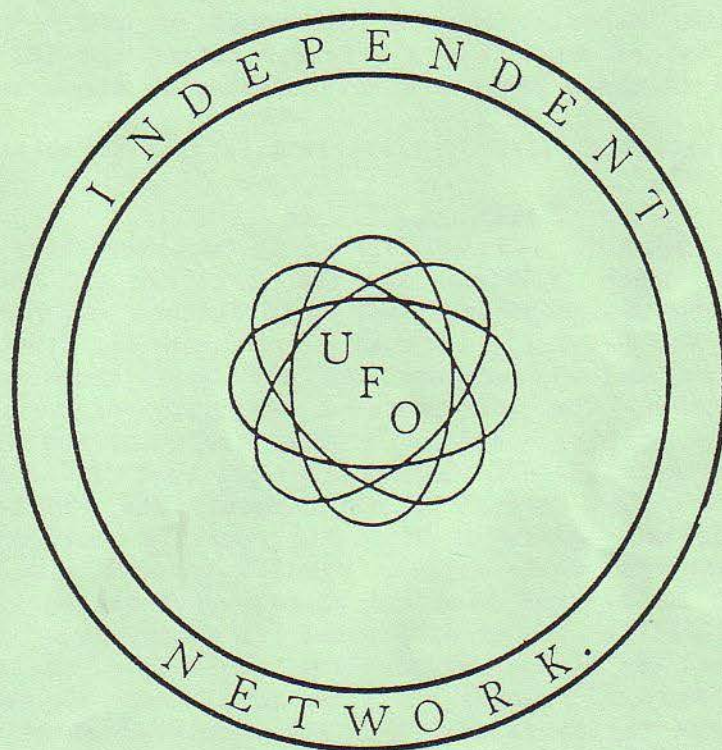


UFO BRIGANTIA.

A JOURNAL OF UFO INVESTIGATION.



THIS IS

AN

IUN.

PUBLICATION.

EDITORIAL



Before I get on with the usual editorial ravings I'd just like to welcome you to the 'new style' UFO BRIGANTIA. It will probably take a few issues before we settle down to a set layout and cover, as I want to mess about a bit (and hopefully will be using some 'desktop publishing software'), so please bear with us. Hopefully the magazine should be a lot easier to read although it won't now fit on your bookshelves!

The subscription has been increased to £7:00. Don't cry too much, for a 32 page A4 magazine, published on time six times a year, it's still a good deal and it's also the first price rise in over two years. I welcome any comments and criticisms on content, layout or anything else which springs to mind. Articles have been flooding in but keep 'em coming, I want to ensure a wide range of topics are covered so no-one can say their particular ufological theory is not mentioned from time to time at least. We print what we get and nothing is refused on grounds of content, style or whatever.

With all the talk of secret documents, leaked documents and the usual paranoia of world government UFO cover-ups, the editor of UFO BRIGANTIA, not known for his endorsement of the on-going ufological obsession that the government (any government) knows much more than we do about UFO's, has done some of his own investigation into this line of research. Some of you out there will be familiar with the 'Churchill Documents', obtained last year from the PRO by Philip Mantle, which indicated Winny himself had an interest in the UFO phenomenon. Much was made of these documents and Churchill's interest in them, even though the replies he received were negative. It raised, amongst other things, the spectre of the long-suspected-but-hitherto-unknown-about Air Intelligence study of the early 1950's. So where did Churchill get his information from and was there really a study of UFO's in the early 1950's?

In an 'explosive' report (well, not that explosive but it sizzles a bit) UFO BRIGANTIA can present the 'facts' on these two questions. Churchill, stimulated by the prevalence at the time of ill-informed syndicated newspaper reportage on the subject of UFO's, asked his Secretary of State for Air for information on the subject of UFO's. In reply Lord Cherwell indicated simply that there was

nothing in it. That seems to be as far as the 'Churchill Papers' investigation went. Since then much more has come to light via the IUN and whilst following an unrelated line of research (ie not as a UFO investigator), I made contact with an interesting character by the name of Squadron Leader R.G. Woodman DSO, DFC.

Woodman had served in WW11 with the secret 100 Group and had flown numerous dangerous missions. After the war he became Deputy Superintendant of Test Flying at the world respected Boscombe Down. Whilst at Boscombe Down he assisted Dr Condon in preparing the famous Condon UFO Report and also "*did my own investigation whilst at Boscombe Down following a request from the government*". The Churchill enquiry also apparently took place during his time at Boscombe Down and Woodman was "*asked if I would submit a report on the subject as Churchill had asked whether there was any truth in the phenomena*". Woodman was therefore the source of the Churchill Papers information although it was an unofficial investigation. However, it seems clear that the information must have been drawn from the 'official', government instigated, 1950/51 investigation.

Whilst at Boscombe Down Woodman was also in constant contact with US test pilots, some of whom expressed astonishment and amusement that the British should take an interest in this matter which "*they treated as rubbish*". Following his time at Boscombe Down Woodman travelled the world as part of his job working for Shell and B.P. during which time he was 'employed' by MI6 to report on 'Air Matters', passing information onto Boscombe Down, Farnborough, Malvern and the meteorological centre at Bracknell.

This is a degree of proof, at least I think, that a government report was compiled in 1950/51 and that also the government *did not* think there was anything in the subject at that time, a fact which was echoed in the subsequent Churchill report. When Woodman later discovered that I had more than a passing interest in the subject of UFO's he ceased correspondence so I was unable to discover more. Of course it could all be a clever disinformation plot and you can take it as such if you choose, but I think too many real, checkable facts were given away for that to be the case. This is not usually the case with the run of the mill crash/retrieval/I shot an alien and put it in the freezer report which are riddled with holes (see below). As to why the 1950/51 report is now not (apparently) available there would seem to be genuine prosaic reasons for that; either it was just destroyed, which is perfectly feasible, or it was not released due to it being on the secret list. Just because something

is classified secret does not mean it is of any importance! Just try finding out how many tons of wheat we import from Russia for instance. Claiming it has been 'covered-up' because it contains information of earth-shattering import is just not good enough. Consider for instance the 1962 Alex Birch photographs 'cover-up'. It was claimed that he had been visited and 'hushed up' by the men from the ministry. Hushed up about what? The photos were fakes anyway as it turned out and therefore any 'hushing up' whether real or imagined was irrelevant to ufology. Or maybe I'm being naive and they were genuine but the 'government' paid him off to admit they were fakes, and what's that black car doing parked outside my house..... (continued p.23 of Paranoia Fanciers Gazette and Weekly). I think the bottom line is just simply governmental embarrassment. Embarrassment because the government's have little real knowledge about UFO's. They know they 'exist' because people report them but as they are unable to explain what they are they remain 'secret', are 'covered up', or are used as the subject of disinformation campaigns to save face or to occasionally hide test craft behind.

SUFORS and BUFORA member Malcolm Robinson has suggested to me that ufologists should go all out to determine whether or not the MOD have UFO files. I think it's a foregone conclusion they do, but if the content is at all like anything we have seen released so far under the FOIA in the US, then what's the point in wasting the time and the money when valuable field investigation and research may be losing out?

This brings us onto the current fashion for conspiracy/cover up material emanating from the USA. The 'MJ12' document saga which states that crashed aliens had been found, secret groups had been formed to study them, the president knew etc etc, is rapidly dissolving before our eyes. The promulgators of this saga (W.Moore of Roswell Incident fame and his two colleagues) had claimed that all the evidence showed that their documents (see current issue of QUEST) were in fact the real thang. Doubt hangs over this proof in a big way and with good reason. In the latest Citizens Against UFO Secrecy (CAUS) Bulletin (available from P.O. Box 218, Coventry, Conn. 06238, USA \$15/4 issues) Barry Greenwood and Larry Fawcett give many damning reasons why these documents and others like them are hoaxed.

We haven't the space to do justice to the claims here, and I suggest all readers of Brigantia buy the bulletin, but briefly amongst the many reasons given are these; it is ridiculously easy to gain unsupervised access to the National Archives and documents could be easily planted, removed or altered at

will; one of the documents which has the heading 'Executive Correspondence' is really only part of a transparent document cover which in the case of the MJ12 documents appears to have been moved down to cut off the less impressive statement 'Do not write on this cover as it is intended for re-use'; the code names used are inconsistent with code names running at that time; several documents display massive style errors (type face, paper type etc); the dates of several incidents involving President Truman do not check out... the list goes on and gets 'worse'. Fawcett and Greenwood have done an amazing job in checking facts on this saga. Unfortunately, as with so many other 'classic' cases the facts should have been checked by those proclaiming them in the first place. More than this, Fawcett and Greenwood name the source who they believe is responsible for this information (which arrived anonymously) and for several other 'leaks' concerning aliens, crashes etc. Yes you've guessed it, a US 'special agent'! and one who is implicated in UFO hoaxes which are already common knowledge. Moore and his colleagues have consistently failed to satisfactorily answer the major criticisms of their argument and it is only through the diligence of people like Fawcett and Greenwood that ufology has not been plunged further back into the 1950's. The wrangle will no doubt continue.

The evidence *against* a cover-up of real and significant provable UFO related information and knowledge being held by any government and its agencies is mounting. Recently the MOD wrote to researcher David Clarke, asking him for details and photographs of a case he and I are working on. Is this the action of a government department which knows what is really going on?

There is a real UFO phenomenon which people experience. No one but the most rabid of sceptics would dispute that. It is even just possible that a small part of it involves visitors from outer-space or perhaps somewhere far stranger. On the face of things and on the evidence offered to date of forty years of government study it seems unlikely that it involves crashed and retrieved UFO's, deep frozen aliens and secret meetings with presidents. There is far more provable evidence that it involves us and the planet we inhabit in a variety of ways from the psycho-sociological to the geo-physical. Proving that any documents are false will not affect the pro Cover-Up lobby in the slightest (will strengthen the most paranoid of them), and conversly, without producing a crashed UFO out of a hat, proving them to be genuine is impossible. Entering into the whole 'cover-up' game puts ufologists in the position of rats in a maze with no sign of a reward. It's expensive, time consuming and in forty years has got absolutely nowhere. Keyhoe has a lot to answer for.



A good few brief reports in this months Investigations section, with yet more photographic cases. 1987 is definitely the year of the UFO on camera. Whilst most reports here are classed as under investigation starting next issue we will be running a section

which gives the results of investigations carried out on cases previously listed here as brief reports.

Certain cases which have been fully investigated will appear in future issues as a separate feature and in addition we will be running a 'clear-up corner' as and when old cases are resolved into IFO's. In the next issue of UFO BRIGANTIA there will be a 'flap special' when David Clarke takes a good look at the recent spate of well-documented sightings around S.Derbyshire/N.Staffordshire. In addition to all this there will be a list of all IUN case reports so far, their evaluation and price should anyone wish to purchase copies. A full statistical breakdown of reports for 1987 will appear early in 1988. Anyone wanting specific info on a particular case should write to Philip Mantle.

- 1. Date: Late August 1987
- Location: Rochdale, Lancs.
- Time: 10:00pm

Mr. D. observed six brightly lit, strange aerial objects, flying in an erratic course. Each of the objects appeared to have three lights on its' underside.
 Classification: UNDER INVESTIGATION. Investigator P. Mantle.

- 2. Date: July 23rd 1984
- Location: Brough nr. Hull.
- Time: Unknown, but late evening.

Ms X 'phoned this old sighting in recently. Significant though as it is from the famous 'flap' day of 23784 - a night of still unexplained UFO sightings. This case is even more significant as the witness saw two RAF jets 'harrassing' the UFO. She reported the case at the time to the local police and air base and therefore we should be able to follow this one up.

Classification: UNDER INVESTIGATION. Investigator A. Roberts.

- 3. Date: Various.

Location: Various.

Time: Various.

Mrs B. 'phoned from Huddersfield to give brief details of many sightings by herself and members of her family. Most of these have taken place on the Nont Sarah moors on the Yks/Lancs border by her brother who apparently goes up there regularly to watch them. Mrs B. has seen things herself and both her and her husband had an odd anomalous light experience whilst driving through Sherwood Forest.

Classification: UNDER INVESTIGATION. Investigator A. Roberts.

4. Date: October 1987

Location: Rossendale Valley, Lancs.

Time: Evening.

Mrs. H. saw an extremely large 'orange ball' moving over the Rawtenstall area. few details as yet other than it was soundless.

Classification: UNDER INVESTIGATION. Investigator P. Mantle.

5. Date: December 1977.

Location: Harrogate, N.Yks.

Time: Night.

Mr. Marston from Harrogate saw an unidentified white light in the sky which made an odd noise, moved about erratically and then descended. Also observed numerous red and white lights in Nov. 1981 manouvering on a hill- could be fireworks.

Classification: UNDER INVESTIGATION. Investigator P. Mantle.

6. Date: 9th March 1986.

Location: Rossendale

Time: Evening.

Mr. M., who has seen various other unidentified lights in the sky in 1967 and 1985, and his family saw a large orange light going on and off over the hills. He took several photo's which are currently being analysed.

Classification: UNDER INVESTIGATION. Investigator P. Mantle/R. Howarth.

7. Date: February 1987

Location: Conisborough, S.Yks.

Time: Night.

Whilst on an excercise with the local camera club Andrea Holbrook captured something unusual on film, although it was not seen at the time. The photographs were featured in the local paper. Philip Mantle visited the witness and obtained the prints. The light phenomena is clearly a lens flare.

Classification: IFO- Lens Flare. Investigators P.Mantle/D.Clarke

8. Date: August 9th 1987

Location: Conisborough.

Time: Night.

A member from the same camera club as the above case was taking some photos of the moon outside his house and also captured something unusual but unseen at the time on film. This photograph appeared alongside the above in the local newspaper. Again the light phenomena is clearly a lens flare.

Classification: IFO- Lens Flare. Investigators P.Mantle/D.Clarke.

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PRE-1947 ENTITY & UFO IN NORFOLK?

AN I.U.N. ARCHIVE CASE

Investigation by Philip Mantle

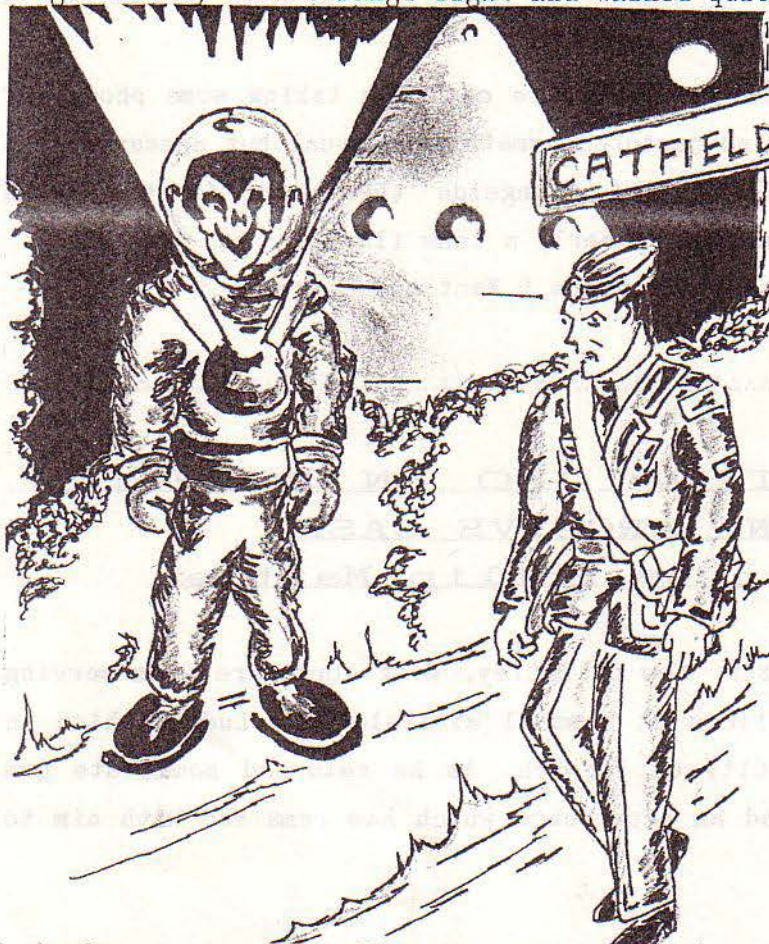
During May 1943 Mr. John Walker, now of Batley, West Yorkshire, was serving with the RAF as an armaments officer at a small airfield near Ludden which in turn is not far away from the City of Norwich. As he returned home late one night from a village dance he had an experience which has remained with him to this day.

John had missed the last bus back to his base and consequently had to walk the twelve miles or so home. Once he had left the village he walked for several miles through open countryside seeing no-one. As he neared the village of Ludden he noticed a 'green glow' in the road up ahead of him. He was puzzled as he knew of nothing in the area which should have been lit up at this time of night as a blackout was in force at the time. Upon getting closer to the glow he noticed that it was coming from a 'man' standing by the side of the road.

This 'man' was wearing what appeared to be a strange kind of divers' helmet on his head and an oblong shaped object on his chest. The green glow Mr. Walker had seen was emitting from this object on the mans chest and was fanning upwards over his face. The man had a peculiar, sickly grin on his face which never changed as John passed by. The strange man with the green glow did not move, nor did he acknowledge John's passing by.

As Mr. Walker passed this man he noticed in the adjacent field, over the hedge or fence which bordered the lane, a large object which he later described

as being like a 'bell tent'. The drawing he made for the I.U.N. was of a dome shape. Standing besides this tent-shaped object were two more figures, both of whom were wearing a greyish garment like a boiler suit. Mr. Walker was frightened by this strange sight and walked quickly past.



When he eventually arrived back at his camp John went to bed still puzzled and frightened at what he had just seen. Being war time his initial thoughts were that the Germans had invaded yet the strange men had not looked like soldiers and had not even seemed to notice him. Alternatively, if they had been allied forces he thought they would have acknowledged his presence. A short while later his friend came in (through the window- Mr. Walker had been so frightened he had locked the door) and he too was in a frightened state. Apparently he

had also come across the same scenario but was too upset to go into details, saying only that he had seen something "all lit up".

The experience had so worried Mr Walker that he kept well clear of the area for the next few weeks. In the meantime he could find nothing to account for what he saw on that May night and when he did later visit the site of his encounter he could see nothing odd in the area.

This case came to the attention of Philip Mantle of the I.U.N. via the 24Hr. UFO HOTLINE. It was not however the first time Mr. Walker had reported it. Apparently he had reported it to the Yorkshire branch of BUFORA sometime in the early 1970's and we are still following that lead up. Philip interviewed Mr. Walker at length and from the tape transcript it is clear that Mr. Walker still remembered his experience in vivid detail. It is also clear that the experience terrified him and he talks for a long time about just how frightened he was. UFO's, aliens and the like were unhead of outside pulp fiction in the '40's and

and elsewhere is interesting, as IUN investigators were lucky enough to arrive on the scene immediately after the sightings had taken place. Through newspaper publicity and the UFO Hotline service statements were obtained from fifteen witnesses.

Two of the witnesses in Derby, interviewed by myself shortly afterwards, approached within 100 feet of the UFO and were able to give the best descriptions of it, as well as reporting an unusual effect upon their car... We also have details of three very interesting sightings, all with impressive witnesses, describing essentially similar 'circle-of-light' type UFO's, observed in vicinity of the Staffordshire town of Uttoxeter as recently as October 1987, which have provided some of the most convincing evidence for intensive UFO activity in this locality.

This article is intended to give a chronological round-up of sightings between 1980 and 1987 recently collected by IUN investigators in the southern Pennine region of Brigantia. It will be noticed that many of these sightings were reported from the Derbyshire moorlands; also note the amount of interesting reports from witnesses of above average intelligence. Many more sightings are still under investigation. Sightings were investigated by myself unless otherwise stated:

1980: September/October: Mottram-in-Longendale, Cheshire.

Mr & Mrs Tyson of Hadfield were looking through their French windows in a westerly direction late one night when they saw a very bright pinkish light descend from the sky, disappearing behind St. Micheals's Church, which stand on a hilltop above Mottram moor. They were certain that fireworks or aircraft could not account for the movements of this light. Furthermore, the same night, two girls in Mottram reported seeing a brightly lit object travelling towards Stalybridge near Manchester.

1981: December 14: Handsworth, Sheffield, South Yorkshire.

Mrs. E. warden and caretaker of parish centre at hilltop rectory at 12th century St. Mary's church, saw at 9-10pm on a freezing night with snow on the ground, a "large bright blue ball of light" moving towards the church from the east at tree-top height in an arched flightpath. The light was in view for three seconds, whereupon it dropped into the graveyard behind the church and "went out". Another witness saw nothing but felt a "presence". Examination of the graveyard the following morning gave no results. Possible ball-lightning.

1983: April: Torside Clough, Bleaklow, Derbyshire Peak.

Two Northamptonshire doctors on a weekend walking holiday in the High Peak of Derbyshire saw an unusual object in daylight whilst on the route of the Pennine Way between Torside castle and Torside Clough, in the same area where flare-like UAP's have been investigated by Glossop Mountain Rescue Team. At 1pm they saw a sliver-blue ballon shaped object approach from the northwest, across Sykes Moor over the north bank of Torside Clough. The object was near ground level and reflected sunlight intermittently but made no noise. When more or less opposite the witnesses it ascended vertically into the sky and disappeared or faded out of sight while still ascending. Compare with Edale sighting below which took place on opposite side of moor one year later. (Inv. by Ernie Still for BUFORA)

1984: August 27: Nether Moor, Vale of Edale Derbyshire.

Two Sheffield Laboratory technicians walking near Clough Farm (O/S map 100, ref 146865) saw what appeared to be a *"spherical shining ball moving down the hillside near Nether Moor"*, approximately 200-300 yards away, at 11-11-30 am. the object moved over the top of the bracken and was initially thought to be a piece of plastic. *"With this in mind I expected the object to get caught in barbed wire fencing protruding from above the top of a dry stone wallit was approaching. However it did not, and proceeded downwards to to the valley floor above a field of sheep, who did not run away from it. After moving through the field it appeared to pass through a barbed wire fence, and I now pointed out the object to my companion. We watched it as it approached a clump of trees brodering the road from Hope to Edale. The object climbed above the trees, remained there for a short time before moving eastwards, apparently moving above the road. After a short time the object ascended rapidly upwards into the clouds and out of sight."* Enquiries with Leeds Weather Centre ascertained that no weather balloons were present in the area at the time; the weather at the time being dry with sunshine and a light northwesterly wind.

1986: August 3: Tansley, nr Cromford, Derbyshire.

Mr & Mrs. M. of Chesterfield were ascending a steep hill near Tansley at 1-30pm when they saw a large, brilliantly lit orange oval shaped object in the sky across the valley in a southwesterly direction towards Cromford, at an elevation of 25 degrees. After 10-15 seconds the object ascended rapidly into the sky and put of sight. One witness reported psychological symptoms afterwards. (Inv. by Dave Kelly, IUN Derbyshire)

1986: December 31: Bonsall Moor, nr Matlock, Derbyshire.

Witness Mr. HS, was on holiday in a cottage at Bonsall Moor, and was in the yard at 7-22am on a very clear, dark morning when he saw a "moving star" to the right of the North star, moving towards him over the hills and valleys from the north. Mr. JS then shouted to his wife and they both saw the object, still star shaped, above a wood at the bottom of a field near the cottage. As they watched, the object approached them and passed above their heads, whereupon the backend of it "seemed to open up into a giant triangle with a lot of white lights all around it but black all in the middle of it..At this stage it was moving very slowly, about 5-10mph and all we could see was this giant thing up in the sky above the trees. there was not a sound coming from it.." (Inv. Dave Kelly, IUN Derbyshire)

1987: March 21: Curbar Edge, nr Calver, Derbyshire.

Four witnesses ascending the Curbar Gap road towards Chesterfield just after midnight saw a luminous egg-shaped object just above the Curbar Edge horizon, moving rapidly northwards towards Hathersage. It was first thought to be a crashing aircraft. One witness, Mr. Kensey of Chesterfield, reported the sighting to Buxton Police who received details of an "undidentified egg-shaped object approximately ten feet long, split in half with flames coming from it". The object was in sight for ten seconds during which "a smaller similar shaped object fell from beneath the larger object and proceeded underneath it at the same speed." The area was searched afterwards by police from Matlock and by Peak National Park Rangers, but nothing was found. Preliminary investigations suggest bolide/fireball as possible explanation.

1987: August 8: Bolsover Castle, Derbyshire.

Interesting 'landing' - summary of a case still under investigation. Mrs. PW, a tax inspector, was returning home to Bolsover at 10-55pm on a clear dark night, and stopped at the junction between Limekiln Fields and Hilltop Road, which is within the vicinity of the ancient Norman hilltop castle at Bolsover. Looking to her right, towards the castle she saw a large flat object as big as a double-decker bus, at ground level. It was surrounded by white lights on its perimeter. After looking around and noticing that the object was not moving, the witness hurried home and returned shortly afterwards with her husband to the spot where the object had been. However, no trace of it could be found. Typical 'OZ factor' effects were reported by the witness, who was puzzled to see lack of cars on a usually busy road. Witness credibility is considered to be excellent. (Inv. by Dave Kelly/Philip Mantle)

1987: September 7 & 12: Pearoyd Lane, Stocksbridge, Sth. Yorkshire.

Interesting 'apparition' report with impressive witnesses - two security guards and two policemen from Deepcar. The events took place on the half built Stocksbridge by-pass road. On the night of September 7th, security guards Steven Brookes and David Goldthorpe, guarding a section of road on the northern section of the road just after midnight, saw a hooded figure standing on a newly constructed section of bridge on Pearoyd Lane. The figure vanished into thin air when the headlights of their Range Rover were directed at it. Two nights later the two men saw a group of children dancing around a nearby pylon in the middle of the night who similarly disappeared without trace upon investigation.

Police were called in to investigate, and on the night of September 12th a police constable and a Special constable (names on file) parked up on a stretch of the new road at Pearoyd Lane, wher the sightings had taken place. It was a clear starlit night and their police car was surrounded on both sides by high banks of earth, the new bridge in front of them. After a while the two men noticed a "moving shadow" circling around a white palate-box, used by constuction workers, below them on the bridge. The figure disappeared when headlamps were turned on it. This happened three times, leaving the men unnerved.

Shortly afterwards both men simultaneously saw a man-like apparition pass from one side of the car to the other, followed by a sharp thump on the back or sides of their vehicle. They described this apparition as tall, dressed in white clothes with a 'V' shape on its chest. The figure was in sight for no more than a couple of seconds, and the best view of it was obtained by the Special Constable, who saw its face and noted it was staring directly at him.

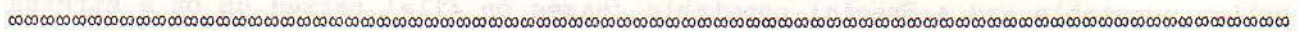


I arrived on the scene immediately afterwards along with two SSPR investigators and am currently preparing a full report on the incident for IUN files. Sightings of anthropomorphic monk-like figures and strange lights in the

smae area have been related to us by the policemen involved and these are also presently under investigation.

This fascinating 'apparition' report, which came at the height of the concurrent UFO wave perhaps indicates that 'something' other than aerial lights were active in the Southern Pennines during the months of August and September 1987. No doubt as always the wave will only be seen in context after many years have passed, when all the various constituent parts of the jigsaw puzzle have been effectively fitted together by researchers.

But what is certain is that the 40th anniversary year of the invention of the term 'flying saucer' is bound to be an important and instructive time.



THE GIANT OF PENHILL: Ian Taylor (Northern Lights) 290 pages, drawings, maps and photographs. £7.50 from Northern Lights, P.O. Box 113, Dunnington, YORK, YO1 5JW.

This book has huge implications for many aspects of the study of ufology. With the recent upsurge in what are loosely described as the Geophysical Theories there has been much speculation on whether a large proportion of UFO's are 'Earth based' in some way. This has all come about at a time of renewed interest in 'Landscape Awareness'- the direct experiencing of a landscape and its mysteries, of which UFO's are but a small part.

In this highly original book Taylor, who has spent two years researching this book, much of it 'in the field', weaves together the strands of myth, legend and 'reality' (from which both the inner and outer landscape are composed) and takes the reader on a quest for the lost hill figure of a giant, ancient and updated geomantic and magickal survivals, a ley complex, ghosts, Knights Templars and a feast of other enigmas. All this is centred on the small North Yorkshire village of West Witton where every year a folk drama is acted out involving the parading and burning of a figure known as Bartle. Taylor examines the background and legends to this curious and still potent event and leads you backwards through time to a landscape and people who were inextricably entwined.

Students of Earth Mysteries will have snapped this book up already and ufologists should not be far behind; one of the many legends of the West Witton area is that of the 'Pennine Light', a spotlight/UFO which appears from time to time on a stretch of the A684 road. This light has been seen over a number of years, peaking in the 50's and 60's but has only just come to ufological light (sorry!) as a result of Project Pennine's folklore research. I think this book

is one of the first of a new type of book which will integrate UFO/anomalous light sightings with other areas of mystery, as at many levels they are connected and it shows what possible finds of ufological relevance there are still hidden in the depths of folklore and folk knowledge. The book is extensively referenced, illustrated and indexed and gets the UFO BRIGANTIA seal of approval. Buy it.

STRANGE MAGAZINE: \$18:95 in US funds from Dept E-1, P.O. Box 2246, Rockville, MD 20852, USA. See ad. elsewhere in this mag.

Those of you out there whose minds are not closed to anything other than UFO's will enjoy STRANGE. It is a new US 'fortean' magazine from the editorship of Mark Chovinsky, a Fortean Times regular. Although US published STRANGE features material from all over the world and many well-known fortean writers are also to be found here including Bob Rickard so you know the sort of thing to expect. The first, double, issue features UFO's, Abductions, Lake Monster hunting, ghosts and the usual round-up of bizarre and out of the way subjects you won't find in many other places. One article which caught my eye was a long pice on the famous 'Crystal Skulls' and the rumours and reality surrounding them, fascinating material which doesn't often get an airing. STRANGE will hopefully take off in a big way and any Fortean Times junkies who are suffering from withdrawal symptoms would be well advised to order a copy immediately.

A full listing of exchange magazines will appear next issue, as will many reviews of same.

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THE YAKIMA UFO 'WINDOW'

Greg Long ©1987

The Yakima Indian Reservation in south-central Washington state represents one of the world's best 'window' areas for the study of UFO phenomena. A 'window' area is a circumscribed geographic locale where UFO's appear over a long period of time and seem intimately connected with that area.



The Yakima Indian Reservation window is extremely important to ufologists for several reasons. Here we have laboratory conditions: fire lookouts who are stationed six months out of the year on mountain peaks, spend long hours observing the same unchanging Reservation terrain for fires. Serious observers as a result of many years of practice, the fire lookouts are sensitive to anomalous objects or events and immediately recognise them. Because of their long viewing hours the chances of observing UFO's are greatly increased. The lookouts can also serve to confirm, as independent witnesses, others sightings, increasing the value of the observations. Triangulation also becomes possible; location, distance, size and other measures of the observed object can be easily computed.

The Yakima UFO Window (Greg's forthcoming book on the subject-ed.) is the culmination of my investigations into reports of UFO sightings emanating from the Yakima Indian Reservation. These 186 known sightings (there are certainly more, albeit undocumented) detail a variety of UFO phenomena.

Of the 186 documented sightings, 118 are the experiences of the fire lookouts. The first fire lookout sighting was recorded in 1964; the most recent 1984. After analysing the physical characteristics of the objects reported by the fire lookouts, I am able to describe a class of Reservation UFO as follows: An orange or white round light is observed at night either moving or hovering above the ground or near the horizon. The light - whose exact nature is unknown

but which is at least large enough (or because of its colour and shape) to attract the notice of the fire lookouts - is steady, pulsating or flashing - and if not, is rapidly travelling at sharp angles of descent or located at high altitude; is not a meteor, ball lightning, astronomical body or manmade aircraft; and disappears out of sight or dims or goes out like a light being turned off.

The other 68, non-fire lookout reports contain descriptions of Nocturnal Lights (and a few Daylight Discs) which feature a variety of non-spheroidal shapes or have multiple coloured lights, and in some cases, are aircraft-like in appearance. Some of the objects also display apparent 'intelligence', approaching people or moving automobiles, or which land or manoeuvre in seemingly controlled ways. In some cases, witnesses who view these objects close up undergo seeming 'psychic' experiences. Three cases describe humanoid encounters associated with a UFO. One case suggests a possible abduction of one or more people. Like the objects in Missouri and Hessdalen, the objects are observed hovering, ascending, descending, flying at high speeds and making abrupt turns.

I have analysed the reports in relation to Micheal Persinger's Tectonic Strain Theory of UFO's. This theory assumes that the Nocturnal Lights UFO class can be explained in terms of ionization of gases in the Earth's atmosphere, which is caused by the natural process of earthquake strain build up and release in the form of fracturing. During fracturing or micro-earthquakes the rock produces electric fields which strip electrons from atoms. Radiation is emitted, causing gases to fluoresce. Somehow the plasma is contained in three-dimensional space in the form of a sphere. This sphere of pulsating or blinking gas is carried through the air by moving fields which travel along lines of fracturing, or moves in response to conductive lines of force in the natural environment. A number of other behaviours are explained by various physical properties of the sphere and its interaction with the surrounding environment. The 'luminosity' can also, upon close approach, disrupt the cognitive processes of the witness, its electromagnetic fields inducing hallucinations, blackouts or experiences typical of the abduction scenario.

Micheal Persinger and John Derr contend that the Reservation UFO's can be explained as natural luminosities produced by earthquake strain. Their conclusion is based on a statistical correlation between records of local seismic activity and the appearance of the UFO's.

In my book I test Persinger's theory by seeking 'fits' between Reservation UFO cases and specific elements of the tectonic strain theory. In some cases I find support, for example with the features of colour, shape, location (near the ground or below the horizon) and extinguishment ('turning off', where the UFO 'goes out', which would be typical of energy dissipation or discharge, as Persinger predicts). Also certain Reservation phenomena - beams or searchlights, ground glows and radio blackouts - seem to reflect the effects of localised electric fields or bursts of electromagnetic radiation caused by strain release.

Despite these correspondences many Reservation cases do not support Persinger's theory. These cases describe non-spheroidal forms - articulated forms that display different coloured lights and which behave in very 'non-standard' ways, or which emit beeping or roaring sounds, descend on moving automobiles, form strange configurations in the sky, or move or hover for very long periods of time (over an hour) in the sky.

I also determine that the physics of luminosity generation (currently being investigated by Persinger and Derr) is simply too poorly defined to account for many of the Reservation UFO behaviours, including those of the orange or white spheres which seem to most closely model Persinger's idealised spherical luminosity. Although Brian Brady's rock fracturing experiments in Denver have produced shortlived balls of luminous energy, Brady himself concludes "*An exoelectron type of illumination [as observed in his experiments] is not likely to cause isolated light sources to appear several hundred metres above the Earth's surface, as is reported to occur in some earthquake-prone regions [such as the Yakima Reservation].*" More important, 3 million volts of potential difference across one metres of space is required to break down the insulating properties of air to create ions. Such massive potential differences must be applied and sustained for periods long enough to maintain a luminosity for more than a few seconds. Yet Reservation UFO's have been observed not only at high altitudes, but for many minutes at a time. Finally, Persinger's electromagnetic fields must be focused to contain the plasma in a form that resists collapse. Even Persinger states: "*Frankly, it is not clear how the luminosity could be contained in a small space (without dispersing in all directions like fireworks) for durations....typical of UFO stimuli.*"

In summation, large continual amounts of energy are required to ionize the air into a luminosity; the electromagnetic fields must be focused in a manner to contain the inherently unstable plasma in a three-dimensional region for up to minutes and even an hour at a time; and the strength of the field must extend to

high altitudes (hundreds to thousands of feet) where the less dense luminous sphere must be capable of hovering or moving while contained in the restricted region without collapsing or rising in the cooler air. To date, Persinger and Derr have not supplied the physical answers to these problems.

It must also be stressed that Persinger and Derr have found, in some cases, seeming correlations between seismic events and the appearance of luminosities. Yet these correlations are based solely on the variables of space and time. In fact the researchers admit that many of the Reservation luminosities have not been directly associated with local earthquakes. Although the researchers' study is interesting - even compelling in some cases - the fact is that the mechanism for luminosity generation simply does not exist. Not only is this so, but the researchers' disdain for studying the contents of the Reservation reports (which I have done) shows a disregard of human testimony.

The behaviours of significant numbers of these objects are very strange indeed. Also several humanoid sightings occurred at close range. Although no direct link exists between these experiences and orange balls of light, such as seen by the fire lookouts, and which interest Persinger and Derr, the encounters did occur. If Persinger and Derr can prove that spheres of light are earthquake related, these kinds of high-strangeness reports will require their own explanation.

Although a striking correspondence exists spatially between best estimates of UFO locales and earthquake faults, the physical mechanism for luminosity generation, as I've stressed here, does not exist.

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STOP PRESS
UFO's ON TV

Two TV programmes will have featured UFO's by the time this magazine is out. UFO's have not received much TV coverage of recent years so twice in a month or so is a bit of a novelty. The first of the two has already been screened and was a C4 'special' on the paranormal. Rendlesham crept into it somewhere and was possibly the worst and most ill-researched piece of UFO coverage I have ever seen, I'll say no more here as Jenny Randles will no doubt cover it in NUM. The second event, due to be recorded on the 24th November is a Kilroy-Silk (BBC 9.20 am-ish) special discussing UFO's. Full report in next issue.

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THE ROWLEY REGIS CASE (Part One)

By ALBERT BUDDEN (BUFORA)

This must be one of the strangest, if not most absurd, UFO-related events ever. The apparently ridiculous aspects have certainly caused serious researchers to keep this case at arms length as it were, as it represents aspects of the UFO phenomeon that many would prefer to ignore and wish, perhaps, did not occur. However the nature and quality of the evidence for this case must surely place it high amongst a 'top-ten' of classic British cases. It has been known under a variety of different labels; the one I use merely indicates my personal preference for labelling cases according to location. It has also been called the Jean Hingley Contact Case; Jean being the middle-aged, working-class woman who was the sole percipient. Another title was the Winged Beings of Bluestone Walk, the title under which it appeared in Flying Saucer Review (Vol. 25. no.6. Nov/Dec '79). Finally it was referred to by the investigators involved at the times as the 'mince-pie-martians', the reason for this becoming evident later in the article.

The event is little known amongst researchers and has suffered from what I call the 'Atlantis Effect' - that is, something that was well-investigated, important and much talked about at the time which has subsequently virtually disappeared from collective memory. The reason for this is partly perhaps due to its inherently absurd nature but it is also circumstantial, namely due to the death of Jean Hingley on 23rd July 1982.

It is certainly a CE3, CE4 being reserved for abduction reports. However Jean Hingley was engaged in such a manner with three entities associated with a UFO who came into her house that the 'abduction' was more of a 'home-visit'. But whatever the classification the event did involve ground/snow traces with subsequent effects on plant life, post-encounter physical and psychological effects of the witness, reported effects on an animal and lasting electro-magnetic effects on a television, radio, clock and cassette tapes. Certainly a case that has high strangeness/probability ratings and certainly not 'all in the mind'. Another reason that this case must surely be regarded as a classic is that it represents a 'missing-link' between the two themes of advanced alien technology and the magic of fairy folklore. This is a correlation that Jaques Vallee explored in his well known, but now unfashionable, book 'Passport To Magonia'. Also, under the Randles close encounter classification it is a Type A case, with no apparent time lapse or subsequent hypnosis - a straight memory.

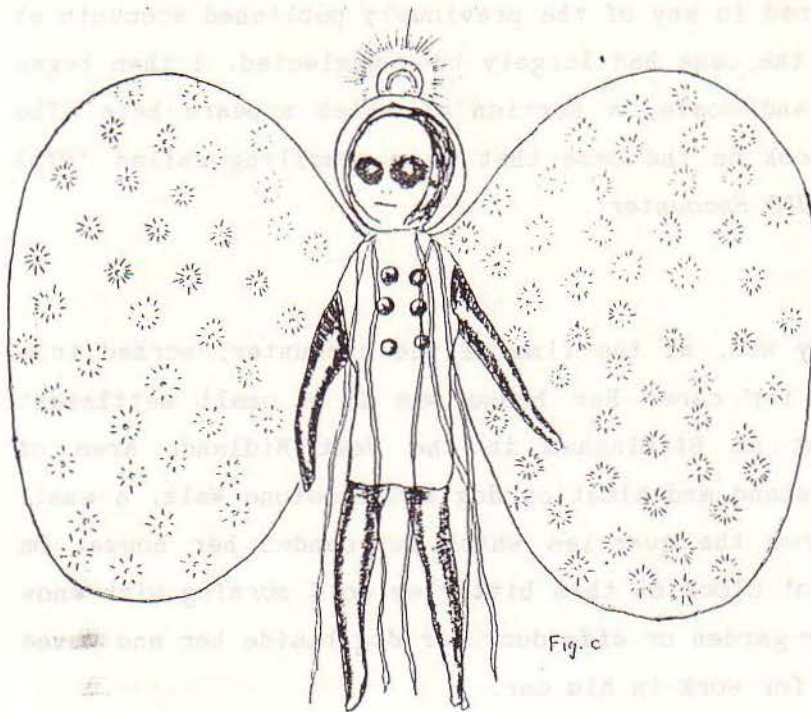
Two local police stations were involved, one immediately after the event which was reported in a local paper early in 1979. My personal involvement with the case began by chance when a lengthy tape-recording of Jean relating her experience came into my possession. This provided such a wealth of detailed information that had not appeared in any of the previously published accounts at the time that I realised that the case had largely been neglected. I then began information gathering on a grand scale, a portion of which appears here. The remainder is to appear in a book on the case that I am compiling called '*High Strangeness- The Rowley Regis UFO Encounter*'.

THE ENCOUNTER

Jean was a middle-aged lady who, at the time of the encounter, worked in a factory making sound-proofing for cars. Her house was in a small settlement called Rowley Regis just west of Birmingham in the West Midlands area of England. She lived with her husband and alsation dog in Blusetone Walk, a small road named after the stone from the quarries which surrounded her house. On January 4th 1979 at about six o' clock on this bitterley cold morning with snow on the ground, she stood at her garden or side door her dog beside her and waved her husband goodbye as he left for work in his car.

As she turned to go back into the house she noticed an orange glow in the car-port area and thought that her husband had forgotten to switch off the light. When she went down to check this she was astonished to see a large orange sphere hovering low over the car-port roof. Jean described it as a 'big orange' and said she could feel heat on her face as she looked up. She quickly went back to the house and stood in the doorway with her dog and watched the object turn white, float nearer and hover over the small back garden in front of her. As she watched she suddenly noticed with alarm that the dog, Hobo, had become stiff and paralysed. As Jean describes, "*He was like a dog frozen. Like a statue.*" All the hair on his body was standing out in needle-like points and his eyes were staring fixedly. He then flopped over sideways and lay there, his eyes still glaring. No sooner had Jean taken this in when suddenly three small figures shot through the open door past her and into the house. She describes the noise they made as "*zee, zee, zee*", as if there was some air-displacement. From the moment that they 'buzzed' her like this she began to experience the onset of some extremely painful physiological changes. She describes that she felt as if all the blood was rushing out of her body and down to her feet accompanied by an extreme coldness and a sudden overwhelming weakness. She did not become totally paralysed like the dog, and could then hear the Christmas tree rattling violently. Making her way to the living room she was shocked to see two strange

looking entities shaking the tree. On the top was the 'fairy' which then fell onto the carpet. Investigator Andy Collins has commented that the appearance of the entities coincided largely with that of the fairy but on a larger scale.



THE APPEARANCE OF THE ENTITIES

Each 'being' as Jean refers to them was about three and a half feet tall and was dressed in a silvery tunic with six silver buttons down the front. The most prominent feature of their faces was their large eyes which Jean describes as being like "black diamonds" with a glittering lustre set into a wide white face with no nose to speak of and a simple line for their mouths. The whole head was covered by a transparent 'goldfish

bowl' - like helmet with a small light set on top. Their limbs were silvery green in colour ending in simple tapering points with no apparent hands or feet. Their most dramatic feature was two oval 'wings' looking as if they were made of thin see-through paper covered with dozens of bright glittering dots of many colours. Jean likened these to 'braille dots', and each 'being' was surrounded by a halo of light. Hanging down from their shoulders were numerous very thin streamers. They hovered and flew about the room with their arms held in a fixed pose, clasped in front of their chests. Their legs merely hung down stiffly and their facial expression was entirely unchanging throughout the encounter which lasted for about an hour and Jean describes them as "like a dead persons's face".

THE ENCOUNTER CONTINUED

At this point, as Jean confronted the two 'beings' she became aware out of the corner of her eye of a third. However she could not turn her head, or any part of her body for that matter, as gradually, almost without her realising it, she had become paralysed in an extremely ungainly pose, with her mouth wide open and her eyes staring. Later Jean mentions how sore and stiff her jaw was for days after the event due to her being frozen in this position for so long. She heard a sort of whizzing noise as this third 'being' flew over and joined the

other two and as it did this she felt a peculiar weightlessness. Jean then tried to speak to them but found she was unable to, but then, as she relates, "they turned towards me and they said 'NICE?' Well, I was just shocked when they spoke..." This must have been especially so as they all spoke in unison. She then tried to reply and at first found her voice still paralysed, but she then retorts..."...but I couldn't speak, but all of a sudden my voice came back and I said 'Oh it's nice to see you, and to see you nicely'. And I tell you I was thinking about Bruce Forsyth." (an English comedian with this catch-phrase). Jean describes their voice as sounding gruff and masculine. She then, quite naturally, asked them where they came from but they did not reply but.." all sirt of flew round the room." They eventually landed on the sofa positioned in the middle of the room and began to jump up and down on it like naughty children. Jean became annoyed at this and spoke to them sharply, telling them to stop, which they did.

However, in this instance, and whenever Jean tried to take some degree of control of the situation like this, a very thin laser-like beam of light came from the light on the top of the entities helmets and focussed on a spot in the centre of Jean's forehead, just above the bridge of her nose. Although it did not actually shine into her eyes it had the effect of dazzling her and at times totally blinding her. This blinding effect lasted for quite a while and she felt an intense burning sensation at the spot where the beam played on her forehead. At other times she reports that this beam paralysed her back to the initial state which she experienced when she first confronted them, this paralysis having worn off to some degree during the encounter. Jean makes numerous references to "the beam" or "the light". These are just a few:

1. "Every time I asked them questions they put the light on."
2. "And they kept quoting me and putting the light onto my forehead, and I said 'don't do that please' but when they put the light on it wasn't so very hot. It seemed a bit cooler."
3. "Then I said my eyes were sore. I kept repeating my eyes were sore and they switched off. And I said, 'Why do you do that?' And they didn't tell me why, so I didn't bother them too much, because if I keep asking them they punish with this light. And they said, 'We haven't come to harm you.' And I said, 'Well you keep putting that light on.'"

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The second and final part of Albert Budden's article dealing with the Rowley Regis case will appear in the Jan/Feb '88 issue of UFO BRIGANTIA.

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CAVEAT LECTOR or

'foo, what a scorcher!'

Andy Roberts IUN

Hoaxes have plagued ufology since its inception in 1947. Some were spotted easily, others like the Cedric Alligham/Patrick Moore extravaganza took much painstaking work before they could be eliminated from the canon of 'serious' UFO cases. Old friends like Adamski and Billy Mier *still* have their adherents. You can't keep a good hoax down if its basic supposition is appealing to those who want or need to believe. I have long suspected that many more hoaxes, even of classic cases, are still ongoing and we may never find out the truth of them - although their effects and the reasoning and implications deduced from them forms part of the way we look at ufology as a whole. So saying that here is a new one recently uncovered. As part of research for my 'foo-fighter' project I have been looking into what the Germans in WW11 knew about these mysterious balls of light. Apparently even less than the Allies and I thought I was up a blind alley of information until a letter from US investigator and researcher Barry Greenwood (of Clear Intent and CAUS fame- see editorial) roused my curiosity. At the end of the letter, which dealt with the subject of foo-fighters, Barry had added a small, enigmatic 'ps'; *"Also, the Nazis had a foo-fighter study called 'Project Uranus'. More on this later."* Hot stuff! I was extremely interested to read this and searched, in vain, through many UFO and WW11 books and magazines for a back-up reference to Project Uranus and also wrote back to Greenwood for more information but received none.

The incident faded from my immediate memory until, in correspondence with Belgian author and ufologist Christiane Piens, the subject of Project Uranus reared its Teutonic head again. Christiane had come across mention of the Project in one of French ufologist Henry Durrants' books 'Le Livre Noir de Soucoupes Volantes' (1970), whilst she was researching foo-fighters in the 1970's. Feeling that if it was true it was an important 'find' Christiane also had attempted to follow the reference up, contacting libraries, museums etc, but drew a complete blank. In the end she wrote to Durrant who confessed that it was a hoax. Once I learned of this I in turn I contacted Henry Durrant who by reply politely and with some amusement acknowledged that the whole Project Uranus affair was in fact a hoax.

Durrant's explanation is this. In the section of his book dealing with foo-fighters he wrote two paragraphs detailing the Nazi research into the foo-fighter problem. He described how, under the command of Prof. George Kamper, the

Nazis set up a department called 'Sonder Buro Number 13' which in turn ran Project Uranus- the Nazi foo-fighter study. It is mentioned twice, on pages 81 & 86. Very plausible, but Durrant had made the whole thing up for, as he calls it, "a trap to see how many other 'authors' would copy my book without asking me and without crediting my book." To make it reasonably easy for researchers and investigators to discover the 'trap' the paragraph dealing with Project Uranus was unreferenced- all other facts in the book are referenced to their source. Sadly many researchers are apparently content to just lift 'facts', unchecked. Mr Durrant calls them 'fishermen', and apparently has a constantly growing list.

As no ufologists had the smarts to uncover Durrants 'trap' he eventually unveiled it himself in a French UFO magazine, with predictable consequences. Many ufologists were angry because it was no longer possible to blindly copy what others had written, others simply did not believe Durrant and remained convinced that Project Uranus actually existed and that Durrant was disguising the truth! As a result Durrant received "insults and menaces" from ufologists unable to cope with the truth. Nothing changes does it. Despite the hoax being common knowledge now on the continent the hoax is still being perpetuated in the UK and the USA. Many UFO books refer to a mysterious and unreferenced Nazi foo-fighter study, presumably Project Uranus. Barry Greenwood obviously thinks it's so secret he can't even tell another researcher about it. The most recent perpetuation of the hoax is in the book 'Above Top Secret' by Tim Good. Good devotes part of a page of his book to Project Uranus and references Durrants book for the information!

Henry Durrant didn't really want me to further expose the hoax, but enough's enough. When leading US UFO researchers are being secretive about the non-existent facts of a hoax and authors of best selling books alledging to blow the lid of UFO secrecy are using a hoax to back up arguments it's time to call it a day. There was no Project Uranus. How many other ufological 'facts' have been set up as hoaxes in this way or have become hoaxes by default because original sources just weren't checked? A large percentage I would think. If we are speculating or using obviously unreliable sources fair enough but when we are dealing with alleged governmental projects, cover-ups etc we had better get our facts right. There is one further intriguing and relevant aspect to this hoax. 'Sonder Buro 13' was allegedly composed of a panel of high ranking Nazi officials, aviators, engineers, scientific specialists etc who would study reports, photographs and films of these foo-fighters and similar UFO's. Sonder Buro 13 sounds just a little too much like MJ12 in both name and make up for my liking. Perhaps someone has been doing some background reading after all?

CASE #17 REVISED:
WHAT DID KENNETH ARNOLD REALLY SEE?

Hans Van Kampen © 1987

The 24th June 1947 is well known to almost any UFO enthusiast. It was the date that American businessman Kenneth Arnold, who died a few years ago, saw his famous nine 'flying saucers' over the Rainier Mountain range near Seattle. In my recent book '40 Jaar UFO's' (40 Years UFO's - published spring 1987 by 'De Kern', Baarn, Holland) I came to the rather sad conclusion that Mr. Arnold became world famous with an amazing case that never seemed to have been investigated thoroughly! Nevertheless almost every book on UFO's refers to his case, which is apparently filed in the former USAF 'BlueBook' archives as 'Case #17'.

What is true about this uninvestigated UFO sighting that caused the post-worldwar UFO flurry and established the historical words: 'Flying Saucers'? Whilst attending the CSICOP annual meeting in Washington DC in 1978 I had the opportunity to search files at the 'Modern Military Branch' of the US National Archives. There I found, with fairly great difficulty, material relating to this famous case.

The Arnold Myth

Mr. Arnold took off on June 24 from Chehalis airport at approx. 14:00 for a trip to Yakima. The trip was delayed for an hour to search for a marine airplane that had crashed near the westside of the 14000 ft high Mt. Rainier. As the finder of the crashed plane could get \$5000 Mr. Arnold decided to give it a try and diverted his journey to the Rainier mountain range. There was snow on the mountain but the weather was bright with a clear sky. On a second pass toward the mountain, coming from the small town Mineral, he climbed to approx. 9200 ft, heading for Yakima. He discovered a DC-4 plane about 15 miles left of him at 14000 flying to the northwest. While trimming his small Callair businessplane, bright flashes of light drew his attention. At first Mr. Arnold thought that another airplane had come in the vicinity and this startled him. But he soon found that the streaks of light came from a formation of nine objects to the left of Mt. Rainier. They looked like "a formation of geese", a rather diagonal chain-like formation. They seemed to hold a definite direction of 170 degrees and apparently flew at an altitude of 9500 feet. These objects were quite far away so Mr. Arnold was unable to make out their shape. They moved so rapidly that he thought they could be jet aircraft. "I thought it was peculiar that I

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couldn't find their tails," he later wrote, "but I assumed that they were some type of jet airplanes." As the objects passed the mountain he clearly saw the outline against the snow. They came close to the mountain tops and seemed to flip and flash in the sun. The objects were pretty much on the horizon seen from Arnold's perspective and had a fairly bumpy ride. Their elevation seemed to vary for some reason 1000 feet with respect to each other. They looked like skipping saucers, bouncing over water. A journalist from U.P., Bill Bequette translated this in the now well established words: *flying saucers*.

Flying Saucers

Mr. Arnold made some estimates as to the visibility, which he thought was 50 miles or more, and the size of the fairly distant objects: two thirds of a DC-4. He also produced some sketches of the objects. He estimated the distance of the objects to his position: 20 miles or more. As a matter of fact these estimates were rough and added grossly to the myth about the 'first real flying saucers ever': those of Kenneth Arnold...

First Serious Attempt

On May 29, 1956 Prof. J. Allen Hynek reviewed the case for 'Project Bluebook' and came to the conclusion that Arnold had overestimated many values. For some reason Arnold thought that the objects moved with supersonic speeds but Hynek made easy calculations that proved Arnold to have been wrong! Size and distance of the objects were very different from what Arnold had claimed. If these small objects were 20-25 miles away from him he would not have been able to see them because of the limiting resolution of the human eye. Thus the objects were much closer and as a consequence flew slower than the indicated speed of some 1300 mph, which Arnold had clocked while the objects passed some ridges. These calculations from Hynek were the first serious attempt to clear the Arnold myth.

More Doubts

However, there are several interesting points in Arnold's report₂. The objects were "crescent shaped" and not circular. Besides, at some point he could see the rear of one of the objects. "They had a little sort of peak at the centre of their rear trailing edges. But I couldn't be positive they were all of the same design as the one that I had particularly noticed, or whether that one was a little bit larger. It seemed darker in colour than the other and its wingspan seemed a little bit wider." Did it really come so close?

Unknown Aircraft

It is obvious that Mr. Arnold didn't invent the phrase 'flying saucers' for his sighting! What he tried to describe were, in his eyes, unknown aircraft, at a distance, crescent shaped, flashing in the sun with "a sort of peak" at their tail. But he was at no time able to fully make out their shape as he claimed to have had difficulties in seeing their rear-sections...The strangeness factor of his report involved the high speed of the objects, the inability to see the tails and the unstable way of flying at high speed along mountain ridges.

My Research

Pursuing the idea that Mr. Arnold actually saw 'unknown aircraft', I read a lot about 'secret airplanes' from the period 1945-1948. It turned out to be quite productive! In my opinion Mr. Arnold saw for some unknown reason the first Republic F-84 Thunderjets in action. These jet fighters came in production after a testflight on February 28th 1946. The first series had straight wings (and not slanted) and were unstable at high speeds. they had a bottle-like fuselage with a very small tail. And...they were a military secret!

Postulating the theory that F-84 jets caused the 'Kenneth Arnold Myth', I fed the dimensions of this jet, as well as the high daylight and snow reflectivity, into the Pro-3D programme on my Mackintosh Plus computer. Now let us see whether we can find some clues as to the 'first ever UFO-sighting':



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The leftmost drawing is from Mr. Arnold "travelling as I have made this drawing"⁴. Next to this drawing is the computerised representation of the Republic F-84 jet. A superimposition of both drawing and computer image reveals a striking resemblance! The jet is coming in higher than Mr. Arnold's position and is coming from the left. The rightmost drawing reveals the 'sort of peak' at the rear trailing edge when the plane is moving away from Arnold after passing him to the right. The interpretation of the 'crescent shape' is obvious and self-explanatory...But there is more:

