

UFO

BRIGANTIA.

A JOURNAL OF UFO INVESTIGATION.

DAILY STAR

JUST WHAT YOU DIDN'T EXPECT!

THURSDAY, MARCH 30, 1989

20p**

Alien UFO
'tracked'
shuttle'

SHUTTLE'S CREW SAW ALIEN SPACE



Discovery 'buzzed'

ALIENS buzzed the space shuttle Discovery high above Earth, it was revealed last night.

OH NO THEY DIDN'T!
IUN EXCLUSIVE - PAGE 6

No 39

summer '89



UFO BRIGANTIA NO. 39 SUMMER 1989

THE JOURNAL OF THE INDEPENDENT UFO NETWORK

'Ufology - delicious hot, disgusting cold'

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UFO BRIGANTIA is published bi-monthly and is available by subscription or exchange. Letters, and criticisms are most welcome and are encouraged, as is the submission of articles on any aspect of ufology or fortean topics in general, no matter how bizarre or controversial.

THE IUN

The I.U.N. was created in 1987 from the remnants of various other UFO organisations. It exists primarily as a network of people interested in the UFO phenomena. You can't be a member (you just know if you belong in the IUN) and we don't have rules. If you want to act like a pillock in the IUN's name that's entirely up to you. The IUN provides a non-partisan ufological grouping for public usage. The IUN and UFO Brigantia are not connected in any way shape or form with any other UFO groups. UFO BRIGANTIA's ethos is laid out in the editorial on page 3 as a result of consumer demand to 'know where we're at'.

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Greetings Pilgrim. As this is the summer issue and you'll be too busy basking in your deckchair toying with a cornetto, or perhaps a dark chocolate mint choc ice, we'll not get into anything too heavy this editorial. Save your brain power for reading Ron Schaffner's erudite outing on page 2.

You will note that this issue should have been the July issue and is somewhat late in arrival. UFO BRIGANTIA has never been this late before and I can only offer my apologies. Dave Clarke and myself have been busy over the last few months finishing the manuscript of a UFO book (Phantoms of the Sky - to be published by Robert Hale in 1990) and this amongst other things has slowed the magazine up. Anyway to make up for this in some small way this issue is now a double 'summer' issue and will count as two issues on your subs. There won't be another Brigantia until November.

As it's summer and now we have so many subscribers, most of them acquired within the past year or so, I thought we'd have a bit of a history lesson about UFO BRIGANTIA's origins, a statement of its aims, and a bit of do on what function UFO magazines perform. So, take a picture of this:

Long ago, in the mists of the early 1980's, there was (still is) a very strange person living in Bradford. Paul Bennett (for it is he), was the founder of this magazine. Ever since he was old enough to have a thought in his head Bennett had been into strange things. UFOs, ghosts, ley lines, you name it, Paul knew about it and had his own special 'Paulness' to add to it. But UFOs were really Paul's thing at the time, and he had also had several personal UFO experiences of the weirdest kind. He even achieved 'fame' when he was immortalized in MUF0B Journal (now Magonia) in a two part 'lets patronise a percipient'

article which me and Paul have had many a laugh at since- 'cos he made it all up!.

By 1983 Paul had organised a UFO group with another well known UFO personality, Nigel Mortimer (see Jenny Randles' Pennine UFO Mystery). The West Yorkshire UFO Society, as it was known, had a few meetings out of which came the beginnings of BRIGANTIA in the shape of the WYUFOS Newsletter, basically a news exchange sheet. WYUFOS folded and re-appeared in 1984 as the West Yorkshire UFO Research Group WYUFORG which founded UFO BRIGANTIA, edited by young Bennett. With Paul at the helm BRIGANTIA delved deep into UFOs in West Yorkshire and also published various fortean articles dealing with fairies, pterodactyls at Shipley (Herons if you ask me, but never mind) and other odd things. Originally A4 photocopier reproduced UFO BRIGANTIA had about 10 subscribers, most of which are still with us (we haven't let them out of the cellar yet!), and the then WYUFORG group members. I came on the scene in about April 1985 and in a bloody, gargantuan, Dallas-like power struggle (actually I said 'please' and Paul said 'yes'), took over the magazine in January 1986. Paul went on to run his own, highly idiosyncratic 'zine 'EARTH' and I, dismayed by the utter crap that was being purveyed by the UK's UFO magazines, (you know, 'let's be open minded', 'lets not talk about what really goes on in case someone susses its all a con and we lose some readers'), have attempted over the past three years to make the magazine reflective of the trends, beliefs and practices which make up that fluffy bundle of ephemeral fun known as ufology.

WYUFORG later mutated into the IUN in September 1987 as a result of anyone in YUFOS with a synapse that still fired abandoning the rapidly sinking ship. Numerous other UFO fanciers came out of the woodwork and joined our merry band, and so here we are. Clinging precariously to the ufological mud pile. Five years from the beginning with, ooooooh, that many subscribers, far more friends

than we deserve, spies everywhere, several poison pen letters and a mounting pile of case material that so far proves zilch except nature is wonderful and some people can't describe what they see properly - a simplification maybe, but true as we have found it.....

Now UFO magazines don't just happen. Like the national newspapers they are all managed, owned, run, dictated or whatever by *someone* and that means they exist for a reason and to put forward one point of view or to back up a current belief system. No, I'm sorry Julian, they aren't just there to tell you about UFOs. You can forget that idea for a start- any editor that tells you that is simply lying - including me. So why do they do it? Why does Flying Saucer Review print articles relating UFOs to AIDS? Aside from plain stupidity or a lack of discrimination between cause and effect so fundamental as to make the Ayatollah look astute I don't know. Maybe people - hold your breath - really believe it. Why does Awareness (ok, I know you haven't heard of it but it's CONTACT UK's journal) persist in churning out, year after year, bad articles about propulsion systems and muttering darkly about non existant conspiracies?. Why is Northern UFO News the only magazine to have actually consistently printed a regular catalogue of UFO sightings? (editorial bias here, I can't say anything too horrible about NUN cos we have a joint subscription deal). Why does BUFORA Bulletin never ask any serious questions about what is really going on, and why does it cost so much anyway?. Why does QUEST always tag along with whatever American UFO mythology is going or write editorials like they are under attack from indians in a wagon train circle? Why is Magonia so bloody difficult to understand sometimes? We could go on (why, for instance, does BRIGANTIA have this need for asides in parenthesis?).

But the point is made. Each magazine gives an angle- all of them different. Some cater for those who accept that UFOs exist and like to pander to their wildest dreams and others like to display their knowledge about how they think the rest of us tick. Some just exist because they have always existed and don't know how to stop - we have heard that fossilised copies of F.S.R. can be now found in the natural history museum. People have only

just about got round to questioning what UFOs are but no-one ever questions why UFO journals exist - a far greater mystery if you ask me.

Personally I think there ought to be more journals because there are so many things to say about UFOs and the people involved with them, and also because it stops the 'clubbish' attitude of one magazine developing vast amounts of readers and dominating the field with rubbish which people take to be 'truth'. Start one yourself tomorrow.

Writing about sightings, theories and stuff is great, we love them, but they are only the end product of the people involved and perhaps we need more criticism of the people, groups and methodologies which make up ufology and this can only come about via magazines. If we see other ufologists or groups doing something stupid or making a pathetic job of investigating a case then the editors should say so publically before any Tom, Dick or Harry has put yet another dodgy case into the UFO files which has no relationship to to what actually happened (how many ufologists really want to know what's happened?). We don't criticise ourselves enough publically. But we should. Why can't we say what we mean? It's no good Ufology pretending it is something it isn't. As we've probably said before, any science, discipline or interest only progresses by constant internal argument and criticism and yet ufology actually thinks it acts in a scientific manner but is more interested in keeping a low profile than getting to grips with what's going on.

Come on, this isn't a game we're playing- we are dealing with what people believe to be true and you can't get any more serious than that (people live and die on belief). So let's push it 'til it squeaks - if people say ridiculous things make them defend their position and a less of the "well they're entitled to their point of view" nonsense. That's how ufology has got to be in the mess it's in today. Magazines play a key role in ufology as they are the main medium of communication. Magazines

are as much a part of the 'phenomenon' as the UFOs, which we can't investigate themselves, and should be dissected frequently to see what we can fortell from their entrails. And we can learn a lot. Like a train station all human life is there. I lump BRIGANTIA in here obviously and fortunately people do take us to task every now and then. YUFOS have frequently been very helpful there and David (Lunatic Fringe) Barclay does so in this issue also. If we are so precious that we can't eother criticise others or take it ourselves then it's stamp collecting time I'm afraid.

So that's how we got where we are today and what this editor thinks about UFO magazines- please don't take them for granted and NEVER believe what you read- especially in the editorials! And if you read something you know to be wrong or have a better idea about, then for dogs sake write in and correct it or complain.

So where next? Well, if we're fortunate enough to avoid the totalitarian UFO state which some UFO groups would like to impose on everyone else, er, I don't know. More cases, more sightings, more standing still. But I think the direction BRIGANTIA will hopefully take is trying to keep track of new theories, hoaxes, what other Ufologists and groups are doing, poke a bit of fun here and there and generally do as we please. In fact anything in the spaces between what everyone else is doing- to be more reflective on ufology than to go trying to connect AIDS with UFOs (we know the connection, but we're not telling you!) - to try and keep abreast of what makes ufology what it is, whilst hopefully not falling into its steaming flesh vats. To realise that we are very much a part of the constant re-invention of ufology. As much as we can anyway. The American situation alone is providing enough material at the moment for a monthly review of what's going on there, few UK UFO mags ever bother with it but it's vital to know what is happening in the USA because it'll be here next. Critical reviews of US and UK magazine contents will be a regular feature from the next issue.

Primarily we want to inform and in doing so, to entertain. We're not really interested in increasing numbers of readers- if you like it you do, if not tough, and we're certainly not interested

in keeping ufologists beliefs going or reputations sacrosanct purely for the sake of it. It might be an idea to relate some of the meaningless squabbles that ufologists and UFO groups have between each other. We have done this in the past and been criticised for it but I can't see why. Ufologists make UFO policy and determine how others see the subject and so on. And they are as human as everyone else (they really are) and are not above criticism. If you, gentle reader, knew some of the stuff which went on, of the fallings out, tantrums, nursery school power struggles and tears before bedtime that grown men and women have in ufology then you'd be shocked (you'd be in stitches actually).

Having said all that BRIGANTIA is also reliant on your submissions and I would hope that they keep coming in at the rate they are doing. I am always interested in hearing from anyone about any aspect of ufology - be it cases, theories, personalities, gossip or whatever.

CIA funding permitting, BRIGANTIA will always remain the only UK UFO magazine which says what it thinks and will print anyone's point of view (even if we don't like it/you) about anything, offering the right of reply to those aggrieved or with alternate viewpoints. Perceptive readers may have sensed that I'm a bit pissed off this issue, and you'd be right. After three years of editorship and two of the IUN I have become increasingly disenchanted with the subject of ufology and many of its participants and to this end am seeking to use Brigantia to throw a different light on the subject and I welcome positive or negative feedback on the efficacy of this. Readers who are aware of my involvement over the past year or so with BUFORA as a member of its council may be interested to know that I now no longer have any connection with that organisation either as a member, investigator or on its council.

So, if we've got another forty years of ufology to suffer through at least lets make it bearable and have some fun. See you in November.

A TYPICAL BRITISH ABDUCTION

BY
PHILIP MANTLE

For two years now myself and colleagues at the IUN and BUFORA have devoted a great deal of our time researching just one aspect of the UFO enigma. That one aspect is known as 'abductions'. Slowly but surely a small group of us have been travelling up and down the country researching abduction cases both old and new. We have a long way yet to go but our eventual aim is to study abductions in Britain as they have never been studied before.

Our research is of course witness orientated and most of the data we have collected comes first hand, direct from the witnesses involved. Such research has been sadly lacking in the past and we are confident that our approach will help us and other researchers world wide better understand the abduction phenomenon. To give you a better idea of some of the work we have been involved with I would like to present to you a little known British abduction case which we are currently involved with and to also explain in greater detail future abduction research and how you can help us. The following abduction case is reprinted with the kind permission of Contact International (UK) and was first published in AWARENESS (issue 3, 1985-5). Contact were the original investigators of the following case but since Contact ceased their investigations some time ago I have undertaken further research of the case along with my colleague Margaret Fry.

CLOSE ENCOUNTER ON THE CAMBRIAN COAST

During the week commencing February 10th 1985 an attempt was made to report a Close Encounter III (abduction) to Contact International. Former Chairman Fred Passey received a call (probably because he is listed in Brinsley le Poer Trench's UFO books) and he informed Wheatley

headquarters. Wheatley then established telephone contact with the witness who turned out to be a 19 year old youth residing in a remote part of North Wales. He claimed an astounding encounter with a UFO as he walked home in the early hours of February 8th 1985. Apparently, he was taken (against his will) on board this UFO by alien beings or robots and transported to a giant mother ship parked at the other side of the solar system beyond Pluto. The youth was obviously disturbed by this experience and, although not wishing to inform the police or media about his experience, felt that he needed to communicate with a responsible body of opinion such as Contact International.

Having made the first telephone call the Wheatley investigation team pondered on their next move and tentatively agreed to make the long journey to meet the witness as soon as possible. However this move was pre-empted when the witness and his mother arrived in Wheatley on Sunday morning, February 17th, having driven by car through ice and snow since 1.00 am. The move to travel to Wheatley had been so impulsive that no telephone call had been made, so it was possible that there would be nobody at home when they arrived. It turned out that Derek Mansell arrived home from working overtime about 30 minutes after the car arrived and he found the witness and his mother waiting in the road. Derek invited them into his house but it took 10 minutes before the witness would leave the car until persuaded by his mother. He was described as pale and dishevelled and shaking at the time. There was no doubt that he had experienced something terrifying. It was possible to obtain David Ridge at a moments notice so two members of Contact International's Data team were present when the following

description of the encounter was made by the witness.

THE CLOSE ENCOUNTER

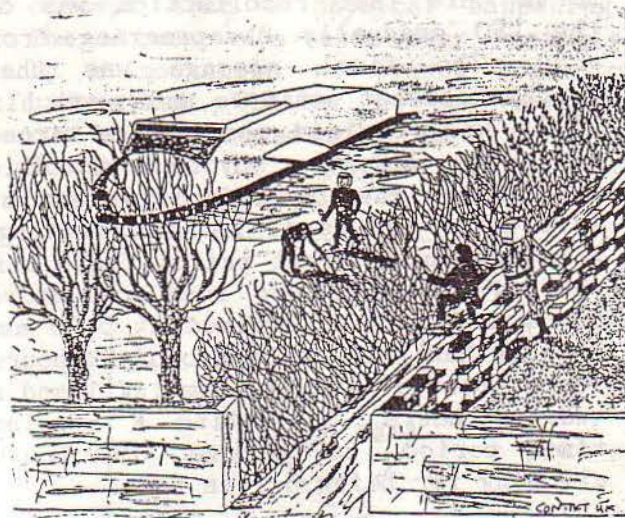
The witness was walking home alone on a main road between 3.00 and 3.30 am on Friday 8th February 1985. He had been to see friends in the nearby town, listening to recordings and was now returning to his home in a village some 4½ miles away. Apparently it is fairly normal for people to walk around at this time of the morning in the area. He knew the road fairly well and did not carry a torch. It was fairly starlit night and although there had been substantial snow falls over most of the country in the past few days there was not too much snow in the locality.

After walking along the road for about 20 minutes he was attracted to a faint humming noise coming from a field and walking round a side lane he saw a large dull black object hovering in the middle of the field. The object was about the size of three standard garages, of a domed-disc shape with antennae or stabilizers. He estimated it to be 24-26 feet in diameter and 20 feet in height. It appeared to hover 2½ feet above the ground and had a drawbridge-like hatchway and windows on the top. There was no obvious lighting system on the craft although it had a fluorescent glow.

He watched the craft for a few minutes and then noticed humanoids approaching. At this point he might have retreated but there must have been another humanoid behind him who effectively captured him and somehow took him on board the UFO in the field. His captors were described as humanoid beings. They could have been robots as they moved their arms in a rapid, stilted fashion. They were helmeted and apparently featureless except for two dim lights where the eyes should be. The helmet was octagonal in shape and they wore greying suits with a gold belt, gold braces, a green buckle, black knee boots and gloves.

The witness was taken into the craft and observed in a room for 15 minutes. He was then taken to a control room which contained 3-4

consoles and a screen on the wall. There he was prepared for "time change" and decontaminated. The beings communicated telepathically. The craft then took off noiselessly with no 'G' force. The witness claims to have seen the planets of the solar system Jupiter, Saturn etc, passing by, one by one as seen on the screen until the journey ended beyond the planet Pluto and then the craft docked with a huge mother ship.



On board the mother ship he was subjected to a medical examination. A long instrument with a point on the end was used to burn his left arm (marks were shown to the investigators) and probes were placed around his neck and chest and his heart rate was increased and decreased. He also claimed that they wished to remove his eyes from their sockets but was given the choice to refuse which, naturally enough, he did. A cassette tape he was carrying in his pocket was removed and analysed, the music coming from a console which also picked up his thought waves.

During a telepathic communication between the witness and the beings, he was able to establish that they came from a planet beyond the constellation of Lyra. They breathed pure oxygen and did not like the polluted atmosphere on Earth. They had been based in Greenland and asked him about the U.S.A. and NASA. Apparently they had captured a 'Voyager' spacecraft, analysed it and

found it to be 'primitive'. He also learnt that the beings had bases on the moon but had destroyed them when it was known that probes were being sent from Earth. They told him that Black Holes in space were really force fields around solar systems. He also found out that the scout ship was made from a form of plastic unknown to man.

After what he thought had been a period of 6 hours from the time he was abducted, the witness was returned to Earth. His last recollection was of the UFO gradually disappearing from view. The final message was that further contact would be made with him if he was required and he was warned not to inform anyone of his experience. When he left the craft he felt dizzy and as if he was floating. A policeman on night patrol found him reeling about in the road and drove him home where he arrived at 5.30 am. Thus he had been taken around 2½ hours for a journey normally lasting 1 and a quarter hours, indicating a missing time period of around 1½ hours allowing for being driven home.

CONTACT INTERNATIONAL'S INVESTIGATION

Contact International were represented by Derek Mansell, Geoff Ambler and David Ridge. They travelled to the location on Sunday February 24th 1985, 16 days after the incident took place. Following the wishes of the witness his name and the exact location of the event are to be kept confidential (the IUN are aware).

The investigation team were met at the home of the witness by him and his mother. Also present were his younger brother and grandfather. A week after his hazardous drive to Wheatley, the witness appeared calm and relaxed. He willingly retold his story and the replicated version appeared to agree fairly accurately with the statements made when he was under stress the week before. The burn marks on his left are were just visible although they were hardly anything that stood out to Geoff Ambler who had not seen them previously.

Asked if any further contact had been made since February 8th, the witness reckoned that one attempt to communicate had been made before his

drive to Wheatley but since then the alien presence had faded, possibly because he had informed outsiders of what took place. Derek Mansell considered him visibly calm in one week. The witness was very keen to undergo hypnosis if it were possible.

The investigation team tried to establish any abnormalities in the family background. Apart from being unemployed, the witness had no problems and it was obvious that the assembled members of the family were all very concerned about what had happened to him. The family lived in a large pre-war house at the centre of a very pretty village about ½ mile from the coast.

After about an hour spent discussing the case with the witness and his family, the team were taken to the landing site. The witness had no difficulty in showing exactly where the field was although the road runs through fairly monotonous countryside. This particular area is someway beyond the more typical mountainous areas of North Wales. The terrain seemed fairly flat, in fact some fields passed through on the journey looked unnaturally as smooth as bowling greens. Thus several of the fields in the area would make ideal landing sites for putative UFO's, helicopters or VTOL aircraft. There are no RAF bases or civilian airfields in the near vicinity.

The particular field that the UFO had landed in, however, was not the most ideal. It was slightly bumpy and the perimeter was surrounded by trees and bushes. The ground was very marshy particularly near the edge and a ditch and 3ft wall ran along parallel to the road. The investigators could find only one way into the field from the road without getting completely gummed up with mud. At 3.00 am in pitch darkness it would have been most difficult to walk freely across the field to where the UFO was stationed. The team eventually got into the field and examined the ground for markings and excessive radiation with geiger counters. There was no trace of anything at all.

A farm track or poor quality road leads off from the main road at this

point down the side of the field and the witness had apparently walked a few yards down this road and observed the UFO through a gap in the trees. There was a wooded glade on the opposite side of the rough road from which one of the beings probably emerged. It was not realised at the time of the incident, but there are a small number of occupied houses about 100 yards down the rough road, but these are well hidden from the road itself. It seems likely that the occupants of these houses must have seen or heard something being in such close proximity. Although the investigators made an excuse to be in the field, they did not ask any of the house holders about the UFO landing in accordance with the witnesses request for confidentiality.

CONTACT INTERNATIONAL'S CONCLUSIONS

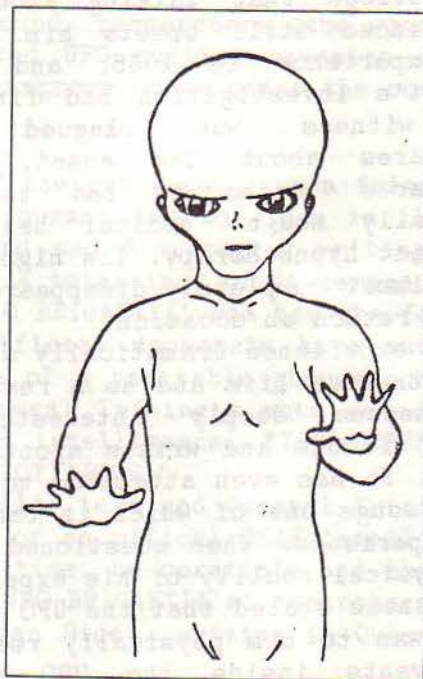
With no witnesses or related events the validity of the case rests entirely with the testimony of the witness. An unknown policeman must have been close to seeing the UFO as he picked up the witness and took him home after the alleged abduction and the investigation team have been tempted into trying to find this policeman but agreed not to do so in accordance to the witnesses wishes. Apparently the policeman had been seen earlier by the witness when he left the town initially.

The witness did not appear to be after public recognition or he would have quickly informed the media as the type of story he related is beloved of the tabloid press. If he was intent on a hoax then why inform only Contact International? Possibly he might have had a small wager with friends without wishing to go too far. The gesture of making a 250 mile journey to report to Contact International Headquarters on an icy February night seems certain to indicate that the witness was very disturbed indeed. Hoaxers would surely not discomfort themselves to such an extent.

Also, the field chosen for the landing was hardly the best along the road. It was difficult to see into it let alone reach the spot where the UFO came down. In fact a field directly

opposite this one on the other side of the road presented an open gate and the most easy access. The choice of a hoaxer would surely tend to be more convenient.

The witness was taken on board the craft in the field, but it would have been literally impossible to walk across the field in the total darkness, so at this point the conclusion one must take is that the encounter was more of a mental concept than a physical happening. The witness was taken over mentally by a mechanism we cannot hope to understand. Whether he was shipped out beyond the solar system is open to doubt, but in a system of thought transference anything is possible.



There was little the investigators could check out after finding no evidence of a landing in the field. The witness claimed to have seen most of the planets passing by on a screen. If the journey was in a direct line past these planets then a check could be made to see if they were in correct alignment on February 8th. A computer run indicated that most of the planets were in fact in the same quadrant.

The witness was asked if he had read many books on UFOs and it appeared he had read probably 2 titles. He tried to find these at home but apparently had mislaid them.

He also had more than a passing interest in astronomy.

The investigation team has spent many hours discussing this case and feels beyond reasonable doubt that the witness experienced *something*.

IUN INVESTIGATION

Contact International kindly gave me the address of this witness and up to present I have interviewed him on two separate occasions. On the first occasion last year I was accompanied by veteran UFO researcher Margaret Fry who lives in North Wales and in June of this year I interviewed the witness on my own. On both occasions the witness was extremely nervous and it was obvious that talking about his experienced still upsets him. After the experience in 1985, and after Contact's investigation had finished, the witness was plagued with nightmares about the event. These nightmares became so bad that he eventually sought medical help and underwent hypnotherapy. The nightmares have almost completely disappeared now but do return on occasion.

The experience dramatically altered the witness's life and as a result he has become deeply interested in 'green' issues and writes spontaneous poetry. He has even attempted to write a few songs one of which is based on his experience. When questioned about the physical reality of his experience the witness stated that the UFO in the field was to him physically real but the events inside the UFO seemed 'unreal' or 'different' in some way. Readers familiar with other abduction accounts, especially those from the USA, will note that this case is a typical 'British' abduction. There are none of the small, grey-skinned, bug-eyed creatures as reported in almost all abduction cases in the USA. No genetic experiments and no hypnotic regression. The UFO is not the typical type of craft often reported in such cases either. All of these things added together do make it a typical British abduction case. The witness has had a great deal more to say about his experience but lack of space prevents publication of this material at this time. Further interviews are

planned with the witness later this year.

IUN- ABDUCTION RESEARCH or, hand in your pocket time!

Several of my colleagues and I are conducting a variety of research projects involving British abduction cases. One such avenue of research is that of the psychological testing of abductees. With the aid of a psychologist in Bradford we hope to be able to replicate a similar experiment conducted on abductees in the USA. Additionally, several new cases have also come to light which may have regressive hypnosis used should we feel it necessary, and to this end we have the services of trained hypnotherapists and nurses at our disposal. This area of abduction research is a long term program and the previous case is just one example of many cases we are involved with. The one thing which is preventing our research progressing is lack of funds to pay the fees of the psychologists and hypnotists.

The IUN has opened a special fund for our abduction research and we have many fund raising ventures under way. The IUN are also asking you, the readers of UFO BRIGANTIA, to help with our research by donating cash which will be put into the abduction fund.

What do you get in return you might ask. Well, if we are successful in the psychological testing of abductees, at the end of such an experiment a full report will be presented to the UFO community at large. Anyone donating £5.00 or over will obtain a copy of this report before it is released to the UFO community at large. Any donation no matter how small or how large will be greatly appreciated and acknowledged. By donating money to such a fund you have the satisfaction that you are actually furthering in some way the study of the abduction phenomena, not merely reading about what someone else thinks of it.

Cheques, postal orders and I.M.O.'s should be made payable to Philip Mantle (see intro page for address) and not UFO BRIGANTIA or the IUN. PLEASE GIVE GENEROUSLY.

The benefits of this scheme are obvious. The IUNs tests will duplicate (and go further than) those carried out under the auspices of the Fund For UFO Research in the USA a few years ago. By comparative testing such as this we are adding to our knowledge of this little understood mystery and discovering more about the mental states of those people who undergo these experiences. The psychological testing will also be scientifically valid and a useful tool in ufology's endless struggle to be taken seriously by established science (if that's what we want).

So once again we are appealing for your support in this endeavor. The bottom line is; do we really want to do anything about the abduction phenomena or do we wish to be content forever to theorise and speculate whilst the sciences scorn us for lack of data they can at least relate to if not act on. The choice is yours.

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A CRITIC WRITES

UFO Brigantia's team of tireless, if armchair bound, researchers came upon this snippet of info in a small privately circulated UFO cultist magazine called 'Quest'. On the grounds that criticism can only improve us we offer the comments here:

"I know UFO BRIGANTIA. I have obtained a copy of the 1st issue from a friend who subscribes to it. Judging from this copy, the journal has no place in the UFO field. It is a review of bad critical texts and sad disparaging writings. My feeling is that this review is negative, and has a total lack of discernment. When one reads all the articles contained in 'UFO BRIGANTIA' one has the feeling that the writers do not know that numerous official documents have surfaced since several years ago - PROVING the existence of a veritable phenomenon. For example; if I must consider the now famous General Twining's note dated 23rd September 1947. According to the head of USAF intelligence, "THE PHENOMENON REORTED IS SOMETHING REAL AND NOT VISIONARY OR FICTITIOUS."

If I must make a choice between the 'UFO BRIGANTIA' team and General Twining, I prefer the Twining potential. This man was head of an offical USAF intelligence agency, and was in the right place at the right time. he ceratinly had the best UFO information available at taht time. Whilst 'UFO BRIGANTIA's' 'searchers' are unimportant persons representing themselves." Jean Sider, writing in Quest vol. 5. 1989.

How true. However, Mr Sider found us of sufficient interest to part with his francs and is now one of the happy band of pilgrims who 'get it regulary' as they are apt to say in these parts. We had yet more praise heaped on us when the editor of QUEST, the personality cult journal, said of us:

"We do not like using valuable space in quest to qualify statements and actions generated by this organisation in the past.....and the staff writers of 'UFO BRIGANTIA' accusing us of lying. If YUFOS (for it is them dear reader-ed) or its publication quest did not exist then journals such as the aforementioned would be empty of content, but as Sider and hundreds of other people are beginning to realise, they probably are anyway." Graham Birdsall, Quest vol. 5. 1989

Stifling a sob and biting back the tears the editorial staff at UFO BRIGANTIA forced themselves yet again to put out another magazine for our slowly dwindling band of loyal subscribers. Allan Staithes, where are you now we need you?

ROSWELL: A FEDERAL CASE?

By Ron Schaffner

Ron Schaffner is a respected American UFO investigator who for some years has been investigating rumours of crash retrievals. Here he presents a plausible alternative to the commonly accepted version of events at Roswell, New Mexico on July 2 1947.

Recently, while on a radio talk program, I was asked, "Why, after all these years of research, have you reversed your position on UFO origins?". This question was in response to my brief editorial on why I was trekking the long path of skepticism. I further stated that true objectivity was the key to my current thinking. The UFO phenomena cannot be explained with any one theory, but was a combination of many earthly explanations.

For forty years, many UFO researchers have been breaking the cardinal rule of investigating. That is, they are not eliminating all the possibilities before listing an alleged sighting, or encounter, as an unknown object.

Even if the object is a true unknown craft, does it have to be an extraterrestrial ship?

Allow me to analyse that question and apply it to the most sensationalised UFO stories circulating the general public today; THE CRASHED SAUCER SYNDROME. Let us even assume that the military actually retrieved objects and transported them to Wright Field, in Dayton, Ohio. (Presently Wright-Patterson AFB)

I have always been hard pressed to believe in such hearsay testimony as the alleged Roswell, New Mexico crash on July 2, 1947, but in 1980 I began to ask myself many questions. What if there is something to this? Why do these stories continue to surface year after year? If not true, what could the purpose be? What about all the alleged sources that Leonard Stringfield claims to be in touch with?

My turning point began in the summer of 1980. At that time a mysterious Dr Willard McIntyre produced a set of photographs showing

an alleged crashed UFO with its burned pilot, supposedly occurring in Mexico in 1948. After the introduction of these photographs to UFOlogy, two publications emerged; THE ALIEN BODY PHOTOS: AN UPDATED REPORT, and AN INVESTIGATIVE REPORT INTO THE ALLEGED ALIEN BODY PHOTOS. Within both publications was an analysis and commentry by William Spaulding and Fred Adrian of Ground Saucer Watch, Inc., of Pheonix, Arizona. In their concluding remarks, GSW speculated that these photographs represented a misinterpretation of a laboratory monkey that had been badly burned and partially dismembered.

Charles Wilhelm and I disagreed with GSW's findings. We felt, based on the testimony of Bruce G. MacMillan, MD, Chief of Staff of the Cincinnati Burns Institute, that the photographs depicted a 'light aircraft crash with its burned pilot'. However, GSW had charged the 'Federal Hypothesis' and we realised that this possibility had merit, so we began to pursue this movement too.

What is the Federal Case Hypothesis, as coined by GSW, and how could it be connected to the crashed saucer sundrome and other purported UFO sightings? While the reader will probably disagree with what I am about to say, I only ask that you hear me out. As I stated before, this probability is one of the many explanations that apply to the UFO enigma.

The first thing we have to ask ourselves is why do all these incidents of landings and crashes occur within the vicinity of White Sands Proving Grounds, in New Mexico (ie Roswell and Socorro)? Why are the remains examined at Wright Field in Ohio? The facts have been right in front of our face, like looking into

a mirror. The time frame even meets the burden of proof, circa 1946-1951.

If we accept the crashed objects with any validity, then there are serious implications that the U.S. government may have been involved in a massive cover-up of illegal testing of cross-state rockets and military experiments. OUFIOIOL (Ohio UFO Investigator's League Inc.) and GSW both have obtained documents from the FOIA and other sources which clearly establish that the branches of the military and various other government agencies have been involved with programs of aerial testing.

In 1945, the Hermes Project was established by the Army Ordnance Department. During that ten years program, 103 missiles were fired, including 67 German V-2 rockets at White Sands. Several missiles went astray during the early part of the program. One V-2, after taking off on an erratic course, narrowly missed the cantonment area and one crossed the Organ Mountains and emergency radio cut-off was used in order to keep it within its boundaries of the Proving Ground. If it had continued on its course, the probable point of impact would have been in San Antonio, New Mexico.

The most noted rocket to go off-range was a V-2 fired on May 29, 1947. A faulty gyroscope caused the missile to change course at a high altitude and head south. Apparently, this change of course occurred near burn-out, as the emergency radio cut-off had no effect. The missile continued on its trajectory and landed a mile and a half south of the city of Juarez, Mexico. Mr James J Fagan, who was a scientific and engineering advisor at the time said the test was to measure atmospheric radiation. He stated that the rocket was supposed to go north about 70 to 100 miles uprange in White Sands, but instead went south towards Mexico. Luckily, the V-2 landed on a Mexican cemetery without disturbing a graves.

These erratic firings forcibly brought the question of range safety to the attention of the command. Operations were ordered suspended until the Chief of Ordnance was assured that future missiles would be

controlled. Hopefully, a complex safety system could be devised. At this point, the history of our early rocket experiments become sketchy. We know that there were other various tests that are not fully documented. In fact, a V-2 was tested on July 3rd, 1947, just one day later than the alleged Roswell Incident. Could there be a mix-up on dates after that long period of time?4.

Project Hermes would later become Project Blossom. as the name implies, it was a continuation of V-2, but blossomed into test flights testing the possibilities of an ejection of a canister and recovery by parachute. As part of this project, five biological flights were conducted at White Sands, which included Albert I and Albert II, both animals being a Rhesus monkey (Rhesus macaque). The final animal tested was a mouse with V-2, round 51, fired on August 31, 1951. These flights would encounter mishaps too and this is the reason why GSW speculated that the 1980 alien body photos were the remains of a monkey, either a rhesus, orangutan or chimpanzee.

While the later Blossom projects, with the use of animals, could explain the crashed saucer and dead alien body stories, the first firing on February 20, 1947 has a similarity with the Roswell incident. This test was V-2, round 20, and was to test the parachute concept previously mentioned. The parachute was not of conventional design, but was composed of two 'chutes'. The first was constructed of ribbons to reduce the initial shock when the parachute opened; the ribbons were covered with metallic mesh to aid in radar tracking. This parachute was eight feet in diameter. The second 'chute' was released at approximately 30 miles altitude and was 14 feet in diameter.

If the V-2 tested on July 3 was a Blossom experiment, it would explain a cover-up by the military officials. Remember, a month prior, the V-2 program was temporarily suspended due to the faulty guidance system of the May 29 firing. The government would be in an international dilemma if another firing would go stray and

crash in a populous area of Mexico, or in another state.

How would the Army handle another mishap and keep it under concealment from other agencies and the general public? Anyone who has served in the military knows that they are masters of misinformation. With respect to secret testing, one branch of the military would not relate their experiments to another branch. It would be like the Army-Navy football game. It is simply a case of the government's right hand not knowing what the left hand is doing.

If we scrutinize the events of the Roswell case, we can begin to piece the puzzle together. To set the mood of the time, it is imperative to note that the flying saucer 'craze' was already sweeping the nation. In fact, the account of Kenneth Arnold made the headlines of all major newspapers the previous month. On July 7, an Associated Press release out of San Francisco headlined: 'FLYING SAUCERS SEEN IN MOST STATES NOW'. This news piece dealt with the increase of UFO sightings the previous week.

The stage was set. The Army knew there were witnesses to a flying object and a crash. A decision had to be made to steer the public in another direction. 'Scapegoats' would be needed.

Here is a brief synopsis of the sequence of events:

July 2 - approx. 9.50 pm. Dan Wilmont and his wife, of Roswell, observe a glowing object zoom out of the sky from the southwest and appear to head north. W.W. 'Mac' Brazel sees the object in a thunderstorm and then hears a crash.

July 3 - Barney Barret, a civil engineer, claims to witness a crashed object that morning and observes a team of individuals studying the wreckage. he also claims to see what appears to be dead bodies on the ground, not of human origin. Later that morning Brazel discovers remains of craft on his ranch, but is unimpressed with his discovery. Only after much pondering does he obtain samples.

July 4 - Brazel talks with his neighbour, Floyd Proctor, about the incident. Proctor is not impressed.

July 5 - Brazel goes to Corona and discusses situation with his uncle, Hollis Wilson. They talk about flying saucer reports and Wilson speculates that Brazel may have pieces of such a craft.

July 6 - Brazel drives to Roswell and tells the story to Chaves County Sherrif, George Wilcox.

July 7 - Sheriff Wilcox calls Major Jess A. Marcel, ranking intelligence officer at Roswell Army Air Base. In turn, Marcel contacts Colonel William Blanchard. Marcel and CIC agent Cavitt are assigned to investigate and drive to Brazel's ranch. They inspect remaining wreckage and load material in the trunk and back seat of their car.

Meanwhile, Lydia Sleppy, of radio station KOAT, Albuquerque, receives a call from Johnny McBoyle, reporter and part owner of radio station KSWs, Roswell. McBoyle attempts to tell Sleppy of a crashed saucer near the vicinity of Roswell. As Sleppy begins to transcribe from McBoyle, the teletype starts to malfunction and a mysterious sender jams the machine with the message, 'DO NOT TRANSMIT!'. Then McBoyle tells Sleppy to forget about the story.

Marcel and Cavitt arrive at Roswell Air Base that evening with the retrieved objects. The next afternoon, the fragments are loaded into a B-29 and eventually flown to Wright Field, Ohio.

July 8 - Public Information Officer, First Lt. Walter G. Haut, prematurely releases the following statements:

*Roswell Army Air base, Roswell, N.M.
8th July, 1947, A.M.*

The many rumours regarding the flying disc became a reality yesterday when the intelligence officer of the 509th Bomb Group of the Eight Air Force, Roswell Army Air Field, was fortunate enough to gain possession of a disc

through the co-operation of one of the local ranchers and the Sheriff's Office of Chaves County.

The flying object landed on a ranch near Roswell sometime last week. Not having phone facilities, the rancher stored the disc until such time as he was able to contact the Sheriff's office, who in turn notified Major Jesse A. Marcel of the 509th Bomb Group Intelligence Office.

Action was immediately taken and the disc was picked up at the rancher's home. It was inspected at the Roswell Army Air Field and subsequently loaned by Major Marcel to higher headquarters.

At this point it should be noted that a major discrepancy occurs here. In a 1979 interview, Marcel states that the PIO released the news leak on July 7 before he (Marcel) returned back to the base with the alleged disc. However, the date of the release and all other references are connected to the morning of July 8, unless, Lt. Haut predated the release.

Within 24 hours the Army Air Force issued another press release to a Fort Worth, Texas, radio station explaining the incident as a downed weather balloon, either a 'Rawin Target' or a 'Rawin Sonde' device. The Army even released a photograph of Major Marcel holding material that resembled tinfoil.

July 9 - The Army Air Force releases a second photograph of General Roger Maxwell Ramey and Colonel Thomas Jefferson DiBose holding the same type sheet of tinfoil material. By the time this second photograph is released, the remaining debris is on its way to Wright Field.

The FBI would become involved with the incident too. The Dallas office dispatched a message to Cincinnati describing the disc as hexagon shaped and attached to a balloon. Actually, the FBI became interested in UFO reports after a special request of the Army for help. However, in September of 1947, Director J. Edgar Hoover became suspicious of the Army. They only wanted the FBI to handle cases of 'discs' found on the ground, and incidents of 'ash can covers, toilet

seats and whatnot'. Hoover believed the Army Air Force was attempting to limit their investigative powers. He further thought that the Bureau was being used as 'bird dogs'. Effective October 1, 1947, the FBI would not co-operate directly with the military. Perhaps Hoover had a hunch of what was going on. He certainly knew that he could not keep tabs on all the experiments the Army and Navy were conducting.

Is it possible that this 'tinfoil' material was actually a portion of that special parachute from the July 3 V-2 launch? I am not much of a gambling man, but I would be willing to bet the pot that these photographs do indicate that 'chute'. What was actually flown to Wright Field? Probably the remains of the rocket and canister to analyse the guidance system and determine the cause of the malfunction. It is well known that all technical aspects were performed in Dayton, Ohio, where the best facilities were located.

Major Marcel had claimed to be familiar with weather balloons and missiles, but I seriously doubt that he would be knowledgeable with the guidance systems of the V-2 program. Perhaps Marcel was just a 'middle man' in this fiasco, much in the way Lt. Haut, Johnny McBoyle and Barney Barnett were. The higher chain of command was responsible for any premeditated news release.

The bottom line scenario is a two-fold concept. That is, just enough information is leaked regarding an alleged crashed saucer. Then, that leak is quickly suppressed. Once this is achieved, the created belief system is developed. The public is showered with UFO reports and when that is 'hushed', the populous cries conspiracy! Actually it is a cover-up twice over, much like a double agent. It is an excellent ploy and has worked for nearly forty years. As long as the proponents for the extraterrestrial theory continue to advocate their cause, the belief system will benefit the real Cosmic Watergate.

The reader may ask, 'How do you explain the reports of dead aliens connected with the Roswell case and

other crashes?. Do we accept the credibility of Barney Barnett?' These questions certainly hold some merit. Consider the possibility of GSW's thinking. Perhaps Rhesus monkeys were used earlier than history tells us. OUFOL is attempting to answer these questions, but as of this printing we have not retrieved that documentation. Perhaps Mr Barnett never saw bodies at all, but was a component of the misinformation process. we do know that author Frank Scully was 'set-up' by two questionable individuals, a Dr Gebaur and Silas Newton, with respect to another crashed saucer story near Aztec, New Mexico.

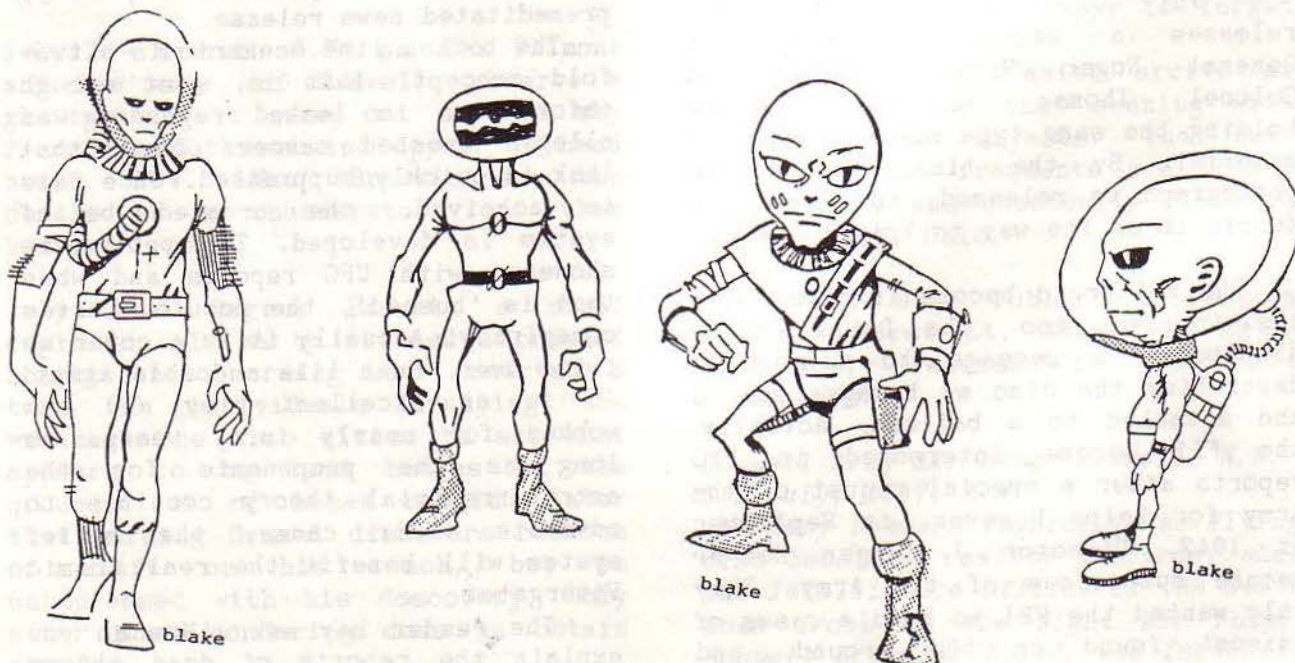
The Federal Case Hypothesis can explain other famous UFO incidents. For example, the 1964 Socorro, New Mexico case meets this criteria. Did Lonnie Zamora see a craft from another world, or was it an early test of the Lunar Excursion Module (LEM). Remember, NASA uses the facilities of White Sands.

Hollywood has flooded us with science fiction movies since the 1950's. There is no doubt that this enhances the belief system. The ordinary citizen of this country would be amazed at all the unconventional aircraft designs being built and tested.

There is more evidence compiled year after year in support of a government connection. We have just begun to scratch the surface. The time is now to look for other avenues besides the extraterrestrial theory.

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 - e) Memirandum from D.M. Ladd to J.P.Coyne, dated August 8, 1947



CONTACTEE CORNER

Editors note: As an editor I receive all sorts of strange and wonderful UFO-related stuff through the post, including the odd contactee missive. So every now and again we will be reprinting some of this material. What follows is a sort of circular letter which author Ben Obina sent out earlier this year. Make of it what you will.

"In the near future an event that no human mind should be uninformed about will take place. There will be no need to ask 'why' or 'how', because all questions will be answered"

Space beings have always lived on earth. They have been among us since the dawn of civilisation. Occasional appearances in the skies prove that we are constantly visited by beings from other worlds. Throughout the ages, certain races have chosen to take on human form in order to monitor the development of mankind. As humans they live normal lives, until they reach adulthood. That's when their 'true being' is eventually revealed, which they have kept to themselves for obvious reasons.

It was one of these beings who disclosed the following information to me. The pieces of the puzzle now slipped into place. Whether these beings visit us from the skies, or have been living on earth; their intentions and the message they bring has been basically the same:

Mankind is nearing it's last days. They will be prepared to assist when the time comes.

The meaning behind our visitors secret activities now becomes clear.

What is a 'contactee'? Why have people been abducted at an unprecedented rate? These beings are and have been gradually selecting people for a 'definite' purpose sometime in the near future. All contactees are systematically chosen because of certain qualities they possess. A small portion of all contactees have had minor close encounter experiences, but the majority are subjects of 'implantation'. These people have a 'microscopic implant' surgically inserted into their brain. This 3mm sphere contains a storehouse of knowledge. The main purpose will be to

use this information to teach and to raise man's awareness. Also, to inform and to gain the people's acceptance. It is like comparing it to a locked drawer. Once the drawer is unlocked, the knowledge will become like second nature. All contactees will have a sudden interest in an area that they never had previously.

During the screening process, these beings sought out individuals of 'strong character', and who would have the potential to develop into a 'firm believer'. There are about 3 million people across the world who have been implanted. Only a small percentage actually remember being physically examined; most are 'unaware' of their experience. All will definitely become aware when the 'formation' is to occur. the formation is the global event that will release the information contained in the implants. It is the key that will unlock the drawer.

All of the chosen around the world will be simultaneously gathered and transported to certain areas. Each has a designated person or 'guardian' who has been watching over them. Some may have the task of monitoring several contactees. It will be this 'acquaintance' who will notify the contactee in advance if what is to take place. Others who have had close encounter experiences will be given the choice whether or not they wish to gain the knowledge; it was for this reason that they were not implanted. It is also expected that many will choose not to take part in the formation at the last moment,

mainly because of personal commitments.

What the contactee decides to do with the knowledge afterwards is up to him or here. There are many routes one can take; such as giving lectures, teaching the poor, or generally spreading the word. It's all up to the contactee. All are part of a worldwide program of psychological conditioning, in order to gradually spread the message and to slowly prepare the people.

The formation is an actual event that will take place very soon. My intentions are to inform; that's why I ask that you accept this with an open heart and with an open mind. It's not important that you believe this now, but to file it away for future reference. In a year, perhaps two, when the truth finally becomes known, you will look back on this and realise that it was indeed 'actual fact'.

"The Angel said 'Do no harm the Earth, the sea or the trees until we mark the servants of our God with a seal on their foreheads'.

And I was told the number with God's seal on their foreheads:

It was 144,000. They are the predestined."

Revelation 7: 3-5

Anyone wishing to contact Ben about these dire warnings (to which, needless to say, we say 'ptui!' to, he can be 'contacted' at: Ben Obina, 2 Steeles Ave, W. P.O. Box 125, Thornhill, Ontario, Canada L4J 1A1



blake

The UFO enigma...

Over here ET!

A CITY is planning an out-of-this-world welcome for alien visitors — by building them a special civic landing pad.

Councillors in Nashville, Tennessee, believe UFOs are queuing up to see Earth but cannot find a suitable spot to touch down.

Now they are proposing to build them a £500,000 official landing site.

Councillor George Darden, the man behind the close encounter bid, said: "I am very serious. People were reporting all these strange creatures coming to town and they had no-where to land."

The site would be bigger than FOUR football pitches

BARKING MAD!

THE HORROR

By Ian Blake

Hoaxes, according to John A. Keel, are an occupational hazard in the field of ufology. Elaborate charades carried out by well-dressed 'UFO couriers' or fraudulent magazine publishers - all part of life's rich tapestry for the average researcher. "Another kind of seemingly well-financed hoax," he continues in Disneyland of the Gods, "is the mailing of sophisticated documents to second string researchers at regular intervals. Usually these purport to be secret government documents about crashed UFOs and little green men pickled in bottles."

Score one for John A. Keel.

At the time of writing this ufology is in the grip of what appears to be just such a hoax. It all began circa January 1988 with the release of the now-notorious John Lear Statement (JLS) (see previous UFO BRIGANTIA's-ed). This impressive-looking typeset document purports to reveal for the first time 'the awful truth' about the origin and purpose of UFOs. Written by John Lear, scion of the prestigious Lear Jet Corporation, it incorporates many staple items of UFO folklore, notably the Spitzbergen and RAF Bentwaters incidents. Lear also throws new light on the cattle mutilations currently afflicting America's beef-producing States. They are, he says, carried out by praying mantis-like EBE's (Extraterrestrial Biological Entities), who depend for their survival on a steady diet of offal, principally the genitals, udders and rectums of slaughtered cows. The EBE's, it seems, "have a genetic disorder in that their digestive system is atrophied and not functional. In order to sustain themselves they use an enzyme or hormonal secretion obtained from the tissue that they extract from humans and animals. The secretions obtained are then mixed with hydrogen peroxide and applied on the skin by spreading or dipping parts of their bodies in the solution. The body absorbs the

solution, then excretes the waste back through the skin."²

Lear shores up this lurid hypothesis with the usual gamut of hearsay and circumstantial evidence. Some of his disclosures plumb psychopathological depths undreamed of even by the most hardened investigators. At one point he makes reference to "huge vats filled with amber liquid, with parts of human bodies being stirred inside." And later: "some of the nation's missing children (have) been used for secretions and other parts required by the aliens". Somehow it all seems highly unlikely.

What is significant about this aspect of the John Lear material is the way in which it parallels current developments in the horror movie genre. This correlation was first brought to my attention by Andy Roberts of UFO BRIGANTIA. "All this fascination with bodies has given me food for thought," he remarked in a recent personal letter; "especially the other night when I was watching a TV show on horror films with Muriel Gray, all about 'Body Horror'. It would seem that UFO accounts are reflecting this popular horror image in the mute tales, the Lear material and elsewhere."

Of course, there has always been a kind of symbiotic relationship between UFOs and the Hollywood dream factory. Strange aerial craft were sighted with increasing frequency in the late '40s. It was only a matter of time before they made the transition to celluloid. So it was that actual (pseudo) events provided the inspiration for a new era of cinematic thrills. Art began to imitate life as Hollywood cashed in on the post-war scare with such gimcrack genre-pieces as The Man From Planet X (1951), It Came From Outer Space, (1953),

Invaders From Mars, (also 1953 and Invasion of the Saucermen (1957).

Much the same interplay of motifs is evident today as Hollywood and the UFO subculture continue to borrow from each other. (Or, rather, to draw their inspiration from a common pool of ideas and themes.) Thus mutilation imagery has become increasingly common in both fields over the past decade. In the cinema this determination almost to traumatise the viewer can be traced back via Tobe Hooper's seminal Texas Chainsaw Massacre (1974), such low-budget quickies as Blood Feast (1963) and Two Thousand Maniacs (1974), both of which were directed by Herscell Gordon Lewis with all the élan of a latterday Sawney Bean. Lewis made use of previously unthinkable subject matter, effectively setting new standards of cinematic revulsion. His legacy continues to be felt today, in films of the 'splatter' or 'slash and stalk' variety. These have in turn influenced the SF and mainstream horror genres, giving rise to the likes of Clive Barker's Hellraiser (arguably the 'Body Horror' film par excellence) et al. The sole raison d'être of such films is to depict the human body - usually female - as little more than a slab of meat, fit only to be pierced and impaled in a variety of picturesque ways, and ultimately thrown aside. A similar ethic is discernible in the fiction of Clive Barker (however much he may deny it) and his contemporaries, and especially in no-holds-barred gore-zines as Fangoria and Samhain. It has even found its way into the area of rock promo films, from SPK's gruesome human autopsy footage to the overlooked video arcana of PTV, with its emphasis on all things pervy and visceral (ritual scarring and body modification, genital mutilation, insertion of catheter tubes, dripping urine, etc.).

The JLS is full of similar loony, incongruous detail: mutilated cows, human and alien corpses, vivisected skulls, expressed brain tissue, severed genitals, and cored rectums. ("It is apparent," we are told with barely disguised relish, "that this surgery is accomplished in most cases...while the victim is still

alive.") And more. And much, much more. All part of the John Lear atrocity exhibition. Not so much mind-bending as the product of a bent mind. You betchum!

I have no wish to be accused of torturing data to fit an *a priori* model, but the parallel with modern horror/SF films need hardly be stressed. Lear's aliens have a rubbery quality suggestive of Carlo Rambaldi at his most ingenious: "frightening-looking little creatures with enormous eyes, reptilian skin and clawlike fingers." (Of course, it *could* all be perfectly true, and then where would we be?) Even the armed battle posited by Lear, in which sixty-six soldiers were allegedly killed at the Dulce Laboratory, New Mexico, is reminiscent of Quatermass 11 (1957) or James Cameron's Aliens (1987). As Andy Roberts himself remarked in a classic piece of understatement: "Accounts of this nature can hardly be accepted without the most severe scrutiny." Quite.

Actually the JLS appears to be a colossal, well-financed hoax of the type referred to by John Keel. In what may be a classic double-bluff, Lear makes no secret of his own connections with the US Untelligence community. As well as being the son of William P. Lear, designer of the Lear jet executive aeroplane, he also worked for a major charter airline in the States, and, we are told, has flown missions worldwide for the CIA and other governmental agencies. Who better, then, to initiate a programme of disinformation on behalf of the American authorities?

Whatever the case, his testimony or deposition, call it what you will, is often profoundly disturbing. Many of its themes pre-date both SF movies and the cinema itself, harking back to the phatasmogoric delerium of Bosch and Breughal the Elder. The idea of 'devouring monsters' has haunted the imagination of a restless world for untold centuries. So too has mutilation imagery, often associated with the concept of

THE VIEW FROM THE

REES



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initiation. Lear's assertion that small children "are often used for secretions and other parts required by the aliens" recalls the witches sabbats of antiquity, in which infants were allegedly cut into pieces and cooked for human consumption. (This in turn was merely a shadowy survival of Bacchanalian and Saturnalian revels.) An old drawing by Jules Bois, 'The Banquet of Satan and his Faithful Followers', depicts just such a scene.

With hindsight it is possible to discern a continuum of belief leading directly from these medieval accounts to the splatter/zombie films of George Romero and his ilk, and thence to contemporary UFO reports involving human and animal mutilation.

Thus both ufology and the horror film genre may be seen as barometers of the collective unconscious, expressing its deepest fears and desires in graphic, often stomach-churning detail.

To paraphrase something once written by Roger Vadim in a slightly different context: "I don't believe in the John Lear Statement. But I believe in what inspired it".

1) This designation was apparently coined by one 'Detlev Bronk', a fairly obvious alias if I ever heard one.

2) In addition to psychic research material of all kinds, I also collect obscure American comic books from the 50s and 60s. Shortly before starting work on this article I happened to buy a copy of Undersea Agent no.5 (Tower Comics, 1966) in which fearless young aquanaut Davy Jones foils a planned invasion by green-skinned aliens from outer space. Significantly, the aliens are unable to survive in our atmosphere for any length of time, and must periodically reinvigorate themselves by bathing in a special solution. The solution doesn't, in this case, consist of cows' udders and rectums; instead it has a more mundane water base. Nevertheless, the parallel with the JLS is obvious.

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STOP PRESS

Speaking of documents and stuff as Ian was, we have been hearing some pretty strange rumours emanating from the U.S.A. Apparently Bill Moore (he of Roswell Incident fame, numerous other Roswell crashed saucer papers, various other ufological investigations and most significantly of all, one of the chief promulgators of the MJ-12 fiasco), has actually admitted that for a number of years he has worked for a US government agency spreading UFO disinformation. Oooooooooooooo!

What this means for MJ-12, at the very least, is anyone's guess and by November's issue to have the full, and hopefully, sordid story. Who said there was no such thing as disinformation? Why was he doing it? Was it to put people off the real hot stuff, or was it just for the fun of manipulating people and belief. Who knows. We just can't wait. This is what they want.

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THE VIEW FROM THE

lunatic brigantia

A Report On The Leeds UFO Lecture

Even before the lecture took place there was considerable interest shown in the event by the public at large. As the press advertising (all free I tell you) of the event percolated through to the area calls were received by the writer from innumerable individuals wanting to:-

- (a) know more:-
- (b) report UFOs:-
- (c) tell me what UFOs really were:-
- (d) ask if I knew what UFOs really were:-

and generally let me know that they intended to attend the event in their thousands. Or so it seemed from the interminable ringing of the telephone.

Typical of the calls I received were; one from a lady living in Ilkley who insisted that less than a month ago she and her mother had watched a 'landed' UFO on Otley Chevin; a lady and her husband who, apparently, instead of watching soaps on TV watched UFOs as their evenings entertainment on a regular basis as they performed (the UFOs - not the lady and her husband!) over Yeadon; and one gentleman in particular - who was not coming to the lecture because he had no real interest in UFOs - who reported seeing, at 2.45am on Saturday the 15th of July, a UFO "as big as the full Moon" flying over Horsforth. He knew it was as large as the Moon because the Moon was in the sky as well so he was able to make the comparison. Even as I write I am still receiving confirmatory reports on this one from all over the area - one particularly significant one coming from an astronomer living in the district the 'object' overflew.

To some this might seem to indicate that there was, just prior to the lecture, an immoderate amount of UFO activity in the area to be visited by Walter Andrus Jr., International

Director of The Mutual UFO Network (MUFON), and the lecturer who was to put before his audience material pertaining to the singularly significant 'Gulf Breeze' UFO(s), and might have led some to hope that by this the Phenomenon was indicating that it too might put in an appearance. In the event - to the best of our belief and knowledge - those attending were all *bone fide* earthmen and women - but in ufology who can be entirely certain?

Came the great day and with the telephone still ringing in my ears I headed, somewhat tardily, for the venue. Upon arrival I found the main party, including the lecturer, already in situ, with several seats in the hall (Centenary House, north Street Leeds) already taken. From that point on the public rolled in and by the time the lecture started the lecture hall was full. Initially I agreed with Phil Mantle on an attendance figure of 175 persons, but during the break in the lecture I did recounts, getting totals of 194 & 203 respectively. My feeling is that there were at least 185 persons there as every available seat was taken and there were a good number standing at the back of the hall. Whatever, in terms of attendance alone, the lecture can be seen as an unqualified success and it is to be hoped that this will persuade the international UFO community that Leeds/Bradford is a viable venue for future UFO congresses. Certainly it seems the area is favoured by the Phenomenon, so perhaps the two sides of ufology (UFOs and ufologists) could find common ground in the Leeds/Bradford conurbation.

There was a media presence also at the lecture, notably from Associated Press, and other newspaper orientated

reportes. But it was, although not unexpected, the TV people who were conspicuous by their absence. As this turned out this can be seen as their loss, as the hall was filled with persons who could, have been interviwed to produce a good local public interest programme - not the least among them being Harry Harris, who ufological acuity is unquestionable, having been previously involved in the investigation of the ufological 'abduction' of P.C. Alan Godfrey from Burnley Road, Todmorden, early in this decade.

The main, and perhaps the pleasantest surprise of the evening, was the lecturer himself - Walter A. Andrus Jr. Here was a Texan who was not the obligatory ten feet tall, who did not stroll round as if he had a gun on his hip and who never once drawled "the hell you say". His demeanor was almost British, and without doubt it was this that, as the lecture progressed, endeared him to his audience. Without once resorting to the ufological histrionics that one usually associates with American proponents of the study, he put before the attentive audience the amazing details of the Gulf Breeze, Florida, UFO extravaganza.

Although in the main the Gulf Breeze case is no more remarkable than any of the other 'high visibility' cases that have occurred over the forty or so years of the Phenomenon's public existance, the lecturer obviously felt that it was, and his quiet enthusiasm captured and held the full attention of the audience. Basically the details of the Gulf Breeze case are that (yet again) a singularly unremarkable individual was allegedly set upon by the inhabitants of a presumed intergalactic supercivilisation in such a way as might persuade an observer that either 'aliens' are somewhat lacking in their interstellar interactive strategies or that a Cosmic Candid Camera episode was in progress. Certainly the interaction was more than exciting, in a Spielbergian sort of way, for the human percipients. But one can't help wondering what the hell the 'aliens' derived from their singularly illogical and unproductive postures.

UFO BRIGANTIA SUMMER '89

Their exo-sociology must be a strange sort of science if it requires strategies as described by the main witness to the events. I mean to say, what did these 'aliens' think they were doing when they showed him some 'doggy pictures'? Or by playing 'peeping Tom' in his back garden? I could tell you but as I know you wouldn't believe it I will, for your peace of mind, restrain myself (*thanks David- grateful editor*). However I must point out that the witness (on one significant occasion dressed in only a bath towel) in confronting the UFOs and telling them in no uncertain terms to "get out of my life", came very close to the correct strategy for dealing with this kind of intrusion.



Walt Andrus, MUFON Supremo, at Cracoe Fell, North Yorkshire

From Walt Andrus' recounting of the MUFON involvement it was quite clear that serious, and quite monumental efforts, were made by that organisation in its investigations, and that another rival groups should have seen fit to ridicule - or as Walt put it, 'debunk' - the affair reflects no credit on it. But that's ufology isn't it? It is to Walt's, indeed to MUFON's credit that they appear to be remaining calm in the face of the slings and arrows of outrageous ufologists and are continuing on the job in hand. If only they all could now dispense with

their Flash Gordon fixations perhaps some real progress could be made.

Clearly MUFON subscribe to the 'scientific' paradigm for ufological enquiry, and in this Florida incident, the Phenomenon accommodated them by producing all the necessary ancillary effects. 'Spacecraft' 'Paralysis Rays', a 'landing site', even - as seems to be *de rigeur* - a 'nasal implant'. Please refer to Betty Andreasson, Cecil Michael, the Ilkley Moor abduction and so forth for confirmation. Yet it can be equally argued from the 'buzzing noise' that the Gulf Breeze witness heard prior to the onset of each ufological tribulation, that 'occult' parameters were also in evidence. This 'buzzing sound' not only documentedly accompanies ufological manifestations of many sorts but is also a necessary adjunct to such experiences as N.D.E.s and O.O.B.E.s as well as 'religious' visions. As to the 'entity' drawn and described by the witness, its appearance and behaviour alone should have been sufficient to raise questions regarding exactly what it is MUFON has set itself to investigate.

As the lecture concluded it was quite apparent that everyone had found it more than interesting as, although over two hours had passed from start to finish, there was a 'time anomaly' and it just did not seem to have been that long. The lecturer is to be congratulated on his presentation. But, perhaps not quite on what came afterwards. During the question time someone brought up the matter of 'alien technology' in the context of its probable usefulness to the American 'Stealth' aircraft programme, and it was disappointing to hear Walter Andrus imply by his answer that American ufological enquiries derive solely from the rather adolescent desire to 'beat' the U.S.S.R. in the matter of space hardware. Ufological investigation should not be seen as some kind of competition. For while ever it is, the 'ufonauts' will have us beat seven ways come Sunday - as the ufological events of the past forty years or so clearly testify.

The only other criticism of the event must be that the video material was not presented, only the still

photographs. It is understood from Phil Mantle that this was because the cost of hiring equipment was prohibitive. However, as this unshown material was promoted during the pre-lecture campaign as part of the package it is my feeling that the I.U.N. (the organisers of the event) should have felt morally obligated to produce it on the day, even at financial discomfort to themselves. (*Editors note: It's a fair cop, but the IUN did not actually say the video would be shown, this was inferred by the media in what is commonly known as 'crap journalism', and anyway, the IUN have no morals.*) So as a member of the aforementioned group who was led to believe, and so led others to believe, that this video would be shown on the day, it is my hope that some, and quite urgent, future arrangements can be made to display this material as promised - even to the extent of hiring a room at Bradford Library where persons interested could view the video at no charge, as this was the one element that, according to the persons I spoke to after the lecture, drew them to the venue in the first place, and it seems to me that if the I.U.N. do not now make some effort to make good what was seen by members of the public as an advertising 'promise', a great deal of professional credibility - at least in the public view - will be forfeited. (*Editors note: The only copy of the Gulf Breeze video the IUN possesses is on the godawful 'UFO Cover Up Live' US TV prog. from last year and no, we aren't going to be hiring any rooms. To tell the truth the video is short, and doesn't show anything like what is on the Gulf Breeze pictures. In fact it looks curiously like a man with a torch behind some trees. However, should any disgruntled person really wish to see it please contact us and you could have the IUN experience in your very own front room.*)

Inevitably, at the end, the audience were left to draw their own conclusions regarding the veracity of the case that had been so well presented to them. As is usual there were 'skeptics' in the audience, but

CLOSE ENCOUNTER IN

as these seemed to be of the variety who confuse this mental discipline with the simple ability to say "I don't believe it", their opinions in no way detracted from the lecturer's obvious commitment to the truth of the case he had so professionally presented. For my part I am willing to accept that the Gulf Breze case is a genuine example of a UFO interaction - and not only because of the photographic material presented. Being only human (could that be a piece of clever of disinformation?) I stand to be corrected in the matter but from previous experiences with the Phenomenon I can only say that the Gulf Breeze case appears to present all the aspects of the usual holographic hooliganism associated with the manifestations of the UFO phenomenon. From the viewpoint of our presently extant cultural 'consensus reality', it would all seem to make very little sense, and, we venture to surmise, will continue to do so until investigators stop asking "what's in it for US?" (the human race I mean), and ask instead "what's in it for them?" (our friendly local entities I mean). Once they have figured that out, all the rest will be child's play. I do assure you.

Taken by and large the Leeds UFO lecture can be seen, even from the vantage point of The Lunatic Fringe, to have been a substantially successful event. It was particularly fortunate in having Walt Andrus as its focal point, and the presentation that was made to him by the I.U.N. was richly deserved. It is to be hoped that his American initiative will bear future fruit in the area, and that Stanton Frieman, who seems set to follow in Wakt's footsteps this coming September, will only be the first of many to visit the area where, it is rumoured, the UFOs park up overnight, and where many now feel that the next logical step in UFO interaction with the human race will be for THEM to open a Simonton Pancake Takeaway in Bradford.

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If David Barclay's report on the IUN Gulf Breeze presentation has made you seriously believe that an IUN event is where it's at, and if you don't want to become a ufological fashion casualty then look no further. Following on from the massive success of Walt's talk the IUN are pleased to present another first in the UK. American ufologist Stanton Friedman is coming here this autumn and will be giving a lecture for the IUN. The details are to be found on the back page.

Although the venue holds over two hundred people we expect to sell out easily. If you don't want to be one of those who on the morning after will be muttering "I wish I'd been there" put your pennies in an envelope for an advance ticket. Other attractions will include a bookstall and a special 'one-off' IUN lecture program (collectors items even as we imagine them). So be the first ufologist on your block to own an advance ticket for Stanton Friedmans lecture. You might not agree with him.....but you can't ignore him.

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CLOSE ENCOUNTER IN DERBYSHIRE HILLS



IUN INVESTIGATION BY DAVID CLARKE & DAVE KELLY

The area of gritstone moorland immediately to the west of the City of Sheffield has over the years been the scene of a number of interesting UFO reports. In May 1989 a letter, received by Jenny Randles on her capacity as BUFORA's Director of Investigations, was passed to the IUN for a follow-up; it gave brief details describing how two friends had "spotted a UFO which, we think, landed and followed us along the road." After an initial telephone conversation an on-site interview was arranged; this took place on May 22, almost six weeks after the sighting, at Stanage Moor - where the sighting took place, a site overlooking the picturesque Peak District village of Hathersage.

The witnesses were two 'A' level students, Georgina Kamiska and Nick Glossop, both 18 years of age, from Rotherham, South Yorkshire. On the evening of Tuesday, April 4th 1989, the two friends had decided to drive into the Peak District to see the recent snowfall which blanketed the rolling countryside. Although a covering of 2ft of dry snow was present the weather conditions were calm and clear with a northeasterly wind. At 9.15 pm the couple parked in a layby on a minor road above Overstones Farm at O.S. ref. SK 248829, at 432 msl on the moortops above the Hope Valley. It was then that Mr Glossop noticed a strange red light in the sky, approximately due south (determined by compass readings at interview) above the hills and valleys of the Derbyshire Dales, in the distance. This light resembled "a top-shaped object" with a row of white lights around the centre and a red light on top; the lights appeared to be spinning rapidly in a vertical motion. Initially the object was taken to be an aeroplane but then suddenly

"it sort of dimmed and disappeared, and reappeared closer by"; this strange manoeuvre convinced the two observers that they were not watching a conventional aerial object and both became alarmed.

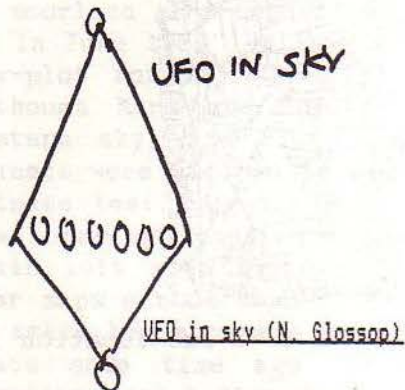


UFO Drawn by G. Kamiska

The object seemed to dart around the sky, appearing and disappearing "almost as if it was going into hyperspace", added Mr Glossop, comparing its movements to the special effects used on the movie 'Star Trek'... "it was almost as if, from where it was in the sky I would imagine that it would have had a clear view of the whole of Sheffield...it must have had a perfect view."

At this point the car engine was started and the observers drove around the hillside joining the Ringinglow road which runs high above the moors, eventually joining the western outskirts of Sheffield after several miles. As they joined the road, they noticed behind them that; "the hill [where they had previously been parked] was glowing as if something had landed - it was a really bright light". This brightness was not like that caused by headlights of cars or a motorbike, and after a short while the glow faded and the 'UFO' again reappeared in the sky, "suddenly shooting along the road...seemingly following us". Ms Kamiska told us how "I was

looking out of the rear window and my boyfriend was driving and this big white spotlight appeared on the hillside and then followed the route of the road. We drove faster but it kept up with us at the same speed, not appearing to come any closer." Nick Glossop added that "it seemed to



LARGE WHITE
LIGHT HOVERING
ABOVE ROAD.

Light over road (N. Glossop)

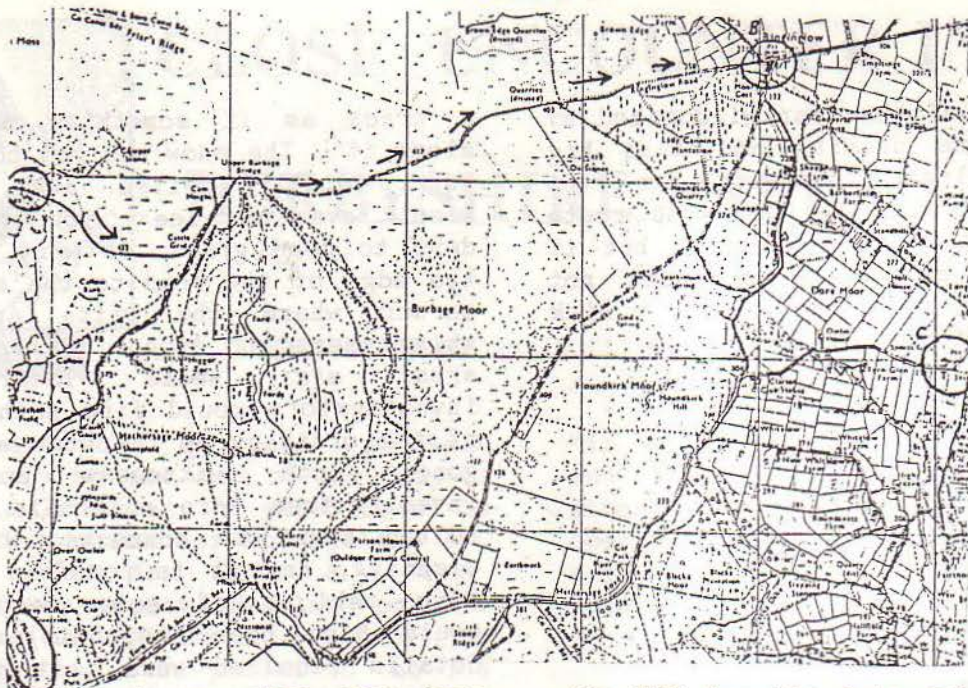
hover above the road at a level with the car roof in total silence." After reaching the village of Ringinglow, on the outskirts of Sheffield, the couple stopped the car, and watched as the light appeared to halt too; then the light dimmed and appeared to split into two smaller lights "like a car's headlights, but with too wide a distance between them"; these lights also followed the car as they began to move out of the village - "it was really dead with nobody about [unusual for 9.45 pm on a Tuesday night], so we carried on along the Ringinglow road, and the lights just followed us for a distance until we reached the outskirts of Sheffield when it just turned off to the left and disappeared in a flash."

Returning the following morning to the site where the lights 'vanished', it was discovered that no side roads existed along this stretch of road, merely open fields. More intriguingly, returning to the point on the moorland road where the UFO appeared to 'land' it was discovered that an area of snow above the road had "melted...in

a track as if something had gone along it". The snow was not compacted but "totally melted away, there wasn't even any ice - you could see down to dead grass. It went down to the edge of the road to the sharpish corner where the white spotlight thing seemed to appear." Examining the area six weeks later the investigators could find nothing out of the ordinary as the snow was long gone; both witnesses and the investigators were uncertain if the melted snow was connected with the sighting, and it is possible that a farm vehicle of some description could have been responsible. Other details recalled were that the UFO was spotted after the witnesses had been checking the car's hazard warning lights - had the flashing lights attracted the attention of someone?

After extensive questioning the investigators were satisfied that both witnesses were truthful about their experience. Both were well educated and appeared uninterested in publicity; Ms Kamsika was interested in the subject of UFOs, and had read 'The Unexplained' magazine (where an address was found to contact Jenny Randles), and also mentioned that she became scared when the UFO was first observed because she had read that UFOs are "able to stall car engines", despite such contamination with UFOlore (to which we are all exposed), we found little contradiction in the stories given to us by the witnesses. The witnesses gave a time estimate of 45 minutes for the sequence of events between the first appearance of the UFO to its subsequent disappearance outside Ringinglow; it is likely that this is an overestimation or an indication that an astronomical explanation should be pursued.

In an effort to find a conventional explanation for the Stange Moor sighting, contact was made with the relevant authorities - mountain rescue teams, local police and air bases. It was considered that a low-flying aircraft, helicopter or sophisticated flare may be possible explanations. We also thought it possible that a particularly



brilliant planet or star may have sparked off the sighting due to clear weather conditions - a lack of reference points on the moortops may then have led to the impression that the object was 'following' the car (such complex misidentifications - amplified by confusion and alarm on the part of the witnesses - are common explanations for UFO encounters of this type).

Enquiries with Derbyshire, Buxton and South Yorkshire Police HQ's as well as with Peak District mountain rescue teams ascertained that no exercises involving flares, searchlights or strobe lights were underway on the night in question. Flight Lieutenant C.J. Hamilton, of RAF Finningley (Doncaster - the nearest large military airbase), informed us that "Finningley is a training station and flying operations do not normally take place in the evenings or at weekends, the exception to this is during night flying programmes. These are advertised in local papers in advance but they were not in progress on the date of the alleged sighting". Finningley do operate a small flight of rescue 'copters but their flights are mainly directed to rescue and recovery. Similarly, C.R. Neville of Air Staff 2a, the UFO department at the M.O.D., informed us that "I can confirm that it is unlikely that any RAF aircraft would have been operating in the area at the time in question"; furthermore, no similar reports were received by

the MOD for the date and location in question.

On July 6th IUN investigator Dave Kelly, pursuing the possibility that a helicopter may have been responsible for the sighting, spoke with the public relations officer dealing with RAF Topcliffe and RAF Linton-on-Ouse. The Flight Lieutenant here was quite adamant that no helicopter pilot would be responsible for such unauthorised and unorthodox night flying, which would amount to risking his pension and career. The nearest helicopter base to Derbyshire, RAF Shawbury, near Shrewsbury, was then contacted and we were informed that the station did not operate helicopters over the area of the sighting and on the night in question the station was on 'stand down'. Again a blank was drawn after contacting five RAF air-bases, although the possibility of a low-flying civilian aircraft remains an unlikely possibility.

After speaking with our very helpful informants at South Yorkshire Police HQ in Sheffield, we were informed that a report had been received by a police inspector there which described a similar 'top-shaped' flying object which had been reported apparently around the same time, by a Sheffield solicitor and his wife as they were driving back from the Peak District in the same area of moorland. Whilst in the vicinity of the Dore Moor pub, a short distance from Ringinglow, they

had spotted a very large flying object carrying brilliant white and red lights which paced the car and appeared to disappear into a belt of trees. This sighting had been reported to RAF Finningley and the MOD but at the time of writing we have yet to ascertain further details. Further testimony came from Robin Ellis, a Peak Cavern guide and Hathersage resident, who saw a brilliant orange/red ball of light moving along the moortops at Millstone Edge, between Hathersage and Ringinglow, at 12.24 am on July 27, 1988. Another Sheffield resident had also reported seeing similar unexplained moving lights in this area of moorland at around this time.

In June 1989 IUN investigator Andy Walmsley supplied us with an astronomical sky-plot for 2115 hrs GMT on April 4, 1989. The readout clearly showed that although Mars and Jupiter were visible at 30' and 17' respectively in the western sky, and Pluto low on the horizon in the east, no bright stars or planets were visible in star-plots of the southern sky or horizon, where, if the witness testimony is to be believed, the brilliant "spinning" object was first seen. Having appeared to have ruled out the most likely explanations, we were again left with witness testimony and little else. Checks with air-bases and star maps can only go so far, and in investigations of this type it often has to be asked how accurate witnesses are in their recollections of events which took place some time ago (particularly in respect of cardinal directions, time duration, etc.) Therefore, although it would be easy to conclude that Mr Glossop and Ms Kamsika observed a 'true UFO', can we really be sure that there is not some more prosaic explanation? Why, for example, at 9.30 pm on a night when there must have been many other motorists and observers in the same area, did no-one else see or report a UFO.....?



Public Affairs and
Space Administration
Goddard Space Flight Center
Greenbelt, Maryland
20771

Reply to file of
130

May 3, 1989

Mr. Philip Mantle
1 Woodhall Drive
Healey Lane,
Batley
West Yorkshire
England WF17 7SW

Dear Mr. Mantle:

The articles you have read are a result of what apparently was a hoax.

We assume the hoax was perpetrated by someone with a shortwave radio broadcasting on the frequency the Goddard Amateur Radio Club uses to retransmit live Space Shuttle communications. This was a simple deduction to make since the comments attributed to the STS-29 astronauts were not heard over the Space Shuttle's communication down link by NASA personnel on duty here at Goddard and the Johnson Space Center, Houston, Texas.

Let me tell you more about the Goddard Amateur Radio Club. It's members retransmit live Space Shuttle audio and video communications from the club's facility here at Goddard. One of the club's goals is to encourage interest in and to promote goodwill toward the U.S. space program by allowing people in the local metropolitan area and around the world to view and listen to NASA activities.

To reach hams and shortwave listeners across the U.S. and throughout the world, the club provides simultaneous single-side band coverage on the following shortwave frequencies: 2,860 kHz, 7,185 kHz, 14,295 kHz, 21,395 kHz and 28,650 kHz. Frequency selection and schedule are based upon ionospheric conditions which effect radio propagation.

Sincerely,

Michael J. Braukus
Office of Public Affairs

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Letters are accepted and published on any aspect of ufology or the magazine's contents. The editor reserves the right to cut letters he considers too long, offensive or boring.

Dear Andy,

Whilst we would all abhor unsupported accusations of intent to deceive by Ian Ridpath in his 1985 review of Science & the UFOs by Randles and Warrington (*Ed note:- see March and May issues for Jenny Randles' article dealing with the New Scientist & UFOs, to which this letter refers*), Ridpath has, nevertheless, raised an important point. I refer to his comment that: "Your motion fails to state what it is that you expect to find, and it is precisely this lack of testable predictions that critics have long attacked".

We are all aware that any hypothesis that seeks to explain the UFO (or any other) phenomenon should not only be falsifiable but also preferably contain a predictive element. John Spencer has already drawn attention to this need for predictability in UFO theories (see Phenomenon, pp. 387-93), and Karl Popper has made the point that many theories that are unfalsifiable are known to be wrong. The builders of the first atomic bomb were able to predict its approximate yield and, therefore, estimate the safest distance from which to observe it when detonated; and, of course, previous workers were able to predict that such a device would explode in the first place. All this is 'old hat' of course.

However, it is also known that some theories are, by their nature, not predictive except in the widest sense. Darwin's theory of evolution fits this category - part of the theory's flexibility rests of the element of chance and, in detail, the outcome of the future evolution of a specific species cannot be predicted. No one would deny, however, the elegance and power of Darwin's theory.

It is often claimed that the ET hypothesis has to be rejected due to the vast interstellar and intergalactic distances involved and the restricting nature of the speed of light. These two restrictions are not the only nor the most powerful ones for rejecting the ET hypothesis. The age-old logical and/or methodological fallacies presented by ET proponents continue to be advanced despite repeated attention drawn to their weaknesses. Proponents, for example, once suggested that the moon was inhabited by extraterrestrials. We now know otherwise, despite continued claims for life on its back-side (if you'll excuse the expression). It was then suggested that Mars and Venus harboured ETs. When these too were excluded, instead of weakening the power of the ET hypothesis, its proponents merely shifted extraterrestrials to other star systems, other galaxies. This ever expanding sphere of negative evidence did not and has not deterred ET supporters.

So, coming back to the Randles/Warrington/Ridpath debate, we might suggest that: 95% of all UFOs are explicable in terms of, say, UAPs (to use Jenny's apt term), Earthlights, Psychological phenomena, Myth, Folklore, Secret military terrestrial machines, etc. etc. However, if we then speculate that the remaining few percent might be extraterrestrial in origin, even if there be only one case so considered, we have fallen into one of the most persistent traps set for ufologists. In 1925, Reginald Waterfield said that: "a theory that postulates intelligent existence will, ipso facto, account for practically any phenomenon". It is precisely this lack of rigorous reasoning and disregard for negative evidence for extraterrestrials that academics pounce on. We should hardly be

surprised if academics (and others) give the subject of UFOs a wide berth or take delight in dismembering the 'science' of ufology when we propose such shky arguments.

Avoidance of logical and methodological pitfalls not only strengthens our position but also avoids seeing respected fellow workers come under repeated and well-directed shell fire from opposing positions (whether they be calm and courteous or, as in this case, ill-mannered and derogatory). Much of the acrimony in these confrontations probably owes as much from one side using sound reasoning while the other, perhaps more intent on influencing or converting the opposition, use arguments which, although potentially as valid, are flawed in logic or reasoning.

However, Jenny clearly excludes UFOs as extraterrestrial craft in Science and the UFOs (though not, apparently, in previous or subsequent works: The Pennine UFO Mystery (p.224); UFOs 1947-87 (pp. 250-254, 316) Abduction (pp. 221-3) and her proposition put to Ridpath that: "UFOs are not spaceships, but still worthy of scientific study", had the effect of pulling the rug from beneath his apparent line of attack. As soon as one throws out the ET hypothesis these attacks melt away. Recognition that the wider debate is not solely scientific but also metaphysical, religious and involves such wider concepts as 'The Meaning of Life, the Universe and Everything', will surely help us understand why UFOs and extraterrestrials remain one of the most controversial subjects in or out of science.

I must go and rest now - I'm just recovering from the Total Perspective Vortex on the dreaded Frog Star and Marvin's got this pain in all the diodes down his left side - AGAIN!

Best Wishes

Anthony R. Brown

Editors note: The arguments against the ETH are invariably ignored in ufology even though they are overwhelming. It should also not be forgotten that the idea that UFOs have anything to do with extraterrestrials is a human belief (not even a hypothesis actually) and nothing more- the evidence, such as it is, for any UFO does not indicate anything remotely extraterrestrial in nature. The remarks about the widening scope of the ETH'ers as astronomy progressed (and before the Moon was thought to be inhabited belief existed that the clouds were home to little people) brings to mind Adamski,

Dear Editor,

Everyone must admire UFO BRIGANTIA for seperating the chaff from the wheat, even if precious little is left after purgation. With often heavy irony coals of fire of indignation are heaped on the head of the miscreant who, in the opinion of the editor and others, brings into contempt what is basically a serious subject (cartoons notwithstanding), hard to believe though it may be judging by the garbage that finds its way into ufological publications.

I have never met Ian Blake - or have I? ('More people know Tom Fool than Tom Fool knows', as the saying goes). I take it that the editorial board vouches for his reality. Mr Blake does not apparently believe that there is such a person as 'Alan Staithes', who is said to flourish in Preston. I can offer no irrefutable proof that he is more than a mythical entity conjured up by Regina Cullen (or even perhaps, a rare British MIB), but having seen a letter (which Ms Cullen treasures and wishes to thank him for) I doubt it.

I am, however, on surer grounds in rejecting Carlos Castaneda as an authority on Shamanism. I am confirmed in this by the absence of a single reference to him in Kalweit's recent study,. Why does Blake, who as a serious student of the subject must share my doubts, present him as a leading luminary? Beware, Oh critic, of your ridicule rebounding on you: Throwing substantial geological specimens is proverbially a hazard for people inhabiting fragile structures. Manfred Cassirer London.

Editors (lengthy) note.

Thanks Manfred. Even I've never met Ian Blake. So we've got a problem with his reality status immediately (and what editorial board?- no one here but this chicken Manfred). He believes he exists (I think), and dammit if I don't believe him too. Alan Staithes is a different matter completely. Ian Blake doesn't believe Alan Staithes exists and nor do I, but if it's in black and white (or whatever colour he writes in/on) then he must too. Actually, Alan Staithes was a *tulpa* created by several IUN members whilst in an altered state, but no one will believe that especially as we've had information which Staithes gave us supported by other people who certainly don't know him - if you see what I mean. Incidentally Regina Cullen doesn't exist either, but that's a long story. Castaneda is something else. Blake may add his own reply but my own is this. I don't believe that Castaneda ever did/experienced/was told most of the things he wrote about, as I pointed out in a previous editorial. But so what? Shamanism is hide bound by people who look at it but don't practice it. The fact is some of Castaneda's techniques work and many of his ideas (esp. in Journey to Ixtlan) are useful. Contemporary popularists of the subject, such as Harner (an anthropologist) and Drury (an occultist) also agree with this, and my motto has always been, if it works then use it. Shamans know more about altered states and what can be done in them than the piss poor ufologists will ever know in a lifetime of vapid speculation. And as Max Bygraves would have said 'I know, because I was in that altered state'. Shamanic techniques are a definite case of don't knock 'em til you've tried them.

HOLY UFOs BATMAN!

Is it a flying saw-ger?

IS IT THE NEW BATMOBILE?

NO, IT'S AMERICA'S SECRET WEAPON!

— and it flies

THE B-2 Stealth Bomber, made of high-tech materials which make it invisible to radar. But it has already cost American taxpayers \$23 billion and it is feared costs will rocket.

Some members of Congress say it could become a success story in an outstanding success.

SET FOR TAKE-OFF: The 'invisible' B-2

UFO DAMAGES BUSH IN STAFFORDSHIRE

CASE INVESTIGATION BY CLIVE POTTER

(Summary By David Clarke)

It is not often that ufologists have the chance to investigate incidents where ground traces have allegedly been left by an unidentified flying object. When such traces are in evidence who should be contacted for analysis to be undertaken, and even then what does the analysis prove anyway?

Problems with trace analysis came to the fore recently when a strange incident from Cannock Chase in Staffordshire came to the attention of IUN/BUFORA investigators. According to the Staffordshire Newsletter a UFO had been spotted over a road late one night by two friends, Reg Morgan and Gloria Hall, whilst returning home from Cannock to Little Hayward along the edges of the chase. The object appeared to be circular, 30ft in the air with a "gaseous cloud around it"...some of which appeared to touch the ground overhanging a hedge at the side of the road. After a few seconds the object "disappeared and then it reappeared a little bit of a distance away over the road" and left them feeling a "queer sensation". After returning to the scene the following day it was noticed that a stretch of hedge had been damaged where the cloud had been seen at the side of the road.

The influence of perception of what seems not to have been a 'solid' flying machine is evident in one of the witnesses statements -"it made us think why they were there, what kind of people were they in the UFO and where do they come from?"

INVESTIGATION

Clive Potter's investigation was assisted by Kevin Flannery (Skyscan), and Susan Dean, who ascertained the date of the sighting as August 4th, 1988. After interviews, the investigators were satisfied that both witnesses were giving an honest account of an unusual experience. The witnesses were driving on the A513 minor road to Little Hayward (Grid ref: 003207) when the phenomenon appeared just before they reached a crossroads before Wheatman's Bridge at five minutes after midnight. As they turned right onto the bridge Mrs Hall was the first to see the "luminous cloud", which appeared suddenly on the left hand side of the road. The object looked hazy underneath with a more solid top, and looked like a gaseous cloud (which appeared "contained" and not spread out like a mist) with a red pulsating semi-saucer shaped red light within. It was estimated to be 30ft in diameter, and 30ft in the air, but with its hedges touching the ground and a nearby hedge. The red light within (which seemed solid and very bright) was slowly pulsating, and after a short period of time (somewhere between 15-30 seconds) the object moved into the air, disappeared, and reappeared in a northerly direction.

PHYSICAL TRACES

No noise was heard by the witnesses, or odours detected, although they reported a strange sense of quietness, perhaps due to the lack of other traffic on the road at the time and the shock of seeing the object. The following day the hedge at the spot where the object was seen appeared to be damaged, with leaves pushed back but not scorched.

The inevitable time delay between the sighting, the press interest, and the beginning of the investigation created obvious problems and with no funding and limited time and resources the investigation team did everything they could to scientifically gather evidence at the site. Despite several attempts to approach

CHASE 'NOTORIOUS FOR SIGHTINGS'

Glowing UFO shock for pair

THE British UFO Research Association is to look into claims of a mysterious object seen on the edge of Cannock Chase.

It was sighted by Reg Morgan and Gloria Hall who were on their way back to their Little Haywood homes from an evening Gingerbread group meeting in Cannock.

Mr Morgan, a plant operator at Rugeley B Power Station, said the UFO suddenly appeared in front of them just after they crossed over Wheatman's Bridge about 30 feet up in the air.

"Gloria was talking to me and then she sort of went quiet," said Mr Morgan, "I looked up in the air and said what the dickens is that?"

"It was a circular object, about 30 feet up and 30 feet in diameter with a gaseous cloud around it. Some of it seemed to touch the ground as well,

overhanging a hedge.

"The cloud was sort of fluorescent and near the ground, it had an infra red glow. The hedge now looks crumpled as if it's starting to die." Mr Morgan said both of them were very shocked.

"It left us both with a very queer sensation, and we were unsettled for some time. Neither of us heard any noise at all or any wind and none of the bushes or trees were blown about.

"We saw it for a few seconds and then it disappeared and then it reappeared a little bit of a distance away across the road. I couldn't believe it at the time. We stopped after the bridge to regain our senses."

National co-ordinator for the British UFO Research Association, Jenny Randalls said: "Cannock Chase is a notorious spot for sightings,

and it does sound like the sort of case we would like to look into.

"The bit about the bush is very interesting, the more so because it might provide a direct corollation.

"We would like to get a scientific examination of the remains and we'll certainly be following it up."

Mr Morgan said he immediately informed the police at Great Haywood. "They didn't seem particularly surprised by it," he added.

"The UFO left us both with a very funny feeling - disbelief and shock at what we had seen. Neither of us had had anything to drink at all, nothing alcoholic.

"It made us both think. Why were they there, what kind of people were they in the UFO and where do they come from?"



● Reg Morgan and Gloria Hall beside the burnt hedge.

88/1451

were sent to Dr Michelle Clare of Sheffield University for analysis. Geological survey maps of the area were obtained, as well as photos and measurements of the site, and accurate weather details.

Correspondence was also undertaken with Dr Terence Meaden of TORRO, and expert on meteorological phenomena, who co-operates with BUFORA in respect of the 'cornfield circles' phenomena. One of Dr Meaden's colleagues, David Reynolds (Journal of Meteorology observer and TORRO investigator) of Wolverhampton also visited the site and supplied weather data.

the Physics Departments of Leicester and Birmingham Universities with a view to examining the physical damage at the site, no help was forthcoming.

Despite the lack of interest from the local universities, the investigation team examined the hedge (height 1.5m) a month after the event and noticed the presence of a damaged section which was characterised by uprooted, broken and severed branches, some areas of which were devoid of bark. Two branches were completely uprooted, shattered vertically from the root upwards, and others had 'scuff marks' where bark was pulled backwards, suggesting that the object had reversed. The damaged section was dead, parts of which appeared to have been pushed into the field away from the road, although no evidence of burning or charring was found.

The investigators took samples and parts of the mutilated branches, as well as soil and bark samples, which

Dr Clare examined the samples for evidence of heat damage, metallic traces, physical damage and any other unusual traces. Although there was insufficient material for rigorous testing and the length of time between the incident and the analysis were problems, it was determined that there was no evidence of heat damage to the samples. It was found that in comparison with a control sample the affected leaves had been severely dehydrated, probably the result of being deprived of sustenance when the branch had been unrooted.

No metallic traces of charring were found on the bark samples, and the presence of fungal hyphae and algae ruled out any exposure to heat as it would have destroyed these organisms. Similarly, the soil samples too provided no evidence of exposure to heat.

The lack of unusual evidence in the samples led to the thought that a natural occurrence (farm machinery or vehicles) may have caused the damage to the hedge. However, the investigators found no evidence of skid marks on the road or tyre marks or indeed any other signs of a recent disturbance on the grass verge adjoining the hedge.

Weather details for the evening of 3/4 August showed clear conditions but with evidence of mist and dew, implying the presence of moisture in the air, with temperature decreasing and a light west to southwesterly wind. It could be argued that a patch of luminous mist could have been responsible for the sighting, perhaps concentrated by a katabatic (look it up!- editor) wind. The witnesses emphasised, however, that the object was well-defined and made off rapidly. They had also seen a patch of mist on that stretch of road before and it can be certain that they would not have mistaken mist for the object described, as it was seen at close range and did not appear in the beam of their headlights.

DESCENDING VORTEX OR EARTHLIGHT?

If, as Dr Meaden suspected, a descending air vortex was responsible, then the object was moving in direct opposition to the wind direction (NNE-SSW). It could be possible, however, that upper-air turbulence, perhaps aided by the presence of high ground to the southeast (150-200ml Cannock Chase), may have provided optimal conditions to create a descending vortex that gathered its own momentum and acted as an independent entity. Certainly the topography and wind directions were conducive to the creation of a vortex, occurring as it did in the 'mystery circle' season of late summer, with a moist night.

Geological survey maps of the area revealed that the sighting took place on the boundary between the sandstone escarpment of Cannock Chase and the shales immediately north of this position. Apart from being on a geological boundary (very common for low-level sightings) there are numerous geological faults nearby, one running parallel to the River Trent which also runs parallel to the site and the A513. The sighting took place 1km from the nearest fault which intersects a larger one that runs SSE through Rugely.

According to current research and thinking within the earthlights hypothesis, such a geologically faulted zone is ideal for the possible production of tectonically created electrical discharges - micro-earthquake activity may result in the build-up and possible discharge of such charges when pressure upon rock reaches a critical level. Such discharges could be seen in the form of glows and balls of light.

Intriguingly, 1km from the site in a southerly direction is the place name 'Hell Hole'. Such a fortean place-name that is associated with strange events (well-documented throughout the world) lends credence to the possibility that the immediate area may well be prone to 'supernatural' manifestations, interpreted as ghosts, goblins, UFOs etc.

Since the object observed by the witnesses appeared to all intents and purposes to be only semi-solid, it can be suggested that the object was a ball of light surrounded by gas, with its appearance at that spot being due to its creation by tectonic forces, disappearing into the distance towards the faults

in the NNW, about 1km away. The damage to the hedge (it it can be definitely associated with the timing of the sighting, which is a human-created assumption, is more difficult to explain. It could be mooted that the phenomena, through some physical process as yet unknown, created a vortex of turbulent air currents or eddies, and thus uprooted part of the hedge.

The Vortex Theory could explain the damage to the hedge in a more comprehensive manner. Such descending vortices, which have been associated by Dr Terence Meaden with the 'mystery circles' which occur in southern England, would have the necessary energy if they touched the ground to create the damage inflicted upon the hedge. It is known that rates of spin within the counter-rotating sets of vortices that make up the so-called 'fair-weather stationary whirlwinds' can produce static build-up. Such vortices have been known to cause burns to humans and vegetation upon contact.

It is also conceivable that the rates of spin may be more than sufficient to cause a charge separation to occur, so that such a descending vortex could literally 'glow in the dark'. This would account for the glowing red light that seemed to pulsate as seen by the witnesses and the sudden appearance/disappearance etc. This would also imply that given sufficient moisture in the atmosphere such vortices can be made visible. The Little Hayward phenomenon was within a cloud of gas which could therefore represent vapour droplets similar to a CO2 extinguisher cloud. It would seem that saturation levels have to be reached before this phenomenon occurs - implied by the formation of fog on the night of August 3/4.

CONCLUSIONS

One conclusion could therefore be that the strange 'lumimous cloud' observed by the witnesses near Little Hayward, was the lower end of a spinning vortex made visible by the condensation of water droplets in the core as a result of the reduced air pressure. The subsequent recession and disappearance of the object would be attributable to the vortex vanishing above the layer of near-saturated air. The red glow noted by the witnesses could be explained by the fact that high rates of spin within the vortex could have led to charge separation within the column which would make the air within it glow.

As suggested by the work of Dr Meaden and John Snow, a stage must be reached where the vortex breakdown leads to the plunging of damaging winds; the hedge damage would thus be related to this stage, and the object's consequent disappearance would indicate that the energy of the vortex had been dissipated. If the path of the vortex was to the SW then it may have also been responsible for damage to a tree beside the minor road on the opposite end of the field (discovered by meteorologist David Reynolds).

It is the investigator's opinion, based upon examination of the site, interviews with the witnesses, laboratory analysis, topographical survey and weather data, that a descending vortex was responsible for the object seen and the damage to the hedge.

However, some consideration should be given to the relationship between local geology, topography and meteorology.

Are the presence of faults, the geological boundary and the occurrence of a Fortean place-name coincidental?

Can tectonic disturbances create micro-environments that are conducive to the localised formation of vortice development?

One thing is certain, reports in the UFO literature describing glowing and pulsating lights, and objects (accompanied by humming and screeching sounds) which appear and disappear suddenly, and which may create transient damage to surroundings, should all be re-examined and scrutinised with careful consideration of the Vortex Theory of origin.

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SHUTTLE COCK

Stitched together by Andy Roberts

SHUTTLE'S CREW SAW ALIENS: Well that says it all really. The Daily Star's headline of March 30 this year finally revealed the truth. Most of the front page was devoted to the lurid headline, subtitled 'Discovery 'buzzed'. As the UFO BRIGANTIA staff were busily throwing their money away and preparing for the coming invasion a thought suddenly hit us. What if it's not really true? Surely the Daily Satyr wouldn't print porkies? But first the story.

The Star's article told of how during the March '89 flight of the space shuttle Discovery the entire crew had seen an 'alien craft' which 'locked on' to the shuttle's controls, resulting in a loss of power. How do we know all this? Not just because the Star told us. Apparently a radio ham in the USA picked up the conversation between Discovery and Houston and taped it. Other Radio Hams also heard the broadcast which allegedly featured the snappy dialogue of "Houston this is Discovery. We still have the alien spacecraft under observation." According to the Star, as this took place the Discovery also lost power which "experts claim means the alien craft was interfering with the supply". Oh yeah? Which experts? The Star isn't saying. Another Radio Ham is quoted as hearing the words "Houston, we have a problem. We have a fire." The Star says it 'believes' that a 'fire' is a secret NASA code word for a UFO. This does rather beg the question of what astronauts say if they really do have a fire- would it be "Houston the shuttle is on UFO" or maybe "Dagnabbit Houston this UFO extinguisher won't work". We can only wonder. But that's neither here nor there. According to 'experts' 'fire' means UFO, and that's that. Who are we to argue?

Naturally NASA denied all knowledge of the alleged conversation. But according to the Star, "British and

American UFO experts are convinced" that the tape is genuine. Which experts? The Star isn't saying (again!). When the mysterious tape arrived on the scene Tim Good was one of the people (experts?) who was helping it make news on various TV and Radio shows. According to the Star, "British UFO expert Tim Gold (sic) hopes NASA will be forced to reveal details under America's Freedom of Information Act". Perhaps we're cynical, but nothing comes out under the FOIA that isn't intended to come out, so if they don't release any info on the case it will be a 'cover-up' and if they do and it doesn't prove the UFO/fire scenario, it will still be a 'cover-up'. Whatever happens it won't be right for the 'UFO experts'- unless of course it validates what they would like to have happened!

Anyway, the IUN likes to have it's two-pennorth of anything that's going and so ace IUN investigator Philip Mantle got out his Blue Peter pen, green eye-shade and dirty mac, and took a major investigative step forward: *he wrote to NASA.*

NASA were only too pleased to help and as you will see Philip received three replies. The first was from the Discovery pilot himself, Col. Blaha which says: "These statements were not made during my Discovery flight in Mar 1989" and is signed by him. The second is from another crew member, Commander M. Coates and you can read his letter in full. And the third is from M.J. Braukus from NASA's P.R. office

MUFON in the US are currently having the original tape analysed to see if it really is Blaha's voice. Voice print analysis, I am reliably informed by an 'expert'! is easily fooled at the best of times and virtually useless when not extremely clear. So if it *proves* it is Blaha's voice, so what. If it *proves* it isn't

his voice, so what again. All we have is another valueless story injected into the subject which will grow and develop until it is an article of faith that the Discovery crew really did see a UFO.

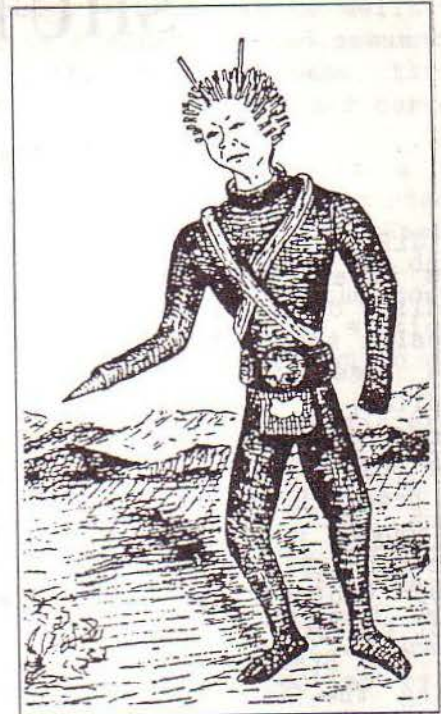
Obviously NASA could well be issuing these denials to cover-up the actual sighting of a UFO and generally I wouldn't believe a government source from anywhere, but in this instance, and you can call me gullible if you like, I think they are on the level.

As we've said before in these pages there are a great many hoaxers at work out there both in the USA and the UK. MJ-12 (revelations about this subject next issue kids), Gulf Breeze (probably), The Lear and Dulce papers (or I'm an alien), and now the Discovery tapes. Someone, somewhere is having a whale of a time and people are lapping it up. It is unwise for newspapers or 'experts' to start talking about something in the UFO world before they have even taken the trouble to check the primary sources. We rest our valise.

STOP PRESS

As this issue was being prepared we received the July issue of the MUFON Journal which contains an article dealing with the Shuttle 'mystery' which gives more details about the whole case. The article relates how the original UFO message was picked up by a Radio Ham by the name of Donald B. Ratsch but otherwise the bones of the story are very similar to that related in the UK press.

Anyway, MUFON had the tape submitted to a professional voice print analysis firm together with 'control' copies of the astronauts voices for comparison. Unfortunately the 'UFO' tape was not of sufficient length to be of any real use but the analysts did find about four words which were used for a comparison and whilst they did not think four words were enough to provide a "meaningful decision" they issued a statement to the effect that there was insufficient evidence to link any of the five Discovery crew members with the 'UFO' tape. This one will run and run.



THE TRISTAR THAT NEVER WAS

A UFO Case Study by Ken Phillips & Roy Dutton

This report was first brought to the attention of the investigators by headline news in the London Evening Standard dated 22 March 1989. In response to the account contained therein, one of the investigators, Ken Philips, 'phoned one of the press reporters who was on board the inaugural flight of the aircraft, Suzy Walton, for further information on the incident. After two attempts to contact Miss Walton, Philips managed to speak to her over the 'phone at her office at the London Broadcasting Company in London.

Once the nature of the incident was addressed directly, Miss Walton began to play it down somewhat, claiming that she never really obtained a good look at the object observed by the cabin crew. Furthermore, she was rather evasive regarding the sudden 'plunge' of the aircraft concerned and was unable to say whether the aircraft dropped as would a stone if it were dropped, or dived nose down etc. However, since Miss Walton's office at the LBC is situated just across the other side of Fleet Street from where Philips works, it was agreed that if he were to deliver an R1 form at LBC's reception desk, Walton said she would duly fill in the form paying attention to the attitude of the aircraft during the alleged plunge in altitude.

About four days later, Miss Walton returned the R1 form by post but it was found she had refused to fill it in, explaining in a covering letter that she was unable to give a report of the UFO incident and recommended the investigator contact the captain of the aircraft concerned, Robert Taylor, for further details.

As it happened, a letter had already been sent by Philips to Captain Taylor requesting details of the incident; a letter to which Taylor did not respond. Undaunted, yet another letter was sent out by Philips, this time to British Island Airways, the airline which inaugurated the infamous Malta to Gatwick service. In this letter, and at the specific request of investigator Roy Dutton, a request was made for the possible interaction of the aircraft's control system during the alleged plunge.

After about a week went by, a certain Mr Richard Harris of BIA 'phoned Dutton directly at British Aerospace giving him various details of the incident, the nature of which completely demolished the UFO theory of the event. Consequently, Dutton 'phoned Philips with the details and suggested that Philips 'phone Harris of BIA in order to confirm the conclusions Harris had arrived at.

CONCLUSIONS

When Philips 'phoned Harris it was plain that he (Harris) was very irritated at the way Suzy Walton of LBC had reported the incident via the media and that BIA was considering taking Walton to the Press Council over the way she had seriously misrepresented the facts regarding the incident.

The first error contained in Walton's report is the fact that there were no 'multi coloured lights that flashed past the window'. In fact, the lights that were seen were 'hundreds of miles distant' and was 'the result of a French missile test that had gone wrong'. Apparently the French authorities had decided to destroy the missile 20 minutes after launch at an altitude of between 70000 & 80000 feet over the Atlantic for safety reasons; thus it was this and not some unidentified object which was the cause of the incident.

Having ruled out Walton's first claim, Harris went on to demolish her second claim of the aircraft 'dropping thousands of feet'. As it happens there was a fall made by the aircraft but this was purely coincidental and was the result of

air turbulence and certainly not the result of the wake of a close-flying object (since Harris had explained that the object, the French missile, was many hundreds of miles away); in fact the aircraft's fall was estimated to have been around 50 feet and there were no terrified passengers 'hitting their heads on the ceiling as the 'plane dropped sharply in two sudden jolts'. Incidentally, Harris also corrected another false report made by Walton that the aircraft they were flying in was a 'Tristar' (despite the fact that everyone, including Walton, was issued with an information pack containing details of the aircraft itself). The aircraft was in fact an MD 83.

At the request of the Italian equivalent of the MOD Mr Harris was asked by them to supply details of the incident since they had lost an airliner some years before as the result of an unidentified missile strike. In reply to Harris' information the Italian Authorities were able to confirm with him that the object seen was indeed a French missile. When asked by Phillips to reveal the longitude, latitude and local time of the aircraft concerned in the incident, Harris refused to give these details, saying 'we can correlate the time of the observation made by our aircrew to the minute'.

The object seen and later reported in certain British national media was a French missile which had got into difficulties over the Atlantic many hundreds of miles away from the witnesses in the MD 83.
CASE CLOSED

Documents illustrating Government Investigation

of Paul Bennewitz (REMEMBER THE DULCE PAPERS)

MULT. JRPOSE INTERNAL OSI FORM
(Complete only applicable items)

DO NO.(S)	SUBJECT	FILE NO.
DET NO.(S)	KIRTLAND AFB, NM, 8 Aug - 3 Sep 80,	8017093-0/29
HEADQUARTERS IVOS	Alleged Sightings of Unidentified Aerial	TRANSMITTAL DATE
DO NO.	Lights In Restricted Test Range	26 Nov 80
DET NO.		SUSPENSE DATE
HEADQUARTERS		
REMARKS		
<p>1. On 10 Nov 80, a meeting took place in 1606 ABW/CC Conference Room attended by the following individuals: EGen WILLIAM BROOKSHER, AFOSP/CC, COL JACK W. SHEPPARD, 1606 ABW/CC, COL THOMAS SIMMONS, 1606 ABW/CV, COL CRES BACA, 1606 SPQ/CC, COL FRANK M. HUEY, AFOSI Dist 17/CC, LTC JOE R. LAMPART, 1606 ABW/SJ, MAJ THOMAS A. CSEH, AFOSI Det 1700/CC, Dr. LEHMAN, Director, AFWL, ED BREEN, AFWL Instrumentations Specialist and Dr. PAUL F. BENNEWITZ, President Thunder Scientific Laboratory, Albuquerque. Dr. BENNEWITZ presented film and photographs of alleged unidentified Aerial Objects photographed over KAFB, NM during the last 15 months. Dr. BENNEWITZ also related he had documented proof that he was in contact with the aliens flying the objects. At the conclusion of the presentation, Dr. BENNEWITZ expressed an interest in obtaining financial assistance from the USAF in furthering his investigation regarding these objects. DR. LEHMAN advised DR. BENNEWITZ to request a USAF grant for research. DR. LEHMAN advised DR. BENNEWITZ he would assist him in filling out the proper documents.</p> <p>2. On 17 Nov 80, SA RICHARD C. DOTY, advised DR. BENNEWITZ that AFOSI would not become involved in the investigation of these objects. DR. BENNEWITZ was advised</p>		
COPIES TO	ATTACHMENTS	FILE STAMP AND/OR OTHER
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THOMAS A. CSEH, Major, USAF		
Commander		
Base Investigative Detachment	FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY	



CONTROVERSY OF THE CIRCLES: An Investigation of the Crop Circles Mystery by Paul Fuller & Jenny Randles. Published by BUFORA. A5, 112 pages. Price £4.20 inc p&p (cheques & p.o.'s payable to 'BUFORA Ltd'), available from Jenny Randles, 37 Heathbank Road, Stockport, Cheshire, SK3 OUP.

The controversy over the 'cornfield circles' is probably the biggest to hit ufology for many a long year. Virtually ignored until the early 1980's it now seems that the 'circles mystery' represents one of the main arguing points in ufology in the late 1980's/early 1990s. The newspapers every year now use it as silly season fodder and have been largely responsible for linking the idea of UFOs with the phenomenon, in the public eye at least. But let's get one thing straight from the outset. The circles mystery *is* a genuine phenomenon; a tangible mystery. It's not a misperception, mirage, temperature inversion or anyone of those things which sceptics love to regale us with. But has it anything to do with UFOs. Well, yes..everything, and no.....nothing....

BUFORA have been in from the first toot of the ufological hunting horn with the circles and have sensibly investigated and chronicled the phenomenon and the furure which surrounds it. This resulted in the 1986 publication 'Mystery of the Circles'. Since then so much has happened that BUFORA have updated the enigma and Fuller and Randles have produced a truly excellent publication covering all aspects of the circles mystery and this will become the definitive work for ufologists in this area of research.

Possibly the best and most useful artefact BUFORA have produced the booklet is split into ten chapters covering all angles of the circle mystery from the sociological to the physical, and nowhere else can you find the mystery laid bare as it is here. For example, in the first chapter 'A Social History of the Circles Phenomena', Jenny Randles deals with the early 1980s when the PROBE team first 'disocered' and researched the subject, being lucky enough to actually have a photograph of a mini-whirlwind in a cereal field (no rings were formed though as the field had been harvested). This alone is damning evidence against the 'UFO' proponents as no one as yet produced a photograph of a UFO in a cereal field. From the beginning the probability has been stacked against a UFO origin and for a natural orgin to the puzzling rings, which as you will read aren't circles at all.

Everything has not gone swimmingly though and the circles plot has been thickened greatly by the intervention of that Boys Own comic of the British ufological empire F.S.R. who, since the early '80s have frequently printed pro-UFO circle origin articles fed to them by two gentlemen who currently have a picture book out dealing with the circles. As with any good ufological controversy there has been a long running battle between the dark gods at FSR and the forces of light and goodness at BUFORA. Nothing like controversy to make people get their facts right we always say at the IUN, and this conflict and

FSR's involvement runs through the book. Fuller and Randles win hands down I hasten to add.

Other strands in the book include Fuller & Randles' tracing of the circles back through time way beyond the 1980s and through space far from the area of Wessex where they are usually found to as far north as north Yorkshire - again providing further evidence for a natural, but hitherto ignored, phenomena - and speculating that as year after year a small proportion of the circles get more complex in their patterning hoaxers are at work as usual. That hoaxing is responsible for a minute number of circles is accepted but by the geographical spread and historical occurrence alone hoaxing is dismissed as being the cause of all the circles.

Several pages are spent describing at length the many characteristics of the circles from their size and shape through the direction of spin of the crops to the baffling variety of circle patterns and arrangements- 14 main formations in all! And by the end of the book the reader is fully conversant with the circles mystery from beginning to end, warts an' all.

Speaking of warts, the press have of course never been too keen on the meteorological origin for the circles. Well, it's just not news is it? And as usual there has been a stream of Daniken-crazed, self-styled ufologists to give the press what they want - and that's flying saucers. Press coverage and the usual circus of ufological nutters notwithstanding BUFORA cleave a way through the maze of mystery surrounding the circles with their sickle of discrimination (separating the wheat from the chaff?) and come down firmly on the side of a naturally produced, non-intelligent phenomena.

Terence Meaden's Vortex Theory of circle formation is given quite a bit of space in the book, and rightly so. Meaden's theory explains and predicts all aspects of mystery circle behaviour and formation, albeit a little tenuously at times. And taking into account all the evidence presented to us in the book it is the best possible explanation. The circles are caused by a complex natural phenomenon.

What? Natural phenomena cause circles in corn. Good grief. What about the flying saucers? Well, there are none. The actual number of cases of anything like a UFO being seen in the vicinity of, never mind causing, the circles is embarrassing, and those cases put forward by the pro-UFO lobby would be justifiably rejected by any investigation group with an ounce of sense. Conversely the evidence for a rare meteorological phenomena is high; the circles are formed quickly in certain areas at certain times of year, in certain types of crop, and in some instances whirlwinds have actually been seen. Other dark mutterings have been heard about 'intelligent vortices' and such like and I think here we see the same principle applied to a newly discovered natural phenomena as has always happened in the past with other UFOs; people eventually realise that it is a natural event but still cannot reconcile their involvement with it or the fact that it is as complex as it seems and so explanations must be grafted on, thus 'intelligent vortices' and other such pretensions. Thankfully BUFORA seem aware of these pitfalls and chart a clear course with the maps of scientific observation close at hand.

The main problem with accepting the mystery circles as being of a meteorological nature and therefore of natural origin (why is anything which has a mundane origin shunned by some ufologists eh?) seems to be the patterning and complexity of the phenomenon's geometry. Cries of 'nature just doesn't do that sort of thing' have been heard. But nature does. That nature is extremely complex and exact (and yet still obeys physical laws) is evinced by the mechanisms which enable both me to write and you to read this review, but also consider things like snowflakes, which are intricately and uniquely 'designed' yet happen in accordance with physical laws.

The circles debate will run and run. If ufologists really wish to involve themselves any further that's up to them but then they are being meteorologists. Don't worry, it won't be too long before another problem arises for us to sort out (I can see ufologists in 'phone booths all over the country changing into

their 'super ufologists' outfit). But don't forget kids....when we solve them it's not ufology any more. Here, for me at least, the cornfields circles mystery is 'solved' by Randles and Fullers excellent work on the subject and I recommend wholeheartedly that you add this modestly priced tome to your bookshelves as soon as possible, you won't regret it.

A word of warning though. Now that 'vortices' have been given the stamp of scientific approval and have been connected to *some* UFO cases that doesn't mean that any UFO sighting described as being vaguely swirling, gaseous, leaves circular traces or has any other characteristics possible attributable to vortex phenomena, is actually one of them. It's all too easy to come up with a 'new' explanation for sightings (earthlights, ball lightning, inversions, Stealth, RPV's or whatever) and conveniently use it to explain away this years crop of misperceptions. With the vortex theory we have proved that ufology can contribute to science. Let's not blow it by over-using it in the rest of the subject. A thought: ufology has now given science data connected with the 'new' natural phenomena of earthlights, cornfield circles/vortices and more psychological and sociological data than it deserves - when is it going to give us something back for our troubles?

The book closes with separate conclusion from both Fuller & Randles followed by comments from researchers both in ufology and meteorology. This throws the cat right amongst the pigeons as immediately you have conflicting opinions from two meteorologists; one says the circles can't possibly be caused by vortices and other says they can. Just the sort of stuff to engender scientific debate.

The circles remain a mystery, but a mystery of nature. The real circles mystery now for ufologists isn't how the circles are formed but why UFO origins are attached to them by other ufologists and the media and the lengths they will go to in order to make mystery out of explicable events. And that, as I was only saying to Sherlock the other day, is ufology.

Review by Dr Dissonance

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YORKSHIRE'S HOLY WELLS AND SACRED SPRINGS. By Edna Whelan and Ian Taylor. Northern Lights, 1989, A5, 80 pages, colour cover, maps and illus. £3;50 inc p&p from PO Box 113, Dunnington, York, YO1 5JW.

A peculiar book to be reviewing in a UFO magazine but it's here for two reasons. Firstly because I wholeheartedly support the efforts and ethos of small publishers such a Northern Lights, and secondly because several years ago, before I was a ufologist, I did a great deal of work on Yorkshire's Holy Wells, intending to publish but never did. Here Edna Whelan and Ian Taylor have done what I always intended to do and deserve congratulations for doing so.

This book is a fine example of the type of field research which is going on in the neo-folklore field today. Edna and Ian have covered over 90 Holy Wells and Springs from many areas of Yorkshire. Each well is described with particular attention being paid to its location and physical appearance, many of the descriptions having a map and line drawing also. Additionally any folklore about the well is included and together this adds up to the ideal book to read at home about parts of Yorkshire's 'Hidden History' but its best usage is for actually getting out there and visiting these old wells, many of which are in exquisitely beautiful locations, and a tour round even a few of them will take you into parts of Yorkshire you never even knew existed.

Besides specific descriptions of wells other well-related topics include; Accounts of well lore, and legends; tales of ghosts and goddesses at Holy Wells; traditions of healing and prophetic wells and the importance of Holy Wells in the community.

The production of this book, to say it comes from a small publisher is outstanding. A striking, glossy colour cover, strong spine and delicate illustrations make it the best example of a small publishers output I have seen this year. Buy it to support this sort of thing alone. But buy it also for what it is - a fascinating and informative journey into Yorkshire. Andy Roberts

IUN UFO LECTURE

"Flying Saucers ARE Real" is the title of an illustrated lecture to be presented by nuclear physicist, Stanton T. Friedman at 1.30-5.00 pm on Saturday 28th October at Sheffield's Library Theatre. The lecture is open to the public and is being sponsored by the Independent UFO Network (IUN). Tickets are £3.00 for adults, students/OAPs and children £2.00. There is a 10% reduction for parties of four or more booked in advance. Tickets can be obtained on the door or booked in advance from: Philip Mantle, 1 Woodhall Drive, Batley, West Yorkshire. Tel (0924) 444049.

Since 1968 Mr Friedman has spoken at more than 600 college campuses and to dozens of professional groups in 50 states of the USA and in 8 Canadian provinces. he has appeared on hundreds of radio and TV shows including Nightline, Merv Griffith, Late Night and many others throughout North America. A recent focus has been on the crash and retrieval by the US Government of an alien craft outside Roswell, New Mexico, USA, in 1947.

Mr Friedman's unique professional background includes BS and MS degrees in physics from the University of Colorado and 14 years of industrial experience in the development of a wide variety of advanced nuclear and space systems such as nuclear aircraft, fission and fusion rockets and nuclear systems for space applications. His past employers include General Electric, Westinghouse and General Motors. He belongs to numerous professional groups for space scientists and ufologists.

"After more than 30 years of study and investigation I am convinced that the world-wide evidence is overwhelming that SOME UFOs are intelligently controlled vehicles originating in other solar systems. None of the sceptical arguments stand up under careful scrutiny. Documents have recently emerged proving that the US and other governments have been covering up this Cosmic Watergate. Fortunately a whole new generation of professionals in many disciplines is getting involved in lifting the laughter and security curtains." said the 54 year old scientist now living in Fredericton, New Brunswick, Canada.

Mr Friedman's lecture will cover five large scale scientific studies of Air Forces data not generally discussed; the MJ-12 documents, crashed and retrieved saucers; saucer landings and earthling abductions by aliens; travel to the stars; the arguments of such sceptics as Dr Carl Sagan, and the probable star system origin of some UFOs. More than sixty slides will illustrate his program which will be followed by a question and answer session.

INTERNATIONAL UFO LECTURE BY
NUCLEAR PHYSICIST STANTON FRIEDMAN
SHEFFIELD LIBRARY THEATRE
28 OCTOBER 1.30pm- 5.00pm

For further information, or to book seats in advance contact:
Philip Mantle, 1 Woodhall Drive, Batley, W.Yks (0924) 444049 (24hrs)
David Clarke, 6 Old Retford Road, Handsworth, Sheffield, S.Yks (0742) 694537

Ticket demand will be high so readers are asked to book well in advance