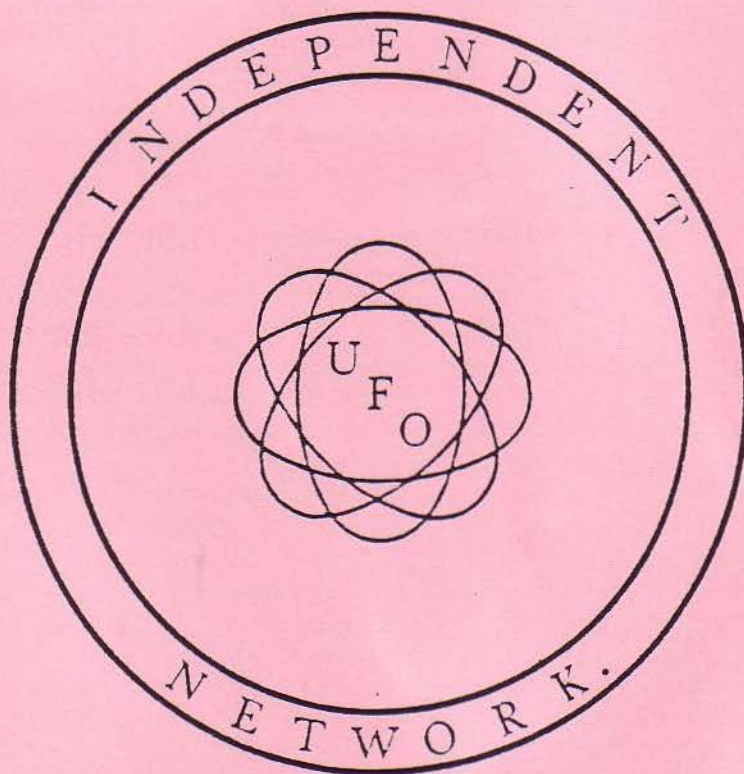


UFO

BRIGANTIA.

A JOURNAL OF UFO INVESTIGATION.



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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. The Journal's name, 'BRIGANTIA', is taken from the old Celtic word indicating a geographical area stretching from the Wash to Scotland. You didn't know that did you?

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EDITORIAL



As abduction fever still sweeps America but, Sunday Sport aside, fails to make much of an impression in the UK, UFO BRIGANTIA reviews the two latest books on the Abduction phenomena. Abduction by Britain's Jenny Randles and from the USA, UFO Abductions- A Dangerous Game by the Pope of the Prosaic, Phil Klass.

Of the two it is Klass's book which raises the most questions about abductions and will be subject to the most abuse from the UFO community, but both fail to address the problem of the curious circumstances in which abductees come to the attention of UFO investigators. In the past it was the odd newsclipping, friend of a friend connection, or just plain chance which brought an abductee under the ufologists gaze and as a result abductees were few and far between and the abduction accounts themselves were not as homogeneous as they are now (although they aren't if you believe Klass).

The rules of the game have changed completely. Ufologists are now virtually advertising for possible abductees to come forward. I am referring specifically to recent articles in OMNI, IUR, and the references at the end of both Hopkins' Missing Time, Intruders and Randles' Abduction, as to what to look for and where to write to if you think you may be an abductee. Other such notes and articles have appeared elsewhere in both books and magazines. Now, far from being rare, as a result of these articles American ufologists in particular have more putative abductees than they can cope with and can pick and choose which ones seem most likely to come up with the goods. For instance, as a result of the OMNI article they have had 2000+ letters and Budd Hopkins has been receiving letters at the rate of five a day. Streiber too has been receiving hundreds of letters from people claiming to have had a similar experience. Abductees are now no longer regarded as cranks and there is a whole ufological and media industry out there waiting for them. It's hip to be an abductee in the 80's and we have a well known and publicised standard abduction template to which anyone can easily conform either voluntarily or involuntarily. The 'genuine' experiences which exist (whatever they represent) are going to be swamped beneath the public's reflection of what an abduction should

be, which is a self-perpetuating cycle.

The parallels between witchcraft and demonology accounts from the middle ages and those of abductees are too well-known and numerous to mention, but there are also inverse parallels in the way those unfortunate victims and abductees are discovered. Witchfinders went out in the countryside armed with a list of likely symptoms (marks on the body!) and behaviour characteristics which might identify a witch. Once found the witch was 'assisted' in the retelling of her experience by torture and then killed. These days the abductee-finders operate a reverse procedure. Rather than going out to look for potential abductees, just fill in a simple questionnaire (which already gives you the 'right' answers in its composition and the context in which it appears) or write to the address at the end of the book you have just read about abductions, and before you know it you too could be being 'assisted' by hypnosis (itself a form of torture considering the emotional and stresses hypnotised abductees display) in retelling your abduction story. There was no 'real' medieval witch-cult, even though there were many people willing to admit to taking part in the most bizarre of practices; people who were no doubt as sane as the abductees who have been psychologically tested. There may well be no physical abduction phenomenon either.

Questionnaires and articles such as have been appearing are really no better than the 'personality test' type of thing to be found in the tabloid newspapers or many of the women's magazines (not meant to be a sexist comment girls-just a fact). That they produce 'genuine' memories and accounts is hardly surprising considering the hype abductions are undergoing in the States at the moment. In the continuing absence of physical proof of the so-called 'visitors' it may be now some ufologists are attempting to over-ride any doubts sceptics may have by the sheer weight of numbers of people who they claim have been abducted. Both ufologists and the public alike generally are not really interested in any prosaic explanations for the abduction phenomena and it is not really attracting the type of rigorous scepticism (at least in the US) which it deserves.

Questionnaires and other deliberate or involuntary 'prompts' to experience (hypnosis?) can and do lead to some very sad cases. As a case in point of this type of thing the abduction case on page is an excellent example of how an abduction case was caused by a TV program.

Elswhere in this issue we have Jenny Randles with Yorkshire's very own highly puzzling crashed saucer case (don't get on the 'plane yet Len!), and the usual melange of interesting ufological items,

including a letters page which is nothing less than ripsnortingly good-keep 'em coming in. Please feel free to comment on any aspect of ufology, the content of the magazine- in fact just about anything. You write it - we'll print it!

As this issue goes to press several members of the IUN will be spending 27 hours on Baildon Moor taking part in the ITN Telethon making, we hope loads of money. As mentioned last issue we are holding a sponsored skywatch. Full details and possibly blackmail photographs in the next issue.

Don't Miss the 2nd Issue of STRANGE MAGAZINE

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John A. Keel•Stanton T. Friedman•Cynthia Hind
Jenny Randles•Dennis Stacy•Robert C. Girard



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SOUTH YORKSHIRE HAPPENINGS

A RECENT FLAP DISSECTED

By David Clarke IUN South Yorks/W. Derbyshire

(readers should refer to the map of the area printed in the March/April issue)

"..you mention that you are concerned that alien or unidentified craft seem to be able to pass undetected through the UK Air Defence Region..I must point out that the UK Air Defence Region is extremely well protected and it is highly unlikely that an intruder of conventional origin would be able to travel to the UK without being spotted. I would suggest instead that many 'alien' craft could in fact be either UK military aircraft, civil aircraft, meteorological balloons and a host of other uncontentious objects.."

- letter from C.R. Neville, (AS) 2a, Ministry of Defence,
March 23, 1988.

Following on from the events reported in my previous article on the recent South Yorkshire flap of sightings, enquiries have continued in

an attempt to find the explanation for the unprecedented number of reports from this region. I now have details of well over one hundred separate

observations in South Yorkshire since September, 1987.

It does appear certain however that the large number of sightings from the Sheffield/Rotherham area during January and February 1988 can be explained as observations of an illegally rooftop-skimming aircraft which has been flying along a regular route over the area primarily on Tuesday and Thursday nights. Unfortunately, despite diligent enquiries, we have not been able to trace the origin or destination of this aircraft, as no civil or military airfield contacted has yet admitted that the aircraft belongs to them.

Mr and Mrs Fairman, living at Wombwell, near Barnsley, contacted me in March this year to let me know what they thought the explanation was for the large number of UFO sightings in the Sheffield/Rotherham area. They have been watching a very low-flying aircraft regularly passing over the area virtually at treetop level on odd nights each weeks. They first saw this aircraft just before Christmas 1987 (when the wave of sightings began), and on Thursday, February 11th, the craft was so dangerously low that they alerted several neighbours and friends, thinking that it was about to crash into nearby rooftops, but it travelled away in a southwesterly direction towards Sheffield. They last saw this aircraft on the evening of February 18th, the following

Thursday, which "coincidentally" was the same night that a number of people saw a UFO over the northwest of Sheffield (see UFO BRIGANTIA, Mar/Apr 1988).

Mrs Fairman said this aircraft carried lights on its wings in a "V" formation, flashing red and white on and off, and made a loud engine noise when overhead; but when seen at such low level it looked very unusual. It always pursued a flightpath in the direction of Sheffield or Rotherham. Similarly, and totally independently, Mr Wright and Mr Moulton (a fireman), both of Goldthorpe, contacted me to say they had also seen this same dangerously low-flying aircraft passing overhead on Wednesday and Thursday nights in January and February this year, usually between 6.30 and 8.00 pm. Moulton believes the aircraft is a mail-carrying plane flying from Edinburgh; they have all remarked that the aircraft was breaking all the rules in the book by flying at such a dangerously low-level over built up areas. Both also first mistook the aircraft for a UFO until they obtained a better view of it.

The now well-known Ecclesfield police sighting of the V-shaped UFO, reported in the last issue of UFO BRIGANTIA, seems almost certainly an observation of this, or more probably another (quite possibly military) aircraft. The Ministry of Defence have helpfully supplied me with copies of

the sighting, and of interest was a scribbled comment at the bottom of the report sent from RAF Finningley on 18 Feb. It reads: "Low flying aircraft/helicopter/piston-engined aircraft".

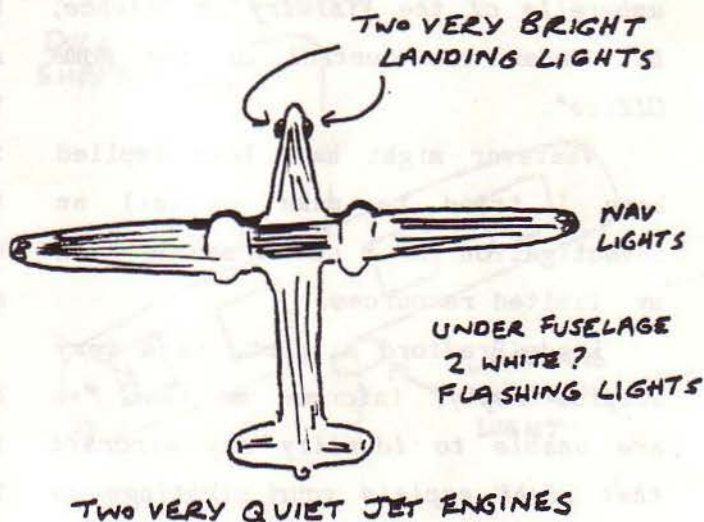
Helpfully, RAF Finningley gave me their opinion that the object was in fact "a turboprop commuter aircraft or light transport...flying directly from East Midlands to Leeds/Bradford airports". I was also informed in a roundabout way, that contrary to what I an the Ecclesfield police had been led to believe, the object had been picked up on radar at RAF Finningley - only they couldn't identify the aircraft in question!

THE SOLUTION!

The most important observation reported to me for the night of Tuesday, February 2nd, was that of Mr Norman Athey who lives at Cross Hill, a high point with a good view over Ecclesfield towards Rotherham in the east. He saw the 'UFO' between 7.30 and 7.45 pm, ie shortly before the V-shaped craft was spotted by the police and civilian observers in Ecclesfield

According to Mr Athey: "...because this, at first strange-looking flying machine proved to be an aeroplane..it was only on seeing the two or three newspaper articles, and particularly the direction of flight-path described there, that we decided that it was the same object we had seen. I first saw it a long way off over the direction

of Kimberworth Hill Top, and from there it came directly towards us, flying very slow, and until it was almost overhead, the bright landing lights made it impossible to see the shape (I had binoculars on it from (the) first, and the three of us each had time for a good look). It passed overhead, which was when I was able to see it was an aeroplane - its hazard flashing lights giving a peculiar effect as they reflected off the fuselage and the wings."



Above: The object watched through binoculars by Mr Athey. 7.30-7.45 pm Feb 2nd. Cross Hill, Ecclesfield

Mr Athey continues that "(the line of flight the aeroplane was taking) should then put it over the police-station and without looking at a map possibly over Wharncliffe"; this east-west route is the exact line of flight reported by the other observers in the northern part of Sheffield. Another detail added by Mr Athey was that he was certain that the object he saw was a military aircraft of some

description - it was unlike any light civilian aeroplane he had ever seen.

In a letter of March 15th, the MOD informed us that "the RAF are not aware of any air defence activity on the dates and times in question in the South Yorkshire area..(we) regret that we do not have the resources to undertake a full investigation into all possible air activity which might have occurred in the region". Intriguingly, we were also informed that "the police do not come under the umbrella of the Ministry of Defence, but under the control of the Home Office".

Whatever might have been implied here I tried to make as full an investigation as I could manage with my limited resources.

Leeds/Bradford airport, in a very helpful reply, informed me that "we are unable to identify any aircraft that might explain your sightings on 2nd and 10th February. The only aircraft controlled by Leeds/Bradford airport at the time you indicated was inbound to LBA from the west having departed from Dublin. Your suggested track from Rotherham to Ecclesfield is not a route likely to be used by aircraft operating to or from this airport". More interestingly, it was emphasised that "very low-level flights are more likely to be of military origin but this would not occur over built-up areas". Similarly, East Midlands Airport (Castle Donington) stated that "it is

more than likely that it was an aircraft en route between East Midlands and Leeds/Bradford airports..it would seem more likely of it is an aircraft that it might be low-level military traffic in which case the departure point and destination would be unknown to us". Finally, Manchester Airport "have investigated (their) traffic patterns for the night in question but are unable to confirm any movements."

The important clue above appears to be that the aircraft involved was a military one, but it is curious why the police or RAF Finningley were not informed about it. This is more to this than meets the eye, but the solution I will leave for a future article.

Unfortunately, the Yorkshire UFO Society, who have also been investigating the recent South Yorkshire sightings, were having none of this. In an interview with Keith James of the Sheffield Star, in reference to the Ecclesfield sighting, Mick Hanson -YUFOS' Rotherham representative- stated that "We have ruled out all other alternatives and there is no way that this could have been anything else other than a spaceship".

In response to this piece I wrote to Mick Hanson giving my explanation of the recent sightings, and was informed in a letter dated April 14, 1988 that:

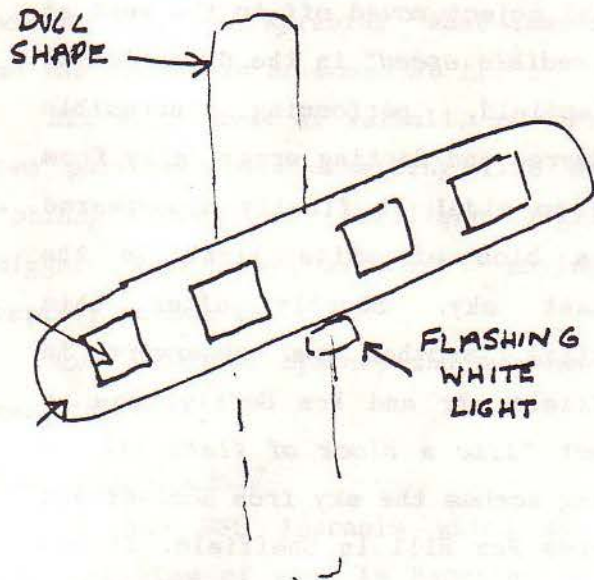
"..the recent UFO overflights over South Yorkshire have been recorded in various photographic modes by YUFOS investigators..I am satisfied that when presented with many civilian and ex-military personnel witness sightings, they form an unexplained situation. The reports you enclosed were clearly aircraft related..the date is not relevant to the documentation and data acquired by South Yorkshire researchers, indeed clearly, they are not the same observations as reported to this organisation".

Furthermore, I am informed that "there can and never will be co-operation between this organisations South Yorkshire investigators and yourself". So much for the objectivity of YUFOS investigators! I am sure that the above clearly illustrates what really was responsible for the "recent UFO overflights over South Yorkshire", and still further how unwilling YUFOS are to accept conventional explanations for "their" UFO reports.

"SPACE-SHUTTLE" UFO OVER ROTHERHAM

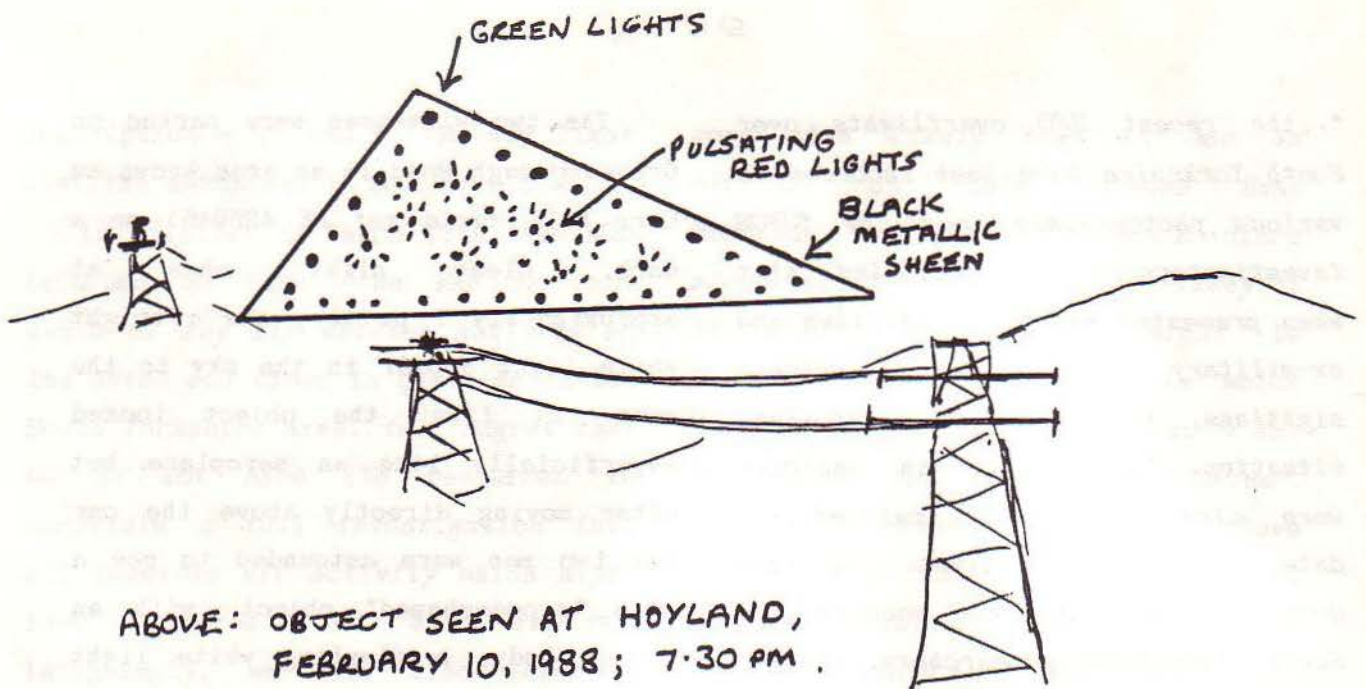
Despite the above explanation for the majority of recent observations there are a certain amount of sighting reports which describe some other highly unusual flying object. One of the most intriguing was the sighting made by two Rotherham gentlemen, Martin Vernon and Paul Leach, on the night of Friday February 5th, 1988.

The two witnesses were parked on Greaseborough Road in an area known as Carr Hill (grid ref SK 425945) on a dark, clear night, when at approximately 7 pm they saw a bright white light appear in the sky to the east. At first the object looked superficially like an aeroplane but after moving directly above the car the two men were astounded to see a huge "cross-shaped" object, with an oblong body, a flashing white light and a row of windows along the side lit up by a red light.



Above: Object seen by Martin Vernon, Rotherham, Feb. 5th 1988. 7.00 pm

The witnesses estimated that this object as 20-30 times larger than a conventional aircraft (incredibly large), flying at 1000/2000ft without making a sound. The underside of the object was apparently covered in very large white tiles, "like the ones they use on the Space-Shuttle" which gave it a creamy-white appearance.



ABOVE: OBJECT SEEN AT HOYLAND,
FEBRUARY 10, 1988; 7:30 PM.

After some time this peculiar aerial object moved off to the west at "incredible speed" in the direction of Ecclesfield, performing incredible manoeuvres and darting erratically from side to side! It finally disappeared as a blob of white light in the distant sky. Shortly after this sighting, another two observers in Sheffield, Mr and Mrs Softly, saw an object "like a block of flats lit up" moving across the sky from Ecclesfield towards Fox Hill in Sheffield. It was oblong in shape, made no sound and had banks of red and yellow lights. Was this the same object?

The erratic movements of the object can be compared with the observations made on the night of February 10th (a Wednesday) in the area to the south of Barnsley. Here, an object like a huge black metallic "set-square", hovering 15ft above a line of electricity pylons (which run from Stocksbridge to the sub-station at Brampton), following them towards the Wentworth

area of Rotherham. This huge object was continually stopping and starting in an erratic fashion, and on its surface were a large number of pulsating red and green lights. Four days later two YUFOS investigators apparently saw a similar-shaped object rise up from the ground and then descend once again in the area of Wentworth, northwest of Rotherham.

Mr Vernon's sighting of February 5th is also very similar to that reported to us by miner Martyn Morgan, of Stairfoot, Barnsley. At 6 am on the morning of January 5th this year, while returning home on Huddersfield Road in Barnsley from his shift he saw a similar cross-shaped object very low in the sky to the east, which also had a row of glowing red windows along the top. This object moved towards him as he stopped his motorbike on the deserted road, performing a 90 degree manoeuvre 50/60 ft above the trees. At this point he "could see everything" on the underside of the object, which

was grey/metallic silver in colour and covered in boxes and machinery "like the spaceships off Star wars". This object too departed in a split-second at high speed in the direction of Barnsley town-centre.

The movements of these objects and lack of sound are not suggestive of aircraft, though it should be borne in mind that lights seen at night can be very deceptive in terms of distance or estimated distance, particularly on nights when there is good visibility. Under these conditions an aircraft a long distance away can be seen close and very large in size; the strangeness being enhanced if no sound is heard.

ANOTHER SIGHTING BY THE POLICE

The final word comes from the West Midlands, where according to the national press of February 18th, 1988,

two groups of policemen on night patrol saw "a brightly lit oblong craft whizzing silently across the sky".

The first sighting, made by Sergeant Stuart Griffiths and PC Micheal Powell was at Rosehill, Willenhall, where they stopped their patrol car to watch "a very bright light travelling at a great rate of knots; I've never seen anything like it. There were red and green lights around its circumference which were either flashing on and off or the whole thing was spinning. What amazes me was there was no sound at all."

Six miles away at Walsall, another two policemen saw something like an "oblong block of brilliant light bigger than any aircraft" moving rapidly across the sky.

More tales of mystery and suspense next issue!

MUFON JOURNAL REVIEW

Most British ufologists, I imagine, only see the UFO journals which are published in the UK. This gives a very parochial view of what is hapening in ufology at large. Why not step out side the small world of UFO BRIGANTIA and BUFORA BULLETIN and enlarge your perspective with the MUFON Journal. For a start it's the only UFO journal to be published monthly, but more than that MUFON Journal keeps up to date with all the world ufological news as it happens. Recent issues (April & May) have featured the Gulf Breeze (Florida UFO photo case) and Mundrabilla (Australian physical trace) cases- neither of which have been in the UK UFO press in any detail as yet. MUFON Journal, edited by Dennis Stacy, is very professionally produced and knocks the British publications into a cocked hat for production quality and content. Other cases in the last two issues include and interview with Jacques Vallee and Jenny Randles on the split in ufology. At only \$30 for UK subscribers for 12 issues it is an essential buy for anyone wishing to be well informed. Write to MUFON Journal, 103 Oldtowne Road, Seguin, Texas, USA.

A SOAPY ABDUCTION

An IUN investigation by R. Howarth, P. Mantle & A. Roberts

Earlier this year IUN investigators were involved in an abduction case which almost certainly did not take place, although the witness is convinced that it did. How can we be sure about this? Fortunately we were on the spot within two days of the alleged event and were able to trace the clues back to find the stimulus for the abduction.

The IUN was put onto this case by Jenny Randles, and myself Philip Mantle and Rodney Howarth visited the witness on the 14th February 1988. We were somewhat shocked at what we saw when we arrived. The witness, Mrs C, a woman in her early forties, was extremely distraught. As she began to retell her story she was crying and shaking visibly with the recollections of the event. To any observer it was plain she had undergone a terrifying ordeal. The story she told us was this:

At 11:00 pm on the night of February 12th she had gone to sleep only to be awakened by two men, dressed in 'foil' with hands like 'leather'. She was floated to a nearby field and taken inside a massive spaceship. She was taken into an all white cubicle and laid on an examination couch where she remembers having a tube put in her arm and being inspected by a bright white light from above. The experience ended with her finding herself back in her

bed mumbling the word 'Gerard' and 'we will be back in 1-5-0 light years'.

This was her initial, basic account of the events. Upon a closer questioning she described the spaceship as being illuminated like a 'fairground' and when retelling the examination sequence of the event she showed us some very faint marks on her arm where, she claimed, the tube had been inserted. She also told us that her legs had been 'shackled, like you know, when you're having a baby' and then a long thing with a light came over her. As this was taking place she could smell a sweet smell 'I think it's cinnamon'. The witness didn't like this smell, describing it as 'horrible'. As she was being examined she overheard snatches of conversation between the two men; 'she's been done' and 'but now you will be able to have a baby'. Mrs C had in fact been sterilized some years earlier.

When she returned from the experience she discovered she had some physical symptoms from the event. Her arm was sore and marked, she felt very sick and had a peculiar white foamy vaginal discharge. She was positive that none of these symptoms had been present before the event. Going over these events had obviously brought the experience vividly back to the witness and she cried and shivered throughout the interview, although she assured us

she wished to talk about it. None of the team of investigators present had ever seen a witness so affected by an experience. When we asked Mrs C what she thought had taken place she was in no doubt; 'I think I was taken for a medical examination, put it that way'. We were also told that at several times during her life she had had various paranormal type experiences, poltergeist phenomena and the like.

These basic details coupled with the witnesses past history of odd events and her obvious and undeniable deep trauma at her experience seem to have the hallmarks of a genuine abduction. Had we have not been able to investigate this case until months after the event we may have drawn very different conclusions to those we did.

When we were made aware of the case initially Jenny had told us that it was suspect due to the fact that the night the witness claimed she had been abducted was the very same night that the TV soap Dynasty re-ran the infamous Fallon abduction sequence, complete with medical examination. We raised this with Mrs C and she freely admitted that she had watched the programme but vehemently denied that it had had any effect on her. This cannot be the case as at least two main features of the Dynasty abduction (the smell of cinnamon and leathery skin) were also mentioned by Mrs C. Her description of the actual UFO, with its ramp and sliding door were very reminiscent of the Dynasty UFO

and the chances of someone *genuinely* being abducted on the same night as the Dynasty abduction *and* having an almost identical experience are pretty slim. Furthermore, Mrs C is close friends with UFO buff Ray Broderick and it was he who alerted Jenny to Mrs C's plight in the first place and he is still of the opinion that a genuine abduction took place. Ray is a believer in the reality of abductions and Mrs C must have known about Ray's deep interest in UFO's and so, despite her statement that she has never read any UFO literature, must have been aware of at least some UFO lore.

This case is still open as we have yet to re-interview Mrs C and ascertain what her doctor thought of her physical symptoms. Interestingly, some of Mrs C's account (the gynaecological portion) is similar to the findings of Budd Hopkins, things not readily available to the public. The main point of interest comes from the fact that the experience was real to the witness and yet it is virtually certain it was a lucid dream based on the events in Dynasty. This and other 'fantasy' type abductions are worth recording as they give clues as to the nature of the abductions which are not so easily explained. We were fortunate that we could investigate the case within 48 hours of it taking place. Had investigators not found out about this case until four or five years hence it would no doubt have joined the lists of classic abductions.



PAUL DEVEREUX

Dear UFO BRIGANTIA,

The editorial in UFO BRIGANTIA May/April complaining about the ordinary nature of the Kenneth Arnold 1947 sighting was of course correct. As it stated, Arnold was "just another guy seeing something odd in the sky". The sighting was undistinguished, yes, but the context in which it occurred was different, as I tried to explain in an article in a previous UFO BRIGANTIA.

It was the first mass-media sighting; it threw a long shadow on the consciousness of Western society in a way that had not occurred previously. Moreover, the state of that consciousness was also special - just post-World War II, with Western consciousness in shock, as it was facing new perceived dangers- nuclear weaponry, intensification of technology at an unprecedented rate, the emergence of superpower Russia, etc - on a scale never before experienced. Paranoia was everywhere (Arnold's sighting came in the same year as the inauguration of the National Security Council in the USA which led to the forming of the CIA,

for example). It needn't have been Arnold's sighting - it could have been someone else's a few weeks or months earlier or later. But that media "mass-sighting" was sure to occur sooner or later. Remember Arnold himself was flabbergasted at the way his reported experience flashed round the world in hours.

Of course there have been much more significant UFO sightings before and since the one had by Arnold, but that isn't the point. UFO's are as old as time, but "ufology" as an entity, if you will pardon the description, did effectively start with the Arnold event. UFO's and ufology are not synonymous - indeed, I think they only occasionally, and seemingly accidentally, come in contact!

Perhaps Arnold's modest sighting was a hoax. Perhaps misidentification. After 40 years, though, no one has been able to demonstrate either. It is legitimate to speculate that it was an earth light event because a) his description, when stripped of automatic assumptions implicit in terminology used, indicated lightforms and no structured craft; b) the location of the sighting, on the boundary of tectonic plates, is of exceptional geological interest; c) we know the Cascades are tectonically active - Mount St Helens and the geological record of active quake volcanoes in the area; d) peaks of the Cascades have been noted for phenomena even in Indian lore; e) we know

Arnold's saucers were travelling along a fault system; f) the very area of Arnold's sighting - the Yakima region - has been shown to be a high incidence UFO area, with multiple eyewitness testimony and numerous photographs, and g) these reported phenomena have yielded seismicity correlations. And they are a hell of a lot more reasons than can be cited for claiming the Arnold sighting to be hoax, misidentification, secret aircraft or ET craft!

Yours faithfully
Paul Devereux, Brecon, Wales.

when I continued, correctly quoted, that the sighting reported was "virtually the speed of the Arnold saucers".

I was not trying to do so and in fact have little or no interest in what it was Arnold saw. As a UFO report/sighting it was of little or no importance being relatively short duration, uncorroborated, unphotographed and distant from the observer. The significance of the sighting has always been the social impact the subsequent report made (see 'PHENOMENON', Pierre Lagrange's article 'It seems impossible, but there it is' for a detailed analysis of how the report became significant in this context).

oo

JOHN SPENCER

Dear Andy,
I read Regina Cullen's article 'Restoring Arnold's Good Name' in the March April '88 Brigantia with interest but must point out that she has quoted me out of context in her eighth 'starred' paragraph. Let me also say, however that I completely agree with the point she was making; Arnold's sighting at somewhere between 1350 and 1700 mph, if accurate, probably rules out the possibility that it was a conventional aircraft. She correctly quotes me from 'UFO's 1947-1987' as saying "By the summer of 1951 the US Navy Douglas D 558-11 Sky Rocket research aircraft had achieved 2013 km/h (1242.68 mph)."
I believe, from her article, that she feels I might have been trying to explain the Arnold sighting as such

The article I wrote from which I am quoted was an analysis of how social pressures may make witnesses subconsciously vary the truth of their reports in order to be believed, or at least to be credible. It is a comment on the phenomenon of 'cultural tracking' which suggests that the ETH is a dubious solution because 'they' always seem to be only slightly advanced from us; 'they' fail to predict our own technological leaps until we have made them ourselves. In short 'their' hardware is more advanced than ours but not THAT advanced, as perhaps it ought to be. The suggestion I made is that our information on which this is based may be wrong because social pressure may subconsciously force witnesses to

'line up' their reports with current standards in order to be believable. If this were true then in order that UFO's should be both believable and advanced, reports would have to be of advanced technology, but not THAT advanced, (as they often are!) This may be creating the very phenomenon it is supposed to test. To use Arnold by way of example; let us say (falsely) that he believed the saucers were travelling at 5000 mph. Subconscious pressure may prevent him from reporting that because it would not be believable, a process of modifying his own beliefs would take place that would convince even him he "*must be wrong, it must have been less, perhaps 3000, perhaps less*" etc etc. In fact there is some evidence Arnold did just that, he came up with 1700 mph (approx) on his first estimate. Because it was so high he searched for a reason for a lower estimate (Regina's article quotes this process perfectly).

In short, in this context 1242.68 mph IS virtually the speed of the Arnold saucers, i.e. not 5000, or 10000 mph, etc The Arnold sighting as reported was not POSSIBLE by conventional standards, but was CREDIBLE by those standards.

If Regina doubted that I am careful to go back to source as far as possible she can be assured that I do, and did here; earlier in the same paragraph from which she quotes me I make the point that Arnold gave a possible

speed of 1700 mph. Incidentally, at that time I was also editing 'PHENOMENON' and Pierre Lagrange's article contains all the quotes she herself uses.

As I am known not to be a great supporter of ETH - or at least cautious of this 'easy' solution - it is ironic that this argument gives a little more weight to it by slightly weakening the case for cultural tracking. All too well do we in the business know the paradoxes we face!

Yours sincerely

John Spencer

Regina Cullen comments on the above:

Since he makes it clear that he was not defining the Arnold sighting as conventional aircraft I take John's point. We simply seem to have differed over the definition of the word 'virtually' here.

oo

RALPH NOYES

Dear Editor,

In UFO BRIGANTIA (Mar/Apr) Jenny Randles gives an interesting account of how she came to write UFO CONSPIRACY. I wonder whether, even at this late stage, she could tell us more about that "*covert approach...by a file-offering serviceman*" who seems to have had MJ-12 material (or "*similar documents*")? This might help to clear up some of our present bafflement about the MJ-12 affair.

In Chapter 31 of UFO CONSPIRACY Jenny speculates about the possible role of my piece of UFO fiction, A SECRET PROPERTY (Quartet Books, 1985). On page 192 she concludes that in writing this book and researching for it among ufological friends I had "toyed mysteriously with the UFO community" during a "very puzzling two-year spell" before withdrawing (oddly, she seems to suggest) to live in Italy. The plain fact is that I write fiction, and I like to pick up as much 'local colour' as possible while doing so. (I also enjoy UFO's and Italy!). Whether or not this is thought mysterious, it pales into insignificance by comparison with the "mysterious toying" of that shadowy "file-offering serviceman" who approached Jenny on a fraudulent ticket with what might have been the scoop of the millenium. I do think we might have been told about this approach in UFO CONSPIRACY. The book is, after all, largely about deceit and disinformation. As a messenger of deception, Jenny's mysterious would-be informant knocks any supposed machinations of my own into a cocked hat!

Can we now be told more? We all want to get to the bottom of the MJ-12 story. I have recorded elsewhere (MAGONIA no.29 April 1988) my own doubts about the documents - but my judgement is no more infallible than anybody else's. I remain as keenly interested as the rest of the UFO

community. It seems to me that the name and origin of that "file-offering" chap could be a useful clue. I do, of course, recognise that any writer has a duty to protect his sources, but only, I think, when the source is revealing a likely truth of great public interest and has good reasons for remaining anonymous. Jenny has already concluded that her source on this occasion was not being truthful, and I hope that in those circumstances she gave him no promise of anonymity. He certainly doesn't deserve it; and the rest of us might benefit by knowing the facts.

Yours,

Ralph Noyes, London

CHRIS ALLAN

Dear Andy Roberts,

Jenny Randle's extraordinary 'disinformation' ideas as propounded in the March/April 1988 issue (and in IUR Sept/Oct 1987) are as preposterous as the idea that the MJ-12 documents are authentic.

She wishes us to believe that the US government, having released several thousand pages of genuine UFO-related documents, are deliberately planting a few false ones to cover up their own ignorance and discredit ufology, and are forging Presidential signatures to do it..

having been offered 600 pages(!) of top secret documents by an anonymous informant in 1986 who then failed to

turn up (this a year before the MJ-12 papers were made public) she then assumes that her would-be documents were necessarily connected with MJ-12. What evidence has she for this? What evidence has she that these 600 pages exist at all, and that she is not the victim of some practical joker? Remember that several thousand perfectly genuine pages had already been released since about 1980, and none even remotely mentions MJ-12. Jenny comes over as someone who is upset because Tim did receive the MJ-12 stuff and she didn't.

It is quite false to state that the person who faked the MJ-12 papers had "high level information". Anyone who had done the necessary research could have faked them; likewise no special "access to the National Archives" is required. These archives are open to any member of the public upon application. Historians regularly use them and, as Barry Greenwood of CAUS has shown, it is not difficult to smuggle in a single sheet of paper and plant it. Moore, Shandera and Friedman had been visiting the National Archives, as well as other archives and libraries, for years before 1987. Jenny has not even considered why the US government would choose to release these phoney 'disinformation' papers in the way they did, by mailing them on microfilm, anonymously, to someone then totally unknown in ufology (Jaime Shandera) when they could easily have released them to one of the larger UFO

groups, or even the National Enquirer, where they would have received far better publicity.

Jenny claims that MJ-12 is the only topic in Tim Good's book that the media have shown any interest in. I have almost every review of that book that has appeared in Britain and Australia and, whilst they certainly talk about MJ-12, they clearly attach no importance to it; its true impact on the public media (as opposed to the UFO movement) in both the USA and Britain, has been negligible. The idea that British, French, Russian or any other governments are releasing genuine UFO papers and then seeding them with phoney ones is equally absurd. Also, why should they only want "military science" to delve into UFO's? Are the hundreds of thousands of civilian scientists at universities and industrial concerns round the world so stupid that they cannot be trusted with UFO's? (These, I should add, are the same institutions that often rely heavily on government funding for their scientific research).

The great majority of UFO sightings have nothing whatever to do with the military; they are made by private citizens. The great majority of UFO research is likewise done by private UFO groups and not by the military. This has been the case for 40 years. Official disinformation does indeed have its place; but in the fields of international espionage and warfare

and certainly not in the field of fringe science, which is what ufology still is.

As for the theory that a subtle official 'education program' is being planned, this idea is nothing new. It was first put about by Donald Keyhoe in the 1950's and is as crazy now as it was then. The civilian UFO groups have been trying to educate us all into accepting ETH for decades and the public has been bombarded with aliens from space in SF books, comics, films, and TV for longer still. Even 'Ancient Astronauts' ideas have been around for 20 years now. Are we not educated enough now?

Which government is going to do the 'educating' anyway, or are they all locked together in this giant 'disinformation' or subtle 'education' exercise? If the authorities did want to educate us, they can do so simply and directly without having to adopt covert means.

Yes, the MJ-12 papers are certain frauds. They were perpetrated during 1984-85 by one, or at most two, very skilful forgers out to convince the UFO world that crashed saucers exist and are still top secret. These same people have been desperately trying to find the all-revealing official papers for so long and, having failed to do so, had to resort to fabricating them. MJ-12 is a simple case of "if the crashed discs are not there, we shall put them there". Sincerely

Christopher D. Allan, Alsager

Jenny Randles was given the opportunity to reply in full to these two letters and replies:

JENNY RANGLES

Dear Andy,

Thanks for your letter and opportunity to comment on the contributions of Chris Allan and Ralph Noyes. I am not at all surprised, or disappointed, that my article (on the cover-up or cock-up?) provoked replies. That is what it was written for.

Whilst Chris Allan's makes some points that need commentary, I think Ralph's is more pertinent and requires looking at first; if only because his position as a long time servant of the department filtering incoming public UFO data makes him as close to a 'tame expert' on MJ-12 as we are likely to get.

I found his article on the subject (MAGONIA, April 1988) in line with my thinking, even though he merely suggested very valid personal reasons why the MJ-12 documents might be suspect and did not elaborate on who might be involved in their creation or fabrication.

When I commented in UFO CONSPIRACY upon Ralph's writing of A SECRET PROPERTY (an excellent and thought provoking novel, by the way) I was directing my attention more to curious (and I still think unanswered) discrepancy between Ralph's insistence that it was NOT based on any real event, most notably the Rendlesham

Forest 'Sky Crash', even though his 'fictional characters' and settings are so identical with reality this claim is hard to sustain. Colonel Hoyt instead of Halt. Blandfordness lighthouse instead of Orfordness. Even a Tory female Prime Minister of iron lady disposition. And a UFO investigator from Kent who has written a book on George Adamski. these and other examples make plain that the book WAS based on the realities. Also I feel sure that Ralph's speculations on the case he wrote (sorry DIDN'T write) about were sincere ones.

I think these actions are fairly described as 'toying' with the subject, and this was not implied in any nefarious manner. Like Ralph says, in a sense I was toying too, by not being more forthcoming about the file-offering serviceman who approached me. But also like Ralph, I had good reason.

I am glad that Ralph feels UFO CONSPIRACY is "largely about deceit and disinformation". He is the only commentator to have seen it that way, although it isn't a view I would seriously dispute. However, there were many sound factors why it was NOT right to report the incident with the files within that book. For a start, the events occurred in the Autumn of 1986 and whilst I could have slotted them into the book without too much hassle, it would have been a hasty job and you do not (at least in my

estimation) rush into print on a story as complex as this was.

Secondly, but most important of all, I have NEVER said that my source "was not being truthful", at least in the sense that he, personally, was the creator of the disinformation. Neither Peter Hough nor I, who both met him, ever concluded that he was the main protagonist. We felt he was USED as an innocent messenger. As he had a family and young children, whom he professed not to know of his involvement in the saga, and as the events themselves clearly implied a level of personal risk by even discussing them, I considered that it would have been grossly premature and irresponsible to have reported them in that book, however it might have livened up the text or offered clues on disinformation.

Even 18 months on, when I wrote my piece for International UFO Reporter, I did so with some trepidation, changing certain details and obscuring others. This was necessary to protect a source who may or may not have been innocent, but was still owed my trust. Even if, as I had also concluded, a responsible UFO outlet HAD to publish the facts.

My reason for choosing the USA was partly because of their obsession with these documents and partly to 'distance' the report a little from the serviceman involved. For that same reason I do not feel it appropriate to publish a detailed account here.

However, I am prepared to describe in general terms what happened, especially as Chris Allan says more about it than I did(!), based on his evident reading of my IUR article. He then, quite absurdly uses the story to suggest that I was "upset because Tim did receive the MJ-12 stuff and she didn't". Now you see another reason why I didn't write about it over here, where people like Chris Allan would read all kinds of stupid motives into what was a story told to us, that we have NEVER claimed to have been more than a story, which we checked out as fully as Peter Hough and I could, and which I deliberately avoided publicising and only now have reported in an unpaid UFO journal for responsible UFO researchers. Tim Good took his unverified documents to the world, immediately, via a sensational book. I am not arguing rights or wrongs, but I am willing to let anybody judge whether I acted cautiously, sensibly and with concern for the 'witness' and the UFO community, or some alleged jealousy of Tim Good, because his book and presentation of documents brought him notoriety. I have enough of that already, thank you. I don't need to envy Tim Good!

I was called on the 'phone by a man who professed to have received, via another source, a mass of documentation on the secret US government investigation into UFO's. MJ-12 was NOT mentioned by name. But

he was talking about what even then we knew to be rumoured as MJ-12 (don't forget I DO refer to MJ-12 in UFO CONSPIRACY, as even before the documents were made public last summer, we DID have stories about this body that identified it by the term MJ-12).

The connection was clear, because of the detailed substance of documents he described (with dates of events, crashed UFO incidents and autopsies performed by named individuals on dead aliens). Unless it is contended that there were TWO secret underground US projects to do the same thing, then my source was discussing MJ-12...if he was discussing anything real and if MJ-12 is real and if...Well, you know all the 'and ifs'...

Naturally, I was not exactly over impressed. This was by no means the first time I've been offered secret documents; although the 600 he referred to was a new record. He struck me as being genuinely naive about UFO's or the nature of what he had and said the person who had given them him (a senior British officer) had merely given my name and number (then NOT ex-directory and my address has been widely published) and told him to call, as 'someone who might help'.

To cut a very long story short, I persuaded him to let me bring a colleague (Peter Hough). We agreed a meet, after he called back a second time exactly as he had promised to do.

We did meet. We spent a long time in which Peter and I interviewed him and he described the content of his documents in considerable detail, even sketching forms and codings and describing rough outlines of cases mentioned. He also gave an exhaustive account of how he got the papers from the British officer and how the British officer obtained them from a USAF employee in the computer records office at Dayton, Ohio. That officer had died in a mysterious car accident whilst awaiting trial on the charge of being a restricted area. He was never charged with possessing documents and believes he had convinced his superiors that he only saw the material, rather than obtained copies. At no time did our source evade any question. he gave no indication of insincerity. Frankly, both Peter and I (who between us have had over 20 years interviewing witnesses) considered him as credible as any 'witness' we had ever met. But, of course, because of what he was describing and the fact that he had not yet shown us a single document we were very sceptical. That has to remain our position.

We set up a meeting at a covert location just over a week later. In the meantime we followed clues to check his story out without causing too many ripples. Some of it matched. Some of it didn't. But we found no clear cut lies and evidence that some of what he told us was the truth. After his failure to show up with the

documents we checked even further. Then let the matter drop as just another of those stories. remember, we had no idea the MJ-12 documents were in anybody's possession at that time, so no reason to view this aborted offer as directly connected with MJ-12.

That could, and probably should, have been the end of it. there was no reason why the individual should have re-established contact. But he did. He wrote a long letter, some weeks later, fully explaining himself and how he had spent some time under questioning at a military establishment. The documents were taken from him, but he persuaded them he had no real understanding of their content. From what we heard from him I would consider that quite feasible. He made no further promises, profusely apologised for letting himself and us down, but pointed out that he had to protect his family, who still did not know the truth. His letter rang true, and if this was a trick by a 'practical joker', as Chris Allan contends, then it was a very cleverly executed one that served nobody any purpose. Also why did our contact write that letter? Had he merely not been in touch gain, he hoax theory would look better. He had no need to explain his disappearance, as he well understood how we would interpret it and said that he would not blame us for thinking him a liar.

named. In my view the parties Chris Allan cites are implied by his context- and some of the people discussed in his letter are made suspect by his allegations and could sue, if they wanted. I would not wish to see Chris suffer for his honest doubts about MJ-12.

I suggest that, if Chris Allan really

means what he says in his final paragraph, then he should publish his evidence and prove his case as soon as possible. Otherwise he must hope that those he accuses do not take offence...or start looking for a good lawyer.

Best Wishes

Jenny

ABDUCTION by Jenny Randles. Published by Robert Hale Ltd. £10:95

After the extreme polarisation of both Hopkins and Klass a balanced overview of the abduction experience. For some reason (probably because it sells better) extremes of viewpoints abound about the abduction enigma and it is pleasing to see Jenny's comprehensive treatment. Whether you are totally sceptical or a fanatical ETH-er there will be something in here for you. Jenny starts by taking a look at abductions which may have taken place in previous centuries when the abductors took on a somewhat different form from aliens from space. A worldwide catalogue of abduction cases is also featured with cases from almost every country, dispelling the myth that abductions are a phenomenon peculiar to the west. The major British abductions are considered again; Godfrey, Shelley Barnes, Aveley etc. Nothing new, but when they are all together with cases from elsewhere and the past the enormity of the abduction problem can be seen. Jenny looks at the evidence for and against the physical reality for abductions and comes up with some strange conclusions, which I'm not going to tell you here.



"See, Frank? Keep the light in their eyes and you can bag them without any trouble at all."

She argues well against abductions being purely psychologically based, destroying the Lawson 'Imaginary Abductee' experiments and using Eddie Bullard's new study of the phenomena which attempted to place it in the category of folklore (Bullard is a folklore PHD) and which failed. This is state of the art abduction research used well and despite the posturings of Phil Klass, Jenny puts forward a case so strong that you just have to admit that something very strange is going on. This book is an excellent and well reasoned antidote to the current ETH revival sweeping the USA, the evidence given here suggesting a study of altered states of

consciousness would be more apt. This is the first UK book on abductions to be published which has actually been written by someone involved in first hand investigation and it deserves your support and consideration.

UFO BRIGANTIA MAY/JUN '88

Neither Peter nor I can make up our mind on this. It MIGHT have all been a sick joke. But this man was by no means your usual crank- and believe me we've both met dozens. If he was talking about documents on a cover up at the local DESS, or a scandal in the Town Hall, I'd have no hesitation in believing him. And, the events that have followed, only further complicate matters. If the MJ-12 papers were leaked out, as I believe for an ulterior motive, then this carefully timed approach to me fits rather too well. It might be a coincidence, of course. Or it might not.

That's all I can, or will say. Except to add, without appearing paranoid, that just in case he was telling the truth, Peter and I made sure our full notes are in multiple (totally undiscussed) safe places and will be made public in several immediate ways should anything suddenly happen to either of us. If it doesn't, then they'll stay there.

On now to Chris Allan's offering. I can't answer all his points, for space factors and because some are perfectly fair comment that are as likely to be true as my perfectly fair comment. You make up your own mind on which version best fits. However, he asks why the MJ-12 papers should be fed to a TV producer, and three leading cover-up researchers (Friedman, Good and Moore) rather than the National Enquirer. Oh come on, surely I don't need to explain that. It ought to be obvious.

Not even UFO investigators believe ANYTHING in the National Enquirer! If your brief is to seed a few provocative documents into the melting pot that look good on the surface, but have the effect of deflecting attention away from the truth (that UFO's are unknown but potentially interesting), with an overkill of the 'ridiculous' idea (that there are captured crashed spaceships and pickled green men) then you go to the sources who are most prominently identified with this field and who, if they accept them, would have some credibility in the public eye.

Bill Moore and Stanton Friedman are undoubtedly the most credible of the cover up researchers in the USA, publicly associated with the field in a sober manner and frequently in the news. I don't necessarily approve of all or most of their data. Nor, maybe, do you. But their background is impressive and impeccable. Tim Good is without question the UFO investigator in Britain most committed to the ETH, cover-up and crashed UFO'S. He was also known to be writing a book on the topic. The covert seeding of these papers to these sources, plus a TV man 'as cover' makes a heck of a lot of sense to me. Perhaps Tim got them because the Americans had sat on them too long and were being too careful for whoever had fabricated them in the first place. That's my guess.

As to whether the approach to me was just a coincidence, who knows. But I

find it curious that it came when I as writing such a book. It smacks of the release of the famous Bentwaters tape (which I also regard as disinformation) at such a timely moment. Was it coincidence that Peter and I started to check the story out from square one and clearly made our position known that we would not take the story at face value? If it was a hoax he must have had some understanding of my lack of belief in ETH and crashed UFO's from all my previous writings. So it is hard to suggest that he chickened out when he realised our caution. But someone else might have done. Someone who might have hoped my desire to promote my book would override caution and create open armed acceptance and a quick route to publicise the story about the documents.

Frankly, I don't know if this is true, or if it isn't. But it makes sense, and serves no purpose to make the allegation that I am somehow trying to 'get in on the act'. If so, why did I not use this to promote UFO CONSPIRACY, or the paperback (which came AFTER I had decided to tell the story in IUR and AFTER MJ-12 was well known?) Why haven't I written it up in some place that would sensationalise and forge possibly spurious links (and PAY me!)? Why haven't I used it in any way to publicly imply a connection between myself, my book and MJ-12?

I am a professional writer, and not a stupid one. I well saw the

possibilities. I know what SELLS and what doesn't. But I have integrity and the only people who needed to hear this story were UFO investigators, not News of the World or Sunday People readers. If the facts of my actions don't spell that out, then it further justifies my decision not to publish a full accounts of this story in front of a UK audience clearly intent on reading into it what they WANT to read in.

Finally, I think Chris Allan is treading very dangerous ground. He has already uncovered one alleged hoax involving a person with the surname Moore. he may very well be correct that the MJ-12 papers are fraudulent. But his hints about exactly who he believes fabricated them are not subtle. I can see no grounds for blaming these sincere UFO investigators and it was obvious to me (and I am sure most readers) who the people "desperately trying to find the all revealing official papers for so long" are supposed to be. Indeed, in documents circulated around UFO research, some (of the now many) sceptics of MJ-12 have offered what they regard as 'evidence' of their precise identities.

I have had reason to investigate the libel laws very closely in recent weeks and a writer accusing someone of fraud IS potentially guilty. All that alledged 'victims' need show is that the article can be reasonably said to refer to them. they do NOT have to be

ABDUCTIONS- Phil Klass plays a Dangerous GameAn extended review by Regina Cullen

UFO ABDUCTIONS A DANGEROUS GAME (Prometheus Books 1988) 194 pages, Index. Available from some of the London bookshops or try Lionel Beer or S. Stebbing. Price in the UK about £14.95

As a Nuts & Bolts-er I must admit I was expecting to take exception to Mr Klass, but I truly was not prepared, not having read his previous efforts, both for the shock-horror and the bizarre flavour of humour at finding myself amidst what looked like some circus sideshow. Was it mentation I was savouring or merely arcane ritual? Had the Moral Majority mutated a new head? Here is a travesty, a tour de farce (pun intended) of slur, sarcasm, implication, half truth, half baked logic, puerile righteousness..it would be pathetic if it weren't so nasty and aggressive. The author calls himself a journalist and UFO researcher..I think he could more properly be viewed as a shame to tabloid journalism and a parasite revising the work of others, showing such an enjoyment of character assassination and tendency to decide what's right for society that the places himself firmly in the book and heretic burning tradition. Like D. Menzel and E. Condon he will be immortal - and for the same reasons; intellectual dishonesty and fanaticism. Condon, it will be recalled, remarked that UFO proponents ought to be publically horsewhipped, and Menzel, who personally informed Kennedy he was associated with the CIA, was also, if we are to believe the MJ-12 papers, a firm believer in the ETH but at the same time the government's chief purveyor of debunking propaganda... (some of which being so ill-founded, particularly for a professional scientist that it hardly seems likely it was genuine error, and this I think is a point in favour of the authenticity of the MJ12 document which mentions him.) Could P. Klass actually believe what he writes? Your reviewer contemplates with horror the distorted perspective any reader new to the subject would acquire here.

In a book purportedly about abduction it is remarkable how little one learns about abduction. Missing Time is dismissed in the manner of 'Oh

gosh, how the time slipped by while I was at lunch the other day and suddenly it was later than I thought'. The spectacular phenomenon of teleportation is ignored. Physical effects and landing traces, if mentioned at all, are given as short a shrift as possible...the Kathie Davis landing trace, for example, being dismissed with that sickening old saw 'fairy ring'. Never mind that two sets of neighbours experienced disturbances; that the girls suffered radiation effects; that the baked earth, which appeared so suddenly, was felt to be hot to the touch, and that it wasn't just in the shape of a ring but extended in a swath outward also-



Phil Klass

in keeping with a craft having departed, gaining altitude as the effects in the soil diminished proportionately; that Budd Hopkins' results of soil analysis showed that to have acquired the colour it had it would have had to have been heated to 800 degrees farenheit for six hours (Earth Technology!); etc, to name just some of the effects. In the best tabloid style of selecting only that which can be manipulated to fit the theory, Klass's 'analysis' is sorely deficient and eventually trails off into outright dishonesty, or a failure of basic faculties of intelligence in his statement referring to the burned area that "the grass itself showed absolutely no evidence of intense heat". Well of course it wouldn't..it was the soil that was analysed, not

the grass the grass itself utterly disintegrated. It is really seriously necessary to be vigilant about every single sentence in this book lest one be deceived in this fashion. He is also good at phraseology, using it to imply where actual fact is missing or contradictory. Persons attempting to jump on the Klass bandwagon ought to examine their motives...bandwagons are designed to make the revellers feel good, and this particular one to make them feel superior too. What's the word for deliberate manipulation of truth? Propaganda? And as for the poor abductees....despite

the (suspiciously) saccharine dedication, all according to the expert P. Klass, will perforce fit two genera: the hoaxer 'and the fantasist with 'psychological needs'. Ladies and Gents, is this not utterly Brill? It certainly flies in the face of the conclusions of the genuine professionals Hopkins went to considerable trouble to consult: "*None of these psychological professionals have presented to me, even tentatively, a psychological theory that might explain these bizarre accounts. And even if such a theory did exist, there would still remain the problem of explaining the physical evidence- the scars, marks, temporary disappearances etc*".

A word must be said about the dedication "...to those who will needlessly bear mental scars for the rest of their lives because of the foolish fantasies of a few". It is unclear whether he is referring, in the 'few', solely to 'abductionists', the unpleasant word he uses to refer to Budd Hopkins, David Jacobs, Leo Sprinkle, etc...those who, in other words, without being "licensed professionals" hypnotise others and place "pseudo-memories" in their minds with their leading questions and other unprofessionalisms including "probing deeply into the minds of others" (the implication being: somehow obscenly). or also to those abductees, of either persuasion, who have become public figures and from whom therefore the disease may be caught. To those who, in other words either imagine it or imagine they can get away with it, and with what fetid and dangerous minds.

He stops just short of calling Budd Hopkins- who must have the patience of Job to be putting up with all this, but then, as Jenny Randles says of him: "*I know Budd Hopkins to be one of the kindest, most affable men one could wish to meet*" - a psychopath and a criminal. (Please allow me to refer you to Hopkin's Appendix B in Intruders in which he describes his training in hypnosis and presents an interesting discussion of the subject, detailing also his position and manner of use.) But it doesn't matter too much really, all are evil and P. Klass has better advice for abductees: go to your shrink (which might get you into the mental hospital), or report a kidnapping to the FBI (which might get you fined \$10,000) instead! What is really behind this dedication aside from gross condescension and condemnation is his maxim that abduction doesn't exist and society is better off burying its head in the sand about anomalous phenomena. Aren't you relieved? Aren't you pleased to know- a Klass insight here- that you can protect yourself and your loved ones from abduction by being a sceptic. Barney Hill being an exception of course! (as numerous references in The Interrupted Journey show, including Barney's statements given under hypnosis, which adds to its authenticity: "*I didn't believe in them.*"- p.82)

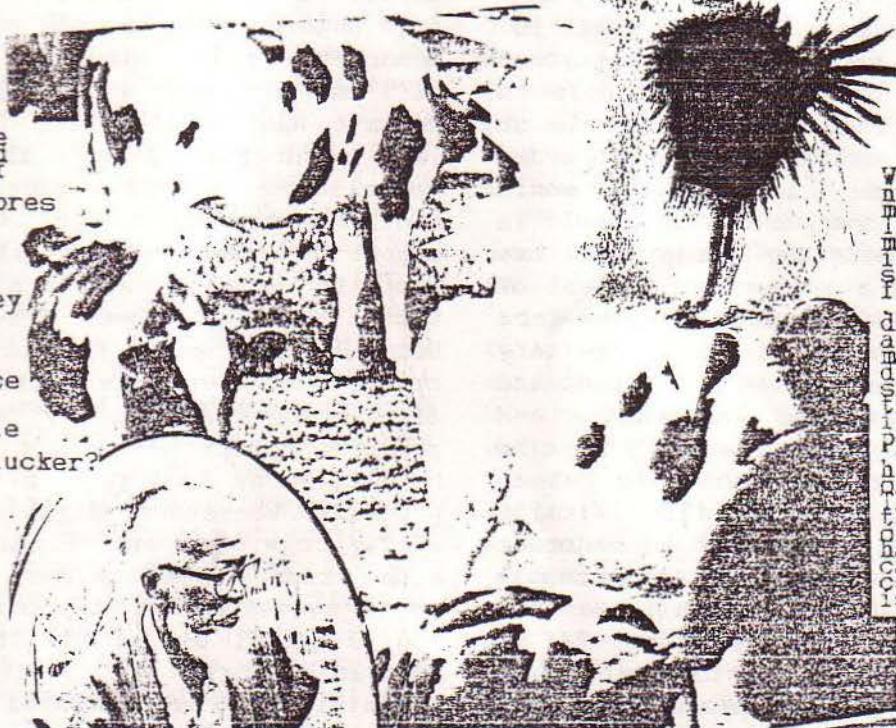
Jenny Randles has thankfully provided us with a real glimpse of this staggering phenomenon in her new book Abduction. A fundamental point she makes is that abductees need help and understanding. Klass has it the wrong way round (but then he would, wouldn't he?) and never considers that it may be the mental scars that have come first, and which the 'abductionist' may be able to heal. Jenny's book is very useful for refuting much of what Klass tries to base his argument on..the notorious Lawson experiment (just chock a block full of 'leading questions' by the way), for example, or the media effect, for another. or the ridiculous idea that abduction is the product of the hypnotist's imagination. She points out that there are a large number of cases in which no abduction

is revealed despite hypnosis and that many abductions are remembered *without* hypnosis. To this I add the example of the sceptical hypnotist: the Hill's Dr Simon could never give up the idea that their experience must have been partly Betty's dream...and he certainly had no preconceived notions about medical examinations and the like. (To his credit, as reported more than once by Fuller, you will see that he fully endorsed Fuller's manuscript-Simon would not come to a final conclusion, he would not say

find a 'psychological' explanation for similarities?), an instance indeed of missing time, and spectacular teleportation, which cannot be passed off as 'wandering round the back roads' as Klass tries to dismiss the Hill missing time (and possible teleportation?).

IN ONE SENTENCE the useful information in this book is that Whiteley Strieber has admitted to having told tales in the past, aside from his novels that is (is this news?) Does he really need a book to

I don't know
 Jake,
 my feasibility
 studies indicate
 that the amount
 of chaff in there
 will fetch a good
 price...devoid of
 its moral
 component the fibres
 are easier to
 swallow, you
 know. But then,
 the organic nuts
 are willing to
 pay more, and they
 like those rare
 kernels of truth,
 so what's your
 estimate of the
 ratio of substance
 to waste here?
 and do you think
 it's more suitable
 for the thrasher
 or the chicken plucker?
 Moreover, what is
 it anyway.....?



Well, Bob, let's
 not get too
 metaphysical here...
 I wouldn't worry too
 much about what it
 is. Truth is often
 stranger than
 fiction, you know
 And you're
 definitely right
 about the quip
 market, I'd say
 don't be too
 specific about
 the contents, and
 if any kernels
 pop up, push it as
 enriched at the
 higher price,
 of course.
 That way, you appeal
 to both levels
 of demand, and make
 hay, or should I say
 cake, heh, heh... Of
 course, hence... Of
 course, hence... Of
 is dearer still...

MR. N.O. CLASS deBUNK ABOUT TO FALL ON HARD TIMES AT THE HANDS OF FARMER I. SORT de CHAFF AND HIS NEIGHBOUR A. LIENINDISGUISE.

definitely if the Hill's experience was illusion or reality and would only rest his case on his feeling that "Anything beyond that (the dream hypothesis) would seem to stretch the limits of credulity too far." Would someone write in please if they can uncover the source of that quote the gist of which is: "If a distinguished scientist says something is possible he is almost certainly correct; if he says something is not possible he is almost certainly wrong". For sheer, dare I call it this, entertainment, do be sure to read the recounting of the Diaz case from South America, (Klass does not look into cases outside the USA, perhaps he couldn't

say the rest? In my opinion a critic of integrity would succinctly make his points and then keep the peace. He would not rabbit on in the most rabid fashion with sniping and nit-picking. (Leaping Rabid Rabbits! Here it is, the sideshow..) But then, books make money, don't they. An entire chapter is devoted to repeating what he said about the Travis Walton case in his previous book, ignoring the aspects which would suggest otherwise. He obviously likes to put it about that Travis was hoaxing. Without making any comment on what I would like to say it seems that polygraph testing, so well known for its unreliability that it is

not admissible in court, is made too much of in ufology. As Mrs Lorenzon pointed out in relation to Travis Walton, the lie detector measures stress, not lies. I would have thought anyone who was anxious over a bizarre experience would not be a good candidate for it, and I would tend to forgive them if they were apprehensive about it, it would be quite awful to be found 'lying' about a genuine experience- however they perceived of interpreted that experience- and such a result would only serve to add anxiety and upset. Klass would have us believe that Budd Hopkin's 'buddy' system and informal gatherings for abductees are sources of contamination in cases but I find it difficult to believe that Budd Hopkins, who is so scrupulous to withhold details in order to compare and check cases, would allow social arrangements to unfold in such a way. Betty and Barney Hill are dealt with in a manner reminiscent of trying to reconstruct a cow from butcher's waste: an arbitrary juxtapositioning of the irrelevant and the ridiculous, the innaccurate and the untenable. If you waste your time with this book long enough to get to the chapter entitled "The Victims Speak", you may note that he endorses the extremely radical and in my humble opinion wholly untenable view expressed by Hilary Evans that *"If we knew the previous history of these people, if we could explore their life situations, we would find that there was some basis that provides the need to have this kind of experience"*. Hilary Evans is not a 'psychological professional' as you doubtless know. Has it occurred to either one of them that it is equally valid to consider that sceptics are suffering from 'psycholigical needs". And what 'need' is Kathie David demonstrating when she says she doesn't want to believe it happened? Even Klass admits that *"...surely she could never have forseen that her letter (to Budd Hopkins in the beginning) would make her a UFO celebrity.."* The chapter is just another excuse to cast aspersion. he quotes Kathie: *"I can live with it because I don't believe it. I really (his italics) don't. There's got to be*

something else". Why he should call this a 'blockbuster' is rather mysterious and odd (except that to do so suits his purposes) as it is hardly surprising. Kathie has almost always referred to her experiences as 'dreams' according to Budd Hopkins..a euphemism, a way of making the uncomfortable and the incredible easier to live with (remember Barney Hill?). Klass however tries to make this into proof for his contention that Budd Hopkins has made it all up. But these remarks do not say that what she revealed under hypnosis did not happen to her. I am sure that if she felt Budd Hopkins had planted 'pseudo-memories' in her mind she would have said so by now especially as she doesn't want to 'believe it'. Kathie is, according to Klass himself, *"a remarkably candid young woman"*. Another attempted 'proof' that really cannot go unmentioned is the spurious (not to mention nasty and in bad taste) analogy Klass draws between Budd Hopkins and *"the therapist (s opposed to the patient) who believes the inkblots are really pornographic pictures"*. Hopkins has arrived at his beliefs by dint of empiric process...the sheer weight of evidence having convinced him. He did not have some 'innate' perception beforehand, as is suggested by the innappropriate and illogical use of the inkblot test joke as analogy.

Kathie's above mentioned remarks in fact, and I would be very surprised if Klass being also an American does not realise it, encompass an affectation of personality which conveys meanings different to that in the literal sense. (And I am American too so do please have some faith in my translation of the language) It is a not uncommon form of mannerism, especially coming as it is when she is nervous and self-conscious on a panel at MUFON '87 (*"I'm not a speaker and I'm shaking like a leaf"*, he says she says). It can be viewed as a further expression of modesty, a way of saying *"I'm not superior to you by virtue of somehow having being 'chosen'"*; it is a way of not placing the audience under the demand to support her or 'believe' and thus also a way of avoiding being placed under their

judgement. It is stress avoidance. It is a form of detachment which may be vital for her precisely because events have affected her deeply. If she at times has felt like a helpless guinea-pig, who could blame her? If she emphasized the word 'really' as his italic suggest then this enhances the impression she may be injecting the element of self-deprecating humour which, quite acceptably in America and usually taken as a form of modesty, could and does often accompany such a form of social presentation. This seems all the more likely in view of the humour of her family as described in his ensuing paragraphs. But alas, the Davis family can't even be humorous without being misconstrued or found worthy of suspicion. Since when is humour not a way of relieving the mysterious or the upsetting? Klass however determines it is the mark of the hoax and seriously suggests Kathie wrote to Budd Hopkins originally for a practical joke or to "enliven her then drab life". This is too risible to even qualify for 'psychological needs'. And have I forgotten something or by what right does he assume she was finding her life drab? Budd Hopkins points out in Intruders that Kathie tore up her first letter to him "...assuming that I would probably not be interested"..hardly the action of the cavalier practical joker. It is also quite clear that she wrote to him because she recognised events of her own life in Missing Time. In a clever fashion, by prefacing with his remark about Kathie being a "remarkably candid young woman", Klass warps the meaning of what is really just her description of the family going out and looking at the burned area in their yard into a sort of revelation by Kathie of hitherto secret information: the implication being that nothing really happened! Because Kathie recounted "My Mom laughed and she said: 'Well, that's where our UFO landed'", he apparently feels justified in making a slur on Budd Hopkins for finding that bare patch significant. He himself has utterly missed (or chosen to ignore) the significance of the fact that Kathie's mother was in the 'suspended' state during the hour which constituted

Kathie's missing time, and saw nothing but the peculiar light at the poolhouse and around the birdfeeder, while Kathie at this point was amnesic about the missing time. he then goes on, incredibly but by now nothing should shock you, to imply a conspiracy between Hopkins and Kathie to conceal the truth about why she wrote to him by saying "Because of the close friendship that has since developed between them it is doubtful that Kathie's original motivation can ever be known with certainty". Kopkins (p.29) expresses a perfectly valid reason for his friendship with Kathie and anyone who reads both books will I am sure sense which one is the more honest. Maybe conspiracy is the sort of thing which Klass would get up to but it does not sound like either Kathie or Hopkins.

Sigh, in all of this is the man's amazing display barely scratched. But if I have given pause to even one 'sceptic' who might otherwise 'tut-tut' and carry on believing whatever stikes his/her fancy I will consider I have not slogged through this book in vain. (Your incorrigible editor however I note from this issue's editorial is indulging in his exceptional talent for hawking 'scepticism', with some pretty careless generalization, inaccuracy, and unnecessarily withering tone..my Dear Fellow, are you thinking of breaking into the Klass genre? What is this Fashion For Scepticism? Whatever happened to sensible empiricism? To the Scientific Method? To the GOOD OLD OPEN MIND?

Perhaps the tip of the P. Klass iceberg can be summed up in a few cliches. P. Klass is not a class act. Truly a classic case of 1) not seeing the wood for the trees, and 2) fulfilling the 'psychological needs' of the ostrich-sceptic by grasping at any straw, however irrelevant or arbitrary, inadequate or distorted. And if we give the benefit of the doubt, then the conclusion must be: Incompetence. Isn't it time his house of cards came tumbling down?

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