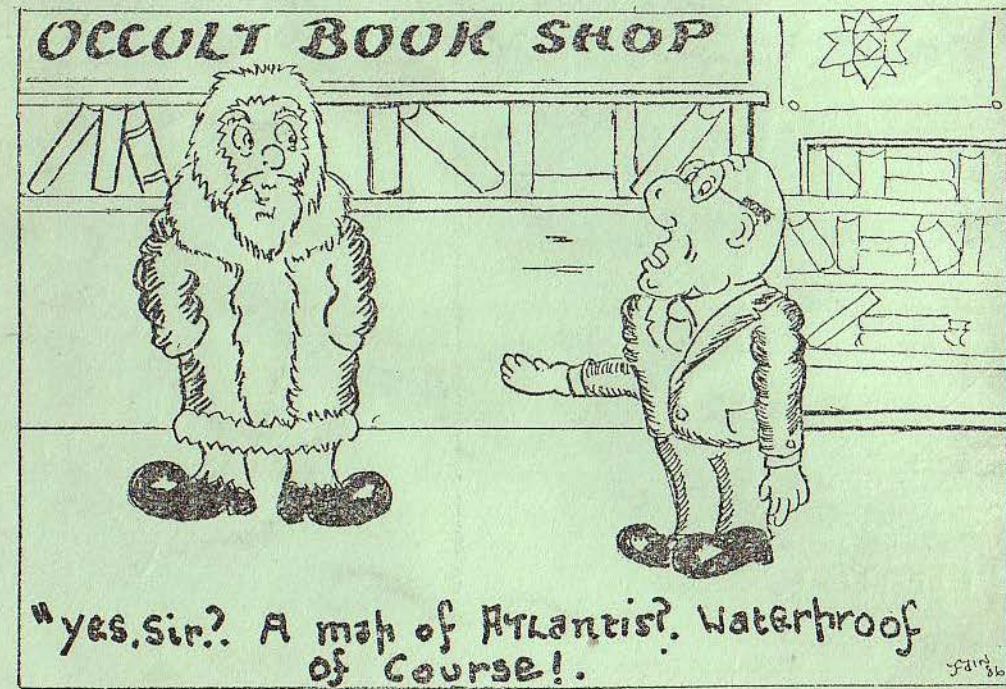


UFO... LAUGHS... Tain J.

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UFO BRIGANTIA NO.21 SEPT/OCT 1986

The Journal Of The West Yorkshire UFO Research Group

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

WYUFORG 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.

WYUFORG, 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

Two major articles in this issue of UFO BRIGANTIA, nearly turning it into an 'Earthlights' issue to follow the well-remembered July/August 'Historical' issue. Firstly David Clarke's 'Haunted Hills and Spooky Spots' which continues the work he did in the 'Spooklights' booklet and centres on the Pendle Hill area of Lancashire, suggesting a geophysical cause behind the centuries of strange phenomena there. The other being the first part of a two part article by Paul Devereux clarifying and updating the Earthlights theory and which will form the basis of a BUFORA paper early in January 1987.

Since the furore and fuss that accompanied the release of the book EARTHLIGHTS, very few people, it seems, in the British UFO field have taken the Earthlights theory seriously, either not mentioning it at all or if doing so, with a touch of derision (notable exceptions being Jenny Randles & Northern UFO News). One northern UFO group (who shall be nameless) even going so far as to say that the Grassington area (on the Craven fault system) of Yorkshire was not even likely to produce Earthlights type phenomena, should it exist. The Earthlights theory offers Ufologists the only really testable (and tested!) theory it has ever had, and it should be up to every UFO group and organization to test it themselves, before criticising, and then the issue would be decided once and for all. This autumn sees WYUFORG's BOL/Earthlight project getting underway, with additional help from David Clarke who will concentrate on the Derbyshire and Rossendale areas. The results of the survey will be published some time in 1987.

In early August this year the Guardian newspaper printed a report about the crash of a U.S. 'stealth bomber', details of which also appeared in various other newspapers and on BBC 2's Newsnight. Noting the 'stealth bombers' shape, speed, lack of noise etc, how many U.S. UFO reports (and possibly UK reports, as it has been claimed that they are flown out of UK bases too), must be attribute to this craft and others like it, which were also mentioned and hinted at? Also, how many 'crashed saucer' legends have come out of crashes of these and other 'classified' projects, especially those in less populated places where the initial details of the crash can be kept secret from the public, thus giving the chance for rumour to spread, and to be spread. The crash occurred in the same general area of the U.S. from which the majority of the crashed saucer reports emanate. Perhaps coincidence perhaps not. Secret and test craft are going to make things even harder for Ufologists in future, that's for certain.

BRIEF REPORTS

• Ilkley, V.Yks: 1:00 am 19/7/86

Witness observed a white flickering light which appeared in the south. The light appeared to move in front of the Moon toward Addingham Moorside. Evaluation: Initial investigation indicates that a bright star or planet is responsible. Investigation is continuing due to the number of sightings recently in this area.

• Cottingham, Hull: 8:50 pm 29/7/86

Three witnesses observed a 'long tube like object with a bright light at the back, moving across the sky' like a rocket. Reported in Hull Daily Mail. Evaluation: Awaiting return of R1 forms. Probable meteor shower.

• Keighley, V.Yks: Afternoon 19/8/86

Two pensioners aged 60 & 90 heard a buzzing sound whilst sat in thier ninth floor flat. Unlooking through the window they saw an oval object flying towards them from the direction of the Haworth/Oakworth Moors. It was black with a silver rim round the centre. It disappeared toward Keighley town centre. Nothing was noted by the local Police, Leeds/Bradford airport or RAF West Drayton. Evaluation: Under Investigation.

• Holbeck, Leeds: Evening, Summer, 1981/82

A writer, Mr G.S. was seated at his desk and noticed out of his window, an unusual shaped cloud in the distance. The cloud appeared to be in the shape of the British Isles and as he watched he saw an object break off from the lowest point of 'Cornwall' and move straight upwards. At this point he called his girlfriend to watch and they saw the object, which looked like an upright cigar, enter a cloud above the 'map' cloud, and emerge from the topside. Then the bottom part of the cigar dropped away, or was 'ejected' back into the cloud. the cigar then shot upwards and disappeared in an instant. Evaluation: Under Investigation.

• Beeston, Leeds: Feb 1979, 11:00 pm

The witness had just been helping his friend move house, across the road and was sat in the van, when he saw a 'helicopter' moving across the lights of Beeston and Wortley. The "copter" was about the size of an apple at arms length with four lights at the front in a circular shape (red & yellow) and a single red light behind, there was no sound and it appeared to be 'floating' at a steady pace, in a perfectly straight line. It disappeared after a few seconds behind some houses. Evaluation: Under Investigation (MUFORA).

THE EARTH LIGHTS THEORY

Update and Observations

By Paul Devereux

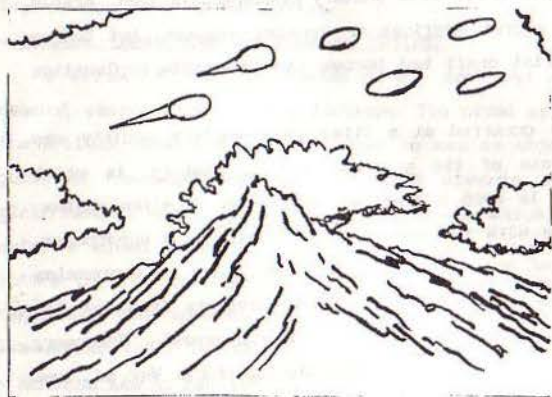
Strange lights in the sky have been seen for at least as long as human beings have kept records, but the modern phase of the phenomenon was begotten in 1947 when Kenneth Arnold witnessed a formation of what we now call UFO's flying between Mnt Baker and Mnt Rainier in the Cascade range of Washington State, USA. " *A terrifically bright flash hit the sky and lit up the inside of my airplane,*" he said, and then he perceived " *a chain of peculiar looking aircraft* ". These "craft" were, in fact lights (what else do you actually see when looking at "round, wingless, glittering" shapes in the sky?). Their formation was a very loose formation, they undulated through the air, and when they turned and crossed low over Goat Ridge, Arnold said that one or two of them seemed to change shape and appear a bit like tadpoles. The news of this sighting reached the world via a newsreporter Arnold spoke to who had asked him how the craft had seemed to fly. Arnold replied like " *you'd watch a saucer skip across water*".

That's where the "flying saucer" headline came from. An age-old terrestrial phenomenon had been baptised with crude 20th-Century concepts. In fact, Arnold originally thought he had seen secret American or Russian weapons, but before long the ideas of extra-terrestrial craft had become the immovable explanation for the phenomenon.

This particular UFO episode occurred at a time when western society was still traumatised from the events of the greatest war in history, in which nuclear power had been released in such a fearsome way, when an alien system, communism, took on a new stature with the emergence of Russia as a superpower, when cultural paranoia was imaged as "an Iron Curtain" and when an expression of that paranoia, McCartyism, was just round the corner. Invaders from the Red Planet, or Reds under the Beds - the symbology was interchangeable. Moreover, technology, which had seen unprecedented development during World War II, was the new god, and a technological interpretation of UFO's was almost inevitable. A generation, mentally and spiritually scarred, wanted a bright new world for its children, a better life - technology offered that promise, though the mushroom cloud shaded it with apprehension to. That trauma and apprehension was writ large in the SF media presentations of the early 1950's - flying saucers appeared like demonic eyeballs in the sky glaring down at panic-stricken humanity running through the streets. Such was the basic image of countless film posters and book or comic covers of the period, and as C.G. Jung

showed, a fundamental archetypal image. Later the constellated archetype shifted from the masculine principle image of penetration from outside invaders from martial planets, reflecting the angular aspects of the "left brain" mode of consciousness, to the softer feminine, mystic principle embodied in the Venus image (eg Adamski). But that is another story.

We know now, if we did not before, that the Cascade range was a typical location for UFO incidence: the explosion of Mt St Helens showed its volatility, which in any case could be expected as the mountains occur at the margin of the Pacific and North American tectonic plates, part of the Pacific "ring of fire". The southernmost peak of the Cascade range is the Indian holy mountain of Mt Shasta, around which odd light phenomena have frequently been reported. (Lights around "holy mountains" is a worldwide phenomenon - examples could be given ranging from Wales to China!). After the Mt St Helens events, geologists rushed to study the area - they had after all, been caught napping - and we now know that all the peaks of the Cascades are linked by geological faults.



Arnolds "flying saucers" were flying along one section of this fault system. Oh no, they did not come from Mars. Those UFO's came from Planet Earth.

It was, and it seems remains, unfashionable to suggest UFO's are a terrestrial phenomenon. Too bad: the hard evidence is there. The first hint I have

come across of this suggestion, apart from the earlier work of Charles Fort, is a 1968 FSR article by F. Lagarde, who noted that a substantial percentage of low-level or landed alleged UFO events during the French 1954 UFO "flap" occurred on or close to surface fault lines. Between 1972 and 1976 Andrew York and I conducted an Earth Mysteries (ie multi-disciplinary) study of the county

of Leicestershire, in which we looked at the recorded strange phenomena (over four centuries), the ancient sites, the traditional gatherings, the geology, the ghost accounts and traditions, and so on, of the county. We created scaled maps of these aspects, as accurately recorded as available data would allow, and compared patterns. Facets of this work were published in issues of THE LEY HUNTER and issues 11 and 12 of THE NEWS (now FORTEAN TIMES) in 1975. One pattern that was particularly interesting from my point of view was that the highest incidence reported UFO activity occurred in the same areas as the surface faulting in the county and the areas where the greatest number of abnormal meteorological events had been recorded down the centuries. There were some problems with this survey, such as no population correction, but this was not such a major factor as some critics would like to suppose (there was population drift over the county over the centuries studied, for example) and the apparent relationship between reported UFO's, reported geophysical anomalies and geological features remains as a true pattern. At this point I personally became convinced there was a link between our planet and the UFO phenomenon.

I then became involved with taking over editorship of THE LEY HUNTER magazine, and writing THE LEY HUNTERS COMPANION with Ian Thompson. During that period a book, SPACE TIME TRANSIENTS by Micheal Persinger and Gyslaine Lafreniere, came out from America. This was the first book, though not the first research as some chroniclers mistake, to associate UFO phenomena with geological factors. It was a preliminary work, using the vast geography of North America which is inadequately mapped geologically, and relying heavily on the piezo-electrical theory of electrical energy produced from crystalline elements in pressurised rock, but the basic idea was well presented.

By 1979 I was contracted with Turnstone Press to write EARTH LIGHTS, which was published in 1982. Trained geologist Paul McCartney was to help me with aspects of the work. The work generated results, many of which came together only after the publication of the book! Such is life. Nevertheless, EARTH LIGHTS remains the most comprehensive single volume written on the subject of UFO's from earth, even though much more can now be added. As the book was being written, Dr Brian Brady of the US Bureau of Mines had contacted Persinger to state that he had witnessed unexplained lights issuing from rock samples being tested in rock-crushing machines (testing stress/load etc for mining and architectural purposes). Soon, Brady produced a film of these lights using ballistic slow-motion cameras. The movie showed lights dancing around a rock

crusher's chamber, and detailed analysis demonstrated that these lights behaved in much the same way as reported UFO's - discoid shapes that changed form and split into multiple lights etc.

McCartney's and my work for EARTH LIGHTS allowed us to examine specific geology/reported UFO activity correlations, using the best data bases (however inadequate) ever assembled: UFO reports giving geographical locations, with detailed geological data probably unequalled anywhere else in the world. We took a random search through the BUFORA files for the last couple of decades, using cases where the investigators at the time reported that they could not find suitable normal explanations, and relating these, on a population-corrected basis, with earthquake/tremor epicentre data for the U.K. The match was pretty good. One of the biggest discrepancies was in the north Pennine area, but we discovered later that those archives were missing at the time we conducted our search - Jenny Randles had them for her book THE PENNINE UFO MYSTERY. It was an exception which, effectively, proved the rule.

We also studied specific regions, the 1904/5 "Egryn Lights" events, and the 1977 Dyfed events around St Brides Bay, as we had usable geographically-located reported UFO data to compare with geological information. (In the Egryn case, the Barmouth geology only became available after the publication of EARTH LIGHTS, alas. The material confirmed a complete correlation between surface faulting and the incidence of the reported light phenomena). These results were so comprehensively correlative, that I no longer had any doubt that we were studying a real relationship, and I realised that anyone else doubting it could only do so from a belief-oriented posture that was protecting desired UFO explanations necessary to their personal psychology (eg UFO's had to be ET, or UFO's had to be psychosociological). Even dear old Warminster showed up with its pertsonal fault system in an otherwise fault-free, stable chalk geology. Other one-to-one cases we have looked at since the work for the book, have reaffirmed the correlation.

We found, during our research, that there was a huge body of literature relating to "earthquake lights" (EQLs) and "mountain peak discharge" (MPD). The former can occur as balls of light, auroral streamers, curtains of light, sparks etc. at, during and after some (not all) earthquakes. Helmut Tributsch lists many of these in his WHEN THE SNAKES AWAKE (unfortunately not available to us when EARTH LIGHTS was being written.) These still unexplained atmospheric

phenomena are now scientifically accepted, and the world database for them is being assembled by Dr Peter Heydevari in Hungary. Almost as well documented are MPD's, in which columns or balls of light are seen being emitted by mountain peaks. (It is worth noting that Adamski's first UFO experience was to see balls of light shooting from the peak of Mnt Palomar). I saw my first, and so far only, example of this while EARTH LIGHTS was in production in the company of three other witnesses I saw a blue/white ball of light, about a foot across, erupt from the volcanic wall of the Welsh mountain, Cader Idris (situated on the Bala fault). later computations of this light's movement gave a speed of something between 600 and 900 mph, depending on time/distance variables! One of the other witnesses, John Merron, informs me thasn there were local reports of UFO activity prior to our observation.

In EARTH LIGHTS I reviewed sets of reported classic cases of UFO's, together with some new material. This was criticised (particularly by Robert Morrell, who makes a hobby of such activity) for being unassessed data. In fact I was only doing what the late Dr Hynek did, and analyse reported events to show there were, in fact, certain patterns in the witness data. Whether or not the specific cases were all the result of stupidity and hoax (which I would doubt) they were typical of types of reported phenomena. As for the reality of the UFO event, what can one do? I have seen two undoubted UFO's, and perhaps six possibles. I described one in depth at the beginning of the book and put forward a challenge to sceptics (which, Randi please note, no one has yet taken me up on. Until they do, they cannot legitimately doubt the phenomenon, though one may doubt particular cases.) No one can do more, and no one has done as much to date.

AA

HELP!

Andy Roberts is interested in obtaining any information on the subject of WW11 'FOO FIGHTERS', particularly obscure info and unpublished sightings but anything will do, I have most of the material available in UFO books and would like to get hold of any original magazine or newspaper sorces. Speculations and theories etc are also welcome. Editorial address.

AA

WYUFORG INVESTIGATION: MORE STRANGE LIGHTS AT ILKLEY

Report by N. Mortimer

Note: On November 19th, 1985 sixteen year old Dawn Whitaker of Ilkley witnessed an unusual formation of lights over the moorlands at nearby Addingham. These consisted of three red LITS which gave off a faint beam of light. In this case, the Mother of the witness has also observed a UFO in the Ilkley area since her daughters experience. (see Northern UFO News 119 pp12).

Mrs Whitaker was interviewed on the 18th of July at her home where she watched the UFO from, and the site was later visited on the same day. This report is the result of those two visits.

THE EVENT

Mrs Whitaker was out walking her dog only a few yards from her home and crossed a nearby field for some exercise. The time was 11:30pm and the evening was quiet and still. The sky was very clear, but at this point the witness did not look up or notice any astronomical features.

As she came to the end of the road which leads to a nearby cemetery (a few hundred yards from her home), she was dismayed to find that several graves had been upturned and exposed. She walked away from the scene and decided to 'phone the police when she got home. Just as she was about to walk into her drive, something very bright caught her eye, about 25 degrees above the high moorland horizon to her south.

She was astounded to see a 'massive' column of light rising up into the sky above the moors, near to the Cow and Calf rocks. As it rose it displayed a spinning effect, as if something inside the beam was rising. When the spinning effect reached the top of the pillar of light, the light suddenly 'went out' and then shone back on again, to once more display the same rising, spinning effect. After the pillar went out again, it did not re-appear for a third time, but Mrs Whitaker noticed in its place two very intense white lights, about as bright as street lamps and approximately the same size, at a distance of a quarter of a mile.

These lights were stationary and just above the moorland horizon. As she watched, for a duration of one hour, one of the lights would go out and then the other coming back on at irregular intervals. The two lights were still visible and very bright, lighting up a fair amount of the surrounding moorland, until the time when Mrs Whitaker went indoors. From 11:45 to 12:30 pm she was joined

by her daughter who also observed the lights, but had not seen the beam of light earlier.

When Mrs. Whitaker finally came away from the window where she and her daughter had been observing from, the lights were still in the same position flashing on and off as before.

Mrs Whitaker stated that she wanted to 'phone the Police about the lights, which she found very unusual, as she had never seen anything like them in the area before although she had lived in the same spot for over fifteen years. She did not do this, as she felt awkward mentioning the lights to the Police.

INVESTIGATION

After I had interviewed Mrs Whitaker I visited the site on the moors where she claimed to have seen the lights. I went with her son who is a friend and recently interested in UFO's. The Cow and Calf Rocks are a well known landmark and beauty spot, and the lights seen by the witness were in an area known as The Fairy House, a giant opening in the rock formation. The exact area of the sighting consisted of a group of trees scattered amongst the rocks. There was some evidence of campers but the witness is familiar with the sight of moorland camp fires and was sure the sighting could not be attributed to them.

We looked for evidence of Army manoeuvres in the area but this would seem impossible as the location is not accessible to cars or lorries and there were no tracks to indicate this. Some branches on the trees were broken but these were no doubt due to campers taking the wood for fires. We came away from the site after about two hours, having found no evidence of any unusual events or the existence of a source of the observed lights.

CONCLUSIONS

I am quite certain that the witness did observe the unusual lights near to ground level as she described, but due to the duration of the observation it seems that a feasible answer as to what they were should be forthcoming. To date however no final conclusion has been reached.

Several possibilities of origin have been ruled out so far these are;

a) Searchlights: The witness was adamant that the beam of light that rose into the air was in no way similar to searchlights she can remember from WW11. The spinning effect and the moving up and down effect differ from an ordinary light beam. Searchlights would also not explain the two circular white lights later seen and their association with the beam

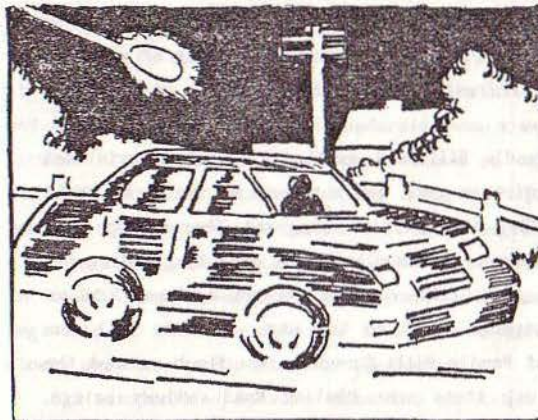
HAUNTED HILLS AND SPOOKY SPOTS

By David Clarke

"there seems to be certain favoured places on the earth where its magnetic and even more subtle forces are most powerful and most easily felt by persons susceptible to such things..."

This comment, by V.Y. Evans-Wentz in his epic work "The Fairy Faith in Celtic Countries" (1911) - a book every UFO researcher should read - reflects the growing interest shown in more recent years by both Ufologists and earth mysteries researchers into the strange "window areas" - supposedly the focal points for a whole range of paranormal phenomena. These areas are locales which have been historically linked with strange and devilish events for many centuries - strange lights, wierd sounds, phantom animals, hauntings and mysterious disappearances are all said to occur at these "hot spots". These phenomena are often reflected in the names given to certain spots where distortions of reality have been noted - the so-called 'Devils Names' identified by Loren Coleman and John Keel in America. My own research has satisfied to my mind the existence of certain areas in Britain which have similar recurring mysteries and haunted spots. One such place is between Edgehill and Burton Dassett in Warwickshire, another is the Charnwood Forest of Leicestershire

One factor which many of these areas have in common is the presence of geological faults and areas of magnetic variation anomalies. It has been postulated by Persinger, Devereux, Fideler and others working on the theory that a complex interaction between solar and lunar movements and their effects upon the earth's natural magnetic field may act as a "cosmic trigger" in certain areas where subsequent movement in the crust along fault lines could generate (through the piezo-electric effect?) strong electromagnetic fields at ground level. This energy (which may have connections with the 'serpent power' so important to the neolithic peoples) would naturally be concentrated around surface features such as resevoirs, hilltops, railway lines and moving automobiles - all familiar foci of UFO activity. Specific concentrations of this energy in areas of mineral enrichment could well have many untold effects upon humans and animals who happen to be in the right place at the right time, perhaps experiencing something akin to an epileptic fit with accompanying elaborate hallucinations, which would fit the predominant cultural myths of paranormal phenomena.



The best way to demonstrate this paradigm at work is to test it out in specific "window" areas. Many of these have the familiar features listed above - one of the main factors being the concentration of unusual light phenomena around hilltops and beacons. According to Micheal Persinger: *"..the tectonic strain theory can predict the probable areas where*

luminosities should be maintained. They should be more evident near sharp shapes (Cliffs, towers, steeples) subject to electric charge collection and electric charge sources (radio towers, high tension powerlines)."

The infamous Pendle Hill of northern Lancashire has a long history of paranormal phenomena. This imposing feature, looming 1,832 feet above the small conurbations of mill-towns which cluster around its twenty five square miles of slopes and moor, established its reputation as a diabolical spot early in the 17th century with the famous trials of the Lancashire witches. Although Mother Demdike, Old Chattox and the other members of the famous witch coven lived in the Pendle Forest area to the east of the hill, people have for centuries traditionally associated the hill itself with witchcraft, it being known locally as the haunt of the Devil. Folklore suggests that witches were endemic to the area long before Roger Nowell, the local magistrate, rooted out his 19-strong band of beggars and delinquents in 1612.

The Druids are supposed to have worshipped on Pendle Hill, and recently the remains of three burial sites have been discovered on the lowere slopes, perhaps suggesting the existence of a Bronze age complex in the area. Indeed, certain place-names on the hill - including the Devil's Footprint and the Devil's Chair on the Big End of the hill seem to indicate strange goings on in the past. this latter spot is of interest as it is also the site of a Holy Well from which George Fox, founder of the Quakers, drank after having his "vision" at the summit of Pendle Hill in 1652: " *I was moved by the Lord to go up to the*

top of it," he said, "which I did with much ado, as it was so very steep and high. When I came to the top of this hill I saw the sea bordering upon Lancashire; and from the top of this hill the Lord let me see in what places He had a great people to be gathered. As I went down I found a spring of water in the side of the hill, with which I refreshed myself, having eaten or drunk but little in several days before."

It was over the Big End of Pendle Hill that another "vision" materialised before the startled gaze of two policemen upon the outbreak of the First World war. On the night of August 23/24, 1914, Police Sergeant Thomas Pope and Constable Alvin Snowden of the Clitheroe Constabulary were on duty guarding the Lancashire & Yorkshire Railway lines in Clitheroe when between 2:45 and 2:50 am their attention was drawn to a strange light in the sky, which to both men appeared to be over the Big End of Pendle Hill! Snowden, who first noticed the light whilst on duty at the railway lines near Pimlico Road railway bridge, stated in an official report to the Chief Constable that the light "disappeared in about a minute but reappeared a few minutes later, repeating that, at similar intervals, about four or five times. I could see that it was an airship, the shape of a sausage, and that the light came from a platform underneath it. I watched it for about a quarter of an hour and it did not move so far. There appeared to be white clouds about it, which in my opinion (were) smoke".

Sergeant Pope noticed the "airship" at 2:50 am whilst on duty near Primrose Arches in Clitheroe. To him it looked like "a moving object with a red reflection" over the Big End of Pendle Hill, moving in a southeasterly direction. In his official report he says "I could not see any bright lights on it, but there was an illumination which made it quite visible in the sky...In my opinion it was a Zeppelin, as it had two carriers underneath. I saw it for about ten minutes when it disappeared from view, taking a northeasterly direction." PC Snowden agreed with his sergeant, saying: "Just after 3 am it disappeared going in the direction of Hellifield (to the northeast)."

This weird scenario was seemingly re-enacted 63 years later when 38-year old textile worker Brian Grimshawe and his friend Jeff Farmer encountered an almost identical object whilst driving through the darkened backstreets of the milltown of Nelson, southeast of Pendle Hill, at 3:10 am on March 9th 1977.

The two men were in the vicinity of Railway Street when something "like a round ball of light" materialised within low cloud in the direction of Pendle Hill. "There were no rays coming off it," said Mr Grimshawe. "It came towards us

slowly and then just stopped, near to us." At this distance the two witnesses could plainly see the object was 100 feet in length "like a cigar with pointed ends, coloured shiny black against a dark black sky" - an almost identical description to that of the object seen in 1914, including the peculiar fact that it "appeared to be surrounded by a grey mist". Orange light came from each end of this object, and on the underside was a mass of pulsating multi-coloured lights - "We thought there were windows on the side...they were oval shaped and lit up. They didn't go right along it, (but) just in the middle." This peculiar UFO apparently caused the car's engine to cut out and radiated an electrostatic field of some kind which felt as if "something was pressing down on them". These events fit in nicely with the theories propounded at the beginning of this article. The 1977 UFO departed after five minutes, moving slowly away in the direction of Manchester.

The similarities between these two sightings are little short of startling. It would have been impossible for the two witnesses in Nelson to have known anything about the 1914 sighting as this is the first time it has appeared in print, having been only recently unearthed at the Public Record Office by Granville Oldroyd. Indeed, the object seen by the men in Nelson seems to be an "up-to-date" version of the one seen 63 years earlier in the same area.

A further case was reported from the same area in 1985. According to the Lancashire UFO investigation group WAPIT, a witness in his car upon the summit of Pendle Hill saw a noiseless brilliant white light moving overhead in the direction of Accrington. This was at 11:30 pm on October 12th, 1985.

This evidence seems to suggest that the Pendle area has for many years been generating unusual aerial lights. From the two cases cited above it appears that the phenomenon has always been interpreted in the context of the contemporary cultural consensus. In 1914 the strange aerial light had to be a "Zeppelin"; in 1977 this same light becomes a "UFO" (which, in the interpretation of everyone except UFO investigators, is a term synonymous with "spaceship"). There is little doubt that in the 17th century any strange aerial light would have been interpreted as the work of the Devil, or a witch on her broomstick. In other words, the underlying phenomenon



remains the same - our cultural perception of its manifestation changes with time.

If we can accept the above as proven - and I certainly believe we can, as there is a mass of evidence to support it, then why do certain locations such as Pendle Hill become the epicentres of such events? As before, we can only point to certain features common to many window areas. These primarily include the presence of fault lines (Pendle Hill is extensively faulted, having a considerable downthrow to the southwest through Barley Moor and the Nick of Pendle, and to the north near Clitheroe - underground streams would naturally follow these lines!); reservoirs (many round the hill), point sources (ie Big End of Pendle), and railway tracks (as featured in both sightings above). There also appears to be a seasonal aspect to the triggering of phenomena in these areas. Magnetic storms, times of the nearest approaches of the moon, sunspots and the passage of frontal systems could all increase the tension within fracture zones.

These factors appear to be shared by many other areas round the country - even the connection with witchcraft appears elsewhere, One notable characteristic of witches was the way that covens tended to to operate in specific geographical locations (always with 13 members) - Pendle being one of them. As modern day witchcraft is mainly a corruption of the ancient pagan art, covens would, naturally be attracted to places of traditional pagan sanctuary. Many such sites are upon hilltops and other high places, where man could be near to his gods and where the earth spirit is at its strongest. It is no coincidence that these areas are also the traditional haunt of spectres and strange aerial lights. "Every race has its holy centres, places where the veil is thin," wrote Dion Fortune in 'Avalon of the Heart' (1934), "developed by the wisdom of the past until a powerful spiritual atmosphere was engendered there and consciousness could easily open to the subtler planes."

Another of these places is Meon Hill, standing 637 ft above the Vale of Evesham, being generally regarded as the last bastion of the Cotswold Hills. Like Pendle Hill, it has a long reputation for attracting or generating strange and devilish events. The hill itself was, according to folklore, created by the Devil himself - who, in a moment of anger threw a huge clod of earth at nearby Evesham Abbey. As usual he was unsuccessful and the clod ended up as the mound of Meon Hill. The hill itself is still regarded as being the abode of the Devil, even though it appears to have been favoured by ancient man as its slopes are encircled by an Iron Age hillfort, interspersed by copses supposedly planted

by the Druids. The hill is also reputed to have been haunted for many years by a "ghost dog", and was a sacred spot for the witches of the Long Compton coven who practised



regularly at the Rollright Stone Circle nearby. In 1945 the hill was the scene of a particularly ghastly unsolved murder on St. Valentines Day. Charles Walton, who was a 74-year old hedgecutter and one of the principle eye witnesses who had reported seeing the "ghost dog", was found pinned to the ground by a pitchfork with a cross slashed

across his chest. He was known to possess a strange black glass - "a witch's mirror" which may have had some connection with his murder. The murder was extensively investigated by the redoubtable Superintendent Fabian of Scotland Yard, who was unable to solve the mystery. He too saw the strange ghostly dog on Meon Hill, and shortly afterwards, the dead body of a gigantic black dog was found hanging in the branches of a copse on the hillside. Shortly after this another black dog was run over by a police car at the base of the hill.

This same witchcraft coven may also have had connections with the Burton Dasset Hills, some 20 miles to the east - another centre of ancient sanctuary, continually plagued by phantom armies and ghostly lights over the centuries. The point source of Burton Dasset Beacon Tower is the foci of the strange lights noted as a commonplace occurrence by the local residents between 1850 and the middle of the 1920's. Continual leakage from the heavily faulted Marlstone Rocks of the hills appears to have produced what became known as "the Burton Dasset Ghost" - a brilliant spectral light which appeared to follow pre-set paths across the hills, hugging contours, hovering around the ancient All Saints Church and startling unwary night-travellers. The "ghost" appears to have made its final appearance on January 26th 1924 - the day before an earth tremor shook the midlands. This phenomenon appears to have been as much a natural feature of the hills as tornadoes are of the atmosphere. Even the name

Burton Dassett means (in Saxon) "the abode of wild beasts) - and the capitals of the North Isles of the church are adorned with carvings of fiery dragons and serpents. An ancient pagan cemetery and earthworked hill are nearby. All this appears to suggest that the ancient peoples knew of the reputation of Burton Dasset - and as so often is the case, this was reflected in the name given to the place.

Burton Dassett Beacon was used from ancient times as a means of communication between different sections of the Midlands - with Leicestershire 25 miles to the north and the Malverns 40 miles to the west. Fires would be lit on festival nights, and more recently to warn of the Armada. A similar system was in operation in the north of England, the Beacon upon the highest point of Pendle Hill in Lancashire being part of the latter system!

A further "coincidence" is that the Beacon point in Leicestershire - Beacon Hill, a famous vantage-point rising 818 feet above the ancient pre-Cambrian rocks of the Charnwood Forest, displays many of the same characteristics found in the other "window" areas. An Iron Age hillfort crowns the top of the hill, which is said to be haunted by the ghosts of a monk and a spectral dog - so commonly found in such places. Beacon Hill has many fault lines and appears to have its fair share of unusual aerial lights. One of the most recent sightings took place on Hallow'een night, 1979, when eight witnesses saw brilliant red lights at ground level in the area.

These spots have for countless years been places of mystery held in awe by man, where people have seemingly wandered through the wafer thin veil that separates this world from another where strange distortions of reality occur. Through the ages people have stumbled through Alice's looking glass at certain points on the planet, and have had their brainwaves scrambled by mysterious lights. George Fox's experience atop Pendle Hill is typical of many others throughout the world who have experienced religious or mystical illumination in such places. Mountains and hilltops have always seemed to symbolise something important in the collective unconsciousness. Pilgrims still climb to the top of Pendle Hill and other such places throughout the country to watch the sun set and the moon rise on midsummer day. Such areas may thus act as magnets, attracting people who are more sensitive to the hidden frequencies beyond the normal range of human vision.

As far back as 1970 John Keel was writing that: "Many windows centre directly over areas of magnetic deviation...UFO's seem to congregate above the

highest hills in these window areas. They become visible in these centres and then radiate outward, travelling sometimes 100-200 miles before disappearing again". But only in more recent years have researchers from a number of disciplines come together and pooled their resources in order to fathom and explain scientifically the processes that operate in these haunted hills and spooky spots. We are now beginning to see UFO manifestations not as alien visitors or misidentifications of bright stars, but as what Hilary Evans has called "geophysical artefacts".

Addendum: David Clarke has also supplied us with the following notes pertaining to the Pendle area:

- a) In 1869 an aerial phenomenon described as "something like a fiery, flying goose".
- b) The summit of Pendle Hill was used for pre-historic burials.
- c) When George Fox climbed the hill to have his religious experience a "great storm arose".

David also supplied us with extensive notes for this article which, regrettably have had to be omitted due to reasons of space.

AA

COMPETITION RESULT

The response to last issue's competition was pathetic with only one entry. Obviously it was too hard. The answer for anyone who can remember the question was of course 'Sheep abduction in Cumbria'. The mystery prize must unfortunately remain a mystery until someone wins it. Better luck next time!

AA

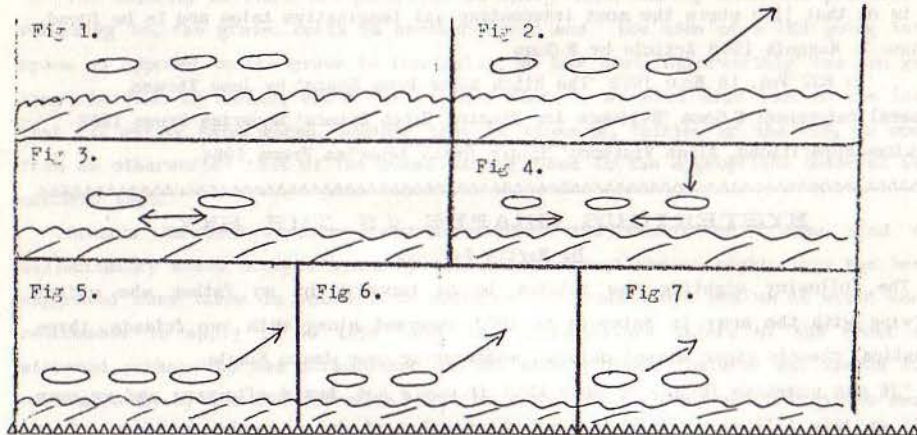
MUFON UFO Research North: Regional Groups

SPI	(Scotland)	4 Woodlea Park, Branshill, Sauchie, by Alloa	FK10 3BG
SDRPG	(N.East)	53 Brook Terrace, Darlington, Durham	DL3 6PJ
HLUFOIG	(N.Lancs/Cmb)	89 Bare Lane, Morecambe, Lancs.	LA4 6RN
LCUFOS	(mid-Lancs)	23 Queen Victoria Rd, Burnley, Lancs.	BB10 3DH
MUFORA	(Gt Mcr/Chesh)	6 Silsden Ave Lowton Lancs.	WN5 9PY
WAPIT	(S.Lancs)	6 Alder Ave Pemberton Wigan Lancs.	WA3 1BN
SSPR	(S.Yks)	17 Old Quarry Ave Wales Sheffield	S31 8RW
LUFOIC	(E.Midlands)	17 Grange Rd Wigston Fields Leicester	LE8 1JH
WYUFORG	(W.Yks)	19 Bellmount Gdns Bramley Leeds	

friends shouted for us to come and look at something. The three of us looked over the jungle and saw three hovering equidistant cigar-shaped objects, like lights hanging in the sky. The sun was shining brilliantly behind us and yet the silvery surface of the cigars didn't seem to reflect much sunlight. We watched them hover (Fig 1) for about five minutes and then one disappeared at a forty five degree angle to the right of us, at great speed, and seemed to fade away (Fig 2). We watched the remaining two cigars for about fifteen minutes in which time they moved apart a short distance (Fig 3). Then the object that had disappeared came back. It was at first a speck in the distance, coming to it's original position towards us and on a level with the other two objects. It eventually settled at the side of the other two and all three closed together (Fig 4) so they were all back in the original position. The cigars hovered there for about another fifteen minutes and then all three flew away at great speed, to the right of us, one by one, (Fig 5,6,7) as if fading away. No noise came from the object during the sighting'

Comments:

The nearest town to where this incident took place is some fifty miles away, yet the next day the local papers carried a story entitled 'Mysterious Shapes In The Sky', which seemed to confirm the witnesses' observations. The mystery objects had been seen by many other people at the same time. Various people put forward theories as to what was seen, one of which was that the lights were some form of reflection, although of what is not known. As the jungle in that area was so dense it seems inconcievable that lights from possible military trucks were responsible for the phenomena although some form of atmospheric phenomena cannot be ruled out.



THREE ON LINE

By Nigel Mortimer

Part One

The latter months of 1981 were a busy time for UFO researchers especially in the north of the country, not more so than here in West Yorkshire. Sightings of all kinds of extraordinary phenomena were reported at that time, heralding the Bradford (Woodside) flap. This is not an account of the UFO events from that period, but an assessment of a series of peculiar happenings which befell three investigators who were very much involved with cases at the time. They found strange twists and turns cropping up in their work, some you may call 'coincidence', which in time prompted them to undertake an experiment which they thought may point towards an answer to what was going on.

I, Nigel Mortimer, was to meet with Paul Bennett and Robert Stammers in Bradford, after early correspondence with both, with regard to their views on the recent spate of UFO sightings in the area in late January 1982. Robert, a relative newcomer to ufology took a keen interest in the many theories of Paul Bennett, who, as most of you will know, is a character unto himself, possibly being Yorkshire's most written about 'repeater'. I had just finished accumulating the final reports from the Woodside area flap and the meeting ended with us deciding upon a joint study of those results, as it turned out that in some way or another we all had personal reasons for a deep interest in the woodlands of the Woodside area. These I will come to shortly.

In the week after our initial meeting I received a letter from Robert, who had earlier mentioned that he had an interest in Ley-lines. In the letter he described how he had been looking at a map of West Yorkshire, and by chance noticed that all three of us (Robert, Paul and myself) lived along a straight path running from Otley in the north to Roberts home at Shelf in the south, passing through Paul Bennett's home at Idle, midway between the two. Was this pure chance and just coincidence? Upon further examination Robert noticed that the location where he had had his first UFO sighting was on the same line, and as he put it "from appearances, it (the UFO) travelled the same line."

Some time passed after the initial letter from Robert, and in that time I had taken several visits to Wyke woods (Woodside) with Paul Bennett, researching the area for more information about the many UFO sightings. Needless to say we came across more than a hint of 'coincidence' in the way in which we seemed to be led from one source to another. Then in March 1982 I

