rest of the conference.

Popular German researcher, **Michael Heseemann**, hit the stage at 2pm. The subject of his talk was 'KGB UFO Secrets'. This had nothing to do with the popular television special that was hosted by Roger Moore. Michael said that this was a complete fabrication and he provided an explanation: One document used in the show described the 1968 deaths of scientists after a UFO crash. The document was marked with 'Russian Federation'. In 1968, it was the Soviet Union, not the Russian Federation. The video of the Soviet retrieval team depicted Hummers. This kind of vehicle did not exist in 1968. In fact, they did not enter usage until 1985. UFO footage reportedly from a MiG fighter actually came from an F-16. The 'top secret medical facility', where an alien autopsy was filmed, was actually rented for the television show.

Michael spoke to many Russian officials, including Colonel Marina Popovich. She was one of the Soviet Union's top test pilots and was married to cosmonaut, Major-General Pavel Romanovich Popovich. In 1991, KGB UFO files were released to her husband and Michael received a copy of these files from her. The files included lots of UFO reports, including many over Soviet nuclear facilities with many credible witnesses.

Michael then showed the conference some video evidence. The first was from the filming of a musical concert. As a lovely, young lady sang a song, the cameraman was intrigued by a strange object in the sky. Another video from 1990 captured a cigar-shaped object and another from 1993 captured a strange light. Photographs of a UFO from a northern rocket base were also shown.

General Popovich described how, in 1978, he saw a white triangle while flying over the Atlantic at 36,000 feet. The speed of the object was estimated at 900kph. A clip of the object was played and the triangle is clearly visible.

In 1981, Salyut-6 cosmonaut, Vladimir Kovalyonok described



sighting a UFO as he orbited over South Africa. An elliptical object flew in front of their craft before 'exploding' into golden light. Then two golden spheres appeared in a different position. As they crossed the terminator into night, the objects vanished.

In 1991, Mir cosmonauts filmed a cigar-shaped object during the approach of their support capsule. The crew were convinced it was not part of a man-made spacecraft or any other form of space junk.

In 1990, during a Soyuz mission, Gennady Strekalov saw a sphere for about ten seconds. He described it as glittering like a Christmas tree decoration. He reported it as 'a strange phenomenon', rather than as a UFO. Other Mir missions have also reported UFOs flying in formation above the Earth.

Marina Popovich has found over a hundred reports from high-ranking military officers. One pilot encountered a UFO and requested permission to open fire. The object approached the jet fighter to a distance of only 100 metres. Instead of opening fire, the pilot shot a photograph of the object. Then the UFO flew vertically at great speed. The

pilot described it as being about 100 metres in diameter.

The commander of the Soviet airspace between the Urals and the Pacific, a vast area, spoke of numerous UFO encounters by his pilots. UFOs were picked up by automatic weapons systems, but when they locked on, they failed and became inoperable. UFOs were also seen to jump to different positions in the sky just as Soviet jets attempted to open fire.

Michael explained that the Soviet Union had many official study groups devoted to UFOs. Their task was to find out how these objects operated and to see if such technology could be incorporated into the national defence. Unfortunately for them, they were unable to accomplish this, but they continued to log reports by military personnel from all over the USSR. Michael said that all branches of the Soviet military had studied UFOs at some point. General Popovich confirmed that UFOs were considered to be a real phenomenon.

UFOs have been seen over top research centres and contact had been achieved by gesticulating towards them! As witnesses pointed

in certain directions, the UFOs would copy the motion, changing shape as they did so. While this sounds fantastic, Michael made the point that these reports come from highly-respected and reliable witnesses. Their word is to be taken very seriously and cannot simply be dismissed. One thing is clear, the Soviets thought there was something to the UFO phenomenon!

After a short break, Roswell researcher **Donald R Schmitt** took the stage and gave an impassioned lecture. He noted to the audience that as the years went by, more and more of those present during the Roswell Incident of 1947 were leaving us due to old age.

The first atom bomb test was in 1945 in New Mexico. Did it send a beacon to any curious extra-terrestrials out there? Did they come here from many, many light years away or are they from somewhere much closer? Whatever the answer, just two years after that first explosion, the modern age of ufology began.

After 1947, it seemed that a veritable alien invasion had begun and pilots were sent up with camera mounted on their P-51s to try and catch images of the 'flying discs'. The term 'UFO' did not enter the vernacular until 1952, by the way. Scientists mused about the possibility that these craft came from Mars or Venus. Of course, this was long before we sent probes to those planets and learned of their inhospitable natures.

When the crash at Roswell happened, the military had no idea how to handle the civilian witnesses. It was a completely unprecedented event (note Nick Pope's lecture earlier in the day!). Sheriff Wilcox was the first authority figure that William 'Mac' Brazel went to see about the debris he found on the Foster Ranch. It was Wilcox who suggested that Mac contact the military.

The 509th Composite Group, based at the Roswell Army Air Field (RAAF), was comprised of the best military personnel in the world. The finest officers were assigned there, as would be expected for the only atomic bomb group on the planet. They



Don Schmitt

easily knew what a weather or research balloon looked like.

Don told us that Sheriff Wilcox had kept a box of the crash debris for himself and the rest was sent to the RAAF. The military used Wilcox to control the civilian element in this unfolding incident. His daughters would later describe what happened when the armed forces descended upon the Roswell city jailhouse. Military vehicles surrounded the building and Military Police (MPs) flooded inside. They grabbed Wilcox and pushed him to the wall, holding him roughly, with his arm behind his back. They asked him where the rest of the debris was and, on retrieving the wreckage, left. Wilcox was never the same again. He never stood for re-election as sheriff. Why would the military act this way to a civilian of all that was in the box were scraps of a weather balloon?

Don read a quote from a guard at the P-3 hangar on the base. This was his usual post, but as he approached one night to take up his assigned position, he found himself being warned away by other guards, who told him that if he came any closer, he would be shot dead. A weather balloon

under lethal armed guard?

Don then showed a photograph of the alleged crash site of the UFO. It is a bluff some two and a half miles from the debris field on the Foster ranch. Timothy Proctor was seven years-old at the time of the incident. Although young, he was an excellent horse rider and often helped Mac Brazel on the ranch. One day, he came home, after having seen the debris field, looking very shaken. He refused to talk about it for many, many years into adulthood. He would even scarp from the house if he saw Roswell researchers such as Don approaching.

One day, when his mother was ill, he took her out in his pick-up truck to the bluff some miles from the debris field. This site is about forty miles north of Roswell. Proctor said to her: "Mom, this is where Mac found something else."

Don said that there were many stories from officers and men of the RAAF about being ordered to keep quiet about what they had seen - even if they hadn't seen anything! One said that he accompanied the 'bodies' out of Roswell and that there

were actually three crash sites. The cover story for the huge amount of vehicles used was that the general's furniture was being moved to Fort Worth. A bunch of furniture transported under heavily-armed guard?!

Don noted that the debris field was actually located in a different county to Roswell, so why would Chavez county people be sent out to a site in Lincoln County?

Roswell fire-fighter, Dan Dwyer, and his daughter, Frankie, both saw the famous 'memory metal'. This was tinfoil-like material that could not be cut or burned and when wadded, it would unfold without a crease. Such materials are not even available today, let alone for a weather balloon target in 1947! Frankie described the arrival of the military at the fire-house and how the children were bundled into one room and the parents into another. She recalled one officer speaking to the adults, hitting his hand with a baton, and threatening to kill the kids. Then the children were also threatened and told that they would never see their parents again if they ever spoke of what they had seen. Frankie recalled that the officer had a Brooklyn accent.

Don sent Frankie ten photographs of officers, after discovering that the 'baton man' was a Lieutenant Arthur Philbin. She picked him out of the selection, saying: "That was the man who threatened to kill us!"

Frank Joyce, the manager of KGFL Radio in Roswell, was told by Brazel about a terrible smell at the crash site. Joyce suggested that what he had found were monkeys, used in some sort of test gone awry. Brazel was adamant that what he saw were not decomposing monkeys! Don added a note that there were three sites: the debris field, a secondary body site and the final crash site.

Walt Whitmore Sr., owner of KGFL, conducted a recorded interview with Brazel at his (Walt's) home, where he learned that the rancher had seen bodies. The next day, military personnel showed up, grabbed Brazel (who had spent the night) and confiscated the interview recordings.

While General Roger Ramey was

explaining to the press that all that was found was a weather balloon, Brazel was held for five days and forced to endure interrogations and invasive medical procedures. Before he was released, he was taken over to the KGFL station by MPs, where he told radio listeners that it was just a weather balloon he found. Afterwards, Joyce asked him why he changed his story. Brazel replied to the effect that he and his family had been threatened.

"What happened to the little green men?" asked Joyce.

"They weren't green," was Mac's famous reply.

Later, after heavy rains, Mac's son, Bill Brazel Jr., would drive out to the debris field and find many tyre tracks, large and small. Obviously a huge operation had gone on here - all for the recovery of a weather balloon. Bill Jr. also saw the gouge in the earth, covering a huge area. A weather balloon does not leave a huge tract of ripped-up earth when it comes down. Years later, archaeologists rediscovered the gouge, measuring the differences in soil density.

Don also made the point that one of the incident's most elusive players, Sheridan Cavitt, the counter-intelligence officer at Roswell, had admitted that what came down could have been a 'flying saucer'.

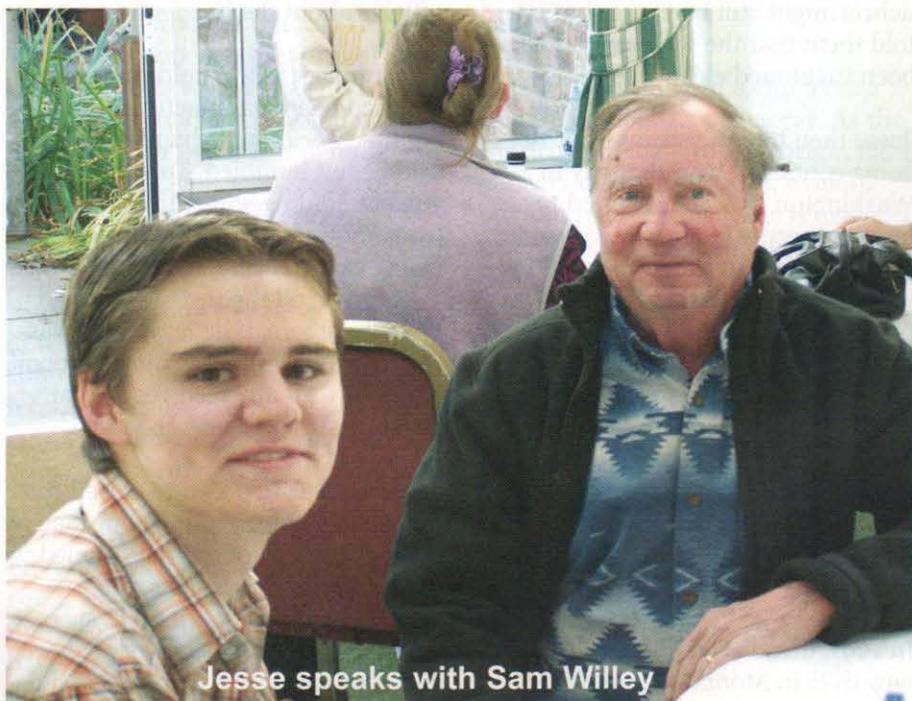
Don closed his talk with the story of

how the Brazel's ranch house was turned inside out by the military, searching for any remaining debris, even going as far as ripping up floorboards. This happened in 1949, two years after the incident. All this for a weather balloon?

Following on immediately from Don Schmitt's excellent lecture was the undoubted star of the conference weekend, **Dr. Jesse Marcel Jr.**

Speaking for the first time in the UK, Jesse told of how his father, Major Jesse Marcel, came home one night and got him out of bed. He didn't know what time it was, but guessed it must have been around one in the morning. In the kitchen there was a pile of junk on the floor. Jesse didn't recall if the term 'flying saucer' was used, but he knew that that was where they thought this material was from.

They searched the debris for signs of technology, vacuum tubes, wiring, that sort of thing, and found nothing. His dad told him about the 'memory metal', but he did not see it for himself. He described the famous I-beam with purplish symbols inscribed onto the inner surface. It was not toy store tape on balsa wood, as had been claimed. He also saw a black, plastic-like material that has been likened to bakelite. He affirmed that it was not this common material, but only looked like it. In all he saw this wreckage for about fifteen minutes before he helped his father carry it



Jesse speaks with Sam Willey

back out to his car. Jesse saw several more boxes of the stuff in there, but didn't get the chance to examine it. The next day, when he awoke, his dad had gone, taking the boxes of debris with him and he never saw it again.

Jesse then told of the low-level flight to Fort Worth, in Texas. The plane was unable to fly at altitude because of the armed guards in the unpresurised cargo hold. He also told of the switch that had taken place in Ramey's office and that what his father was photographed holding was not what had been in the family kitchen. On returning home, Major Marcel told his family to never speak of the incident again, although years later, Jesse recalled he and his father seeing articles on newspaper stands about the incident and his dad saying that they both knew the real story.

Dr Marcel said that the story first got out to the public in 1978, when Stanton Friedman found his dad. After Jesse Sr.'s death in 1986, Jesse Jr. began getting all of the attention. He decided to write his new book, '*Roswell Legacy*', while in Iraq, where he was a flight surgeon, and, being surrounded by the chaos of war and the death that accompanies it, thought it was time to get his experiences down before he passed away.

In 1984 or 85, Major Marcel visited the area of the debris field with a television crew. They asked him if any debris might still be found, but he told them that the whole area had been vacuumed clean.

Jesse then told the strange tale of being contacted by somebody in Washington DC. They wanted to see him in a secure room, deep underground. Jesse attended the meeting, where he was told that Roswell was real (not that he needed to be told that!). The mystery man asked if Jesse had ever been threatened, to which the answer was no. The man told Jesse that he may yet be, but that he would try and stop that happening. A bizarre addendum to the Roswell story, I'm sure you will agree.

In 1997, Jesse visited Roswell (he now lives in Montana) and was

handed some pieces of a radar target. The man that gave them to Jesse was confident that what Jesse handled that night as a child was nothing more than pieces like these. Jesse could not dissuade the man and reaffirmed that he saw no Scotch tape, flowery patterns or balsa wood that night. In fact to suggest that his father could mistake parts of a balloon array for a flying saucer was utter nonsense. Major Marcel had been to radar school and knew precisely what radar targets and balloons looked like.

One of Jesse's passions is astronomy and cosmology. He believes that it is as a result of his Roswell experience that this interest has grown. He showed slides of some beautiful Hubble Space Telescope images. He also quickly reviewed some possible exotic propulsion systems, including Star Trek-style warp engines. He also showed the famous 'Ramey Memo', the piece of paper that the general is holding in his office and has been blown-up and analysing, with the words 'victims', 'crash' and 'disk' being discovered.

Taking questions from the audience, Jesse said that his mother had never spoken of what happened back then. She was an old-fashioned lady and because his dad had told them never to speak of it again, she had done just that. Jesse also pointed out that back in 1947, his school friends had talked about the crash with him and, later, he had also talked with many officers about the incident.

Asked how it felt to hold something that had been manufactured on another world in his hands, Jesse said he felt humbled. To know that you are holding something that came from another civilisation is an astonishing experience. Finally, Jesse was asked, with all the threats that had made to others, if he felt that it was worth the risk in publishing his book. Jesse gave an affirmed yes to that question. It was worth the risk.

Jesse Marcel Jr.'s lecture closed the proceedings for Saturday, but that was not the end of our day. Joined by over a hundred delegates, the Speaker's Dinner was a great success. The hotel provided a carvery service and very nice it was too. It gave

everybody the chance to let their hair down a little and get to know our speakers a little better (I found out Malcolm Robinson is a huge Beatles fan, for instance, while Don Schmitt prefers Elvis Presley. Then they asked me who I liked and the conversation quickly moved on to other matters... heh heh.). At the dinner, Malcolm paid the conference organisers a huge compliment and said that, in his opinion, the conference could mark "the rebirth of British Ufology."

Sunday began with new *UFO Data Magazine* co-editor, **Gary Heseltine**. Gary is a serving detective for British Transport Police and his talk focussed on how UFO reports should be investigated from a police officer's perspective. The lecture was called "The Police and the Nature of Evidence."

Gary said that he treats UFO reports in the same way as he treats any police investigation. When he set up his Police Reporting UFOs (PRUFOS) database in 2002, he had only 6 cases involving 10 police officers. Now that has risen to over 220 cases with about 530 police officers giving information.

Gary said that UFO reports consist of quantifiable data, like any other crime report that the police receive. The investigation must analyse all forms of evidence. They include:

Oral evidence - where a witness gives a verbal statement, describing what was seen or done.

Documentary evidence - where physical documents pertaining to the investigation are received.

Real evidence - the production of any physical article or thing.

Circumstantial evidence - evidence not directly associated to the case, but linked in a close way.

Direct evidence - Eyewitness testimony.

Circumstantial evidence can be used to build any given case and some cases are based entirely around circumstantial evidence. It could be that witnesses saw what happened

leading up to an incident, but did not see the incident for themselves. The actions of those accused leading up to the incident can be very important when witnessed by others. Witnesses may not have seen the incident, but perhaps heard something or realised that an incident had taken place by other means. A judge once said: "Circumstantial evidence can be excellent evidence providing the pieces of the jigsaw are highly compelling..."

Roswell, Gary explained, has a large amount of circumstantial evidence that makes the case compelling. There is also documentary evidence to prove that the military lied about the incident.

The police should respond in a proper manner to a UFO report and, if applicable, investigate it further. Gary said that in the past, it depended on the officer that took the call whether it was responded to or even taken seriously. These days, the large control rooms with recorded replies mean that every call is treated equally.

Turning to the Livingston case that Malcolm Robinson covered on Saturday, Gary said that PC Bill Douglas had treated it seriously, even saying other officers were afraid to handle it! PC Douglas took a statement from Robert Taylor, which constitutes documentary evidence. He also saw Bob's serious demeanour and realised that something was very wrong. This is anecdotal evidence.

The case had a physical 'scene of the crime' - the clearing where Bob had his encounter. The tracks and holes were physical evidence. PC Douglas could find no vehicle that might have made the marks and concluded that whatever it was must have weighed at least three tons. Gary mentioned later that the Bob Taylor incident is now used as a training tool for new police recruits.

With regard to the Ministry of Defence, the police may complete an MoD-designed sighting report form and forward it to them. If this is the case, the MoD must respond to the report. Gary noted that the form is quite disgraceful, with no room for full details of the incident.



One such report form was completed for a sighting in Bromley, Kent in 2003. The report tells us that a UFO was seen by police officers both on the ground and in a helicopter. The response from the MoD asked if the sighting represented a defence interest. They said that the object had not been detected on radar and therefore the sighting was not of defence interest.

Gary asked us to think back to the Cold War and imagine a Soviet aircraft was seen to hover close to a nuclear facility. Military police would look high and low for evidence. All witnesses would be required to give statements, whether military or civilian, and evidence in the form of radar contacts would be seized. After all this, the conclusion would be that it was a major event and definitely in the national defence interest, so much so that it would likely be stamped 'Top Secret'.

Ring a bell? Gary just described parts of what happened at Rendlesham in 1980. That incident was handled differently because UFOs are deniable. Hey, they don't exist, so who cares, right? Yeah, whatever...

Gary then showed some video clips. First up was the Belgian encounter of 1990, when F-16s were dispatched to intercept a triangular UFO. Here we have physical evidence in the form of

radar and video footage, there were many eyewitnesses and there is official documentary evidence that the incident took place.

Then we saw a clip from Anthony Woods' remarkable footage from his home in Portsmouth. This was the 'Big Red' craft that glided through the daytime sky with flashing lights. Here we have physical video evidence as well as eyewitnesses.

The Fleetwood footage of 2003 saw several orange lights appear in the night sky. They manoeuvred into several formations before blinking out. Again, we have video evidence and eyewitnesses.

Finally, Gary showed a clip from a camera on board a police car. As the car drives along a road, a bright light appears near the horizon, winking out and reappearing. This is evidence from a police camera and police eyewitnesses.

The rules of evidence available to the police should apply equally to UFO sightings as they do to any other incident they investigate.

At 11:30, Philip Mantle took the podium and introduced a surprise guest. **Spyros Melaris** would undoubtedly be the most controversial speaker of the weekend.



Spyros Melaris

Spyros, a filmmaker and illusionist, claimed to be the man who created the Alien Autopsy footage distributed by Ray Santilli and Gary Shoefield. After years of silence, he has decided to go public and the Roswell 60 conference is his first opportunity to spill the beans on this contentious issue.

He visited Roswell in 1995 and heard of the UFO crash, but he was sceptical. He then visited an area that was said to have been the actual crash site and said that there was a certain energy there. He was convinced that something did happen there and filmed interviews with many people.

He began his talk by taking some tinfoil and wadding it into a ball. He then threw it into the audience. The ball was then thrown again by the man who caught it before Spyros asked the final recipient to join him on stage. On the podium, Spyros had an ice bucket filled with stones. He claimed these came from the Roswell crash site. He took one stone and wrapped it in a small piece of tinfoil. He handed it to the audience member, who reported that the stone was becoming very hot. Thanking the delegate, Spyros sent him back to his seat and then proceeded in handing out stones to the rest of the audience - two stones each. He then asked them to hold the stones together as hard as they could and concentrate

on the energy of the stones. Then they were asked to pull the stones apart. Some people could not do this, although some could.

Then he owned up, saying that it was simply a trick. The stones were not from Roswell, he had got them from B&Q and had no special properties. It was an illusion, just like the Alien Autopsy film.

Ray Santilli had approached Spyros, saying he wanted to make a documentary based around some footage he had. This would turn out to be the infamous 'tent footage'. Spyros told him that the film was patently faked and that he could do a better one. His version would look real. Melaris approached his friend, master sculptor, John Humphries, who would create the two 'corpses' required for the shoot. No claims would be made about the film, with the viewer to decide what they were witnessing. Then at a later date, the illusion would be admitted, along with an explanation of how it was achieved. Unfortunately, Santilli would not follow up the latter part of the plan.

Spyros said that the autopsy film required him to undertake lots of research. Every detail must be correct and there must be no anachronisms, items that are 'out of time'. One such object was the telephone, which Spyros claimed was a 'fuse'. A

fuse is a trick in which an object is placed in such a way that it causes people to take notice and question the film, only to find out that it is possibly correct. The telephone had a curly wire and many people pointed out that they were not available in 1947. Spyros, though, found out that the curly wire was available as an upgrade from 1947, but only those with a keen interest in the subject would have known that.

Spyros said the Ant & Dec movie, *Alien Autopsy*, was a pack of lies. He made everything for the movie, except the alien models. John Humphries played the surgeon and his girlfriend did most of the research. Santilli and Shoefield maintained that there was an 'original film' that was ruined, but Spyros said there wasn't. The 'original film' he was shown was the tent footage, a known fake. He completely designed and filmed the alien autopsy film.

As for the Kodak authentication of the film, that was achieved by Spyros purchasing a genuine 1947 reel of a baseball match. The leader of that film contained the necessary markers and all they had on were shots of a wall, a door frame and some steps. Spyros cut these out, based his set design on the walls and door frame, and spliced them to the beginning of his film. This leader was the part that was sent to be tested. When asked for more to be tested, it was claimed that they were unprepared to further cut up the film.

Santilli made the participants of the venture sign a confidentiality agreement. This made it clear that they would not speak about it until the hoax was made public or a satisfactory monetary return was achieved. With the release of the *Alien Autopsy* movie in 2005 and Santilli and Shoefield's claims that the film was manufactured, Spyros felt that the agreement had been broken and he was free to speak. He said that a book is being written about the escapade which would tell the true story of the Alien Autopsy film.

Spyros also claimed to have filmed the cameraman's statement, not Santilli. He said it was not supposed to be released. Spyros travelled to Los Angeles and found a tramp, paid

him \$500 and asked him to read lines as they filmed him. The tramp turned out to be a former actor and delivered his lines brilliantly. The statement was filmed in normal light, but Spyros turned down the brightness in editing. He knows the name of this tramp and the films he has appeared in. Santilli and Shoefield do not have this information.

A lively question and answer session ensued, with some members of the audience becoming vocally upset by Melaris' claims. Spyros said that he is concerned that because of his film that any genuine footage would be dismissed, but he is optimistic that by proper analysis, the matter of authenticity could be discovered for any piece of film.

Asked if he was acting as a 'double bluff', or not being who he says he is, Spyros answered by saying that he did make the film and that he has lots of inside information that only those involved would know. He also has documents relating to the production of the film, such as developing lab receipts.

Asked if he had any familiarity with the I-beams described by other Roswell witnesses, particularly Jesse Marcel Jr., Spyros said that he had no familiarity with them and that the 'language' on the pieces of debris in his film was totally invented by himself. One word was VIDEO and another was FREEDOM. He wrote a full back-story for the aliens, describing their appearance, their world and their language.

How much money did Santilli make? Melaris said that ray had told him that they had made very little money and that people were bootlegging the video. Spyros later found that Santilli and Shoefield had made millions out of the film. Some members of the audience became very angry and yelled at Spyros. He apologised if anybody felt conned, but he had set out to make a film, an illusion. He hadn't even considered the feelings of the UFO community at the time.

Michael Hesemann asked how he knew of certain information from the cameraman's statement that only came to public light after the release of the film. This included the story of

a fireball seen over Roswell on May 31st, 1947. Spyros said he had no knowledge of this and that that piece of information came from Ray Santilli, not him. Michael was clearly unimpressed with Spyros Melaris, something he would confirm to me in private later.

This brought the morning's lectures to a close and a buzz of adrenaline-fuelled excitement permeated the conference hall. During lunch, Spyros had many people around him, asking questions and probably demanding answers. Is this man telling the truth? I guess we will find out and be assured that *UFO Data Magazine* will bring you any news about this explosive development.

After everybody had calmed down after lunch, **Russel Callaghan** spoke of the evolution of *UFO Data Magazine*.

After *UFO Magazine* closed, Russ felt that some form of magazine be made available to those interested in UFOs. He helped Gary Heseltine start *UFO Monthly.com* and later set up *UFO Data* with Michael Buckley and Philip Mantle. It soon became clear to him that people wanted a physical magazine to hold and that was when *UFO Data Magazine* was born. The first year it was printed at *UFO Data's* office in Kippax using high-quality, colour laser printers. Then a risk was taken to have the magazine professionally produced at full size and in a glossy format. It was a huge risk, as the magazine is subscription-based and having full colour, glossy magazines printed is not inexpensive. The subscribers list has grown, though, and Russ is optimistic that one day *UFO Data Magazine* will appear on the newsstands.

Russ was proud to announce that Gary Heseltine has joined with *UFO Data* as co-editor of the magazine and this can only mean the mag will go from strength to strength. Russ also gave thanks to our cover artist, Rob, who is currently unwell and our thoughts and best wishes go out to him.

On to video footage, for which Russ is famous for presenting, he said that the internet is both a boon and a

minefield for UFO footage. Each genuine clip on sites like YouTube is accompanied by dozens more hoax clips. Some of these are astonishing to watch, such as the recent Haiti clip and YouTube is replete with many such hoaxes.

Russ talked about some of the articles that have appeared in the magazine, such as the F-15 encounter with a strange object over the UK earlier in the year. The audio clip from the pilots was played and it's impressive stuff.

Thanks were also given to contributor such as our resident astronomer, Andrew Pike, and regular columnist, Nick Pope. Both regularly supply excellent articles that are enjoyed by all of our readers.

We were also reminded of the bright object that was seen over Leeds in February, 2007. It was captured on a mobile phone video and shown on BBC television. A superb photograph was snapped by Sacha Christie and included in the magazine. One explanation was that it was a sundog, an effect of sunlight refracting through ice particles in the atmosphere. This doesn't seem to be the case as it was in the wrong position in the sky. RAF Fylingdales was contacted and Squadron Leader Darling was asked if anything had been detected by their sophisticated equipment that day. She said that nothing had been picked up and they had no idea what is in the photograph. A genuine UFO!

Some clips were played, including the famous Haiti hoax, a video of some spheres, an arrow-shaped UFO which is probably a hoax and a recent clip from the BBC in which, unknown to the Beeb, Israeli F-16s appear to be sharing the sky with two other disc- or cigar-shaped objects.

Russ showed a longer selection of clips from Anthony Woods' DVD, *The Journey*, including a longer viewing of the 'Big Red' object.

Paying tribute to the late, great Graham Birdsall, Russ drew his talk to a close and we had a short break.

At 3pm, **Don Schmitt** began his second lecture of the weekend,

focussing on the deathbed confessions of Roswell witnesses.

In the United States 'deathbed testimony' is admissible as evidence in a court of law and often more regard is given to these statements because they are usually the final words of a dying person.

As with any major event, different eyewitnesses have different perspectives and may see the same event in a different way, or recall it differently. The problem for researchers is in defining the facts from many discrete and sometimes conflicting statements - "Sifting the wheat from the chaff." While accounts can vary in general terms, they usually describe the same event, but seen from a different perspective.

Don said it is an insult to the participants of the Roswell Incident to suggest that they might forget it or get the time of the event wrong by several years, as was proclaimed in the official statement from the US Air Force. He went on to say that UFO researchers are held to a higher standard than those in other fields. The sceptics demand it. If the debunkers are a hundred percent convinced of their cases, why do they continue debate? Is it because they really are not convinced, perhaps?

The media always tends to side with the sceptical argument and the general public are inclined to accept the 'official line' without question. Governments cannot be trusted because they the record has shown that, time and again, they have lied to protect their own self-interest. Investigators should concentrate on the facts and decide for themselves what they should believe, not blindly accept what others say.

The notion that disclosure would send the world reeling into chaos is nonsense. The hundreds of people who were present at Roswell and witnessed things of tremendous import didn't commit suicide or go crazy or set off riotous rampages. They got on with their lives. If people could do that sixty years ago, then they most certainly could accept the truth that we are not alone today.

Referring back to the deathbed con-

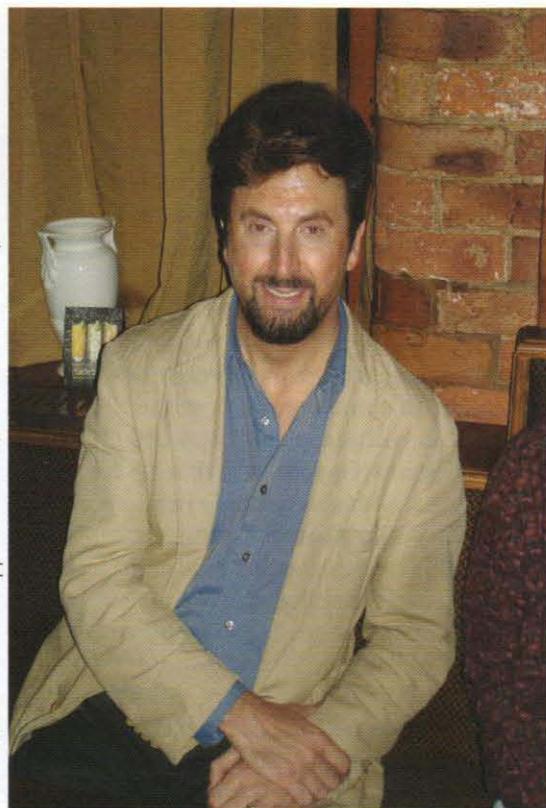
fessions, Don noted that not one of them made reference to a Mogul balloon! He said that his passion for this subject came from the people involved that he had come to know personally. They became his friends and he acted as an honorary pall-bearer at two funerals of Roswell witnesses.

Sheriff George Wilcox was the first authority figure approached by Mac Brazel. His granddaughter is Barbara Dugger and she lived with George's widow, Inez, before she died. Inez told Barbara that it was not a weather balloon that crashed and that the military's heavy-handedness was the reason that her husband had never stood for re-election. She also told her that George had visited the crash site and seen bodies before being escorted away. He was told that if he spoke, his family would be killed.

Don said that a special squad had been brought in to Roswell, similar to the atomic accident team known as S1. This group had the highest security clearance, but everybody at the Roswell Army Air Field already had top clearance, so why the need for this outside team? The squads at Roswell were also segregated during the incident, so that they did not know the men they found themselves with. This would, in theory, result in less chatter between 'buddies'.

Another confession came from a guard at the P3 Hangar 84 area. He said that he saw wreckage and bodies under canvas. Only the heads were uncovered and he described them as larger than normal. He told this to his wife just before he died in 1976.

I must apologise at this point in the review, because as Don Schmitt continued his fascinating talk, I was asked if I could drive Michael Hesemann to the airport. He had a plane to catch, obviously. As we headed towards Leeds/Bradford airport, Michael and I chatted about various things, including the presentation of Spyros Melaris. Michael confirmed that he was somewhat sceptical about the man's claims and I'm sure he wouldn't mind me



repeating that here, even though we were just chatting in the car. As Michael said, if Spyros' claims are to be believed, then he must have some solid evidence to back up his story. Michael was also sorry that he didn't get the chance to question him more in a public forum. Hopefully he will get another chance in the future, as Spyros reveals more of his account.

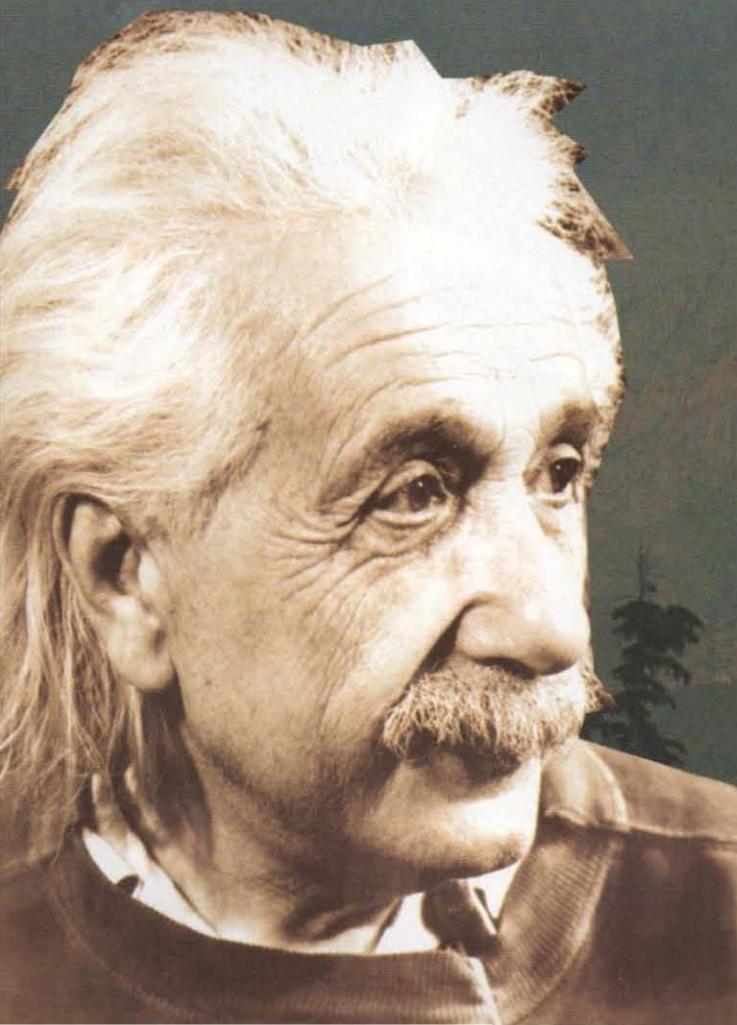
With Michael safely at the airport, I headed back and just caught the very end of the Speakers' Q&A session, with Jesse Marcel Jr., Don Schmitt, Russel Callaghan, Gary Heseltine and Nick Pope. It brought the Roswell 60 conference to a close and all present can be happy that it was a tremendous success.

UFO Data Magazine would like to thank all of our speakers for providing excellent lectures. Thanks go out to our lively delegates who must have had aching bottoms after sitting through all the fantastic lectures. All the staff at The Parkside Hotel deserve great credit for looking after us. Final thanks go to Russ, Mick, Philip, Gary, Rebecca, Danny, Tony and everybody who helped behind the scenes to put together what was undoubtedly the best UFO conference for many years.

Steve Johnson

Scientists & UFOs

Andrew Pike (FRAS)



There can be little in the way of argument when it is said the majority of scientists, especially astronomers, find UFOs a taboo subject. The relationship between ufology and science is an extremely complex one. However, from my experience it is a complex three way problem between ufology, scientists and the powers-that-be. Anyway, as I find myself in the final weeks of the 60th anniversary of modern ufology, I thought some attempt to address the matter, certainly between science and ufology, might be in order, with some military areas thrown in for good measure. I know this type of article will greatly irritate a small group of what I call "True Believers" but that in its own way is part of the problem. Nevertheless what follows is based on personal experience as a scientist who has found himself involved in both the worlds of UFOs and science. If nothing else, hopefully it will be of interest to see matters from the circles I frequent.

Over the years I have noticed many parallels between the science/ufology and military/ufology relationships. The first must be that extremely simple set of letters - UFO. In reality this amounts to nothing more than the acronym for unidentified flying object, that's all, nothing else. In other words all that can be said of a UFO is it is an object appearing to fly which is unidentified, so as it stands we have no way of saying what it is. In practice, however, those three letters have a very different reaction within science and the military.

That in itself is problem enough but when we attempt to pin a label on the object in question that is when the problem becomes amplified and the real fun and games begin.

To many scientists, and members of government agencies like the MoD, admitting involvement with plain and simple UFOs is tantamount to confirming they believe in extraterrestrials visiting the Earth in space ships. For example, the MoD will tell you in no uncertain terms they do not investigate UFOs, all that ended with Blue Book, Project Condign and similar efforts. However, ask them if they investigate unidentified objects entering our airspace on defence grounds and they will say yes! By definition, therefore, the MoD do investigate UFOs! Likewise, ask a scientist if he would like to discover the identity of a strange object he saw flying past in the sky and he might well say yes, after all, science is in the business of discovering new things. However, ask that same scientist if he believes in UFOs and odds are he will say no. Indeed, as an astronomer, one of the questions I am most often asked is: Do you believe in UFOs? As it stands I can give no response to the enquirer

other than to ask them to define UFO! That is because, despite the simple acronym, I don't really know what is going on in the enquirer's mind when he, or she, says UFOs.

Now this might sound like nit-picking but from the scientific viewpoint it is anything but. That is because in science we all need to get our definitions right from the start. In other words, to stand any chance of a serious investigation of anything, ufological or otherwise, we need to all be singing from the same hymn sheet. With UFOs we find the ufologists, scientists and the military are often not even in the same church! Deciding on what we all mean from the start is important. Another example I can give is the word dimensions. To a scientist this is likely to be taken as meaning length, width, depth, time and the possible other dimensions wrapped up on the subatomic scales of String Theory. To a ufologist, or similar, it is more likely to mean a parallel universe or alternative reality. The two are not the same thing and as such both sides are not talking the same language or singing from the same hymn sheet.

However you choose to define a UFO

it remains a possibility they may well be natural phenomena as yet unknown to science, some certainly are natural phenomena, there is no doubt of that. Now, I know ufologists get very upset when I say there is a possibility ET is not visiting us at all, and as the evidence stands at the moment, and as a scientist, I have to say I believe they are not amongst us. I have seen no smoking gun evidence in science which supports such a view, there are no hints, rumours or secret documents in padded envelopes flying around to even suggest an alien autopsy or scientists running around crash sites. However, that is not to say there is no such evidence to be found so an open mind about alien visitations should be kept, but that would be tantamount to heresy in scientific circles. That said it would be bad science to go either way on the evidence we have so far and it certainly would do neither side any good if I was to support the extraterrestrial view just because I am expected to do so. Sadly, mainstream scientists have not even got that far except for a small few like myself, most, like the military, still have their knickers in a knot over the first hurdle of the acronym UFO let alone any sugges-



tion we should keep in mind the ET viewpoint as a possible answer. True Believers will, and have, attacked science, scientists and myself for the view that no evidence exists to support the ET idea, but in 27 years of looking at UFOs as a scientist, the evidence to me points to natural and military activity with an open door to the ET angle. That is often not enough for the True Believer. So, we now have our next problem. If ufologists want science in their subject they must accept what it says, how it works and the conclusions it draws even if it does not say what you want. That is not how many scientists see it happening and so they are put off UFOs. This has resulted in a double vacuum whereby many scientists know too little about the ways of ufology and many ufologists know too little about the ways of science. That is simply how it appears to me and other scientists.

Whenever I have said that I am denounced as a debunker, said to be condescending to ufologists or worse of all, shock horror, working with the powers-that-be in a cover up. It is not often seen as a statement relating to both sides. Now, from those who have read my work on the science of the Rendlesham Forest affair, I did work with a UK agency on that in a small way, and on a few occasions since I have been involved in other UFO work associated with some form of what might be called 'The Establishment'. But to those who know the true me (also a very few), they will tell you I do so with

extreme reluctance, I do not like the way MoD scientists work or the way they 'investigated' Rendlesham or UFOs generally; from official documents I have seen their scientists leave a lot to be desired. An example of this is to be found in the 2001 MoD Rendlesham File release. To take just one point from that paperwork, after reading the Halt memo it was decided nothing further could be gained from listening to the Halt tape, yet had they done so the mistakes that followed regarding radiation readings would not have been made! Why did they ignore something, the contents of which they could not have known? That is bad science, and bad practice. To me that is no different to a scientist dismissing UFOs simply because he says there is nothing in the subject without looking. Then there is Project Condign, well don't even get me started on that waste of tax payers money!

One exception I hold is Nick Pope who despite being gagged by the Official Secrets Act and having no formal scientific training has done his best to look at things in a scientific way, examples being his work on mapping sightings to find a connection and his work on alien abduction cases, at least he reviewed the files when he took up the job at the so-called UFO Desk. The abduction side of the subject, as I see things, is probably the only real avenue pointing to an ET connection, but here again scientists starts to irritate ufologists when they say it may be a nat-

ural phenomena based on how the brain works. The point is we cannot dismiss one avenue because it is unpalatable whether that be so to ufologists or scientists, yet too many do so, especially scientists with abduction cases. An example here is the outrageous way Professor John Mack was treated.

Having said that, I certainly support a cover up at the MoD and similar other agencies around the world. As I said a few years ago when I was interviewed by one of these 'lifestyle' magazines, it seems to be a cover up of black projects and worse of all ignorance of military scientists, not an ET connection. Taking Rendlesham again as an example, I and other scientists had a good working model of what might be at play complete with all kinds of science to back it up before the News of the World even broke the story in October 1983, so why were the MoD scientists still stumbling around in the dark years after that? We had found several similar cases world wide, had a theory of why the UFO was dripping molten metal and how pine forests react with nature. All this and more by 1982! None of it top secret stuff. As a scientist I have to go where the evidence takes me with an open mind on that avenue of investigation and possible other avenues which may take me elsewhere in my investigations, nothing should be totally dismissed simply because it is taboo. I don't cover up and I am not in league with the powers-that-be, if I was the MoD's Rendlesham File would have been as big as mine, 20 plus files and amounting to a quarter of a million words, not a dozen loose minutes! Of course I have the luxury of having not signed the Official Secrets Act which gives me a good deal of leverage. True believer may think otherwise and have said I am involved in an official cover up which, I have to say, amuses me no end. Take this ufological reaction for example.

In 1999, the late Graham W. Birdsall, editor of *UFO Magazine*, sent me a video tape and one of the magazine's UFO sightings forms from somebody who had contacted him with a sighting. As the Astronomy Correspondent I gave it



priority over other work and took a detailed look. Within a day I had sent back a detailed two page report on the sighting. In a nutshell there was no doubt what the person had seen was Venus, it was in the right place at the right time and was in the correct position relative to another bright star Aldebaran. When the camera was placed on a tripod the steady image showed the familiar rise of the planet at just the correct angle relative to the horizon. In fact the video camera even zoomed in on the object at 20X magnification and the phase of the planet was even correct. Anyway to cut a long story short, the witness decided both I and UFO Magazine were in league with the government and its cover up policy. There is no scientific way to cope with a True Believer whatever the science says. That to many of my colleagues is extremely off putting and some, unfairly, tar all ufologists with that same True Believer brush.

Another unfair view held by scientists about ufology is the idea it is full of cranks and crackpots. In particular one of the most popular and most public of astronomers, Sir Patrick Moore, when asked about UFOs has said on several occasions "it's the open season for crackpots, these people are mad as hatters." On another occasion he said "UFOs should be left to housewives and policemen." That doesn't help in the slightest, especially from such a public figure. True there are such characters in ufology and maybe more than your average subject. I have encountered some, usually at conferences and usually carrying a padded envelope which contains secret documents for me to read or proof that Einstein was wrong.

Despite what some believe there really are scientists interested in UFO activity, we have even introduced our own user friendly term, AOP (Anomalous Observational Phenomena), in the same way Project Condign used UAP (Unidentified Aerial Phenomena). However, they are few and far between and from my experience in recent years, getting fewer, even I have largely left the field writing only for *UFO Data Magazine* at present. This brings me to the next problem. There is no doubt scientists are put

off from UFO investigations because ufology gives an impression science is not welcome. Now that will be pounced upon by some in a negative way, but from scientists I have spoken to about this point there is no doubt in my mind bridges need to be built.

Reputation is another problem. Scientists do suffer by working in ufology. Stuffy old dinosaurs in higher levels of science, like grant awarding bodies, do not want their scientists dealing with 'little green men' and so we come back to that UFO definition problem once again. Will AOP and UAP do their jobs, no of course not, the stigma is too deep. Science will partly overcome this and scramble over its first big hurdle only when contact is made directly between ET and scientists. Some maintain that will be at a distance first of all, maybe through SETI (Search for Extraterrestrial Intelligence), I agree with the distance but not the method. From my experience of what is going on in astronomy's less taboo areas of ET contact the first evidence that we are not alone will come from exoplanet research. Exoplanets are planets orbiting suns other than our own. Research and discoveries in this field of astronomy are racing ahead of SETI and it is only a matter of time before we find spectral evidence of a civilization on one of these planets, that is to say, we will detect the tell-tale signs of a polluted atmosphere due to intelligence.

There is a common myth that scientists will not believe something unless they see it for themselves. So, how many astronomers see UFOs? Again it is a complex question. Sir Patrick Moore claims that in almost 80 years of sky watching he has seen none. In just half that time I have seen 6 good sightings and probably twice that number in less convincing ones. I would say if Sir Patrick is correct he has been damn unlucky! One quick pole of astronomers about 20 years found 87% have seen some form of UFO (using the plain and simple definition). Others give various figures but no survey came up with 0%. Amongst my own sightings is the flying triangle which I have seen several times and at close range, it is every bit as eerie and real as

reported in many cases. However, I am also aware that the area of the UK I live in has a rich history of missile and drone research associated with the military dating to the 1950s.

After 27 years in ufology, 12 of it writing in UFO publications openly, I have seen some change, some good research and some bridge building, but too little and too often it has suffered from a hardcore element of bad apples. This brings me to the final problem I want to mention here. I have often been asked this question: Have I had trouble from the powers-that-be because of my involvement with UFOs? The answer is no, quite the opposite. As I said some years ago in the November/December 2002 issue of *UFO Magazine* I have experienced no problems from the MoD or similar. I made a point of saying so back then because I had just attended the 21st *UFO Magazine* Conference that year and it was one of the most asked questions from delegates, I even recall speaking about it to fellow scientist, Stanton T. Friedman, also present at the conference when we met up at the bookstalls, he too had a similar response when he had been asked the same question repeatedly that weekend. What I did not say then (in print), but will say now, is I have had a lot of problems from ufologists. I am glad to say it is a relatively small number of bad apples, but enough to cause damage and put those bridges we need to build on less stable foundations. Such problems have lost astronomers from UFO research and put off others from starting.

As an aside, that very same conference was to be Graham's last and the last for *UFO Magazine*, yet it attracted more scientists, particularly astronomers, than any other I can recall. That was something Graham was particularly pleased to point out to those gathered. Things have slipped somewhat since then, but maybe they will improve again. Only time will tell.

Andrew Pike

**Check out the
re-subscription offer
on page 13**

The Apollo XX Controversy

Steve Johnson reports



On July 20th, 1969, Apollo 11 astronauts, Neil Armstrong and Edwin "Buzz" Aldrin, became the first men to walk on the Moon. High above, Michael Collins orbited in the Command Module (CM). Four months later, Apollo 12's Pete Conrad, Alan Bean and Richard Gordon also made it to our only natural satellite.

In April, 1970, the Apollo 13 mission went awry, but Jim Lovell, Jack Swigert and Fred Haise made it back safely albeit with frozen sausages. Almost a year later, for Apollo 14, Alan Shepard and Edgar Mitchell landed at Fra Mauro while Stuart Roosa orbited.

At the end of July, 1971, Apollo 15 set down on the lunar surface, leaving Alfred Worden circling the Moon. David Scott and James Irwin were the moonwalkers in this mission.

Nine months on, John Young and Charlie Duke stepped out onto the Descarte Highlands as Ken Mattingley remained in orbit for Apollo 16.

The final Moon landing, Apollo 17, in December, 1972, had Eugene Cernan and Harrison Schmitt landing and Ronald Evans piloting the CM.

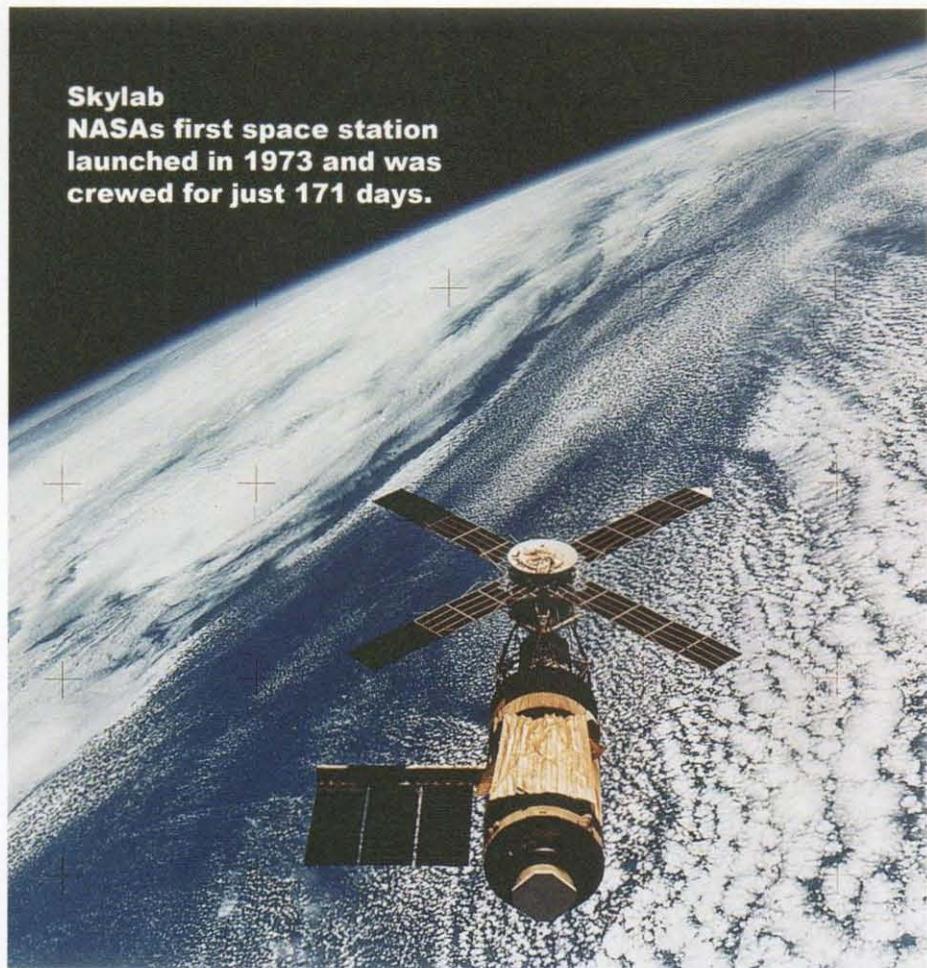
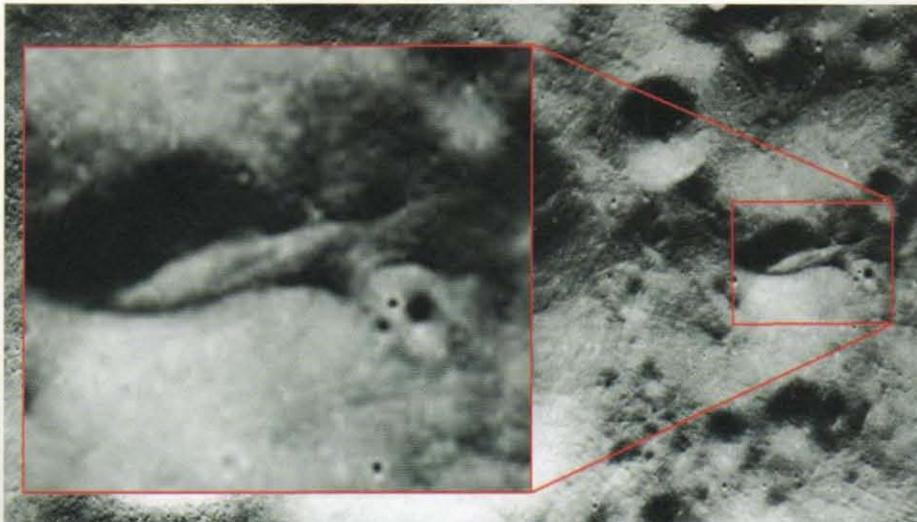
Or so we are told!!!

The enormous Saturn V rocket that had sent men to the Moon was also used, in a modified form to launch Skylab into earth orbit. The famous Apollo-Soyuz link-up was launched using the smaller Saturn I-B. In that historic mission, Apollo astronauts, Thomas Stafford, Deke Slayton and Vance Brand docked with a Soviet Soyuz capsule containing cosmonauts, Aleksei Leonov and Valery Kubasov. Mentioning this will make sense later...

In all, only twelve men have landed on the Moon, all Americans. Or so we have been told by history and those that perpetuate history's written form.

In April of 2007, some videos appeared on popular website, YouTube, purporting to be footage from Apollo 20, a mission that set down on the far side of the Moon in 1976! Even more astonishing than the possibility that we continued going to the Moon after 1972 was what was depicted in the footage - an apparent, derelict alien spacecraft. According to the information released by the person, who went under the username, 'retiredafb' (his YouTube profile can be found at <http://www.youtube.com/user/retiredafb>), Apollo 20 launched on August 16th, 1976, from Vandenberg Air Force base in California and carried a mixed American-Soviet crew. These were Mission Commander William Rutledge, Command Module Pilot, Leona Snyder, and Lunar Module Pilot, Aleksei Leonov.

The alien ship was originally photographed in 1971, during Apollo 15 and the image can be found at



**Skylab
NASA's first space station
launched in 1973 and was
crewed for just 171 days.**

<http://www.lpi.usra.edu/resources/apollo/frame/?AS15-P-9625>.

Almost universally ridiculed as an elaborate hoax, this remarkable story failed to ignite interest in the mainstream media, but the YouTube links received well over a million 'hits'.

Although sceptical, Italian journalist, Luca Scantamburlo, contacted the person who had posted these clips. He learned that 'retiredafb' claimed to be none other than William Rutledge himself! Now living in Rwanda, that war-torn nation in Africa, he apologised for his bad

English, saying that he had not spoken it since 1990, instead speaking French, German and the native tongue of his new homeland, Kinyarwanda. He was born in Belgium in 1930 and remains an American citizen.

Rutledge said that after Apollo 17, Apollo 18 was the Apollo-Soyuz Link and Apollos 19 and 20 were flights to the lunar far side. Both the latter missions were not overseen by the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA), but by the United States Air Force (USAF). Apollo 19 ended in disaster, he said, when all telemetry from the capsule was lost inexplicably. Although the real reasons are unknown, Rutledge believed that the ship hit or was hit by a 'quasi-satellite', one of the many chunks of rock that orbit the Earth-Moon system or share our orbit of the Sun.

Both Apollo 19 and 20 had the same objective, to land on the far side of the Moon and explore the 'alien wreck' that had been photographed by Apollo 15. According to Rutledge, he and Snyder worked for Bell Labs and were contracted out to the USAF. He had also worked for Avro,



the Canadian company that developed the famous Avrocar, and Chance Vought, the aircraft company that developed the 'Flying Flapjack' aircraft. Leonov was the first man to walk in space and was the Soviet mission commander for the Apollo-Soyuz link.

When they landed on the Moon, they saw a deserted and ruined city, 'full of scrap', as Rutledge put it. He and Leonov entered the derelict spaceship and also a triangular one nearby. It was estimated, he said, that the larger ship was about 1.5 milliard years old. A milliard is another way of saying a thousand million, what we generally now call a billion. I find it odd that this American citizen would use the milliard term when the more common American usage was 'billion'. Having said that, the

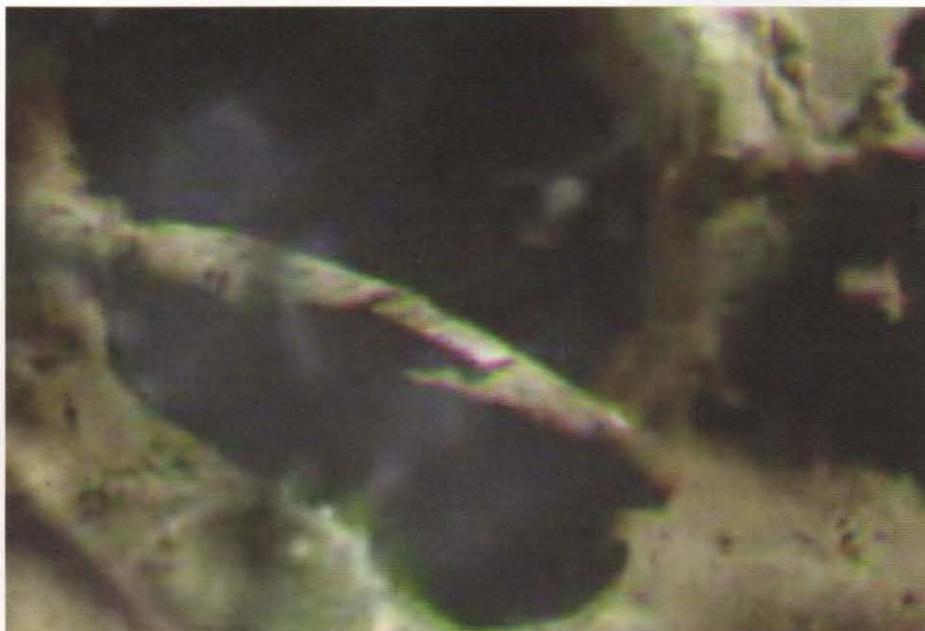
word derives from French and Rutledge claimed to have spoken French instead of English for years. The craft was pitted with craters and other damage. Inside, they found evidence of plant-life and 'triangular rocks [that] emitted "tears" of a yellow liquid which has some special medical properties'.

They also found alien bodies. The remains of small creatures, about 10 cm long, were found in glass tubes that ran the length of the ship and two 'full-size' aliens were found. Unbelievably, he claimed that one of them, a female, was still alive and returned to Earth! Here is how he described them:

"Humanoid, female, 1.65 meter. Genitalized, haired, six fingers (we guess that mathematics are based on

a dozen). Function; pilot, piloting device fixed to fingers and eyes, no clothes, we had to cut two cables connected to the nose. No nostril. Leonov unfixed the eyes device (you'll see that in the video) [No video has appeared yet - SJ]. Concretions of blood or bio liquid erupted and froze from the mouth, nose, eyes and some parts of the body. Some parts of the body were in unusual good condition, (hair) and the skin was protected by a thin transparent protection layer. As we told to mission control, condition seemed not dead not alive. We had no medical background or experience, but Leonov and I used a test, we fixed our bio equipment on the EBE, and telemetry received by surgeon (Mission Control meds) was positive. That's another story. Some parts could be unbelievable now, I prefer tell the whole story when other videos will be online. This experience has been filmed in the LM. We found a second body, destroyed, we brought the head on board. Color of the skin was blue gray, a pastel blue. Skin had some strange details above the eyes and the front, a strap around the head, wearing no inscription. The "cockpit" was full of calligraphy and formed of long semi hexagonal tubes. She is on Earth and she is not dead..."

Scantamburlo asked how he had managed to hang on to the footage he had posted. Rutledge said that it had been rescued during the demolition of a building (presumably at Vandenberg) when a security guard



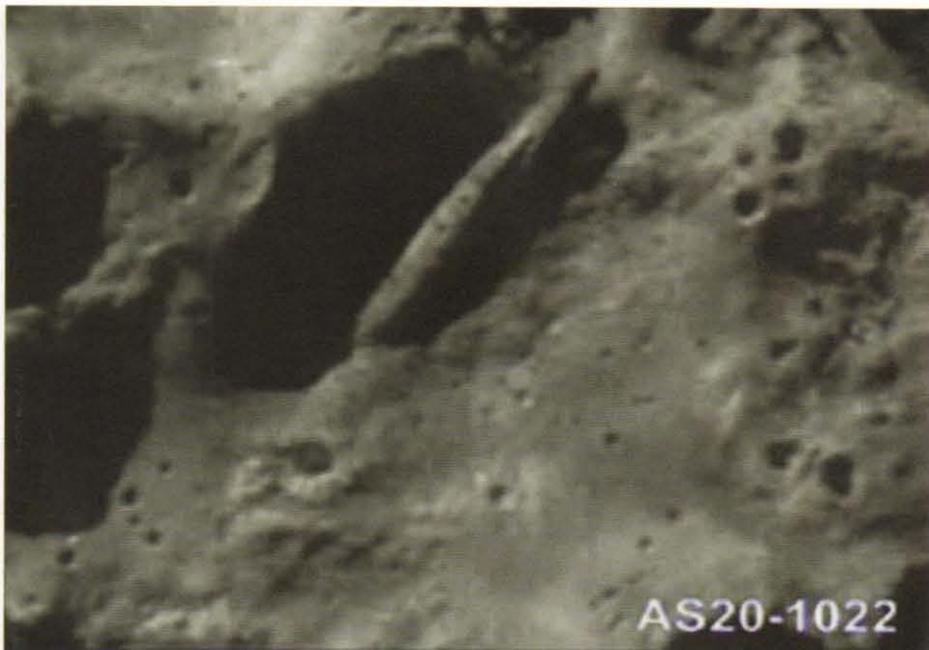
had found it and passed it on to the commander of Apollo 20. He bought them from the entrepreneurial security person 15 years ago, along with some photographs and other items.

Rutledge has posted several videos on YouTube, one of the alleged launch from Vandenberg, a flyover of the alien ship before landing, another clip with more detailed shots of the craft as well as interior CM images and a clip of the 'city'. He also posted other clips that have been removed, in particular a clip of launch preparations at Vandenberg.

There have been several problems with the clips posted by 'retiredafb'. The clip of the launch of the rocket appears to have had the Apollo 11 audio dubbed onto it. The audio of the flyover of the alien ship seems to have come from Apollo 15 transmissions and dubbed onto the clip. The now-removed video of the launch preparation at Vandenberg is clearly a clip of a Saturn V at Kennedy Space Centre (KSC) that has been flipped i.e. it is a mirror-image. The clip of the city is a fake and appears to be a CG or painted ruin pasted onto a photograph taken by Apollo 17 (which can be found at <http://www.hq.nasa.gov/office/pao/History/alsj/a17/AS17-134-20437.jpg>).

Having looked at the second clip of the flyover, the one that shows great detail on the surface of the alien ship, I feel that it is simply a model. The lunar surface does not look real and the spaceship looks like it is made from play-dough!

Another problem for the mission would be maintaining communica-



tion with the crew on the far side of the Moon. Scantamburlo has suggested, quite correctly, that one or more satellites would be needed in lunar orbit to relay radio signals from the lunar module to Earth.

Would a secret Saturn V launch from Vandenberg AFB be possible? Vandenberg launches more rockets every year than the Kennedy Space Centre, but a rocket capable of carrying a crew to the Moon is much larger than those that deploy satellites into Earth orbit. I cannot believe that this could have been achieved without somebody seeing it. The cities of Santa Barbara, Santa Maria and Lompoc are very close to the base so surely the launch of this massive vehicle would have been noticed.

UFO Data Magazine contacted Luca Scantamburlo by email. He had this to say to us:

"I am still sceptical about identity of 'retiredafb' and I do not know what to think about him, but I am convinced that there are some kernels of truth spread by him in this difficult case and that seems to be a real leak of information, in my opinion, in spite of it being contaminated

with some fakes and contradictions; whoever William Rutledge is.

"For example, I have found an official NASA reference in which they say that the Apollo capsule of the ASTP (Apollo Soyuz Test Project) was the "Apollo 18". So, NASA uses the term 'Apollo 18' in one of its articles. (<http://www.hq.nasa.gov/office/pao/History/apollo/soyuz.htm> l)

"About Leonov, I have found the original NASA photos on the web, in which you can see Aleksei Leonov at the Johnson Space Center in Texas learning the Apollo instruments, during his training by NASA, before the ASTP. And Rutledge told us that the ASTP was the Apollo 18 mission.

"What it is very interesting is that on the JAXA website (http://www.jaxa.jp/article/interview/vol5/index_e.html), there is an interview to Alexei Leonov, taken place in Japan on October 16, 2003, in which Leonov underpins some important conditions which allowed the mission ASTP (American-Soviet joint space mission, July 1975). Among them Leonov mentions the Academy of Science, and Dr. Fletcher:

"Q. I believe the 1975 Apollo-Soyuz Project was the first step leading to the current International Space Station. What do you think of that idea?

A. The preceding period, from





around 1972 to 1973, was a politically difficult one. We were placed in an explosive and hopeless situation, and a war could have broken out at any moment. The world had been divided into two by the Cold War. Even now, I am frightened by the fact that the world was in that desperate situation.

But having said that, it was also at this period of time that some wise men had appeared, such as Mr. Kosygin, (prime minister) of the Soviet Union, President Nixon of the United States, Dr. Keldys of the Soviet Science Academy, and Dr. Fletcher, Administrator of NASA. [...]"

"In the interview that William Rutledge granted me, he mentioned Dr. Fletcher and the Academy of Science in Ural:

"12) L.S. Can you tell me anything about the Russian collaboration to "Apollo 20?"

W.R. James Chipman Fletcher for USA and Valentin Alexeiev for Russia [...]"

"From the 13) answer:

"[...] the center of decision was located in the Ural, in the town of Sverdlovsk. The chief of the program was Professor Valentin Alekseev, who became later president of the academy of science in Ural. Leonov was chosen because of his popularity in the communist leading staff, and secondary only because he was on Apollo-Soyuz."

"Another thing that is very interesting: the presumed W. Rutledge said he was a volunteer for the MOL-Gemini project (USAF), but he was

not chosen (he told me he was not chosen in one of our private contacts). He told us, in the interview, that, before retiring, he worked at the KH-11 project. I have found out later that the MOL-Gemini was also called 'KH-10', code name 'Dorian'. So, as a detail, it is quite logical and correct from the point of view of space history, and from the point of view of somebody who is a test pilot involved with USAF after the MOL-Gemini (KH-10) was cancelled in 1969.

"We can say that at least something will remain in any case: the knowledge of the official NASA 'Section 508' (that Rutledge has indicated) ['Section 508' is a division of NASA that provides information for people with disabilities. They have a website at <http://section508.nasa.gov/index.html> - SJ], and the attention on a strange and huge lunar anomaly, not discussed before in the press, as far as I am aware: a cigar-shaped object that could be an ancient alien mother spaceship, even if the Apollo 19 and 20 missions had never taken

place.

"So, if we think that the Apollo 20 is a carefully prepared fake, we have to recognize that there was a great attention to the historical details. But my impression, as I told you, is that this controversial case contains some kernels of truth."

Luca has written several articles, including an interview with 'retiredafb', and these can be found on his website <http://www.angelis-marriti.it/ANGELIS MARRITI - ENG/home-ENG.htm>.

Another website devoted to finding out the truth about Apollo 20 is <http://www.spaceheroes.org/>

It is up to the reader to decide if 'retiredafb'/William Rutledge is telling the truth, but I believe that this is an elaborate hoax. I dearly hope not, but something about it does not ring true for me. You decide.

SJ

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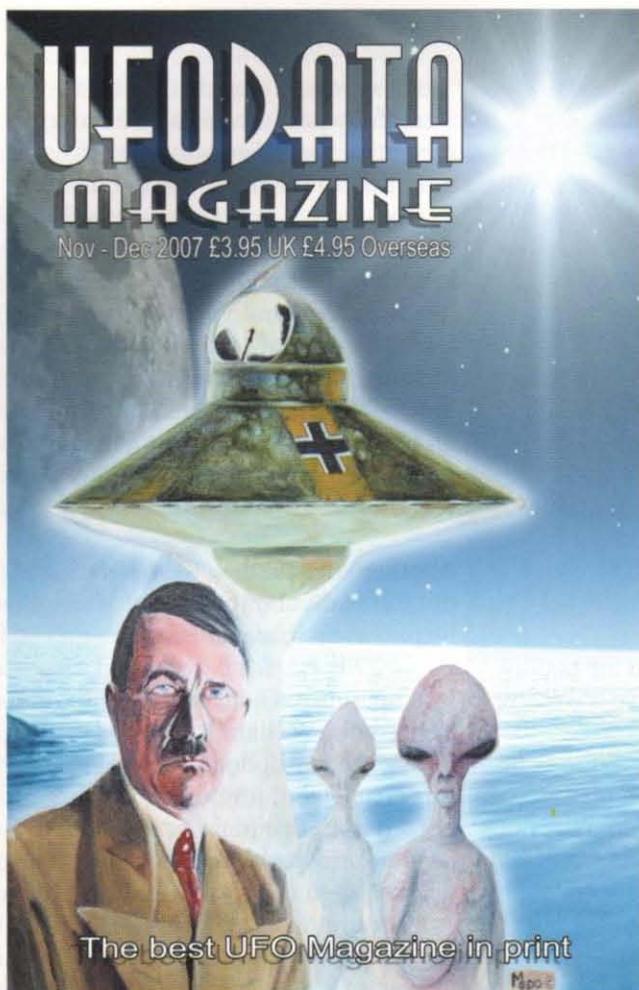
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**Man-Made UFOs:
World War II's
Secret Legacy**

Cover story by
Steve Johnson.

In the latter stages of the Second World War, Allied fighter pilots and, particularly, bomber crews reported encounters with glowing balls of light that flew around their formations and sometimes interfered with their on-board instruments. These objects became known as Foo Fighters and are, undoubtedly, the most well-known UFO phenomena of that turbulent era.

Born in 1924, Renato Vesco was a young Italian aircraft engineer during the war and after the conflict ended, he became interested in UFO sightings and was convinced that they were derived from purely earthly sources, probably of German origin. In 1994, *Man-Made UFOs - 1944-1994, 50 Years of Suppression*, was released. It was edited and contributed to by David Hatcher Childress and comprised a great deal of Vesco's earlier works. Vesco died in 1999 in Genoa, Italy.

Now re-released as *Man-Made UFOs: World War II's Secret Legacy*, we can look again at the strides the Nazis made in aeronautical engineering and how those remarkable machines and design concepts influenced modern-day and, perhaps, future aircraft.

Firstly, Vesco makes it absolutely clear in the book that he has no time whatsoever for ufology. He believes firmly that what people are seeing are entirely man-made aircraft. Remarkable, yes, but completely earthly in origin. He makes numerous disparaging remarks about ufology and this may offend some readers, but stick with it, because it is a fascinating volume of information.

While German scientists were making huge discoveries before the war about aircraft design, it was only as the Allies invaded Europe in 1944 that the urge to produce machines capable of turning the tide of the war in Hitler's favour was increasingly, indeed feverishly, fostered.

Many companies fell under the watchful eyes of Himmler's SS divisions and numerous, top-secret, underground facilities were hewn into Alpine rock. If it seemed that Germany would fall, the Nazi leadership would fall back to this Alpine Redoubt and produce the fantastic flying machines that would finally provide them with air superiority over Europe and snatch victory from the hands of defeat.

Huge research and manufacturing centres were constructed using slaves drawn from the

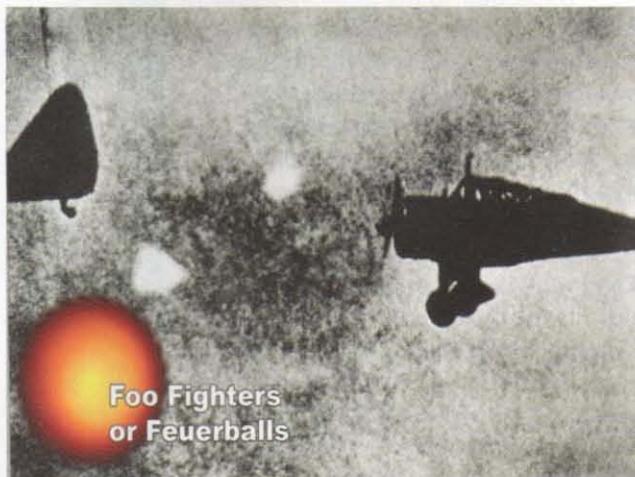
Nazi death camps. There were even covered runways, designed to blend into the natural environment and completely invisible from the air, so that these new aircraft could take off and land.

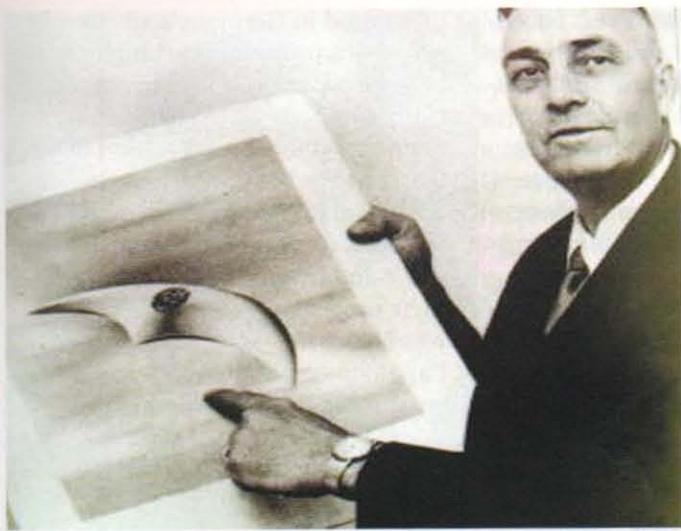
One of the most successful of the Nazi projects was the Feuerball. Vesco claims that this was the Foo Fighter that had plagued American and British flight crews. He describes it thus:

"It was circular and armoured, more or less resembling the shell of a tortoise, and was powered by a special turbojet engine, also flat and circular,... which generated halo of luminous flames. Hence it was named Feuerball (Fireball). \it was unarmed and pilotless. Radio-controlled at the moment of take-off, it then automatically followed enemy aircraft, attracted by their exhaust flames, and approached close enough without collision to wreck their radar gear." [pp. 85-86]

During the day, the Feuerball looked like a spinning, silver disc, but at night, it took on the form of a glowing ball.

The success of the Feuerball led the Nazis to investigate the possibility of developing a fighter plane that required no pilot. Flown remotely from the ground and fitted with a television camera, the Krache (Crack) and Donner (Thunder) aircraft resembled the Me-163 jet fighter, the Krache being armed with rocket projectiles and the Donner with rapid-fire cannon. During testing, the planes were found to be incredibly manoeuvrable, but the pilot on the ground could not react fast enough to the images on the small television screen he was looking at. As soon as a target appeared on the screen, it





would just as quickly vanish because of the motion of the aircraft.

It was decided that some form of automatic firing mechanism was required. As the war drew to a close, and too late for the Nazis, they developed fuses that would allow their unmanned planes to automatically lock on either visually to a target or by detecting the target's electromagnetic signature.

Vesco describes the most incredible aircraft the Germans built, the Kugelblitz (Ball Lightning):

"...the principle of the symmetrical circular aircraft was combined with direct gyroscopic stabilization; synthetic fire-damp was combined with the multiple-battered blower cannon; a gelatinous organic metallic hypercombustible was combined with the total reaction turbine; television-controlled flying was combined with vertical take-off and landing; armour that was sensitive to small-calibre projectiles and radio-control that was free of enemy jamming were combined with the active blinding of enemy radar; infrared search 'eyes' were combined with electrostatic weapon firing. This marked the rapid development of the Feuerball, which finally became a weapon.

"Even if ufologists do not know it or refuse to admit it, the Kugelblitz, older brother of the Feuerball anti-radar device, is the second authentic antecedent of the present-day flying saucers and it is with them - and with the other German devices of the same family (spinning bombs, lenticular bombs, ramming fighters and

flying spheres) - that the true history or, if you like, the 'prehistory' of the UFO question begins."

Bold words indeed. It must be noted that the Nazis had developed the Kugelblitz self-propelled, anti-aircraft Panzer tank. While this was allegedly still in develop-

ment when the war ended, it is thought that some may have been deployed in the battle for Berlin in the spring of 1945.

After the war, the Allies carved up Europe and hurried to grab whatever technical materials they could. The Americans famously used their Operation Paperclip to nab the likes of Wernher Von Braun, who would go on to become an American hero for his work for the US space program. Needless to say, it is also likely that the Allied powers got their hands on some of the remarkable German technology.

The United States transported many V2 rockets back to New Mexico, while the Soviets also acquired a number of the Nazi missiles. Thus the race began to conquer space.

The Americans also got hold of the Horton flying wing, a jet-engined fighter bomber that could attain speeds approaching Mach 1. It has been suggested that what Kenneth Arnold saw in 1947 was a variant of the Horton, possibly improved to achieve a speed greater than that of sound, yet seen in flight months before Chuck Yeager's historic Bell X-1 flight of October, 1947.

Did the Allies also grab the German 'flying saucers'? Vesco believed so and notes various UFO sightings as evidence for their operation. While the public were wowed by reports of the Canadian Avrocar, the flying saucer-shaped vehicle that appeared little more than a hover craft, secret tests of so-called 'suction aircraft' began. Developed by British and Canadian scientists, the circular aircraft utilised nozzles in the leading

edges of the airframe to reduce the boundary layer that formed when the plane flew at speed. The lower the boundary layer, the less drag is experienced. Vesco claimed that what Kenneth Arnold saw in June, 1947, was a squadron of circular suction aircraft on a test flight from Canada. This may sound reasonable, but Arnold described the objects he saw as crescent-shaped. Maybe the Hortons were adapted to include suction technology and thus increase their overall speed.

So, according to Vesco, the modern age of ufology was born from a sighting of a squadron of top secret aircraft from Canada, built with British money and flown over Washington State to show off to the Americans!

The book closes with a chapter about a secret base in the Venezuelan jungles, built by electronics genius, Guglielmo Marconi. After faking his death in 1937, Marconi, along with a number of other European boffins, constructed a high-tech city in the caldera of an extinct volcano, where they experimented with solar energy, anti-gravity and other exotic fields. There is even talk of trips to the Moon and Mars. Fantastic stuff and completely at odds with the rest of the book, but fascinating anyway.

UFO Data Magazine contacted the book's co-author, David Hatcher Childress, and he was kind enough to answer a few questions.

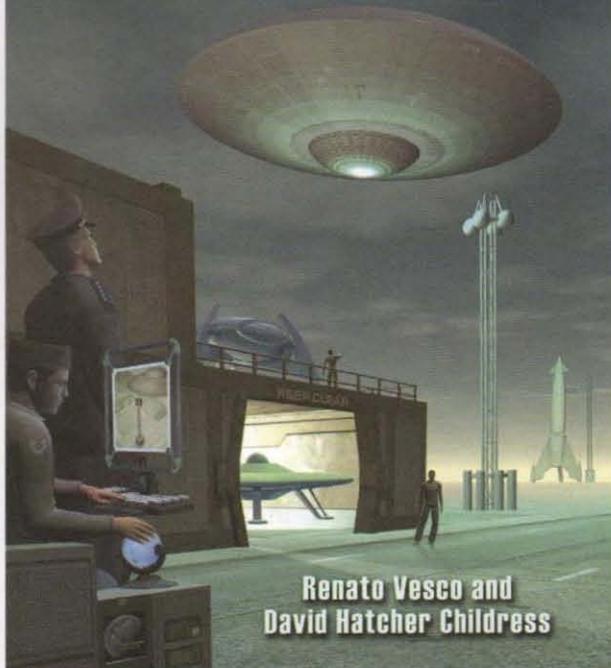
Thanks for taking the time out to speak to us, David. 'Man-Made UFOs: World War II's Secret Legacy', written with Italian engineer, Renato Vesco, has been re-released, following its initial publication in 1994. Unfortunately, he died in 1999, so is unable to see this new edition hit the bookshelves. How did you become involved with Renato?

Many years ago he sent me a rare hardback copy of *Intercept-But Don't Shoot* and said that we should keep it in print. So, we republished it and added some illustrations and other material.

The Nazis made some amazing technological developments during the final stages of the war. Do you think that some of this technology is still around today? Vesco certainly

MAN-MADE UFOS

World War II's Secret Legacy



Renato Vesco and
David Hatcher Childress

believed that many (if not all) modern UFO reports were actually craft developed from German 'flying discs'.

Well, of course. And greatly improved upon as well. As Vesco would say, "Look at the UFOs of the 1940s and 1950s—they look like flying saucers from the 40s or 50s, just like cars and trucks from that era look like they are from that era. Look at UFOs today: much sleeker and Sci-Fi. Now, they finally "look" like they are from other planets! Flying Saucers are a military secret then as now because they use a different type of propulsion than the mundane civilian world commonly hears about.

In the book, Renato seemed pretty adamant that UFOs were definitely a man-made phenomena and he made some pretty scathing remarks about ufology, in particular the Extra-Terrestrial Hypothesis (ETH). What are your views on this facet of the subject?

Well, I think like many UFO researchers, I see the whole mystery as one with a broad explanation and non-exclusive "theories" including the ET Hypothesis, Interdimensional

Weirdness, Time Travel, hoaxing, and Man-Made UFOs. Certain UFO incidents, to me, clearly indicate that ETs were involved and I believe that there are ET bases on the Moon, Mars and other planets or their moons. See my book *Extraterrestrial Archaeology* for more on that. Vesco certainly believed that ETs would not crash their saucers at military bases, and thought that stories associated with crashed ET saucers was military disinformation. If the military does have its own UFOs, it would make more sense that it is their flying saucers crashing at military bases-or nearby-rather than craft that have navigated the far reaches of space.

There are many, many fascinating photographs and diagrams in the book. How were they obtained?

Vesco's original book was utterly without any illustrations. I began doing some research into German stuff and WWII secret weapons. I paid several researchers as well. Certain previously secret photos and diagrams came out in the 80s and early 90s as well, some of it from Germany and Austria. It was an odd-ball of collection of illustrations, and I wanted to include anything that I could that might be relevant, including Tesla, Marconi, Foo Fighters, Vril Craft, Schauburger and all that.

With the Allied powers grabbing all the Nazi technology and scientists they could after the war (Von Braun, to name but one, who went on to become an American hero!), how do you think the public would react to the knowledge that these strides were made, in part, to the suffering of millions of innocent people. The Nazis used slave labour for their huge building projects where much of this stuff was developed, after all.

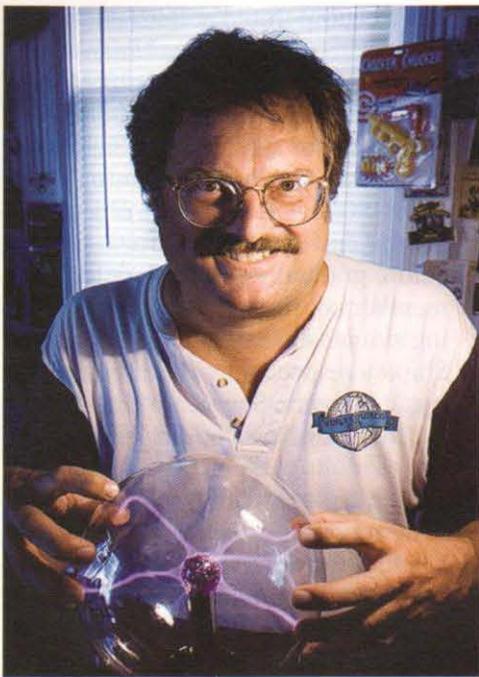
Yes, it is terrible that slave labor was

often used in Germany's advanced aerospace projects. Most high-tech inventions are military-driven, especially aerospace. Anti-German feeling understandably ran very high in Britain after the war, and it was unthinkable that Britain would hire a bunch of former Nazi scientists to come and live in the UK and head their projects. But in the U.S. that was all possible, and Operation Paperclip could import German scientists and even give them new identities. Today, so much time has gone by that probably no one cares. It is old news.

Renato Vesco has come under criticism for some of the things he has said in his books, with some quarters pointing out that some of the projects he mentions had nothing to do with aerial craft - the Kugelblitz, for instance, which was an anti-aircraft gun mounted on an unmanned Panzer tank. Where did he get his information from and what do you think of the criticism?

The cover-up by the military on man-made UFOs was so effective that information was difficult to obtain in the 50s and 60s, and I think Vesco would have been amazed at all the things that have come out since he first wrote his book. He was more on the right track than he even knew. In fact, the truth was ultimately more incredible than he ever realized. Still, there is a lot of disinformation out there—from many directions—so it pays to be cautious. Vesco did not know everything—but he had grabbed on to a major piece of the puzzle. It is fair to criticize him, and he probably got many things wrong. The military cover-up is so complete that most people think it is far more credible that aliens from other galaxies are flying around than our military ever thinking up such an idea and technology. The disinformation campaign includes movies, television documentaries, conferences, "experts" and everything else. It is masterfully done. Vesco was a thorn in their side.

This year, 2007, is the sixtieth anniversary of the famed Roswell Incident and also of Kenneth Arnold's sighting. It has been mooted that what was seen in Washington State and what crashed in New



Mexico were variations of the German Horton flying wing aircraft. What do you think about this?

Certainly, what Kenneth Arnold saw in 1947 was a flying boomerang-type craft that was virtually identical to the Horton XVIII flying wing that was being built in 1945. While Arnold coined the term "saucers" as in "saucers skipping through the sky" what he actually saw was a flying wing. The new edition of the book has photos of the Horton XVIII and Arnold holding his own drawing of what he saw—they are the same craft. As for the Roswell crash, I'm not sure if this craft was a flying wing or not, but it was probably a man-made craft, and probably made in Germany. Many of these craft must have crashed, in both Europe and the United States (after the war). One has to remember that Roswell is not just some town out in the New

Mexico desert, it is a military base town (the main economy, in fact) as well as the secret center for atomic weapons, their testing, and a spot where many captured or hired German scientists were relocated. So... when there is some crash during a test flight, the military covers it up both ways: one that it was nothing more than a weather balloon, or conversely, it was extraterrestrials who had made it across the universe but couldn't get across New Mexico without crashing. Never is the man-made UFO theory even talked about as a possibility. That is how complete the military disinformation campaign and cover-up is concerning man-made UFOs. Flying wings are interesting to consider as well: we know they were being built and tested by the Germans in the mid-1940s, but for 50 years we didn't hear about them until they unveiled the B-2 Bomber in the early 1990s. This shows how many years they have had to test and improve this technology—over 50 years since the end of WWII!

Finally, with Vesco being so adamant that UFOs were of an earthly, human origin, do you know if he had any opinion about other phenomena connected with UFOs: abductions, for instance? What are your views on these subjects?

Vesco was an aerospace engineer and a very practical person. Though he had read about some of the early abduction stories, like Betty and Barney Hill, or others, he was able to see beyond the standard dualist explanations for these events: either they were imaginary (but believed by the persons telling the story) or true

in the sense that extraterrestrials had to be involved, as the UFO occupants themselves may actually have explained to the abductees. Many of the 50s and 60s UFO incidents often involved flying saucer craft that had landed on a road or someone's backyard in a remote area—but the occupants were perfectly normal humans, often wearing jumpsuits or overalls, or even some sort of uniform, and asking for mundane things like a pitcher of water or speaking to them in English (sometimes with a German accent) telling the witness that "they will not remember this night very well." Then there is a flash of light or something and the witness experiences missing time and suddenly finds themselves back inside their car or something. Vesco was sure that much of this was the military itself, and that some incidents were military disinformation to promote the ET hypothesis, which was the most popular among UFO investigators, anyway. Vesco believed, as do many UFO researchers, that the US military—and others—were fully capable of having flying saucer craft, abducting people, beaming them up into craft by some levitation beam, and erasing their memory and giving them false memories, even to the point of dressing up like aliens or creating their own "cloned" organic robotoids that looked and acted like extraterrestrials, but were actually "made" on earth. Still, while Vesco may have had an early insight into the military-origin of many UFO incidents, I don't think it is an explanation for all UFO or abduction incidents. I believe, as I said earlier, that ETs have been watching this planet for millennia. Also, some of the genetic programs indicated by some of the abduction stories may be a time-travel event as well, where our future "selves" are using time-travel technology to come back to this time for genetic reasons that we don't fully understand yet. To me, there is no single answer to the enduring enigma of UFOs.

Thank you again for taking the time out to speak with us at UFO Data Magazine. 'Man-Made UFOs: World War II's Secret Legacy' is a fascinating book and well worth reading. We wish you all the best with this new edition.





When UFO Magazine was trying to cope with the loss of its founding editor Graham W. Birdsall a small band of people did their best to keep the title alive.

One of those was DC Gary Heseltine, his enthusiasm was obvious along with his commitment.

Gary joins us as Co editor in January.

THE PRUFOS POLICE DATABASE

CASE REVIEWS 2004-2007

By

DETECTIVE CONSTABLE GARY HESELTINE

This report does not reflect the views of my force, the British Transport Police.

For those of you that haven't been readers of UFO Monthly.com over the last three years or so you may have wondered how my work with collecting police officer sightings has been proceeding. I thought it would be a good idea and in light of the clo-

sure of UFO Monthly.com and my forthcoming new role of co-editor of UFODATA Magazine to update you with a selection of some of the best cases to come onto the database in the last three years since my last review appeared in print in one of the last issues of the much missed UFO Magazine in 2004.

To date I have completed five annual reports and year on year the number of cases has increased and in terms of police officers involved has increased at around a hundred officers a year! The final figures for the 5th report in 2006 were 213 cases between 1901-2006 involving 500 British police officers. Now you might be forgiven for thinking that such a total might attract

the interest of the British media but you would be wrong.

Interestingly it appears that the more the database grows the less the mainstream media are interested in covering the story. This was especially true as the 5th report also included the first ever statistical analysis of the data compiled so far. To illustrate this point I sent a printed copy of the report to every national newspaper and television company in Britain and not one published the story nor did any of them even reply! Who said there isn't such a thing as media suppression!

I have included the statistical information at the end of this article.

A SELECTION OF CASES FOR THE REVIEW

21/12/1901. 0045 hours. Location: Haworth, West Yorkshire. As two uniformed police officers, PS JOHN JOHNSON and PC CLARK were walking along a snow covered beat in Haworth when suddenly a green light illuminated the surrounding area. The officers looked up to the sky to see a luminous UFO shaped

like a cigar pointed at both ends. The object emitted occasional flashes and sparks. They watched the object for 15 minutes as it slowly and silently moved across the night sky before disappearing into the distance. PS JOHNSON stated that the object was seen at an altitude of 100-150 feet before gradually gaining height. Two members of the public reported seeing similar objects in Keighley and Shipley respectively. On duty sighting. 2 Officers. Source - Mr Midgley via Keighley News 02/12/94.

20/02/64. 0955 hours. Location: Shoeburyness, Southend. PC 392 CROOK was on patrol when he observed three fast moving objects in the southern sky. They were spaced in a line. The UFOs were off-white in colour and their shape appeared to be oval. They were seen above cloud height and travelling at great speed with no discernable sound. The officer forwarded a report to the Air Ministry who stated he may have witnessed three Lightning fighter aircraft flying in formation. On duty sighting. 1 Officer. Source - Irene Bott archive.

December 1972. Location: Beoley, near Redditch. A young couple observed three lights hovering 600 feet above the ground for four hours. They contacted the police and two police officers attended the scene. A spokesman for Henley in Arden police confirmed that two officers had seen the lights. On duty sighting. 2 Officers. Source - Irene Bott archive.

1972. Location: Banbury. Two on duty uniformed police officers, PC PERRY JACKSON and PC WILLIAM BRYNE saw a cigar shaped UFO that was yellow in colour. BRYNE said, "It travelled along slowly for a few seconds, then shot off into the night at a fantastic speed. We didn't know what it was, nor had we ever seen anything like it but many reports have been made at the police station of strange lights and objects. The MoD confirmed that numerous reports had been made to them over several weeks but no conclusions had been reached as to their origin. On duty sighting. 2 Officers. Source - Irene Bott archive.

April 1978. Location: Farnborough.

Initially reported by a member of the public a uniformed police officer, PC ALAN CRAGGS attended his home and was amazed to see the UFO for himself. He described it as being 20-30 feet above him with wings like fins on a dolphin. He could not identify the object. The object had been seen in the sky for over forty minutes prior to the officer's arrival at the scene. It is interesting to note that the original civilian witness had served with the Royal Observer Corp and that PC CRAGGS himself had served in the RAF Police and was fully aware of aircraft characteristics. He said, "I've been in the Air Force, I know what an aircraft looks like at night." On duty sighting. 1 Officer. Source - Irene Bott archive.

July 1980. Location: Littleborough, West Yorkshire. Two uniformed police officers, PC STEPHEN HOWARTH and PC CHRIS FERNHEAD had left Littleborough police station in a vehicle bound for Todmorden just four miles away. Prior to leaving the police station the building had been experiencing a series of fluctuations in the electrical power supply. Enquiries with the Electricity Board had revealed no known faults to the power supply. Later as they drove along Nayland Moor between Littleborough and Todmorden the officers saw a hat shaped UFO beside two electricity pylons. The object appeared to be rotating and changing colour from yellow to bluish white and then back again to yellow. The object slowly began to rise into the sky. At the same time the officers began to hear radio transmissions from the South Wales police approximately 200 miles away when normally the radio would only be 20-30 miles! The officers then observed a second object to the North that was identical to the first. Both objects began to rise into the sky and at 0430 hours they were out of sight as they moved off at speed to Denshaw. On duty sighting. 2 Officers. Source - Yorkshire Evening Post 11/07/80.

June 1980. 2245 hours. Location: Pontefract, West Yorkshire. Following a report by a member of the public a uniform police officer attended a Pontefract home where he viewed a UFO through the witnesses' binoculars. Eventually up to eight

police officers (including some in plain clothes) arrived at the home to see the object that was described as a spherical bright light surrounded by a red glow with blue and green lights. Checks with radar proved negative. On duty sighting. 8 Officers. Source - Daily Mirror.

24/10/82. Location: Elsack and Carleton Moors, North Yorkshire. During the early hours of the morning three uniformed police officers observed a small UFO zig-zagging just several feet above the ground as it passed over Carleton Moor. At 0515 hours a further series of lights were seen to pass directly over their police car. On duty sightings. 3 Officers. Source - Yorkshire Post.

Autumn 1984. 2345 hours. Location: Rowley Regis, Black Country. Following a report by a member of the public two uniformed police officers arrived on Portway Road and confirmed that a blue light was hovering above the ground on Turners Hill. The object then moved toward the police vehicle which passed over the car before it suddenly moved vertically up into the sky and disappeared. On duty sightings. 2 Officers. Source - PRUFOS Police Database/KR.

February 1988. Location: Ecclesfield, Sheffield. Following reports by the public two Ecclesfield based uniformed police officers observed a bright red V shaped object passing over the area. PC SUSAN JACKSON saw the object and got out of the police car to have a better look. "I had the car engine running but could still hear it whirring above. It had rows and rows of flashing red lights all around it." Alerted to the sightings and several hundred metres away, another uniformed police officer, PC JOHN BOAM saw the same object that he described as hovering for 30 seconds before flying off in the direction of Grenoside. On duty sighting. 2 Officers. Source: The Doncaster Star 06/02/88.

31/03/93. Early hours. Location: South Wales, Devon and Cornwall. This was a major sighting seen by numerous members of the public and police officers alike. Up to 19 officers across several counties observed a high altitude light speeding across the night sky. The MoD ruled out air-

craft as being responsible. Many officers described seeing two objects including Liskeard Police. On duty sighting. 19 Officers. Source - Honiton and Exmouth Weekly News 02/04/1993.

August 1995. Location: Alton Barnes, Wiltshire. Two Special Constables, one of who was a PC TODD saw a single bright light, like a star which appeared from nowhere. It gave off an orange glow and had an outer ring. It hovered near the officers before flying off toward Everleigh. PC TODD ruled out any type of aircraft and described the outer rings as being above the clouds and shaped like pear drops in a spiral. On duty incident. 2 Officers. Source - Irene Bott archive.

June 1996. Late evening. Location: M62, Brown Cow Public House, West Yorkshire. Two uniformed officers were alerted to a triangular shaped UFO seen in the sky above the Brown Cow Public House by a crowd of people who had stopped their cars to have a look at the object. A member of the public later rang the Huddersfield Examiner newspaper to see if they were going to put out an appeal for witnesses. The caller later received word from the paper that an alleged 'D' notice from the MoD had been served on the paper not to print the appeal. On duty sighting. 3 Officers. Source - PRUFOS/MARK G (Independent Film Producer).

05/10/96. 0314-1109 hours. Location: East Coast. This was a major sighting that took place off the East Coast where a red and green rotating light was seen by police officers at Skegness and Boston. In addition the object was seen by several coastguard officers and the crew of an oil tanker. Enquiries were made with RAF Kinloss, RAF Neatishead and RAF Waddington confirming that the object was captured on radar. A fascinating and revealing transcript of radio transmissions was obtained by researchers Nick Redfern and Irene Bott who also spoke with members of the oil tanker crew. The crew ruled out any conventional explanation. It is reported that the airspace in the effected area of the sighting was closed for several hours after the sighting. The MoD suggested that everyone had mistaken the

light for Boston Stump! On duty sighting. 3 Officers. Source - Irene Bott archive.

23/09/98. 0215 hours. Location: Henfield, Sussex. Two uniformed police officers, one male and one female were on patrol in the Henfield area on the main A281 Brighton Road when they saw several unusual lights in the sky. Each light was the size of a Jumbo jet aircraft. For scale a large aircraft flew near to the lights. Each light was circular and not connected to the others. They stopped their vehicle to get a better look. As they watched they suddenly saw a beam of light being shone down to the ground approximately 200-300 metres away. It was a rural location with no housing nearby. They drove toward the beam but it suddenly went out. Both the officers were shook up by the incident that lasted in the region of 35-45 minutes. The sighting was officially reported to the MoD. On duty sighting. 2 Officers. Source - Irene Bott archive.

21/01/2005. 0000-0600 hours. Location: Runcorn, Cheshire. Approximately 20 objects were seen in the sky by several members of the public above Halton Lodge, Runcorn at an approximate altitude of 7-15000 feet. The objects initially appeared to be spread apart in the shape of an arc. The weather at the time of the sighting was a clear moonlight sky. The objects made no sound and appeared to move left to right and sway back again. At times they made incredible changes in direction. They were white in colour although a red flash could occasionally be seen coming from them. The objects appeared to interact by flashing at each other. Four Cheshire uniformed police officers saw the lights as well as a Liverpool Air Traffic Control night watch officer who viewed them through binoculars from the Tower and who confirmed nothing could be seen on radar. A total of 20 witnesses (including police officers) saw the objects. On duty sighting. 4 Officers. Source - PRUFOS Police Database/SB

October 1967. Location - Sussex and Oxfordshire. Following reports by several members of the public (including an RAF Wing Commander) police officers

across the counties of Sussex and Oxfordshire observed a fiery cross UFO. One of them, a motor cycle officer, PC BRYAN CAWTHORNE, observed the UFO between Ringmer and Halland having initially thought the object to be a star. He pulled over to the side of the road to get a better look at it and described its motion as slowly moving forward and backwards. He definitely confirmed that the object was actually moving by lining it up with a telegraph pole. He reported the incident to his control and was informed that other officers had also reported seeing the object. UFO CLASSIFICATION - NL (NOCTURNAL LIGHT). On Duty sighting. 3 Officers. Source: Evening News 25/10/67.

31/12/78. Location - Darwin, Burnley, Lancashire. Following reports by several members of the public of an aircraft about to crash two uniformed police officers observed a UFO the size of a double decker bus as it slowly made its way across the sky. The object had a tail three times the length of its head. UFO CLASSIFICATION - NL (NOCTURNAL LIGHT). On Duty sighting. 2 Officers. Source: PRUFOS Police Database.

Christmas 1980. Location - Skirlaugh, Hull, Lincolnshire. Following reports by several CB radio enthusiasts' two police officers, one male, one female, attended a local quarry where they observed a UFO descend into it. The female officer was very traumatised by the incident. Interestingly it is believed that a senior Humberside Police officer had meetings with his Suffolk counterparts within days of the Rendlesham Forest sightings over the same period of Christmas 1980. UFO CLASSIFICATION - NL (NOCTURNAL LIGHT). On Duty sighting. 2 Officers. Source: PRUFOS Database/Confidential.

30/11/81. Location - Pontefract, West Yorkshire. Five on duty uniformed officers observed a spherical multicoloured UFO with a silvery crescent. Several officers observed the object through binoculars as it moved initially west to east before changing to a south to east direction. The object was also

seen by several members of the public. The police officers made enquiries with Bawtry Meteorological Office and drew a blank as did their enquiries with Manchester ATC. One officer still had the UFO in view at 0500 hours before it faded from view. UFO CLASSIFICATION - NL (NOCTURNAL LIGHT). On Duty sighting. 5 Officers. Source: PRUFOS Database/Confidential.

Early 1980s. Brighouse, West Yorkshire.

Whilst driving his police marked vehicle PC GARY MILBURN saw to his left what he initially thought was an aircraft about to crash into the ground. He did an emergency stop and the police vehicle made a slight skid to a halt. He wound down his window and saw the fuselage of an object with no wings moving at an altitude of approximately 500 feet. At that point he was struck by the fact that the object made no noise whatsoever and that it did not crash. He observed it for about 8 seconds. On the side of the object was a series of coloured lights. It was last seen disappearing over buildings in Brighouse. He tried to follow but never saw it again. He did not believe it was an aircraft. He reported the sighting to his HQ and was largely ridiculed by his colleagues for doing so. However he made exhaustive checks with civilian and military sources and was told no aircraft were in the vicinity as the time of his sightings. A few weeks later he received a letter from the CAA saying he'd seen an inbound DC10. He rejected that out of hand because the aircraft has three engines and would have made a lot noise as it pulled out of what he thought was a dive but there had been no noise or air displacement whatsoever. UFO CLASSIFICATION - CE1 (CLOSE ENCOUNTER 1ST KIND). On Duty sighting. 1 Officer. Source: PRUFOS Police Database.

Early 1980's. London.

This case involved the METPOL helicopter that was based at that time at the London heliport in Battersea. The crew comprised of a civilian pilot and a uniformed police officer acting as a spotter. On this day the helicopter took off and was flying along an air corridor known as H2 and 10. When it was north of Kew Bridge the

pilot suddenly reported an air-miss with what he initially thought had been a model aircraft. The on board radar detected that the object was in fact circling the helicopter at close proximity to it! The pilot came back on the air and said that it was not a model aircraft but a UFO. Everyone in the ATC began to listen intently to what the pilot was describing. He went onto to describe the object as a grey metallic disc approximately 3-4 feet in diameter. He then asked could he follow the object which as began to descend toward the ground over a railway goods yard. He was given permission to do so. He then reported that the object was performed incredible feats of manoeuvrability as it darted around the goods yard. It was able to hover, rise vertically and make right angled turns! At one point the object hovered above a man walking his dog who was oblivious to the fact that it was over him inferring that the object was silent as well. Eventually the object suddenly rose vertically into the air at a very fast rate to an altitude of 3500 feet where it disappeared into cloud. UFO CLASSIFICATION - CE1 (CLOSE ENCOUNTER 1ST KIND). On Duty sighting. 1 Officer. Source: PRUFOS Police Database.

19/02/83. Daytime. Location - Swansea, Glamorgan, South Wales. Up to 200 people observed a huge triangular shaped UFO pass overhead in various places along the South Wales coast. They included a class of schoolchildren and a football team. In Swansea two detectives, DS MIKE TROAKE and DC GETHIN HUMPHREYS saw the object glide overhead in total silence. DS TROAKE said, "I'm used to seeing aircraft in the sky but this was massive-much bigger than a plane. There was a large main cluster of lights at the front shaped a bit like a Zeppelin followed by a triangular group of lights. They moved gracefully across the sky about 1000 feet up." Fearful of ridicule neither officer reported the incident to their colleagues. UFO CLASSIFICATION - NL (NOCTURNAL LIGHT). On Duty sighting. 2 Officers. Source: Sunday Mirror 20/02/83.

Midnight, December 1988. Scotch Corner, North Yorkshire. Two traffic officers observed a UFO

with flames as it cross the sky near Scotch Corner. A Durham police officer also saw a similar object at around the same time, just after midnight. Then a further police officer and a military police officer observed a UFO near to Richmond Castle. They initially thought the object was an aircraft about to crash but a later search revealed no evidence of such a crash. Checks made with ATC at Leeming proved negative. UFO CLASSIFICATION - NL (NOCTURNAL LIGHT). On Duty sighting. 4 Officers. Source: Darlington and Stockton Times 23/12/88.

June 1991. 0500 hours. Gwent, South Wales.

Two uniformed officers a police sergeant and a female police constable were driving in the Blackwood area of Gwent in a rural location when they saw two orange UFOs circling above a farmer's field. They stopped the vehicle and got out to watch. After about 10 minutes the objects disappeared in different directions. As the sun came up they saw a newly made crop circle under where the objects had been seen darting about the sky. Fearful of ridicule neither officer reported the incident. They made a pact not to report the incident.

UFO CLASSIFICATION - CE2 (CLOSE ENCOUNTER 2ND KIND). On duty sighting. 2 Officers. Source: PRUFOS Police Database.

25/12/96. Holt, Norfolk. Two uniformed officers, PS STEVE KING and PC ANDY COLLIER observed a UFO in the vicinity of Holt and chased it for over 10 miles in their police vehicle before the object accelerated away over the North Sea. The officers contacted Norwich Airport to see if an aircraft was in trouble but were told no flights were in that area. The airport logged the incident as a 'UFO'. Thirty members of the public also reported seeing the object. A police spokesman said that the officers had no explanation for what they'd seen. The MOD dismissed the sighting as nothing more than a combination of the Boston Stump and an electrical storm!

UFO CLASSIFICATION - NL (NOCTURNAL LIGHT). On Duty sighting. 2 Officers. Source: Daily Mirror 26/12/96.

Summer 0100 hours. Location - Cowbridge to Pontyclun, Glamorgan, South Wales. An on duty uniformed traffic officer was driving along the A4222 road north of Cowbridge towards Pontyclun when he observed a single bright white light in the distance. The light was below the level of the cloud base. He wound down his window and could not detect any noise whatsoever. He stopped the car and switched off the engine. There was no noise. He observed the light travelling horizontally at an altitude of 100 feet travelling at a speed of 50-60 mph before seeing it slowly disappear over a hillside. He described the UFO as being the shape of a circular ball. At the time of the sighting it was dark and there was little wind. UFO CLASSIFICATION - NL (NOCTURNAL LIGHT). On Duty sighting. 1 Officer. Source: PRUFOS Police Database.

19/05/2000. 2240 hours. Location - Southampton, Hampshire.

Video footage by a cameraman records a hovering UFO above Southampton Water. The police helicopter arrives and is clearly seen to fly around it several times before the object fades and disappears from view. A lengthy investigation followed by the Southampton UFO Group. The MOD denied that the police had been involved as did the police themselves. UFO CLASSIFICATION - NL (NOCTURNAL LIGHT). On duty sighting. 1 officer. Source: PRUFOS/SUFOG.

05/05/2001. Location - Southampton, Hampshire.

A virtual repeat of the above sighting details. The police helicopter was seen to circle around the object on at least two occasions before the object simply vanished in front of them. Both cases were championed by Lord Hill Norton who pursued the government for an explanation. No satisfactory explanation was ever forthcoming. UFO CLASSIFICATION - NL (NOCTURNAL LIGHT). On Duty sighting. 1 Officer. Source PRUFOS/SUFOG.

11/08/2001. 0635 hours. Location - South Shields, County Durham. A Northumbria police officer began to drive his car out of his drive on his

way to work. As he turned right he had a view towards a local technical college. He noticed a cigar shaped object hovering above it. He discounted the shape as an airship. He then walked approximately 40 yards to his garage looked again but the object had disappeared. The officer had spent 14 years in the RAF and was very familiar with aircraft of many types. He did not report the incident fearing ridicule from his fellow colleagues. He later became aware that several members of the public had reported seeing a UFO in the area. The weather at the time of the sighting was bright, sunny with excellent visibility. UFO CLASSIFICATION - DD (DAYLIGHT DISC). Off Duty sighting. 1 Officer. Source: PRUFOS Police Database.

1992-93 1330-1400 hours. Location - Dundee, Tayside, Scotland. Whilst looking out of his living room window the officer looked toward Sidlaw Hills that overlooks Craig Owl when he saw a strange movement in cloud. As he looked at the object he realised that he could make out a sphere like object that appeared to have no real substance to it. As he watched it the UFO began to change shape as it appeared to 'dock' beside a communications mast beside Craig Owl. The object turned on its own axis before changing from sphere to an oval shaped UFO. He estimated its size as approximately 50-100 feet in diameter. He observed the object for 1-2 minutes. The object made a sharp movement and began to follow the contour of the hillside until it was out of sight. UFO CLASSIFICATION - NL (NOCTURNAL LIGHT). Off duty sighting. 1 officer. Source: PRUFOS Police Database.

STATISTICAL ANALYSIS

For a long time I resisted doing in depth analysis of the reports for two specific reasons. One, after being a police officer for many years I know how statistics can be manipulated thus rendering them meaningless and two, until now I didn't feel that the data sample was large enough to warrant such analysis. However after five years and over 200 reports I guess the time is now right to do some statistical work on the data.

(NOTE: I do not claim to be a statistician so much of the following data is based on what interests me the most).

INITIAL STATISTICAL ANALYSIS OF THE CASES ON THE PRUFOS POLICE DATABASE 2006

1. The most important statistic for me from the first five years of research is 75% of the 'on duty' cases are multiple officer sightings.
2. The top three multiple officer cases are:
 - a. April 1984. Stanmore, Middlesex, near RAF Bentley Prior. Up to 20 officers involved.
 - b. March 30-31 1993 South Wales, Devon and Cornwall involving 19 officers.
 - c. 28/08/77 Windermere, Cumbria involving 17 officers.
3. 13 'on duty' cases involve 5 or more officers.
4. The five peak years for sightings are:
 - 1967-20 cases.
 - 1980-14 cases.
 - 1978-13 cases.
 - 1977-10 cases.
 - 1988-10 cases.
5. The county with the heaviest concentration of police UFO sightings is West Yorkshire with 25 cases recorded on the database. In second place is North Yorkshire with 12 cases followed closely by London and Staffordshire with 11 and 10 sightings respectively. Wales and Scotland have been dealt with collectively with 14 and 7 cases respectively.
6. The top five UFO Shapes are:
 - Light 104
 - Sphere 23
 - Cigar 21
 - Triangular 13
 - Saucer 13
7. UFO Classification breakdown:
 - Category - On Duty:
 - NL (NOCTURNAL LIGHT) - 148
 - DD (DAYLIGHT DISC) - 5
 - CE1 (CLOSE ENCOUNTER 1ST KIND) - 21
 - CE2 (CLOSE ENCOUNTER 2ND KIND) - 3
 - CE3 (CLOSE ENCOUNTER 3RD KIND) - 1
8. UFO Classification breakdown:
 - Category - Off Duty:
 - NL (NOCTURNAL LIGHT) - 17
 - DD (DAYLIGHT DISC) - 4
 - CE1 (CLOSE ENCOUNTER 1ST KIND) - 12
 - CE2 (CLOSE ENCOUNTER 2ND KIND) - 0
 - CE3 (CLOSE ENCOUNTER 3RD KIND) - 2
9. There are 20 multiple UFO cases.
10. There are 2 cases that involve USOs (Underwater Surface Object).
11. There are 6 cases that involve radar confirmation or radar visual.
12. UFO Characteristics: I intend to do more research in this area in the form of graphical charts/spreadsheets but already some interesting aspects stand out. For example when one examines the

'On Duty' CE1 (CLOSE ENCOUNTER 1ST KIND) of the 21 cases in this category, 12 display the UFO characteristic of being silent when being observed.

13. UFO Shapes breakdown in CE1 (CLOSE ENCOUNTER OF 1ST KIND) category:

- Cigar 7
- Light 5
- Saucer 4
- Oval 1
- Diamond 1
- Bell 1
- Fiery Cross 1
- Shape change - Cigar/Sphere 1

14. Multiple officer breakdown in CE1 (CLOSE ENCOUNTER 1ST KIND) category:
Of the 21 cases in this category 14 are multiple police officer witness sightings i.e. 67%.

*Note - the UFO Classifications are based on Dr J Allen Hynek's classification criteria in his book 'The UFO Experience' (1972). I have extended the range of CE1 cases from Hynek's 150 metres (distance from the witness to the UFO) to 400 metres for the purpose of this analysis.

SUMMARY

As you can see there has been a wealth of new and interesting cases over the last three years of which these are only a sample. They will give you a flavour of the report and the current status of the PRUFOS Police Database. Credible people seeing incredible things.

As 2007 comes to a close I am currently putting together the 6th Annual Report which I hope to publish in the JAN/FEB issue of UFODATA Magazine. GH.



Gary has served the UFO community well. Since UFO Magazine closed Gary continued with a project I was involved with. UFO MONTHLY

an ezine that has published for 41 issues without break, Gary kept the news flowing in a magazine style electronic booklet delivering 32 information filled pages every month.

UFO DATA approached Gary and after coming to an agreement with his subscribers we decided to pool our resources and bring Gary on board as joint editor.

Welcome aboard.



Army tests James Bond style tank that is 'invisible'

New technology that can make tanks invisible has been unveiled by the Ministry of Defence.

In secret trials last week, the Army said it had made a vehicle completely disappear and predicted that an invisible tank would be ready for service by 2012.

The new technology uses cameras and projectors to beam images of the surrounding landscape onto a tank.

Now you see it: How the tank might look with background images beamed onto the side. The result is that anyone looking in the direction of the vehicle only sees what is beyond it and not the tank itself.

A soldier, who was at the trials, said: "This technology is incredible. If I hadn't been present I wouldn't have believed it. I looked across the fields



Prof. John Pendry

and just saw grass and trees but in reality I was staring down the barrel of a tank gun."

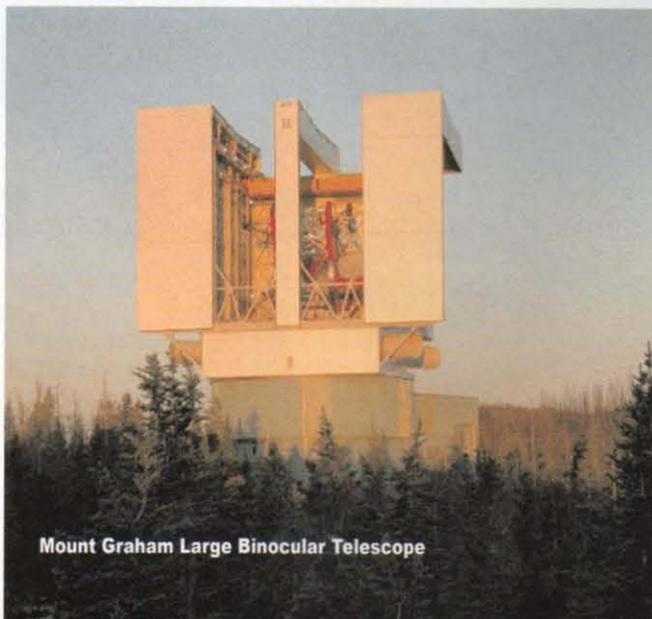
How the technology works in a combat situation is very sensitive, but the MoD is believed to be testing a military jacket that works on the same principles.

It is the type of innovation normally associated with James Bond, and the brains behind the latest technology is the MoD's very own "Q" - Professor Sir John Pendry, of Imperial College London.

He said the only drawback was the reliability of the cameras and projectors.

But he added: "The next stage is to make the tank invisible without them - which is intricate and complicated, but possible."

Giant telescope's double vision



Mount Graham Large Binocular Telescope

Almost 20 years after it was first conceived, what will become the world's most powerful optical telescope is about to open its eyes. Lying beneath the clear skies of Arizona, the \$120m (£55m) Large Binocular Telescope will allow astronomers to probe the Universe further back in time and in more detail than ever before.

"The LBT is a very exciting step forward for astronomy," said Professor Gerry Gilmore of the Institute of Astronomy at the University of Cambridge, UK.

"Not only is it big, but it is proving the practical implementation of some of the new technologies which will be critical for all next-generation large telescopes."

Unlike most telescopes today, which consist of one light collecting mirror, the binocular telescope will consist of two 8.4m (27.5ft) discs used in tandem.

"Astronomers are looking for two things in a telescope," explained Dr John Hill of the University of Arizona and the technical director of LBT.

"They want a big collecting area so they can look at really faint objects far, far away; and they want high resolution images because they want sharp images of those faint fuzzy things far, far away."

Super-Sized

Hence, astronomers crave the largest mirrors they can get their hands on, as the larger the disc, the more light they are able to gather. But constructing these giant reflectors

is a difficult, expensive and time-consuming task.

With present technology, the largest mirrors that can realistically be constructed are about 8m (26ft). And even they come with their own difficulties.

"Handling and shipping become a big problem," said Dr Hill. "Already an 8.4m mirror in its box takes up two lanes of an interstate highway." As a result, scientists have had to come up with clever ways of maximising the potential of today's mirrors.

One way of doing this is by using multiple reflectors in tandem. This has been done before. For example, the now retired Multiple Mirror Telescope, also in Arizona, contained six mirrors each with a diameter of 1.8m.

However, scientists have never tried to combine them on the scale of the LBT.

"Everything about this is a first time experiment," said Dr Richard Green, director of the instrument.

Using two mirrors will give LBT the equivalent light-gathering capacity of a single 11.8m (39ft) instrument and the resolution of an even bigger telescope.

"It acts like a single telescope of 22.8m (75ft) in diameter," said Dr Green.

"That will give us a resolution - a sharpness on the sky - which is 10 times greater than Hubble." The space-based Hubble telescope has taken some of the clearest images yet of the Universe with its 2.4m (8ft) mirror.

Sun-shade

But Hubble has a significant advantage over ground-based instruments. "The bubbling and windy air in the Earth's atmosphere creates distortions and blurs the stars," said Dr Green. "We need to un-blur them in order to combine both sides and make them work like one unit."

To do this, the telescope has two sec-

ondary bowl-shaped mirrors, each 1.6 m thick and covered with 672 magnets on the back.

A computer analyses the light from a reference star and works out by how much the light has been distorted. The magnets then kick into action, changing the shape of the secondary mirror 1,000 times a second to correct for the atmospheric distortions.

The secondary mirrors will be delivered in 2008 and instruments that will take advantage of this so-called adaptive optics system will be up and running the following year.

One of those will be the LBT interferometer (LBTI).

"It's designed as what's called a nulling interferometer that lets you reverse the phase of the light when it's combined so you cancel the light from a bright star and look for a faint planet next to a star," explained Dr Hill.

The instrument should allow astronomers an unprecedented ability to image these extrasolar planets - bodies thought to be good candidates for looking for extraterrestrial life.

"What that super sharpness will allow is to look at planets and forming planet systems in nearby stars," said Dr Green.

"If you can concentrate that bright star in the middle to a very small area, you can then look around it at high contrast and see the discs of dust and gas that are forming into planets."

Other researchers, he said, would focus on probing the hearts of nearby galaxies to understand supermassive black holes.

Eye-opener

Although, scientists cannot combine the image from both mirrors just yet, the flexible design of the telescope means that useful science can still be done using each mirror individually.



"We are already doing imaging projects for everything from looking for asteroids in our Solar System to doing photometry of stars in nearby galaxies," said Dr Hill.

This work is currently being done with a wide-field ultraviolet and blue spectrum camera, known as the Large Binocular Camera (LBC), situated above the left-hand primary mirror.

Using this instrument, LBT achieved "first light" on 12 October 2005 when it imaged a spiral galaxy in the constellation of Andromeda.

But LBT will not truly have arrived until it opens both of its eyes and achieves "second light" - taking images simultaneously with instruments positioned above both mirrors.

This is scheduled to happen "some-time this winter" according to Dr Hill when the observatory takes delivery of another LBC able to take images in the infrared.

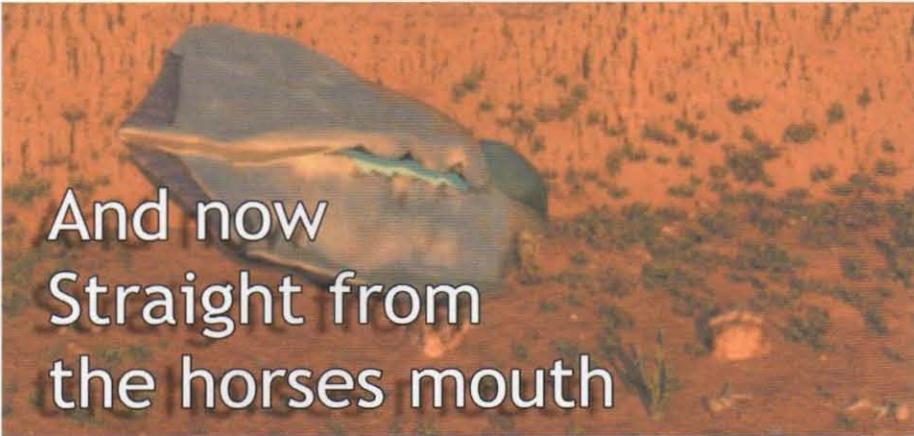
"It will work like two 8m telescopes working together to look to the very ends of the Universe," said Dr Green.

"The exciting thing about building a big telescope is that you never know what kind of discovery you will make," said Dr Hill.

"It will probably discover things that people haven't even thought of yet."

Story from BBC NEWS:
<http://news.bbc.co.uk/go/pr/fr/-/1/hi/sci/tech/7070942.stm>

1st November, 2007



And now Straight from the horses mouth

As the last reporter seems to follow the 'nothing much happened' version of events at Roswell, we thought it only fair to give the opportunity to one person, perhaps the only person alive today we know got a 'hands-on' experience of the wreckage recovered by his father, the then base intelligence officer for the 509th Bomb Group, the only nuclear-equipped squadron in the world, Major Jesse Marcel.

Dr (Col. Ret.) Jesse Marcel Jr. took time out during his recent visit to the UK to take in some of our scenery and local history. It was during a day out that our features editor, Philip Mantle, grabbed the opportunity to walk and talk with Jesse in the beautiful surroundings of Bolton Abbey in North Yorkshire.

THE ROSWELL LEGACY

*An interview with
Dr Jesse Marcel Jnr*

By Philip Mantle

In early July 1947, something crashed in the high desert outside of Roswell, New Mexico. Sheep rancher Mac Brazel discovered some strange metallic debris on his land.



Not knowing what it was, he eventually took some of this debris into Roswell and reported it to the Sheriff's Office. They in turn contacted Roswell Army Air Force who housed the 509th Bomb Wing, the only atomic bomb wing in the world at that time. RAAF despatched two men to Roswell to look at his strange debris. One of these was base intelligence officer Major Jesse Marcel. Major Marcel drove out to the ranch in question and recovered some of this material. On his way back to base he stopped at his home in the early hours of the morning. He awoke his wife and his son, 11 year-old Jesse Marcel Jnr.

Major Marcel spread some of the recovered material on the kitchen floor of his house and Jesse Jnr was most intrigued by it. Little did either of them know then that they were to become involved in what has become known as the Roswell Incident.

Major Marcel passed away in the 1980s, but not before he had told his story. Over the weekend of October 20th and 21st, 2007, *UFO DATA Magazine* held its annual conference. This year's theme was the 60th anniversary of the Roswell Incident. In the UK for the first time was the now Dr Jesse Marcel Jnr, the son of Major Jesse Marcel. He was the keynote speaker at the event and I had the pleasure of his company for the day on October 24th. During this beautiful autumn day I took the oppor-

tunity to show Dr Marcel some of the unique countryside of North Yorkshire, the Yorkshire Dales National Park and one of its many historic attractions at Bolton Abbey in Wharfedale. After a day in the autumn sun I took the time to interview Dr Marcel about his recollections of that morning back in 1947.

Philip Mantle (PM).

Dr Jesse Marcel Jnr (JM).

PM: Just tell me a little bit about yourself. Who is Dr Jesse Marcel Jnr?

JM: Well, my dad was the air base intelligence officer in Roswell, New Mexico. I went to grade school in Roswell. When my dad left the military we moved to Louisiana where I graduated high school. I went to under graduate school and then to Louisiana state school of medicine and graduated in 1961.

PM: I believe you also served in the armed forces yourself.

JM: Yes I did. I joined the US Navy and toured the Western Pacific, was involved in the Cuban missile crisis at one time. I was in Japan, China and Vietnam. I went through specialist training the naval hospital where I became a specialist in ear, nose and



Jesse enjoying a day at Bolton Abbey

throat. I stayed ten tears in the navy. After that I moved to Helena, Montana.

PM: I believe you continued in the reserves after that.

JM: The National Guard. I joined then in 1972 I believe. I went to flight school for helicopters and became flight surgeon. I finally retired in 1996.

PM: I believe you did retire but I understand you were still on active duty just recently.

JM: Yes, I retired on my 60th birthday. However with the conflict in Iraq I was called up again for active duty as a flight surgeon and I saw 13 months in Iraq in a helicopter squadron. I saw much of Iraq from a Black Hawk helicopter.

PM: As a young Jesse Marcel, how old were you when the incident in Roswell took place?

JM: I was 11 years old at that time.

PM: What date was this?

JM: It was early July 1947, I'm not sure of the exact date. It was early July, 1947.

PM: Could you just recount the events again of that morning of early July, 1947?

JM: As I said, my dad was the base intelligence officer. It was his job to investigate certain events. He was called out to a ranch northwest of Roswell to pick up some debris from something that had crashed on the ranch land. And it just so happened that our house was on the way back to the base, when he was bringing the material in. He realised the unusual nature of this (material). So he came in the house, woke up my mother and myself to look at this debris he had found in the desert just outside of Roswell. He had already pre-positioned this material on the kitchen floor. He said, "Look at this, I think this is the remains of a flying saucer."

PM: So what did this debris look like?



JM: Actually there were three kinds of debris. There was a lot of foil-like debris, looked almost like today's aluminium kitchen foil. Some beams that had some very strange writing or symbols on it. And some black plastic like material. The beams were the most intriguing part of the whole thing with the symbols.

PM: So was it you who first identified these symbols on the beams or did your father point them out to you?

JM: Well I like to think I did but I'm not sure. My mother said that she pointed them out but I like to think I did.

PM: What did the beams look like, what were these symbols?

JM: These were like small I-beams, 12 to 18 inches long. They were about three eighths of an inch across. The symbols were just like geometric forms printed on the inside of the I-beam. They had a very distinctive colour of purple or violet. They were solid and not line drawings, they were solid.

PM: Did your father comment on them at all?

JM: He said something about maybe seeing writing from another civilisation.

PM: So how long did you view this material for?

JM: For probably about 15 to 20 minutes in total. And then I helped him box it back up and put it into a 1942 Buick. Then I'm not sure if he took off back to base that night or waited until the next morning. But he did take it back to the base at that time.

PM: So were you aware of the excitement in the town at that time when the RAAF issued its press release stating they had material from a crashed disk?

JM: Well you know, I was busy riding my bicycle and did not pay any attention to what the town folk were saying and I did not see the newspaper.

PM: So your father was away for a few days?

JM: When he took the material to the base he was gone for a period of time, I'm not sure how long it was. My understanding is he was ordered by Colonel Blanchard, the base commander, to fly the debris to Fort Worth Army Air Field, where General Ramey the 8th Air Force commander could view the wreckage. I'm not sure exactly how long he was gone but I do know that he sat my mother and myself down and told us never to talk about this again. To treat it as a non-event, it did not happen, period.

PM: So when was it that you learned that the official explanation had been

put out that it wasn't a flying saucer but it was instead a weather balloon?

JM: You know I'm not exactly sure when I learned that, it might have been years later, because I just put it out of my mind, I did not think about it.

PM: Did you talk to your friends about it?

JM: No. It was a taboo subject.

PM: So in the intervening years, it wasn't until 1978 that your father was contacted by UFO researcher Stanton Friedman. Did your father talk about it in those intervening years at all?

JM: You know, we would briefly mention it to each other. Like at the grocery checkout stand, you see these sensation newspapers with headlines like 'I was captured by a Venusian', and we'd kind of look at each other as if to say 'we know the real story'.

PM: And of course there is another witness, it's your mother. What did she make of all of this?

JM: Well you know, she was a housewife of the 1940's. She did not say a whole lot, her place was in the kitchen so-to-speak. So she never really talked much about it. Of course I was out of the house by the time Stanton Friedman started interviewing my dad. I was practicing medicine in Helena, Montana at that time.

PM: So you were out of the way.

JM: Yes, out of the way. Out of the loop.

PM: Now it's quite some time since your father passed away. Did he add anything further to the story in those last few years when his story became known?

JM: Well I called him weekly on Sundays, I guess it was. We would briefly talk about this to confirm our memories of this, what did it look like, and he confirmed what I recollected it looked like. And I remember one of the last conversations I had with him was he had just gone out to Roswell at the behest of one the TV

stations in New Orleans. And they went out to the debris field and when I talked to him and I jokingly said to him, "Was any of it left out there?" and his words were "No, the vacuumed that place up a long time ago."

PM: Tell us a little bit more about your father. He was a career military man. For example, what did he do during World War 2?

JM: Well he was with the 509th Bomb Group, which was the unit that dropped the atomic bombs on Japan. He did a lot of training with them; he was the intelligence officer for that unit. They were a handpicked group. They were not fly-by-night people at all, so was qualified for that. He was out in the Western Pacific during the war, and then later in preparation for the dropping of the atomic bomb drops on Japan he was at Tinian where the B29s took off from to drop the bombs on Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

PM: Prior to this incident at Roswell happening in 1947, the official explanation is that your father and others, misidentified a weather balloon with a radar reflector attached to it. Was your father qualified to comment on what balloon and radar target would look like?

JM: He was very qualified as he had gone through radar school a short time before that and was well acquainted with what radar targets and weather balloons looked like. And the equipment that went with them so he knew that what he was looking at was not a weather balloon or radar target and I can confirm that also.

PM: So if we are to believe the official explanation, for the sake of argument. It was a weather balloon and your father misidentified it. On his military record was he ever he reprimanded, was a demoted, was he promoted side-ways so-to-speak?

JM: No,

I've seen his military record and his officer evaluation reports and they were always of the highest quality. He was well respected, well respected as a highly trained individual and he was never reprimanded or suffered any kind of any degradation because of his so-called misidentification, period.

PM: And later in his career, what was his final rank?

JM: He retired as a Lieutenant Colonel.

PM: So in actual fact he was promoted.

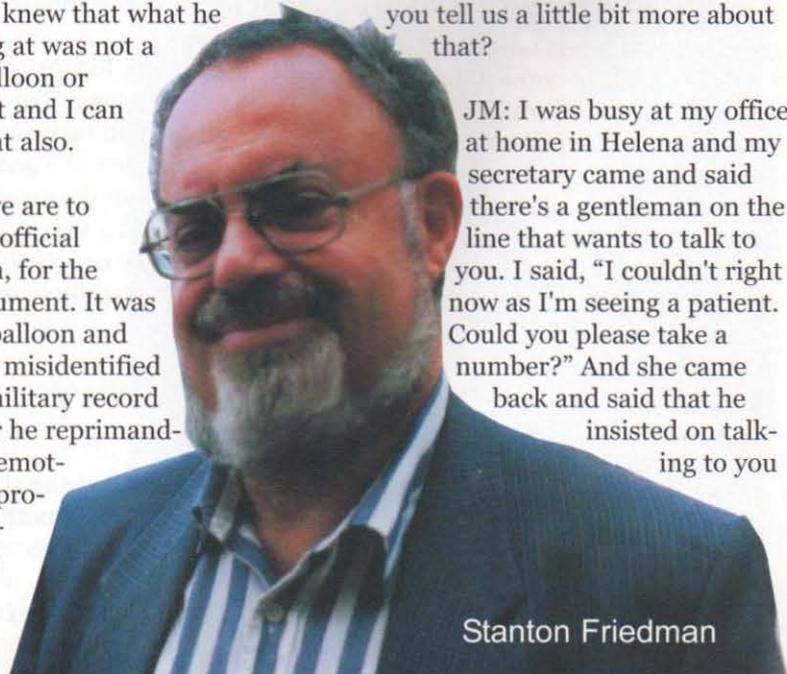
JM: Yes he was promoted over and above from where he was in Roswell.

PM: So where did your father finish his military career?

JM: He was in Washington, not at the Pentagon at an office in town, and I never knew where that was, so he finished his career in Washington DC. He resigned from the Air Force as wanted to return to Louisiana. I think he had had enough of the military life and was maybe a little disheartened with what was going on at that time with the Korean War and he wanted to go home.

PM: So you have just lectured at the *UFO DATA Magazine's* annual conference. Now one of the things you talked about was the fact that you were invited to the Capitol Building some time afterwards. Now could you tell us a little bit more about that?

JM: I was busy at my office at home in Helena and my secretary came and said there's a gentleman on the line that wants to talk to you. I said, "I couldn't right now as I'm seeing a patient. Could you please take a number?" And she came back and said that he insisted on talking to you



Stanton Friedman



right now. So I got on the phone and said, "Yes, what can I do for you?" He said, "Well, I understand that you'll be going to Washington DC to a meeting." I replied that was right. He said that when I got there he wanted to talk to me about the Roswell thing. So he said, "When you get there I want you to call me." So when I got to Washington and I'd checked into my motel, there was a message from him already on the phone, so he knew where I was staying. He wanted to meet the next day in the Capitol Building, room number 228. So I walked up to the Capitol Building and introduced myself to him, he was a very nice individual. He says, "We need to talk about Roswell." So I said okay. But at any rate he asked me if I wanted to talk in a secure room. I said, "No, I'm not going to say anything I haven't already said many times before." He said, "Well, I might tell you something, so we are going to talk in a secure room." Okay. So we got in the elevator and went down many levels below the Capitol Building to where

was this man. Was he a government official?

JM: His name was Dick D'Amato. He described himself as being with the NSA or the NSC. So I told him what I know about the Roswell affair. And he said that's right. He asked me if I'd ever been threatened by anyone. I told him no I had not. He said he knew people that had been threatened. So he wrote his name down on a piece of paper and his telephone number. So he said if I was ever threatened to just give him a call. But I've never had to do that.

PM: In recent years there's been attempts to slur your father's good name. If you can't destroy the message then shoot the messenger. What

there's a group of very nicely furnished meeting rooms for very high-ranking people. He had a book on Roswell prepositioned on the desk there, and he pointed to the book and he said, "This is not fiction." I said, "Well I know it's not fiction and when are you guys going to tell everybody about that?" He said if it was up to him he'd have told everyone years ago but it was not up to him

PM: So who

do you have to say about that?

JM: Well, you know, I just take it as part of the territory, you know I know there's going to be people, for their own agenda, want to destroy any notion of UFOs or flying saucers or Roswell. I just take it as part of the territory.

PM; Now down the years I dare say you've spoken to others involved in the incident at the time. Is there anyone that stands out among the crowd whose testimony you find most compelling?

JM: I guess there would be Bill Brazel, the rancher's son, who picked up a piece of the wreckage up before it was vacuumed up. He put it in his saddlebag and some time later in a bar in Corona he got drunk and talked about having a piece of it. Then a couple of days later he had a knock on his door and they wanted the piece back.

PM: Did Bill Brazel describe this material to you? Did it have any unusual properties?

JM: It was described as a foil (material), just like I'd seen.

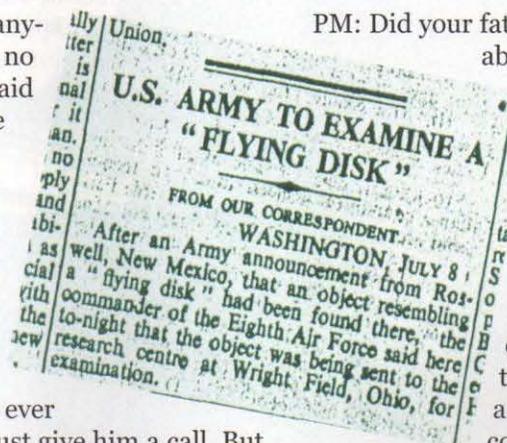
PM: People have said it was some kind of memory metal. Did Bill Brazel mention this?

JM: He did not but my dad did. He mentioned that if you folded it up it would unfold. I myself did not witness that.

PM: Did your father also tell you about the unbreakability of the material?

JM: He related one event where one of the men in his office took a larger piece that I did not see, and tried to dent it with a sledgehammer and could not make any permanent marking on it with a 12-pound sledgehammer.

PM: Now we've just gone past the 60th anniversary of the Roswell event and you have published your



own book *'The Roswell Legacy'*. Tell me a little bit about the book and why you have decided to publish it now?

JM: Well I am getting on a little in years and there's not many people like me left that had direct knowledge of this event. So I just wanted to get into print, my story, my thoughts and why I think that the events at Roswell were a real UFO from some place else. I just wanted to get that down while I still could.

PM: Right, especially if you get called back into active service in Iraq.

JM: Well I started writing the book while in Iraq. Reminders of your mortality are everywhere there. One night a mortar hit nearby. So you didn't sleep with your flak jacket on but after that I started putting my laptop in my flak jacket to protect it. If we got hit at least the book would survive.

PM: Now you've called the book *'The Roswell Legacy'*. Now in your opinion what is the legacy of Roswell Incident?

JM: The legacy is to acknowledge the fact that we are not alone in this universe. That there are other civilisations out

there and more importantly is that they know how to get here from there, so they are more advanced. And I think one of the messages is that they are more advanced than we are so they have probably survived their own nuclear adolescence. So the message is if that others can survive this and warfare then maybe we can too.

PM: So one last thing. The United States Air Force official position still remains that the crash at Roswell was a balloon, or even Project Mogul, which is still just a balloon. What do you say to that?

JM: Well a balloon is a balloon is a balloon. Project Mogul's mission was top secret but the material they used was just off-the-shelf material, radar targets and balloons. There was no difference just the mission that was different.

PM: Now you've seen you father's photographs taken at Fort Worth just after the incident. He is holding this wreckage on the floor.

JM: No, it definitely was not. You know that's what is funny about this whole thing. If you look at my dad's face when he's holding up this obvious radar target. He face is like 'you've got to be kidding me, this is not the real stuff, they switched it'.

PM: So what would you say to anyone who doubts the extraterrestrial idea of the crash at

Roswell?

JM: Stay tuned and look to the skies because they are out there.

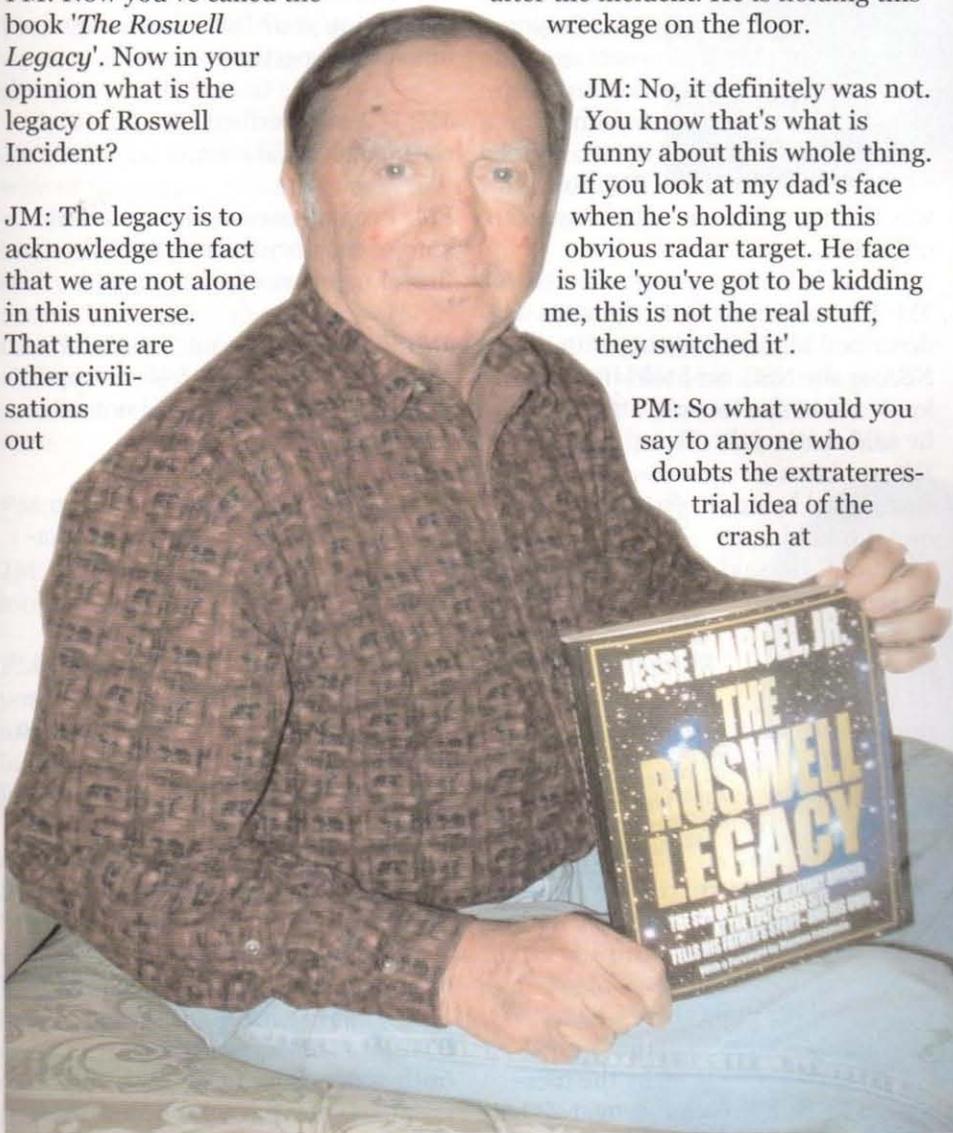
PM: Dr Jesse Marcel, thank you very much.

I must say that it was a real pleasure to spend the day with Dr Jesse Marcel Jnr and to be able to take time for an interview with him. Irrespective of your thoughts on what happened at Roswell you cannot doubt the honesty and sincerity of this man. I would heartily recommend you add *The Roswell Legacy* to your book collection and you can order a copy online at:

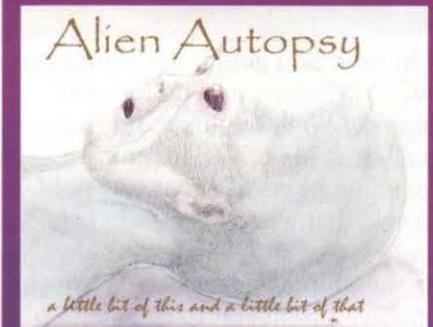
www.theroswelllegacy.com.

Philip Mantle is an international author, lecturer and broadcaster on the subject of UFOs. He can be contacted at:

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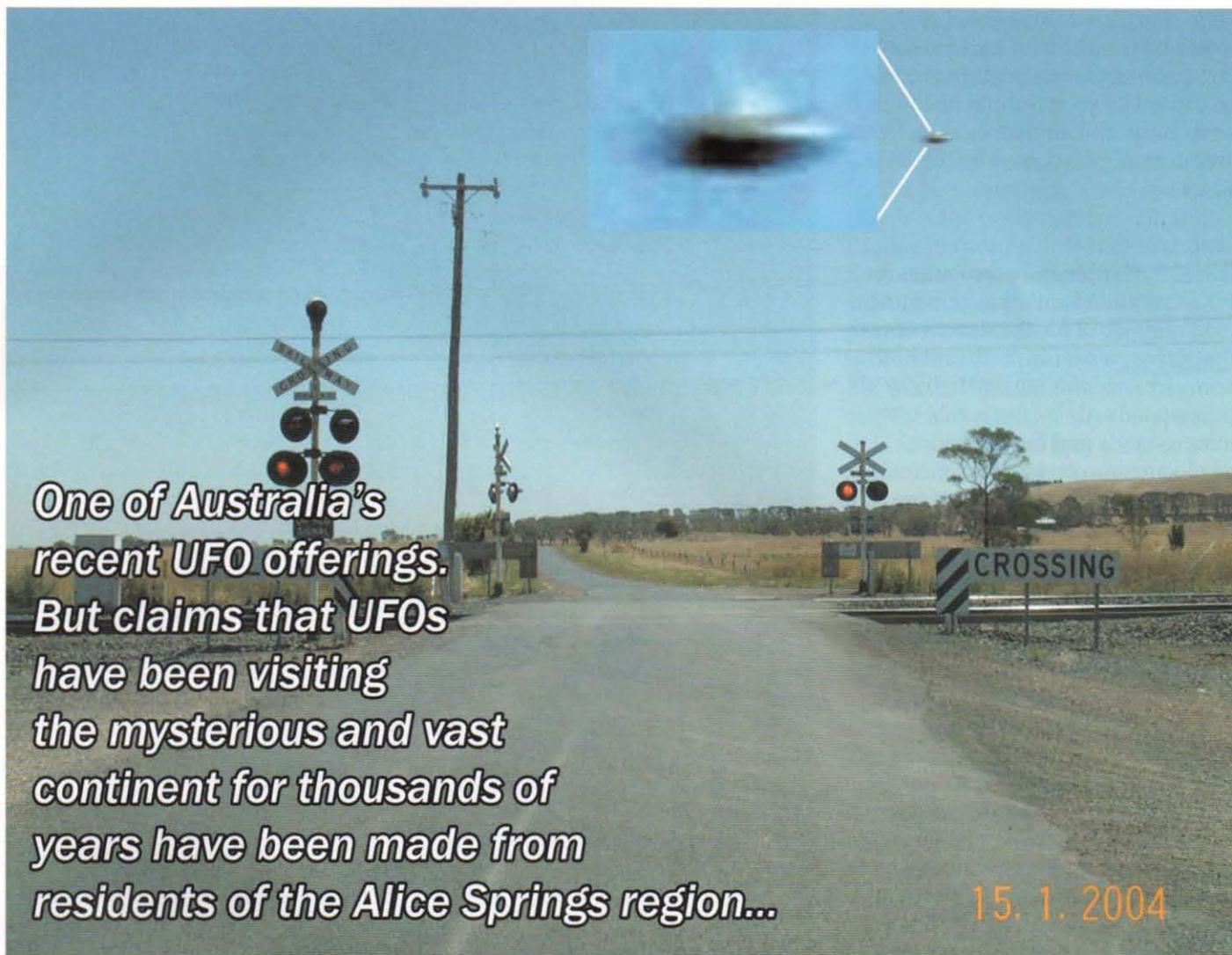


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One of Australia's recent UFO offerings. But claims that UFOs have been visiting the mysterious and vast continent for thousands of years have been made from residents of the Alice Springs region...

15. 1. 2004

Lights, beings, beams: Just a typical night in Australia's UFO capital

WYCLIFFE WELL, Australia (AFP) - On a desert highway in Australia's flat, dry centre is a petrol station by a watering hole where extraterrestrials have been stopping off for millennia, or so "witnesses" say.

If truck drivers or passing tourists find themselves nodding off on the long drive between Alice Springs and Darwin, a pit stop at Australia's self-proclaimed UFO capital might just

revive them.

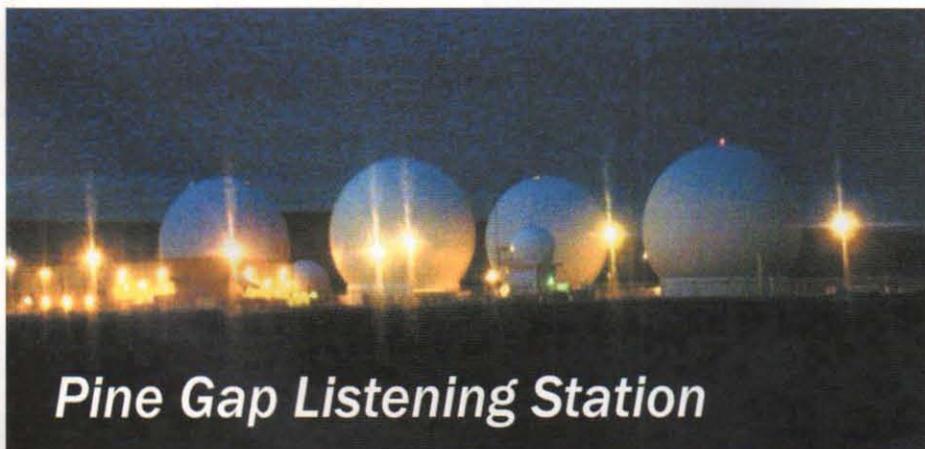
While filling up the tank or their stomachs at Wycliffe Well's roadhouse, they might notice little green men holding out their hands or staring out at them from nearby walls.

That may be no cause for concern because these are probably just statues and paintings put there for the visitors' benefit. But according to locals the real thing is so common around here that people hardly even blink when they see them.

Lights in the sky, blue domed discs, silvery beings -- it is all common stuff in Wycliffe Well, say locals, who see a secret connection with Australia's nearby spy facility of Pine Gap.

Sceptics, on the other hand, say the large number of sightings may rather reflect the high levels of alcohol consumption, for which Australia's Northern Territory is famous. "When I came down here it was just a common occurrence. It was just one of those things. Even the previous owner just mentioned it to me in passing," said Lew Farkas, who has run the Wycliffe Well roadhouse and caravan park for 23 years and claims around half a dozen sightings of his own.

This tiny dot on the map, 400 kilometres (250 miles) north of Alice Springs, surrounded by scrubland, now attracts international visits from "experts," occasional UFO conventions and constant local media coverage of the unusual sightings in the vicinity.



Pine Gap Listening Station

"It is recognised throughout the world UFO industry," said Farkas. Suggestions that the sightings could be caused by such normal phenomena as birds and aircraft landing lights are promptly dismissed by the UFO watchers.

"You take that with a pinch of salt. It's a lot of rubbish," said Farkas. It's a quiet life for Farkas providing food and petrol for the dozens of cars that drive past daily on the monotonous drive up the Stuart Highway punctuated only by flat scrub, termite mounds and the occasional dead kangaroo or wandering emu. But the night time visitations are more than enough to liven things up, he says, describing the most memorable of his own encounters.

There were lights doing manoeuvres in the sky, little ones dancing around the big ones, doing figures of eight, he said.

Farkas, 59, was a physical training instructor in the Australian navy before he took over the roadhouse and says this sighting reminded him of manoeuvres around an aircraft carrier.

"That is how we used to do exercises, in exactly the same way. It looked exactly the same as we used to do at sea," he said.

"Over the years I have had quite a few sightings, mainly lights. I have had a close up encounter where I have actually seen the portholes --

just like you read in the comic books of the past."

According to Farkas, Wycliffe Well is one of only four or five places in the world where there are constant sightings of extraterrestrials and UFOs, probably the most famous being the Nevada Desert in the United States. The remoteness of the Australian outback has made it harder for people to become aware of Wycliffe Well, but it seems the news is slowly spreading.

It was truck drivers who in modern times first noticed the unusual goings on, during World War II, when the waterhole gave rise to market gardens that fed the war effort against the Japanese up north in Darwin. Their stories were mainly of strange lights in the sky.

But local Aboriginals also report that extraterrestrials have been visiting the area for thousands of years, hanging out around some of the area's stunning rock formations, such as the Devil's Marbles, a sandstone formation just to the north along the Stuart Highway.

Recently, a group of Aboriginal women in a local community reported their own close encounter. They were sitting around playing cards when a big beam of light appeared. UFOs apparently also land in the nearby Tanami desert, according to the believers. "There is no airport so they have got to land somewhere," said Farkas.

It used to be easy to tell when there was UFO activity, he said. The electronic banking and telephone lines would go out. But with a change to fibre optic technology that problem has disappeared.

Farkas dismisses claims that he might want to drum up interest in UFOs to boost business at his roadhouse, saying he has plenty of business from the constant stream of motorists passing by.

Barry Williams, editor of Australia's quarterly journal *"The Sceptic"* which attempts to debunk all kinds of suspect science, has other explanations for the sightings.

Many could be of the planet Venus, others would be aircraft landing lights, he says.

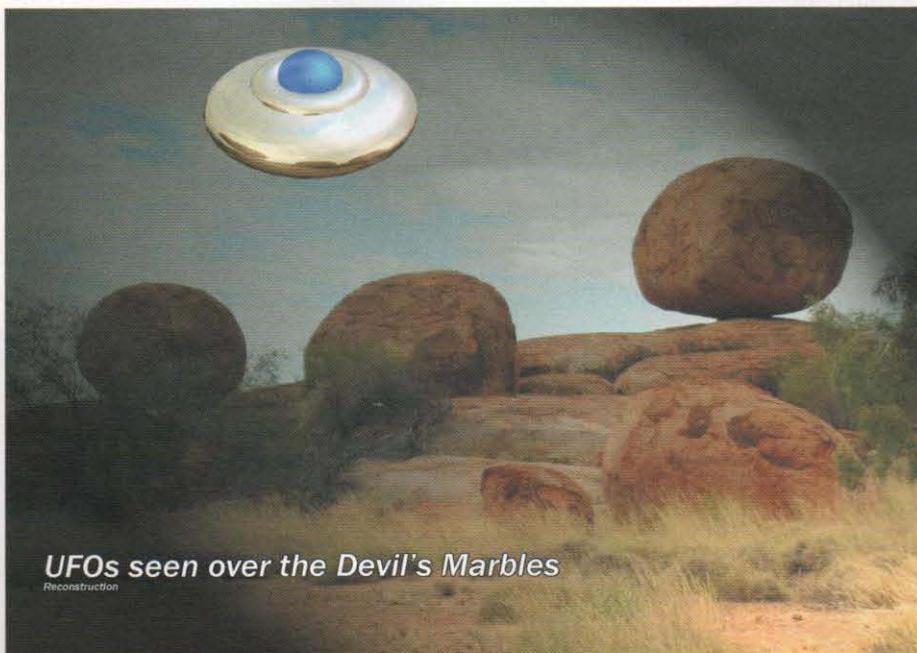
"We are not sceptical of people sighting things. We are sceptical of some of the conclusions they come to from what they have seen. They don't stand up to any crucial thinking at all," he told AFP.

The Northern Territory in general has the reputation of having a large number of sightings of UFOs, he said, which he suggests might be connected with the local drinking habits.

"I don't know whether this is in any way connected with the fact that the Northern Territory has the biggest beer consumption of anywhere on earth," he said.

Researcher Keith Douglass, who works as a cleaner at Alice Springs hospital but follows UFOs on the side, says he has been up to Wycliffe Well about half a dozen times but has never seen anything.

Nevertheless, he has heard lots of tales, for example of an Aboriginal woman who was chased by a UFO. "It is a flat disc with a blue dome. It has been sighted around Alice Springs a couple of times. It chased this lady into town. She saw it again up at Wycliffe Well," he said. "Wycliffe Well - that's been going for years."



UFOs seen over the Devil's Marbles

Reconstruction

Something is out there

Unidentified

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Unidentified

My brother has a notorious bad taste for movies, so when he recommends a film to me, I generally roll my eyes and brace myself for a couple of hours of celluloid hell. Don't get me wrong, I like a bad movie as much as the next man, but there are some flicks that just make me shudder. The recent smash-hit, *Transformers*, is one such film. For some reason, critics heaped huge amounts of praise on this steaming pile of turgid nonsense and it has done the business at the box office, but I absolutely hated it. It was a terrible, incoherent, headache-inducing special effects extravaganza in which the adage of 'less is more' was completely thrown out of the window.

But this review isn't about

Transformers, it's about *Unidentified*. Released on Region 1 DVD earlier this year, *Unidentified* begins as an interesting UFO/abduction story. A man's truck breaks down in the middle of nowhere and a light from the sky beams down. A group of teenagers are camping nearby and also see the glowing object in the clouds. The man's story makes the local news media and the popular magazine, *Both Sides*, decides to send a couple of their reporters to investigate.

So far, so good.

Ah, but all is not as it seems with this movie. Early on, we are given a glimpse of what really lies behind this tale of 'alien intervention'. A

couple of references to the Bible and the odd, lingering shot on the good book are signposts of what is to come.

Anyway, back to the plot, such as it is. The two reporters, Keith and Brad (Keith is the open-minded one and Brad is the sceptic - the mag is called *Both Sides*, remember?) arrive in the small, Texas town and find that the people who saw the UFO are not willing to talk. Apparently, Men-In-Black have been and warned them off. Then another incident happens in Louisiana, so off they toddle and again find a wall of silence. Meanwhile, Keith has been contacted by an elderly chap who claims to have been part of a covert agency in his youth, an agency that investigated alien influences on Earth. He quit when he found the 'true, spiritual nature' of the phenomena and became a Christian.

The guys' next lead is local and this time, their buddy and co-worker, Darren, tags along. Darren is very, very religious. He makes the Pope seem like a casual church-goer. They meet a young woman, who saw a UFO and is also interested in the paranormal. Darren goes into a lengthy rant about how UFOs are the work of the Devil and only accepting Jesus can save you. Ooh, that was kinda creepy.

Back at the office, there's a big meeting and Darren reaffirms his religious convictions (he does it a lot) and Brad (the sceptic, remember) takes umbrage, declaring that there's no Heaven or Hell. Keith is going through something of a Christian tug-of-war. He is skipping Bible study and it's placing a strain on his marriage. Luckily for him, Darren brings him round by saying you're either with Christ or against him (strangely Bush-like viewpoint, don't you think?) and he accepts Jesus again. Hurray for Keith!





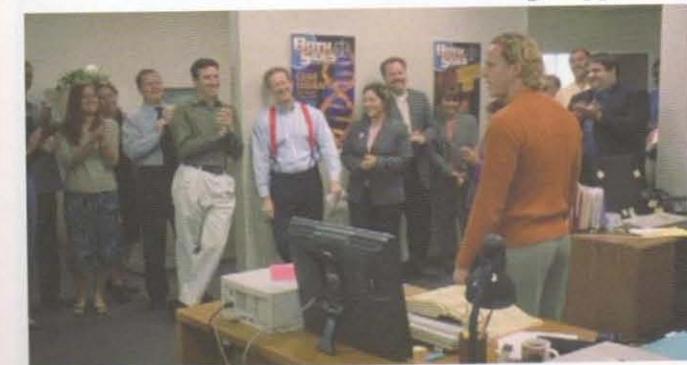
Meanwhile, Brad is sussing out how people who perpetuate the popularity of UFOs (those who organise conferences, for instance) actually do it for the money. Ergo, it's all a big cash cow with nothing behind it except exploiting people's beliefs for monetary gain.
Hmmm...

The gang trek back to Texas and meet the first chap who saw the UFO. Darren is horrified when he finds out the guy's wife is a Wiccan. He convinces him that he should believe in Jesus again and the guy sagely nods his head. Good old Darren's two for two so far!



The magazine comes out and it's a huge hit, selling out almost immediately.

The old man turns up at the office and explains how we are living in the End Days. Soon there will be the Rapture, when the righteous will be taken to Heaven. He says that the Devil knows this, so he appears in the form of aliens in an effort to deceive people and prevent them from accepting Christ. The universe exists solely to demonstrate God's wonders and there's only life on Earth. He uses the 1938 radio broadcast of *The War of the Worlds* as an example of how easily people



can believe something that isn't true. Hmmm again...

The movie wraps up with reports of people vanishing all over the world. Phones at the office are ringing off the hook and the staff are panicking. Keith and Darren have also vanished. It's the Rapture! Brad runs around like a headless chicken after returning from the local sandwich shop with drinks. He cannot believe what's going on. Was all that Bible stuff true after all?

Then everybody starts laughing and Darren and Keith turn up. It was all a joke on the resident sceptic. Big laugh!

Basically, this is a film about belief. You can choose to believe in God and Jesus. You can choose to believe in other faiths, Wicca for example. You can choose to believe in UFOs and aliens. That would have been fine had the filmmakers not shoved the entire Christian ethic down our throats, demanding faith in Jesus or suffer an eternity of damnation.

With the base of operations for the film being a magazine called *Both Sides*, the movie takes a remarkably one-sided view of the subjects it tackles. The Christians are all smiling, happy folk, content in the knowledge that their faith has saved them, while everybody else is depicted in a darker light. Sceptics are bitter and sarcastic; UFO enthusiasts are only in it for the money; a belief in the paranormal is frowned

upon.

We can't believe in UFOs or aliens because there's no proof that they exist, according to Darren, but the movie fails to mention that there is no proof that God or Jesus exist either. All Darren needed was the Bible. "Read it for yourself," he said. That's fair enough and I whole-heartedly respect anybody's religious or spiritual views or beliefs, but maybe the producers of this movie should have read more about UFOs before using them to promote their own religious agenda.

If you want a sermon about how UFOs are the work of the Devil, then this is the movie for you, but if you want to watch an entertaining film about the UFO phenomenon, then *Unidentified* is not worth watching. It's a shame because it all begins so well...

If you want to check it out, there a website:

<http://www.unidentifiedthemovie.com>

(Thanks to Marie for the heads-up on the link).

SJ

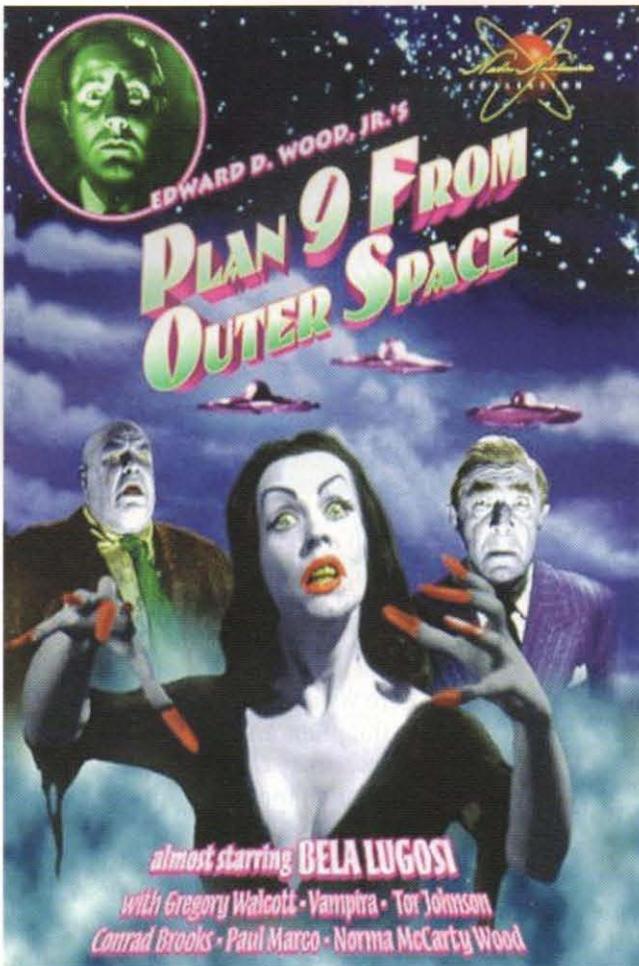
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Plan 9 from outer space

November 3, 2007

In January 1979, The New York Times reported that despite repeated, feverish denials, the CIA had indeed investigated the UFO phenomenon: "CIA Papers Detail UFO Surveillance" screamed the headline. The report is said to have so upset the then CIA director, Stansfield Turner, that he reportedly asked his staff: "Are we in UFOs?"

The answer was yes - since the late 1940s, apparently. But exactly how, what, when, why and who remained layered in mystery, leaving grist for the conspiracy mill.

But this year a raft of newly unclassified CIA documents revealed that the remote possibility of alien invasion elicited greater fear than the threat of a Soviet nuclear attack.

More interesting still, the CIA documents show that despite decades of repeated public denials, behind the scenes there raged a series of inter-agency feuds that involved the highest levels of the US government.

The subject of UFOs - and dabbling in psychological warfare techniques - not only focused the attention of the US government elite for 50 years, but of some of the greatest scientific and military minds of the era.

Throughout the 1950s CIA files clearly document an explosion of activity by US intelligence and military bodies concerned with studying every possible implication for the US, and other Western democracies, of UFOs. The phenomenon, so adored by the cinematic world, was reflected in the CIA's fixations.

Indeed, while highly educated CIA employees experimented by giving each other surprise LSD trips in 1953, there were others, in other parts of the agency, dealing with a flood of UFO reports.

But significantly, after a burst of intense scrutiny in the early '50s, the available documents effectively go cold. Why? The Kafkaesque explanation provided is that few files were kept because these would only confirm that the CIA was investigating UFOs. A 1995 CIA review stated: "There was no formal or official UFO project within the agency in the '80s, and agency officials purposely kept files on UFOs to a minimum to avoid creating records that might mislead the public if released."

But the wildly eclectic UFO files cover everything from "flying saucers over Belgian Congo uranium mines" to Nazi "flying saucers".

A 1953 memo shows that the physicist John Wheeler, while critically involved with Edward Teller in the creation of the hydrogen bomb, was available to the "CIA attack on the flying saucer" problem. The urgency of the H-bomb race was his priority, but he "would be pleased at any time to discuss the issue briefly", the

memo said.

Wheeler recommended two "foreign nationals" who could help with the "problem", including the "mysterious problems of ion paths and magnetic focusing" and "cosmological electro-dynamics".

A secret 1995 report was titled: CIA's role in the study of UFOs 1947-90: a diehard issue. Collated and written by Gerald Haines, the CIA's National Reconnaissance Office historian, its detailed summary of CIA involvement inadvertently undermined its "UFOs-don't-exist" conclusion. The document begins with a June 24, 1947, report from the pilot Kenneth Arnold, who spotted nine unidentified objects near Mount Rainier, Washington state, travelling at an estimated 1600 kmh. Haines did not mention that days later, on July 8, 1947, the Roswell Daily Record reported a US Army press release below the headline "RAAF captures flying saucer on ranch in Roswell region".

The report noted that that controversy, coloured with Byzantine denials, dogged the CIA and its UFO investigations for decades. Using operational names like Project Blue Book, Story, Grudge, Sign, Saucer, Moon Dust and Twinkle, the US Air Force and other entities always looked into UFO sightings with the CIA peering over their shoulders.

The US Army, of course, promptly retracted the Roswell story but it and the "flying saucers" spotted by Arnold triggered a flurry of sightings and conspiracy theories that continue to this day.

The US Air Force finally admitted in 1994 that there had been a cover-up at Roswell - of a secret project known as Mogul, created to monitor Soviet nuclear tests using high-flying balloons - and that the "aliens" were crash-test dummies.

"Ufologists", naturally, were sceptical of this belated explanation. For 50 years now, right across the globe, people have been reporting sightings of giant, luminous flying saucers, cigars, globes, triangles and doughnuts. Aliens have allegedly abducted, probed and impregnated scores of

hapless earthlings. Some believe that a top-secret entity, called Majestic-12, was formed in 1947 by the then president, Harry Truman, in an attempt to deal with the Roswell event. It was supposedly established to aid interaction with aliens. The FBI labelled the Majestic-12 documents a hoax, but the story persists to this day.

Intriguingly, the unclassified documents show that within the CIA, there was an uber-intelligence group called ONE, created by a CIA director, General William Bedell Smith. His tenure spanned the period between October 1950 and January 1953. These documents confirm that ONE was concerned with UFOs.

In 1978 the CIA came under strong pressure from a series of freedom of information requests about UFOs and reluctantly released about 800 documents. The reasonable claim by The New York Times at the time was that the files confirmed intensive government concern about UFOs.

This was branded by the CIA as the press being sensationalist. According to the CIA's self-critique on the issue, bureaucratic clumsiness, charges that witnesses were being asked to keep sightings secret, and CIA officers talking to civilians about UFOs while wearing air force uniforms, had added "fuel to the growing mystery surrounding UFOs and the CIA's role in their investigation". The 1995 Haines report concluded: "The belief that we are not alone in the universe is too emotionally appealing and the distrust of our government is too pervasive to make the issue amenable to traditional scientific studies of rational explanation and evidence."

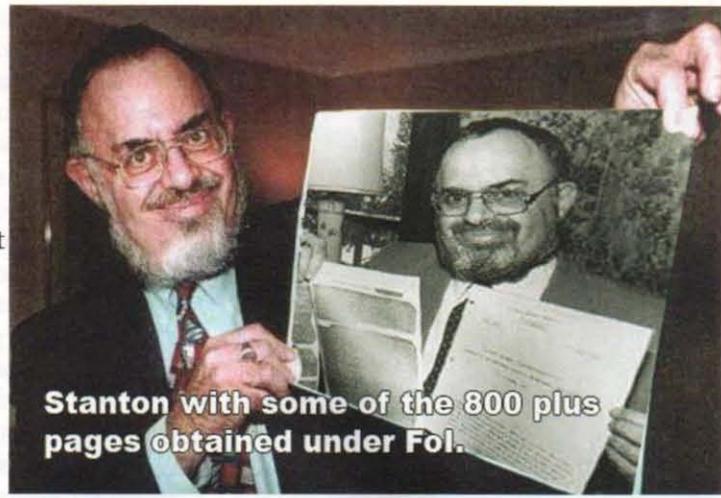
My painstaking review of hundreds of unclassified documents reveals that the CIA at the highest level, far from being incompetent, displayed good faith in its efforts to examine the mystery of UFOs over a period of decades. These investigations covered a gamut of inquiries: scientific, political, cultural and military.

And although the air force was the agency given the task of investigating UFOs from 1948 onwards, the CIA remained deeply involved. This is

best reflected in a memo to the agency's deputy director for scientific intelligence, titled Flying Saucers and dated August 3, 1952: "It is recommended that CIA surveillance of subject matter (flying saucers), in coordination with proper authorities of primary operational concern at the Air Technical Intelligence Centre (ATIC), be continued. It is strongly urged, however, that no indication of CIA interest or concern reach the press or public, in view of their probable alarmist tendencies to accept such interest as 'confirmatory' of the soundness of 'unpublished facts' in the hands of the US government."

Although most reports were "phoney" or explainable, it said, "caution requires that intelligence continue coverage of the subject". On July 28, 1952, Winston Churchill wrote to his secretary of state for air: "What does all this stuff about flying saucers amount to? What can it mean? What is the truth?" The minister's response on August 9, 1952, provided the ground rules for most official responses that continue until today. These were that a 1951 study had found that all reports could be explained by astronomical or meteorological phenomena, mistaken identification of aircraft, balloons, birds, optical illusions and psychological delusions, or were deliberate hoaxes. But in the CIA at the time, two other responses were countenanced: the need for vigilance and caution because extraterrestrial life could exist, and the potential for "psychological warfare", including fears that popular hysteria could be exploited by an enemy.

The sceptics are best represented in a memo in March 1949 from a Dr Stone in the CIA Office of Scientific Intelligence to a Dr Machle that states: "A rapid perusal of your [flying saucer] documents leaves one confused and inclined to supineness."



Yet with a deluge of UFO reports over the next four years, the matter suddenly assumed a modicum of gravitas, reflected in many top-secret documents. General Smith said: "There was one chance in 10,000 that the phenomenon posed a threat to the security of the country, but even that chance could not be taken." On July 1, 1952, there was an about-turn: General Smith wrote to the director of the Psychological Strategy Board established by Truman the previous year: "I am today transmitting to the National Security Council a proposal in which it is concluded that the problems associated with unidentified flying objects appear to have implications for psychological warfare as well as for intelligence and operations. I suggest that we discuss at an early board meeting the possible offensive and defensive utilisation of these phenomena for psychological warfare purposes."

Searching for this "proposal", I found versions addressed also to the secretary of defence. Some of their highlights, quoting directly from the documents, include: "[Since] 1947 there have been about 1500 official reports of sightings and [of these] the air force carries 20 per cent as unexplained." And: "Operational problems are of primary importance and should be attacked at once [including] determination of what [use could] be made of these phenomena by US psychological warfare planners and what ... defences should be planned in anticipation of Soviet attempts to utilise them."

This memo suggested a plot that transcends Stanley Kubrick's Dr Strangelove: the CIA, in the face of

unknown phenomena - or even an attack from outer space - was seemingly more concerned about what the Russians might do with UFOs than with the objects themselves. The CIA's interest in the Soviet and Chinese study of UFOs continued for decades. But on October 2, 1952, General Smith received this ominous note from his Office of Scientific Intelligence: "Flying saucers pose two elements of danger which have national security implications. The first involves mass psychological considerations and the second concerns the vulnerability of the US to air attack." In January 1953 the Office of Scientific Intelligence convened a committee to review the UFO "problem". Its members reviewed "75 case histories of sightings", taking intense interest in a Tremonton, Utah, sighting that included a Kodachrome movie of "1600 frames".

At the air force's request, the US Photo Interpretation Laboratory spent 1000 hours making "graph plots" of the film frames, concluding that the objects were not birds, balloons, aircraft or reflections and that they were "self-luminous". In a tone of reasonable scepticism, it suggested that the public be educated to avoid hysteria.

But the Office of Scientific Intelligence panel dismissed the military conclusions, suggesting instead that the mysterious objects were seagulls reflecting sunlight.

On January 21, 1953, another memo concluded that the panel had found no evidence of "physical threat to the security of the US". The convoluted memo stated: "The subject UFO is not of direct intelligence interest. It is of indirect intelligence interest only insofar as any knowledge about innumerable unsolved mysteries of the universe are of intelligence interest." But it also noted the potential for "interference with air defence by intentional enemy juzzing", the possibility of interference by "overloading communication lines", or the possibility of "psychological offensive by the enemy timed with respect to an actual attack".

This report and the original Tremonton "seagull" film were then made part of an Office of Scientific

Investigation briefing on January 29, 1953, to the entity known as ONE. The air force briefed ONE on UFOs the next day and its 11 members included "Dr Edgar Hoover [sic], William Bundy, General H. Pull and Admiral B. Bieri [Eisenhower's chief of staff]".

These documents reveal that ONE was an elite think tank within the CIA and that General Smith created the Office of National Estimates on the issue.

But it was said its "ultimate approval should rest on the collective judgment of the highest officials in various intelligence agencies". This was to give it the prestige of the best available and most authoritative advice from the government.

General Smith created the Office of National Estimates under the auspices of the National Security Act of 1947. His opinion was that ONE would form the "heart of the CIA and of the national intelligence machinery".

William Langer, a Harvard historian, was its chairman, and while there is no record of whether ONE thought the Tremonton film showed seagulls or UFOs - or of what the air force

told them the next morning - ONE is as close as we get to a documented version of the rumoured Majestic-12 group.

With the Cold War in full swing, the CIA was also watching for UFO activity behind the Iron Curtain. Field stations were to be alerted to any mention of flying saucers by Iron Curtain countries and the CIA discovered that the Soviet establishment mirrored its own ambiguity about UFOs.

The files spotlight Soviet articles in 1968 that show some scientists thought they were real, while others ridiculed the sightings as US propaganda.

One Soviet sceptic noted, with tongue firmly in cheek: "The number of saucers always grows sharply on the eve of presidential elections. This is difficult to explain.

"Maybe people on other planets lay bets on who will win in the next elections - the Republicans or the Democrats."

This story was found at:
<http://www.smh.com.au/articles/2007/11/02/1193619145400.html>

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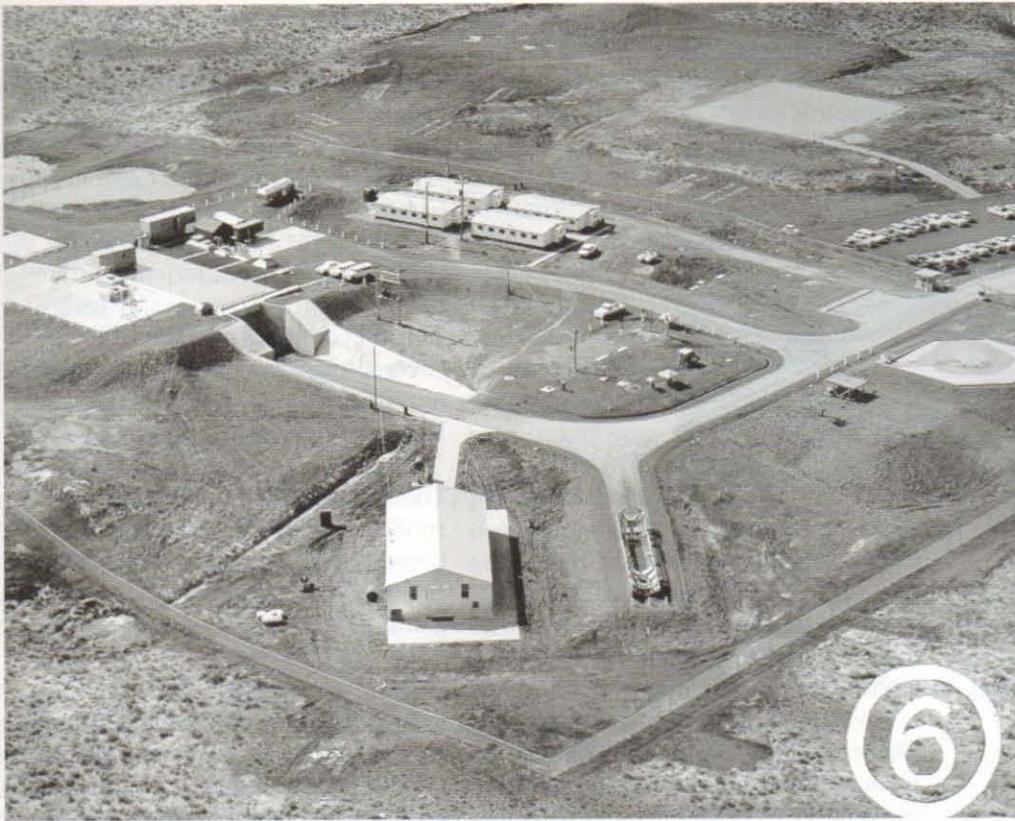
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UFO Reporting Center operates out of former missile site

October 28, 2007
 By *NICHOLAS K. GERANIOS*
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

HARRINGTON -- To find the new home of The National UFO Reporting Center, you must go several yards underground at a former nuclear missile site in Eastern Washington.

The National UFO Reporting Center, which moved to this sparsely populated farm country from Seattle last year, is basically a telephone, tape recorder and desktop computer run in an underground bunker by one man who collects and publishes UFO reports from across the country. Director Peter Davenport took over the UFO center's work from founder Robert Gribble in 1994. It had been located for years in Seattle's University District, until Davenport decided he wanted a change and paid \$100,000 for the former Atlas missile site about 50 miles west of Spokane.

"There was the allure of owning my own missile site," Davenport said. Missile Site No. 6 now contains a large row of file cabinets and boxes, neatly organized by date, containing thousands of reports of UFO sight-

ings stretching back decades. A typical file reads:

"Longview, WA. February 25, 1999 1158 hrs. (Pacific) Description: Fourteen forestry workers witness a horseshoe shaped object lift an adult elk out of the forest and fly off with the apparently dead, or unconscious, animal."

The missile site covers 22 acres, and the massive concrete buildings are underground. The old Atlas E missiles rested flat, not upright in silos, in what were called "coffin launchers." In the event of war, a concrete lid would slide open, the missile would be hoisted upright and the engine fired.

The UFO files, along with some office furniture, are stacked in a dark, dank room the size of a basketball court, where the yellow missile hoist remains in place. A few bare bulbs provide lights.

Davenport is still cleaning out the missile site, which is pretty decrepit, and is living in an apartment in nearby Harrington while he works to make it habitable.

Davenport doesn't spend much time scanning the skies, or traveling to UFO locations. Most of his work is transcribing numerous calls or e-

mails each day from people who think they have seen UFOs. He places those reports on the Web site for all to see. Davenport also gives lectures and appears often on radio talk shows tied to UFOs. He considers himself among the most skeptical of ufologists, and estimates that 90 percent of the calls he receives can be quickly disproved, and many of the rest likely have a rational explanation.

But that still leaves a lot of reports for which no terrestrial explanation is available, Davenport said.

Washington has a long history of UFO reports, including the famous Mount Rainier sighting in 1947 that led to the coining of the term "flying saucers." In that incident,

pilot Kenneth Arnold reported seeing nine silver vehicles flying in formation at high speed and moving "like a saucer if you skip it across water."

Whether UFOs exist has been hotly debated for decades. Believers point to loads of evidence, including photos and eyewitness accounts. They contend there must be other inhabited planets, and some with more advanced civilizations may be visiting us.



Like many ufologists, Davenport also believes the world's governments and press are hushing up the existence of UFOs to avoid panic.

"There is nothing more bizarre in the galaxy than human behavior toward UFOs," he said.

Despite decades of official denials, UFOs abound in movies, television, books and advertising, he said. They even show up in religion, where some reports of visions have all the earmarks of a UFO sighting, Davenport said.

UFO skeptic Jim Oberg said Davenport performs a valuable service by recording all the strange things people see in the sky. The problem is that he and other ufologists are too quick to label them extraterrestrial, Oberg said. That doesn't necessarily mean that aliens are not visiting Earth, Oberg said.

"But the evidence does not rise to the level of an unavoidable conclusion that there is no other explanation," Oberg said, acknowledging that the debate won't end anytime soon.

Davenport graduated from the University of Washington with a degree in fisheries, and specialized in research on the genetics of steelhead trout. He was friends with Gribble, who founded the center in 1974, and agreed to continue the work when Gribble retired.

He estimated the center's work costs \$500 a month.

Davenport does not spend all his time on UFO work. He is an unopposed candidate for Harrington City Council this fall, and is considering a run for the state Legislature.

"Initially this job was fun," Davenport said of running the UFO center. Now it is just "a secretarial job."

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Kolkata scientist punches holes in UFO theory

30th October, 2007

Kolkata : Media reports of a bright spherical object, streaking across the eastern sky have left many Kolkata residents intrigued, but scientists

said it could be just an "optical illusion" - a result of cloud reflecting the city's lights.

"The images as shown on television channels have to be taken with a pinch of salt. They do not appear to be unidentified objects as claimed by some residents, but seem to be an optical illusion - a result of cloud reflecting city lights, a phenomenon than can be caused by refraction of light. It does not appear to be a natural phenomenon," M.P. Birla Planetarium director Debprosad Duari told IANS.

A claim by a senior executive of a private company that he had captured on video camera an unidentified object in the eastern sky early Monday had left scientists and the media in a tizzy, triggering a frenzy among people to spot the object.

Farhan Akhtar claimed to have captured the bright multi-coloured object from his 10th floor flat at Kalikapur in east Kolkata around 3.20 a.m. Monday. He said the phenomenon lasted for around three hours and disappeared when daylight appeared.

"From what I can understand, it could just be digital trickery as no natural phenomenon can last that long and change its colour and shape so rapidly," Duari said Tuesday.

The video footage of the object, as telecast on a Bengali television channel, showed the fireball changing its shape from a round object to a triangle and then turning into a straight line.

The object, spotted at a 30-degree angle from the horizon, also emitted a bright light that formed almost a halo and radiated a range of colours. "If the person who shot the object with his handycam is to be believed, the fireball was seen moving from the east to the west. I first thought it could be a fragment of the Holmes

Comet that had broken up on Oct 24, but if it is indeed a remnant of Holmes, it should have been seen in the western sky and also at 60

UFO over Calcutta/Kolkata Sky



UFO in INDIA



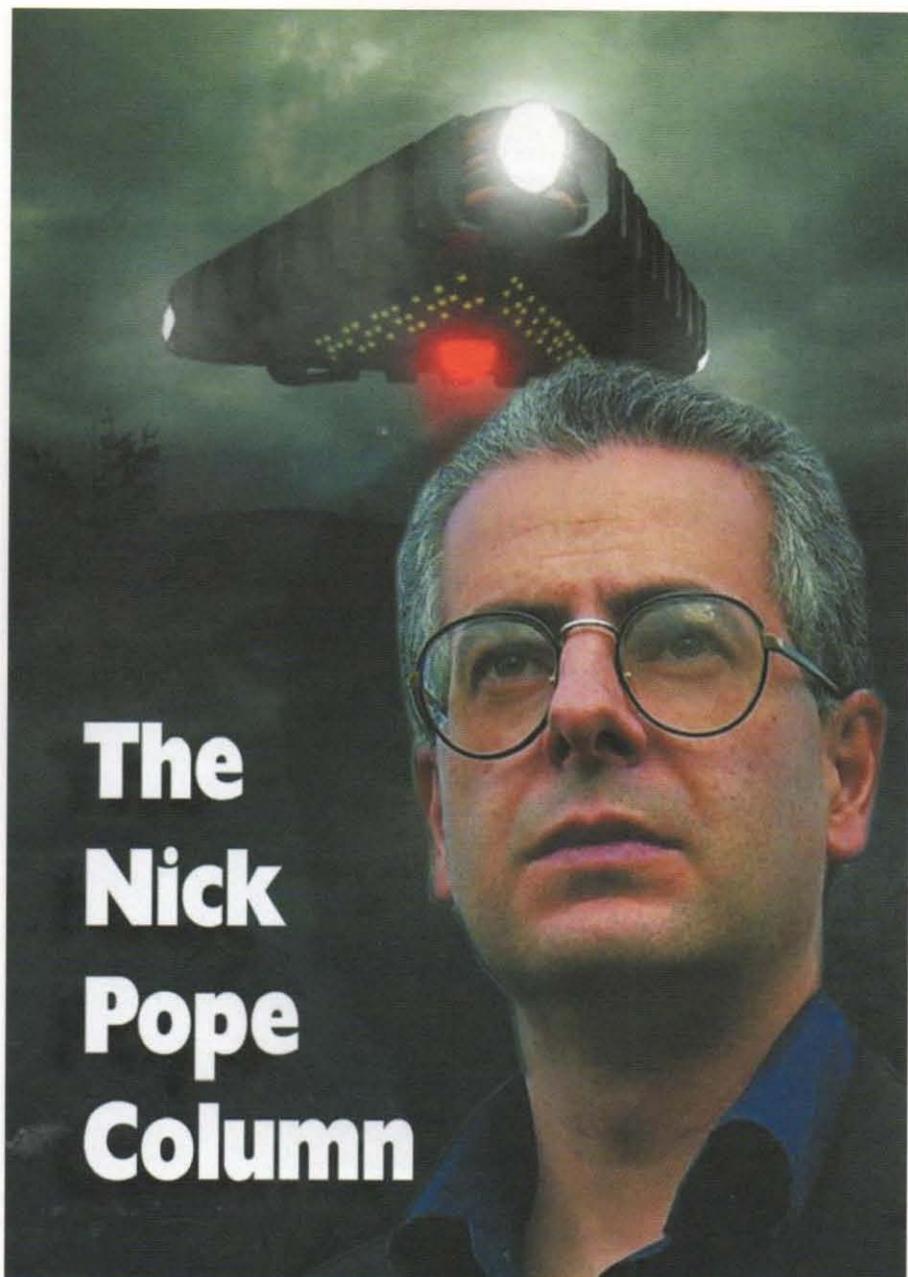
degrees above the horizon. But this is not the case here," Duari said.

"The object could be Venus because it is spotted in the eastern sky. But one cannot capture Venus on his handycam so close and so bright. So, if it is not Venus or a Holmes Comet, then it must be an optical illusion or just a figment of one's imagination," he said.

Duari said he would like to tally the claims made by a US citizen recently regarding sighting of an unidentified flying object with the claims made by the city-based executive.

Saha Institute of Nuclear Physics astro-particle physicist Kamallesh Kar said: "A cosmic body cannot change its appearance so rapidly. An expert needs to observe it for a longer period to comment on it. It is very difficult to draw any conclusion based on television pictures."

- Indo-Asian News Service



The Nick Pope Column

If Roswell Happened Today (Part 1)

By Nick Pope

Introduction

One of the questions I'm most frequently asked is what the MoD would do if a UFO crashed (or indeed landed) in the UK. Is there a plan? Who would be involved? Would the government try to cover it up? I gave a presentation on this at the UFO DATA conference in Pontefract and so in this column and my column next issue I'll be setting out the issues and - hopefully - fuelling some discussion and debate. In relation to the issue of genuine extraterrestrial contact, there are a range of scenarios that could arise.

These fall into four broad categories and I shall deal with the first three relatively quickly, before focusing on the idea of a UFO crash, as this latter concept - largely due to Roswell - is so embedded in the minds of the UFO community.

Alien Invasion

Scenario one is an alien invasion and there's little that I can say about this that isn't wild speculation. In a field where it's foolhardy to make assumptions (I've often heard ufologists make bold statements beginning with phrases such as "well, aliens wouldn't do that because ...") one of the few logical assumptions we can legitimately make is that any extraterrestrials visiting Earth will have a more advanced technology than ours, on the basis that they will have viable interstellar travel, whereas our space

programme is in its infancy. Despite the odds, it's in our nature to fight and I speculated what might happen in my my two science fiction novels, Operation Thunder Child and Operation Lightning Strike - the only sci-fi novels ever to have needed government clearance prior to publication. Incidentally, in October 2007, US Presidential candidate Rudolph Giuliani was asked by an 8 year old boy how the US would respond if it did ever encounter hostile extraterrestrials. He said that the US would deal with the situation, but he was clearly unprepared for the question and had no real idea what to say. Go to You Tube and put the two words "Giuliani" and "alien" into the search box, if you want to watch the exchange.

Benign First Contact

Scenario two is almost as speculative as scenario one, so again, there's little one can say. As with scenario one, the reasonable assumption is that if 'they' discover you, 'they' are your technological superiors. This is one of the more interesting concepts in a paper entitled "UFO Hypothesis and Survival Questions", which can be found on the NSA website and which explores some of these speculative issues about contact with extraterrestrials. Suffice to say, given that visiting extraterrestrials are likely to be our technological superiors, it's more likely than not that they would set the agenda. Needless to say, it's to be hoped that benign first contact would include exchanges of information that might lead to our acquiring considerable scientific knowledge and technology.

Finding a Signal

Scenario three is the detection of a signal by means of radio astronomy. The Search for Extraterrestrial Intelligence (SETI) community is an active one and indeed 11 October 2007 was inauguration day for the Allen Telescope Array, which the SETI Institute believes will "shift SETI into third gear". Even that pales into insignificance when compared to the power of the Square Kilometer Array (SKA), where construction is scheduled to begin in 2011, with the facility fully operational by 2020. Many in the SETI

community believe that if there are civilizations using radio anywhere within 100 light years of Earth, SKA will be able to detect them. I often wish that the UFO community and the SETI community got along better. It seems to me that you want the same thing and that the only thing that sets you apart is your methodology. Like it or not, SETI is going from strength to strength and I've said before that I think it far more likely that proof that we're not alone will come from the SETI community rather than from ufologists. As to what would happen if a signal was found, a "Post-Detection SETI Protocol" has been drafted by the International Academy of Astronautics. While not legally binding, it's probably the best available guide to how the scientific community should respond and what issues are likely to arise. A quick Google search will turn up the document.

UFO Crash

Our fourth and final scenario is the idea of a UFO crash. Of course, there will be those who say that this has already happened, in places such as the Berwyn Mountains, Cannock Chase or even the Llandegla Moors near Wrexham. Personally, I do not find the evidence for such British UFO crashes compelling, though as ever, I try to keep an open mind. Returning to our scenario, again, there are many variables. But we have to start somewhere, so let's take a hypothetical situation and run with it. Let's suppose that a UFO crashes in a remote part of the UK. The first question is, would there be any witnesses? Even when aircraft crash in remote areas, TV news reports



almost invariably turn up a witness who saw - or at least heard - something, so the chances are, it would be noticed. As with Roswell, it's statistically likely that the first witness or witnesses would be members of the public. The next question is, who are they going to call? Despite the UFO community's focus on the MoD, people's basic instinct will be to call the police and - if they think an aircraft has crashed - the other emergency services.

The Police

It's likely that the police will be first responders and again, there are all sorts of variables. It may be that they are confronted by a debris field of unidentifiable wreckage, or it may be that a more obvious craft is recognisable. Dependant upon what it looks like (and on issues such as whether any extraterrestrial entities - dead or alive - are found) they may assume it's an alien spacecraft, or a terrestrial satellite, aircraft or UAV. In either event, their first action should be to cordon off the site and treat it as a crime scene. Follow up actions will include locating and interviewing witnesses, and recovering and analyzing evidence. They may decide to call in the Ministry of Defence Police or the Service (i.e. military) Police, but the local Chief Constable would have primacy, even if others had jurisdiction.

MoD and the Military

Notwithstanding the Chief Constable's jurisdiction and primacy, he or she would probably, sooner rather than later, decide to call in the MoD and the military. Military Aid to the Civil Authorities (MACA) is often requested at times of national crisis or when



large numbers of trained, disciplined people are required. MACA has taken place in the aftermath of floods, the Lockerbie disaster, the foot and mouth disease outbreak and the fuel crisis, to name just a few incidents. For those that want to do further research into this, a number of publications are available. "Military Aid to the Civil Community in the UK - a pamphlet for the guidance of Civil Authorities and Organisations" - the so-called Blue Book - is available from HMSO. "MACA in UK in Peace" is an internal MoD document sometimes referred to as the Green Book. Finally, there is a Home Office publication entitled "Dealing with Disaster", that provides the framework within which the more detailed plans of the emergency services, local authorities and other organisations are normally prepared. All of these documents provide some clues as to how a UFO crash might be handled, as does the Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) for an aircraft crash. In other words, while there's no specific plan for a UFO crash, there are plans and processes that could quickly be adapted. But will "quickly" be good enough?

Biohazard

The biggest single issue that might arise is a potential biological hazard. In "The War of the Worlds", terrestrial microbes prove deadly to the invading Martians. In reality, the potential hazard is just as likely to work in reverse. The police would automatically cordon the crash site, because this is an action that would

spring automatically from their training, but would they think to test for a biohazard or take any actions to mitigate the risk? This is less clear. Of course, the MoD has various equipment and specialists that can help with detection and decontamination. Readers may recall seeing television reports of a recent exercise designed to test the response to a chemical or biological terrorist attack on the London Underground. But in all of this, timing is critical and if nobody thinks to call such equipment and personnel to the site of a UFO crash immediately, vital time is lost and the chances of containing a biohazard diminish rapidly. Faced with an extraterrestrial bacteria or virus against which we would have no defence, the worst case scenario is nothing short of the death of every living organism on the face of our planet. If such a disease was seen to be spreading out from the crash site, a British Prime Minister may have to consider using any means available - including the use of nuclear weapons - to completely sterilize the area. This is why the lack of a dedicated plan for a UFO crash exposes us to a critical risk. However unlikely you think it is, there should be a plan. Using the language of risk assessment, this is the ultimate Low Probability/High Consequence (sometimes known as Low Probability/High Impact) event.

Enemy Attack and the UFO Potential

One honourable exception to the notion that there isn't a plan for this sort of thing is the second edition of the book "Fire Officer's Guide to Disaster Control", by William M. Kramer and Charles W. Bahme. Chapter 13 is entitled "Enemy Attack and the UFO Potential" and if readers Google that phrase, they'll be able to read the text. Again, it gives an insight into some of the issues that may arise and some of the ways in which a UFO crash might be dealt with. Incidentally, before anyone wonders, I have deliberately not mentioned Project Moon Dust or Project Blue Fly so far. While many ufologists believe such projects relate to the recovery of crashed or downed UFOs, I believe they were set up to ensure the timely recovery of decidedly more terrestrial (e.g. Soviet)

hardware. Be that as it may, I have decided that these matters are outside the scope of this article, though some pertinent issues arise.

COBRA

Another key player in our unfolding scenario is COBRA. This is the Civil Contingencies Committee, which takes its name from the room where it meets, Cabinet Office Briefing Room A, in Downing Street. COBRA met in the aftermath of the 9/11 terrorist attacks, the 7/7 attack and many other national emergencies. Attendees would vary according to the nature of the crisis, but might include the Prime Minister, senior government ministers, police and intelligence chiefs. The secretariat function is provided by civil servants in the Cabinet Office - the department that co-ordinates action when a situation involves several government departments. One issue the committee could consider is whether to invoke powers in Part Two of the Civil Contingencies Act, which gives considerable extra powers at the time of a serious emergency. Under such powers, Parliament can be suspended, freedom of movement limited, property requisitioned or destroyed. Again, a Google search on terms such as COBRA, Civil Contingencies Committee and Civil Contingencies Act will reveal much interesting and relevant information.

Next Steps

Numerous other issues arise, many of which relate to MoD's handling of the issue. Because while the Cabinet Office and COBRA would doubtless take a co-ordinating role, MoD (not least by virtue of having responsibility for policy on UFOs and investigation of sightings) would quickly emerge as the lead department. Questions that would need to be handled range from what to tell Ministers, through to how to handle the media. What would Parliament be told? And critically, for conspiracy theorists, would there be any attempt to cover up such an incident? Could it be done and what would the reason be for such an action? All this and more will be revealed in Part 2 of this article, available exclusively in the next issue of UFO DATA.

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Peruvian Meteorite Causes Illness



Fire from the Sky

On September 20th, 2007, a meteorite streaked across the Peruvian sky and slammed into a desolate plain close to the Bolivian border, close to Lake Titicaca. It left a crater more than 40 feet wide and 15 feet deep. Water that pooled in the depression, according to eyewitnesses, boiled for over 10 minutes. Reports from the area claimed that many locals had fallen ill after visiting the crater, displaying symptoms such as nausea, respiratory problems and headaches.

Scientists from Peru's Geophysics Institute arrived on the scene and confirmed that the crater had been made by a meteorite, finding magnetic fragments of meteoric iron. Medical teams, however, could find no trace of the illness reported, but they took samples of hair, blood and urine for analysis.

A day later, National Geographic reported that the impactor was a rocky meteorite. They gleaned this information from Peru's Mining, Metallurgy, and Geology Institute (INGEMMET), who said the samples they received contained no iron. Most rock meteors burn up or break apart before they hit the ground, thus becoming meteorites, but this one didn't.

The Peruvian scientists said that the impact created a column of steam to rise into the air. This steam was contaminated with arsenic, which is found in the soil and groundwater of the region. This, they said, was likely the cause of the illnesses. However, Lionel Jackson, of the Canadian Geological Survey, speaking to New Scientist, said that the illnesses were probably psychosomatic and that the locals were shocked by "a big explosion in a very quiet area of the world."

It now seems certain that it was a meteorite that hit this isolated area

of South America, but some of the early theories included geological venting causing an eruption or a top secret satellite crashing to the ground.

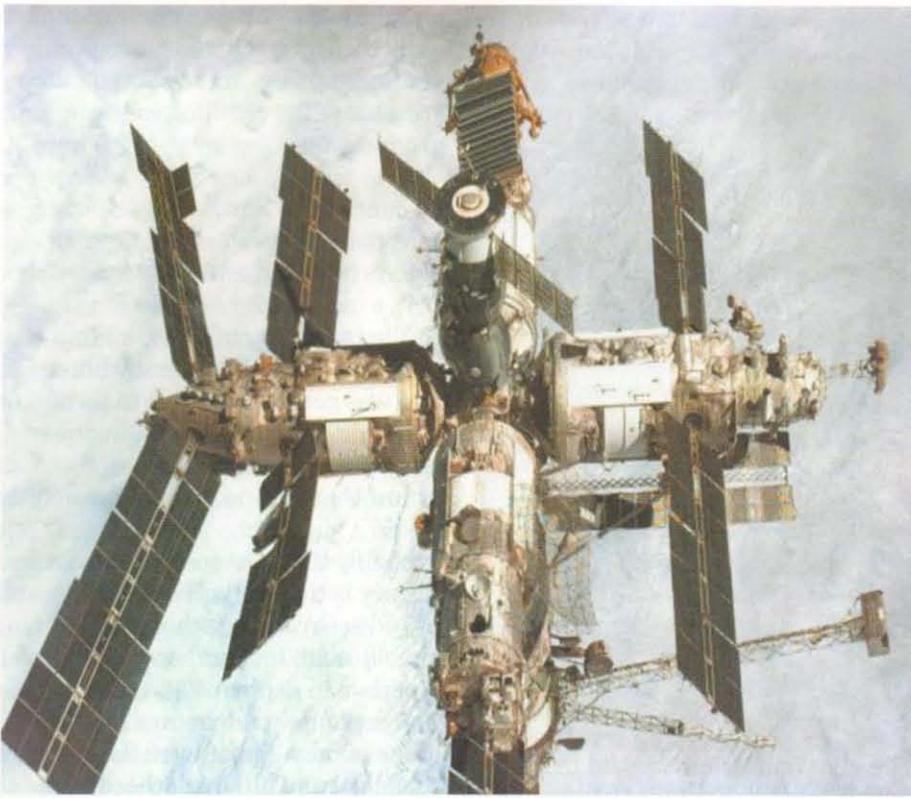
Of course, the Earth is struck by celestial objects all of the time. It always has been and it always will be.

At the beginning of 2007, a lump of metal fell into a New Jersey house and was generally agreed to be of meteoric origin, although theories ranged from an airplane part to an errant tool dropped by an astronaut!

Probably the most famous impact in history is that of the Tunguska blast of 1908. On June 30th of that year, a huge fireball tore across the skies of Siberia and exploded above the Tunguska river. Over 600 square miles of taiga forest were flattened by the blast, and although there were likely to be many animal deaths, no humans were reportedly killed, save for one trapper who died from an infection contracted into his broken arm caused by the blast.

Many theories have been expounded for what caused the blast, ranging from a flare from passing a comet, to a rocky asteroid exploding in the atmosphere, to a mini black hole, to a nuclear explosion, to a Tesla death ray, to a UFO. The general consensus is that an asteroid or comet fragment exploded high in the atmosphere and





caused the devastation below without leaving a crater. One thing is certain, though: had the event happened a few hours later, the city of St Petersburg would have been devastated.

In 1871, a huge fire swept through the city of Chicago in the United States. Over 200 people lost their lives and the city was devastated. The official explanation was that the fire was deliberately started, but in 2004, physicist, Robert Wood, suggested that the fires may have begun as a result of the break-up of Biela's Comet. Several other fires started at the same time as the one in Chicago all over the American Midwest and over 2000 people died.

In the 1930s, South America suffered two large events, one named the Rio Curaca Event, which took place on the Peru/Brazil border in 1931 and the Rupununi Event, which happened in British Guiana (now Guyana) in 1935.

The Rio Curaca object allegedly set the forest on fire, which blazed for months and depopulated a wide area. Afterwards, a fine, white ash descended on the region.

Two years after the Rupununi incident, an American expedition to British Guyana found an area of forest that had been virtually flattened

by some huge explosion. Reports from the time of the event indicated that something had fallen from the sky and exploded over the jungle, flattening trees for up to twenty miles around.

Of course, most meteorite impacts are not this large. Many rocks 'soft-land', leaving no crater or only a small depression in the ground. Indeed, there are meteor fields all over the world, where enthusiasts can go and hunt for space rocks that are simply scattered about the ground.

Not everything that hits the ground is natural.

The NASA space station, Skylab, fell to Earth in 1979. While most of its 75 tons broke apart and fell into the Indian Ocean, off Western Australia, some fragments were found on land.

In 1978 and 1983, two, nuclear-powered Soviet satellites crashed to Earth in Canada and the South Atlantic Ocean respectively. Cosmos 954 crashed into Northern Canada in 1978 and the resulting cleanup had the Canadian government issuing the Soviet Union with a bill for over \$6 million, of which they paid half after three years of negotiations. In 1982, Cosmos 1402 was launched, but a malfunction caused its orbit to decay and it crashed into the ocean less

than seven months later.

Both of these incidents illustrate the dangers of using nuclear reactors for powering satellites and space probes. If a mission goes awry, as they sometimes do, then radioactive material might be released into the atmosphere, or contaminate the area where they fell, be that ocean or ground.

In 2001, the 130-ton Mir space station was deliberately de-orbited and it burned up in the atmosphere over the Pacific Ocean. About 80 tons of the station crashed into the sea, with some fragments the size of a small car.

The Kecksburg Incident of December, 1965, is one of the most famous in UFO lore. A bell or acorn-shaped object was seen to come down in the woods close to the town of Kecksburg, Pennsylvania. While the media said it was a meteor or Soviet satellite that had crashed, eyewitnesses reported that the craft was intact and that the military arrived very quickly to remove it, although the Pentagon announced that nothing had been found.

In 2005, NASA claimed that they had studied fragments from the Kecksburg object and concluded that it was a Soviet satellite that came down. This directly contradicts the earlier statement that nothing had been found, because if nothing had been found, where did the fragments that NASA analyzed come from?

With all of these natural and artificial objects (whether man-made or not!) falling to the ground, one might be forgiven for proclaiming that the sky is falling. While this may not be true in a literal sense, it is true that it is not a matter of IF we will be hit again, but of WHEN. Indeed, it is often stated that we are overdue a large impact event of at least the Tunguska Event's magnitude, with those predicted at least once every 50-100 years. Larger impacts, such as the strike that ended the Cretaceous period 65 million years ago, are thankfully less common, but we may also be overdue for a strike of that size by between 15 to 20 million years!

SJ

Your Letters

It is always great to receive letters from you. Sometimes they are reports and sometimes good old fashioned opinions on the subject and the world in which we live.

One dear lady who often calls me with snippets of information lives in what sounds like one of the most interesting places in the country.

Alma Russell won't mind me telling you she is no longer 21 or 22 but has had a lifelong interest in the subject. She lives in a delightfully named 'Camelot' and that name has always triggered my imagination.

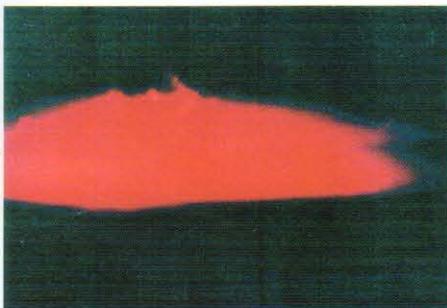
However to business.



Alma wrote to me recently and sent me two photographs taken last August.

She writes: I was looking over

Dartmoor early in the evening when I noticed the darkest sky and wonderful red cloud formation, I took

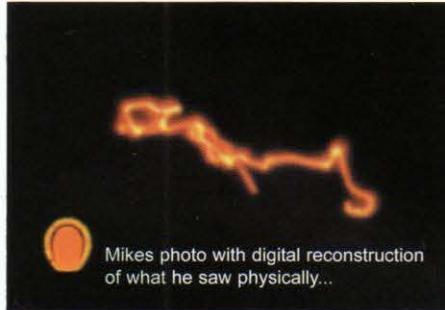


one shot and within a few seconds the sky had darkened even more and the clouds got even redder.

Although the images are copied

scans, Alma has the original photos and has offered them for analysis if needed.

Strange UFO seen over North East



Regular subscriber Mike Hallowell submitted this report.

BOLDON UFO SIGHTING, 04 11 07

At precisely 1942 hrs on Sunday, 4 November 2007, I was standing in the back garden of my house. I noticed what I thought was a particularly bright light in the sky in a south-westerly direction over the Sunderland area.

After a few seconds the light was as bright as ever and seemed to be heading towards my location, travelling in a north-easterly direction. As it drew closer I could see that it was pulsating or flickering erratically.

I can't estimate its height, but it seemed to be roughly the same altitude as the aircraft that regularly pass over my home on their way to Newcastle International Airport on the other side of the River Tyne.

As my eyes adjusted I noticed that the object was not uniformly orange in colour. The glow around it was paler, and I could see what looked like a dark-coloured upturned horseshoe inside it. There was also a dark V-shaped protuberance on the lower aspect of the object that gave the bizarre appearance of being a rudder. Overall the object appeared to be ovate in shape, although the lower portion seemed to be slightly flattened. The dark, inverted horseshoe shape, along with the flattened underbelly, now made the object look distinctly like a hot-air balloon, but

its speed - similar to that of the planes as they approach Newcastle Airport - ruled that out completely.

I quickly switched on my camera and ran to the path at the front of my house. I took one photograph, then another. The first photograph showed the night sky in all its inky blackness. One, lone star appeared as a single pixel, but the mystery object took centre stage with great flamboyance. Intriguingly, however, it looked nothing like the object I'd seen with the naked eye. On the photograph is a twisting, writhing rope of orange light surrounded by a cherry-red glow. At numerous places along its length, where the line changes trajectory, a lighter-coloured yellow "knuckle" sits neatly over the joint.

The second photograph was even more puzzling. I was sure I'd caught the glowing object bang to rights, but when I looked at the picture there was no light there at all; just a series of long, faint, cherry-red strings stretching right across the horizon. I wondered if they might have been the trail of some firework rockets in the distance.

I phoned Northumbria Police and asked them if they'd had any reports of aircraft in trouble, unusual objects being sighted over South Tyneside, etc. The call handler put me on hold, checked, came back to me and said that no one else had rang in to report anything unusual. She gave me the telephone of Newcastle International Airport and suggested I contact them.

The airport hadn't heard of anything either. Nothing had appeared on their radar and no aircraft in the vicinity had reported anything unusual. I telephoned Russel Callaghan at UFO DATA Magazine and asked if he'd like to see the pics and my freshly written notes of the account. As he was on editorial deadline that day he needed to see them pretty sharpish, so I e-mailed him the photographs with my account.

No room for anymore, have a great Christmas and New Year, see you all in 2008. Russ and the crew....