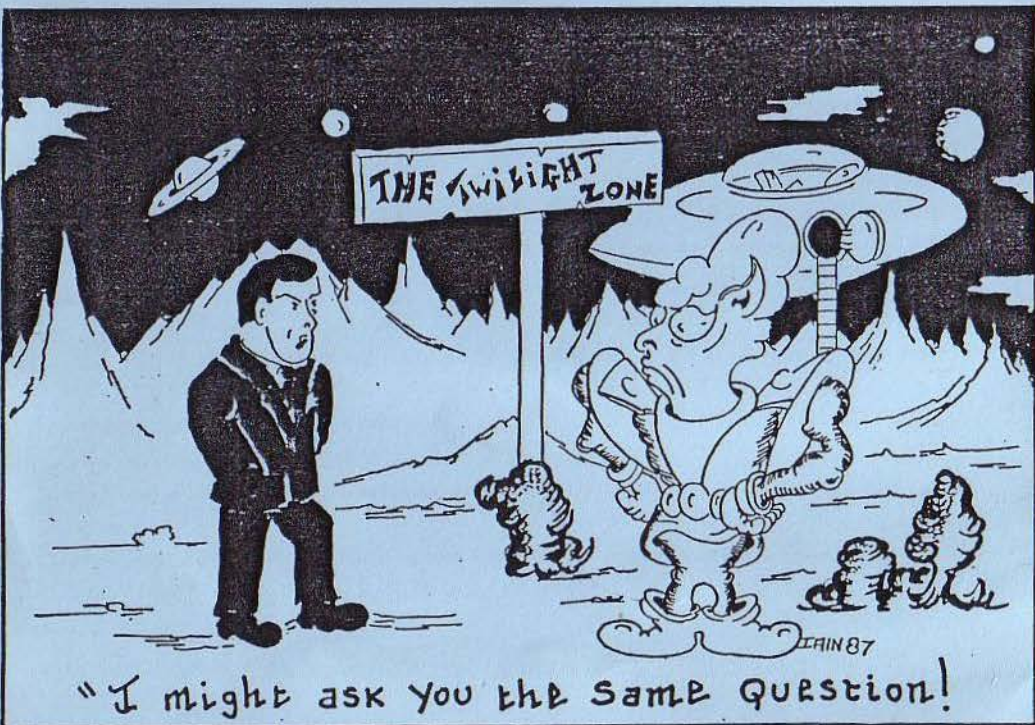


That's the last time I take you to the cinema! All through the film you kept asking when does the InZiah come on!

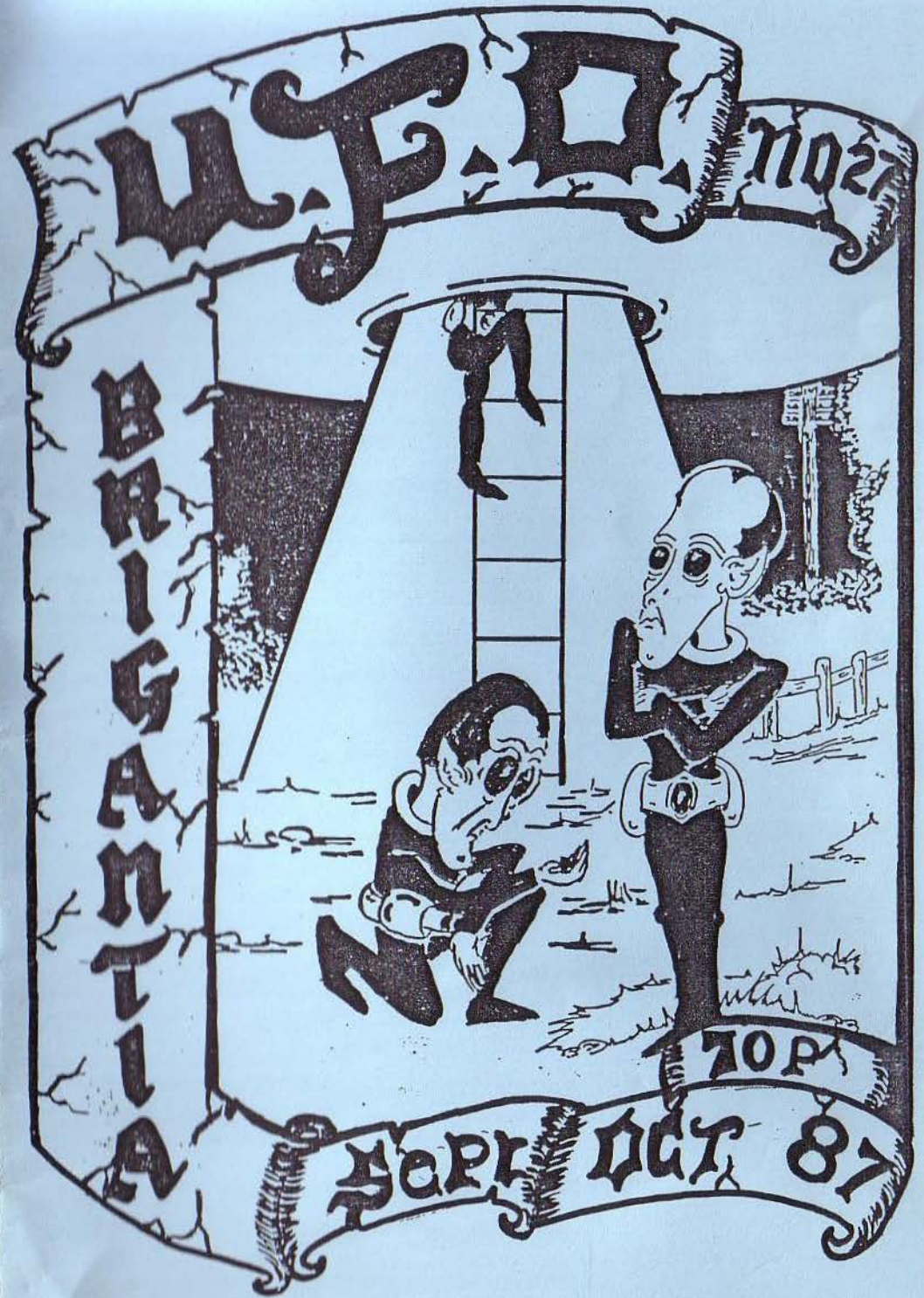


well, it was quite a reasonable question!

Not during Richard the Third!!!



"I might ask you the same question!"



The Journal Of The West Yorkshire UFO Research Group

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

This information is still current but should be seen in the light of page 10. WYUFOG 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.

WYUFOG, 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 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.

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All the UFO news filtering through from America this summer seems to indicate that the symptoms of two chronic complaints which ufologists and ufology suffer from are having their periodic resurgence; abduction fever and cover-up fever. The majority of US ufologists seem, if letters and journals are to be believed, to be convinced that UFO's are extraterrestrial in origin and that the government knows all and will shortly be revealing it, if the ufologists don't prise it out of them first by derring-do and clever use of the Freedom of

Information Act. Yeah, well, lets wait and see, remember the odds that Ladbroke's gave! Tim Good's book (see reviews) and numerous newspaper articles in the UK have featured the 'Eisenhower Briefing' documents this summer which, although they have not been verified in any way and appear decidedly dodgy both in content and method of arrival onto the UFO scene are all the rage. We are asked to believe, as usual, that the US government and President Eisenhower have know all about UFO's and their origin from 1947 onwards. Whilst the agencies of the US may know quite a lot about UFO's, there is little hard evidence that they know any more than most committed UFO study groups. To attempt a study of UFO's by studying a governments interest in them is rather like one group of small boys with a jam jar full of frogspawn studying the frogspawn in a jam-jar held by a slightly larger group of boys..... and could largely be a waste of time. Studying the effects on the subject of ufology itself of ufologists interest in the governments involvement with UFO's would be a far more productive area of research. Furthermore the current situation is providing some ufologists with a scapegoat to project their paranoid fantasies onto. What's more it's a scapegoat which will gladly project them back.

Ufologists have little time, money and resources and would be better employed spending most of them on the hard data we have. Look at it this way, how many readers of UFO Brigantia who are active investigators have ever interviewed a witness who has spoken to government UFO investigators? Also, bearing in mind the current debacle of censorship and repression over the Peter Wright book 'Spycatcher', (I'm getting mine from Belgium), is it really likely that the powers that be are going to allow the publication of books and documents (see above) which break the facts about extraterrestrial involvement and contact to Joe Public when they are too scared to let us read about the

games of a few secret agents (incidentally, how many 'secret agent' memoirs ever mention UFO's?). Sorry, I know, it's all 'Above Top Secret' and we can't be told at any cost (£14:95 actually), or maybe I'm being a spoil sport and it's all part of the Education Program. It's about time ufologists started to think independently. There is more than enough material around to work with without having to play at being the Men From Uncle. The involvement of governments and their agencies with UFO's, and the area of abductions for that matter, are subjects which should form a small part of the overall field and not become an obsession as they seem to have become.

This summer also saw the BUFORA International UFO Congress. A great event, and if you missed it it serves you right. Excellently organised, it featured speakers from all over the world on a variety of subjects within the UFO field. Highlights were Prof. Allen Tough from the states who gave a highly balanced for and against lecture on the subject of extraterrestrial visits, and Paul Devereux giving us an hours talk on earthlights during which he pounded the audience with fact after fact. Lowlights were the Harry Harris/Mike Sachs Colonel Halt disappearing act featuring lots of rumour, implications and little else. Credit must also be given to Stuart Campbell, obviously the 'token sceptic', for an excellent lecture and for appearing in the lions den (no, I won't tell you who said he was the worlds first stand up UFO comedian). Congratulations to BUFORA-do it again next year.

As I write there appears to be a mini-flap going on in the north of England. This comes after a sightings drought of enormous proportions, but right on time for the ten year cycle if you go along with that sort of thing. Initial sighting details should appear elsewhere in this magazine to be followed by full case reports as we complete them. It has also coincided with exceptional amounts of publicity in the north both by Philip Mantle's 24 hr HOTLINE and for WYUFORG's Project Pennine. This could be unfortunate as it raises the hoary question, are sighting reports stimulated by media articles on, and asking for reports about, UFO's. We'll have to wait and see but I would argue no, at least for the present case for the following reason. Earlier this year (Feb/Mar/April/May) I had several pieces in regional newspapers and wrote two full page articles on the subject of UFO's, in newspapers in the West Yorkshire area. Also I saturated regional libraries, educational institutions etc with posters and leaflets etc. Despite this intensive bout of publicity I did not receive one single sighting report, proving to my mind at least that media exposure, whilst it may condition the imagery, doesn't elicit the stimulus itself.

UFO'S FROM PLANET EARTH

By David Clarke

"The contactee syndrome is a fundamental reprogramming process. No matter what frame of reference is being used, the experience usually begins with either (a) sudden flash of light or a sound - a humming, buzzing or beeping. The subject's attention is riveted to a pulsing, flickering light of dazzling intensity. He finds he is unable to move a muscle and is rooted to the spot..Next the flickering light goes through a series of colour changes and a seemingly physical object begins to take form..."

John Keel, in The Mothman Prophecies

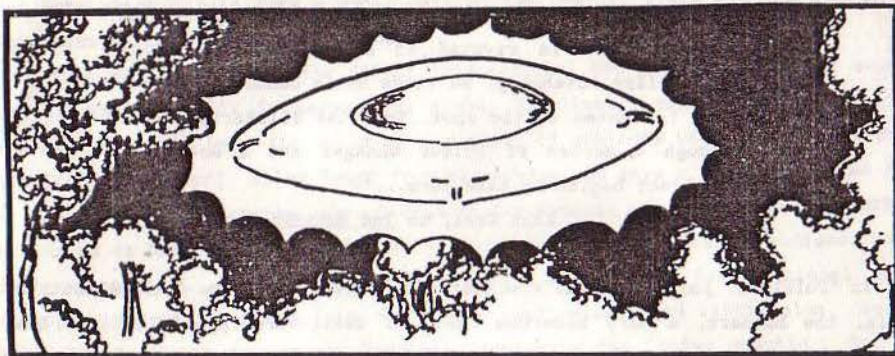
In 'Folklore' journal (1894) a writer describes how "in the extreme south of India, the Shanars, a very numerous caste of devil-worshippers, believe that waste-places, and especially burial grounds are haunted by demons that assume various shapes one after another, as often as the eye of the observer is turned away, and are often seen gliding over marshy land like flickering lights. They are called in Tamil 'pey-neruppu' or devil-fires."

Another writer corroborated the above account, adding that the natives of Darjiling, in northern India have another name for these apparitions - 'chota-admis (meaning 'little men')..whom they believe to live underground..only coming out at night to fly around with lanterns..they are constantly about on dark nights, sometimes as many as twenty or thirty together (but) the natives always give them a wide birth". Similarly, natives of the Pacific island of Rangiroa believe in a fireball-spirit named 'Haha', which normally lives underground but emerges from time to time to fly above the trees, changing colour as it goes.

Folk traditions such as these go some way to corroborate the currently developing science of 'earthlights' in that they indicate that societies living close to the nature have intuitively known for aeons that the strange lights and apparitions they see moving through the night sky have their origins in the earth itself, even though they may be ignorant about the mechanics of geophysics or electromagnetism.

Furthermore, sighting accounts exist scattered throughout the UFO and paranormal literature describing weird lights and apparitions emerging from the

ground itself, or forming out of searchlight-like beams emerging from the ground. Paul Devereux, in 'Earthlights' (1982) gives his opinion that "the terrestrial discharge or emanation..initially emerges from the ground as a streamer - a potential 'searchlight-beam', 'pillar of fire' or columnar phenomenon - and then, presumably depending upon the vagaries of the ambient electromagnetic field, localises as a spheroid...The underlying mechanism behind this curious phenomenon must be the force-fields associated with seismic movement."



Devereux asks: "Is this the origin of UFO's that are sometimes reported casting a 'searchlight-beam' onto the ground?" It certainly appears as if this could be a significant clue.

In the case of the 'Longdendale Lights' of the Peak District (see UFO Brigantia no. 26, pg 7-8), David Frith of Hollingworth, a member of Glossop Mountain Rescue Team, gives the following comments: "there have been frequent calls about them (the lights) to the rescue team...the last sighting I heard of was in October last year (1979), when they looked like a string of walkers carrying torches. They drifted about and then faded away. Other times it's been like a searchlight coming out of the hillside". This beam of light has been seen from Woodhead and Crowden emerging from the heavily faulted gritstone crags above Shining Clough, Bramah Edge and Clough Edge, on the western flanks of Bleaklow.

Philip Shaw, a Deputy Team Leader of the Glossop Rescue Team is one eyewitness who has reported a sighting of this mysterious 'searchlight' beam, or more likely, terrestrial discharge. At 4.40 pm in February or March 1980, when descending the A57 Snake Pass road into Glossop he clearly saw "what appeared to be a large searchlight on the horizon" in the direction of Torside Castle, near the summit of Bleaklow.."it remained stationary for a period of 4-6 minutes until I carried on towards home and I lost sight of it behind some buildings".

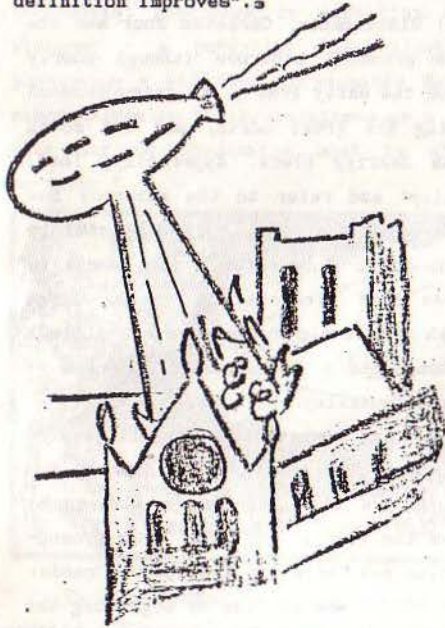
There can be little doubt of the connection between blobs and beams of energy of this kind and areas of geological disturbance, Carleton Moor and the area around the Craven Hills, which have produced numerous (though poorly documented) reports of low level lights since the early 1980's, is criss-crossed by numerous geological faultlines, including the great north, mid and south Craven faults at the southern end of the Askrigg block. Apparently, local residents call the area 'flying saucer alley' and refer to the numerous low level spooklights as 'orange footballs'. Carleton Moor itself is dissected by the Lothersdale fault-line, which joins the South Craven fault just south of Skipton! Sightings in this area have been most frequent around the large receiver station aerial which stands on high ground above Carleton and Elslack Moors, Rylestone Fell on the Grassington Road, and around disused quarries at Yarnbury near Grassington, and in the Lothersdale valley.

One of the most interesting photographs depicting what may be spooklights or earthlights in this country was taken in January 1983 on Carleton Moor by two witnesses, including a policeman. A month before this sighting a witness at earby, west of the moor, may have witnessed the 'birth' of a UFO from ground-level over the Lothersdale valley, between Colne and Carleton. His account reads:

"At 5.40 pm on Wednesday, December 22, 1982, I was walking my dog along the street..it was a clear, dark night, and there were many stars visible in the sky. I suddenly saw a large ball of brilliant white light in the sky south of my position. The object was far brighter and larger than any star, and larger than a golf-ball held at arms length. It moved across the sky towards the north, and then stopped and hovered for a few minutes. It then moved south again and suddenly disappeared without going behind anything. Then a long beam of light, brilliant white, appeared where the object had vanished. It was a long beam and directed at the ground. It was wide at the top and narrowed toward the ground. It did not go to a point, but appeared to be round at the bottom. The beam of light lit all the sky for some 5-6 minutes, then vanished."

UFO investigator Tony Dodd, who has himself reported seeing over 60 mystery objects in the Skipton area since the 1970's, has expressed the opinion that "because this is one of the hotspots as far as sightings go, there are bases located in certain places where they go underground". If the tectonic strain theory is correct, then Mr Dodd may well be right in connecting the phenomenon with the ground, though rather than there being secret hangers for spaceships in the Yorkshire Dales, these 'UFO's' are created from the earth itself! The belief that the lights are 'machines' of some kind seems to be a perceptual phenomenon of some kind, Mr Dodd indicating this himself when he adds that "if you see on

at a distance it appears just as a ball of light, but as it moves closer the definition improves".



Another unusual example of the ground-based generation of a 'UFO'-type mass of energy is the mysterious and still-unexplained fire that swept through and badly damaged the South Transept of York Minster on the night of July 9, 1984. No convincing explanation has yet been offered to account for the cause of this fire, although it is thought that exceptional meteorological (and geophysical?) phenomena may have been involved. Experts from Leeds University have suggested St Elmo's Fire (static-electric corona discharge), as an explanation, but the numerous 'ball-of-light' type sightings from the Vale of York

that week seems to suggest a connection with the enhanced presence of electrons and radon gas (?) in the atmosphere at the time of the fire. Indeed several witnesses have testified to seeing a Zeppelin-shaped object glowing orange and leaving a white vapour-trail which 'hovered' over the Minster on the night of the fire.

However, contrary to the sensational 'Ray Gun Zapped the Minster' headlines, a witness has reported that the 'flame -coloured' purple-ray of light emerged from York Minster itself and moved up to the hovering UFO!

This ground-to-air discharge phenomenon, which may well be related to the well known and scientifically recognised 'mountain peak discharge's, may account not only for some 'UFO' sightings, but also for many encounters with ghosts, apparitions and the like, which in a previous article I have shown to have certain characteristics in common. A classic example is the 'Shadow of Raggedstone', a ghost story attached to the twin-peaked Raggedstone Hill (1400') in the Malvern Hills. A legend tells how 'only at rare times when the sun is shining between the twin peaks does it appear...those who have seen it describe it as a weird cloud, black and columnar in shape, which rises up between the two summits and moves slowly across the valley.'

There are many hundreds of similar reports of misty columnar apparitions to be found throughout ghostlore attached to specific locations in the same way that UFO's are attracted to 'window' areas - when seen at night they appear as luminous patches of shape-shifting energy. Paul Devereux has labelled these reports as 'proto-entities' and he believes that "UFO aeroforms and 'occupants' are formed out of the same substance or energy matrix as one another...one can evolve out of the other, they can appear side by side or individually..."

It certainly appears that the same 'energy matrix' lies at the heart of many paranormal entity reports, be they 'White Ladies', black dogs, bogbards, UFO 'occupants' or luminous apparitions, as the following 19th century account from Tring, Hertfordshire, makes abundantly clear:

"I was returning home late at night in a gig..when we came near the spot where a portion of (a) gibbet had lately stood, we saw on the bank of the roadside a flame of fire as large as mans hat. 'What's that' I exclaimed. 'Hush' said my companion, and suddenly pulling in his horse, came to a dead stop. I then saw an immense black dog just in front of our horse, the strangest looking creature I ever beheld. He was as big as a Newfoundland, but very gaunt and shaggy, with long ears and a tail, eyes like balls of fire and large, long teeth, for he opened his mouth and seemed to grin at us. In a few minutes the dog disappeared seeming to vanish, like a shadow, or to sink into the earth, and we drove on over the spot where he had lain."

Evidentially the elemental energy producing these apparitions is capable of metamorphosis, and is able to transform itself into a variety of anthropomorphic and zoomorphic configurations. This may explain why UFO entities always appear to be hilariously crude and unfinished in appearance, as if they had just been shaken out of a mould. The role of individual and cultural perception should not be overlooked however as it seems that it is the interaction between the objective light phenomena and the human mind that is the most important clue to be investigated in the search for an answer.

Notes & References

1. Information supplied by Glossop MRT, 29/6/87;
2. Yorkshire Evening Post, (Leeds) 22/9/83;
3. Craven Herald, (Skipton) 21/7/83;
4. Mail on Sunday, 29/7/83;
5. Daily Mail, 19/7/84;
6. UFO Brigantia no.22 (Sept/Oct '86), pg 8-9;
7. Ghosts & Witches of the Cotswolds, by J.A.Brookes. 1986 pg 114;
8. The Book of Days (London 1888).

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INDEPENDENT UFO NETWORK (I.U.N.)

On Saturday 5th of September 1987 the West Yorkshire UFO Research Group (WYUFORG) was dissolved. The Yorkshire UFO Network (YUFON) also ceased to exist. These two groups, plus several other independent researchers have joined and formed the I.U.N. The reasons behind this move are various; there are too many UFO groups in existence in the north, some of them top heavy with dogma and rules and largely passive, and it was thought that a loose network of active researchers and investigators would work better than the present two groups. In addition we are providing a 'home' for ufologists who do not wish for whatever reason to join existing large groups. The I.U.N has no 'leader' as such, nor do its members have silly titles. It is not stuck in one world view of ufology nor is it frightened of criticism. Constant criticism both internal and from the outside is the only way ufology is ever going to progress.

The aims of the I.U.N. are simple and brief: to provide quick response to and effective investigation of any UFO cases; to liaise with other researchers on cases; to exchange information with any other UFO researchers or groups worldwide; to publish a regularly up-dated list of all case files held and to make these available to anyone. The whole idea behind the I.U.N. is lack of dogma and the will to co-operate with any other UFO researchers no matter what their views on the phenomenon.

UFO BRIGANTIA is the journal of the I.U.N. and from the next issue will be changing in format and hopefully layout. The price will remain the same, making it the cheapest UFO magazine in the U.K. by far. It will also be the most informative, having more articles and cases than ever before. Several 'spin-off' publications will be coming from us in the next year, including a study of the Rowley Regis contact case and a study of the 'Foo-fighter' phenomena

The UFO HOTLINE, currently run by YUFON will also function as part of the I.U.N and we will be endeavouring to expand this operation as it has proved highly succesful.

A full and detailed statement concerning the I.U.N. will appear in the Nov/Dec issue of UFO BRIGANTIA.

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UFO's 1947-1987; The 40-Year Search For An Explanation. Compiled & edited by Hilary Evans and John Spencer. 384 pages (large A5 format). Softback £11:50. Published by Fortean Times 1987 (for the British UFO Research Association)

Although expensive for a book of this format, it is a landmark in at least one respect, as UFO's 1947-1987 is the first professionally printed book to be produced on behalf of a British UFO Group. It is well illustrated, with drawings and photographs throughout. However, although printing clarity is good, a number of typographical errors are apparent (including some major ones, such as the latter part of the text of the Ghost Rockets chapter appearing on the wrong pages).

This book differs from other UFO titles as it comprises of articles written by various Ufologists, such as Chalker, Evans, Keel, Stringfield, Randles etc. These articles cover such subjects as Historical UFO Sightings, Classic Cases, Contactees & Abductees, Physical Traces, Biological Effects, Radar/Visuals, Retrievals, UFO Propulsions Theories, UFO Hypotheses, Sociological Aspects etc.

The concept of using different writers to cover their Ufological speciality works very well indeed as both the proponents and sceptics points of view of each facet of Ufology is usually well represented, making the book suitable for all tastes. The content of the articles presented in this book is, on the whole, good. There are none which could be called poor but some do cover their subjects in insufficient depth.

Although little new information is used the advanced level of presentation of the subjects included in this book make it worthy of the attention of serious Ufologists everywhere.

Regardless of the tomes minor flaws it is an excellent UFO book. At last Ufology produces a book which the subject can be proud of! This is a good production, which will show the general public what Ufology is really like. It is a worthy addition to the bookshelf of anyone seriously interested in the UFO problem. *Review by Robert Moore*

Strange Sheffield: Legends, Folklore & Mysteries of Hallamshire. By David Clarke and Rob Wilson. 114 pp, map, photographs, line drawings. £2:25 inc p&p from 103 Derbyshire Lane, Norton Lees, Sheffield S8 9EW.

Strange Sheffield is the result by Clarke and Wilson of hundreds of hours of painstaking research both in libraries and in the field (no doubt in the pub also if I know David and Rob) into the mysteries of the Sheffield area. Despite its 114 pages David tells me they had to leave out more than they put in! The well illustrated booklet looks in depth at a variety of mysteries including the Dragon of Wantley, The Head Stone (an amazing Easter Island like monolith with several faces on it), Holy Wells, Ghostlore, Leys, Traditions and Customs and many others. These places, events and sites are living folklore and can be visited, seen and experienced. Most of the information here has been hidden away for years in books, newspaper files, local knowledge, and locked in the landscape; Clarke & Wilson have revealed it and deserve full credit for doing so. Books like this, and others in the Strange series (Berkshire, Oxford, High Wycombe etc) are becoming a 20th century Doomsday Book of mysteries and anomalies which will form the basis of a new approach to folklore. Buy it and the Sheffield area will take on a whole new meaning. Review by Andy Roberts

Above Top Secret: The Worldwide UFO Cover-up: By Timothy Good (Sidgwick & Jackson 1987). 590 pp, photographs, documents. £14.95.

This is a massive tome which covers the UFO scene from 1947 to date and looks at the supposed cover-ups by the USA, GB and other countries. Quite a few of the cases herein have appeared in various other places in the literature, but that's ok, everybody does that, there is only a small number of 'good' cases to begin with. The books strength lies in Good's documentation of the various US intelligence and space agencies, NASA, CIA, NSA, FBI etc, involvement in the UFO enigma and his ability to convince you there really is something going on and that it is extraterrestrial in origin. If you like this sort of thing then this book really is for you, it's full of it. Documents are reproduced at length which Good uses to back up his arguments. Unfortunately documents, convincing or not, prove zilch unless backed up with hard facts and nowhere in this book is there anything which proves the authors claims that either UFO's are extraterrestrial in origin or that the governments know a lot more than they are letting on, only that UFO's exist and the governments are as confused as we are. Above Top Secret also has at least on major error concerning the German involvement with 'foo-fighters'- there never was a Sonderburo or a Project Uranus- it was a hoax. Despite these cavils, and seeing as 1950's revivals are back in fashion, this book is essential reading for Ufologists, although at £14.95 I'd wait for the paperback. Review by Andy Roberts

BRIEF REPORTS

Nice to have some actual cases to go at again! Following is a list of case reports received by WYUFORG/YUFON etc during the past two months. Goodies include an 'abduction' and several photographic cases. Each case has brief details for now, several of these cases will be expanded on it the 'new look' UFO Brigantia and all completed cases will be available to anyone for the price of photocopying and postage. Names and details of witnesses are held on file and all facts of cases are available on request. Many reports have still to be looked at, and we have a good deal of cases underway which are not listed here. There does seem as if there was a 'mini-flap' on during the latter part of August. Is it just a coincidence that the north was hit by a small earth tremor on the 8th and Wales by a tremor on the 15th?

- 1. Date: Autumn 1984.
Location: West Bowling, Bradford.
Time: Dusk:

The witness, Mr B. saw a bright object moving north south over the Richard Dunn sports centre. He was sure it was not a 'plane or conventional device. Fortunately he had the presence of mind to get his camera and photograph the object. Three transparencies were taken, some with a zoom lens, and he has generously given us the transparencies.

Classification: UNDER INVESTIGATION. Investigator: A. Roberts.

- 2. Date: 1975 to present day.
Location: Batley, West Yorks.

The witness, Jane W. has had many strange experiences in her life. During the past twelve years she has had repeated 'abduction' experiences with bizarre overtones. In addition she experiences 'bedroom visitors', UFO dreams and physiological symptoms. It promises to be the most interesting case for a long time and regression is being planned.

Classification: UNDER INVESTIGATION. Investigators P. Mantle & A. Roberts.

- 3. Date: May 1943.
Location: Ludham, nr. Norwich.
Time: 2.30 am.

Witness Mr W. was returning to his air base one night after attending a dance some 10 miles from camp. At about 1 mile from camp Mr W. encountered a strange 'being' at the side of the road. This 'being' was wearing a kind of divers' helmet and had a kind of 'square box' on his chest, which threw up a greenish glow onto the 'beings' face. In a field behind the 'being' was an object shaped like a bell tent and two figures in off-white overalls were observed moving

about alongside this object. Mr W. was 'frightened to death' by this experience and to this day has no explanation for it.

Classification: OPEN/INSUFFICIENT DATA. Investigator: P. Mantle.

4. Date: 40 years ago.
Location: Solihull, West Midlands.
Time: 1.10 pm.

Miss B. was cycling to lunch from ICI Witton. She was cycling up a road near the cemetery when a bright shining golden object the shape of a saucer came into view in front of her. Miss B. stopped the bike and watched the object for about 5 minutes as it hovered over the chimney pots of nearby houses. Miss B. cycled off and on her return the object had gone.

Classification: OPEN/INSUFFICIENT DATA. Investigator: P. Mantle.

5. Date: July 1979.
Location: Bromsgrove, Worcs.
Time: 10:15 pm.

Mr P. left his house during the interval of News at Ten. It had been a warm day and he went outside for some fresh air. Mr P. walked up his garden to close the windows of his greenhouse. On walking back to the house Mr P. saw an object in the sky. This object moved slowly at first and then tilted the front before moving off noiselessly at an incredible speed. The object was described as very bright with a flat bottom and a domed top.

Classification: OPEN/INSUFFICIENT DATA. Investigator: P. Mantle.

6. Date: 12 May 1985.
Location: Chesterfield.
Time: 9.00 pm.

Witness Mrs Cheryl P. was in the garden at the rear of her house. At first she observed what she thought was a large star or planet. This light started to move off slowly and Mrs P. brought out her camera and took three photographs. At one point the light split into 8 separate bright lights. The photographs in question all came out and have been sent for analysis at several different locations in Britain and the United States.

Classification: OPEN/INSUFFICIENT DATA. Investigators: P. Mantle & D. Kelly.

7. Date: October 1986.
Location: M1 Motorway, south of Nottingham.
Time: 9.00 pm.

Mr M. and Miss K. were driving up the M1 northbound, after spending a holiday in Eastbourne. At around 9.00 pm they saw a large circular object descend very low over the motorway and appear to land at the side of the motorway. The object

illuminated both carriage ways as it passed over, without making a sound. Enquiries at the MOD and a nearby airport have so far drawn a blank.

Classification: OPEN/INSUFFICIENT DATA. Investigators: P. Mantle & D. Kelly.

8. Date: February 1987.
Location: Burnley, Lancs.
Time: 5.50 am.

Mr B. was walking home when he observed a green fluorescent circular object over Burnley town centre. The object moved very fast before going out of sight into clouds on the horizon. Approximately one minute later the same thing was seen again, but only for a split second.

Classification: OPEN/INSUFFICIENT DATA but possible IFO. Investigator: P. Mantle

9. Date: April 1987.
Location: Wakefield, West Yorks.
Time: 10.15 pm.

Mr G. was working late one night and he went to the works canteen for a cup of coffee. It was a pleasant, warm night and he stood outside a while. While viewing the clear night sky a football shaped object came into view. This light was multi-coloured and moved over the witnesses head at roof top height before moving off into the distance and out of sight.

Classification: IFO/UAP. Investigator: P. Mantle

10. Date: June 17 1987.
Location: Leeds, West Yorkshire.
Time: 2:30 am.

Mrs W. was looking out of her bedroom window when she observed what she thought was the evening star. This light began to move and flashed green before it was lost out of sight in some clouds.

Classification: UNDER INVESTIGATION/Probable aircraft. Investigator: P. Mantle

11. Date: December 31 1986.
Location: Derbyshire.
Time: Early am.

Mr S. was watching the dark sky when he noticed that one of the bright stars had begun to move. This 'star' moved towards him and he called for his wife. Both then observed this 'star' approach from below them in the fields. It came right over their heads and looked like a large triangle with tiny lights around its edges. It was very big and moved slowly above them without making a sound.

Classification: UNDER INVESTIGATION. Investigator: D. Kelly

12. Date: June 21 1984.
Location: Uttoxeter, Staffs.

Time: 2.20 am.

Mrs B. was unable to sleep on the morning in question. She got out of bed and looked out of the window to see a circle of very bright white lights (flashing) which seemed to be attached to an object, which had a large red light on its underside. The object moved very fast over the house and Mrs B. went to observe it from another window at the other side of the house. No noise was heard and the object went out of sight in the distance.

Classification: UNDER INVESTIGATION. Investigator: D. Kelly.

13. Date: May 17 1987.

Location: Colne, Lancs.

Time: 4.00 am.

Mrs M. was woken by the sound of a kitchen implement falling off the wall and smashing a glass downstairs. Mrs M got up and went to the kitchen and cleaned up the resulting mess and returned to bed. As she did so she heard a loud droning noise outside so she looked out of the window. She saw a bright green object for just a moment before it moved off fast into the distance:

Classification: UNDER INVESTIGATION. Investigator: R. Howarth.

14. Date: July 25 1987.

Location: Colne, Lancs.

Time: 11.30 pm.

Mrs B. got out of her car at her home and observed a 'fruit pastille' shaped object over some nearby hills. The object was stationary at first before moving off very fast. The object was a green/gold colour and very bright. A few moments later a similar thing was observed.

Classification: UNDER INVESTIGATION. Investigator: R. Howarth.

15. Date: December 23 1983.

Location: Confidential at this time.

Time: 5.45 am.

Mr D. was driving along the A? main road towards (deleted). the time was about 5.45 am when he observed what he thought was a 'plane about to land. this object then crossed the road about 1/2 a mile in front of the witness. The object went out of sight but was then re-sighted hovering over some trees. the object looked like a helicopter but it had no rotor blades. Mr D. stopped his vehicle and opened the window but the object was not making any sound. Mr D. watched the object for about 30 seconds before it just floated away behind the trees. There was no sound and no disturbance of the braches. The object had a pale blue flashing light on the top.

Classification: UNDER INVESTIGATION. Investigator: R. Howarth.

16. Date: July 25 1987.

Location: Padiham, Lancs.

Time: 3.30 am.

Mrs B. was up at 3.30 am tending to her horses. From her stable door she observed an object with five lights in a circle on it and a big red light on its underside. A humming noise was heard and the object was in view for about 2 minutes. Mrs. B. ignored the object and carried on tending to her horse as she was preparing it for a show.

Classification: UNDER INVESTIGATION. Investigator: R. Howarth.

17. Date: June 16 1987.

Location: Clitheroe, Lancs.

Time: 9.10 am.

Witness Mr W. was outside at the time in question when he experienced a very bright light surrounding him. He looked up and saw an odd shape with a beam of light coming from it, shining down like an upturned fan. The experience lasted only 2 or 3 seconds before the object moved off very fast.

Classification: UNDER INVESTIGATION. Investigator: R. Howarth.

18. Date: August 8 1987.

Location: Derby, Derbyshire.

Time: 10.55 pm.

Mrs C. was sitting outside a local pub observing the stars in the clear night sky. She was with a group of friends and she was looking at a formation of stars that reminded her of a kite shape. Next to these stars was what she thought was another star. The other star started glowing and began to fall to the ground. Before it reached the ground it glowed and changed direction and disappeared at a very high speed. There was approximately 20-30 people outside the pub, all of whom saw this phenomena.

Classification: UNDER INVESTIGATION. Investigator: D. Kelly.

19. Date: 10-14 August 1987.

Location: Blackshaw Head, West Yks.

Time: Between midnight & dawn.

Mr B. was visiting the toilet in the night. As he returned to bed he saw an abnormally large (compared to stars and planets) round light across the valley in the region of the Stoodley Pike monument. The light was of a constant intensity, but not bright and varied between orange and pink. It was only viewed for a few seconds.

Classification: UNDER INVESTIGATION. Investigator: A. Roberts.

20. Date: August 16 1987.

Location: Derby.

Time: 11.55. pm.

Mr L. had opened the back door of his house to let out his pet dog. He saw a white glow in the sky some distance away. He could make out two white spheres with a number of smaller white spheres beneath them. the lights were stationary and gave off an intense white glow which illuminated an area of sky around them. He ran upstairs and brought his wife to observe them from an upstairs window but now only one light source was visible. This faded away and left an afterglow in the sky which also faded.

Classification: UNDER INVESTIGATION. Investigator: D. Kelly.

21. Date: August 16 1987.

Location: Derby.

Time: 11.00pm.

Mr R. was fishing with some friends at a local river when a series of lights suddenly appeared in the sky. These lights were white in colour and although at first were stationary they moved slowly off over the city centre, stopped, then moved back again. The lights seemed to pulse dull then bright again before being lost out of sight behind some trees. Three photographs were taken of the lights and these are currently in the possession of our researchers.

Classification: UNDER INVESTIGATION. Investigator: D.Kelly.

22. Date: August 16 1987.

Location: Pinxton, Nottingham.

Time: 9.45 pm.

Mr M. and his girlfriend Miss H. were just leaving his parents house. As they started the car engine Miss H drew Mr M's. attention to a 'star' in front of them which was rising vertically at an angle of 80 degrees. It changed direction and moved off at speed. Both witnesses described the light as looking like a childs sparkler, which dimmed when it changed direction and sped off.

Classification: UNDER INVESTIGATION. Investigator: D.Kelly.

23. Date: August 16 1987.

Location: Derby.

Time: 11.15 pm.

Mrs M. observed numerous coloured lights (red, green, blue, yellow).

Classification: UNDER INVESTIGATION. Investigator: D. Kelly.

24. Date August 16 1987.

Location: Blackshaw Head, West Yks.

Time: 9.45 pm.

Three women out riding observed a row of six extremely bright lights (described as being as bright as a quartz halogen lamp brightness) over the moors at

Widdop. The lights were stationary for five minutes plus, and was still visible when the riders passed below the horizon.

Classification: UNDER INVESTIGATION. Investigator: A. Roberts.

25. Date: August 19 1987.

Location: Baliff Bridge, W.Yks.

Time: 1.55 am.

The witness saw a slow moving white light in the sky. He estimated that it would have taken 40 minutes to cross the entire sky based on seeing it over a small area.

Classification: UNDER INVESTIGATION (prob. satellite) Investigator: A. Roberts.

26. Date: August 20 1987.

Location: Lindley, Huddersfield.

Time: 8.45 pm.

A group of girls saw two bright lights over the Emley Moor TV mast. The lights appeared to split into a shower of red sparks.

Classification: UNDER INVESTIGATION. Investigator: A. Roberts.

27. Date: August 20 1987.

Location: Vainstalls, Halifax.

Time: 8.45 pm.

Mr. W had just finished sailing at a resevoir and was driving on a moorland track. He saw two bright lights over the city of Bradford. The lights remained stationary for a few minutes before moving into cloud.

Classification: UNDER INVESTIGATION (prob. aircraft). Investigator: A. Roberts.

28. Date: Late August 1987.

Location: Mytholmroyd, West Yks.

Time: 'Night'!

The witness saw a very bright light, much larger than a street lamp by comparison, over the Pennine moors visible from her house.

Classification: UNDER INVESTIGATION. Investigator: A. Roberts.

29. Date: August 29 1987.

Location: Chesterfield, Derbyshire.

Time: 10.30 pm

Mr W. got up to close his curtains in his Chesterfield home. As he did so he was astonished to see in the sky an object which he described as looking like a giant dandelion. It glowed brightly and at the same time puffs of smoke/vapour were being emitted from it. These puffs moved through the air leaving a trail. The object was still visible when Mr & Mrs W. retired to bed at 11.00 pm.

Classification: UNDER INVESTIGATION. Investigator: D.Kelly.



Dear UFO Brigantia,

Just before I left for the FUFOR/MUFON conference in Washington DC, an American friend, anomaly researcher Dennis Stillings, wrote '*Hold on to your seatbelt, mass lunacy is about to*

begin right here in America'.

After my weekend at the jamboree at Washington DC, I can tell you that it has hardly indeed begun.

I had hardly been there 10 minutes when I was whisked off to a press conference downtown. From the opening statements of the leading spokespersons (Maccabee et al), it was at once evident that they were committed to two basic and not-to-be-questioned tenets:

- 1.- UFO's are extraterrestrial spacecraft.
- 2.- Abduction accounts are to be taken at face value.

At no point was it so much as hinted that alternative views should be taken into account; needless to say, the word 'psychology' was not mentioned from first to last, let alone 'myth', 'altered states' or any of that mumbo jumbo.

Mind you, I'm not saying these people are *wrong*; only that they're wrong not to entertain the possibility that they *may* be wrong. Privately, I think they may be wrong on both counts, particularly the second; but that's a personal opinion which I'm ready to trade in for a better one if a better one is offered me.

But what Budd Hopkins is offering isn't enough. His new book is excellent in many respects, and offers a strong challenge to us skeptics. But it is a challenge which can, and therefore should be met.

As it happens I seemed to spend a good part of the Washington weekend being interviewed, perhaps because I was one of the few overseas delegates who didn't speak in an English broken beyond comprehension. Even Philip Klass taped twenty minutes of me sounding off! I don't flatter myself this was out of respect for anything Hilary Evans might have to say, so much as because I was saying what he wanted to hear, i.e. that Hopkins & co. are creating the very phenomenon they think they have stumbled on by happenchance. Simple commonsense would, you'd think, make them ask isn't it curious that so many of the alleged abductees are personal acquaintances of Hopkins...from which they ought to be able to proceed to the further thought that maybe this is because Hopkins is himself the carrier of the contagion.

These people's overriding shortcoming is a failure to look at his phenomenon in a wider perspective - both a lateral one, comparing the 'abductees' experiences with other kinds of phenomena (e.g. demon possession and channelling); and also a historical one, comparing them with, inter alia, witchcraft and communication with soi-distant spirits of the dead.

Streiber was there too, of course, and made a dramatically emotional attack on Klass which enlivened an already lively evening in which six or seven people, all of whom have been privileged to be taken on board alien spacecraft hovering above the Earth, told us what it was like to be them.

The similarity to a Salvation Army meeting, or a born again, seen-the-light breast-beating tent-show, was embarrassingly obvious; as for Hopkins himself, he came across as a caring, considerate fellow whose first and last aim is to help these poor, afflicted folk to accept this dreadful thing that has happened to them. It was as though a creator-God, having imposed on his creatures life in a world of suffering and evil, were to appear to them as a Comforter, taking credit for helping them to bear the evil and suffering which himself had caused them to experience...

In 1689 an English judge, John Selden wrote: '*Casting out Devils is mere juggling, they never cast out any but what they first cast in*'. It seems to me that things haven't changed too much in two hundred years. And what makes it worse, to my mind, is that I am sure something serious and important happened to these people.

On a more terrestrial level, I can report that the Washington conference was the worst-organised UFO conference I have ever attended. Everything was crammed into two days, necessitating parallel sessions with the resulting agonising decisions which to attend, and giving no chance for the delegates - some of whom had travelled literally halfway round the globe - no time to meet all the people gathered there. I was never at any time informed where to sleep, eat or speak, except informally by my fellow delegates. However, I was glad to have the opportunity of observing the new mythology in its birth-pangs.

The next question, of course, is will it spread beyond the confines of the United States? Are we in turn to undergo a wave of abduction stories? Fasten your seatbelts.....

Hilary Evans; London

Dear UFO Brigantia,

Ufology is a serious buisness. We as Ufologists are striving to unravel the secrets of the UFO enigma. This has proven no easy task for countless individuals throughout the years, including that great man Dr J. Allen Hynek. What is upsetting, at least to my mind, is the attitude of senior Ufologists who mock others who are also trying to unravel the UFO mystery, and whose views perhaps do not mirror their own. At the recent International UFO Congress in London, various speakers, noticably American, continually made uncalled for remarks concerning Mr Steuart Campbell for his line of research, which he believes, ist possible, can answer the UFO problem; this is Steuart's mirage theory.

As I mentioned at the Congress, every researcher should try and look at the UFO phenomenon in every possible way, trying not to overlook anything. We should seek to find this, at present elusive answer, in any department we can. And if we find that the answer lies in Steuart Campbell's mirage department, then fine, someone at least was trying to look for it there. But what we are finding is this ridiculous, petty 'can't be right so let's knock it' attitude. This is really uncalled for.

Why can we not accept even the most ridiculous theory, even though even though it may seem improper? As I've said, if we do not look for the answer behind every door then we will never find it. This ridiculous barracking of Steuart Campbell reminds me of the many notable people who were laughed and scorned at for their views centuries ago; i.e. Gallileo was laughed at when he said stones DO fall from the sky. John Logie Baird was laughed at and ridiculed before he had the chance to demonstrate his television screen for the first time. Many men of science and of technology have had to put up with this petty attitude at some part of their lives but to me it all seems very sad.

People should be left to conduct and continue research in any line of enquiry they so choose. To ridicule them because we do not accept that this could be the case (ie mirages may explain some, if not a lot of UFO cases), is downright stupid. I may not necessarily accept all of Campbell's arguments, but I will eagerly await any confirmation before I criticise the man if it is found that his theory was off the beaten track.

As Ufologists we should all embrace the subject with due sincerity, and as I say, look behind every door for not to think that the answer may lie behind door 13 would certainly be unlucky for us.

Malcolm Robinson, Sauchie.

BUFORA Scottish RIC.

RETURN TO RENDLESHAM

THE ALIEN CONTACT CLAIMS EXAMINED

By Robert Moore (BUFORA)

If the Rendlesham Forest incident is explainable in terms of a minor accident involving a classified aircraft, what of the statements which refer to observations of 'alien spacecraft' at close quarters? This article examines these tales of spaceships and spacemen.

CLOSE ENCOUNTERS OF A CONFUSED KIND

It is interesting to note that the Rendlesham 'UFO' allegations compare reasonably well when relating the details which lead up to the 'close encounter', but markedly differ when referring to the appearance and behaviour of the object involved in this incident. All the accounts which describe this incident state that the first event was the observation of a strange light (or lights) which were believed to have come down in the forest. Two or more men from Woodbridge airbase were then reported to have gone to the suspected landing area, moving towards the location in a jeep, and later by foot. An object of some kind was supposedly discovered at or near the believed landing area. It is at this point that the stories begin to contradict each other to an extreme degree. Take the following three accounts as examples:

i: The object was reported to have resembled a domed disc, with red and blue lights on its body. It was reported to be stationary, resting on tripod 'legs'. Small, silver-suited beings were observed floating below the object in a beam of light. They were apparently repairing the craft. The aliens are conversed with (via a mixture of sign language and telepathy). Three hours later the object lifts from the ground, at first shakily, and then shoots away rapidly.

ii: The object was reported to have been 'large' and mounted on tripod legs. When approached it was said to have risen upwards and 'backed off'. The object was chased through the forest for an extended period of time, but was eventually lost. An hours later the object was seen to rise from a field and to move away rapidly.

iii: The object was stated to have resembled an aspirin tablet. It emitted a yellow luminous mist. A red light appeared, which exploded over the 'UFO', spewing out a multi-coloured shower of light. This light shower supposedly temporarily 'blinded' those present with its brilliance. When the observers were able to look again at the object, they discovered that it now resembled a domed disc with a strange surface. It had short 'fins' on both sides. A green light

then appears, which bounces off one side of the 'UFO', and then another at a rapid rate of speeds.

It can be clearly seen that serious inconsistencies exist in the statements made by these sources and other lesser, but still important, differences are present in these allegations:

i. Colonel (now General) T. Conrad stated that the size of the 'UFO' when first observed was akin to a 'small plane'. He later claimed the object was 'large'. This inconsistency in size is even more puzzling when it is noted that some accounts allege that at one point during the initial 'UFO' sighting, the object was over (and perhaps even damaged) RAF Woodbridge's runway lights. As the witnesses were on-base personnel it is likely that their distance from the 'UFO' was not great, given that this statement is true.

ii. It is odd that two accounts describe a moving object (and no aliens), one a stationary object (with aliens), and another which refers to a stationary 'UFO' (but with no aliens). It is hard to accept that these accounts refer to the same occurrence!

iii 'Art Wallace' stated that some personnel had conversed with 'aliens' who were located by the 'far side' of the 'UFO', yet if 'Steve Roberts' is to be believed, the entities were floating below the object. Therefore Mr 'Wallace' would have had a 360 view of these supposed alien beings and could not have missed observing them (especially when said beings are floating inside a light beam!)>.

The unevenness of the testimony which refers to this incident causes one to have deep reservations regarding the reality of the Rendlesham incident occurring as these statements allege. Therefore one is forced to take stock of the situation and examine other possible explanations, as well as those proposed in the past.

It has been demonstrated above that the testimony upon which the Rendlesham Forest mystery is based is highly contradictory in nature. But does this alone rule out the possibility that an extra-terrestrial device was actually involved in this incident? This seems to be an unlikely explanation. For apart from the many logical and well known objections to such an exotic solution, there are also a number of factors inherent in the allegations themselves which appear to invalidate this possibility. Firstly, although one could accept that reports based on the observation of an extra-terrestrial object could be confused, one would not expect the gross inconsistencies which we find in the Rendlesham statements. Such contradictions are even harder to accept in accounts which relate to an object which was supposedly observed for an extended length of time

(as the Rendlesham object allegedly was). One would also expect that an observation of an extra-terrestrial object would be more clearly recalled (some of the witnesses even seemed to have some difficulty recalling the actual date of this occurrence!). One would imagine that an encounter with an object from outer space would be somewhat memorable (even in this post-Spelling era, a landing of an alien spacecraft is still not regarded as an everyday event!). Indeed, it seems that the initial incidents of this event appear to be more clearly recalled than the 'Close Encounter' itself. It could be said that these inconsistencies are caused by fabricated accounts which were based on an actual occurrence (the details of which have been accurately related by other witnesses). If this is the case, who is being truthfull? It has been suggested that 'Wallace' is being untruthfull and that 'Steve Roberts' is telling the truth. But why

lie when the by 'Roberts' spectacular 'Wallaces' 'Steve Roberts' relating the event why does



should 'Wallace' events reported are just as and awesome as allegation? If is accurately details of this his statement

contradict the account of the incident given in the 'Halt Memo'? Such uncertainty in this matter suggests that all the statements made regarding the Rendlesham 'skycrash' should be treated with extreme caution. However, the main factor which seems to rule out an extra-terrestrial cause for this incident is the very 'secrecy factor' which some allege 'proves' that something strange landed (or crashed) at Rendlesham.

If this level of (supposed) secrecy was an attempt to suppress the details of the landing of an alien spacecraft, why were so many people allowed to inform others of this incident without any serious repercussions? I say 'allowed' for this occurrence only involved a small number of people, who would probably be known to the 'Top Brass' on the base. However, a rumour does exist which states that someone was sent home because he had leaked the details of this incident, but this rumour seems to concern Mr 'Wallace', who is believed to have been discharged from the Air Force on medical grounds. Indeed, it is known that Cnl. Conrad spoke to the magazine OMNI regarding the Rendlesham 'skycrash' without the protection of an assumed name. He was later promoted to the rank of General. It therefore seems unlikely that the 'cover-up' was an attempt to keep information regarding an amazing 'close-encounter' with beings from another

outer space from the outside world. So, if we reject this as an explanation, what other possibilities present themselves? Could those who had reported seeing a 'UFO' have been hallucinating? Again, this is unlikely. It seems improbable that two or more people could have had a UFO-like hallucinatory experience at



exactly the same time. It is notable that the imagery of this incident (apart from that related by 'Art Wallaces' statement) seems to have been drawn from 'mass-media' UFO stereotypes, and seems devoid of any clearly defined examples of the finite symbology which is encountered in hallucinogenic experiences. The lack of such imagery also seems to rule out the possibility that those

who reported they had observed a UFO in Rendlesham Forest were under the influence of perception altering drugs.

This seems to leave only one option, which is that these statements are fabrications of some kind. It is unlikely that this incident is a hoax perpetrated by a few people. Although some suspicions seem justified with regard to some individuals, what of the 'witnesses' who requested anonymity (and as far as is known, received no financial or other gain from any source). If this incident is false, cupidity does not seem to be the main motivation for its enactment. Were these tales of landed UFO's intended to obscure the nature of an actual incident which occurred in Rendlesham Forest? Does any evidence point to this possibility?

WHY SHAM ABOUT RENDLESHAM?

The aspects of this incident which may indicate that the Rendlesham Forest 'UFO' stories were a 'cover' for an occurrence of a totally different nature are:

- i: The base must have been aware of the 'leaks' pertaining to this (supposedly classified) incident, but took no action to suppress them.
- ii. In contrast to the above, SKYCRASH refers to a civilian technician who occasionally worked on the base. He stated that he was aware of an experimental Anglo-American aircraft which was small and was 'like a helicopter, but not like a helicopter'. He later lost his security clearance and thus his job. It is not clear whether he lost his clearance because he had spoken to the Rendlesham investigators, but this is the kind of action one would expect taken against someone who informs others of classified information.

iii: The incidents are mostly consistent with each other when describing the initial events of the incidents, but are inconsistent when relating to the observation of the 'UFO'.

iiii. All the witnesses communicated with sources which would guarantee that the details of their allegation would be circulated publically as a UFO incident (especially to those who would stress the UFO element of these tales strongly).

The above aspects of this incident demonstrates that the 'smokescreen' explanation for these allegations which lie at the heart of the Rendlesham 'skycrash' is at least a viable possibility. If this theory is valid, it seems unlikely that such tales would be evoked to obscure the misinterpretation of a fireball meteor and a lighthouse. Officialdom has never been so coy to put forward natural explanations for UFO reports in the past! Such a 'smokescreen' would therefore seem pointless in such circumstances. Thus the only option that appears to be plausible is that an object of a classified nature came down in Rendlesham Forest on the 27th of December 1980, and that the UFO allegations are intended to veil the real nature of this device. But why use the UFO myth as a smokescreen to obscure an incident of this nature? It could be that those who are suspected of doing this are aware of the following fact. To the majority of people, UFO's are childish, far fetched nonsense, which are not worthy of a few moments consideration. This view of UFO's is usually the norm amongst statesman, serious journalists and the like. Linking the Rendlesham incident to UFO's would render a politically embarrassing or sensitive situation like the malfunction of a device vital to the future of the west, harmless. What newsman or politician of worth would wish to endanger his hard won reputation by openly enquiring into a UFO incident? Only those with nothing to lose (or those hoping to gain) would become involved in enquiries regarding this affair. Also the role of the UFO investigator must not be overlooked. Because this incident seems on the surface to be a UFO incident it is therefore attacked and defended as a UFO incident. Because of this, any non-ufological explanation would be forced to take a back seat.

CONCLUSION

It is clear that the Rendlesham Forest UFO landing allegations are far from being convincing evidence for the actuality of such an occurrence. The flaws in these accounts are only too apparent. The possible 'fudging' of the details of this 'close encounter' is interesting. Could it be that such an act is intended to stop us from discovering the identity of the object which came down in the closing days of 1980? And if this is the case was the object some kind of top secret military aircraft? We have little evidence that this is what actually

took place at Rendlesham, but some tantalising scraps which refer to such a possibility do exist. When considered so far, the information presented on this event, it does seem quite likely that the great Rendlesham UFO myth could have been caused by the malfunction of some military hardware which was then buried in an avalanche of false UFO allegations.

THE RENDLESHAM FOREST INCIDENT:
AN XSTRAORDINARY SOLUTION! !

Robert Moore

There are a number of reasons why the Ridpath explanation for the Rendlesham Forest incident should be questioned - the main one being that the 'UFO' was detected by the RADAR Unit at R.A.F. Watton. This incident occurred on the 27th December at about the time which makes a link with the Rendlesham 'UFO' incident possible. The other main factor which links this RADAR contact to the Woodbridge incident is that the 'UFO' was lost near the Rendlesham Forest area when it went below the RADAR detection limit.

The following possibilities might explain this occurrence:-

It has often been alleged that the 'Skycrash' rumours were caused by the malfunction of an F-19 (Stealth Fighter), but this theory has one very serious flaw. The F-19, according to one very good source (Jaynes 'All The Worlds Aircraft 1986-87') was not in existence until 1982!. However its predecessor, the XST (Experimental Stealth Technology) was in existence from 1977 onwards, and Stealth concepts were experimented with as early as the late 1940's. Indeed, as early as 1975 a Stealth type aircraft was involved in a 'UFO' sighting (see 'the Unexplained' Vol5, issue 56, p. 1118). Therefore could the XST have been the stimulus that created the Rendlesham Forest 'UFO' myth? Perhaps!

1) In the 86-87 entry for the F-19 in Jaynes, it states that around 5-7 XST's were built and that two are said to have crashed. This entry also states that the XST was smaller than the F-19.

2) If this aircraft has been flown in British airspace, it would have been (or would be) based at an American airfield. Most of these are (for strategic reasons) located in the Norfolk-Suffolk area, therefore, an incident involving any form of Stealth aircraft in the British Isles is more likely to occur in this region.

3) The actual 'homebase' of Stealth in Britain is often alleged to be either Mildenhall or Lakenheath. The relevance of this will be revealed later.

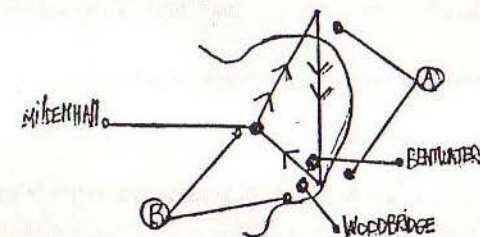
4) The following rumour has ben told to the writer, which he can personally vouch for:-

Someone was talking about UFO's to an American on a tour of duty at an English/USA airbase and brought up the subject of the Rendlesham 'UFO' incident. The American's response to this allegation was (more or less) ' Heck, that was no UFO...Something did occur that night, but it was only of concern to the military'. It later transpired that the object involved was small and vaguely triangular in shape, carrying one or possibly two, men. This object seemed to have malfunctioned during an exercise and at first started to move erratically. It attempted to land at Woodbridge but 'did not make the runway' and 'pranged'. The pilot(s) were apparently unharmed. The object (which did not exactly crash) seemed to remain intact after impact and was whisked away in some haste. Whatever the exact nature of the object, it was not the super-helicopter whose existence was alleged in the book SKYCRASH, or an F-19 (if the Jayne's entry is correct). Robert Moore mentioned this possibility to the main source of this rumour, who said that this was 'the WRONG AIRCRAFT'.

5) The question arises, was the Rendlesham 'UFO' seen after the supposed 'Skycrash'?

It is mentioned in SKYCRASH that a number of witnesses at Shingle Street (3 miles north of Butley, Suffolk), saw a 'UFO' on Friday the 7th of October 1983 at around 8:00 pm. This 'UFO' was described as being a dark triangular shape with white and red lights (the red lights being to the rear of the 'UFO'). It moved away in the direction of Woodbridge/Bentwaters. This 'UFO' my also have been seen by Dot Street, one of the authors of SKYCRASH, flying over the house of the then Colonel Halt. If this was a close relation of the Woodbridge 'UFO', was this the XST?

6) Was the Rendlesham 'UFO' following a military radio navigation beacon network (TACAN- Tactical Air Navigation System)? this beacon system is used in a number of ways by the Airborne Military - the air routes connecting these beacons to one another are often used for military exercises. TACAN (interestingly) is often used used by the USAF as a landing aid. What evidence is there to show that the Woodbridge object used this network? the contact at RAF Watton who reported this incident to Paul Begg and Jenny Randles stated that the 'UFO' headed in from the coast and disappeared south to the east of Ipswich. The Shingle Street 'UFO' witnesses stated that their 'UFO' moved away towards Woodbridge/Bentwaters, therefore, supposing that these objects were connected with the Rendlesham 'UFO', it may have followed the following course:



The reader should note that if the Shingle Street 'UFO' continued moving in its final observed direction the object would have moved in close proximity to Mildenhall and/or Lakenheath, two of the alleged homebases of the F-19 (and possibly the XST before it).

THE RENDLESHAM INCIDENT- A POSSIBLE SCENARIO

If a 'UFO' was not involved in the Rendlesham Forest incident, what was?. If it was an XST, what happened on that fateful December night (or early morning)? Perhaps the following:-

Sometime during the night of the 26th of December or the morning of the 27th, an XST left Mildenhall or Lakenheath for an exercise. Perhaps the XST was (is?) used as a trainer to acclimatise pilots to flying Stealth aircraft. The exercise may have taken the XST from Mildenhall, moving in a NE direction and then turning when just past the coast. After turning, it heads inland in a southerly direction. It is at this turning point that the XST starts to malfunction (perhaps only slightly) and because of its erratic behaviour comes to the notice of the RADAR operators at RAF Watton (or perhaps, being Stealth, it's ECM malfunctioned causing a blip to suddenly appear on the RADAR screen). Sometime later, it attempts an emergency landing at Woodbridge, but comes down, luckily in one piece, short of the runway. The XST is then retrieved and perhaps returned to Mildenhall, by road as opposed to air, which given its smallish size would have been quite practical. If the malfunction had not occurred it may have followed the course shown in the foregoing diagrams and thus returning home to Mildenhall.

Those who support the 'UFO' explanation for this occurrence would doubtless say that the rumours clearly point to the Rendlesham 'UFO' being a spacecraft.

To this I would answer that Stealth is probably the most politically and military sensitive aircraft to have ever existed. even today its actual existence is denied by the USAF and others. With this level of security cloaking this aircraft, who knows to what levels certain bodies would go to to obscure the true nature of a Stealth malfunction. One can see what an effective 'kiss of death' it was to link the Rendlesham events to 'UFO's'. It guaranteed that this incident would never be seriously considered by those who possessed any political muscle. If this was the aim of the 'UFO' smokescreen, it was almost 100% successful!

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[] POSTPONED

Unfortunately there will not now be a Scottish UFO Open Day in October as reported in the last issue of UFO Brigantia. Malcolm Robinson of the SPI has informed us that due to time considerations it has been decided to postpone the event until 1988.

[] CATFLAPS!

There are only ten copies of CATFLAPS! by Andy Roberts, left for sale. The booklet is in its second edition and consists of 56 fact-filled pages dealing with mystery felines in the north of England. Much of the information has never appeared in print before in the fortean field. The booklet is illustrated with maps, drawings and photographs and has an introduction by author Mike Goss. Copies are £2:25 each inc p&p. Get 'em before they become rare. From the editorial address.

[] MISSING PERSON

BUFORA & SPI member Malcolm Robinson is urgently trying to locate the whereabouts of an old colleague of his, Billy Gibbons, who was also one of the members of the team who went to Africa recently to search for lake monsters (featured in Fortean Times). If any reader knows Billy's current address would they please write to Malcolm at 4, Woodlea Park, Branshill, Sauchie, Clackmannanshire, FK10 3BG.

[] BOOKS FOR SALE

VYUFORG have some duplicate books for sale: UFO study by Jenny Randles (1981), hb., no dj. £3 inc p&p; Sky Crash by Jenny Randles (1984), hb. dj. £3 inc p&p; Intercept UFO by Renato Vesco (1971) pb. rare. £3 inc p&p; New Lands by Charles Fort, pb. fortean classic £2 inc p&p. Operation Trojan Horse by John Keel ex library hardback £3. Available from editorial address, cheques p.o.'s to Andy Roberts.
