

BUFORA BULLETIN

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No 003

March 82

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THE BRITISH UFO RESEARCH ASSOCIATION

Rufora Limited (by guarantee). Founded 1964. Registered Office: 2 Malbury Court, Clarence Road, London N22. Registered in London 1234924. Incorporating the London UFO Research Organisation founded 1959, and the British UFO Association, founded 1962.

Aims:- 1-To encourage, promote and conduct unbiased scientific research of unidentified flying objects (UFO) phenomena throughout the United Kingdom. 2- To collect and disseminate evidence and data relating to unidentified flying objects (UFOs). 3- To co-ordinate UFO research throughout the United Kingdom and to co-operate with others engaged in such research throughout the world.

Membership: Membership is open to all who support the aims of the Association and whose application is approved by the Executive Council. Application/information forms can be obtained from any officer.

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No 003

DIRECTORS:

Three new directors were elected to fill vacancies on the Council at the AGM in December 1981.

The well known writer and researcher Miss Jenny Randles succeeds Mrs Maureen Hall as Director of Investigations. Jenny is already re-organising the network of Investigators, and was a prime mover in the formulation of a 'Code of Practice for UFO Investigators'.

John Shaw, BUFORA's photographic expert, and audio-visual specialist, will look after the Physical Data Section in addition to his present responsibilities. Robert (Bob) Digby, who is a member of the board of J-TAP, and deeply involved with both the Physical Data Section, and pilot Computer Studies.

CODE of PRACTICE

The code, printed in full on pages 10 & 11, was finally approved, after legal vetting, at a meeting of the Joint Working Party of UFO organisations, held at Bristol on 20 Feb 1982. An administrative body for the code has been set up.

JANUARY LECTURE

BUFORA regrets any inconvenience and dissatisfaction caused by the 'last minute' cancellation of the January lecture, this was caused by the combination of unusually severe weather, and industrial action by some of B.R. staff.

FORTHCOMING PUBLICATION

A full account of the LIVINGSTON CLOSE ENCOUNTER case, by Stuart Campbell, will be published very shortly, details and price in next issue.

EDINBURGH CONFERENCE

A preliminary report of the Edinburgh Conference will appear in the next B-B.

A S S A P

Have held a Training Workshop on 6 March 1982 in North London, it is expected to be the first of many such functions.

OLYMPIA

The well established FESTIVAL of MIND, BODY and SPIRIT will be held at Olympia, London from 19th to 27 June 1982.

UFO-MD

Initial contact for the UFO-MD research programme should be through Director of Pubs.

BUFORA INVESTIGATIONS - A NEW INITIATIVE by Jenny Rendles

BUFORA IS THE longest-standing and largest membership society on a national scale in Britain today. However, its investigational efforts have not always reflected the respect and recognition it has gained through such impressive ventures as the International UFO Congresses. Indeed, in 1981 it would be fair to say that BUFORA's investigative prowess - not aided by dwindling numbers of UFO sightings - had reached something of an all-time low. Several RICs had decided to call it a day, and I have had a number of letters expressing dissatisfaction regarding this situation. Clearly something had to be done and BUFORA set out to do it.

Some of the ideas for change had been considered before I was offered the job of Director of Investigations. Others have followed, and I will not hesitate to recommend any steps (however revolutionary) which seem to offer the prospect of a brighter future. To this end I would be grateful for any suggestions from BUFORA members about our investigations. While I would be the first to recognise the sterling efforts made by my predecessors (including Maureen Hall who held the job before me, and whose work I respect greatly) it is clear that drastic changes in the system are long overdue.

Perhaps the biggest single problem is that there has never been any restraint on who becomes a BUFORA investigator. To some extent this was dictated by necessity. If cases arise then someone had to be asked to follow them up. Sometimes that person was naturally gifted or learnt by experience. Much of the time, however, the resultant report was sadly inefficient. And obviously, this did little justice to BUFORA's scientific or serious image.

Another difficulty was the fact that BUFORA is a national society largely based around London, but there have been attempts to overcome this. A few local groups have

fleeting associations with BUFORA, although never to the extent that they should do. This has not always been their fault, there have been mistakes on all parts. BUFORA needs to foster its image of a co-ordinating influence more. Much of the excellent investigation is done by these local groups and it would be foolish for us to overlook that fact. The existence of the RICs has had some impact, but not a great deal. These have changed so regularly and their 'brief' so limited that their time was spent mostly in paperwork and chasing up hapless investigators. There was no time left to concern themselves with engendering a better regional image for BUFORA. I could continue with other difficulties, such as the lack of a common report format or methodology. However, the ones I have outlined show that there is room for improvement. Here are some of the elements of the 'New Initiative' we are sculpturing to see us into the eighties.

The system of RICs is to be replaced by one involving ACCREDITED INVESTIGATORS. Only those BUFORA members who are able to reach the standards we set ourselves will become accredited. To be an Accredited Investigator (AI) will be a goal for any member so inclined to aim for. We intend to develop training programmes and ordinary members will be able to help out in some ways, since one can only learn investigation by experience. But only AIs will be empowered to operate in the investigation sphere for BUFORA and will be assigned to all potentially productive cases. They will have a symbol of their status in the form of a smart card which will be signed and issued for a limited period, all AIs having to be re-accredited at the expiration of this time - thus giving an incentive for them to maintain the required standards.

To become an AI, the member will have to submit his reports to the accepted standard and the required format (which are now

being defined). They will also be specialising in the more interesting cases - thus not chasing up every light in the sky - unless they have nothing else to do - but concentrating on the better cases and spending more of their time on these. All AIs will initially be offered probationary status, which will only be confirmed on receipt of their first report to standard. The AIs will also have to sign - and abide by - the Code of Practice, which has been agreed and adopted for investigators in the UK by mutual discussion between BUFORA, UFOIN and many local groups.

Some readers might detect a certain similarity between this approach and the one adopted by UFOIN. Indeed this is true. In fact, I think it combines the best of both systems. UFOIN is a small-scale team of investigators (40) specialising in high-interest cases. About 60% are already BUFORA members (many former RICs) and I think there is now an excellent chance that UFOIN will absorb itself into the BUFORA investigational system - which can only be to the benefit of British ufology.

BUFORA AIs will have one other advantage. In recognition for the extra work they will be putting into BUFORA, and the financial burden they will be taking on, a 50% reduction in subscription rate is offered to them all as is the extra 20% reduction on membership prices of all publications.

To assist in the coordination of investigational work, a NATIONAL INVESTIGATION COMMITTEE is being formed. For the purpose of this, the country has been provisionally divided into eight regions: Scotland, North, Central, Midlands, West, South-West, East and South-East. The most experienced BUFORA members in those regions have been appointed Area Representatives (ARs). Not only will they coordinate the administration of the regions, they will be encouraged to look beyond BUFORA and take far more interest in the local groups - or certainly those up to BUFORA standards -

ensuring that efforts are coordinated with them, not made in competition.

While the precise function of the NIC is yet to be determined, I personally hope that it will not be secretive and that, within reason, active BUFORA members will be welcome to its meetings - which will be spread around the regions rather than held in one central place. Aside from setting up working parties (and involving outside groups in these), to define such things as training programmes and report formats, the NIC will have the task of accrediting investigators and renewing such accreditation. It will also have a brief of spending 50% of its time discussing current high-strangeness cases. The intention is that ARs will bring work in progress to the attention of the NIC and the mobilisation of national resources on their follow-up will then be considered. To this end the research department will always be in attendance, as will outside sources. Of course, the purpose of all this is to ensure that as good a job as possible is done in the investigation of the worthwhile cases. And a balance will have to be found between this and BUFORA helping the public understand their own UFO experience, even if it may only be a light in the sky. BUFORA's role in recording these will not be overlooked.

The research department will no doubt have plans for its own system of outside consultants to work on completed cases which may be of scientific value. In addition I intend to implement a new tier of advisors. These will be members of BUFORA who have specialist interests and qualifications, whose comments on specific cases could be of great value. In view of this I would ask you to write to me if you feel you have something you could offer us in this sense. For example, you may be a car mechanic who knows about engines, or as with Randall Jones-Pugh - before he retired - a vet whose advice on animal disturbance was invaluable. I am trying to build up a team of ADVISORS, so

please contact me if you can help.

I hope you will see that we do have a concern for the problems which we have faced in the past, and a great determination to do something about them. The 'New Initiative' which BUFORA investigators are adopting is very exciting to me. I am convinced it will reflect well on BUFORA as a whole. Of course, it will not succeed without the backing of you all... and I hope that maybe one or two members who have perhaps become a little frustrated by recent events might now change their minds and look to a future which seems a great deal more hopeful than it might have done once.

Members who are interested in becoming Accredited Investigators but lack the confidence are directed towards two books designed to help.

The first is the excellent UFO Handbook by Allen Hendry (Sphere, £5.95). This is an American publication but a superb consideration of the various phenomena often mistaken for UFOs. It also has a consideration of techniques such as photo analysis and radar. Also (although I hesitate to mention my own book!) UFO Study (Robert Hale, £7.95). This was particularly designed with the would-be investigator in mind, offering a 'teach yourself' course.

A full list of BUFORA ARs, regional scopes and format of the NIC will be published in the near future.

Write to: Jenny Randles, 8 Whitethroat Walk, Birchwood, Cheshire, WA3 6PG.

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I D E N T I F I E D by Hilary Evans

I recently had an IFO experience which so exactly matched several notable UFO reports that it seemed worth bringing to your readers' attention. It consisted of the perfect illusion of being followed, in my car, by a moving ball of light seemingly brighter than the sun.

It was, however, soon apparent what it was. I was driving eastwards in the late afternoon on a clear day. The very low sun was shining into my car from behind, and reflecting off the concave rear-view mirror which had the effect of focussing it to a greater intensity when it was again reflected off my rear window. As long as the road continued to run eastwards, the light appeared to be following me, the movement of the car suggesting that the light itself was in movement. The illusion of being followed was really very convincing!

Obviously a very particular combination of angles is needed to create the illusion, which explains why it is not so common; and it may be that the fact the glass in my car windows is tinted may be relevant. It is also worth mentioning, though it may be quite unconnected, that the following day my eyes were unusually sore!

* * * * *

BUFORA LECTURES --- KENSINGTON Central Library 7 pm.

- Sat 6 March. 'Seeing and Believing-Religious Responses to UFO Experience' Kevin McClure, chair Norman Oliver, FRAS.
- Sat 3 April. 'The Interface Between the UFO Report and New Information' Peter Hill, AMR, FMS, FSS. chair C A E O'Brien, CBE, CT, MA, FRAS, FRGS, FCS.
- Sat 8 May. 'Alien Intelligence' Stuart Holroyd. chair Leslie Bayer, MBE, FInstMSM.

PROJECT UFOFO

TERM: 1 October 1981- 1 October 1983

INVESTIGATOR: Richard C. Niemtow, M.D. 166 Cannon Drive, Travis AFB
CA, 94535. Tel: H-707-437-6279; D-707-438-2140

PROJECT: National Investigation of Medical Injuries Associated With
Alleged UFO Close Encounters.

FOLLOWING THE UNITED States Air Force Project Blue Book and the Condon report which essentially negated the existence of unidentified flying objects, reports still continue of this phenomenon. In the majority of cases, an intense light is observed with variable geometric configurations. Curiously enough, associated with these observations are medical injuries and apparently related sequelae.

These injuries may be classified into three categories. The first is of a temporary nature, dealing with paralysis, dizziness, temporary blindness, headache, perception of odours, audio frequency sounds and parapsychological activity. The second deals with the more chronic effects usually associated with skin lesions, gastrointestinal disturbances and abnormal psychological manifestations. The third category is slow healing and a return to normal health.

As a private citizen, I feel justified based on the frequency of pathological reports associated with close encounters and the existence of excellent investigating media and experts to undertake the acquisition of serious medical data. This information - respecting the privacy of the individual - would be evaluated and placed at the disposition of the scientific community.

PLAN OF RESEARCH

Specific goals

- a) Investigate and assess a minimum of 12 cases dealing with medical injuries as a result of UFO close encounters.
- b) If possible, produce a catalogue correlating injury and the UFO mishap.

Experimental design and methods of procedure

- a) A medical doctor of the patient's choice will interview and evaluate. Dr Niemtow will act as a consultant to the primary physician.
- b) The existing UFO organisations have the needed expertise to evaluate the non-medical data.

Medical Guidelines

CLINICAL EVALUATION

Complete medical and psychiatric history.

Physical examination (include weight).

LABORATORY TESTS

Complete blood count with differential

Serum and urine electrolytes: sodium, potassium, chloride, calcium and phosphorus.

Serum glucose.

Serum cortisol to determine 24 hour peak.

Urine ketones.

Chest X-ray.

Biopsies of skin lesions.

Photographs of external injuries.

COMMUNICATIONS

- a) The witness must be examined by a physician immediately and have the doctor contact Dr Niemtzow immediately.
- b) Please respect the anonymity of the patient in all reports. Otherwise medical legal problems will forbid the publication of medical information and the case will be excluded.
- c) All cases may be published in any journal at the discretion of the field investigator.
- d) Medical data will be published in the journals of organisations that endorse the study.

RESULTS TO DATE

- a) UFO organisations and investigators have generated data sufficiently useful for this study.
- b) No thorough investigation of injuries produced by the phenomenon has been attempted on a national medical scale.

There will be reports every three months or at the instance of a case and the medical information will be published in the journals of supporting UFO organisations. This investigation may prove very useful in identifying the phenomenon and determining its possible detriment or benefit to the world.

For emergency calls from any physician telephone: 707-446-5050

Mail: Richard C. Niemtzow, M.D., 532 Merchant Street., Vacaville, CA., 95688.

ASSAP and UFO INVESTIGATION IN BRITAIN

Though ASSAP has sought to state its aims clearly and unambiguously, some doubts seemingly persist. I trust the following statement will resolve any misunderstandings.

1. ASSAP was not created, and does not intend, to replace, compete with, or take over any existing groups or organisations.
 - * ASSAP has no intention of interfering with the autonomy of existing groups or organisations.
 - * ASSAP does not presume to dictate methodology, enforce procedure, or in any way direct existing investigative efforts.

2. However, ASSAP deplores certain aspects of the prevailing state of affairs in UFO investigation in the UK, such as :
 - * duplication of effort between groups
 - * rivalry, amounting at times to downright hostility, between groups
 - * reluctance to share information
 - * lack of communication due to absence of overall national structure.

It can be fairly said that the controversy attending such cases as Livingston, Llanerchymedd and the Janos affair might have been avoided had investigation in the UK been in a healthier state.

3. ASSAP believes there is a role to be played by a national organisation which
 - * by the fact that it is not associated with any existing group, is totally neutral
 - * by the fact that it has no pre-set views, is totally objective
 - * by its declared aims, is committed to the scientific approach.

Such a role is one of co-ordination and correlation, comprising, inter alia :

- * establishing an overall communications system to link existing groups
- * providing a forum for groups to discuss aims and methods
- * providing a central liaison link with the media and other external parties
- * establishing an overall credibility for British ufology which no individual group is likely to achieve.

In addition, such an organisation could make available, inter alia :

- * interdisciplinary expertise with consultancy on matters ranging from astronomical anomalies to poltergeist phenomena
- * access to technical facilities such as photograph evaluation, soil testing &c, beyond the means of smaller groups
- * access to national records and information data base
- * opportunity to participate in national functions and receive assistance for local functions.

Not all groups will wish for all these facilities, but it is probable that many which have collapsed might have survived had they had the support which affiliation to a national organisation would have provided.

4. Finally, it must be clearly understood that ASSAP IS NOT A SOCIETY, IT IS AN ASSOCIATION. Its members are not newcomers, invading the scene, but members of existing groups who are already part of that scene. They have created ASSAP because they believe the study of anomalous phenomena urgently needs the firmer discipline, the fuller co-operation, the wider information-sharing, the greater acceptance of scientific standards, that a national association can bring about. I do not see how any ufologist, who places the search for truth above personal interests, can refute this logic ; I do not see how any group or individual can fail to see that they have everything to gain, and nothing whatever to lose, by supporting ASSAP's initiative.

Hilary Evans
Publications Officer, ASSAP

CODE OF PRACTICE FOR UFO INVESTIGATORS

This Code of Practice consists of Three Sections

1. Responsibility to the Witness
2. Responsibility to the Public
3. Responsibility to Ufology

CODE of PRACTICE

Section One: Responsibility to the Witness

- 1.1 The identity of a witness to a UFO event is CONFIDENTIAL and MUST not be disclosed unless written consent is obtained from the witness to release such information. (Sect 3 para 4 refers)
- 1.2 The witness MUST be advised of the consequences which may arise if the information specified in clause 1.1 is released.
- 1.3 Insofar as is practical, all interviews shall be by prior appointment.
- 1.4 It is desirable that all interviews shall be conducted by two investigators, and in the event of the witness being a woman or child (under 16 years), that one of the investigators shall be female.
- 1.5 All requests by the witness (or, in the case of a minor, a parent or other responsible person) for a third party to be present during an interview MUST be honoured.
- 1.6 If the witness categorically refuses to co-operate in any way, or to meet another investigator, he or she MUST not be approached further, the option for further contact resting with the witness.
- 1.7 An investigator MUST not enter or attempt to enter any private property without the permission of the owner, tenant (or occupier), or authorised agent.
- 1.8 Any damage to property caused by an investigator during the course of an investigation (for which the investigator admits liability), shall be made good by that investigator.
- 1.9 Specialised techniques, or equipment MUST not be used during the interviewing of a witness other than by the written consent of the witness and the use of any such aid, or aids, shall be restricted to interviews conducted by fully qualified practitioners. The use of hypnosis shall only be under the guidance of a medically qualified psychologist.
- 1.10 The witness is entitled to be informed of the conclusions reached if he so requests.
- 1.11 Due consideration should always be given to the health and welfare of the witness.

Section Two: Responsibility to the Public

- 2.1 All investigators MUST so far as is practicable, co-operate fully with the police and any other official body, particularly in circumstances which may affect national security. (Sect 3 para 4 refers)
- 2.2 If, during an investigation, a situation is encountered which is, or is liable to become, dangerous to the general public, or result in damage to property, the investigator MUST without delay notify the police or other responsible body, and take all reasonable steps to protect public and property.
- 2.3 No information gained during an interview shall be made available prematurely to the news media.
- 2.4 The investigator shall not issue unsupported statements to the news media concerning any case.
- 2.5 Investigators are reminded that they have no special privilege, and may be required to disclose confidential information to the courts.

Section Three: Responsibility to Ufology

- 3.1 The free flow of information shall not be restricted for personal gain, where possible the investigator shall make data available promptly to accredited investigators, with due credit being given to the source of that information.
- 3.2 All interviews regarding cases of high strangeness shall be electronically recorded unless the use of a recorder is objected to by the witness, (or other responsible person in the case of a minor).
- 3.3 All reports should indicate the persons present during interviews, and their status.
- 3.4 Any information, confidential because of factors inherent within this code, MUST not be made available in the EDITED report. Only the EDITED report should be made available for external use. (Note- unless released by witness, the witness's identity is confidential, and MUST not be included in the EDITED report. To fully protect witness's in sensitive occupations, it may be desirable to restrict details of the time, place and circumstances of the incident to such UFO researchers as 'need to know').
- 3.5 An investigator should not discuss his personal theories with a witness during the course of an investigation.

FEB 1982.

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ORGANISATION for SCIENTIFIC EVALUATION of AERIAL PHENOMENA (OSEAP)

OSEAP has come into being following the merger of resources and effort of the very active and respected societies, FUFOR and MAPIT, with the support of A R (Tony) Pace, until recently BUFORA's Director of Research.

Two new journals will be produced, 'OSEAP JOURNAL' and 'CENTRE UPDATE' both twice yearly.

OSEAP RESOURCES CENTRE, 92 Hilcrest Road, Stockport, Cheshire, SK2 5SE. for info.

UFO literature abounds in references to electro-magnetic (EM) effects (Story, Encyclopedia of UFOs). BUFORA has lately published its own Vehicle Interference Project, which strangely only includes two actual British case studies of alleged EM interference. This paucity of data threatens to negate the entire syndrome in this country. Hendry's UFO Handbook (p.190) casts doubt on the very existence of this supposedly world-wide phenomenon. Others (Randle & Warrington, UFOs - A British Viewpoint) are more cautious in their conclusions. Then again, there are those who wholeheartedly favour a 'nuts-and-bolts' approach, such as the American engineer McCampbell. When all is said and done, it appears to be doubtful whether the concept of EM interference with vehicles can be lawfully entertained in this context, as it has been shown that the field-force required to stall a car would be of lethal magnitude (Zurcher, Les Apparitions d'Humanoides, p.110).

Mehuest's Law states the deceptively simple correlation 'obtrusiveness' ('L'Ostentation')/'Elusiveness'. (In psychological terms this may be restated as 'extroversion/introversion'!) In other words, ufonauts act in a selective, premeditated way to attract attention - for no particular discernible purpose. If cars are stalled it is for this reason only, if reason it can be called, there being no real EM effect which automatically and mechanically results in engine-failure. The effect is the psychological one of forcing the driver's attention on the object (UFO) and/or the person or persons (ufonauts).

The enforced observation by the 'captive audience' - often disguised as an accident - is a furtive one. As a rule, it is neither at close quarters nor lasting any appreciable length of time. Truly, the phenomenon is, as suggested by Mehuest, as elusive as it is obtrusive. This paradox also arises in the case of certain psychic phenomena. Apparitions too do not take no for an answer, but insist on being perceived for a fleeting moment. 'Visual apparitions', says Tyrell (Apparitions, p.49) 'appear in different kinds of space.' We suggest that, if necessary, they superimpose themselves on everyday sense-data so that the 'natural' background may remain visible through them; though UFOs do not seem to stoop to such depths. A spectral figure which failed to attract sufficient attention was 'seen' through the percipient's 'back of the head' (Apparitions, p.66) and remained visible just long enough to deliver an (acted out) 'message'.

Paralysis of the observer of a phantom has been reported at various stages of the process - 'before, during or after' (Green.C & McCreary. C. Apparitions, p.128). Ufonauts often (but not always; Zurcher, p.45) paralyse their victims by means of an 'instrument'. To accept this at face value is as hazardous as to proclaim ufonauts as real spacemen. Much further research will be needed before any of these problems can be answered with conviction. The serious work now at least is being done in various countries of the world (notably in America, France and England) holds out hope for the future. Much closer co-operation between ufologists and parapsychologists will result in an eventual breakthrough in what is at present, almost virgin territory.

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Pre-1947 UFO Bulletin No.2

Ufologists have become increasingly aware of the need to study the attitudes and beliefs - on a micro and macro level - which might have an influence on UFO experiences and our perception of them. In my article in Magonia No.3 (Spring 1980) 'Airships and Invaders: Background to a Social Panic' I attempted to depict how the British 1909 and 1913 mystery airship waves had a relationship with rumours of German spying activities. The threat of a potential German invasion was very real to many people in Britain at that time, and this view is reinforced by an article 'About German Spies' by Charles Lowe in Contemporary Review, Jan.1910 (pp 42-56), which I discovered recently. I contended that politicians and journalists were equally guilty of enhancing the public fears. Lowe attributed the blame to 'unscrupulous writers' who produced anti-German fictional books, and journalists; 'Thus the pernicious publications referred to, as well as the vamped-up and unscrupulous spy-sensations of our Yellow Press, constitute acts of criminal levity against the peace of two kindred nations - a poisoning of the wells of public truth - and that, too, at a time when each country is only too ready to believe the worst of the other. Such conduct is nonetheless a public crime for its being beyond the reach of the public prosecutor' he concluded. The wider context of this kind of national panic is studied in Roger Sandell's article 'From Conspirators... To Contactees' in Magonia No.5 (1980) - a second part to this should appear shortly - in which he notes how in pre-1914 Britain: 'Mounting international tension, and the revolt of labour, women, and Ireland challenged the fabric of society'. This theme is dealt with in more detail in Sandell's 'The Airship and Other Panics' in MUFOB No.12 (Autumn 1978).

The threat of German expansionism was the worry of British citizens which took on a new dimension when sightings of mysterious aerial phenomena were associated with the ubiquitous Germans. The activities of Count Zeppelin, and of countless aeronauts threatened the supremacy of British sea power. No longer could Britain rule in splendid isolation. The sea frontier guarded by our 'invincible' Navy afforded a physical and psychological barrier against foreign intrusion in our affairs. The significance of this barrier can be seen in Matthew Arnold's poem 'Dover Beach' which was published in 1867 and displayed insecurity caused by the dread of the social changes beyond our shores, and their implications for Britain. The onslaught of aerial technology meant the elimination of our island position, the airship and aeroplane were seen as horrifying new military innovations which could compromise our fleet. This was compounded by our failure to keep pace with the advances made by Zeppelin and his contemporaries.

The British situation in the period before 1914, contrasts with the background to the American airship panic of 1897. Commentators on this wave have noted how the American airship sightings signify the power of the industrial and scientific revolution in the popular consciousness - fuelled by the new and influential mass-circulation newspapers. David Fideler in part 3 of his article 'Gateways to Mystery' in Fortean Times No.33 (Autumn 1980) claimed that: 'In this context, the airships make

perfect symbolic sense. They neatly embody the idea of the soaring industrial dream, where man is lifted above all worldly concerns, not by religion for once, but by the machine. The frequent breakdowns of the airships are significant, too, pointing towards the failure of technology as the ultimate problem solver.' (Parts I and 2 of his work in FI 31, & FI 32.) John Fletcher in 'Lo! He Comes In Clouds Descending' Magonia No.1 (Autumn 1979) takes this hypothesis further, and shows how the 'social, political and economic turmoil' in the Ohio of 1897 was significant. As a result of economic depression, a 'non-conformist religious revival' emerged in the Mid-West, and airships appeared in the heavens because: 'In a secularised, industrialised materialistic society, their God was symbolised by scientific and technological wonders rather than the cumbersome imagery of the Book of Revelation'. Was, therefore, the American airship a symbol of millennial salvation expressed in 19th century terms? I'm sceptical of such a simplistic solution, but it is fascinating to see a variety of differing factors combine to initiate a wave of mystery aerial object sightings - the impact and perception of which having different consequences for the local or national community. Equally such factors could initiate different forms of public expression as Charles Bowen should learn, human behaviour is complex, consequently his article in FSR Vol 26 No.5 (Jan 1981) 'Important Lesson?' is naive. Send all responses to: Nigel Watson, Westfield Cottage, Crowle Bank Rd, Althorpe, South Humberside, DN17 3HZ England.

REVIEWS

Casebook of a UFO Investigator:

by Raymond E Fowler,
Prentice-Hall International
April 1981. £7.10. £3.85 (paper).

A FORMER CHAIRMAN of NICAP
(National Investigations Committee
on Aerial Phenomena);
Massachusetts State Director for
KUFON (Mutual UFO Network) and an
associate investigator for CUFOS
(Center for UFO Studies), Raymond
Fowler is an investigator of high
quality and experience. And this
experience comes over strongly in
his latest book. That he can write
in an interesting and popular
manner is a bonus.

An extremely wide range of UFO
investigations - many by the
author himself - is presented and
covered from 1947 to the present
day. What I particularly like
about the presentation is the in-
clusion of a full range of misre-
ports and misidentifications. The
author does not attempt to
disguise or explain away the
residue of solid craft, alien con-
tact and abductions, and his chap-
ter entitled 'Consistent Characte-
ristics of Real UFOs' is an object
lesson to many of the woolly-
minded professors who plague ufo-
logy. Full notes, references and a
selective bibliography are at the
end of each chapter together with
a comprehensive index.

After reading this book you feel
that here is a ufologist who is
actually trying to find the answer
to the UFO problem, not, as has
been common in recent years, one
who channels the enigmas into so
many different directions that it
becomes a delta of mud! Buy it!
read it! and enjoy it!

T. Huntington

* * * * *

Space Aliens Took Me To Their
Planet by Claude Vorilhon 'Reel'

THIS BOOK PURPORTS to be a
true account by a French racing
driver of his meetings with beings
from another planet. He claims to
have seen Jesus, Buddha, Moses and
other religious leaders; was plied
with food and drink by beautiful,
naked, robot women; lounged on fur
covered couches and surrounded by
paradisical sights, sounds and
sensations. These beings are sup-
posed to have discovered Earth 25,
000 years ago when it was entirely
covered with water. They raised
matter from the sea bed with 'very
strong explosives' and created all
living things we know today. The
author is their chosen prophet and
he deals with the religious, moral
and political roles that he is to
teach the world. This is not a
book to be taken seriously by any-
one - and certainly not by
ufologists!

ALIVE AND KICKING!

We note with some consternation the remarks made re Contact UK's investigation network in the BUFORA Bulletin no 2 from Mr Bob Easton in November 1981 (p.21). The strength of Contact's investigational team is estimated at 120 individuals carefully spaced throughout the UK and we consider them to be a well-trained and coordinated team. They have all passed their aptitude test and are equal to the investigative teams of other organisations mentioned.

Contact (UK) remains primarily a research group and perhaps, considered a 'silent service' by some. The dedicated volunteers in their Data Research team still meet weekly to unravel reports and assess information, while the magazines Awareness and UFO Register are published at regular intervals. Free circulation of both magazines has been restricted due to economic pressures which all groups are feeling at present. We hope this gets the message across to new and old friends that Contact is still alive and kicking - poor but persevering!

Geoff Ambler, Editor.

SCIENTIFIC VENEER?

Moira McGhee's scientific veneer in her article 'Amnesia in CE witnesses (BUFORA BULLETIN,2), however superficially impressive, follows a precarious pattern by which anomalies such as UFOs are approached via technology. Alas, the most charitable comment on her speculations is 'perhaps'. She quarrels with those who 'dispute so-called necessary (?) data' which, on close inspection turns out to be something entirely different from her assumed straightforward facts. Occam's tried razor is called for whenever gratuitous assumptions are taken for granted, such as: a) the existence of 'a more advanced (ET?) intelligence'; b) intention and ability on the part of a purely hypothetical 'intelligence' to 'prevent the normal memory storage process' - for what earthly reason?

Fortunately, the enticing concept of Space Invaders is increasingly resisted by serious ufologists who are realising the powers of the human psyche are devastatingly real. Extra-terrestrials and their 'interference' in our lives are the unsubstantiated lucubrations of SF writers from the 19th century to now.

M. Cassirer.

SCOTTISH SIGHTING ABSTRACT NO 11

Early one morning in February or March 1953, 11 year-old Ian Archibald and his 13 year-old brother were awakened by their father between 03.00-04.00 after he had come from his nightshift work. He took the boys into a front bedroom of their house at 522 Old Dalkeith Road, Edinburgh, and showed them a 'huge red object hovering in a clearing among trees on the opposite side of the road'. The object was moving in a clockwise diamond pattern, changing colour from pink to orange and red, and to shades between these colours. They watched the object perform this manoeuvre for about 20-30 minutes until it 'shot directly away...very, very fast, like the dot disappearing on a television screen'. There was no noise. Apparently the object had followed Ian's father home. (ref. UN/EX 10).

James Rodger, 46, his wife and friends were all standing talking at his back gate in Wigtown, Scotland when they noticed a 'big blue star rushing along at great speed from the north'. It was about 02.00 BST on an August morning in 1974. The object disappeared to the south but after a couple of minutes it - or another object - returned on the reciprocal course creating 'a great arc in the sky and headed east towards Cairnmore, one of the Galloway hills'. On the way it 'suddenly flared up as if it had reflected light from the sun'. It then disappeared from sight. There had been no sound and the sky was clear. (ref. UN/EX 11).

At 05.20 GMT on 27 October 1981, Mrs Violet Sheridan was leaving for work at Dunbar in East Lothian when she saw a bright orange ball fall from the sky and split into two before disappearing behind houses opposite.

Mrs Marion McMillan, 32, and her 7 year-old daughter Sharon of Seafield by Bathgate, were at Blackburn, West Lothian on 17 April 1981. About 20.30 GMT they saw a curious object moving above some trees to the south west. It had a bright blue light at the 'front' and what appeared to be windows! As they drove towards Seafield, the object passed over them and they could see that the object seemed to taper at the 'back' to a point. It was a very clear, cold night.

On 24 September 1981 at approximately 22.45 GMT, Henry Duncan and his daughter Daria, 18, were walking their dog near their home in Wester Hailes, Edinburgh. It was cold and frosty with a clear sky and no wind. Directly overhead they noticed a very distinct triangular shape outlined by unusually large discs of bright red light in each corner. Red light was reflecting off the metallic-grey colour of the object. After hovering briefly it gracefully accelerated in a north westerly direction towards Edinburgh Airport. They noticed that it maintained a horizontal mode but wobbled slightly from side to side as it sped away. It made no noise. The Duncans thought that it was about 900-1800m high and 3-5 metres in diameter.

Looking out of her living-room window in Broomhouse, Edinburgh, Frances Forsyth, 33, noticed an unusual light. About 19.30 GMT on 19 October 1981, she watched the bright light move to the north west, above (but probably beyond) some Government buildings. The blue-white object moved eastwards towards the crest of Corstorphine Hill where it shot out a curved beam of light. The object was in sight for some 20-30 minutes before it disappeared behind one of the radio masts on the hill. The object was also seen by the rest of the Forsyth family.

(continued on page 19)

O B I T U A R I E S

EVENTS SOMETIMES seem to go in threes, and during the past year we have sadly learnt of the deaths of two prominent BUFORA members, Captain Ivar Mackay and John Cleary-Baker, who both contributed a considerable amount of time to the running of BUFORA.

It is now my sad duty to report the demise of our most outstanding member. We owe a great debt to Major, Doctor Geoffrey Gilbert Deel, MRCS, LRCP, DMRE, who died on 10 November 1981 aged 71. He told us that his interest in UFOs dated back to Kenneth Arnold's 1947 sighting which he thought might represent the beginning of 'an intercosmological dialogue' and he supported the 'extra-terrestrial vehicle' hypothesis. When young Nigel Stephenson and Roy Stemman founded the London UFO Research Organisation in 1959, Geoffrey soon caught up with them at a Caxton Hall meeting. On 4 March 1961 he was co-opted to the LUFORA committee and thus was a founder-member of BUFORA in 1962 and BUFORA in 1964. He became Chairman in 1964 and held the office until 1967. On being elected President in 1971 he busily confounded the notion that Presidents were only figureheads who appeared once a year at AGMs and only resigned when he moved from Potters Bar to Hordle in Hampshire. He was suffering from angina and felt he could no longer play such an active part.

Coincident with holding various posts, he carried out photographic analysis, assisted with Journal proof-reading, printing and distribution. He loaned BUFORA money to keep it solvent while working as acting Treasurer and poured oil on troubled waters with effective results. In fact, no task was too menial for him! Geoffrey was active at our first major public presentation at the Daily Mail New Year Show of 1969 and accompanied me to Devon where we were among the first to interview Arthur Bryant in connection with the case that led to 'The Scoriton Mystery'. We also followed up the 'Joyce Bowles' Winchester claims of 1976-77. Although sky-watching is a controversial hobby, Geoffrey accompanied us on one such outing to Essex in the early sixties. We found a dewy field with a pile of dry hay in one corner, which we sat on! Although the hay wasn't what it seemed, Geoffrey 'mucked in' with the rest of us! We seemed to be miles from anywhere but the inevitable police car arrived on the scene to see what we were up to. Geoffrey quietly informed the constable that we were conducting a 'scientific experiment' upon which a satisfied patrol car went on its way.

Outside of ufology, Geoffrey had many talents. He gained his medical qualifications in 1936/7 and organised X-ray services in Surrey hospitals under the Emergency War Medical Service, and was awarded the rank of Major - a title he never normally used. He gave papers at radiological congresses in 1950, 1959 and 1965, and had a number of articles published in professional journals. During his youth he indulged in motor rallying and later turned to marshalling and rebuilding vintage cars. There seemed little that didn't interest him, whether it was watching Wimbledon or hunting for Lelioue glass or Syevengraphs. In the seventies he was Secretary of the Medical Arts Society, running their annual exhibition which probably included some of his own pictures.

Incidentally, he was convinced that there was more oil waiting to be discovered in Hampshire. Such are coincidences for he penned an obituary for John Cleary-Baker on 11 November 1980 - exactly one year before his own death. Despite his many activities it could well be said that a nicer person you couldn't wish to meet. If one disagreed with him he would quietly say 'Well, you may be right!'. And you respected him the more for it. Truly we have lost a wonderful friend and a remarkable urologist. Geoffrey leaves a wife and two married daughters.

* * * * *

Following closely was Charles Harvard Gibbs-Smith, MA, FMA, Hon.Comp. RAeS, FRSA, who died on 3 December 1981, aged 72. After graduating from Harvard University he joined the Victoria and Albert Museum and looked after their photographic collection. During the War he was seconded to the Ministry of Information and eventually became Director of Public Relations. Several of his books, mainly on aeronautical history, were published by HMSO and in 1962 he was made an Honorary Companion of the Royal Aeronautical Society.

He was convinced that the Wright Brothers were pre-eminent in aircraft development, which caused dissension with other writers. In fact he insisted that the 1896-97 UFO flap in the USA could not be attributed to airships despite the fact that Dr Geoffrey Doel provided carefully researched evidence for the Pennington airship. He climaxed his career in 1978 as the first Lindbergh Professor of Aerospace History at the National Air and Space Museum in Washington - although this seems to have taken its toll on him. While his interests extended to ghosts and parapsychology, he was best known to ufologists as a lecturer and as a director of FLYING SAUCER REVIEW.

* * * * *

Through his sister Alma, of Carmichael, California, I learnt of the death of Gilbert L Bernier of Seattle, Washington. He died suddenly in November 1980 and was thought to have been in his late fifties. He used a distinctive circle-in-a-box logo surrounded by the words 'UFO/INFO - Liaison Expedite' on his mailings. Widely travelled and interested in UFOs since 1947, he maintained a UFO Information Centre for a year for the public. Besides investigating cases, he circulated newsworthy items and magazine articles from the States at his own expense. And although possibly little known in the UK, much useful material was further disseminated by magazine editors. He did not attribute esoteric or parapsychological causes to UFOs, but pending scientific evidence to the contrary, stood by the extraterrestrial devices theory. Advocating the use of instrumented research and careful study of physical data.

LIONEL BEER,

(continued from page 17)

About 19.30 GMT on the evening before the Livingston Event of 8 November 1979, postman James Forsyth, 35, was walking his dog in the Craigmuller district of Edinburgh. High above him he noticed two bright white lights which alternately moved towards and away from each other on opposing courses. He watched them for about an hour. The sky was clear and the weather dry and cool.

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