

Compiled by Jenny Randles on behalf of the British UFO Research Association (BUFORA). *The UFO World '86* is, as the title suggests an attempt to review the major happenings in the Ufological world during the previous twelve months. As such the publication is split into four sections. The first of these is an International News round up, giving details of the leading UFO groups from around the world. Countries covered include the U.K., USA, France, Italy, Australia, Denmark, Switzerland and Scandinavia - home of the fascinating PROJECT HESSALDEN, which is dealt with at some length. The second section consists of a chronological review of the most significant and well-known cases of 1985; some are readily identifiable, though the majority remain as 'Unknowns'. The third section comprises two original articles of a theoretical nature. The first (by your reviewer D.P.C.) highlights the often striking similarities that are to be found between Close Encounter reports and Near Death Experiences; and the second (by Ion Cresswell) speculates as to 'the possible nature of the intelligence at work in UFO phenomena.' The final, fourth section provides the reader with a fairly comprehensive list of the major UFO related publications produced in 1985. It is hoped by BUFORA that the *UFO World* will become an annual publication and despite it's shortcomings- it would have been interesting to know of reports from Central and South America, the near East and behind the Iron Curtain- it is essential reading for anyone interested in Ufology today. Darren P. Chanter.

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According to editor Mike Costello, the aim of *Psi-Eye* is to summarise recent publications and research in all areas of the paranormal. To this end issue 1 contains features on ASSAP and Dr. Robert Morrin, recently appointed to the Koestler chair of Parapsychology. Plus book and magazine reviews from the UK and abroad. However the vast majority of this issue is taken up with a lengthy look at 'American infatuation with the near-death experience', in the form of an article with the apt title 'Death Trip USA'. Herein Costello provides the reader with an 'NDE stereotype', before going on to examine how this type of experience has been dealt with by the leading American writers, such as Moody, Rawlings and Saborn. Having done this he then looks at the responses from the media and organised religion to the NDE phenomena, followed by an interesting section on 'The NDE in fiction'. The latter part of the article is devoted to a critical assessment of the many reductionist explanations of the NDE. Of interest to both layman and more knowledgeable reader alike, *Psi-Eye* is indeed well worth a look. Darren P. Chanter.

UFO
BRIGANTIA

1990

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1950

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HISTORICAL ISSUE

The Journal Of The West Yorkshire UFO Research Group

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UFO Brigantia is published bi-monthly, subscriptions are £5.50 for six issues (one year), single copies and back issues 90p, all prices include p&p. Overseas rates on application. Letters, comments and general criticism are most welcome, as are articles on any aspect of Ufology. All material is copyright WYUFOURG unless otherwise stated, articles may be reproduced or quoted from providing original author and WYUFOURG are credited. The opinions expressed in these pages are not necessarily those held by WYUFOURG as a whole. If any reader should have anything unusual to report (from any year), please 'phone or write

W.Y.U.F.O.R.G.

WYUFOURG is a small group of active Ufologists which has been in existence since 1983 in it's present form. The group is a member of BUFORA, NUFON and Hilary Evans' BOLIDE project.

WYUFOURG, whilst taking a sceptical viewpoint, holds no fixed ideas as to the content and origin of the UFO phenomenon, believing it to comprise of both subjective and objective facets, and we think on the lines of evidence oriented research as opposed to belief oriented research.

The group aims are to collect, collate and investigate all UFO and UFO related phenomena, both past and present, from our area, with the intention of making this information available to any interested party, either directly or via our or other group's journals.

We are also interested in and encourage communication with other researchers, whether individuals or groups, both in this country and overseas. New members who wish to become involved with 'in the field' research and investigation are welcome. Anyone wishing membership should contact Martin Dagless.

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EDITORIAL

Many events in the history of the world have been siezed on by Ufologists in their books and magazines to add fuel to their particular theory. The idea that aliens in the guise of 'Ancient Astronauts' have visited the earth in the past is the most favoured idea and the public (and many Ufologists!) seem to love it, making the likes of Erich von Daniken and Brinsley le Poer Trench pots of money. Usually these ancient aliens are imbued with god like abilities, and indeed, most of the worlds religous books such as the Bible, Rig Vedas etc have been plundered by the ancient astronaut brigade, claiming extraterrestrial intervention for many of the incidents therin. When not interfering with newly formed religions the old aliens were supposed to have been helping various ancient cultures develop, doing a spot of pyramid building and occasionally leaving the odd artefact to help them along.

The funny thing is, this doesn't seem to have occurred with the type of alien we have been getting this century, which appear to consist mainly of the message giving sort, such as the 'doom and gloom if you don't pull yourself together' variety or the slightly more helpful 'it'll be alright in the end' type. Hardly a religous intervener or an artefact dropper amongst them. It was with this discrepancy in mind that WYUFOURG decided to put together an issue of articles concentrating on the 'historical' aspect of our subject, (historical in this case being pre 1947) to see what kind of articles would be submitted.

Well, no aliens, helpful or not but some great stuff, I'm sure you will agree. Sensibly, I think, the two major articles (David Clarke's and Nigel Watson's), have concentrated on the recent past and on solid, checkable, sources and references, the general thrust of their pieces seeming to suggest, whatever the initial stimulus, the UFO's of the periods covered owed more to misperception, rumour and suggestibility rather than to aliens of the extraterrestrial kind, and Paul Screeeton's slightly tongue in cheek piece holds a balance between the ridiculousness of the Ancient Astronaut subject and the popularity of it. Whilst not being strictly historical in the pre-1947 sense, Jenny Randles' article is an insiders look at the early days of NUFON, days apparently when there was a lot more happening than there is now! WYUFOURG's own contributions, short as they are, consist of a variety of subjects, ranging from Earthlights to mid- 1900's secret military testing!

WYUFOURG are very grateful for all those who have contributed to this special 'Historical' issue, the first of the new bi-monthly editions. We think it is our best issue yet, I hope you do too.

BRIEF REPORTS

A round-up of reports received by WYUFORG during the past month.

* Bradford, West Yks. October 1977.

A single witness saw a bright white oval object hovering over a power station at midnight. After about half an hour the object flew west towards Bradford town centre and the shot into the sky. There was no sound.

Evaluation: Insufficient Data

* Keighley West Yks. Summer 1979.

About ten people saw a hovering blue/grey disc about twenty feet above some trees at mid-day. It was about one to two hundred yards away and about forty to sixty feet wide. It looked like 'two dinner plates put face to face'. After hovering for two to five minutes, it shot away at great speed, with no sound.

Evaluation: Insufficient Data.

* Bradford West Yks. March 1980

The witness went into the garden at about 10:30 pm and on looking up to the sky, saw what she thought was a shooting star travelling SSE to NNW. She then noticed that another light was just behind the first, travelling on a different path, looking further she saw yet another light, thus making a triangular formation. She watched for a few minutes as they disappeared over rooftops towards Allerton. Witness claimed several psychic experiences.

Evaluation: Probable Aircraft.

* Pudsey West Yks. 31st March 1982

At 8:55 pm two witnesses heard a humming noise, and on looking up saw an oblong of many bright white lights. This hovered over a swimming pool for a few seconds before moving slowly away towards Leeds city centre. There was no visible structure only a multitude of hazy white lights.

Evaluation: Insufficient Data.

* Bradford W. Yks 2nd April 1986

Three witnesses observed a bright light which seemed to flash in the SW at an elevation of 45 degrees. Through binoculars they saw an oval shape covered with many flashing red blue and green lights. A part of the shape then split and zigzagged across the sky for three to four minutes before returning to the main shape. This continued for about four to five minutes until they stopped watching.

Evaluation: Autokinesis on a bright star.

Turn over for the strangest entity report of the year!

5 A BALLOON IN THE NORTH

By David Clarke

On the morning of July 11th 1897, Swedish engineer Salomon August Andree, accompanied by Dr Nils Strindberg and Knut Hjalmar F. Fraenkel, set off in the giant balloon *Eagle* from the Island of Amsterdam in Spitzbergen, intending to cross the North Pole and reach the mainland beyond. As the *Eagle* disappeared over the horizon, leaving precious ballast behind, reports began to pour into newspaper offices all over the world telling of sightings of a mysterious balloon - believed to be Andree's by those who saw it. Andree and his balloon were never seen in the air again, but eventually, puzzled newsmen ascertained that the *Eagle* was not responsible for the 20 or so sightings around the world during the summer of 1897.

Andree had intended to leave Spitzbergen on June 30th 1896, but found the weather conditions far too bad. On July 2nd, however, a dispatch appeared in the New York World stating:

'A mysterious balloon passed over Winnipeg this evening (July 1). The appearance of the balloon caused people to wonder if it was Andree's balloon. Professor Andree sailed early in June from Norway for Spitzbergen, from whence he intended to go to the North Pole in a balloon.'

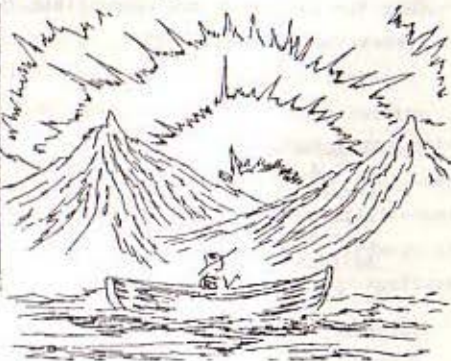
On August 11th, A.W. Vowell, superintendent for Indian affairs in British Columbia, received a report from Robert Loring, his agent in Hazelton, stating that an Indian boy had seen, in the daytime, on July 3rd, 'an airship travelling north' over the head of the Skeena River. Later on in the day it was seen by a party of prospectors, lead by Chief Ghall of Kitsploux. 'The balloon' it was said, 'is evidently the same that passed over Winnipeg on July 1st, but whose it is and whence it came is yet an unfathomed mystery.'

Early in July, 1897, an Indian boy in Winnipeg saw 'an object resembling a balloon giving out a considerable amount of light...'. Newsmen definitely ruled out the *Eagle* as being responsible for this sighting, as it did not leave Spitzbergen until July 11th. Several days later, a 'reliable fisherman', Mr V.S. Fitzgerald, employed at Wadhams Cannery in Rivers Inlet, Northern Canada reported:

"On the morning of July 10th, about 2:30 or 3 o'clock a.m., my fishing partner and I were drifting for salmon out at the mouth of Rivers Inlet. Being both wide awake, and happening to look towards the mouth of the inlet, we saw over a lofty mountain peak, what at first appeared to be a fire, such as would be caused by the burning of a tall, dry cedar. Looking more closely, however, we saw that the light was at least a mile above the highest peak and was soaring smoothly along in boundless space above the sea of mountains beneath. It could not be a fire, we knew, nor a star, nor yet the moon, and all at once the thought burst upon us that it was a balloon, and none other than Andree's. The night was dark and overcast, and when it first came into view it was

through a rift in a black mass of clouds. There seemed to be, besides the powerful light, a large pear shaped body attached and rendered luminous by the reflection of that light. We determined to watch it in its progress and saw it pass through rift after rift in the clouds. It was evidently moving in a different atmosphere, or current of air, than we felt below at the time, for whereas on the water there was a misty, squally wind blowing, the balloon seemed to glide majestically along without so much as a tremor. Then daylight dawned and we discerned it plainly for another hour, but only the naked, powerful light was now visible, until finally it disappeared behind a huge mass of dark clouds and we saw it no more. It appeared to be moving in a southerly direction, perhaps somewhat westerly, but we could not but feel proud, after all, of the puny race of man, that with all its weakness could conceive and execute such a deed of skill and daring."

If it was a balloon seen by the two fishermen at Rivers Inlet, it wasn't Andree's. Following this came reports that Andree's *Eagle* had been seen crashed in the White Sea. On July 13th, Captain Mortenson of the Danish bark *Ansgar*, heading north to Omega from Dublin, saw at the mouth of the Ongor River, when about two days sail east of the North Cape, a collapsed balloon, which he believed was Andree's. Four days later, Captain Lehman, of the Dutch steamer *Dordrecht* saw a 'curious object...neither a ship or a dead whale' but "which resembled a balloon", floating on the White Sea.



"Captain Lehman suggests that it may have been Andree's balloon which he saw". On the same day a woman living in a small Swedish town, "whose truthfulness was beyond question", saw, when closing the window, a balloon with drag ropes and a net. She added that there was a man in the gondola.

On August 2nd came a report from Whitemouth, Manitoba, that on July 29th 1897, farmer Henderson, standing outside his barn, saw a 'large oblong sailing slowly across the horizon'. The craft was unlighted, at low level and about half a mile away. 'Gradually he made out the car, and then he saw a large sail swing into view, astonishment held him spellbound, and again and again the ghostlike sail swung into view, showing its enormous proportions.' The balloon was then lost in the twilight, heading towards the northeast. The night was remarkably dry and cool. Shortly afterwards, three ladies camping at Sidney, British Columbia, watched 'a red column of fire, apparently 50ft long' moving northwards, for half an hour. At 2 a.m. Messers. Tatum, Young and Wolfenden, campe near Goldstream, watched until daylight, a low flying balloon-like object, carrying a brilliant light, which threw out rays in all directions, flying in a northwesterly direction, apparently unaffected by the wind.s

President Bell, of the National (US) Geographical Society, investigated another balloon sighting and wired the details to the Swedish Consul in San Francisco.

"Statement of a balloon passing over the Horse-Fly Hydraulic Mining Camp, in Caribou, British Columbia, Latitude 120, 30,- From letters of J.B. Robson, manager of the Caribou Mining Co., and of Mrs Wm. Sullivan, the blacksmiths wife there, and a statement of Mr. John J. Newsome, San Francisco, then at camp. About 2 or 3 o' clock in the afternoon, between fourth and seventh of August last, weather calm and cloudless, Mrs Sullivan, while looking over the Hydraulic Camp, noticed a round greyish-looking object in the sky, to the right of the sun, as she watched, it grew larger and was descending. She saw the larger mass of the balloon above, and a smaller mass, apparently suspended from the larger. It continued to descend, until she plainly recognised it as a balloon and a large basket hanging thereto. It finally commenced to swing violently back and forth, and move very fast toward the eastward and northward. Mrs Sullivan called her daughter aged 18, and about this time Mrs Robson and her daughter were observing it."

Suddenly the "balloon" shot upwards over Quesnelle Lake and disappeared. The airship-or balloon- was next seen over Vancouver and the surrounding area. Hundreds were reported to have observed this phenomenon. A contemporary account reads:

"The curious aerial phenomena of a cigar shaped travelling luminous body at a low elevation in the sky contues to be noted at many points on the mainland coast and Vancouver Island, British Columbia. At times a bright light appears amidst this luminous figure. No one seems able to satisfactorily explain the phenomenon".

On the same day, thousands of miles away in the Baltic Sea, the crew of a Norwegian steamer *Kong Halidan*, between Raugesund and Ryvardeu, saw a 'big balloon' which passed so close to the ship that its drag ropes could plainly be seen (see note A). Soon after, another puzzling account appeared in the Canadian press:

'At 12:40 on the morning of the 16th, C.W. Spencer, superintendant of the eastern division of the C.P.R., was sitting with Thos. Hay, his assistant, in the observation car of the train which had left Port Arthur for Sudbury, and as they were approaching Gravel River, sat admiring the clear starlit heavens, they saw, in the words of Coleridge 'a something in the sky'. There was a large white light, and at an angle above it on the left a red light, and at a like angle on the right, a white light. The object appeared to be about half a mile above the earth, and when first seen was at an angle of 30 to 40 degrees above the horizon. It seemed to moving with the wind at about 30 mph, as the train was running at 45 mph, and the object appeared to fall in their wake. Whenthey had watched it about three minutes the train turned inland from the shores of Lake Superior, and before it was hid behind the bluffs, it tilted and turned inland, apparently following them up the valley. As it turned, the red light became blue, and there was disclosed in line with the main headlight, a row of four lights, terminated by circle or ellipse of a dozen lights, in the midst of which was the acetylene light, and Mr Spencer and Mr. Hay could form no other opinion than that it was an airship, and if the object seen at Vancouver was the same, it must have

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travelled to this point 2,100 miles, at the rate of about 700 miles a day. It is quite possible that some inventor has set to work quietly and unostentatiously, and thus put his theories in practise before announcing his discoveries to the world, and if he has not since come to grief in the wilds north of Lake Superior, we shall soon know that air navigation has been first accomplished on Canadian territory.'^a

Apparently now, Andree's balloon was forgotten and it was an airship that was roaming over the plains of North America. A dispatch from Sterling, Colorado, dated August 31, 1897, read:

'A genuine flying machine was seen at this place a few days ago by Mr G.A. Neustein. Mr Neustein noticed a large black object in the southeastern part of the heavens, travelling in a straight line. He watched it until it passed out of sight, and is convinced that it was a bona fide flying machine.'^a

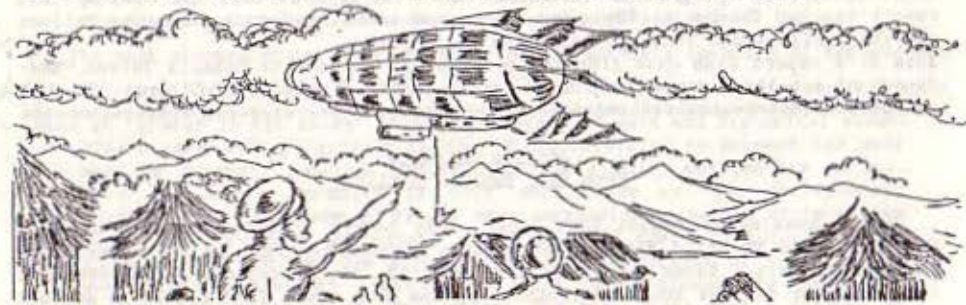
The last reports of a mystery balloon like object came from the wilds of Siberia in September 1897. A dispatch from St. Petersburg, dated Sept. 17th, told how villages in the Siberian outpost of Antzifirowskoje, had on September 14th, seen for five minutes 'a round object' thought to be Andree's balloon *Eagle*, flying in a north westerly direction. A Russian engineer, and university members, saw a similar object. the engineer wrote:

"The night of September 26th, at half past two in the morning, I observed a balloon drifting rapidly southeast over the town of Yakovlevskaya....The balloon had an electric (phosphorescent) sheen. It was visible for less than three minutes, disappearing rapidly over the horizon."^a

This was the last that was heard of Andree's balloon. Aeronautical experts doubted that the balloon was the *Eagle* and said that "it (was) inconceivable that the aeronaut should not have attempted a descent before reaching a point about 2,400 miles south of the pole." On July 15th, 1897, a carrier pigeon had been shot by a whaling boat in the Arctic. It carried a message which read: 'All's well on board. This is our third carrier pigeon dispatch.' In 1899 and 1900, two buoys from the *Eagle* drifted ashore, but no more was heard from Salomon Andree.

In August 1930, the scientific research ship *Bratvaag* and another vessel, the *Polar Bear*, discovered the bodies of Andree, Strindberg and Fraenkel, in a camp on White Island, 250 miles from Spitzbergen. Investigators pieced together that the *Eagle*, having stayed in the air for 65 hours and covered 500 miles, was forced down on the pack ice, and the crew then began the long walk back to Spitzbergen. They had died through cold or trichinosis caused by eating the meat of an infected polar bear they had shot for food. It was then established beyond doubt that the mysterious balloon sighted at many points in 1896 and 1897 was not Andree's *Eagle*. It was something else.

A.H. Savage-Landor, the explorer, relates something of, possible relevance to these incidents in his *Across Unknown South America* in which he notes:



"I heard at that place (Porto Principal, Jan 3rd 1912) an extraordinary account of how a dirigible balloon, with nobody aboard, had some few years ago passed over the house. The balloon - which my informant, in his ignorant language, called a 'huge square globe' - flew, according to him, a flag, the Stars and Stripes, and had an anchor dangling down. The balloon was travelling in a westerly direction. It flew a little higher than the trees and caused a great scare amongst the natives. My informant told me that there was no one in the car at all, but they waved their hands at him (sic) when they passed over his house! He then told me that the airship had passed in the daytime and had quickly disappeared, but that it was beautifully lighted with coloured lights at night. So that it would be difficult from that truthful account to place much reliance on what the man saw or what he had seen at all. It is quite possible - after discarding all the indisputable embroidery from the story - that a balloon actually went over the place, and it possibly may have been Wellman's abandoned balloon, with which he tried to go across the Atlantic."

Wellman's airship, the *America* abandoned in the Atlantic Ocean on October 17th, 1910, was leaking gas rapidly when it was last seen shooting into the sky, so it seems unlikely that this was the same craft seen thousands of miles away in Peru. What Ufologists may now find fruitful is an examination of old newspapers and magazines for more accounts in the Victorian press of unknown airships and balloons sighted the world over during this period. Viewed collectively, they form a whole tapestry of historical paranormal events.

Notes & References

1. Stefansson, V., "Unsolved Mysteries of the Arctic". Balloons and Airships. (Blandford 1973). Titler, D.M., "Wings of Mystery."
2. Portland (Oregon) Oregonian, August 12 1896.
3. As above, July 28, 1897.
4. As above, August 3, 1897.
5. National Geographic Magazine, Vol 9, pge.102.
7. Hamilton (Ontario) Spectator, September 14, 1897.
8. As above, same date.
9. Portland Oregonian, September 1, 1897.
10. New York Times, September 18/19, 1897.

Note A: At around the same time as this (3 or 4 weeks after the departure of the Eagle) natives of Ivigtut in Greenland, saw a balloon at 1000 ft. News of this report reached Sweden in September, and speculation was rife that the balloon was still afloat and about to enter the Arctic region.

Note B: A report also came from the wife of the governor of Skhalin Island, near Japan, of a balloon passing overhead, going in the direction of Siberia.
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Archive Snippets
From Paul Bennett's files.

On the evening of August 12th, 1892, many people from the Dewsbury area of West Yorkshire reported seeing inexplicable flashes of light in the skies above them. Strangely, these illuminations occurred in a sequential manner and continued for several hours. Scientists of the time could find little to account for the phenomenon, but electrical storms and the like were discounted. As the hours passed, the flashes occurred more frequently and eventually reports of this phenomena were coming in from all parts of West and North Yorkshire. They continued late into the night, vanishing only as dawn broke on the following day. Source: English Mechanic Journal August 1892

During the winter of 1750, large spheres of white light were observed at various points in the Yorkshire region. They were described as making a tremendous "roaring" noise as they circled the heavens. Interestingly, in the minutes preceding these sightings, earth tremors were felt and reported at various points along the Pennine Run.

Similarly, towards the end of 1755, great tremors were again followed by the sighting of "uncommon phenomena in the air: a large luminous body, bent like a crescent, which stretched itself over the heavens". Reports of other luminous aerial phenomena were made from such places as Keighley, Steeton, Silsden and Skipton. Tremors around these areas resulted in "the appearance of clouds of solid, black material", which wandered above the moorlands in a seemingly controlled manner.
Source: Books of Charles Fort

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ARMIES OF LIGHTS

A round up by WYVEFORG Research, A contributors.

The following account is taken word for word from the 'Yorkshire Folklore Journal, Volume 1', by J. Horsfall Turner, 1888. The articles describes a procession of red and white lights travelling through the sky near Harrogate, and although the interpretation is of "an army of men", we find ourselves reading nothing short of a spectacular UFO account - 170 years ago!

"A meteoric phenomenon was seen near Harrogate, on Sunday June 28th, 1812, between seven and eight o' clock in the evening, by Anthony Jackson, aged 45 years, and Martin Turner, a young man and son of a farmer in the neighbourhood. When looking after the cattle they were suddenly surprised to see, at some distance, what appeared to them a large body of armed men, in white military uniforms, in the centre of which was a person of commanding aspect, in scarlet. After performing various (aerial) evolutions, the whole body began to move forward in perfect order towards the summit of a hill, passing the spectators at the distance of about one hundred yards. No sooner had this body, which extended four deep over an enclosure of thirty acres, attained the hill, than a second body, far more numerous than the former, dressed in a dark coloured uniform, appeared and marched after the first to the top of the hill, where they both joined and passed down the opposite side of the

hill and disappeared, when a thick column of smoke spread over the plain. The time from the first appearance of this strange phenomenon to the clearing up of the smoke was no more than five minutes."

The next account comes from 'Folklore of the Northern Counties of England and the Borders', by William Henderson. The aerial events noted here are not only seen as "armies in the skies", but as presagers of wars and historical events.

"There is a strong tendency in the 'North Countrie' to connect the past and the present, external nature, and the history and destiny of man. Thus the aurora borealis is till well known as 'the Derwentwater Lights', in consequence of having been particularly red and vivid at the time of unfortunate nobleman's execution. The death of Loius XVI was foreshadowed, too, by the aurora borealis; and myriads of fighting men were seen in the skt night after night, all through the county of Durham, before the French Revolution. The Rev. Henry Humble informs me that he has heard people declare that they had distinctly heard the cries of the combatants and groans of the wounded. again, I am told that, a little before the rising of either 1715 or 1745, there were seen appearances in the sky as of encountering armies, which were however, explained by a refraction in the atmosphere, causing something like the Fata Morgana. A few Jacobite gentlemen raised certain troops of horse, and exercised them on some of the high ground in Lancashire, and these being seen reflected in the clouds, formed the apparition. still, without doubt, wars have been ushered in by such aerial appearances. Armies were seen contending in the clouds before the destruction of Jerusalem, as well as before the battle of Ivry, and the persecutions of the Waldenses in the seventeenth century."

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Allen Hynes

Allen Hynes, the man who brought the study of UFO's more respectability than anyone else, has sadly died at the age of 75 after a short illness.

Hynes had been interested in UFO's since 1947 and with Jaques Vallee founded the 'invisible College', a group comprising of scientists concerned with the mounting number of unexplained UFO reports. In he later life he 'went public', forming the Centre for UFO Studies, and publishing his most famous book 'The UFO Experience', which is foundation reading for any ufologist and a book which should be re-read many times.

Hynes's death is a loss to world UFO study. It is up to all of us to make his work better known and understood.

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FOR SALE

Paul Bennett still has hundreds of UFO, paranormal and occult books and magazines for sale. Extensive lists can be obtained by sending a s.a.e. to: 26 Gerard House, Fairhaven Green, Thorpe Edge, Bradford, West Yorkshire, BD10 9QU

THE ENTITY IN WHITE

Fact or Folklore?

by Andy Roberts

West Virginia has it's 'Mothman', London it's 'Springheel Jack' and Cornwall has 'Owlman', all three are classic entity reports and although they have nothing directly to do with UFO's, they often feature in the UFO literature, especially that written by alternate universe proponents. West Yorkshire, too has it's own entity, the mysterious figure in white, known amongst other things as 'The Freak Of Grafton Street'. Whether or not the thing was 'real' or not is hard to say, but the effects it had on the people who saw it and the communities it appeared in was real enough, and makes a story worth the telling.

The figure made it's first recorded appearance at 2 o' clock in the morning of 5 September 1926 in Grafton Street, Bradford and was subsequently seen every night that week in Grafton Street or the nearby Fitzgerald or Earl Streets. Those who saw it described the figure as:

'...completely dressed in a white garment, with the head covering slitted near the eyes, and the majority are unanimous in declaring that it is at least six feet two inches in height and makes practically no noise when running.'

After the first few appearances, one of which caused a young woman to faint, the whole neighbourhood, aided by the police were roused to drastic action, to once and for all rid the area of this 'thing'. A quote from the local newspaper gives something of the flavour of what went on and also indicates the light heartedness with which the press treated the whole affair.

'Stout hearted residents, complete with walking sticks, pokers, bludgeons, brass fire irons, fender ends and savage looking bull terriers patrolled the streets and back courts and stumbled up the more gloomy passages with hearts, it must be said, fluttering with something more than excitement. Indeed, many lonely yards which abound in the infected area, and which at night are steeped in jet black shadows, were, it is feared, more thoroughly examined by the dogs than by their owners.'

Despite this activity being kept up for many nights, and more than a few innocent pedestrians being accused of being the figure, the appearances of the figure did not let up, often now appearing on house rooftops and coal bunkers. A theory went round that the figure was that of a local man who had agreed to appear in the area, dressed in outlandish garb for fourteen nights, for a bet, but no proof could be found to support this allegation. Night after night the figure was seen, becoming something of a tourist attraction and after dinner diversion for those with little else to do. Indeed at one stage on 11 September

traffic was brought to a standstill in Manchester Road as sightseers jostled for a place from which to view the figure should he appear.

In mid-September the figure moved his sphere of action (or another took his place), to Bierley, a village on the outskirts of Bradford, where he took to peering through windows, standing in the shadows and knocking on doors, only to vanish when confronted. Bierley had a reputation for being haunted and many thought that the mysterious figure in white was the ghost returned. The residents of Bierley were hardy folk and like their counterparts in Bradford took to the streets armed with sticks, dogs and guns. The local newspaper said:

'The man who is playing at a member of the American secret society, Ku Klux Klan, is going to encounter methods of the wild and woolly west in salubrious Bierley. He will think again before tapping at windows and frightening women...'

After a few nights in Bierley the entity travelled a few miles up the valley to Bingley, again to lurk in shadows, leaping at passers by and then vanishing into nothing. The police were out in force but the culprit, if it were a flesh and blood culprit, could not be found. The entities speciality in Bingley was vanishing from the train lines just as a train passed it. A Mr Whitehead, rational to the last, saw the entity 'flapping it's wings' on the canal bank and was of the opinion that "he wore a white cover in front of him and immediately his appearance was seen, wrapped it up and put it in his pocket and scampered off." He may have been right, but no one could scamper fast enough to catch him.

As 1926 moved into October, the entity, or it's emulators, was seen further afield. Dewsbury, Mirfield, Cleckheaton and Batley being just a few of the places the white clad, fleet footed, vanishing figure was seen in.

These reports differ in that the figures eyes are now mentioned as 'glowing', and 'staring incessantly', both of which are features of entity reports the world over. Perhaps someone had been doing some reading? One account of a sighting describes the figure as being 'on springs', and others speak of 'flashes of light' being aimed at them. Searches of these areas by the police and gangs of vigilante youths all intent on bringing the figure to justice failed, and the appearances carried on, finally petering out towards the end of October.

Whether this was a truly paranormal entity case, or more likely a man or (several different) men with a white sheet, a torch and a penchant for dodging trains we will never know, but the panic induced in the community even, and in some cases, especially, amongst those who were not even witnesses to the figure, is a phenomenon worth bearing in mind in future 'flaps' whether they be humanoid, hoax, LITS or whatever.

References

- 1: Bradford Daily Telegraph 11/9/26
- 2: Bradford Daily Telegraph 11/9/26
- 3: Bradford Daily Telegraph 17/9/26

THE FIRST COVER UP?

Research by Iain Johnston.

This account is taken from an interview between the witnesses great grandson and Iain Johnstone. The details and drawing are from an original diary kept by Daniel Shires in the 1900's and now in Samuel Harrison's possession.

In June 1868 Daniel Shires, a farmer, and his friend John Skinner, a soldier working his way home from discharge, saw an unidentified flying object. It was early morning in the middle of June 1868 and Daniel and John were out driving cows in the fields near Shillington (now Shitlington), a small hamlet in the Wakefield area of West Yorkshire. They had not been working long when John drew Daniel's attention to a strange object in the sky above them.

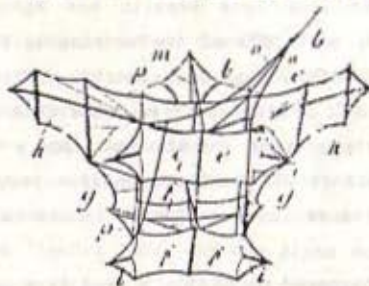
What they saw is described in the diary by Daniel Shires as being similar to a huge box kite, with a lateral cross piece that seemed to move in jerks. The object could be heard to creak, and looked as though it was made from wood and canvas, although metal parts could be seen glinting in the sun. The strangest part of the story is the fact that they could see a man sitting on the back of the cross-piece. A drawing, copied from the original is reproduced below.

The object was about one hundred feet above them in the sky and as it sailed over them to the west Daniel and John gave chase, but it outpaced them. The object was then seen to descend behind some trees in the distance, and appeared to have landed. The two men ran over to the trees, but when they reached the other side of the copse there was no sign of man or machine.

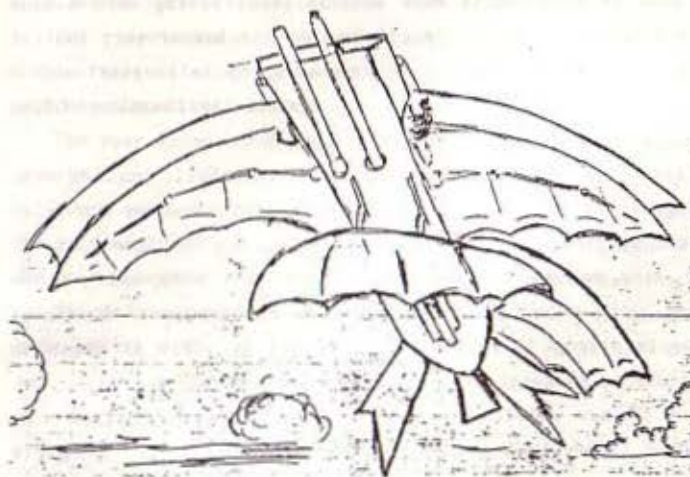
No sign of the mysterious flying machine, but a little further on in the field was a troop of army sappers who were stationed in the area. John Skinner had drunk with them in the local pub and said they were a 'close mouthed lot'. The soldiers had their shirt sleeves rolled up and looked as if they had been working very hard. They were sat round drinking and smoking clay pipes and when asked about the object, they denied it's existence and seemed unperturbed by the whole thing. Nearby stood a team of draught horses and a large wagon on which lay some unidentifiable wooden equipment.

Editors note: This could be seen as a typically odd mid-Victorian period type of mysterious flying machine, and as such inexplicable. And just perhaps it is, but

in this case however I think we have an answer, albeit one which raises further questions. From the description of the object and the drawing I think that what the two men saw was a very early type of man-lifting kite, similar to the Cody kites used for observation by the army in the early 20th century (see comparison diagram). There lies the problem. If it was an army man lifter, it was a very early one indeed, as the first man credited as being lifted by a single kite was in 1894, by Baden Powell of boy scout fame. Earlier man lifting experiments had failed miserably and even the first recorded ones had the man slung well below the kite, as opposed to the above account, where the man is on the structure itself. Not only an early one, but a secret one, as officially the war office took no interest in kites until 1901, and the formation of the kite corps. Clearly the sappers in the field had seen the object, and the loaded wagons and rolled up sleeves suggested that a man-lifter had just come down and had been packed away. I suggest that it was a very early, secret experiment in man-lifting and the troops in question had been told to hush it up.



Cody Man lifting Kite
Circa 1900



Mr. Samuel Harrison's
drawing from a
sketch in Daniel
Shires's diary

June 1868

THE GOOD OLD DAYS

Some Classic Yorkshire Cases From The Early Years Of NUFON

By Jenny Randles

I started to edit Northern UFO News in late 1974- which already seems like a lifetime ago. In those hundred odd issues quite a few classics have emerged from the West Yorkshire area. Here are just a few.

We were especially busy in August/September 1975, when we had to contend with our first flap. One of the most interesting reports came on 22/9/75 at 05:25 when a miner was going to work (miners still had jobs to go to in those days!). He was near the Emley Moor T.V. mast when a brilliant blueish light materialised above it, around 1000' high. It then swooped down towards him, lighting up the entire surroundings in such a way that he had to stop driving. He was unable to see! Later he picked up a colleague who had also seen the light and saw it disappear into the sky. Trevor Whitaker investigated and there was nothing going on at the T.V. mast that might explain the case. The miner felt he had driven straight into a beam projected by the UFO.

In October 1975 NUFON became TV stars when we were offered twelve minutes free time on BBC-2 to do anything we liked about UFO'S! I compiled a script and very nervously performed the show with 'guests' and film and expert guidance from BBC technical staff in London, where we made the programme. We discussed how a UFO group investigates cases, to, a national audience of about one million people! It was nerve racking but successful, in that we recieved dozens of 'phone calls and a couple of hundred reports by post.

One case that came our way through this, happened on 19/11/75 when five sets of witnesses, either side of Saddleworth Moor materialised, having seen a blue light hovering above the hills. It hopped up and down in the manner very familiar to us all at the time - since what we called 'the mystery helicopter' was a local folklore item in the early-mid seventies all across the Pennines. Often police cars gave chase, but they never caught the culprit!

In 1976 we had an investigator called Derek Skelton, from Hull, working with us. he covered cases in East Yorkshire. One of his strangest involved Mrs Oxley and her then 13 year old daughter, from Holme-on Spalding, not far from York. At 21:40 on 3/4/76 they were taking the dog for a walk when they spotted two stationary 'headlights', with a dark mass between them. they observed the thing for some minutes, hovering about 1000' up and very near by. Then it began to head straight for them and to descend!

Both witnesses were by now petrified and grabbed a passing neighbour. He looked, saw it, and fled indoors! They then dragged out a friend of the girls

and she and her mother watched as the object drifted away south east. A reddish glow was now oozing out from the thing and a deep humming sound was being emitted. The four women called the local police who said it was a light aircraft, but Derek Skelton was unable to find any evidence to support this.

As any investigator knows, you always have to remember that a solution for a case might emerge years later. More than a year after we had logged the Saddleworth Moor 'unexplained', new facts came to light that resolved it to our satisfaction. It appeared to be maintenance work on a radio mast atop the moors, giving off sparks.

Howevr, to compensate mid-1976 brought our first 'contact case', and it was from west Yorkshire! Graham Barker submitted the report from a man we had to call 'Mr L'. Mr L worked at a Leeds hospital and was very sincere and publicity shy. Trevor Whitaker arranged for him to be seen by a psychiatrist and he was not found to be abnormal - although after the events he displayed the 'suicide syndrome' - as many witnesses do he altered his character, began to forget things and claimed ever more bizarre things. This pattern is a decidedly puzzling aspect of the CE4 - but it is very common.

Mr L claimed that in February 1976 two tall entities appeared in his bedroom. They wore one piece suits and had long, ashen grey faces with cat-like eyes. He was 'projected' inside their craft, where he found himself on a long table or bed, in an anaesthetised state. About eight of the creatures were around him and his mind is very hazy about what happened. But he recalls being told by one of the figures "Who was the Alpha and Omega in the Bible?" and "An insignificant being such as a worm should not ask such questions."

Clearly very friendly chaps!

The psychiatrist, by the way, suggests thatn the experiences were hallucinations - partly because Mr L's wife was present in the room and she did not see the aliens!

The year ended with issue 31 of Northern UFO News, featuring two interesting events.

There was a full report on the Vessenden Moor case, which had been the first truly inexplicable incident NUFORA had followed through. Peter Warrington, Jeff Porter and myself were more baffled by this event than any other to that date.

The witness was a service engineer who lived at Mossley, on the Lancashire side of the moors. On a date we aciculated to be 31/8/75 he was driving his minivan back from Wakefield over the desolate moors at 1400' above sea level. He was driving through thick mist.

Suddenly, a white light appeared ahead and to his right. Thinking it was a truck he slowed down, went to the roadside and switched off the engine. He did not want to risk a collision. Winding down the window he gazed out at the wierd sight. A huge egg shape was drifting across his path slicing out a tunnel through the mist. Scared that his headlights might be attracting the thing he turned them off. It was 20:00 and so still daylight, just about.

The object rose to negotiate the marker posts that border the road at this point, and drifted, feet high, right across his path - no more than 50' from him. He had a perfect view of the object which was wider than the road (itself about 20' across). An eerie glow was pouring out from inside the egg shape.

Just as the thing dropped down the roadside to his left, heading into the valley, and he thought his encounter was over, two figures loomed out of the mist by his side. He was needless to say, scared out of his mind!

They turned out to be two sheep, trailing after the thing. One was bleating, the only sound heard during the entire experience. When the object finally disappeared the driver found himself clutching a scowdriver, as if in self defence, although he has no recollection of picking this up.

MUFORA spent a long time on this case, reconstructing it, getting precise measurements and so on. The witness is amongst the most credible we ever met and to this day I do not know what was on that moor that particular day.

This issue of Northern UFO News featured something else. A report about a young boy from Wrose, Shipley, who recorded many odd experiences - in particular one near Wrose Hill Reservoir on 10/10/75. This young boy said "*So far since UFO's have been seen in the Bradford area in 1975 and in the past five years 50 UFO's have been seen...however, 27 of them could be probable hoaxes.*"

Who was this 'young boy'? UFO Brigantia's former editor, Paul Bennett, making his first entrance to the UFO scene.

MUFON REGIONAL GROUPS

SPI	(Scotland)	4 Woodlea Park, Branhill, Sauchie,	by Alloa	FK10 3BG
SDPRG	(N.East)	53 Brook Terrace,	Darlington,	Co.Durham DL3 6PJ
NLUFOIG	(N.Mid.Lancs)	89 Bare Lane,	Morecambe,	Lancashire LA4 6RN
LCUFOS	(mid Lancs)	23 Queen Victoria Rd.	Burnley,	Lancashire BB10 3DH
VAPIT	(Sth.Lancs)	6 Alder Avenue,	Pemberton,	Vigan Lancashire WV5 9PY
MUFORA	(Gt.Mcr./Chesh)	6 Silsden Avenue,	Lowton,	Lancashire WA3 1EN
WYUPORG	(V.&N.Yks)	19 Bellmount Gds.	Bramley,	V.Yorkshire LS13 2ND
SSPR	(Humber)	Vestfield Cott.	Crowle Bank Rd.	Althorpe DN17 3HZ
LUPOIC	(E.Midlands)	17 Grange Rd.	Wigston Fields	Leicester LE8 1JH

ANCIENT ASTRONAUT REFLECTIONS

By Paul Screeton

On Cranborne Chase, Dorset, lies a prehistoric cursus six miles and 200 yards long, with parallel banks and forming 6,500,000 cubic feet of earth, and altogether mind boggling. Pandit Rodney Legg suggested they could be guidelines for UFO's. And it was not a Legg-pull. "*Fancy suggested they were runways*" and that the occupants of the spacecraft "*established a relationship with the natives and were worshipped by them and built a base where the saucers could land.*" Also Silbury Hill was erected to "*navigate the fliers across the confusing mass of buildings and barrows which today still soar the landscape of Marlborough Downs.*" Legg concludes: "*Space is the clue to prehistory.*"

That's as maybe.

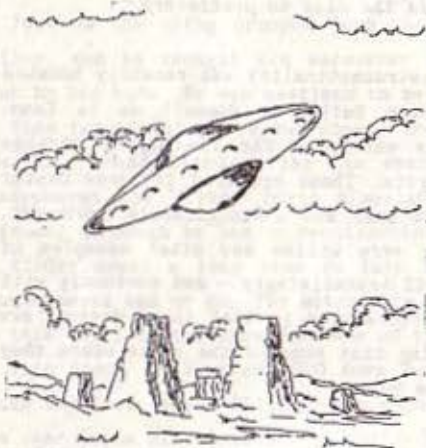
After a period of tailing off, ancient astronauticality was recently boosted by the Mexican Secretary of Tourism, Senor Guillermo Rossell de la Lama. According to a news agency report he has announced the finding of strange drawings in the Baja Peninsula of California. These coloured pictures depict men 50 feet tall alongside animals such as deer and unrecognisable "*devices*", with some in three dimensional form. Many were unlike any other examples of Aztec or Mayan discoveries, and Senor Rossell tantalisingly - and obviously with a publicity man's instinct - stated: "*The impression is that these devices are some sort of spaceship or helicopter.*" Adding that some of the caves where they appeared had ceilings with drawings near the top.

So, is all our past human?

Chalk was dug by prehistoric man, quartz scattered over structures and others were built of limestone, and "*White limestone is a good reflector of the sun and can be seen from great distances. Were these burial grounds also beacons to outer space?*", asks Richard Crowe. Interviewer Fran Khan, in the article "*Leprechauns: Were they spacemen?*", in the Sunday Independent of October 27th, 1974, writes of Chicago lecturer Crowe's belief that the fairies and leprechauns of folklore were crews of flying saucers. Incidentally, the article was illustrated with a ridiculously amusing cartoon of antennae-headed small ancient astronauts erecting a stone circle.

Some stone circles, such as the Rollright Stones, are constructed from limestone, the newly constructed barrows of chalk would have gleamed, and the white quartz originally adorning New Grange mound in Ireland "*suggests that whiteness of chalk barrows had more than an accidental significance,*" according to archaeologist Grabame Clark, though no doubt not inferring any extraterrestrial connection.

As for the Rollrights, John Michell says a legend "recalls a traditional association of the site with a powerful alien race" and the likelihood that this and other stone circles "were erected to commemorate a vision of a spinning disc and the descent of it's occupants." His conclusion being that "the form which obsessed the early inhabitants and inspired their worship was the spinning disc in the sky." He saw the fabled dragons as synonymous with UFO's, repeating Brinsley le Poer Trench's view that the flying saucer cult was reflected in the form of such monument as Stonehenge, "a structure which accurately reproduces the flying saucer as it is said to appear today." Sunworship being a corruption of the UFO cult.



Further speculation upon extraterrestrials appears in "The Rollright Ritual", a book devoted to the circle itself, for both an outer space and terrestrial space idea are combined by V.G.Gray. He supports the view that seeds of human life came from outer space, and that the standing stone was early man's first affirmation of this belief, which has become metamorphosed in the 20th century into the shape of the spaceship and launching pad. The standing stones are associated with planets and were the first stage of our return to the stars. Also Gray notes shrewdly: "Surely it is significant that Man's first action on the Moon was lifting up a piece of stone?"

A tantalising snippet which could be construed as relating to flight in the distant past - a hovering UFO - appears in "Prehistoric London", by E.O.Gordon: "The Druids, it is said, by means of a most powerful mirror called 'Dyrch Haul Kibddar', filled the circle with a blaze of glory from on high. This is mentioned in the Triads as the speculum of the all-pervading glance, or the Searcher of Mystery: one of 'the Three Secrets of the Isle of Britain'." Incidentally, the Triads give the three great achievements as being the Stone of Ceti on Gower, Stonehenge and Silbury Hill.

What might also be construed as a reference to a hovering spacecraft appears in Thomas Bond's 19th Century work, "Topographical and Historical Sketches of the Boroughs of East and West Lothian", where he himself quotes an earlier writer,

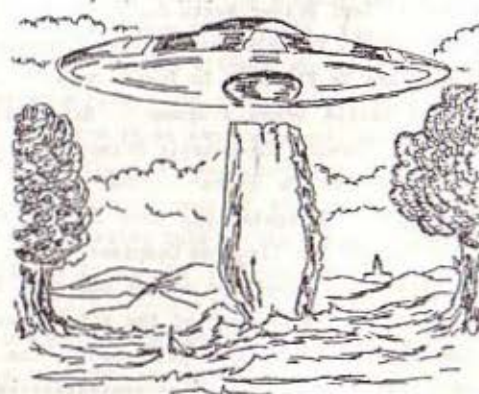
named only as Hals, as having stated with regard to the Hurlers stone circle, Cornwall, "Did but the ball which these Hurlers used when flesh and blood, appear directly over them, immovably pendant in the air, one might be apt to credit some little of the tale." For a full account of the Hurlers see the Sabbath breaking section, but Robert Hunt noting this reference a century ago rebuked Bond, "O ye of little faith", and asked him to consider the ball as a boulder of granite. O ye of little von Danikenesque imagination.

The similarity between stone circles, tumuli, pyramids and other prehistoric structures possibly representing the shapes of the commonest recorded UFO's has been debated by several writers. Including F.W.Holiday, who boldly asserts that "If the Bronze Age really was a UFO culture, the artefacts should relate to the whole of UFO phenomenon, not just selected items. This they do." He goes on to draw parallels between the shapes of sighted UFO's and the forms of prehistoric tumuli. Rather strangely - though this writer is not particularly sympathetic to Darwinian mechanistic evolution - the ufonauts still seem to be oddly using "prehistoric" models (vintage UFO rallies to Earth motivated by forces similar to those which lead people to annually traverse the Brighton to London road in antiquated automobiles?) and there have been cases of metal or rubber falling to Earth from these supposedly sophisticated vehicles.

Though the ancient astronaut publishing syndrome has proved immensely lucrative to many, a number of those associated with it have retained credibility.

"No I am not crazy," states one of those I refer to, the late T.C.Lethbridge (with regards to "Legends of the Sons of God") who suggested that megaliths were possibly meant to be seen from the air, though having made no personal sighting. He admitted being impressed by the "bulk of testimony" that UFO's are not an uncommon phenomenon. "Could it be that, in the Bronze Age and before, they were also numerous and needed direction points?" he asked.

He visualised a densely afforested Britain with exploration parties disembarking from spacecraft and the stone circles and stone markers being markers to afford a direction marker



for their recovery eventually. He also postulated that apparatus in a UFO tuned to the wavelength of transmitting megaliths, homing in, like a moth to it's mate, being both usable as beacons in states of visibility or invisibility. The invisibility related to his alternative function of the sites, related to bio-electric energy. He added "If there was a central base where power was generated to operate bio-electric beacons, this would have been the place (Carnac)", though later commenting, "I do not even suggest that this idea of bio-electronic beacons is the right answer."

Yet, many prehistoric monuments surround the market town of Warminster, the world's assumed centre of UFO activity, and there is a modern tale that there is a "homing device" to guide UFO's, buried beneath Cley Hill. There is a far, far older tale that deep below this hill lies a golden ram and whomsoever secures it will be granted any wish.

No doubt any ufologist who discovered it would choose a trip in a flying saucer.

COMPETITION TIME

Yes it's competition time again, but this time it's a prize competition. The lucky winner receiving a 'mystery prize!', delivered to his or her very door by a liveried government lacky. All you have to do is to select which one of the following, somewhat ludicrous, phrases is false. The other twenty have all appeared as article titles at some time in leading British UFO journals over the past thirty years.

- 'Lets Talk Space' 'Don't Laugh...They're Serious' 'White Man's Magic'
- 'Mexican Taxi Driver Meets Saucer Crew' 'Things Are Hotting Up In The Antartic'
- 'The Hazards Of Television' 'He Witnessed The Impossible,They Wouldn't Believe Him'
- 'Are We Planning To Invade Mars?' 'Screwing Down The Lid On Euclid'
- 'Fifty Little Green Frogmen' 'Materialism..Or Is It?' 'The Spacemen Threw Stones'
- 'Beware The Lunatic Fringe' 'Flying Saucers Are Becoming Respectable'
- 'A Blind Eye In Space' 'The Flying Manhole Covers' 'Sheep Abduction In Cumbria?'
- 'Elongated Egg Over Bognor''Why Did The Pigeons Cock Their Heads?'
- 'The Case Of The Tin From Campinas' 'The Mystery Of The Purple Clouds'

Just write down your choice and post it to us before August 31st. The first correct entry drawn out of the aliens head gear will receive the mystery prize. The winners name will be published in the Sept/Oct issue.

"The Fear That Flies By Night Is Over Yorkshire"

By Nigel Watson. Research by Granville Oldroyd

Most newspaper accounts of phantom airship sightings made during the first few months of 1913 consist of impersonal lists of reports. They act as the basis for, bombastic editorials that either proclaim that the witnesses to these visions are either truthful or deluded. The point of view expressed was very much dependant on whether the editor believed in the threat of a German invasion (and therefore more expenditure on armaments) or whether he preferred to think of the sightings as silly examples of war mongering that had got out of hand. Sometimes the sheer impossibility of a German airship being able to "secretly" and repeatedly visit Britain was noted, and cases of misidentification and the work of hoaxers helped fuel their argument.

What I have found to be one of the most interesting newspaper reports is reproduced in full below. It is unusual because the reporter actually visited several locations where the phantom airship was spotted. There is an emphasis on the sightings made on our eastern coastline where it was believed we were most vulnerable to attack from Germany.

The report made by Captain Lundie was one of the best and most detailed, so this reinforced the fear that a Zeppelin had journeyed over Yorkshire at least once. The link between the sighting made by Captain Lundie and his crew in the Humber estuary, and a German airship is made explicit towards the end of the report where it is observed that the air vessel appeared to come from the direction of Heligoland. In addition, it is stated that airships could easily fly from Cuxhaven, where an airship base was being built, to Grimsby (which was then in the county of Lincolnshire, now it is in South Humberside). The point is hammered home by the final statement from an airship witness who says; "There are no doubts whatever in my mind it was an airship - or where it came from."

Compared to other reports and editorials this is an amazingly well controlled piece of scare mongering. In particular I like the image conjured up by the author of the " alert clean shaven" blue jacketed watcher at his coastguard station with his telescope at his eye and a speaking tube at his elbow, ready to protect our precious land which could no longer be regarded as an island insulated against the rest of the world.

The report gives us a very good picture of the context the people at the time saw the phantom airships and provides us with an excellent "feel" for the period.

North Sea Airship

How It Was Seen From Deck Of A Vessel

No Doubt About It

Express Special Correspondent, Grimsby, Monday Night.

The most convincing proof so far of the truth hidden behind the cloud of rumours of the flights of unknown airships over the North Sea and the East Coast has been provided by Captain Lundie, of the Great Central mail steamer, City of Leeds, as reported in today's Express.

The admiralty have now received an official statement giving details of the airship, which, not only Captain Lundie, but Mr. Williams his second officer and members of the crew observed over the mouth of the Humber on the evening of Saturday February 22nd. Captain Lundie, who left again for Hamburg tonight in charge of his vessel, has today fully confirmed the official report, which he sent back to England immediately after his arrival at the German port on his previous outward journey. A copy of this report is now in the hands of the Admiralty, and it is significant that about the same time they received a similar communication with regard to the movements of an airship, which was probably the same, over the coasts. The precise, carefully detailed, statement of Captain Lundie, an experienced navigator, who, with Second Officer Williams, had an opportunity of viewing the airship through binoculars for about five minutes, is evidence that can hardly be doubted, and with the importance of which, once it is admitted to be true, cannot easily be over estimated. It proves that under all the wild rumours of "scareships", of practical jokes with fire balloons, and the tales of untrained or imaginative gazers by night who mistake fiery stars for dirigible's "flashing searchlights", there is a solid foundation for the fears of an airship invasion, which all expert airmen agree will very soon be not only quite possible, but extremely probable.

TOUR OF THE COAST

I have spent the weekend making a tour of the Yorkshire coast from Withernsea round the sweep of Bridlington Bay to breezy, hilly Scarborough, the stretch which may be one of the widest "open doors" of England when aerial progress makes Great Britain an island no longer. All around the coast and in the great ports of Hull and Grimsby, as well as in the scattered villages and fashionable seaside resorts I have heard stories of the airship, but behind the light jest and the half doubting guise in which the many wildly improbable stories were recounted, there was apparent a feeling that these mysterious airships might be

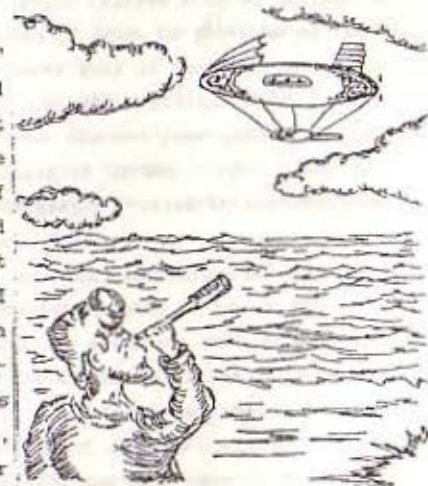
in some cases a reality - a reality to be dreaded and provided against at all cost. The fear that flies by night is over Yorkshire.

That the coastguards are extra alert and that the keepers of the lighthouses are on the lookout both day and night, acting on some special instructions from the Admiralty and Trinity House, there can be no longer any doubt. Orders have been given since the hurried passing of the new aerial law that instant notification must be made of the presence of any airship, British or foreign, and that a detailed description of it's movements shall be telegraphed along the coast defence wires, which form a private and independent service. It was this official order which led the coastguards at Hornsea, along the Yorkshire coast, to report direct to the Admiralty the strange light in the west moving from the direction of the sea, which they believed to be a dirigible, as they watched it's progress on Tuesday night.

ON THE WATCH

On Flamborough Head, from the special "war" coastguard station high on the cliffs behind the tall, white lighthouse, men peer out continuously over the North Sea. All the shipping from the Baltic passes in sight of these blue-jacketed watchers on the Head, and on Saturday as dusk was falling I saw them at their business of safeguarding the coast. I watched an alert, clean shaven man seated high above the cottages of the station in a many-windowed turret, which serves as a "crow's nest". He had a telescope glued to his eye, and he sat their watching for any lights over the sea or land. All the time I watched him he did not put down his glass, but silently swept the sky line. A telegraph instrument ticked in the room below - a speaking tube was at his elbow.

These are the trifles showing that the airship peril is a real, and not imaginary one, which I have seen for myself, and out of the score or so of other people I have talked with who say they have seen the airship, only half a dozen perhaps, and these chiefly from the village of Hornsea or from the steamer City Of Leeds, which this afternoon was lying snugly berthed in Grimsby Docks, have produced any probable proof that they have seen an airship. It is enough. They have certainly made out a case in support of their belief, which cannot be explained away by any theories of blazing planets, stars, or oil soaked paper



bags flying in the air. But if only one person, and that one is the trained observer, Captain Lundie, had actually seen the airship, the danger of an aerial invasion would be just as serious as it is. Captain Boothby, the assistant marine superintendent at Grimsby, to whom the captain first submitted his official report of the airship he saw over the Humber mouth, told me today that the statement could certainly be confirmed beyond any doubt. "He is positive," he said.

CIGAR SHAPED DIRIGIBLE

"That it was an airship - a cigar-shaped dirigible of large size that Captain Lundie saw, I also am certain," continued Captain Boothby. "He had ample opportunity for seeing it, and his experience would prevent him mistaking anything else for an airship."

It is impossible to say, of course, whether his airship is of foreign design or whether it is a British airship with which secret experiments are being made from the security of some Yorkshire valley. It is even possible that it is an attempt on our part to keep level with our rivals. I have heard such hints. The airship, when Captain Lundie saw it, was coming along from the east - north east and was heading west - south west. It appeared to have come from the North Sea, over Spurn Point, and to be heading over the Partington district, which is in the direction of Hull. A straight line over the North Sea in the direction from which it appeared to be coming would touch Heligoland, where there is, I hear, now a new German airship factory. The distance as the crow flies would only be about 260 miles, or only a five hour journey for a really swift dirigible. Other parts of the East coast are within four hours by air of Germany now.

I showed Captain Boothby a statement that the German naval authorities have recently bought large tracts of land at Cuxhaven to house airships which are shortly expected to make long flights over the North Sea. "An airship could quite easily, even with our present knowledge, cover the distance from Cuxhaven to Grimsby and back," explained Captain Boothby, "Our vessels pass by Cuxhaven to Hamburg, and extensive naval works are now being carried out there. Our captains see part of it as they pass."

On board the City Of Leeds, which I visited this afternoon, I found that several members of the crew had seen the airship. Some of the ship's firemen had been on deck, and half a dozen sailors were putting things tidy as the steamer was leaving the Humber. There were only seven or eight passengers, some of them Germans, and they were below at the time. It was about 9:15, and a moonlit night. "They asked me to come on deck soon after nine o'clock to see the airship," said the ship's cook to me. "The captain and Mr. Williams were looking

at it through glasses, and we saw a dark shape floating by, high in the moonlight. There are no doubts whatever in my mind it was an airship - or where it came from."

Earthlight At Burnsall?

In the early autumn of 1897 a farmer and his two brothers were in their barn salving sheep. It was a pitch black night, their only source of light being a lantern. Half way through the job the light in the barn suddenly began to increase, and looking upwards they saw a brilliant sphere of dazzling brightness moving slowly above the barn. They described "rays" of light filling the entire building, and the brightness became so intense that it was lighter than a sunlit afternoon! The farmer said that all three of them were terrified. Slowly, the object moved overhead in a straight line, a few feet above the barn, no noise was heard and eventually the sphere moved away and into the distance. "It was just a weird light that came and went," said the farmer.

This case is very similar to contemporary UFO/UAP sightings from the same area. The infamous Cracoe Fell being not far away. Burnsall lies on a huge fault line and research is underway to test the Earthlights theory in this area.

1905, WEST YORKSHIRE & THE REVIVAL

1905 was an odd year by any Fortean's standards, one of those years when reality seems to be losing it's grip. For instance, a wolf or wolves, long since extinct in this country, was on the loose in Northumberland, killing livestock by the dozen. A jackal was similarly at large in Kent, and was later shot, but the mystery animals in Wiltshire, Edale, Windsor and other places eluded capture. As if that wasn't enough, there were outbreaks of poltergeist phenomena, table lifting and wall rapping all over the British Isles, but perhaps the single most noteworthy occurrence of that year, and the start of our tale, was the 'Welsh Lights'.

These lights were seen in the Harlech region of Wales, and mostly in and around the village of Egryn, during 1904 and 1905. At that time Wales, and subsequently the rest of the U.K. was in the grip of an evangelical religious revival, one of many which the U.K. had been subject to throughout the past few centuries.

The 'Welsh Lights' or 'Egryn Lights' as they have come to be known, appeared to centre on a revival preacher by the name of Mary Jones, following her car as

it drove along the winding roads and appearing over her church and the houses of future converts. The lights were witnessed by newsmen and widely written about. They could not however be explained. Whether or not the lights were actually connected with Mary Jones or not is hard to say, similar lights having been seen in that area in the past, but they were included in the revival as being proof of the Holy Spirit and contributed much to the notoriety of the revival. Since then much has been written about the 'Egryn Lights', some good some bad, in books concerning everything from religious visions to Ufology. The lights were however, real, inexplicable and well reported. The standards of reporting unfortunately didn't apply to events in West Yorkshire during 1905.

During research for this issue of UFO Brigantia, I came across references which indicated that the revival, and supposedly connected lights also came to Yorkshire. The prospect of unearthing a local 'flap' for this area in conjunction with the Welsh lights and revival sent me post haste to the newspaper files. All, sadly, was not as it seemed.

A London newspaper, 'The Star' of February 1905, ran the following verse:

THE LIGHT THAT FAILED

There are lights in the mountains of
Wales
With a ghostly importance invested
Though I see the phenomenon fails
When the scientist's handy to test it
There are lights o'er the city of Leeds
Which appear to be comets in training
And even the scoffer concedes
That they need a great deal of
explaining.

Doggerel maybe, but it led me to believe that the lights in Wales were in some way connected with the mysterious lights in Yorkshire. The *Daily Express* for that period further raised my hopes, carrying a report that lights were seen at Leeds which were said to resemble 'huge fireballs, which swept across the sky apparently not more from a hundred feet from the ground. One seemed like a balloon on fire, expanding, contracting, then disappearing from view.'

The Welsh Revival spread rapidly and reached West Yorkshire in earnest during mid-February 1905. Reports began appearing in local newspapers about the revival services. Strange things also began to happen, groups of women, apparently directed by visions, were stopping traffic in the centre of Leeds, exhorting the drivers to join them in prayer. Mr. Traehorne, a Welsh revivalist preacher, who

had come to spread the word in the city saw many lights whilst praying in a city centre chapel. Unfortunately he was alone at the time.

Then it happened, some people began writing to the newspapers who had seen lights in the sky and related them to the revival, no doubt spurred on by the many reports of the 'Egryn Lights' which the same newspapers also carried. In particular, the revival was connected by some *Yorkshire Post* readers with a 'ball of fire', which appeared in the sky on the 13th of February. Not to be outdone, local astronomers designated it as a fireball meteor (it was seen all over Britain). Another ball of fire was seen in Rawdon on the 11th of February and described in poetic terms by a party of rambles as:

"The light would be about two feet broad and one of the brightest and loveliest that I have ever seen. The greater part of it was tinted with blue and green, with a border up each side, which looked to be about two inches broad, and was of a very rich, purplish hue..."

This light was also seen all over Yorkshire which would be unusual if it was a 'paranormal' light or in some way connected with the revival (or even an Earthlight as I suggested in *Brigantia* 16). Other aerial phenomena was seen in West, East and North Yorkshire throughout February, notably at Knaresborough, but none of it can really be attributed to anything other than unusual (and not so unusual) astronomical and meteorological phenomena, fireballs, shooting stars and the like. And indeed it was pointed out to be so by local astronomers at the time.

Where are the 'comets in training' and the fireballs sweeping the ground that need some explaining? In my opinion the poem in the *Star* and the article in the *Daily Express* were a media hype, attempting to connect the Welsh Revival and the Welsh Lights with the revival in Yorkshire and the unusual astronomical phenomena there. Obviously nothing much has changed with newspaper reporting.

There are no details at all in any of the regional or local Yorkshire papers for the early half of 1905 which could account in any way for the 'Express' and *Star* reports, other than a (deliberate) misreading and misreporting of the facts.

Sorry to disappoint you, but there was no 'flap' in West Yorkshire during 1905.

References: The Books of Charles Fort./ Stars and Rumours of Stars by K. & S. McClure./ FSR Vol. 18. No. 1/ Spooklights by D. Clarke & G. Oldroyd/ Yorkshire Post/ Leeds Mercury/ Bradford Daily Telegraph/ Yorkshire Observer Jan. Feb. March 1905

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Folklore Frontiers: No.2. £5 p.a. (4 issues) from Paul Screeton, 5, Egton Drive, Seaton Carew, Hartlepool, Cleveland TS25 2AT.

Folklore Frontiers gets into its swing with issue 2, looking at Guinness related tales (you'd be amazed at what Guinness is good for!), stranded hitch hiker stories, plus in depth reviews of many UFO and EM mags. Folklore Frontiers is the only publication to study Urban Belief Tales and contemporary folklore in this country and maybe the world and as such is well worth buying. Whether you are a fortune teller or a ufologist Folklore Frontiers has something for you. AJR.

Earth: No.1. 60p from Paul Bennett, 26 Gerard House, Fairhaven Green, Thorpe Edge, Bradford BD10 9QU.

Earth is the new mag from ex Brigantia editor Paul Bennett. It aims to cover Ufology, paganism and mysticism and is basically an extension of Paul's very personal ideas on those subjects, drawing from the works of such uneasy bedfellows as Jung, Crowley and Lethbridge amongst others. Interesting if you are into the above subjects. First issue is written mainly by Paul with articles on Oz factor, Remarkable Visions (a conversation with a stone no less), Koans, Megaliths in Yorkshire and more in that line. AJR

Unknown: July '86. 95p monthly from newsagents.

We don't usually review commercial magazines but the Unknown deserves a mention. It contains articles on every aspect of the anomalous phenomena field, often by well known authors such as the Bord's, Jenny Randles, Mike Goss etc. It's a bit like a smaller, fatter version of the Unexplained. Usually containing two or three UFO related pieces. July's is has an 'expose' of the Cedric Allingham case from the '50's and the first part of a look at the enigmatic APEN organisation, also Jenny Randles on the Aetherius Society. AJR

Secrets of Power: by Robert Anton Wilson: Illuminated ANA 23.

This is an L.P. by the famous sci-fi and hip psychology writer Robert Anton Wilson, who amongst other things has helped form at least one religion and was an editor of Playboy. The record was recorded at a live appearance in London earlier this year and contains a long track called Lepufology, which is the relationship between rabbits and UFO's. Don't laugh, Wilson is no fool and this is an exercise in a hobby most Ufologists are adept at, that of thinking up a ridiculous theory and then finding evidence to substantiate it. Also contains the ultimate secret of power (honest!). AJR

The UFO World '86: A5/32pp. £1:50 inc p&p from 8 Whitethroat Walk, Birchwood, Warrington, Cheshire. WA3 6PQ. Cheques & po's payable to BUFORA Ltd.

UFO & LAUGHS.. By Tain J....



"The first thing we do on Earth is disintegrate that cartoonist"

ARTHUR & QUARK.....



PROLOGUE.....

