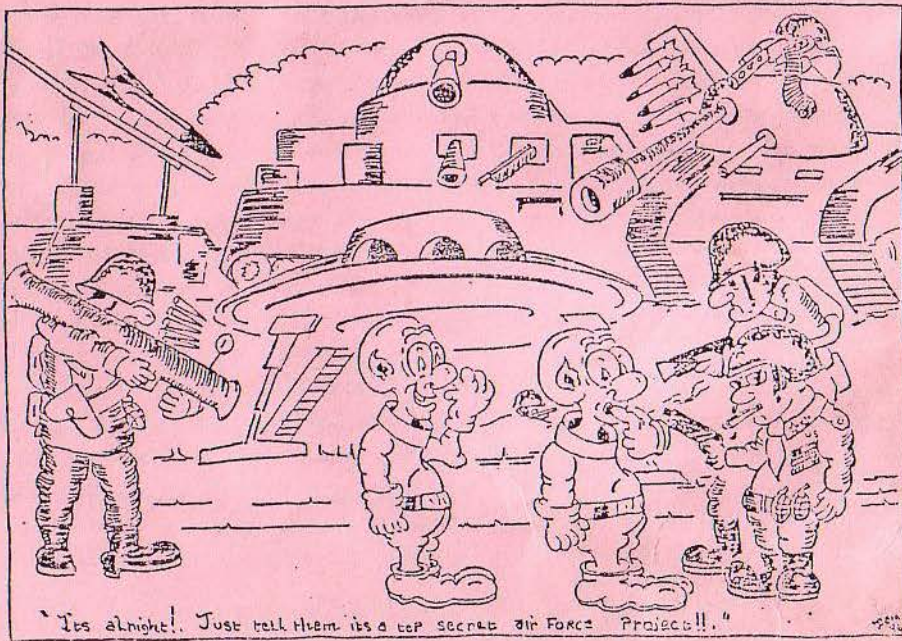
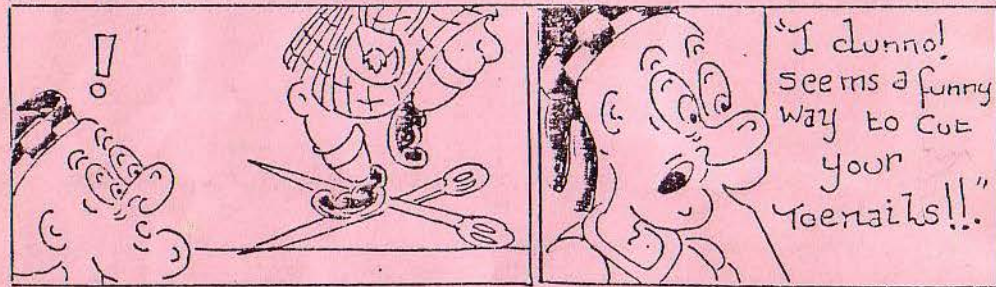


GALAXATIVE. By Iain J.

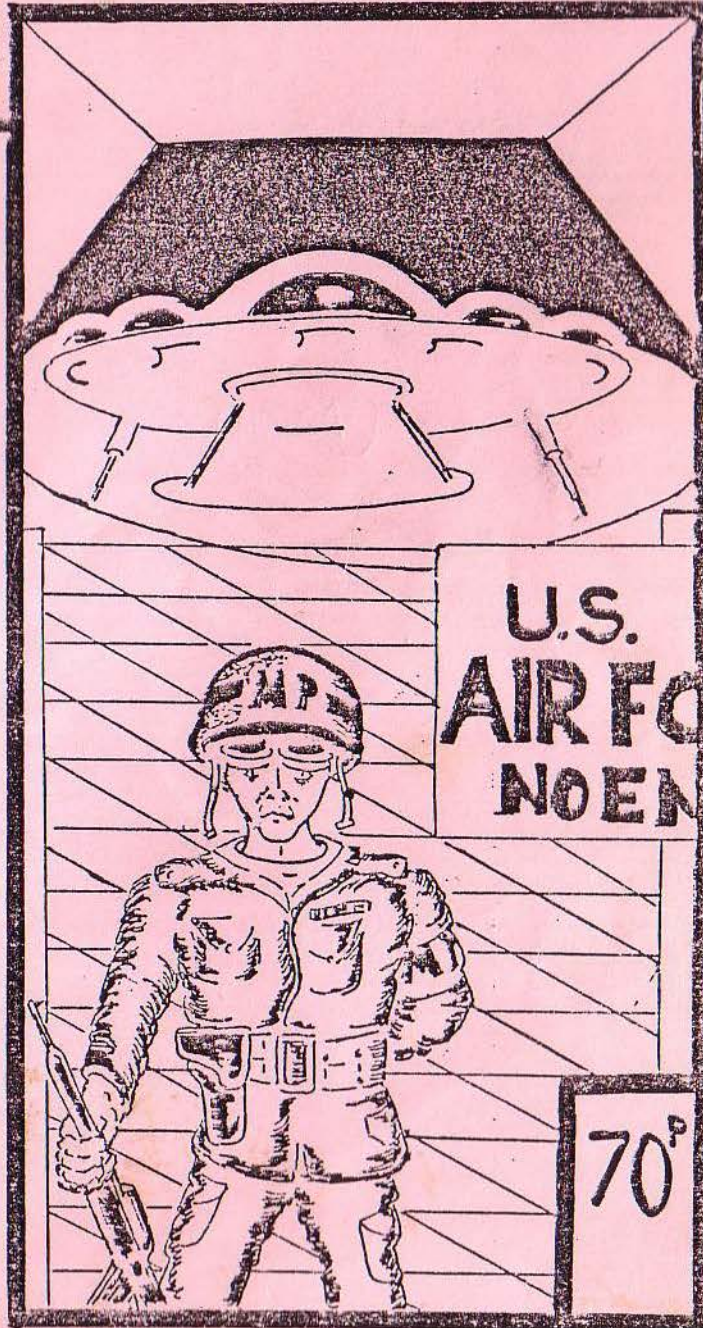
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UFO

DISSENT

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Jan ~ Feb 87

UFO BRIGANTIA NO.24 JAN/FEB 1987

The Journal Of The West Yorkshire UFO Research Group

Editor: Andy Roberts: 84 Elland Rd. Brighouse, West Yks. HD6 2QR. Tel. 721993
Co-ordinator: Martin Dagless: 19 Bellmount Gardens, Bramley, Leeds. Tel. 551658
Artwork: Iain Johnstone.

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 WYUFGORG unless otherwise stated, articles may be reproduced or quoted from providing original author and WYUFGORG are credited. The opinions expressed in these pages are not necessarily those held by WYUFGORG as a whole. If any reader should have anything unusual to report (from any year), please 'phone or write. Cheques should be made payable to Martin Dagless.

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

WYUFGORG 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.

WYUFGORG, 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 work on the lines of evidence oriented research as opposed to belief oriented research.

The groups 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

Readers who have been keeping up with the Cracoe Fell saga can now read the denouement of the case (after 5 years!) elsewhere in this issue. Although it is solved, and is now an IFO, (bearing in mind the Cracoe farmers testimony was it ever a UFO?), no doubt the 'fallout' and implications will take many months to settle out and permeate into the minds of Ufologists. The whole story of what happened regarding WYUFGORG's and YUFOS' involvement with this case is too long and convoluted to appear as a magazine article, but if any reader should wish to know the whole story they should consult the (extensive) case file which will be deposited with both NUFON and BUFORA files sometime in early 1987 and which will include copies of original letters, documents etc from which the articles in Brigantia have been culled.

The acrimony to which we have been subjected in this case, mainly centering around the fact that we knew it was not a 'structured object of unknown origin' if not exactly an extraterrestrial craft, illustrates aptly the huge schism which still exists in Ufology. That is between belief in the existence of extraterrestrials who are visting earth and who are the source of much UFO phenomena, and the proponents of any other point of view, notably the sceptics or new theorists such as Devereux etc. Despite there being no proof whatsoever that extraterrestrials are the cause of UFO phenomena it is an enduring myth which appears to be enjoying a resurgence of popularity. The unmasking of the Cracoe case has shown that at least one well publicised and supposedly well-investigated case was not due to any 'unknown' craft, and indeed suggests that other sightings in that area, particularly the 'three ball of light' ones, many of which emanated in the years after the Cracoe case and which were compared with it, may well have had prosaic explanations. Ever since Adamski people have reported UFO's with three balls of light on their underside. Adamski was a hoaxer. Cracoe has been disproved. What happens if other so-called classic sightings are re-investigated, not by de-bunkers, but by genuinely open minded people who have no pre-conceptions and who are not afraid of what they will find? When we are dealing with something we do not know or understand other than by its effects on people, a healthy dose of scepticism is the only way to approach it. If Ufology descends once again into the mire of extraterrestrial belief/intervention as it was in the 50's & 60's, and indeed still is in in America, vast amounts of ground gained in the past decade will be lost. UFO's do exist in some form, there is no doubt about that, so it has got to be a case of stringent investigation whilst being careful not to throw the baby out with the bathwater as it were. What we must not do is cling to bizarre explanations when the evidence proves otherwise.

A NEW YEARS RESOLUTION

'CROSS OF LIGHTS AT FARNLEY': AN IFO?

By Martin Dagless

Readers may remember the account of a sighting we printed in the April '86 issue of UFO BRIGANTIA. Briefly, the report outlined the sighting of a crucifix of bright white lights in early 1982 at 8:00 am in Farnley, Leeds, West Yorkshire. The lights were observed stationary for only a few seconds at an approximate elevation of 15 degrees before disappearing as quickly as they had appeared. The weather conditions were cloudy and cold with a moderate breeze. We classified this case in our case file as Unknown/UAP as no conventional explanation seemed to fit the details of the report. Recently we were forwarded some data by Robert Moore a BUFORA AI in Somerset, who upon reading of this account in UFO BRIGANTIA came up with a theory which we believe has explained this sighting.

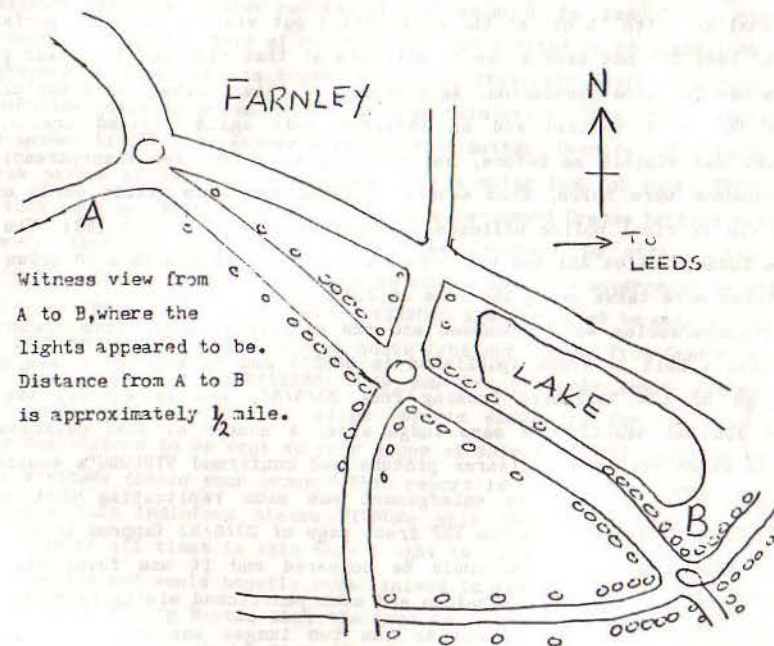
He writes "I suspect that what was actually seen was a superior mirage of some street lights. A mirage of this nature causes objects to be observed at an apparently higher elevation than normal. Such an effect is caused by layers of hot or warm air lying above a layer of cold air, technically known as a temperature inversion. The sun might have warmed the air above the ground but the air close to ground level could have been still a bit on the chilly side thus creating the above effect. I note with some interest that the morning this observation took place is described as being cold which could be looked upon as possible factual support for my explanation. The lights were described as being bright. Mirages can often act as a kind of lens enhancing the brightness and size of light sources affected by this optical aberration. Therefore what I think may have happened was that some street lamps lining both sides of the road were distorted by superior image which projected them a few degrees into the sky. After a few seconds had elapsed, the effect ended causing the apparent disappearance of the cross."

WYUFORG COMMENT

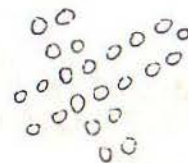
Robert also asked several questions, the answers to which would possibly provide further evidence in support of his theory. These were: was there a crossroads in the direction of object observed; if so does it have a cross-shaped street light configuration; was the location of this in an area that is lower than the position of the surrounding area and were the lights white. The answers to all but the last of these questions were yes. There are two crossroads in close proximity to where the lights were seen. Both are lined with street lamps. The area is a major ring road and although the road is lined with street lamps, the highest concentration is at the crossroads. The first of

these is about a quarter mile from the witnesses position, the second about half a mile. The second crossroads appears to be the most likely candidate when the witnesses account is taken into consideration. the origin of the lights is in a lower position than the surrounding area. Cold air often sinks to low lying areas, a factor important in this case. The street lamps are all coloured orange with a few white lights. However the witness stated in her account that at the time of the sighting there were no lights on the road as it was lined with trees. As the road is a major road there has to have been some form of lighting and these could have been white street lamps at the time of the sighting. Taking all other evidence into account; ie: the locality being in a 'trough', the proximity of the crossroads, the cloudy and cold weather enabling the mirage to be projected onto the cloud and the very low elevation of 15 degrees we are quite certain that this theory is correct to explain this sighting.

Thanks to Robert Moore for the helpful data. WYUFORG are always open to suggestions as to resolutions to any of our cases.



Witness view from A to B, where the lights appeared to be. Distance from A to B is approximately 1/2 mile.



DRAWING OF OBJECT OBSERVED BY WITNESS EARLY 1982, FARNLEY, LEEDS, W. YORKS, OXCOH.

CRACOE FELL- THE CONCLUSIONWYUFORG RESEARCH

Since the events detailed in UFO BRIGANTIA No. 23, further conclusive and incontrovertible evidence has come to light regarding the nature of the infamous 'Cracoe UFO'. This article continues WYUFORG's line of research and brings the case up to date and to a conclusion.

WYUFORG, after re-interviewing the farmer, D. Carlisle, on 28/9/86 made several visits to the fell in the hope of seeing the phenomenon repeat itself. Previous visits had been made in the late spring and summer months of 1986 but, concurrent with the farmers belief that the phenomenon could only be seen in the autumn and winter months, nothing was seen. Two visits were made in October, the fell was climbed and the area was surveyed but nothing was seen to indicate that the 'Cracoe UFO' was a natural phenomenon. However a chance visit on November 11th proved valuable. Andy Roberts arrived in Cracoe at approximately 2pm and upon looking at the fell immediately saw the 'Cracoe UFO'. A bright white strip, with a smaller white 'blob' at the side, stood out visibly from the surface of the rock. Andy did not have a camera with him at that time but two other people with him saw the same phenomenon. As a result of this another visit was planned for the following weekend and on 15/11/86 Andy again visited Cracoe. The phenomenon was visible as before, and possibly brighter. Ten transparencies of the phenomenon were taken, from several points, two from within yards of the site of the original police officers photographs taken in March 1981. The film used was Kodachrome 64 ASA and the camera was a Canon AE-1 with a 70-210mm lens. All pictures were taken using the lens at 210mm.

The transparencies were processed and the resulting image, when compared to the originals held by YUFOS (published in QUEST) and to that published on the front page of the Yorkshire Evening Post 23/8/83, was in exactly the same position and was exactly the same image size. A number of 10x8 enlargements were made which produced a clearer picture and confirmed WYUFORG's suspicions. To be absolutely certain, an enlargement was made replicating that of the enlargement which featured on the YEP front page of 23/8/83 (approx 16x12). When this was done the two images could be compared and it was found that both phenomena were of the same dimensions and also positioned similarly on the rock face. The only difference between the two images was one of brightness. WYUFORG's photographs are not as bright as those held by YUFOS. This is understandable considering that a number of meteorological conditions must be met to see the phenomena at its brightest. For further clarification and an unbiased report WYUFORG then sent one of the slides to Klaus Webner in West Germany, on 25/11/86. Webner did original analysis on YUFOS' Cracoe photographs

in 1983. He is held in high respect by YUFOS (they are still using his analysis today) and was therefore in a position to give an informed assessment of WYUFORG's photographs.

Webner replied, and we quote from his letter dated 4/12/86.

"The Cracoe UFO is unmasked. Your slides show the same phenomena under controlled conditions. The intensity of the light is not so bright as it is to see on the Cracoe photos but the position of the reflection is absolutely the same....Your slide is an evidence that a harmless reflection on this sloping area of rock is responsible for the huge UFO headlines in the newspapers."

With this information WYUFORG felt that the Cracoe case was more or less closed and it was only a matter of determining the exact cause of the phenomenon and of informing those who still felt that it was some form of solid craft.

As YUFOS were taking a considerable interest in and commenting on WYUFORG's involvement in the Cracoe case, once we were certain that the 'UFO' was in fact an IFO, we sought to inform them of the full facts. Philip Mantle, YUFOS investigator and 'team leader on the ground research' in the Cracoe case, was telephoned on 30/11/86 told of our findings and invited to come and look at our photographic evidence at his convenience. Unfortunately Mantle has not, as of this magazine going to press, taken us up on this offer. This offer remains open to any member of YUFOS or anyone else for that matter. Despite being informed of the true nature of the Cracoe phenomena (ie a shiny lump of rock) YUFOS still class this case as UNKNOWN and are offering a re-vamped Cracoe Package with 'new evidence'. Interestingly enough, this 'new' package is still using Klaus Webner's 1983 analysis, analysis which he admits has been superceded by evidence appearing on WYUFORG's photographs. WYUFORG has attempted to obtain the 'new' Cracoe package for our files, and we quote from our reply, from Graham Birdsall (YUFOS President), dated 19/12/86: *"As you are probably aware liaison with WYUFORG does not exist, and to allow reports which are for the benefits of serious researchers to be sent to your group at this time will conflict with our current attitude toward your group."* This report is ostensibly on sale to anyone and despite this ludicrous stance WYUFORG will obtain the report regardless. WYUFORG have at all times in this saga sought to inform YUFOS of all our actions and information and would happily have liaised in any way possible. We have been told however by Philip Mantle that the next issue of QUEST would *"leave you and your colleagues in no doubt that the Cracoe photographs do not depict light reflections"*. The new QUEST is out and I and my colleagues are still doubting!

Cracoe was visited again on 26/12/86, and (surprise!) yet again the phenomenon was clearly visible. More photographs were taken. Whilst the Cracoe farmer, D. Carlisle, had indicated that the Cracoe phenomena was a sunlight reflection WYUFORG wished to ascertain exactly what was causing the effect, and to this end

visited the fell on 28/12/86. Weather conditions were not conducive to ground research as cloud level was 1000', the fell at 1600' being shrouded in mist and a high wind was blowing. Despite this the precise location of the 'Cracoe UFO' was found. At close quarters the piece of rock responsible for the anomalous effect bears no visual relation to what is seen and photographed at a distance. The effect is caused by light (not direct sunlight) reflecting off a piece of gritstone rock which is at an approximate angle of 25 degrees. The surface of the rock is worn smooth, unlike the surrounding gritstone, and is a drainage surface for the peat bog which adjoins it. Furthermore the surface of the rock was partially covered with an unknown species of white lichen. To one side of this piece of rock a larger piece of upright gritstone stands, next to which was smaller angled rock with the same surface features. The dimensions of the larger area were 15'x10' and the smaller area 2'x2'. When viewed from a distance this gives the effect of an incandescent white strip of light with a smaller 'blob' to one side. This is the 'Cracoe UFO'. To the best of our knowledge the effect, which is in itself a remarkable illusion, can only be seen between the months of November and April, and then only on days when the conditions are right. On two WYUFORG visits the phenomenon was observed to change light intensity drastically, going from very bright to almost imperceptible in a matter of seconds. Anyone can see the Cracoe light phenomenon for themselves. The optimum times are between the hours of 10:30 am and 2 pm between the months specified, providing clouds or ice do not obscure the rock face.

This case, despite being resolved raises many questions. WYUFORG fail to see how the solution to this case has not been reached before by others, bearing in mind that the Cracoe farmer offered a possible solution in 1983 (which turned out to be more or less correct) and the fact that the phenomenon itself is visible on and off throughout at least six months of the year. We also fail to see how the police officers who took the original photograph had not seen the phenomenon before or since as the police house is directly opposite the fell. In addition to this is the mysterious 'sixth slide'. This slide has been seen by only a handful of people according to Philip Mantle and in the Cracoe report it is described as '.....a slide which was perhaps the clearest, the police officer had zoomed in on the object for this shot', other sources discovered a 'fin' on this slide, and we quote 'The 'fin' was once again prominent...' This 'fin' is in fact an upright piece of gritstone. Besides these problems why could two photographic analysts, one of which, GSW is supposedly the most advanced in the world at UFO analysis, not detect that the 'Cracoe UFO' was a surface light reflection on angled rock? The implications to be drawn from many of the above points are enormous.

Throughout our investigations into the 'Cracoe UFO' WYUFORG have been fully supported by, and would like to thank BUFORA, NUFON, Jenny Randles and the many individuals who have offered their help by both telephone and letter. It is good to know that British Ufology still has some people in its ranks who are concerned about the truth. Our greatest debt is to Nigel Mortimer, BUFORA AI, without whose vigilance the 'Cracoe UFO' would still be classed as Unknown.

Unfortunately we could not reproduce any of our photographs in this issue due to copying difficulties (the image would not have been bright enough), and we apologise to our readers. Anyone wishing to obtain a photograph (enlarged or otherwise), or in fact any documentation pertaining to this case should contact WYUFORG. We will also enter into correspondence on any point raised in these articles.

WITHER RATIONALITY ???

By Robert Moore (BUFORA)

Ufology is not only suffering from a decline in sighting reports, but also from a general lowering of standards. The story of this disillusioning retardation is a sorry tale indeed.

I look upon the late 1970's early 80's as British Ufology's 'golden age'. With the publication of Allen Hendry's 'THE UFO HANDBOOK', knowledge of IFO's could no longer be ignored or 'overlooked'. Ufology's (self appointed?) spokespersons popularised as more rational approach towards the subject. Serious UFO books (Hendry's epoch-marking work being the first) were printed, which portrayed the subject as it was (and is still) IFO's and all, minus sensationalist trimmings. As a result objective Ufology flourished. Hard facts became all-important, and 'gee-whiz' Ufo concepts and theories were shunted to one side and were either forgotten and/or regarded as products of 'techno-superstition'. But slowly the rot began to set in. Certain people (who put profit before the truth) took little heed of 'true Ufology' and carried on as normal, prostituting their and others peoples work, coated in thick layers of mass-media sensationalism and perverted, distorted and backward Ufology. As this was and sadly still is the only brand of Ufology reaching the public, the image of Ufology and of Ufologists remained unchanged as far as the outside world was concerned. Ufology was/is to the man/woman in the street a subject fit only for the young in brain and greedy in pocket! As a result, most of those with any integrity threw up their hands in despair 'what impact is the rational approach making?' they cried in frustration! An illustration of this 'lack of impact'

could be seen by how sales of Ufological works which were mostly (or completely) comprised of fiction were still greater than those of serious objective publications. Did the general public give a damn about the truth? Did they just look upon Ufolgy to provide thrills and temporary escape? Did they (do they?) view the subject as something not to be taken too seriously at all, as just another form of entertainment, like a Sci-fi novel translated into real life?? Take for example, the fate of PROBE REPORT (and it's editor) as an illustration of this bitter truism. the decline of reported incidents of UFO sightings served to accelerate the demise of those in the subject who's very interest in the subject depended on such raw data...unlike those to whom sightings were mere justifications for their beliefs (and any sighting at that!). As the figure-heads of the rational UFO movements slowly disappeared from the scene, ugly things started to happen. Those who once 'stood on the rooftops' and shouted aloud the rationalist message slowly changed their spots and plunged to new levels of absurdity, their 'high standards' plummeted with them. Evenst best forgotten were rammed down the throats of the UFO movement, choking (intentionally?) the rationalists due to the falseness and flimsiness of the 'evidence' of such 'occurrences'. But to those whose level of credulity was as low as the credibility of these so called 'classic encounters', such events acted as nourishment to thier interest in the subject. the very people that Ufology could well do without, but the perpetrators of such 'events' needed badly for less than noble reasons! As a result such people thrived and Ufology was once again safe in the hands of those for whom truth took a backseat to their ego's and wallets! One hears very little nowadays of IFO's, exposes, of 'UFO dross' and de-bunking of irrational concepts. One, however, hears much of 'crashed spaceships', 'magic' spyplanes, and 'fantastic encounters'. One wonders if the events above were set in motion just to undermine true Ufology, because the dominance of Ufology by serious people would undermine their long term interests!

But happily there are still objective people involved in Ufology today, even if they are pushed to the back, whilst the shysters and mad-men exhibit their phony wares before the public, who just shake their heads in disbelief and rejection.

If this state of affairs is allowed to continue, perhaps even the small rationalist flame burning today will be smothered by the blackness of insanity and cupitivity. Are the serious Ufologists of Britain content with being slowly irradiated, or will they rise up and cast down those who smear the name of the subject. Then maybe the flame of Ufological rationalism will burn brightly once again, never again to be extinguished.

THE PENNINE PHANTOM HELICOPTER
& OTHER SCARES (Part One)

By David Clarke

".....after fifteen years of personal research in the UFO field I can say this-there is no UFO phenomenon; there is only a UFO myth and/or a UFO cult based on unusual natural or artificial phenomena which are labelled 'UFO' by UFO cultists...."

Belgian Ufologist Marc Hallet 1986

In recent years Ufologists in the north of England have been working to isolate and analyse recurrent waves of UFO sightings which for twenty years have become an almost annual event in the Pennine foothills. Concentrations of reports emanate each year from the moorland districts between Lancashire and Yorkshire - stretching from the Rossendale Valley across the moors and hills northeast to the Craven district around Skipton and Grassington, as far east as Ilkley Moor and Bradford. Both of these areas are rich in quartz-bearing rock, and have in common that they are both major areas of folding and faulting in the Pennine geology.

In 'The Pennine UFO Mystery' Jenny Randles notes that the genesis of sightings in this particular context was created between the years 1971-1974, with the curious saga of the phantom helicopter. Jenny discusses this phenomenon only briefly, but it is to my knowledge, one of the very few accounts in the UFO literature where this very important 'wave' is mentioned. Perhaps the reasons for this lie in the fact that UFO magazines in the past have only taken notice of events which seem to corroborate their belief in the reality of extraterrestrial visitors.

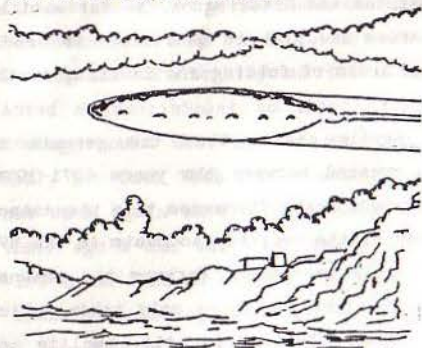
The phantom helicopter sightings of 1973-74 are crucially important to our understanding of the generation of UFO waves and the creation of the UFO myth in the human consciousness. The wave is also important in that it took place at a time of widespread belief in visitors from outer-space and yet was not interpreted within this particular frame of reference, even though its elements are identical to UFO waves since 1947.

The first sighting appears to have occurred on September 18, 1973, at Harpur Hill, near Buxton in north Derbyshire. At one o'clock in the morning, Mrs.J. Ingleton, who lived on Burlow Road, opposite the large Hillhead Quarry and explosion magazine, reported to the police that she had seen a helicopter rising out of the quarry. Another witness was Mr. Simon Crewe of Macclesfield, who was

employed as a security officer to guard the quarry by Peak Security. "I was told that a helicopter had been seen leaving the quarry," he said later. "About ten minutes later, I went back to the quarry and was joined by three mechanics. I went to check the magazine and saw the helicopter approaching the quarry again. I went straight to the bottom and told the men to turn off the lights. I think the helicopter must have seen them, as it veered off. I assume it was a helicopter, as it seemed to climb and not bank as an aircraft would."

Nevertheless, if the craft was a helicopter the police were unable to identify it and the reason for its midnight visit to the quarry remains unknown. It should be noted, however, that quarries seem to have a particular attraction for UFO's, as well as other paranormal phenomena.

The mystery deepened a month later when, on the night of Friday October 26, 1973, police stations throughout Yorkshire were overwhelmed with reports of a cigar-shaped object with flashing lights, streaking across the Pennines, heading out to sea near Scarborough. At the same time police at Buxton, Derbyshire, received numerous reports of a low-flying, hedge-hopping helicopter, and issued the following statement:



"We are satisfied that it was a hedge-hopping helicopter - not a flying saucer. It was on an unscheduled flight, and we are anxious to trace its journey." The police also said they had received reports of similar sightings earlier in the week from the same area.

However, witnesses in the Sheffield area disagreed with the police's interpretation. Martin Dale, of

Abbeyle Road, Sheffield, said: "I did not think the missile was a helicopter; it was more like a flying saucer, 40 feet in diameter." Terry Jones, another witness, said: "I saw it at 11:30pm. It was heading east and looked cigar-shaped. I would not have said it was a helicopter."

Whatever it was, sightings of the 'phantom helicopter' (which the police had consistently failed to identify as a real helicopter), did not make newspaper headlines again until the middle of January, 1974. Once again the matter came to the attention of the media due to official appeals for information on behalf of the police, as this time the police themselves had spotted and chased the unknown 'helicopter'!

Before we review the police sightings which sparked off the 'scare', it would be useful to give the details of a relevant sighting which occurred before the media splurge made the separation of fact from fiction difficult. On the

afternoon of January 7th, 1974, Rob Southern, a 17-year old electrician and keen 'plane-spotter, had left his home at Cheadle Heath near Manchester, when:

"I just heard a whirring sound. I looked up and saw a helicopter which appeared to be a deep green colour, but I couldn't identify it. There were no markings on it and I thought this rather strange. It was only about thirty yards above me, so I had a good view, and in any case the light was good. It was heading towards Cheadle over the woods... (it was not a conventional 'copter because) all these would have markings and I would recognise them... I have never seen any aircraft before which I have not been able to identify."

This may be one of the few sightings of a real helicopter during the wave.

After midnight on the morning of Monday, January 14, 1974, police in the Macclesfield area of Cheshire had a report of an unknown helicopter, and were said to have "kept the machine under observation for some time," as it manoeuvred over the Cat & Fiddle pub toward the High Peak. Derbyshire police were informed and at 1 a.m. the crew of a patrol car spotted the 'copter flying over the 'shivering mountain' of Mam Tor, in the Vale of Edale, Derbyshire. The patrol car gave chase, but the machine veered off toward Ringinglow, near Sheffield, and the police soon lost it. Later it was spotted flying in the Hope Valley, heading for Sheffield. A report also referred to the helicopter having landed in a field at the Cheshire village of Goostrey, near the Jodrell Bank radio-telescope. A police-spokesman said:

"We know it is a helicopter, our officers have got close enough to see it, but we do not know why it is making these trips at night. Our officers spotted the helicopter and then lost it. They managed to spot it again and it gave the impression that it had landed, but the helicopter took off before the officers could get to it"

Another 'landing' occurred on a farm at Tottington, Lancashire, at 4:30 p.m. the same day. Two witnesses there reported seeing a "large yellow helicopter" which appeared to have engine trouble, touchdown for a minute during a heavy rain storm. Police checks on military air-bases failed to come up with a solution. The Army Air Corps station at Topcliffe, Yorkshire said that they had "certainly not been flying over the Derbyshire moors at night". They added that the poor visibility, low cloud and high winds which prevailed on the morning of the sighting made flying extremely hazardous.

Although the details of these sightings were very vague, they were regarded as serious enough for Special Branch in London to be called in to investigate the mystery. Checks were made with the 340 registered helicopters throughout Britain, and pilots were asked to account for their movements on the days in question - with little success. Also, air-traffic control headquarters at Preston were informed of the 'copters flights. Their radar failed to pick up

anything, due to the low-flying altitude of the target. However, one report mentioned that the unknown helicopter had been tracked on radar just before midnight on Sunday night, January 13th, flying en route from Manchester towards Buxton. Subsequently, a spokesman for the Cheshire police made the following statement to the press:

"There is an unknown helicopter travelling in the Derbyshire, Staffordshire and Macclesfield areas and we would like to know who the pilot is and what he is doing. It would appear (he) is in breach of civil aviation laws. A special license is needed to fly a helicopter at night. Apart from anything else, the helicopter crosses one of the main flightpaths into Manchester airport. There is an obvious danger to aircraft going into the airport. We would like the public to help solve the mystery by reporting immediately any helicopter sightings at night."

At this stage the police of up to seven separate forces were actively involved in the investigation of the helicopter mystery, and a spokesman made the following intriguing comment:

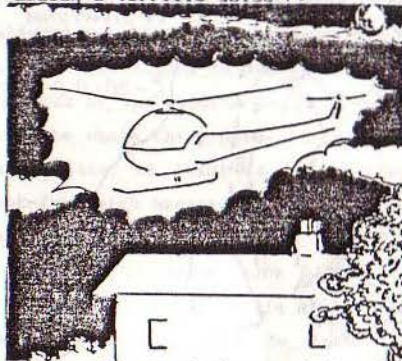
"We have a full sightings file on him for the last six months, and more are coming in. He seems to be up and about after midnight most of the time and mainly at about three o'clock in the morning. We've alerted special patrols, officers with strong night glasses, to look for him. And as soon as they see him we want to get as many men into the area as possible before he clears off again."

It was also mentioned that the police believed the phantom helicopter was a 'medium-sized' craft, i.e. a five-seater with a range of about 250 miles (it was noticed that this might bring the IRA into the mystery as possible suspects). However, no definite descriptions of the 'helicopter' were given in any of the published accounts, other than that it carried no visible identification markings.

After January 15th, 1974, the media attention given to the police's appeal for sighting accounts backfired as hundreds of contradictory reports began to pour into police stations throughout the southern Pennines. As with other scares, it only took media publicity as a stimulus to enable any strange light in the sky to be transformed into a 'phantom helicopter', as at other times it had produced 'phantom airships' and 'flying saucers'.

On Tuesday, January 15th, sightings were reported from Buxton, Derbyshire; Audley, Staffordshire; Mow Cop and Kelsall in Cheshire. In the early hours of the following day a police officer driving between Sandbach and Congleton in Cheshire reported seeing a "helicopter" land near Arclid traffic lights, behind a hospital. He sped towards the landing site in his panda car, but in under a minute the machine flew off towards Congleton. This was the third time the

police had chased and lost the mysterious flier, and seemingly this event opened the floodgates, resulting in a plethora of reports and rumours intermixed over the following weeks. Between 16-17 January, North Staffordshire and South Cheshire police alone received over twenty sighting reports, all of which they checked out without success. Two more landings were reported, both near Goostrey in Cheshire. On January 18th, at 1:30 in the morning, the helicopter was even reported to have hovered over a house in Macclesfield for a couple of minutes *"making a terrific noise"* -



Many strange and wonderful rumours began to appear in the local newspapers, making up for the lack of definite information. There were stories that cattle had disappeared mysteriously in the High Peak of Derbyshire, and that the 'copter may have been used by sophisticated cattle-rustlers, who guided the craft with flares from the ground. It was also suggested that the helicopter was being used for drug or gun-running, for smuggling immigrants into the country, or for terrorist use in planning a jail-break or bombing campaign. One article speculated:

"Now it is thought that it might be a 'home-made helicopter' - which the owner, unable to obtain an air-worthiness certificate, is flying - and dangerously so at night, or, it is suggested it might be a modern - and wealthy - lover who finds it the most convenient way to reach his mistress or girlfriend."

On a more serious note, the Manchester Evening News interviewed Lt. Col. Bob Smith, a former helicopter pilot, and chief pilot for Ferranti, who gave his opinion that:

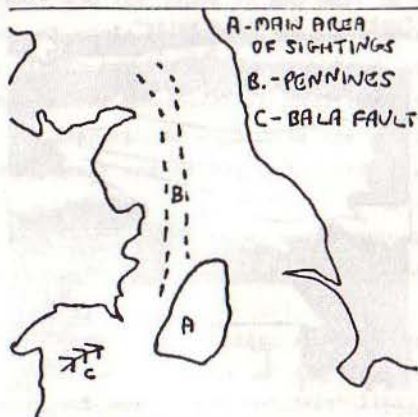
"To fly safely in this way he would need at least £30,000 worth of extra equipment, including radios, blind-flying instruments, a very wide range of navigational aids, homing devices and a moving map display. It is possible to fly without all these aids but he would never find his way from A to B. The man must be an extremely competent pilot, because flying at night in the sort of country he is in you can meet all sorts of hazards. There's always a possibility you will fly into a high tension cable, or the side of a mountain."

However incredibly, the 'helicopter' was flying at night, and was weaving expertly in and out of pylons and powerlines, hugging contours and hovering as it flashed its stabbing spotlight across the sky. The sheer improbability of his actions was commented on by 35-year old Alex Parker, an ex-Army pilot, who with the permission of three authorities took Daily Mirror reporter Edward McCauley on

a daytime flight following in the footsteps of the phantom helicopter over the Peak Forest/Hope Valley area of Derbyshire. The two investigators flew at 500 feet altitude in a JetRanger helicopter in daylight, compared with the phantom, which flew at 50 feet above the ground in the dark!!

Alex commented that "to try and get through these hills at such a low level makes this guy a madman - or a great pilot. But whichever he is, I still feel he has been lucky to get away without an accident."

It was also noted that it cost £100 per hour at this time to keep a helicopter in the air, and as there was a worldwide oil shortage at the time it seemed unlikely that the flights were a practical joke. A spokesman for Shell Oil commented that: "Aviation fuel is only available at airfields or airports - someone can't just go and buy it in cans and store it in the garden. Whoever it is must have access to supplies from some legitimate source."



Another authority to air his views on the phantom helicopter was Captain Dick Hansen, a pilot of Ferranti Helicopters Ltd., who lived in Congleton. He offered to put his Bell JetRanger helicopter at the disposal of the police in their effort to trap the helicopter once it was known to be in the air. Ironically, Hansen's helicopter was mistaken for the phantom on the very day his offer was made to the police! Hansen doubted that there was any substance behind the reports, saying that "the weather has been much too bad for any self-respecting pilot. Helicopters are unstable, and at night with no horizon visible, there is no possible way of hovering above the ground....it would be too dangerous."

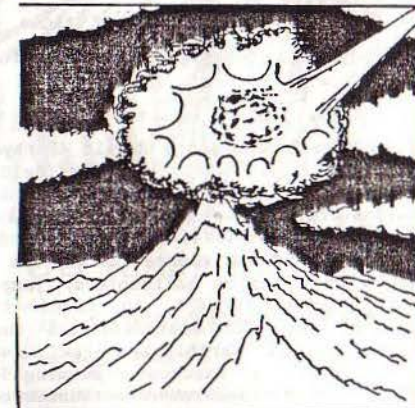
It thus becomes more and more apparent that there never was any real helicopter behind the scare at all - this was merely the interpretation put upon the reports by the police. All the sightings are lacking in essential details, and are identical in all ways to classic UFO waves. The Daily Mail, quoted Professor John Cohen of the Department of Psychology, Manchester University, who doubted the reality of the phantom helicopter reports. "The first reports of the helicopter may have started a rash of them," he said. "It is contagious - plant an idea and you get a kind of visual epidemic."

In 'Social and Cultural factors influencing belief about UFO's',¹² Dr. Phyllis Fox, Professor of Sociology at the University of Chicago, describes the sociological factors which operate in the generation of UFO-related waves, and how the effects of the waves then lead to the creation of belief systems.

Dr. Fox states that it needs an "unusual stimulus" in the first instance to generate these effects; and an effective apparatus to spread the reports (i.e. the news media). The attitude of persons of status in the community (i.e. police) is all important to the way the community as a whole will respond to this information.

All of the above can be seen at work in the creation and propagation of the phantom helicopter sightings. Reports of unusual lights were at first not given credence until the police made statements as to the reality of an unknown helicopter making night-time sorties over the Pennine hills. Then everyone began to see funny lights in the sky, and the whole idea of a real helicopter being at the crux of the reports began to look absurd, and the authorities then began to play the whole thing down. If there ever was a real helicopter involved (and this is possible, at least in the earlier sightings), then it managed to get away scot-free with whatever clandestine antics it was involved in - for the mystery remains unsolved to this day.

However, it seems more likely that typical UFO-type lights lie at the heart of the wave. It must be taken into account that at the very time the reports of strange lights over the Pennines began to disappear (around January 23, 1974), there occurred the now famous 'explosion' of a luminous object, thought at the time to be a huge meteorite, upon Cader Bronwen mountain in North Wales.¹³



The explosion was accompanied by a moderate earth-tremor, measuring 3.5 - 4.0 on the Richter scale, centered on the Bala fault-line in North Wales (the epicentre of similar quakes in 1984 and 1986). Simultaneously, brilliant flying objects were seen throughout Wales and Merseyside, i.e. coastguards at Holyhead saw a flaming object like a tadpole in the sky one hour after the earthquake.

Was the 'phantom helicopter' wave created by reports of similar lights, created by geological strain generated in the south Pennine fault-system during the months leading up to the tremor? If this true then we have a fine example of how subjective imagery (belief in a real helicopter) was superimposed upon objective reality (earthlights) by a whole community.

In the second part of this article I will develop this argument to incorporate other UFO-related scares into this general framework, including the airship scares of the First World War period. But I will close with a

fascinating example of how rumour-generated UFO scares can be linked by conspiracy-seekers to other mysterious events:

In June 1976, upon the trial in Leeds of Donald Neilson a.k.a. 'The Black Panther', who was subsequently found guilty of three sub-postmasters and of the kidnapping and murder of heiress Lesley Whittle, lawyers appealed to the public for information about a 'mystery helicopter'!!

Mr. Barrington-Black, a solicitor defending Neilson, said they were anxious to hear from any witnesses who may have seen or heard a helicopter flying in the Kidsgrove/Bathpool area of Staffordshire, on the night of January 16-17, 1975, two days after Leslie Whittle was kidnapped. Mr. Black, however, refused to disclose why the defence required this information.

"We have made exhaustive attempts to identify the helicopter," he said. "It had been reported in the area and some sightings were made by the Civil Aviation Authority, but so far we have been unable to identify the helicopter."

Was this just another of those weird coincidences which abound throughout UFOlogy, or something much more mysterious?

(To be continued)

Notes & References

- 1. Buxton Advertiser & Herald (Derbyshire) 21/9/73. 2. Daily Mirror, Manchester Evening News, 27/10/73; Sheffield Star, 29/10/73. 3. Stockport Express (Lancashire) 24/1/74. 4. Staffordshire Evening Sentinel (Stoke) 15/1/74. 5. Derbyshire Times (Chesterfield) 18/1/74. 6. The Guardian 15/1/74. 7. Manchester Evening News 18/1/74; Macclesfield Advertiser 24/1/74. 8. the cattle mutilations which plagued the midwest of the USA throughout the 1970's, and their links with UFO's and phantom helicopters, jump to mind in reference to this report. 9. Daily Mirror 18/1/74. 10. Manchester Evening News 19/1/74. 11. Daily Mail 21/1/74. 12. UFO Phenomena and the Behavioural Scientist (Scarecrow 1979), chapter 2. 13. Barthlights (Paul Devereux), pgs 229-230; FSR Case Histories 18 (Feb. 1974). 14. Manchester Evening News 11/6/76; Daily Mirror 12/6/76

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HAVE YOU SEEN THE SAUCERS?

SAUCER ALIEN REAGAN! BULLET DODGING B-MOVIE STAR RONALD REAGAN WAS ONCE VISITED BY THE OCCUPANT OF A FLYING SAUCER WHO PROMISED HIM GREAT FAME! HE HAS SINCE PLAYED A STARRING ROLE IN THE POPULAR 'EVE OF DESTRUCTION'!! I-PROMISE YOU GREAT-FAME BYE-BYE BE-GOOD SHAKY KANE: ALIEN

NME DECEMBER '86

US radar monitors jet-hounding UFO

From Michael White in Washington

THE US Federal Aviation Administration is not officially investigating the unidentified flying object "two times bigger than an aircraft carrier", which a veteran Japanese pilot insists pursued him for 400 miles above Alaska. "We are not investigating as there is nothing to investigate," says a spokesman.

Unofficially, the position is more complicated, since the mysterious walnut-shaped presence, accompanied by the two smaller walnuts, was not only spotted by Captain Kenju Terauchi, his co-pilot, and crew but by FAA and air force radar in Anchorage — though it has not shown up on the radar tapes. So on a planet increasingly sophisticated about such things, Captain Terauchi's testimony is certainly unusual. The captain, aged 47, who has been a pilot since his teens and who, the FAA confirms, has no drug or alcohol involvement, says he was heading for Anchorage at the controls of his Japa-

nese Airlines Boeing 747 cargo plane in clear evening weather when he noticed that he had company-lights.

"They were flying parallel and then suddenly approached very close" Captain Terauchi told investigators. Despite the limited vision available from flight 1628's cockpit, he caught a brief glimpse of his guest in silhouette. It was a very big one — "two times bigger than an aircraft carrier," he said through an interpreter.

What separates this incident from most reported to the FAA or the Mutual, Ufo network's hot line in Seguin, Texas, is that the FAA admits picking up radar sightings of the incident — revealed this week — on November 17. The flight controller reported that the object stayed with Flight 1628 for 32 minutes and came as close as five miles.

Captain Terauchi has one explanation. "We were carrying Beaujolais from France to Japan," he revealed. "May be they wanted to drink it."

GUARDIAN 3/1/87

GO FLY A UFO!

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IT SPINS IT FLASHES IT DOES STUNTS!! AS SEEN ON TV

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Cheque or PO for £12.95 to: UFO SAM, 269 Portacello Road, London W11 1LR (Enclose name and address) Allow 21 days delivery

OBSERVER 21/12/86

Warning over kite

THE Government was urged today to consider the potential danger to aircraft of a new toy kite, capable of flying at 2,000-feet — 10 times the legal limit.

The kite "UFO-Sam" has been described as "the toy of 1987" and is due to appear in the shops in the New Year, even though the Air Navigation Order of 1980 forbids kites to be flown at more than 200 feet above ground level or within five kilometres of airfields.

HALIFAX COURIER 29/12/86

POINTS OF VIEW ON UFO'sPeter Chattaway

Where did space flight begin? From what we know it started in A.D. 165 to 185 in Athens. Lucian records an earlier voyage through space. "To a sort of earth in the air". An early journey to the moon.

In 1950, Palenque, Mexico archeologists discovered the tomb of an ancient Mayan priest with a drawing of a man manipulating levers in a conical capsule, propelled by a fiery exhaust. A prehistoric counterpart of a modern spaceship, in which astronauts from another planet visited earth to find a civilisation wiped out before historical records began? But, did these visitors decide to stay here, are we the second generation, will these questions ever be answered?

In the last few years I have read and spoken to many spiritual healers or faith healers and to my surprise I have found that some of them have stated that their energy or power comes from the planet Venus. Mr D Holder, medium healer stated that Venus has life, but not as we know it. He gets a visit from a very tall bright white being with webbed hands. The white being always visits him every twelve years, the next visit is in the year 1989 ("I hope").

Where in space could UFO's come from? A solar system planet? Mercury, nearest the sun has temperatures of 660F to 770F, too hot for life as we know it. Jupiter and planets beyond are too cold. Venus, 25 million miles nearer the Sun than earth, always enveloped in cloud, usually hot. Probably without oxygen or water vapour, both essential to life as we know it. Or is there spiritual life, or a form of energy on or in the planet? Mars, 35 to 62 million miles from the Sun than earth, cold, average temperature below freezing, dry with little water vapour, also a thin atmosphere without the oxygen vital to most forms of life. Could UFO's come from beyond the solar system? The fastest known travel is the speed of light which travels at 186,000 miles per second. The nearest star which might have planets supporting life is more than four light years from earth. The other alternative theory is an alternate reality. A parallel solar system in a different dimension or reality, interpenetrating but visible, with inhabitants able to de-materialise on transit and materialise here.



Here are just a few sightings down the years, some of course you may know, some you may not. Most of the sightings are American, just a few, out of thousands on files.

1878 Jan 22nd USA

John martin, a Texan farmer, was hunting south of Denison. Looking up, he saw an object coming at him from the direction of the sun. His description "About the size of a large saucer".

1882 Greenwich Royal Observatory

Walter Maunday, astronomer, was watching the sky. Suddenly a huge disc moved quickly across the north-east horizon. Passing the moon, it changed to the shape of a cigar.

1886 Nov 17th Sacramento, California

At 6:30 pm hundreds of citizens gazed up, incredulous. Large cigar shaped objects with four wings hung over the city for thirty minutes. Airships were still unknown in America and elsewhere.

1944 World War Two

Pilots from America and England reported mysterious objects, very bright, racing through the sky. 'Foo Fighters'. Both nations thought they were secret weapons which neither side possessed.

1947 June 24th USA Idaho

Kenneth Arnold, a buisnessman was flying to Washington in a private plane, over the Cascade Mountains. He saw several flat shiny objects. Arnold described them as " A chain of saucer-like things", a newspaper sub-editor named them 'flying suacers'. A new phase and a new mystery was born.

1948 Jan 7th Godman Airbase Fort Knox USA

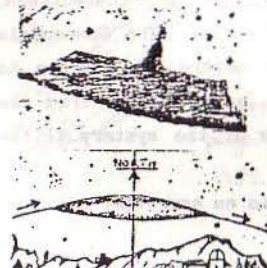
At a USA air force base the alarm sounded. A huge red glowing object, 250ft across was hovering overhead. Four F-51 planes took off to investigate. Captain T. Mantell radioed to base "It looks metallic- a tremendous size. I'm going to follow it up to 20,000'." It was his last message. His body was found with the wreckage of his



disintegrated 'plane. Saucers became sinister. Was he destroyed by a power from a planet in space?

1950 May 11 McMinnville Oregon USA

At 7:00 Mrs Paul trent was feeding rabbits. She looked up and called her husband. Over a field behind the garage was a strange metallic disc. Mrs Trent went to find her camera and gave it to her husband who took two pictures which were published by life magazine. When they were examined by Colorado University no tampering could be found. The pictures showed a metallic, silvery, circular



disc with a flat underside and a low flat topped dome above, with a protusion in the middle. The first authentic photograph of a flying suacer?

1952 Californian Desert



On Nov 20th George Adamski made an unbelievable claim. With six companions in the Californian desert he saw a cigar shaped UFO: Then a smaller saucer from it landed half a mile away. A figure emerged, long sandy hair, smooth face and a dark brown seamless 'ski-suit'. By gestures and telepathy he indicated he came from Venus, borrowed an exposed film and flew off. Twenty three days later Adamski photographed a saucer above his house. A hand tossed out his film,

containing a message in symbols, so far undeciphered. Did UFO's come from Venus or had Adamski hoaxed the world?

Just a few sightings which you might find interesting out of many reported over the years. Myself and the WYUFORG team of investigators still keep hoping for a face to face encounter with other civilisations from a distant galaxy.

Meanwhile...every week someone, somewhere in the world sights another unidentified object in the sky; another hoax, another illusion? Or yet another visitor from space? Is mankind being studied by a race of superior intelligence to our own? If you are driving your car on a dark country lane one night, and your car ignition cuts out and your radio doesn't work, just look up into the sky. There may be something hovering above you.

ADVERTISEMENT

CAT FLAPS!

CAT FLAPS! is a new booklet from the editor of UFO BRIGANTIA. It covers sightings of 'mystery cats' in the north of England from the earliest record in AD 940 to the present day. Aspects of the phenomenon covered include, witness observation, media reaction and involvement, folklore and UFO connections, wildcats and rumour. Sightings include The Harrogate Panther, The Rossendale Puma, The Thorganby Lion, The Skegness Cougar and many others too bizarre to mention. This is the first time that so information on mystery cats from the north has been brought together in one place and looks at the mystery feline phenomena from a differnt point of view.

If you are interested in strange phenomena this booklet is an essential addition to your library.

CAT FLAPS is 48pp, A5 with a stiff card cover, and well illustrated with both photographs, cartoons and maps. It is available from the editorial address for £2 inc. p&p.

STEALTH

Nigel Mortimer

Recent speculation about the secret night flights over our country of the as yet officially denied 'Stealth' F-19 super aircraft, has given rise to much attention from the media as well as one or two prominent Ufologists.

Articles have already appeared in Northern UFO News (issue 121, editorial) and Quest, from the Yorkshire UFO Society (Jul/Aug 86). Jenny Randles promotes the view that there is a high probability that several 'manta-ray' UFO types, some of which have been observed and reported in the north of the country, may indeed turn out to be sightings of the elusive F-19. I must admit she has a point, and has backed up her theory with a number of valid cases.

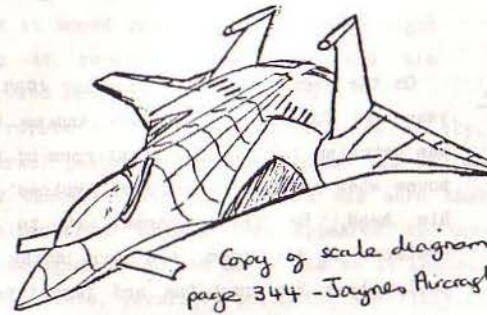
A really splendid book, 'Aircraft 200' by Bill Sweetman (Hamlyn) describes the idea of 'Stealth' in quite considerable detail, and it is interesting to note that some of the attributes claimed for the F-19 were in fact in the research stage as early as the late 1940's, if Sweetman's information is correct.

You may have noticed too, that many of the aircraft from Sci-fi drawings of the 50's looked convincingly like 'flying wings' and 'manta-rays', all as described in UFO sightings since the early 1970's.

The Lockheed F-19 also gets a mention in the 1985-86 edition of 'Jaynes Aircraft'. According to the book, the Japanese magazine 'AI Review' gives the most representative details of what the F-19 should actually look like, but the following data is only estimated and highly provisional....or is it?

External Dimensions

- V. Span: 9:65m (31' 8")
- Width : 5:00m (16' 5")
- Length : 18:00m (59')
- Height : 4:00m (13' 1 1/2")
- Weight : 10,000 kg (22,050lb)
- Max T/O: 15,000 kg (33,070lb)
- Max cruising speed: Mach 2+
- Max operating height: 20,000m
- Combat radius: 465-620 miles
- The Stealth F-19 is said to be powered by two General Electric F404 GE-400



Copy of scale diagram page 344 - Jaynes Aircraft 1985-86.

turbofans, and was first flown in 1977. Its size is similar to that of the F/A 18 Hornet and has folding wings for transporting ease. Designated to the US Air Force, its primary function is described as 'COSIRS', or 'Covert Survivable In-weather Reconnaissance Strike'. It needs to be noted though, that in neither

book is the F-19 planned to have the strange 'chameleon-like' skin covering which changes colour through computer control, to match the aircrafts surroundings; but there is mention of an arrangement of 'coloured lights' on the under-side of the 'pkane which are controlled to mimic night sky brightnesses. More food for the UFO sightings theory?

I agree with Jenny Randles and Graham Birdsall (first to bring the F-19 predicament to light) that we must re-assess certain UFO cases in the light of what now know; looking for those details contained in such sightings which may point out to us more about this terrestrial visitor to our country, from overseas.

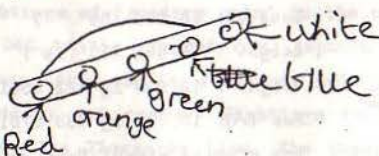
WYUFORG investigators should, I think, review the Saltfleet case- this I feel is of some importance, in hindsight, to 'Stealth'.

WYUFORG CASE INVESTIGATION

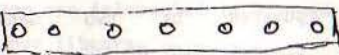
CLASSIC UFO OVER BRADFORD & BRIGHOUSE

This case, investigated early in 1986 is a perfect example of how an everyday object, in this case an aircraft, can be mis-perceived as being a UFO. WYUFORG were aware of two separate sets of witnesses to this case and their experiences will be dealt with in turn, with each witnesses accounts being described, followed by the case investigation. Whilst the case is now classified as an IFO (aircraft) it bears careful description and reading as it is an excellent example of how a simple mis-perception can turn into to a full blown UFO experience with all the trimmings.

UFO OVER BRIGHOUSE?



Andrew Hay's UFO



Fred Hay's UFO

On the evening of 18th December 1985 13 year old Brighouse schoolboy Andrew Hay was watching T.V. in the front room of his house when he became aware of 'voices' in his head. He felt 'compelled' to go upstairs to his room, and upon doing so pulled back the curtains and immediately noticed a bright white light in the west, moving slowly northwards. Andrew's first thought was that he was seeing a UFO and he watched the object until it left his field of vision. He then ran downstairs, grabbed his glasses and a pair of binoculars and went outside to the front

of the house. From this location, and with his glasses on, he could see the object clearly again and described it as being 'as bright as a star'. Through the binoculars he could see the object clearly and described it as being a definite disc shape with a small dome on top. Around the disc were red, orange, green and blue lights which appeared to flash in sequence. As the object flew over the Odsal Stadium area of Bradford it seemed to stop and 'hover' for a period of time, during which a cloud covered it. When the cloud passed the object had vanished. Andrew's grandfather, Fred Hay, also saw the object, but only for a few moments. He described it as being oblong with flashing lights (see drawings). The sighting duration was approximately twenty minutes.

UFO OVER BRADFORD?

At about 8:55 pm on the evening of 18th December 1985 Richard Frogton was out walking with a friend in the Old Hill area of Bradford. They were hoping to see Halley's Comet and had chosen Old Hill as a vantage point as it gives clear views to all points of the compass. As they stood watching the night sky they became aware of a bright light ('as bright as the moon'), moving from the south. Shortly after first seeing the object they lost sight of it as it moved into cloud, regaining sight as it re-appeared. Richard and his friend could by now also see two

aircraft in the same general area of sky, displaying what to them were the normal pattern of 'plane lights. The UFO was apparently very very close to one of these aircraft and Richard was sure that the pilot must have seen it. The unidentified object then appeared to turn toward them as it reached the Manningham area, and as it did so it seemed to hover for between 45 seconds and one minute, seemingly pulsating and 'jiggling' up and down, before resuming its former course. The object vanished from view over the Ilkey/Otley area, a very faint flashing red light being visible during the last stages of the sighting. Richard and his friend were sure that they had seen a UFO and that it had narrowly missed colliding with one of the aircraft. He 'phoned Leeds/Bradford airport but was assured that he had only seen an aircraft. He was not satisfied with this reply and so contacted YUFOS.

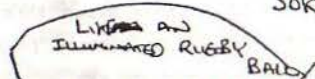
1st.

BALL OF WHITE LIGHT

2nd.



3rd.



*If preferred, use a separate sheet of paper.

Richard Frogton's UFO

INVESTIGATION

WYUFORG were made aware of the first account (Brighouse) the day after the event and an investigation was started. Both witnesses were interviewed twice and although the basic story remained constant, certain discrepancies began to appear in the accounts. For instance, the length of time the object was alleged to have hovered dropped from ten minutes in the first account to ten minutes in the second, despite the fact that the witness had access to several timepieces. These cavils apart WYUFORG were very interested in the case. Andrew Hay was a very bright young man, interested in astronomy (press relations officer for his local astronomical club), and well used to seeing objects in the night sky. His experience, taken at face value seemed to indicate a classic OZ factor type event, being compelled to look out of the window, being in a 'funny mmod' (according to his mother) etc, culminating in a sighting of a classic domed disc UFO. This, plus his grandfathers sighting, seemed to indicate, despite the problems, that we had a genuine case to investigate. Nothing could be found to account for the sighting in conventional terms. From both Andrew and his grandfathers accpunts in no way could the object be said to have resembled an aircraft and as Leeds/Bradford airport would not forward any details of aircraft movements it was difficult to check exactly what was in the air at that time. At the second interview it became plain that Andrew had read a great many UFO books after his sighting, although he denied having read any before. Whilst deciding what should be done about this case the WYUFORG investigator responsible began receiving peculiar letters from Andrew relating to UFO's, and some weeks later Andrew telephoned to say he could see the same object, again in the same place as the initial sighting. WYUFORG's investigator immediately looked outside at that area and, despite the night being clear, nothing could be seen. After those events he telephoned many time enquiring when his story would be in a UFO journal and asking questions about UFO's. When it was suggested that he contact a local paper these calls stopped.

As this investigation was under way WYUFORG became aware of the second witness (Bradford) via the help of a YUFOS investigator, Graham Townsend. From the Bradford witnesses account, and taking into consideration the times, directions and movements of the 'UFO', it was obvious that they had all seen the same object. Both Andrew Hay and Richard Frogton were convinced they had seen a UFO. Richard justified this by two main points. Firstly the lights were not like on any normal 'plane and secondly he alleged that the object almost collided with one of the airplanes he could see. The YUFOS team had managed to get information from Leeds/Bradford airport, who told them that three aircraft were inbound to L/B at that time and that the radar controller did not observe any blips which were not consistent with aircraft. Unless L/B are not telling the

truth, this solved the case and is consistent with the fact that the 'UFO' was travelling in an area of high aircraft use and the fact that a red light could just be seen in the second account, as the object disappeared over Otley/Ilkley (where L/B airport is situated).

Had we have had the airport's help initially this case would have been easily resolved, and this illustrates the difficulties when authorities are not prepared to co-operate. As it was it took quite a while to be sure of what caused the sightings and there are still many points to consider which are pertinent to UFO study. For instance, why did all the witnesses *think* they had seen a 'real UFO' and not an airplane and why did they insist this fact throughout the investigation?; why did Andrew Hay display OZ factor and other UFO event related psychological effects (allegedly *before* the event and partly witnessed by his parents)?

In the Brighouse case we think that Andrew Hay wanted to see a UFO and it only took the sight of a (genuinely) unknown light in the sky to trigger off his 'sighting'. Admittedly his grandfather also saw the 'UFO', but his drawing is quite different from Andrew's and he was not interested in talking much about the event save to say that 'he was pleased' that Andrew had seen a UFO. If this is the case then it is hard to see where simple misperception finishes and outright hoax starts, bearing in mind Andrew's subsequent communications and alleged sightings.

The Bradford case is harder to interpret in this way, but it could be that again a genuinely unknown light was thought to be a UFO, partly because it was not the same as the two aircraft visible and partly because the two men were out looking for Halley's Comet and would be alert for *anything* which seemed out of the ordinary. It has all been said before, but when faced with a case like this in which an (eventual) IFO is perceived as a UFO and described in the same terms as an un-resolved UFO event, then there is no reason why many more of our unidentified's would not end up in the same category given sufficient investigation.

BOOK SALE

Paul Bennett still has hundreds of books for sale on a variety of subjects including UFO's, ghosts, fairies, the occult, the paranormal and many others. Please buy something from him then he will go live in Scotland. Sorry Paul! Contact him for lists etc at: 61 Ranelagh Avenue, Ravenscliff, Bradford, West Yorkshire. Paul also publishes the excellent bi-monthly mag. Earth, which regularly has features on UFO's and also covers paganism, earth mysteries and related fields.

THE CRACOE FELL CASE - UPDATE

In the Cracoe Fell case article elsewhere in this issue we wrote that YUFOS had not taken us up on our offer to view our proof. Since that was written events have taken a dramatic turn. YUFOS' Philip Mantle 'phoned and asked if he and Mark Birdsall could come and inspect the proof on Saturday 5/1/87. We agreed readily. BUFORA AI David Clarke was also to be present as an independant observer. David also visited Cracoe Fell on the morning of the meeting and saw the Cracoe light reflection with his own eyes. Sadly the meeting did not turn out as we had envisaged. Graham Birdsall, President of YUFOS attended the meeting uninvited and from his first words it was obvious his only intention was to intimidate. Physical violence was threatened against Martin Dagless, who was also pushed by Mr Birdsall, and Andy Roberts, in whose home this meeting took place, had an attempted assault made against him by Graham Birdsall, who subsequently was ejected from the premises by Andy's wife upon threat of the police being called. This behaviour is disgusting and pitiful and members of WYUFORG will not be intimidated in this way by anyone. We were left shaken and sickened by this event and have contacted our solicitor. This may sound far-fetched and hard to believe. It happened. David Clarke, who was there as an independent witness has prepared a statement, in which he is prepared to swear on oath that these events took place, and is obtainable from him at 6, Old Retford Road, Handsworth, Sheffield, S13 9Q2. The invited members of YUFOS acted impeccably but declined to stay to see our proof after this outburst.

Our offer, to sensible members of YUFOS, remains open for them to come and inspect our proof at any time.

On Monday 5/1/87 the Yorkshire Evening Post ran the following article about the case.

By TIM ZILLESSEN

Controversy is raging among UFO spotters following claims that the Craco Unidentified Flying Object is a trick of the light.

Three-and-a-half years ago the YEP exclusively published a photograph of the sighting at Cracoe Fell, near Grassington, which was being hailed as the most conclusive evidence of a UFO ever seen in Britain.

But now the West Yorkshire UFO Research Group, headed by Mr. Andy Roberts, editor of Brigantia, a nationwide UFO magazine, says the photograph is nothing more than an unusual piece of light reflection.

To support its case the group sent its own photographs of the phenomenon to the same photographic analyst used with the first sighting, Mr. Klaus Webner, in Wiesbaden, West Germany.

And in a letter to Mr. Roberts the analyst says the new photographs unmask the Cracoe UFO phenomenon as nothing more than a reflection.

Mr. Roberts said his group had been investigating the Cracoe sighting for three years and had now proved conclusively it was a natural phenomenon and not an extra-terrestrial visitor.

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Row erupts over Yorkshire 'UFO'

The above headline led the story on the previous page.

Generally we thought this was a good piece, with the exception of the fact that Andy Roberts was wrongly named as head of WYUFORG, this should in fact have been Martin Dagless. We would like to point out though that WYUFORG do not in any way disbelieve the statements of the police officers, they may have thought they saw a solid 'UFO'. WYUFORG are directly contesting the photographic evidence, evidence which is one step removed from the field of human perception. The bottom line is this: Either WYUFORG's many photographs and slides depict the same phenomena as the 1981 photos, under differing conditions, and in the same place, OR there is a solid 'UFO' flying about the Cracoe area which on the morning of 16/3/81 decided to take on the EXACT shape, size and position as the natural phenomena which occurs on the rocks and allowed itself to be photographed as such and which no-one saw arrive or depart, indeed if the statements are taken into account the 'UFO' possessed the power of invisibility.

"We believe we have incontrovertible proof that it is nothing more than a complex light reflection. Undoubtedly a lot of people saw something that day but unfortunately they do not accept a rational explanation for it and still refuse to do so," he said.

"We did not set out deliberately to dispel or to disprove the sighting, we simply set out to investigate it. We are open-minded enough to accept a UFO sighting when it happens, but not in this case."

But his claims were immediately dismissed by Mark Birdsall, of the Yorkshire UFO Society, who along with his brother Graham brought the Cracoe UFO to the attention of the YEP.

"We absolutely reject any suggestion that the sighting was a light reflection. We are convinced something was seen on that day on the fell," he said.

He said his group had in the last few days visited the two police officers who took the photographs, and both stood by their original claims.

Mr. Birdsall then made a stinging attack on the research group and the photographic analyst.

He said the group had only been in existence for three years and did not have enough information to make any positive claims. He dismissed the analyst as a great sceptic who had no scientific authority to make any judgements.

Mr. Birdsall added that his society had produced a 200-page report backing up its claims.

The photograph appearing above was taken on 26/12/86 at 12:00 noon. It was taken from the north end of Cracoe village, a point a mile and a half away from

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the fell and about three hundred yards away from the site of the 1981 photographs. The Cracoe 'UFO' is clearly visible on the rocks almost in the centre of the picture. A small 'blob' is also clearly visible (as it is in the YUFOS photographs) to the right of the white strip of light. The effect is very small, both due to the distance (210mm zoom lens used) and the fact that the rock in question is only small itself. Those readers who may have seen the 'original' photographs held by YUFOS will perhaps be surprised by the size of the phenomena in reality, this is because YUFOS have only printed enlarged versions of the picture (mostly reversed images). We are unable to print a YUFOS picture for comparison as they hold copyright. The phenomena on the enclosed picture is quite bright in comparison to the surrounding fell, but it is nowhere near as bright as when seen with the naked eye. We recommend that any readers unfamiliar with the YUFOS interpretation of the Cracoe photographs either send for their new Cracoe package (£7:50) or one of the copies of QUEST in which the case is featured. Address in review column. We rest our case!

REVIEWS

Northern UFO News: No. 122, Nov/Dec '86. Bi-monthly, £5:40 p.a. from Jenny Randles, 8, Whitethroat Walk, Birchwood, Warrington, Cheshire, WA3 6PQ.

Aside from all the usual features the latest NUN also includes part two of Clive Potter's treatise on the CE4 (lets see more articles like this Jenny); an alleged CE3 from Lancashire (with a pair of MIBs thrown in for good measure!); yet more on the Cracoe Fell affair; AND a chance to win a years free subscription to NUN. What more could one ask for? Reviewed by Darren Chanter.

Magonia: No. 24 November '86. £2:50 for four issues, from John Rimmer, John Dee Cottage, 5, James Terrace, Mortlake Churchyard, London SW14 8HB.

Of particular interest to Devereux devotees and folklore fanatics alike, Magonia's special Earthlights issue features David Clarke on 'Spooklights in Tradition and Folklore'; Micheal Goss on 'Shito-Dama', a Japanese fireball spirit (not an oriental expletive as one might think!); and Claude Mauge on 'Persinger's Tectonic Strain Theory'- "indisputably one of the most important and interesting attempts at a study of the UFO phenomenon."(So shame on those of you who just thought Persinger's what?!). Add to the above lively letters and biting book reviews PLUS Jenny Randles on the background media reaction to the recent Patrick Moore/Cedric Allingham UFO book expose (featured in Magonia 23); and one has yet another shining example of why Magonia is widely regarded as one of the brightest stars in the firmament of anomalous phenomena related publications. Reviewed by Darren Chanter

Fortean Times: Autumn '86, No 47. £6:00/4 issues from 96 Mansfield Road, London NW3 2HX

What can you say about Fortean Times? Even when it is well behind schedule, this magazine remains the biggest and most informative journal in the strange phenomena field. Goodies in this issue include; Operation Congo, Halleys Comet phenomena, Spontaneous Human Combustion inquest and much much more. Ignore it at your peril!

QUEST: Sept/Oct '86. £6/6 issues from 68, Buller Crescent, Leeds LS9 6LJ

A must for 'nuts and bolts' fans! If you are into the latest defence technology, meetings with aliens in deserts and the release of official documents relating to the UFO phenomenon then QUEST is the mag for you. Packed with more cases than we (and anyone else for that matter) have seen for a long time. This issue is especially important for its far reaching, deeply searching, and obviously well researched criticism of BUFORA, WYUFORG, Jenny Randles and anyone else who doesn't agree with the party line. Buy it now.

BOOK REVIEW

TONY WEDD- New Age Pioneer by Philip Heselton. Available from Northern Earth Mysteries, 170 Victoria Avenue, Hull HU5 3DY. Price £3 + £1 p&p 146 pages, photographs.

Tony Wedd will always be remembered as the person who linked UFO sightings with the many ancient landmarks which dot our landscape, forming a synthesis of knowledge which brought in leys, Earth Mysteries, free energy and many other topics. Wedd was also the founder of the recently re-formed STAR Fellowship, an organisation devoted to welcoming and publicising contact with flying saucers and their occupants. Philip Heselton has carefully detailed Tony Wedd's life in this book and, whether you agree with any, all or none of Wedd's ideas it is essential reading. Books dealing with the lives of major characters in the field of anomalous phenomena are rare enough and because of this this book should be welcomed. Philip has produced the book himself and its appearance puts many 'book shop' books to shame. Do it yourself publishing has come of age with this publication.

ANNOUNCEMENT

On a sad note in this issue, we say farewell to WYUFORG investigators Darren Chanter, Ann Chanter, Raymond Field and Peter Chattaway. They have been in WYUFORG for the past two years and have been a credit to us all. We are remaining in contact and their work will still appear in UFO BRIGANTIA. We thank them all for their support and dedication.