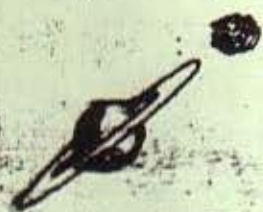


OSFO

SILGANTLA



50¢

NO

15

JAN

Editor: Andy Roberts, 84 Elland Rd., Brighouse, W. Yorks, HD6 2QR. Tel Brighouse 721993

Co-ordinator: Martin Bagless, 19 Bellmount Gardens, Bramley, Leeds. Tel Leeds 571058

Subscription to UFO Brigantia is £7 50p per year (12 issues) or £3 80p for six months (6 issues) including p&p. If any readers have anything strange to report please let us know by phoning Bradford (0274) 638333. Everything will be treated with the utmost confidence. Articles from readers are most welcome as are letters, on any points raised. The opinions expressed in these pages are not necessarily those of WYUFOG as a whole. All material is copyright West Yorks UFO Research Group except where stated. Articles etc may be reproduced providing WYUFOG and author are credited. Cheques made payable to WYUFOG.

.....

This issue sees a change in the editorship of UFO Brigantia. Paul Bennett, who has edited the mag for the past twelve months is shortly moving to the Isle Of Arran, and so I (Andy Roberts) am taking over as editor. You havnt heard the last of Paul though as he assures me he will be contributing the occasional article. On behalf of WYUFOG's members I would like to publicly thank Paul for the excellent job he has done as editor over the past year. Thanks and Good Luck Paul.

I don't plan any major changes in the layout or content of UFO Brigantia. The same mix of current and historical West Yorkshire UFO cases, articles, reviews etc will stay the same although I hope to introduce one or two new features, one of which will be a guest article every two issues or so by someone not normally closely associated with ufology but an expert in his/her field, giving their views on the subject. Hopefully this will be a bit controversial, and I have in mind initially pieces by such as, a Minister of religion (preferably evangelical), an occultist, a sociologist, a folklorist etc. This aside, if you as a reader like or dislike something please write and let us know.

As it's my first editorial I am going to bore you with how I see the current state of Ufology in the north, although the views expressed may be pertinent for the whole of the country and probably worldwide. Despite there having been over 30 years of research and investigation in our subject it seems to me that there is still a huge lack of co-operation between groups and individuals. Two recent occurrences spring readily to mind illustrating this sad fact though there are many more. Firstly WYUFOG's failure to get YUFOS to agree to any form of liaison and secondly the attempt by members of NUFOIS to reform UFOIN. In the first case, if two UFO groups working in the same geographical area cannot liaise and exchange even the most basic case details then what hope have we of ever getting a clear picture of UFO activity in this area? For instance, if WYUFOG have two CE1 cases from the same night (chance would be a fine thing) and YUFOS had one or two from the same night if we are acting in ignorance of each other until long after the event then we will have missed much in the way of valuable information and correlation. In the second case, the attempt to reform a long defunct group by people who have proved obstructive in the past will only (if it succeeds) serve to further splinter Ufology in the north.

I state here on behalf of WYUFOG that WYUFOG will give ANY help and ANY information to ANYONE with a serious interest in Ufology.

PARALYSIS IN POLAND....A PRO UFO ERA INCIDENT?

Recently WYUFORO have been dealing with a case which, although it dates from 1938 and originates in the country of Poland, makes intriguing reading. We present the details as we know them for the reader to form his own conclusions.

In early May 1938, a Mr Kovac (pseudonym) was in bed at his home near Mirkowice, Poland. At about four a.m. he noticed two young looking dark skinned men at his window. They appeared to be carrying a piece of heavy machinery between them and Mr Kovac watched for fifteen to twenty minutes, during which time he was unable to move or cry out. In his own words, he felt 'paralysed', as if in a 'force field'. The following morning, in a field of Rye adjacent to his home, Mr Kovac found a flattened area some fifteen to twenty metres in diameter which had four holes in the centre. Mr Kovac said that the holes looked as though legs supporting something had been in the holes. At a later and more recent date, a medical examination revealed certain 'complications' which Mr Kovac feels are in some way connected to the paralysis and UFO.

The details we have on this case are brief as Mr Kovac was taken into hospital after his initial contact with us, and upon his discharge was rehoused. Despite exhaustive efforts we have been unable to trace him.

The events he mentions have all the ingredients of a contemporary UFO landing and (possible) contact. Physical traces, OZ factor paralysis, entities doing seemingly meaningless things and later physiological effects are all present in this case and from a time at least fifteen years before this sort of thing became 'common' in the nineteen fifties and after. Had Mr Kovac been traceable, he may have been a good candidate for hypnotic regression to try and ascertain what really occurred during his time of paralysis. This is all pure conjecture however, but the likelihood of Mr Kovac fabricating the events he described in his letter and R1 form he gave us is slim. He appeared to have a very limited grasp of the English language and had to have help completing his R1. The chances therefore of him having a good knowledge of the curious ways of the UFO experience are minimal. Something happened to Mr Kovac that night in Poland. What it was though, we will probably never know. H.T.G.

.....

BRIEF REPORTS

Brighouse 18th December 1985..Witness saw a bright disc shaped object over town centre.No further details.

Scotland 1982..The witness, on a campsite was looking toward the nearby village when he noticed a silver sphere but dismissed it as a ball^on. After visiting the toilet he saw a large black object which was hovering directly overhead. He was terrified and clung on to the side of the caravan. When he looked again the object had gone.

Baliff Bridge November 1985..Three people saw yellow lights moving up and down in the sky above Wyke Woods.
(Wyke Woods was the scene of a big flap some years ago please note.)

From Mr P. Turnbull of Bradford.

Congratulations to all involved with UFO Brigantia. Having had an interest in UFO's for a great number of years, and been so naive as not to realise that ufology magazines were available, UFO Brigantia comes as a breath of fresh air. It gives an unbiased account of UFO's (we try Mr Turnbull), likely sightings explained, other possible theories investigated and taken to their conclusion if possible. One small comment about an article from issue 12 on co-operation between groups, surely this could only lead to a better overall picture of sightings in and around the U.K. All in all UFO Brigantia has a good format, is well versed and puts a bit of wit and good humour in for good measure. May I wish you all the best with next year's issues, adding to this I wish a very happy New Year to UFO Brigantia staff, writers, researchers and investigators.

Thanks Mr Turnbull your comments are appreciated. See the editorial re your comment about co-operation. Sadly some people and groups think UFO sightings are, or become, their personal property.

MY NAME IS LEGION

The second in a somewhat irreverent series of articles which looks at the beliefs of UFO cults and contactees today.

Aurora and Micheal El Legion (known to their mass as Kathleen Town and Micheal Slick) have been in the U.K. recently on a lecture and promotional tour, spreading their particular brand of Space Gospel amongst us mere mortals.

The El Legions are extraterrestrials from the planet Orion who have been sent to Earth out of compassion for humanity and, like the humble bodhisattva, they will not rest until we are all similarly enlightened. Their general belief system is similar to that of most of the cults and contactees from the latter part of the 20th century in that as usual humanity is abusing the planet and global catastrophe is around the next corner. Millenialism at its best. But wait, we are to be saved. In the El Legions case it is the well known Galactic Federation who are going to get us out of this mess, apparently having seen the destruction of a planet between Mars and Jupiter some 6000 years ago, they have no wish to see the same fate befall the earth (phew that was close). Earth by the way is the 'worst' and most 'non spiritual' planet in this neck of the Universe and needs all the help it can get.

The head honcho of the Galactic Federation is non other than the Lord Sananda, also known as Jesus, who is ably assisted in his cosmic duties by such luminaries as Sutko the keeper of cosmic law and Soltec the sun technician (Sol-Sun/Tec-technician gedit?). Micheal El Legion has been in touch with these people on board UFO's on a few occasions during which they revealed his mission to him. Telepathically of course.

The El Legions substantiate these claims of extraterrestrial craft by trotting out the now famous Billy Meir 'photos, which as those who have seen them will know are worse fakes than most. On a recent t.v. show the two Legions blew it

completely by trying to include such esoterica as auric fields, kirlian photography, ley lines, crystals, karma, kinesiology and the Hoop prophecies in their pantheon of beliefs without either explaining what each subject was or relating them to their original argument. The audience were clearly unimpressed, especially when Aurora attempted to show the 'power' in a quartz crystal by a pathetic stage magic act involving a glass of water, a member of the audience and a lot of smiling. As one girl said, "It's the sort of thing you do in the brownies."

Some of the more bizarre beliefs the El Legions espouse include the fact that there are at least 400 million 'star people' on Earth, most of whom are not aware of it, as you immediately gather when names like Thatcher and Reagan are mentioned. And did you know that it was the Federation who put the idea for Band Aid into Bob Geldof's head? No? Well if you didn't know that you certainly wouldn't know that the Federation had been seen dropping food to the starving Ethiopians. Disbelieve at your peril. And for a finale Michael informed us that they had positive proof that thousands of children who go missing in the USA each year are being shipped to Mars (of all places) by the US government as part of their Alternative 3 program. And where do you think all the British scientists who went to the states in the 'brain drain' have gone? You guessed it. Mars.

All this jocularitas aside, the El Legions are deadly serious and no doubt with such a catch all of beliefs many people will be wholeheartedly taken in (what's worse is that many people want to be taken in). Whilst belief in most of the foregoing is harmless enough, when you begin to believe that you are part of some Galactic Federation which is going to save the Earth from the mess it has got its self in, then you are purveying a (proven time and time again throughout history) erroneous belief in outside help, thus taking the destiny of the human race out of our own hands. This is dangerous medicine. Whatever the 'reality' of UFO's, it surely has little to do with this sort of escapist nonsense.

CASE HISTORY: MEDIUM DEFINITION UFO OVER BRIGHOUSE WEST YORKSHIRE

INVESTIGATION BY ANDY ROBERTS

THE EVENT

On a hot summer's evening in 1975 Mr Alderson was returning to his home at the end of Mill Lane, Brighouse. As he turned to cross the road outside the New Victoria Tavern his attention was drawn to an object in the sky. What he saw was a red/orange ball of light, as bright as the sun with a vivid green trail stretching behind it 'for miles'. Mr A. observed the object for about one minute as it approached Brighouse. As it came over head the object appeared to stop and hang in the air not far from where Mr A. was standing. The object stayed in this position for about thirty seconds before suddenly moving off at 'fantastic speed' and vanishing. Mr A. crossed the road and went home somewhat shaken by his experience.

Mr Alderson said the object was travelling from either the south or south east to the north or north west at an approximate elevation of 15 degrees.

IDENTIFICATION & EVALUATION

When interviewed, despite there being a ten year gap between sighting and investigation, Mr Alderson was still very enthusiastic and clear about what he had seen. The experience, whatever its true nature, had convinced him that we are being visited by 'flying saucers', indeed this was the term he used when talking about his experience. During the talk however Mr Alderson changed his mind on more than one occasion about the date of the sighting. Originally he said it was a June/July evening in 1975 but he later said it could have been 1974 or possibly 1976. This fact nearly led to the case being classed as insufficient data, but with a little persistence of thought Mr Alderson narrowed the year down to 1974 or 1975 as he remembered a death in the family in 1976 and was sure that his sighting was previous to this.

These facts established and a hoax ruled out, a search was made of all the local and regional newspapers for 74, 75 & to be sure, 76. Also meteorological and astronomical societies were consulted for their views on the sighting. The two conclusions reached by the astronomical societies were either a freak effect caused by sunlight refracting on ice crystals or no explanation at all in the second case. Neither of these being conclusive, and the newspapers and journal searches revealing nothing it was felt that this case be classified as a MEDIUM DEFINITION sighting.

Certain questions remain however. Surely something as big and impressive as the object described and of such a long duration must have been seen and reported by others? This is not the case though, and the possibility of a totally subjective experience is raised. The fact that Mr Alderson was outside a busy public house, near the centre of Brighouse and at the side of a main road must also be taken into account. Despite the location and the extremely high chance of someone either going into or leaving the pub whilst Mr Alderson was standing there, he says he saw no-one. Possibly a mild OZ factor is at work here although Mr A did not say he experienced any of the classic symptoms. This possibility must still be taken into consideration for this case. Other features of interest are that the object was seen travelling up a valley which has a fault line, a high number of high voltage pylons and a canal and river system. All three have in the past been featured in many other sightings of this type in other areas and have given rise to theories that this type of 'UFO' is created by the stresses in the earth's fault system or feeds upon the electrical energy from high voltage power lines. Something along these lines could well be the case with this sighting, or possibly some very rare meteorological phenomena. But it is still inexplicable in conventional terms and must therefore, in our terms of reference be classed as I said above as a MEDIUM DEFINITION case. Much work and research is still to be done on phenomena of this kind and scientists are only recently becoming aware that other forms of energy or natural phenomena exist.

A review of a book we have recieved called SPOCKLIGHTS will be in the next issue. This book details phenomena which is in some cases similar to the above and which has become part of the folklore of every British county. Hopefully we will also have an article on these lights in Yorkshire in the early 20th century.

Journal & Magazine Reviews

"Magonia," £2.50, 4 issues. From John Rimmer, 64 Alric Avenue, New Malden, Surrey KT3 4JW
 Magonia is a well-written publication which concentrates on the interaction between all kinds of anomalous phenomena, society and the individual. Quite a few well known authors such as Kevin McLure and Michael Goss write for it on a regular basis. Issue 21 contains a possible Man in Black (MIB) case from Lancashire by Peter Hough, and an article on Rendlesham by Stuart Campbell. It does have its problems though. Scepticism is OK as a way of approaching the field of anomalous phenomena, but on occasion Magonia is so sceptical that you can't believe that you have read it when you finish the last page. Issue 21 also contains a piece, "Portrait of a Researcher," by M. Verga, the second of a two-part sociological look at ufologists and UFO groups, too long to detail here, but it is an unfair and, to my mind, untrue dissection of the reasons by and for which people are attracted to ufology. Verga would have been more profitably employed in looking at the (voyeuristic) reasons for which he wrote these articles. These points aside, Magonia is well worth buying and it certainly reaches parts other mags don't even know exist!
 Review article written by Andy Roberts.

Northern UFO News, Nov-Dec, 1985. Published bi-monthly. Cost £5.40 per annum from Jenny Randles, 8 Whitethroat Walk, Birchwood, Cheshire WA3 6PQ

A multiple-witness landing case from North Wales...A supposed UFO-aircraft collision over Rendlesham Forest...Brief cases from Scotland, Cleveland, Lancashire and West Yorkshire...The latest developments in the struggle for possession of the NUFON files...JR's views on the success - and authenticity ("As evidential data they are clearly as valid as this year's Rupert Bear annual") - of "The Uninvited" series of books...All this (and more) in the latest, highly interesting issue of NON.
 Review article written by Darren P. Chanter.

"Fortean Times," £1.50 per issue. Subscription per annum, £6. From FT, 96 Mansfield Road, London N13 2HX.

As it says on the cover, THE foremost Journal of Strange Phenomena. Buy it, or miss out on everything from ice falls to unicorns. This issue (45) has some good stuff on the 1913 airship scare, the giant 'cats' recently shot in Scotland, phantom sieges (including one of ufological interest) and much more. The writing is excellent and no strange phenomena you can think of is left out. All this, together with book reviews, journal listings from all over the world and an underlying sense of humour make FT essential reading. Buy it now.
 Review article written by Andy Roberts.

BOOK REVIEW: "Beyond Explanation," by Jenny Randles (Hale £9.95)

This is Jenny's ninth book and although it isn't directly connected with the study of UFOs, its lines of thought and conclusions are certainly relevant to the more exotic aspects of ufology.

Subtitled, "The Paranormal Experiences of Famous People," the book draws on the strange, odd and sometimes bizarre paranormal events from the lives of over a hundred well known people, from John Lennon to Pat Phoenix. Intertwined amongst these tales are JR's ideas on how and why these events have occurred. Briefly and basically, she suggests that we experience 'reality' in two ways: Normal Reality Mode (NRM) and Synchronistic Reality Mode (SRM). NRM is the objective everyday reality we are used to and SRM is a more 'psychical' reality in which state paranormal events are experienced. Nothing particularly new here: two levels of reality (at least) are at the basis of most of the world's esoteric

psychologies and religions, stemming from the root of Shamanism itself. Not new...but not
rehashed either. JR puts her terms simply, and in fresh terms for the reader who is new
to these kinds of ideas.

Not everyone will like this book on the grounds of its non-scientific approach, but I
thought it was a good read, and as an introduction to many aspects of anomalous phenomena
it is interesting and provides much food for thought.
Review article by Andy Roberts.

ETUPOC Research News - Article by Andy Roberts

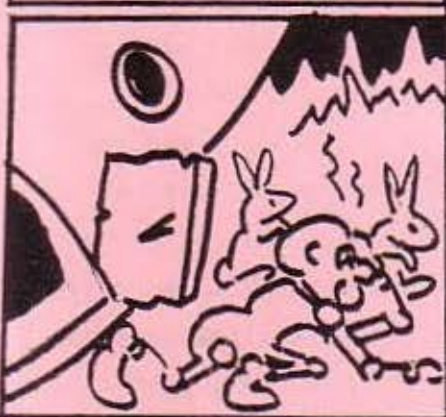
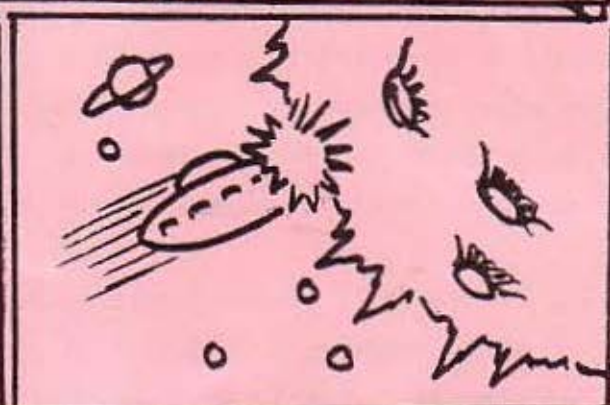
After looking through the past two years' cases on our files, no patterns appear to emerge
of any kind. All the reported facts, i.e. colour, shape, periodicity, etc., do not fall
into any identifiable sequence. This is a disturbing fact and suggests that either we are
not doing our job properly as investigators, or the phenomena we are looking at is so ran-
dom and wide-ranging in its appearance and effects that we should not expect any patterns
to appear. One interesting thing has arisen though, and that is of what was seen by some
witnesses before a sighting took place. In three cases on our files, some form of light-
ning flash was reported before the subsequent sighting. No relevance was put on this by
either the witness or the investigator, but I think it worth noting and raising with future
witnesses as it may occur more often. In two of the cases relevant to this anomaly, flash-
ing red and white lights were seen after the lightning flash, and it may be if more data on
this occurrence can be gathered, some form of pattern may appear here. I have read about
such flashes occurring before sightings in a few UFO books, but to the best of my know-
ledge it has not been followed up in any way, or considered particularly relevant. Our
resident contactee, Paul Bennett tells me that he has seen flashes prior to some of his
sightings too. Anyone got any ideas?

Editor's Comment:

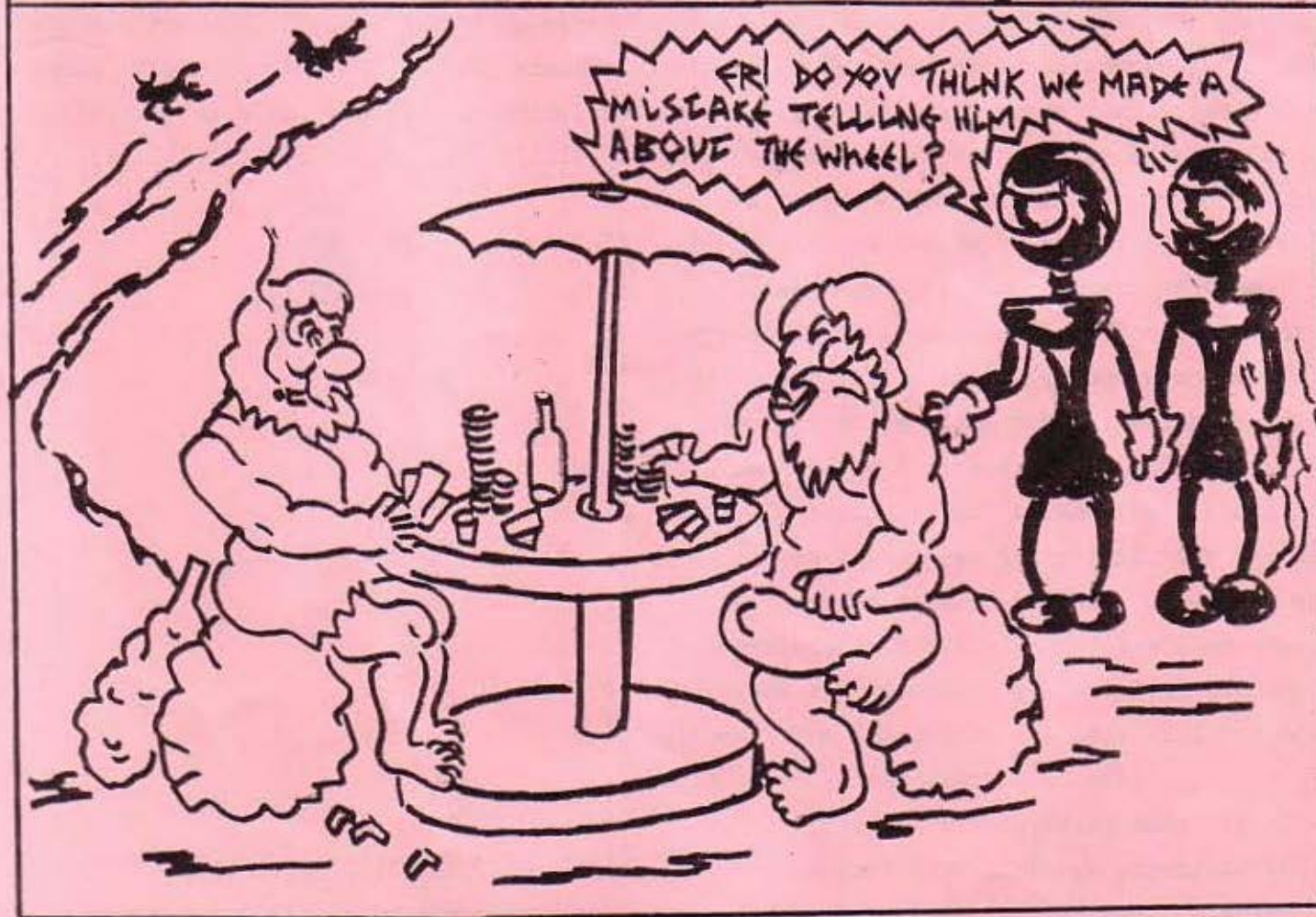
This strange phenomenon of flashes of light, very similar to lightning, occurring before a
UFO is seen, first caught my attention in the March-April-May Bradford/Baildon Moor flap
of 1980. As well as observing the phenomenon myself, many other witnesses with whom I have
spoken told me of an identical "flash of light" preceeding the main UFO event. Initially,
I thought little of it. But when the spectacular flap of sightings swept Bradford in late
1981 and people reported the same thing, it was thought that something of relevance was
apparent.

Initially it was thought that some external agent was responsible for the "sky flashes"
as I called them. This then prompted a UFO sighting. But when Jenny Randles' "Femine
UFO Mystery" quoted my observations in 1983 those piezoelectrical earth lights had already
come to the explanatory rescue! I hasten to add however, that several examples of these
"sky flashes" were followed by phenomena which would be very difficult to interpret in
terms of the EL hypothesis. -PAUL BENNETT

GALAXATIVE... By Jain J....



© AND THE ANCIENT ASTRONAUTS by ERIC VON JERRICAN

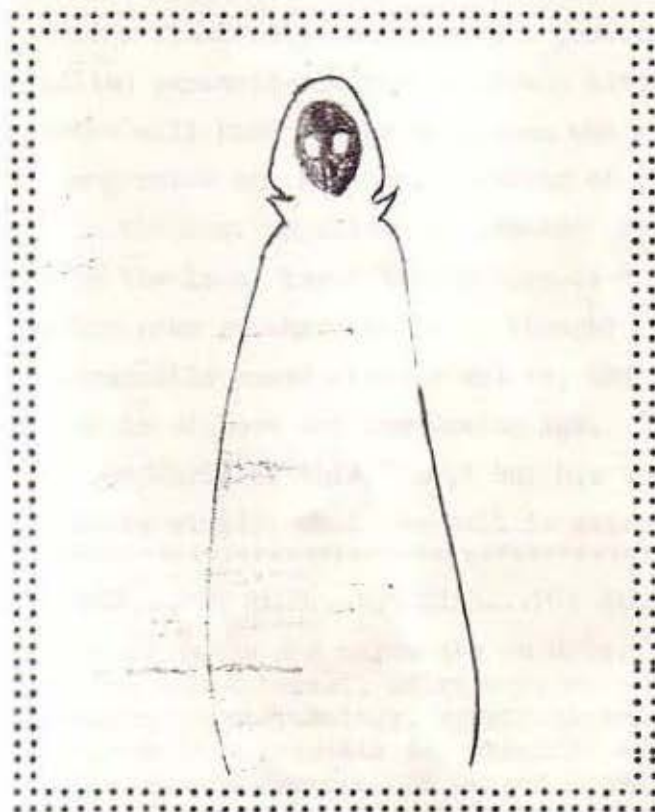


The Visions and the Voices: The Strange Case of the Yorkshire Ripper

In 1965, Peter Sutcliffe alleged that whilst working in Bingley graveyard, "he heard mumbling voices,"* but they appeared to be coming out of mid-air. Climbing out of the grave he had just about finished digging, Sutcliffe said "the 'voice' appeared to be coming from the top of a cross" just ahead of him. "It was an echoing voice; vague and distant, and it repeated itself some two or three times, and it was direct from the stone itself and I have never forgotten it," he said.

Following that, we are informed, "It had a terrific impact on me. I went down the slope after standing there for a while. It was starting to rain. I remember going to (the) top of the slope overlooking the valley and I felt as though I'd just experienced something fantastic. I looked across the valley and all around, and thought of Heaven and Earth and how insignificant we all were. But I felt so important at that moment." A feeling which, we must surely agree with, is sympathetic to what many of us call the Oz Factor. Peter Sutcliffe described that very feeling on numerous other occasions during his lengthy court trials. In particular, he dwelled on many claims of the 'voices' which he heard from the Bingley graveyard, and he alleged to have had visions of such powerful deities as Jesus and the Virgin Mary! Quite a story!

During my teens in the late '70s and early '80s, I went to one of the grammar schools in Bingley and heard occasional stories of weird goings-on around the small town. Of particular interest - and possible relevance - were the odd tales from the area immediately adjacent to Bingley graveyard. Eighteen-year-old Simon Baker told me of the strange "hooded, black-cloaked" spectre which had been seen for years around the graveyard. Other people told me very similar stories of this same entity...described, on the whole, not as a phantom-looking thing, but as a solid creature! In one particularly in-



teresting case, witness Anthony Barnes and his girlfriend were walking along a footpath just on the south-side of the site, when out of a dense region of bushes ahead of them, stepped a very tall person, at least six and a half feet tall! This "person" was clad in a one-piece black cloak outfit, which covered it from head to foot and walked only twenty or thirty feet straight across their field of vision. As it crossed their path, the strange figure turned and faced the two. In doing so it revealed, from the midst of its hood, two brilliant red glowing eyes, dazzling in magnitude. The thing then promptly vanished before them! (see diagram to left)

This point is simply being made, to illustrate the fact that although psychiatrists diagnosed Sutcliffe to be a paranoid-schizophrenic, and that the 'voices' were simply

* Wherever quotations are made from either Sutcliffe, or from someone speaking on behalf of him, they are taken from the psychiatric notes made on him by Dr. Hugo Milne.

WYUFORG CLASSIC CASE- THE KAIKOURA RADAR/VISUAL AFFAIR 1978

The Kaikoura radar/visual case from New Zealand is one of the best of its kind and although widely written about we make no apology for (briefly) covering it in our Classic Case series for those of our readers who are unfamiliar with it. Anyone wishing to know more detail about this case, of which there is much, should consult the books listed at the end of this article.

The Kaikoura saga began on the 21st of December 1978 when an Argosy freight 'plane crew saw some unusual lights upon take off from Blenheim Airport. The pilot checked with ground staff and was told that they had tracked some objects on radar which appeared to be doing 1250 mph. Another Argosy 'plane was in the area and was asked to check on the situation. After a while the crew of the second Argosy saw a bright red light, also confirmed by radar, for which no explanation could be found. The Argosy changed course but the light stayed with them and, according to radar, kept with them for twelve miles before vanishing.

An Australian T.V. company became interested in the sightings and, having one of their reporters in the area, took it up. The reporter, one Quentin Fogarty, interviewed the witnesses and became involved. A flight was planned for the 30th of December to 'reconstruct' the sightings, never expecting what would happen.

Shortly after take off the crew called for Fogarty and the T.V. crew to come to the flight deck, where they all saw and filmed various lights, some in a row of five and seeming to pulsate from very small to the size of a balloon. Wellington's radar confirmed that they had an unknown target on the radar which was following the 'plane. During these sightings Fogarty was filming and making his commentary, making his famous statement, later to be the title of his book on the subject, 'Lets Hope They're Friendly'. The object seen and radar tracked was described by the cameraman as having a brightly lit base and a sort of transparent dome. Fogarty in his taped commentary said that it looked to like a 'flying saucer'. The Argosy landed to refuel at Christchurch and took off again this time seeing more lights they could not identify, also seen on the 'planes weather radar for four minutes.

Going on a 'plane to reconstruct a UFO sighting and then actually seeing some of the things seems too good to be true and after the event explanations abounded, At least fifteen being seriously suggested from Venus to lights reflecting on a cabbage patch. Were the Kaikoura sightings a UFO? Yes, despite these explanations no single conventional reason can be truthfully stated to be the object appearing on both the film and radar, let alone the visual observations. This fact, together with the many witnesses who all give the same version of events can lead to it being classed as nothing but a UFO. Not a flying saucer, alien craft or anything else. Just a plain old UFO as in Unidentified Flying Object. Because that's what it was. Perhaps the term UAP (Unidentified Atmospheric Phenomenon) would have been more apt and certainly less emotive than UFO but that is a matter of opinion. Current theories about the Kaikoura case have posited piezo-electric phenomena caused by a geological fault slipping, but that is still just a theory, nothing has been proved and so the Kaikoura case remains a classic radar visual UFO. - See map on page 13.

11

References: Let's Hope They're Friendly by Q. Fogarty
UFO Reality by Jenny Randles
Encyclopedia of UFO's by Ronald Story
The Unexplained no. 3

ALIEN FRIENDS
BY NIGEL WATSON (SUPORS)

Editor's note: This manuscript kindly sent to us by subscriber Nigel Watson concerns the Sunderland family encounters later written about by Jenny Randles. This article however was written before Paul Whetnall and Jenny Randles' account and contains several points not raised before. For those readers who are not familiar with the story I urge them to obtain a copy of Whetnall & Randles book ALIEN CONTACT published by Coronet books for around two pounds. This book contains the rest of the story and is fascinating reading. Nigel's article is quite lengthy and so we will be serialising it over the next few issues.

ALIEN FRIENDS part one

Paul Bennett would very much like to have a close encounter with a UFO and its occupants; his ambition has allegedly been achieved by two children who live in Oakenholt, Flint, Clwyd, North Wales. Paul Whetnall and Jenny Randles were the principal investigators of this case, and in 1979 they produced an excellent report on the strange experiences of 12 year old Gaynor Sunderland and her 11 year old brother Darren.

When Stephen Spielberg's film 'Close Encounters of the Third Kind' went on general release in England during early 1978, Darren told his mother that he too had had a UFO encounter, two years earlier in late July 1976.

Paul Whetnall met and interviewed Darren in October 1978, and he found Darren to be an imaginative and clever boy, who was apt to inject a certain amount of exaggeration and melodrama into his story. Also it is possible that some of the features of his sighting are 'borrowed' from his sister's account of her encounter. So bearing this in mind, this is what Darren told Paul.

"I was walking down Coed On Road when I noticed something in a field. I looked back and saw a sort of shiny piece of metal. I turned around and saw some sort of men in a field. They could not move too good, as if they were sort of crippled.

"There were poles in the ground with bulbs on them- which I could not believe, you know, electricity coming out of the ground. These men were angry-as I make it- and they were sort of trying to stop the bulbs from working. They were firing a gun at them.

"The men were sort of tough. They did not have a suit on. Their faces were pink, like my sister said (Gaynor's testimony does not support this statement-N.W.). There were five or six poles and five or six men.

"Where the trigger would have been (on the gun) they had a blue button. They fired this but when they hit the bulbs they did not go out they just stayed on. All of a sudden one of them turned around and looked at me and I felt as though my spine was made of ice. He turned round and went into the ship and came out with a gun.

He turned around, looked at me again, and seemed very surprised that I could see him.

"I wanted to run but I just could not. The man pointed the gun at me-then turned round and pointed it at one of the bulbs. A red ray came out but it didn't work. He was so angry that he went up to the bulb and gave in a whim and the bulb went off. They were all sort of pleased- happier. Then they turned round and looked at all the other bulbs (still on) and were angry again.

"Then they all started hitting them. They all went off except one- and they just left that. All of a sudden something green came out of the ship and it had two small legs. It was all green except for the neck and head. That was red. It had sort of long floppy cheeks and didn't have any ears. The man turned round and made a sort of roar or growl and the animal looked up at him- made a sort of sad expression, turned round and went back up into the ship.

"In the ship was a sort of picture of a human head. It reminded me of the man next door. It had a few hairs on the head, long ears, long face and a flat nose (not very flattering for his neighbour, who Darren is comparing him with. N.W.) There were more men I could see inside the ship too. They were pressing controls.

"From behind the wall (of the ship) came a very human like man who had a pink face and a fine head of hair (the others only had a few strands sticking up). He had five fingers like us (the others had four- three pointed ones and a wobbly thumb). The man with the five fingers had difficulty pressing the controls inside the ship so he had to use his wrist. He had a sort of white suit and a sort of 'T' shirt. There were no buttons on. He looked at controls and smiled, then he turned and looked at the picture and went back behind the wall.

"On the side of the ship was some sort of writing. Mum showed me a book and it had exactly the same writing that had been found on a stone (this book was 'The Sirius Mystery' by Robert K.G. Temple-N.W.).

"The men had two joints in their legs. One was a few inches above their knee. They moved funny- kind of jerky or stiff. They could not move their arms properly- you know sort of like a bird moves its wings.

"The ship at the back looked like a silver airplane. It had a tailplane. The people inside the window looked very small. When they came out there was this sort of elevator that did not move and they ended up being $1\frac{1}{2}$ feet bigger or so when they came out (inside the ship they were approximately just a bit taller than 3 feet in height). It was like they passed through something that made them bigger.

"On top of the ship was a half circle with all colours- in the middle was a blank colour with a cross on it. On top of the half circle (the dome of the ship) was a cross with a kind of periscope.

There were horses a couple of fields away that were jumping on each others backs and fighting. I was hiding behind a lamp post. When they all looked the other way at once I thought that I would be the 'bionic man' and power it all away."

From this description it seems that the aliens (who wore green trousers and a kind of mottled silver top, and had eyes which opened and closed like a camera lens) were playful yet menacing.

Aliens are usually regarded as being technologically superior, and yet in this instance they appear to have had some trouble in extinguishing the bulbs (which were coloured blue). They even seemed rather vandalistic in their bulbsmashing attempts, when they discovered their ray guns wouldn't work. The human like man had difficulty pressing the ships controls, and even the strange animal that the aliens owned tried escaping from the ship!

The evening of the same day of his encounter, Darren went to bed, and as he lay down he felt very frightened. His bedroom curtains were open, and so fearing that something might look in on him during the night, he got out of bed and closed his curtains. As he did this he saw, in the south east, the 'same ship' he had seen earlier in the day, climb away into the sky from behind a group of houses. However, this time he only saw the illuminated cross shape which he had seen before on the ships dome section.

Gaynor Sunderland's encounter took place around late July 1976, and she could well have seen her UFO on the same day as Darren saw his. Since her sighting she has risen from being mediocre in her school work to being second in her class in 1978. According to the investigators she is unusually intelligent and excels in the subjects of biology and language.

Her observation seemed exceptionally real but she worried that it might have been a dream. Despite this her story has remained consistent throughout, and the investigators were impressed by her sincerity and helpful character.

On the 21st April 1978, Gaynor wrote an account of her sighting for Terry Bellis an investigator for the Wirral UFO Society.

At about 1.59 pm she was riding on her bicycle down Cood On Road, when her attention was caught by a silver object with a red light on it, in a nearby field...

Part two of Alien Friends will appear in the February issue of UFO Brigantia and will give an account of Gaynor Sunderland's experiences.

Well that's about it for this issue. I'm sorry if it seems a bit disjointed but that is due to the unexpected change in editorship. Apologies also for the almost total lack of drawings, diagrams etc to break the text up. Next issue will be immeasurably better. It will also have the answers to Paul's difficult crossword he set in the Christmas issue.

Map describing events over
Kaikoura New Zealand

December 1978 (p.10)

