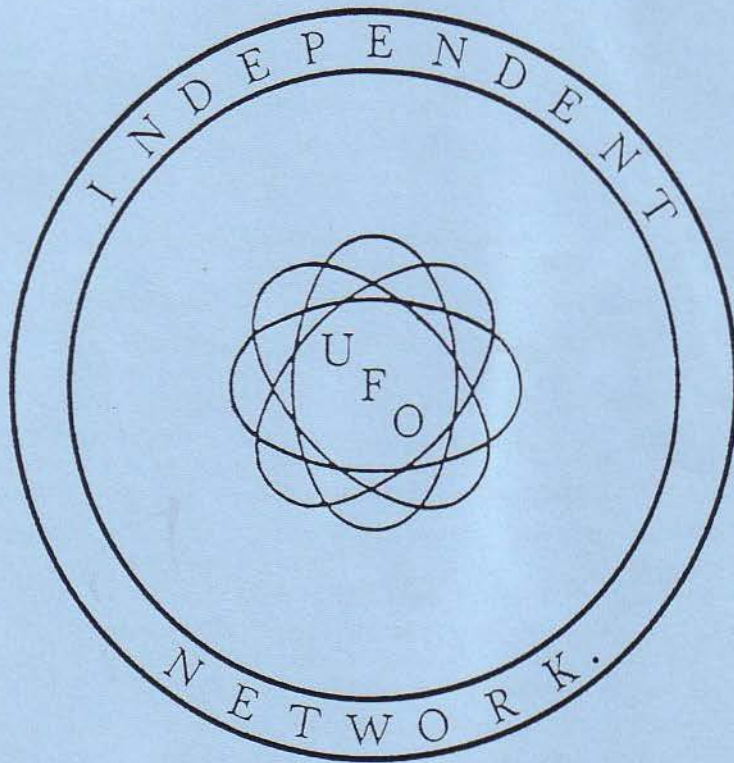


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THE I. U. N.

The Independent UFO Network was formed in September 1987 from the West Yorkshire UFO Research Group (WYUFORG) and the Yorkshire UFO Network (YUFON), together with many hitherto independent investigators from the north of England. The Network exists as a non-dogmatic, free-floating pool of active researchers and investigators, who may be a member of any other organisations they choose. The IUN operates a policy of total freedom of information, witness anonymity, where applicable, excluded, and will assist any other serious researchers of the UFO phenomenon to the best of its abilities. All IUN case files are open for inspection and comment. The IUN holds no fixed viewpoint as to the ultimate nature of the UFO phenomenon and respects individual belief and freedom in such matters. Membership of the IUN is free, the only criteria being a willingness to further our aims and to help with the workload, although subscription to UFO BRIGANTIA, the group journal, is encouraged.

The IUN also operates the 24 Hour UFO Hotline, courtesy of Philip Mantle, and is also involved in Project Pennine, a long term study of anomalous light phenomena in the Pennine region of the U.K. All enquiries about the I.U.N., case files, UFO BRIGANTIA etc should be addressed to one of the contact addresses above.

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UFO BRIGANTIA MAR/APR '88

EDITORIAL



This issue of UFO BRIGANTIA will be the second in four months to have dealt in some way with the infamous June 24th 1947 Kenneth Arnold sighting. Hans Van Kampen's 'solving' of the case in the Nov/Dec issue rattled one or two cages and as a result we have some examples of that little-known phenomenon 'reader response', in the form of one article and a letter. I wish all our articles stirred even half as much response. Anyway, the point is that ufology

seems to be becoming more and more obsessed with Arnold's sighting as times pass. Like a fetish for success every book has to include an, often uncritical, account of it, and it has now been repeated so much that it occupies the position of a ufological Book of Genesis. Ufology at seems gripped by a need to have a definite starting point when 'it' (whatever 'it' is) can be said to have really begun. It is Creationist ufology basically, no room for any evolution at all. No, don't laugh, it is, honestly. Try arguing with a fervent ETH'er or someone of a similar mind set about the way in which ufology has developed in different guises especially pre-47, and see what response you get. It's often like arguing with one of those strange religious people who hang about outside W.H.Smiths on a Saturday afternoon and who will tell you, quite seriously and without letting their face slip, that you were created. Why? 'Cos it says so in the Bible. Obvious really. The same mechanism is at work with those ufologists who place special reverence on Arnold's sighting. Ufology was created then because that's when Arnold saw 'flying saucers'. The ufology we now flounder about in was created (retrospectively by ufologists) on June 24th 1947 and that event has become an article of faith to refer back to in times of trouble, or to hang an anniversary round to keep interest in the subject going amongst the public and press. The whole thing about Arnold's sighting is ludicrous (even the name 'Flying Saucer' had been used before). It was unsubstantiated and proves absolutely zilch and has since been re-interpreted as everything from mis-perception to Earthlights. Just another guy seeing something odd in the sky. These days his sighting would be lucky to rate more than a brief mention in UFO journals anywhere and certainly not outside of America. Arnold's sighting, now we are lumbered with it, is far more interesting not from the point of view of what, if anything, he saw but from the point of view of where it sits in relation to the development of ufological belief systems.

HUMBERSIDE HAPPENINGS

By Gary Anthony & Philip Mantle

'MYSTERY SKY SIGHT REMAINS A MYSTERY'. This was one of the headlines in the Hull Daily mail dated Friday 11th 1987. The newspaper article went on to say how puzzled police officers had drawn a blank after investigating reports of a huge UFO over North Humberside on December 9th. A man alerted police, saying he had seen a 250ft long triangular object flying above a farm at Fitling.

He said it was covered in about 150 red and white lights and was making a roaring noise. And at Bilton two men said they saw a series of large objects, also bearing lights, moving across the sky at 5:15 pm on Wednesday.

Tony Bibby of High Farm and Philip Readymarcher of Limetree Lane said the objects were moving slowly and were making a noise. Mr Bibby said: *"I have seen shooting stars before but I have never seen anything like this. I have not got the faintest idea what it could have been."*

A police spokesman said that such sightings were reported to civil and military airport authorities and weather centres: *"If we receive reports we investigate them seriously"* he said. *"In this case we have drawn a blank."*

Upon obtaining the information contained in the above newspaper account, Gary Anthony (IUN Humberside investigator) immediately telephoned RAF Binbrook and made his own enquiries. He too also drew a blank. Thinking at first that we might have something unusual on our hands our next step was to put out an appeal for witnesses to come forward. Such an appeal was put out on radio Lincoln by Philip Mantle, quoting the UFO HOTLINE number. The reports literally came pouring in. In total around 50 people reported seeing the lights over Humberside on December 9th, 1987.

One of these reports came from a gentleman in Grimsby who shall be called Mr Smith. Mr Smith had spent over 20 years in the RAF and he was convinced that the lights were nothing more than military aircraft on a re-fuelling exercise. He had seen the lights himself and had witnesses such things during his time with the RAF.

With this information in mind several written enquiries were sent to various RAF bases including RAF Binbrook, which Gary had previously telephoned. Before any replies were received from the RAF a great many UFO sighting report forms had been despatched and a number of interviews with witnesses arranged. Just before these interviews took place we received a letter from RAF Binbrook dated 18 december 1987. It reads:

ALLEGED UFO SIGHTINGS- 9 DECEMBER 1987

- 1) Thankyou for your enquiry about alleged UFO sightings at around 1730 hours on 9 december. We also received some 4 or 5 telephone enquiries at that tome: no enquiry telephone numbers were recorded though one call was understood to be from the postmaster at Great Limber near Grimsby.
- 2) We made appropriate enquiries at the time and were eventually satisfied that the reports concerned 2 USAF KC 135 tanker aircraft, each with up to 7 F-11 aircraft in trail; these aircraft from Mildenhall were operating with Midland radar in the area at the time of the reports.
- 3) I hope this information is of use to you.

As far as we were concerned that was the end of the story. Armed with this letter we carried out the arranged interviews but none of the witnesses would believe that aircraft were responsible. One lady said: " *It couldn't have been aircraft because I saw one join onto the other.*" Well, one would join onto the other if it was refuelling wouldn't it?

Just to make sure we checked with the Ministry of Defence in Whitehall and we received a reply dated January 4 1988, part of which goes:

Thankyou for your letter of 19 December 1987 which asked if we possessed any information relating to sightings seen in the Humberside area on 9 December 1987. I have now spoken to the R.A.F. and can conform that your suspicions about the sightings being refuelling exercises were correct. In that particular evening it is highly likely that the objects seen by your witnesses were USAF KC 135 and F-11 aircraft which were exercising over the North Sea, passing over Humberside at abot 5:00 pm.

It is easy to see how members of the public were fooled by these aircraft but one must ask why did the police not come up with the solution. It is also known that other UFO groups had sightings at the same time but were adamant that aircraft were not responsible. If they dig deep enough as we did I think they will find that aircraftq were responsible after all. The above is only a brief account of the Humberside happenings and a full report will be compiled in due course.

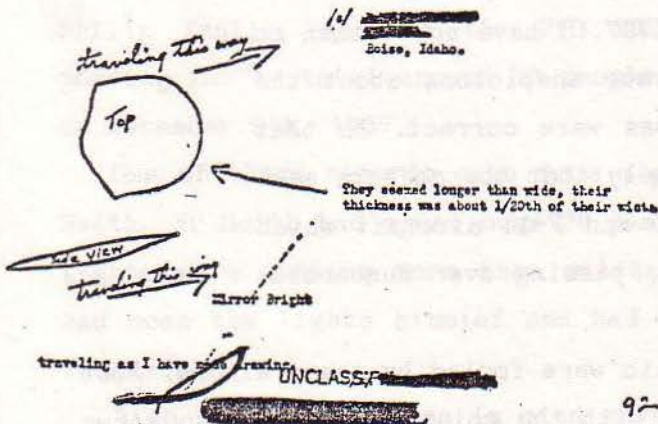
RESTORING ARNOLD'S GOOD NAME

By Regina Cullen

Revisionism is a tool of totalitarian states. It is surely ironic if an investigator manipulates facts in ways similar to those who may have a vested interest in cover-up. This article is a response to one which appeared in UFO BRIGANTIA 28, Nov/Dec '87 by Hans Van Kampen: "Case #17 Revised". This breathtakingly cavalier article is so full of errors and irresponsible assumption that it really cannot go unanswered. One has only to read the sober, detailed account of Mr. Arnold to be able to tell where Truth lies - ah, exists...

Points to note about the Arnold sighting:

- * He saw the objects weaving in and out of mountain peaks - "swerved in and out of the high mountain peaks", he said... thus their distance was definitely established.
- * He measured their size with an object held up to them, the same object used to measure the size of the DC-4 that was travelling to his left and rear.
- * He knew quite accurately how far they travelled, in how much time, measured to the second.
- * Hynek made the ludicrous error of confusing Arnold's statement "their thickness was about 1/20th of their width" with the meaning "they were about twenty times long as wide". This is unforgiveable as is also Van Kampen's uncomprehending acceptance of Hynek's version of events.



* The drawings that Arnold did do not include the squiggle that Van Kampen reproduced. That clearly was made by the same felt tip that blacked out the headings on the document in which the real drawings are reproduced. Arnold also did not say "travelling as I have made this drawing", he said "travelling as I have made drawing"...without an arrow on a

dotted line and his statement refers to the arrows he drew alongside his images, not to this extraneous squiggle which bears no relation to the side view and the top view he drew.

* Hynek failed to accept reality when he fiddled with the distance...the objects clearly were seen to fly in and around the peaks.

* Yakima is a window area (see also Greg Long's article in Nov/Dec Brigantia-Ed.). And it is interesting to note that, apropos the day of Arnold's sighting, in Keyhoe is found this: *"About that same hour an Oregon prospector later reported, several discs appeared over the Cascade Mountains. As they circled overhead his compass needle went wild."*

* One of the first things Arnold did after his sighting was to work out, with other pilots, (at Pendleton, Oregon, where he landed the same day, after first having stopped in Yakima), the approximate speed of the objects. These men were part of his peer group and it is utterly inconceivable that he would have fudged facts with them. (For the same reason it is equally unlikely that he would later change his account of the event. This has been suggested, but quite erroneously I believe.) One can be certain their calculations were honestly made and it is also well known that the speed arrived at is consistent with many other sightings. This speed was in excess of 1700 mph - no test aircraft of that period could come close to this. John Spencer has written that *"By the summer of 1951 the US Navy Douglas D 558-11 Sky Rocket research aircraft had achieved 2013 km/h (1242.68 mph), virtually the estimated speed of the Arnold saucers"*. But read carefully what Arnold says: *"I don't know how many fellows sat down and started figuring it out. When it kept coming out in excess of seventeen hundred miles an hour I thought 'Holy Smoke, we're taking the measurement of distance far too high up on both Mount Rainier and Mount Adams'. So we took a measurement of the very base, as closely as it could be determined, and which I knew from the map was far below the snow line (he had observed the objects outlined against the snow of Mt. Rainier) The distance was 39.8 miles. Even covering this distance, which was so far on the conservative side that I knew it was incorrect, we still had a speed of over thirteen hundred and fifty miles per hour. To me that evening, that was that. They were guided missiles, robotly controlled. I knew that speeds of this velocity the human body simply could not stand, particularly considering the flipping, erratic movements of these strange craft."* It is, as one can see, vitally important to stick to original sources as far as possible. Quite major false conclusions can creep in otherwise.

* Hansen too, I believe has been careless when he says *"In certain respects it (Arnold's report to the Air Force) differed from his 1952 account"* Unless he had simply forgotten to show us other evidence, the inconsistencies referred to are those derived from the misconceptions of Hynek, the same ones accepted by Van Kampen, not from comparisons between reports. (The only actual comparison Hansen suggests is this; that Arnold later said the objects were 160 km away when he

first saw them but that he had told the Air Force they were 35-4- km away...There really is no inconsistency here when one remembers that these figures correspond to the 'over 100' miles and the 23 miles given by Arnold as the distances at which he was first alerted by the brilliant flashes of light and at which he subsequently observed the objects swerving among the mountain peaks...I think it entirely likely that someone writing the Air Force report - J. Allen Hynek? - confused these distances...) Van Kampen calls "these calculations by Hynek...the first serious attempt to clear the Arnold myth." But were they (including the incredible error over dimensions) rather an attempt to obfuscate? A reading of the references to Hynek (to which p.333 and, quite importantly p.349 should be added in the index) in Above Top Secret, reveals the inconsistencies in Hynek's attitudes. I hope Timothy Good will not mind if I quote a sentence from his book (p.333) "*Dr. Allen Hynek suggested that amateur astronomers in the US might be a potential source of enthusiastic talent to 'spread the gospel'.*" The gospel was the recommendation of the Robertson Panel - to debunk. I think it abundantly clear that Hynek was sailing close to the wind in his relations with the United States government. Arch debunker Donald Menzel too had a go at Arnold when he put it about, as a slur, that Arnold's written account was created with the assistance from the editor of Fate magazine, Ray Palmer (was it, in fact?), "*a man not known for his strict adherence to fact*", as Hansen phrases it. I am insufficiently informed to comment on the truth, or lack of it, of that judgement; we should not however find Arnold guilty by association, especially when he had already revealed the facts on the very day of the sighting. Why should he make himself look a liar? Menzel, let it be well realised, WAS A MEMBER OF MJ-12...the leaked document (p.544) reproduced in Above Top Secret reveals this of him: *.. "some scientists, most notably Dr Menzel, consider it more likely that we are dealing with beings from another solar system entirely."* ! Perhaps we can even conceive of wondering if Van Kampen is entirely innocent in his mistakes..

* Former Army pilots told Arnold they had been briefed before going into combat overseas that they might see objects of similar shape and design to those he described. So! Such sensational secret military craft were around during the war? Why ever weren't they used? And how long would they have remained secret? It is unlikely that an object of human origin with such high visibility as an aircraft, even if it weren't manifested by the other side as well, would remain a secret through the war years and onto 1947. The jets to which Van Kampen ascribes Arnold's sighting, however, did not come into production until 1946. What jets then would he produce to explain the sightings of the war years? The jets described by Van Kampen had wings and a 'bottle-like' fuselage. This hardy

corresponds to the drawing Arnold made of what he saw...I am astounded by the flight of fancy demonstrated in the equation of these utterly different types of objects.

* Arnold stressed how clear a day it was and that he could see about twice as far as the UFO's were. When a man who knew this terrain intimately says *"the air was so clear that it was very easy to see objects (objects in general he means) and determine their approximate size at almost fifty miles that day"* I think we should accept his descriptions of what he saw..

* And what he saw HAD NO TAILS. He clearly saw the outline of the objects against the snow of Mt. Rainier - *"quite plainly"* is his expression and *"I thought it was peculiar that I couldn't find their tails....What kept bothering me as I watched them flip and flash in the sun right along their path was the fact I couldn't make out any tail on them.."* Is some smart 'investigator' going to claim the military had secret new 'planes that could fly without tails? It is therefore also clear that Van Kampen's efforts with his computer are just so much specious argument, sophistry designed to make facts fit theory. I make this judgement quite strongly because of course a computer is only as good as its programme and that is a result of the human input (garbage in garbage out-Ed.).

* Van Kampen is also bending facts when he assumes the 'jet' was *"coming in higher than Mr Arnold's position"*. Arnold states the objects he saw were travelling at an altitude no more than 300 feet different from his own and crossing his field of vision, travelling north to south while he was flying east. They were not *"coming in"* and they were certainly not close enough to remotely mimic the positions of the 'jet' that have so conveniently been programmed even if they had been *"coming in"*. Really...it is enough to be fairly called outrageous. Further computer high-jinks produce conveniently disappearing tail from said 'jet' too; for absolutely no reason Van Kampen's image suddenly changes from one with a tail to one with a fainter, shadowy 'tail' and he makes no explanation or justification for this and one ought to wonder if it is simply dishonest. Furthermore he puts words into Arnold's mouth when he says *"if Mr. Arnold could only recognise the triangular shape"*. What triangular shape?? Mr Arnold never mentioned a triangular shape, not in the accounts I have at any rate. After so thoroughly impugning the integrity of Arnold's perception I find it patronising, and somehow oddly coy, that he persists in interjecting 'Mr.' quite regularly - from the point of view of analysing the investigator for a change, instead of the hapless witness, what we have here, derisively speaking of course, is *Obviously a Definite Pyschopathology*.

Instead of, as Van Kampen says at the end of his article, *"One can hardly believe that after 40 years of UFO history these facts remain unknown"*, it

should be said that AFTER 40 YEARS OF UFO HISTORY IT IS INCREDIBLE THAT SUCH IRRESPONSIBLE AND INCOMPETENT ANALYSIS CAN PASS ITSELF OFF AS TRUE.

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CONSPIRACY, COVER-UP OR COCK-UP?

By Jenny Randles

I have watched with interest how the British UFO media, in almost total contrast with the American, has reacted to 1987 - 'the year of the conspiracy plot'. *UFO BRIGANTIA* has certainly covered the matter (reviewing books such as Tim Good's *Above Top Secret*, my own *UFO Conspiracy* and with editorials largely critical of the MJ-12 documents - which seem to have escaped rather than been released).

Much common sense has been spoken (notably Andy Roberts' editorial in the Jan/Feb issue, whose sentiments I endorse almost all the way). But I wonder if, just as the USA has gone cover-up crazy, Britain has not been a little too dismissive of the truth behind the hoo-hah.

I should stress that, whilst it is inevitably perceived as such because it happened to be released the week before MJ-12 was leaked to the world by Tim Good, and Tim's own mammoth book came two months later, *UFO Conspiracy* was never intended as a 'cover-up' book as such. It was contracted in 1985, a full year before I knew Tim was doing his book and when MJ-12 was just a vague rumour. My original title was *UFOs Worldwide* and the contract points out that I am to produce a Javelin paperback.

In other words, all that I had set out to do was write a book for the non-UFO aware on a mass market basis (I was specifically promised a 20,000 print run). I perceived that as in 1978 when Spielberg's movie was released, there would be a rash of potboilers and I wanted to offer something that, whilst unambitious, was at least rooted in fact. It was certainly never intended to be a book FOR ufologists..

As it turns out the potboilers materialised with the truly dreadful *Light Years*, and (I suspect quite probably) *Communion*. But the other 1987 books (which in Britain means only Tim Good's) were serious in intent.

So my fortune was to face a publishing take over (Javelin bought out by Blandford who in turn were bought out by Cassell). Cassell had no interest in UFO's, scrapped the plan to release a paperback, jazzed up the title and switched it to a hardback four months from publication date.

There's an element of what looks like excuse making there, so I won't dwell on it. But it is unavoidably true that to an extent the book was conspiracy oriented, which, although timely in an entirely coincidental fashion, doubtless explains why it did far better than Cassell anticipated and lead to the paperback finally coming out just nine months after the hastily arranged hardback (although not, yet, 20,000 of them!)

The release and the promotion of that paperback in February 1988 meant I had to reread what I had produced (I've written two other books from scratch since completing *UFO Conspiracy* so you'd be surprised how necessary that is). This was illuminating, because for the first time I can read in a new light what I originally said wholly ignorant of the MJ-12 fiasco, the abduction craze, *Spy Catcher* and the content of Tim Good's book.

In having done so I was fascinated in a number of ways. MJ-12 is a predictable next step from the NSA documents farce related in my final chapter. I have deep suspicions that these papers are in fact official, but not in the sense that American UFO researchers believe. I would argue that they deliberate disinformation by governmental sources out to discredit efforts to learn what is know about UFO's from official archives.

Think about it. What have we heard about the cover-up in the past year? What facet of Tim's book (or mine for that matter, even though the documents aren't even mentions!) has been the only one attended to by the media? MJ-12 has been the perfect fall-guy for the authorities. set it up, hope ufologists will seize upon it as proof of what they desperately want to believe (ie that there are dead aliens locked up in freezers etc) and then allow enough seeds of disquiet to enter the scene so that the papers, if not proven hoaxes, at least look suspect.

I am not convinced by those forces out to saddle William Moore and Stanton Friedman with the blame. Some even allege (on wafer thin grounds) that they FAKED these government documents. I've met them both and whilst it is clear they are intensely committed to the ETH, I cannot but for one moment that they would risk all they've fought for by such an idiotic step as to concoct false records. Or, if they had, I am sure they would have done it far better.

No, these MJ-12 papers were meant to look suspicious. That was part of the game plan. They had to discredit the genuine records that the US Freedom of Information Act has generated, by imputation. These *real* papers could not be tarnished in any other way. Refusal to release any documents on UFO's wouldn't work. That simply demonstrates the importance of UFO's. Doubtless some ARE being withheld on security grounds (eg the NSA affair). But too much of that would have actually over-stressed (perhaps even falsely implied) deep significance to the thousands of obscured files.

This way works much better. The ufologists damn themselves. Whilst Moore and Friedman were acting intelligently and cautiously, because they sat on the MJ-12 papers for over two years and had no immediate intention of releasing them (they allege), Tim Good used them to promote his book.

It is not at all clear where Tim got them from (even Moore and Friedman appear not to know and Good isn't saying), but he was certainly useful because he hid all doubts about their veracity. At least he showed no qualms in the quick fire way he fed them, unsupported, to the public.

It is clear from a detailed reading of the facts of the MJ-12 affair, that (assuming they are fakes, as I believe) the person who faked them had high level information AND (far more importantly) access to the National Archives in Washington DC, where he could slip in the one mildly confirmatory file that has surfaced.

I have other reasons to believe in official disinformation, not least the way in which I was offered similar documents in late 1986 whilst finalising *UFO Conspiracy*. It may have been hoped that I would relate the truly extraordinary story, in which I also involved Peter Hough for confirmatory purposes. Had I done so (and it would have made a most exciting last chapter) I would have been tainted by the MJ-12 saga as it turned out...although I could not have known that during the covert approach to me by a file offering serviceman. Remember in 1986 only Good, Moore, Friedman and their TV confidant (Jaime Shandera) knew about the MJ-12 documents they had.

The full accounts of this bizarre disinformation exercise is published in the IUR Sep/Oct 1987; although editor Jerry Clark made the title a rather odd "The Cover Up In England", when it is actually 100 per cent about disinformation - NOT cover up, as such. I think this illustrates the differences in approach across both sides of the Atlantic. I wrote it for the American UFO literature as it is more instructive that they see these facts than we do over here. And I wouldn't want this story getting into the UK media to be wildly distorted, as it inevitably would.

And yet, and yet? All of this is falling into the very trap set up for us. We are only talking about MJ-12 and disinformation. We are not talking about the cover-up, as such.

Read my popularised history of those 40 years (and those of you did so, I humbly suggest you try again with belief or disbelief suspended). It offers a plethora of facts that points only in one direction.

More and Friedman's work on Roswell is first rate. Anybody who studies their detailed records (not the awful book that Berlitz wrecked) must see that they have made their case ten times over. SOMETHING crashed, and it wasn't a weather balloon. It may not have been a spaceship and there may not have been dead aliens. These again might be deliberate confabulations (just as happened in the more recent and vitally instructive Rendlesham Forest story). By seeding them into a plausible case you discredit everything, not just the lies.

Equally, the masses of papers churned out by the FoI act are there. They are all REAL. They have official backing. many are available via US UFO groups and I've read every word I could get. There's no question from these that UFO's WERE taken seriously, WERE viewed as alien by many high level sources, WERE researched by space scientists, engineers, rocket experts, physicists (and not psychiatrists or sociologists) and that even up to recent years bodies like the CIA have been keeping tabs on cases, people who investigate cases and carrying out covert scientific research. None of that proves the ETH, only that the ETH has not been rejected. A wholly reasonable position.

Similarly, look at other countries. the way the french are STILL putting physical scientists on funded research. The recent Soviet actions in the field. the release of files in countries like Australia and Spain and the various odd statements by people like Air Force generals, the French Minister of Defence and the Spanish Minister of Transport.

To paraphrase an old saying, you can run from these things if you like but ultimately you cannot hide. Any objective researcher has got to face them square and think about their implications.

That's all I did in my book. I am as reluctant as any of you to buy the ETH. Indeed possibly MORE reluctant. I've argued fervently against it in several of my writings and I honestly don't believe there is sufficient material evidence to support the view that spaceships are coming here.

But my point is only this. We cannot reject that possibility. Nor can we deny that there IS a cover-up or a conspiracy. I don't need to apologise for allowing that title to stand in my book, because the facts demonstrate the word is justified. Collins dictionary calls it a "a plot or device"- which is exactly how the UFO evidence HAS been manipulated.

Okay, the idea of an 'education programme' as I moot it, might be wrong. But I was only giving one scenario...a scenario offered ME by various sources. Things have clearly changed in the past decade. That can hardly be disputed when you contrast official reaction from almost any country in the 1970's with what we see now.

The how and why of these changes are open to dispute and I do make clear in my book that I believe the conspiracy is largely one of ignorance rather than guilty knowledge. But cover-up of hard evidence (eg the RAF gun camera film Ralph Noyes contends he saw) is not done lightly. It is done because they either don't want it known that they are all at sea with the UFO phenomenon, or they don't want private science to delve into it. They want military science to do that.

But it is perfectly possible that these embarrassing facts are becoming hard to conceal on a global scale and that now an international movement to liberalise UFO evidence is afoot.

The revelation when it comes may disappoint many, as I suspect it will simply say what most of us already know. *UFO's exist - whatever they are!*

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Dear Sir,

I was somewhat surprised by the slightly sloppy thinking in David Clarke's article 'Seeing The Lights' (UFO Brigantia n.29 Jan-Feb 1988, pp 11-15). Nearly every religious movement has its 'visionaries' and their visions were clearly a product of all those items which we are told, are necessary for a clearer view of the Almighty. These include, depending on the sophistication or otherwise of the people involved, fasting; physical exhaustion; hyperventilation (as in prolonged singing, chanting or altered breathing patterns); vitamin deficiency and mind-altering drugs, to say nothing of the mechanisms of religious conversion and

auto-suggestion. Mr Clarke's mention of Shamans would, I thought, have pointed the way in his argument but this obvious parallel was not explored.

Of all these mechanisms there is one which stands 'head and shoulders' (more cliches-sorry) above the rest; manipulation. Light phenomena has been used for centuries by priests, politicians, fraudulent mediums, theatres, cinemas and parents on Bonfire Night to inspire 'awe' and wonder- to transport one from the 'here and now' to your own magical land. A visit to any of this country's finer Cathedrals will show workmanship, carving, rich textures and superhuman masonry as well as the careful use of light in what is virtually a 'blacked-out' building and stained glass windows all of which are designed to create a whole world of awe and wonder- the effect of all this on the working man in earlier times must have been strong. The contrast with the shabbiness and drabness of his everyday surroundings was evidently great. What more powerful tool could 'God' manifest than the careful and hypnotising effect of isolated light phenomena in a religious context?

It is hardly necessary to confound what is basically a form of brainwashing with esoteric ideas of the chosen few who are gifted with 'second sight'. Second sight, after all, was yet another phenomenon of the use of anticholinergic drugs or, on the other hand, straight forward fraud. Another group who utilise the above methods are Witches. David Clarke has even illustrated my point by quoting, it seems unwittingly, the account of St Columba's fasting, perceptual isolation and physical isolation.

To paraphrase the great William Sargant: the best defence of the attempted brain-washing by any person or state is a sense of HUMOUR. I pen these lines as a gentle banter and it not should not be taken seriously.

Anthony R. Brown, Strathglass-by Beauly, Inverness-shire.

Dear Sir,

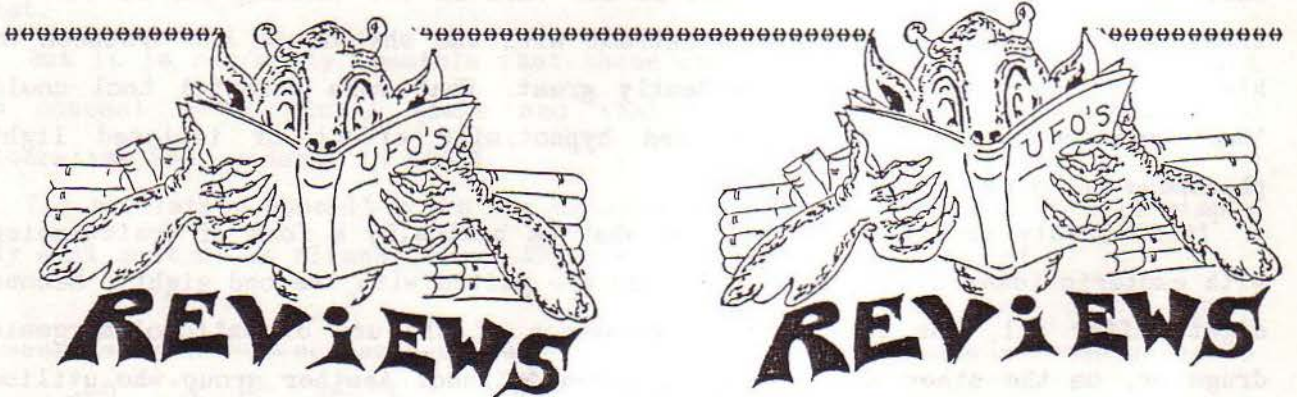
I having recently read a copy of UFO BRIGANTIA which a friend in YUFOS loaned to me. I must say that I was pleasantly surprised at your content after reading some of the maniacal conspiracy rubbish I have read recently in QUEST. Reading BRIGANTIA was like a breath of fresh air and I can only wonder at the reasoning behind some of the abject nonsense written by YUFOS in QUEST. Your critical approach to the subject is much-needed and you have my continued support..... Please accept my subscription to UFO BRIGANTIA.

Steven Hobbs, Selly Oak, Birmingham.

Dear I.U.N.,

I would like to comment about the article in the edition of UFO BRIGANTIA on the Kenneth Arnold case. However convincing as UFO's nine new jets may be, I cannot accept that the F-84 Thunderjet can look appreciably different from any other jet fighter at considerable distance. I would think that almost all jet fighters would look exactly the same at the distance at which Mr Arnold claimed to have seen the nine UFO's. Consequently, it is my belief that we are no nearer solving the case.

Christopher Low, Ulverston.



PHENOMENON: From Flying Saucers to UFOs- Forty Years Of Facts And Research. Edited by John Spencer and Hilary Evans. Published by Futura. 410 pages, photographs etc. Price £3:95 (paperback).

A most satisfying book to both read and review, this, and not just because there are several UFO BRIGANTIA writers in it! With last years UFO's 1947-87 ufology proved beyond all doubt that it had come of age and that there were some very fine and intelligent minds applying themselves to the subject (too intelligent if you ask me judging by the number of quotes from classical and scientific works!). That book made some inroads into the 'person in the street's' consciousness but hopefully PHENOMENON will go the whole way and be seen in most major books shops, libraries etc and will become a classic work of ufology although whether or not it can counteract the rubbish that is about remains to be seen.

Essentially it is a book written by ufologists to give 'the casual reader' (and the enthusiast) state-of-the-art facts, figures, information and theories. All the major topics are covered critically and reasonably. No rabid debunking or naive believing here. Perhaps what is best about the whole thing is the fact that if you get bored or aggravated with one persons viewpoints you can usually find a counter argument, equally well put, elsewhere in the book. At £3:95 it is

so cheap as to be a giveaway and should be given liberally as gifts to all the non-ufologists you know. The only real fault I can find with it is the index which for a work of this size and scope is pathetic and should have been ten times larger. You can't have everything though. Conversely there are so many good (really good I mean) contributions that it is hard to pick any one out for example. However the editors of the project John Spencer and Hilary Evans deserve special mention both for putting it all together in the first place and especially for the final two chapters 'The Case For Scepticism' and 'The Case For Scientific Study'. Buy the book, read these chapters first and you will understand where rational, sober and sensible ufology is at in the '80's and where it should be heading for the year 2000.

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*GODS * SPIRITS * COSMIC GUARDIANS: Encounters With Non-Human Beings. By Hilary Evans. Published by Aquarian Books. 287 pages, photographs. Paperback, price £7.99.*

Hilary Evans again! This time with the follow up to his acclaimed *Visions*Apparitions*Alien Visitors*, and it's just as essential reading for the open-minded ufologist. This book deals with, step by step, man's encounters with a variety of non-human beings both individually and comparatively, discussing the many possibilities for the origin and reality of each type of event. If you really thought that abductions were an entirely separate event from, say, a meeting with Satan, then read this and think again. Evans goes further than just comparing though and offers several trigger events and states of mind by and under which these encounters may take place. Far from de-bunking the whole 'encounter' subject Evans suggests that, rather than the simplistic view that all these many and diverse visitants are just what they seem, or tell us they are, encounters may be with some higher aspect of our own selves. This book is one of the few I have read that falls into the category of (I just made it up) 'Humanist ufology' and it will provoke deep thought in ufologists of all viewpoints.

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IS YOUR NEIGHBOUR A SPACE ALIEN?

Andy Roberts

Seeing as we keep having snippets of information in UFO BRIGANTIA about the treatment of UFO's in the media I have decided to consolidate it into one regular piece which will chronicle (cruelly and unsympathetically if necessary) the preceding two months media exposure of UFO's and other such space-age myths. Obviously we will only catch a small proportion in the net so I'd be grateful if any readers would send me news of UFO's (or ufologists) being mentioned on radio or tv, in newspapers or magazines- including UFO imagery in advertising (especially anything at all from the tackier end of the market) etc. NOT sightings I hasten to add- just UFO related material- you'll see what I mean from this issues gleanings.

OK. If you've nearly driven off the road after seeing a 50ft cat-like face leering at you from a roadside hoarding, don't worry. It's only the advertsing campaign for Whitley Streiber's paperback version of Communion (no.6 in the paperback bestsellers as this is being written). No title on the front cover - just the enigmatic alien visage daring you to find out what it's all about. The adverts are the same too - no words - just the face. Perhaps they should have had a similar campaign for 'Above Top Secret'- a page of writing with all the lines blanked out!

Pre UFO-UFO's hit the tube a few weeks ago when Arena (I think it was Arena) dealt with the famous 1938 Orson Welles broadcast of the 'War Of The Worlds'. The whole event was covered and detailed exactly how Welles and his theatre company carried out the hoax which had a large proportion of the American public thinking the Martians had really arrived and generally creating mass hysteria. An intelligent presenter tied the panic up with the welter of information about sci-fi space wars and Mars in particular with which the American on the street had been fed in those pre-war years. The result was almost total acceptance of the fact that Martians could invade America unopposed. A salutary tale of people's gullibility when it comes to the media if ever there was one.

A space age myth of another kind appeared in the Daily Star on Monday 15th February when the whole of the front page was devoted to the Face On Mars ('Amazing Picture Special'). It was claimed that a 'giant human face' has been discovered carved into the surface of Mars and that a member of NASA had said 'this has profound implications for our civilisation'. It sure does if anyone is stupid enough to believe it. As any fule no this particular Von Daniken like fancy has been around for quite a few years and still it won't go away. All it is is the way shadow and light come together on a small ridge with some outlying

craters. It's not really surprisng NASA can't even get a space-shuttle in the air (sorry, I forgot it was shot sown by a UFO) if they give this sort of tosh any credence.

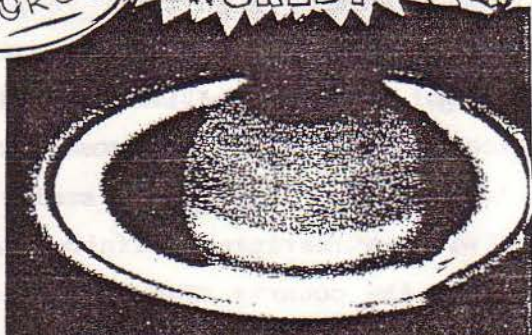
Over the past year the odds on the reality of UFO's have shortened considerably. The March 1988 issue of Q magazine had some interesting facts about UFO odds. Odds against the UK government acknowledging the existence of UFO's are down from 250-1 to 200-1 but it's 1000-1 that Mr Gorbachov will announce that the Russians have captured a UFO (cue a flurry of Russian crash/retrieval stories). Comparitively, with other odds of unlikely happenings, there is more chance of the discovery of the Loch Ness Monster being found (150-1) but less chance of Sceaming Lord Such becoming Prime Minister (10,000-1!) than either the Russians or the UK acknowledging UFO's. It makes you wonder how they make the odds seeing as we know that Screaming Lord Such, a) exists and b) has pretentions to politics whereas no-one for sure knows anything about UFO's. Odd, but my money's on that nice Mr Such..

Radio One DJ Steve Wright really went to town on UFO's and for a few alternate Wednesdays (they are still continuing) had 'Space Alien Day' in his afternoon show when, almost between each record, he featured the most bizzare UFO and alien stories (playing the jingle 'Another True Story') he could find including the one about the Frenchman whose wife was having an affair with an alien- he knew because he had followed her into the counrty side where he saw her going on board a UFO. Later she returned and admitted that her and an alien were having an affair. Fair enough- lets not be alienist after all- but the worst of it was that the alien was better in bed than he was! It went on with more of the same (how about the Swedish woman who is currently 'officially' pregnant with an aliens child?) and was in fact mildly amusing if it wasn't for the fact that he has now totally saturated the minds of millions of people (subliminally, as most of whom listen to the show do so whilst not really concentrating on it, ie whilst driving, working, doing housework etc) with this drivel which will no no doubt be repeated in hundreds of UFO sightings etc in the years to come. This is to be on-going thing on old Steve's show so we'll no doubt hear more about it.

Best of all of the media coverage of UFO's in January and February was on Ruby Wax's TV show 'Don't Miss Wax' (Feb. 16th). Ms Wax (dealing with the theme of 'Escape') paid a call on the Aetherius Society HQ in London (Adamski Flying Saucer in the window, natch). A smiling 'Dr.' Richard Lawrence led her in and proceded to explain about how Jesus still lives on Venus and how *'all Flying Saucers we see aren't necesarily concerned with Earth'*- phew what a relief, all those I saw this morning must be concerned with something else. Ruby smiled

benignly - obviously silence was the best punchline in Richard's case. Then it was down to the cellar. Everybody knows that all the best and really top-secret things happen in cellars and the Aetherius Society are no different from anyone else - in that respect anyway. A prayer meeting was in full swing, peopled by the sort of New Age person you see hanging round Watkins bookshop buying tapes with titles like 'Mossy Glade', and Ms Wax was shown how the A.Soc. charge up their prayer batteries- which can and have stopped wars fact finders, specifically the 1974 Cyprus war- when their power was unleashed: Ms Wax: "How do we know that" Richard Lawrence (how long before he becomes the Jimmy Swaggart of crank ufology): "Well we didn't have a war did we?". The contents of the prayer box must sadly remain secret because as we all know there is an ESP war going on between the USA and the USSR. Nurse, the screens please.

BOBBY MOORE'S MYSTERIOUS WORLD!



COULD THIS BE THE PLANET THE BOFFINS CALL VENUS?

Reader W. Nash of Edmonton writes - Last night I was abducted by aliens. I was drawn up to Venus where I mated with a humanoid stunner who looked just like Page 3's luscious Linda Lusardi! As we shuddered to a climax she bit my body crying out in Venusian 'Oh! well-endowed earth god!' In a twinkling I was back in my E Reg Astra, as if time had stood still during my absence!

BOBBY'S VERDICT - NO CUPS

I RECKON YOU'RE PULLING MY PLONKER, MATE! VENUS IS THE 3RD PLANET FROM THE SUN WITH CONDITIONS REACHING 700°C AND A PRESSURE 100 TIMES THAT OF EARTH'S. QUITE CLEARLY INHOSPITABLE TO HUMANOID STUNNERS! STILL, WHAT NME READER WOULDN'T DREAM OF A NIGHT OF PASSION WITH PAGE 3'S LUSCIOUS LINDA?

The Time and The Place hosted by the urbane Mike Scott, on Thursday 18th of February. Jenny Randles and Tim Good were the 'household name' ufologists present, backed up by Graham Birdsall (Mike Scott: "you seem to have an obsession ") and Mark Birdsall (from YUFOS). It also included 'professional witnesses' like Alan Godfrey and the fast rising star of the

Several other instances of UFO material also cropped up, notably in Dynasty which featured, over a few episodes, recollections of an abduction in true over the top Hollywood style. The New Musical Express have got the measure of most of ufology though and have been running their own fortnightly spot for weeks now called 'Booby Moore's Mysterious World', which judging from its contents shows they are working with the government at the highest level at least. Fortunately there was amongst all this dross some good representations of ufology too; Jenny Randles article in the Society Tomorrow section of The Guardian on the 18th of February for one with her article 'Flying Saucers Are Not A Mugs Game', and first prize for pretention to seriousness must go to the BBC TV programme

photographic case, Peter Beard. Unfortunately far too much time was spent on witnesses to either well-known IFO's or in one tedious case to a couple who had obviously seen an astronomical body low on the horizon (not Patrick Moore!). Jenny told them what it was but she may have been wrong because Mark Birdsall said it was an "interesting" sighting and that YUFOS had had many similar ones, so perhaps it was a CE3 *disguised* as planet after all. The worst part was the astronomers present who all looked to be just out of nappies and who didn't seem to be able to answer the questions that were put to them.

The whole programme was geared around the idea that UFO's=spaceships and when Jenny mentioned the possibility of there being phenomena on the edges of science Mike Scott looked first puzzled, then worried and then quickly changed the subject altogether in case someone suddenly said something relevant and they had to have a retake. Perhaps it's time they let ufologists make a programme about UFO's. Oh, yes, Tim Good informed the nation that there has been proof since 1947 that extraterrestrials have been visiting earth. Quite so.

All good clean fun, or is it? People like the Aetherius Society, the fervent ETH proselytizers and the equally fervent debunkers give the subject of UFO's a bad image and the 'bad' images of UFO's in the media will always outweigh the good ones simply because they sell papers etc. and, to most people, appear the most interesting. Anything in the media, where speculation and theory masquerade as fact, influences the current public image of UFO's and this is then reflected in their beliefs and ultimately their sighting reports. The Dynasty programme is an excellent case in point and we have an 'abduction' case (given to us by a very frightened and convinced witness) which took place on the very night of the programme, after the woman had been watching it (full report next issue). To laugh or to cry is the problem. Being in at the birth of a body of folklore and acting in some cases as midwives to it- and being able to influence it - is a great experience and maybe we should just lay back, laugh and let the media do its worst, ignoring what really lies behind it all. For the most part the vain strivings of ufologists can do little to stem the tide of crap which the media continually washes over our minds and the minds of the public and in the end perhaps all we can do is chronicle the interplay between media input and witness output. More media murmurings next time.

NEXT ISSUE

Jenny Randles on a crashed saucer case from Yorkshire.

David Clarke dissects the Jan/Feb South Yorkshire flap.

Soap: or how watching Dynasty can give you a CE4

Huddersfield Police UFO Sighting Over Emley Moor Solved

Brief Reports, News, Cartoons, Reviews etc

THE OSEAP RESOURCES CENTREBy David L. Rees.

RESOURCES: *"Something to which one can turn for help or support or to achieve ones purpose",*

INTRODUCTION:

The UFO- phenomena is an ever increasing subject, which has in the past and still is today churning out reading fodder for interested parties, some of this material is excellent in content, but the vast majority is of a more dubious quality, however this must not detract from the overall fact that all UFO literature is of an equal standard when one accepts that each separate item, no matter how diverse from the other, has its rightful place in the evolutionary process of ufology. UFO-lit should be recognised as a distinct body of literature, the magazines and newsletters are the back bone of the whole subject, many authors use them for their sources, and in turn the books replenish the magazines with further avenues of research and thought. It is OSEAP's firm view that sightings are today but a secondary item within ufology, much more interesting is all that has built up around them and the character's involved in the subject and their 'new' theories which take the reader closer to discovering the 'truth'.

UFO-lit is not unlike fashion in that it always returns to debating what has gone before and this is evident when one peruses through material from the 1950's to the present day, it would be quite easy for example to lift an article from the 1950 era and reprint it in, say, 'UFO BRIGANTIA', without noting it was thirty odd years out of date, that says a lot for what progress has been made. Therefore any facility that allows interested parties access to this historical perspective has to be a good thing.

That was one of the reasons the OSEAP Resources Centre was formed, to offer a facility with a comprehensive collection of reference material, usage by persons with no prejudice to their affiliations and in the long term to establish a unique archival collection which would be an on-going historical record for all future generations to use. In the April of 1981 the centre was formed (at that time under the guise of MAPIT) and since then much has happened which I will relate to you later in this article. During this time OSEAP has continually

aimed the centre away from the selfish individuals collections. Many researchers have very extensive personal libraries but hardly ever allow their contents to be used by others but themselves. Two examples of this waste spring to mind, the first concerned a 'ufologist' who had been involved in the subject since the early 1950's. On visiting him for the first time his collection was very large and included much from the early years. On my touching a book he exclaimed "*Oh don't touch anything!*". I was amazed and in conversation with him it became obvious that no-one but himself could touch the material or use it, I quickly realised he saw this library as a shrine to his own faith in the subject. The second example concerned a respected ufological figure who kept his 'library' in shoe boxes and wooden crates and had no idea what he had or how to locate it! I have nothing against anyone having their own material, but surely things should be more organised? Archival and retrievable data bases on UFO's are as rare as rocking horse manure and Robert Morrell hit the nail on the head when he said "*Ufology, whilst claiming a status within various disciplines has not even managed to provide itself with elementary research facilities.*"²

In fact Morrell has made some perceptive comments on data bases, for example ten years ago he stated "*Where, for example, can serious ufologists gain access to comprehensive files of the main ufological journals published in English over the last 15 years?*"³. It is still a question that begs an answer today. NUFOIS/APRA are still flying the flag and George Bull is to be congratulated on his indexing work on Flying saucer Review. He has already completed 120 issues between 1964-84. Down in London Fortean Times are also working hard to establish a workable archive, and then of course there is OSEAP, who have been working on indexing since 1981. What of BUFORA? Well OSEAP's views on this 'national' London based group are well known and it's not heartening to read that BUFORA archives are in a disorganised shambles⁴. When will somebody pull their finger out and do something about this dreadful state of affairs. A group that's been going on for more years than it cares to forget not even able to supply its members with basic data. It would also seem that the location of its files are also somewhat of a mystery to themselves. Several years ago OSEAP attempted to get some dialogue going on UFO archives with BUFORA, but as before nothing ever came of it!

I personally have become fascinated with what can be found and unearthed, the funny names associated with magazine titles eg: can you believe Clod Pebble, Ears Hear, Elan Vital, Parasite, Roap Bulletin, Skyflix, UFO Clit! In Tom Lind's excellent Catalogue of UFO Periodicals (1982- Said of Saucers), the enormity of

what has been published can be observed. He lists over 1,200 publications and this by no means includes all titles as many zines and newsletters are one-offs and may only be seen by a select few. We in the subject have been and still are to a degree saturated by UFO-lit of all viewpoints. The published word is like a drug to some who are hooked on ufology and they have a never decreasing hunger for more and more. The old maxim 'It must be true, I read it in a book' is frightfully true, I know because too many have told me! Therefore we must not underestimate the power of writers, researchers, investigators and sceptics, they and not the poor UFO's dictate what we read, after all it should not be forgotten that investigators never investigate UFO's, only witness testimony. The very transient nature of the UFO makes it a prime target for hype, slight misinformation and interpretation and damn right lies. We are not dealing with UFO's but human nature and we should never forget that fact! The importance of UFO archives/resources centres is more than just a location to find that reference that's been elusive for so long, they are a time bubble showing the development over decades of a subject that everyone can talk about and no-one can solve, they should develop into historic data bases for future generations to make use of in the unlikely event that the truth is one day discovered.

It soon became obvious that although having a mass of material is great it is no use whatsoever if nothing can be found, therefore it was decided that a very in-depth cross reference indexing system would be adopted by OSEAP. This allows data from each page no matter how irrelevant to be retrievable to interested parties. The system consists of two forms of subject headings, names and themes. The names cover all manner of subject matter from animal disturbances to UFO to Warminster. These references are put onto a card index as are the journal abstracts. Each publication subject headed is also abstracted on



a page by page layout. The card system is suitable but would be better if it could be transferred onto a computer with disc drives and printer. It would allow the actual indexing work to progress that much quicker and with a printer allow print outs for whatever information researchers required. OSEAP look to this work in the long term and hope that funding will in the future allow for a suitable system to be purchased.

The statistical data gleaned from the first 200 UK publications indexed gives some insight into the immense reference potential of UFO-lit; 923 subject headings (names/themes) and 4,238 cross-references in total! These figures fluctuate in later indexing because it is governed by content of said publications, eg: a 32 page magazine has more data content than a three page newsletter. Even so, if one bears the figures in mind as a rough guide, one thousand indexed UK publications would nurture over 20,00 cross-references! That makes for quite a staggering figure and shows that we have much work and late nights ahead of us for many years to come! Although initially the indexing will be concentrated on the British published UFO publications it holds no criteria when it comes to what the centre should include eg: overseas publications, slides, photographs, video's, newspaper clippings, case histories, fact sheet examples, manuscripts and memorabilia (pens, badges, even flying saucers ashtrays!)

TO THE FUTURE

It would appear from the support that OSEAP have had that the database concept is here to stay. Enquiries come in weekly via the mail and personal calls to the centre for information and many people have been kind enough to donate their unwanted ufological items, which when we have duplicates we offer for sale or barter. I would be happy to receive any correspondence from interested parties on this article and would pass it on to UFO BRIGANTIA for possible inclusion in its pages. the only foreseeable problem is finance and OSEAP will hopefully one day be able to purchase a computer system suitable to aid indexing and provide a better service to researchers. any eccentric rich persons please contact OSEAP!

REFERENCES

1) Oxford Paperback Dictionary O.U.P. 1979. 2) Northern UFO News no. 46 March 1978 p.1. 3) As above. 4) NUFOIS News no.10/11 1987 p12. 5) Flying saucer review vol 2. no.6. Nov-Dec 1956 p.30. 6) 15, Edmondson Street, Barnoldswick, Lancashire, BB8 5EY

Editors Note: The IUN fully support the OSEAP Resources Centre and have made use of it on several occasions. If any reader has any old UFO books, magazines, clippings, photographs etc that they no longer require I would encourage them to be sent to OSEAP where they will be put to some use for the benefit of ufology.

FLY - BY - NIGHTSouth Yorkshire UFO Odyssey 1988

By David Clarke

(IUN South Yorkshire /North Derbyshire)

On Monday, February 8th, 1988 the national press carried another of the growing number of UFO stories which are collectively making 1988 a continuation of a new wave of sightings which began in the middle of August 1987.

"May The Force Be With You" headlined the Daily Mirror, in its story about a sighting at Ecclesfield, near Sheffield, in which two on-duty police officers had reported a *"V-shaped machine...hovering just yards away...a row of flashing red lights along its side lit up the entire area"*.

As Ecclesfield, the scene of the event, is no more than ten miles from where I live, I arrived upon the scene shortly afterwards in order to obtain precise details of what had happened. As the police-station involved had been deluged by a large number of callers pestering them about the sightings (including "the world's greatest UFO group"- guess who!), I was quite surprised that the witnesses involved agreed to speak to me only; I had in fact established a rapport with the same police division in September 1987 when other officers had reported sightings on an 'apparition' on the nearby Stocksbridge by-pass (see UFO BRIGANTIA, no. 28 Nov/Dec '87), which I had investigated.

I soon learned that what the police had observed was only the tip of an iceberg; and shortly after placing an appeal for further information in the Sheffield Star I was deluged with a flood of reports from members of the South Yorkshire public who had observed strange objects in the sky, not just on February 2nd - the date of the Ecclesfield sighting - but on almost every night subsequently. On one evening alone I received nearly 50 telephone calls reporting UFO incidents to me!

The following is to serve only as a short summary of the South Yorkshire happenings I have collected and collated so far, together with my tentative thoughts as to what may be the explanation for some of them. A full-length report with all relevant material (including the Stocksbridge apparition report) will be available from the IUN in due course.

Tuesday, February 2nd, 1988 - POLICE SAW UFO HOVER OVERHEAD (Sheffield Star).

I soon ascertained that the newspaper reports on the sighting were incorrect in many of their facts; for instance, PC Sue Johnson (pseudonym), had not been called out to investigate by a large number of people reporting sightings. She had been merely out on routine patrol near the centre of the village of Ecclesfield, about 10 miles from the centre of Sheffield, between 7:45 and 7:50 pm when she began to notice interference on her panda-car's radio. Outside the sky was clear, the weather warm for the time of year, and looking out of the car window she was surprised to see an object in the sky which she first thought was an aeroplane.

Although no 'object' could be seen, a large arrow-head, or V-shaped formation in the shape of a boomerang of steady brilliant lights moved towards her from the direction of Rotherham, passed over her head and disappeared in the direction of Ecclesfield village; as it passed she heard a strange whirling, groaning vibrating noise *"like when the planes came over in the war"* - but she was emphatic that this was no aeroplane or helicopter she had ever seen before; the lights were exceedingly unusual and the 'object' was flying at very low altitude over a built-up area.

As PC Johnson radiid in her report, her colleague, PC John Baxter (pseudonym), was standing in the yard of Ecclesfield police station, and he observed as the object approached, passed directly over the police station and flew off to the west in the direction of the A61 Barnsley Road at Grenoside. the strange vibrating noise was heard by him, and also by all the officers on duty inside

the police station. PC Baxter saw a row of brilliant red and white lights, and estimated that the object was flying at around 150 mph at under 1000ft altitude. Both were certain that the craft would have been about the size of a Boeing 737, but was certainly not like any aircraft they had ever seen before.

Previous to the sighting at Ecclesfield, this same object had been observed in the Rotherham area, flying over the industrial wasteland which surrounds the Blackburn Meadows sewage works in Sheffield's derelict Lower Don Valley. The object seemed to follow a route from the Rotherham area, across the M1 motorway, over Ecclesfield, skirting the northern housing estates of Shiregreen, Firth Park and Grenoside. Mrs. Shirtcliffe, an observer on high ground at Birley Carr, saw the object approach from Grenoside and *"continued to watch in amazement as it hovered above Wharncliffe Woods...hovered for just a second and then turned left towards Hillsborough."* Loosing altitude even further it appeared through broken cloud above Wadsley Lane at Hillsbrough, a northwest suburb of the city.

It was here that Linad Underhay and Gail Fairbrother stopped their car in the middle of the road at 7:50 as *"suddenly bright lights approached over the top of the houses which appeared to belong to a very large diamond-shaped object...four red lights were visible which appeared to be at either corner, one green light in the middle and white lights surrounding it..we seemed to be looking at the underside of a huge object which could be seen beyond the lights"*.

Where it went after this is a mystery, some observers said it vanished over the Derbyshire moors behind Stannington, and an ex-CID officer living in Deepcar saw either the same or another object in the direction of the Underbank resevoir at Midhopestones sometime that same night. She and another observer watched this object for some time, manoeuvring erratically; it consisted of a large number of exceedingly white lights which seemingly surrounded the perimeter of a soundless oval/elliptical shaped craft. She added also that she had observed this same object inthe same area during the winter of 1987, and that it was not any aircraft she could identify.

My immediate impression was that the reports could be explained as a low-flying aircraft of some kind, perhaps involved in a NATO/RAF exercise, even though the MOD have informed me officially, that *"the RAF and NATO do not conduct exercises over major urban areas at any time"*.

The noise made by the object was described by one witness at Shiregreen as *"like a cross between a heavily burdened diesel engine and the sound that the little flying saucer makes in the Arcade game 'Invaders'"*; many other witnesses described the sound it made as very unusual, like a prop-driven aircraft in trouble. A witness at Yew Lane, Ecclesfield, told me that the noise was definately that *"made by a large, twin-rotored helicopter (posibly a Chinook)"* which passed over his house causing it to vibrate violently, *"it was flying dangerously low and very nearly crashed"*,

Another witness a couple of streets away told me that at the same time that the police saw their object *"we noticed bright lights in the sky which were heading up from Ecclesfield over towards Halifax Road...it appeared to be a transporter 'plane such as a Hercules and was flying very low above the rooftops, and we were concerned that it was about to crash...later we saw it again flying over Greno Woods towards Wharncliffe."*

So was it really a UFO? It seems unlikely, even though the police and many of the other witnesses were certain the object was not an aeroplane or helicopter; it was emphasised that the lights were too brilliant and not flashing as you would expect on an aeroplane or helicopter. There are also discrepancies in the times, as the witness who heard the 'Chinook' states that the time was 6:30 pm. If the object in question was an aircraft then it was breaking every rule in the book by manoeuvring at such a dangerously low level over such a densely populated area of northern Sheffield.

Another group of witnesses at Ecclesfield told me that the following night (Feb.3rd) they observed what appeared to be a helicopter or light aircraft apparently pursuing a *"very bright light, circling at tremendous speed without any sound"* flying on the same route from Rotherham towards Grenoside. This

sighting is intriguing as Rotherham investigators for the Yorkshire UFO Society claim that UFO's were being pursued by jet aircraft over the skies of Rotherham during the latter weeks of January 1988₂, and that most of the UFO's involved appeared in the direction of Wentworth and Kimberworth.

The above may be a significant clue, as I have obtained detailed statements from a number of witnesses in Chapeltown and from members of the fire-service at Goldthorpe (between Rotherham & Barnsley) that they have been watching low-flying prop-driven aircraft flying over the area for several weeks prior to the Ecclesfield sighting of January 2nd. They believe that the aircraft is a mail-carrying 'plane that flies down regularly from Edinburgh, across the north of Sheffield en route to either Manchester or East Midlands airport. Could this be the explanation for what has generated so many UFO reports recently in this area? I think it very likely.

I contacted RAF Finningley and many other airports and airbases in relation to the above information and am still awaiting replies from some of them. However, I have it confirmed that no RAF/NATO exercise was taking place on the nights in question, RAF Leeming near York and RAF Binbrook near Lincoln denied responsibility; Finningley would not admit one way or the other whether they had picked up the object on radar, but that it was not one of their aircraft.

In a letter of March 1st, Flight Lieutenant Hamilton of RAF Finningley informs me that:

"The 'object' in question would appear to be that of a turboprop commuter aircraft or light transport. Such aircraft could fly directly from East Midlands to Leeds/Bradford airports passing in the vicinity of your reports...the description of lights given follows the Standard International Civil Aircraft organisation patterns for night flying - viz rotating red beacon lights and flashing high intensity strobes..."

While the above interpretation does not fit all of the facts, it appears that this dangerously low-flying commuter aircraft could be the explanation for many of the sightings in South Yorkshire prior to February 2nd.

I have been informed by many witnesses in the northwest suburbs of the city that objects similar to the one above have been observed by residents of the area going back at least to the late 1970's. They are emphatic that they are not aircraft of any description, fly far too low and are very brilliantly lighted, always following a route from the Rotherham area in an arc over the north of Sheffield, towards the moors to the northwest of the city. This is not a regular air-route into Manchester, and these witnesses are familiar with aircraft flying to and from Manchester and other airports.

The sheer number of witness reports I have gathered, and information I have received in confidence, cannot be presented here but will be available in report form in the near future. More observations of a similar triangular object with brilliant lights were reported to me from the night of Friday, 5th February, including one report from an observer at Risca, near Monmouth in South Wales, but the best was still to come!

Wednesday, February 10th, 1988. 'Huge' UFO Over Wombwell and Hoyland, near Barnsley.

If a possible explanation can be found for the events of February 2nd above, then another series of observations in the Barnsley area has proved less easy to account for. For the night of February 10th I have received reports from at least ten separate groups of witnesses who saw a 'huge' diamond or pyramid-shaped object which appears to have skimmed over Wombwell around 7 pm, and passed over Hoyland and the moors to the north of Stocksbridge, flying towards Penistone.

Mr. KH observed the object from his car parked on a main road in Wombwell - a huge pyramid shaped object appeared over the rooftops in front of him, no more than 200 feet from the ground and surrounded by a myriad of coloured lights. It was making a whirring noise and was a fantastic sight; he watched along with a group of others as this "fantastic" object, which he cannot compare with any

aircraft, passed over in the direction of Hoyland, to the south of Barnsley. At least three other groups of people in Wombwell saw the same thing.

Shortly after, at 7:30 pm, Mrs Good (pseudonym) and her daughter were leaving a keep-fit session in the centre of Hoyland, south of Barnsley.. "as we drove out of the car-park rounding the corner we were astonished by what we saw; the object in the sky before us was so amazing I drew the car to a halt to view it further. the object was hanging in the sky just behind Olivers Pub right in front of us...It was very big, black, triangular in shape and was illuminated by a lot of red and green lights. We watched it for about five minutes, and as my daughter couldn't see it very well we rushed home to fetch her glasses...on the return journey we went a different way to try to get a rear view of it; by this time it had moved and was hovering about 10-15ft above a (electricity) pylon, and this time we couldn't see it so clearly. We watched it into the distance, and it followed the path of the power-line towards Harley and Wentworth..."

After flying off again into the night sky, it was seen shortly afterwards by a group of five people in a car travelling near Penistone on the Stocksbridge by-pass road at around 10:15 pm. One, the driver, stated that "we saw on the left very bright spotlights in the sky, and stopped the car to watch. It came nearer and we realised it wasn't either an aeroplane or a helicopter, as it kept stoppong and starting. It was definately not a helicopter, and was very bulky at the back - triangular or diamond shaped with cabin windows along the sides.." Where was this object between 7:30 and 10:15 pm? The detail that the object was apparently following electricity pylons may be a significant clue.

I'd heard this description before from a couple at Derby who saw a similar fantastic object in the sky during that crazy night last year which generated so many similar sightings - August 16th, 1987. The witnesses in Derby had reported a similar object to that reported near Sheffield on february 2nd and 10th - it was an elliptical object making a whirring noise which apparently 'opened out' onto a V or arrow-head shaped craft with a number of red lights along either sides.

Similar objects have been observed in the area around Uttoxeter in Staffordshire, including one group of four witnesses in a car who saw a soundless, triangular craft on the night of September 22nd, 1987.. "the underneath of the craft had lights which were pulsating in sequence, and down the middle of the undercarriage was a red cross-shape very dimly lit, and on each point of the craft were like large strobe lights". The object moved away over Baggots Forest near Abbots Bromely, and one of the witnesses, Dominic Goodwin, says that "never in my life have I ever seen such colours as I did on the craft, and I have never seen such a large object with the manoeuverability as this one did - it was truly an unforgettable experience.."



This is only one of several sightings recently in the area of Uttoxeter. Andy Roberts and myself investigated a similar sighting which occurred on August 17th, 1987, just to the north of the town, where two witnesses in a car saw a large pie-shaped object surrounded by a ring of rotating lights, which hovered without sound just above tree-top level and projected a beam of white light onto the grounds. This object too was hovering in the vicinity of electricity pylons.

Are we seeing the appearance of a new 'standard' type of UFO? The number of reports which IUN have gathered describing these strangely lighted triangular-shaped objects since August 1987 is continually growing; late in February Rodney Howarth (IUN's investigator in Lancashire) has investigated a report of a triangular shaped object carrying bright lights flying over the moors at Winter Hill on the Pennines.

Similarly, I have investigated another flap of sightings over Sheffield on the night of Thursday, February 18th, 1988. Indeed, in this case a very large triangular shaped object flew over the Stannington area of the city at low-level at 6:30 in the evening. Again it was carrying red and white lights, and was 'spinning' across the sky virtually at rooftop level in a southerly direction. A graphic designer and microbiologist were among the witnesses, and I arrived on the scene 20 minutes after the objects had disappeared from view!

What are we to make of these "fly-by-night"? Are people observing some kind of new secret aircraft or RPV, and if so why are the authorities so foolish to fly it over such densely populated cities like Sheffield at 6:30 in the evening?

What does seem certain is that most of these witnesses have apparently observed very similar object with similar lighting configurations, sometimes they appear diamond/triangular or V-shaped, depending upon the angle of observation and the positioning of the lights upon the 'craft' (if that is what it is).

Sighting reports continue to flood into the Independent UFO Network as of writing, and investigations into the summary report above continues. Watch this space for further details!

Notes

- 1. Letter dated 29/10/87: 2. Rotherham Advertiser 15/22/1/88: 3. See full details of August 16/17 flap in Derbyshire in my 'Report on UFO Sightings In Midlands and North of England, August 1987', available from IUN editorial address: 4. Investigation by Clive Potter, BUFORA.



BOOKS FOR SALE

Operation Trojan Horse by John Keel: Ex lib copy, h/b, £1:25. Intercept UFO by Renato Vesco: rare p/b £3. New Lands by Charles Fort: p/b £2. Flying Saucers Have Landed by D. Leslie & G. Adamski: h/b no d/j £1:75. Warnings From Flying Friends by Arthur Shuttlewood: h/b, tatty d/j autographed copy £3. All prices inc. p&p.

MAGAZINES

The IUN has recently come into possession of a quantity of Flying Saucer Review's and are offering our duplicates for sale as a result. We are offering them for

sale as a job lot at £50 inc p&p- a price which is a give-away considering the back-copy prices and the rarity of the earlier issues. First letter or promisory telephone call secures the lot. They are as follows:

Vol 9 (4,5,6) Vol 10 (1,2,3,5,6) Vol 11 (1,2,3,4,5) Vol 12 (1,2,3,5,6) Vol 13 (1,2,3,4,5,6) Vol 14 (1,2,6) Vol 17 (5) Vol 18 (1,2,3,4,6) Vol 22 (6) Vol 24 (4,6) Vol 25 (2,4) Vol 26 (2,5) Vol 27 (1) Case History supplement 13. 42 copies in all.

END TIMES BULLETIN: Kevin McClure

It must be nearly five years since the first two issues of END TIMES BULLETIN were produced. Now the Millenium is five years closer. To make a success of what I hope will be primarily a news and comment journal, with some background article, we will need a participative readership, sending in news clippings, rumours, religious tracts, prophecies, threats, stories of doom and gloom, the new age, geological disaster, disease, the Antichrist, Armagedon, and all the other components of the 20th Century Apocalyptic Vision. All contributions will be credited and I will hope to provide free copies of the first issue to those who have helped. Please send anything you think may be of interest to:- Kevin McClure, 20 Trembear Road, St Austell, Cornwall, PL25 5NY.

OPERATION SKYWATCH

Over the period of 29/30 May the entire ITV network is holding a 27 hour charity telethon event. BUFORA have decided to hold sponsored skywatches to which the public will be invited and where, for a donation to charity, they can talk to 'real' ufologists, observe the sky, learn about ufology and local cases etc. The IUN will be holding such a skywatch, venue to be determined, and we hope as many subscribers will turn out to help us as possible. Those wishing to stay at home can still support us by obtaining a sponsor form from the editorial address. Full details of venue etc will be made clear in the media during April/May.

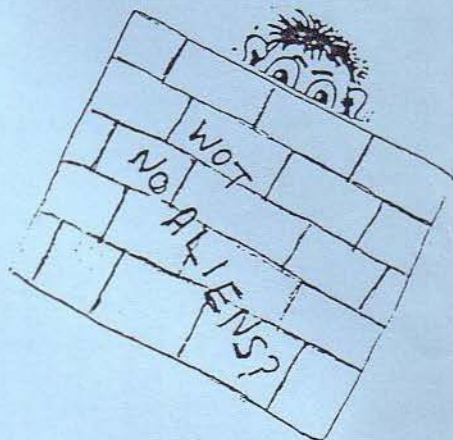
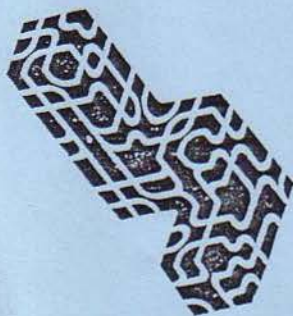
MAGONIA CONFERENCE

The Magonia 20th Anniversary conference takes place on the 1st and 2nd of May 1988. It is to be held at the Sheen Lane Centre, London SW14 and promises to be an in-depth look at twenty years of Magonia and also the past forty years of ufology. There will be plenty of time for socialising both during the day and in the evening in and amongst the various papers which will be presented. It will cost you £7:00 for one day of £12:00 for two. Remarkably inexpensive considering what you get for your money which includes a hot buffet lunch, morning coffee and afternoon tea, full documentation for the event including a free copy of the proceedings and as the blurb says 'There may be one or two other little freebies as well'.

Speakers and times etc have not yet been finalised and John Rimmer would like to hear from anyone who is interested in attending and/or contributing a lecture to the event. Further details, questions etc can be acquired from John Rimmer, 5, James Terrace, London SW14 8HB.

HELP!

IUN and BUFORA researcher Philip Mantle is currently gathering and collating material on British Abduction cases. He requests that anyone with any information, particularly on obscure and little documented cases and from old and arcane UFO magazine, should get in touch with him at the address given on the inside front page. He will be pleased to communicate with anyone who has any information, material, thoughts or theories.



UFOs—Come on down!
BELIEVERS in creatures from outer space are planning to build a concrete welcome mat, two miles square, for Unidentified Flying Objects.
"They are simply waiting for us to give them some kind of invitation," said the man behind the idea, Tom Weber, of Elmwood Village, Wisconsin.
The landing pad would be manned and lit. All Mr. Weber needs is the money to meet the astronomical bill.

ISN'T IT TIME YOU CONSIDERED YOUR FUTURE?

