

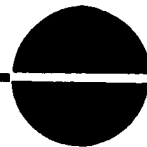


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CONTENTS

<u>INVESTIGATIONS DEPARTMENT REPORT</u>	2
Jenny Randles	
<u>BUFORA's AIs</u>	9
<u>THE AMNESIA FACTOR IN HYPNOTIC RECALLED UFO ABDUCTION</u>	11
Ahmed Jamaludin	
<u>OUR HAUNTED WORLD</u>	16
Paul Dormer	
<u>THREE THEORIES IN SEARCH OF A UFO</u>	20
Manfred Cassirer	
<u>THE FUTURE OF RESEARCH</u>	24
Stephen Gamble	
<u>PRE 1947 UFO BULLETIN</u>	28
Nigel Watson	
<u>THE TRAUMAS OF RUNNING A UFO STUDY COURSE</u>	29
Lionel Beer	
<u>AN UFO SENSITIVITY INDEX</u>	30
Jenny Randles	
<u>Letters</u>	32
<u>Books</u>	34
<u>BUFORA EVENING LECTURES</u> September-October, 1984	37

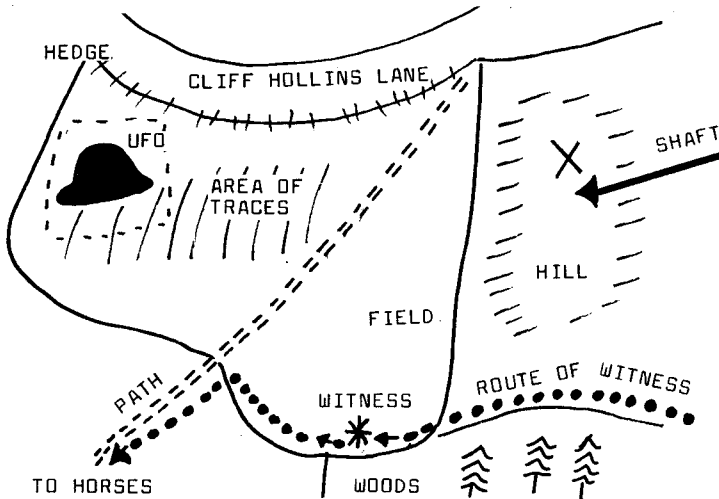
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"IT WAS A FLYING SAUCER"

CASE 77-904 Investigation by NIGEL MORTIMER and the
West Yorkshire Research Group

JULY, 1977 19.00 East Brierley, Bradford,
West Yorkshire.

CE1 (LANDING)



"It was a Flying Saucer" is how the witness to this event, a shorthand typist known as Mrs Frater (then aged 50) described her close encounter. It totally altered her concept of the UFO mystery.

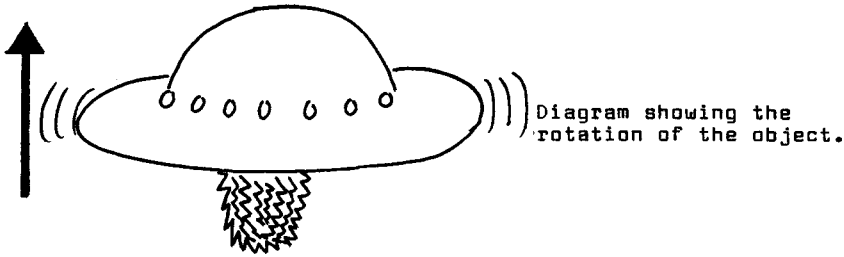
Mrs Frater was walking through a field beside Copley Springs Wood taking a short cut to

where she kept a horse. The field she was crossing is 8.75 acres across and is bounded at the bottom by a hedgerow and Cliff Hollins Lane. Midway across she would turn off at right angles onto a track to lead her to where she was going.

The evening was beautiful and bright after a hot day. Temperature was still about 75°F and there was little wind. She was finding it hard going on the firm surface with its undulating terrain.

For no obvious reason she glanced to the north across the meadow and "froze to the spot with fear". She saw a very strange object which, as she says, "should not have been there ... this made me afraid of it."

The object was hovering only about one foot off the ground and was totally silent despite the country surrounds. In shape it was circular about 30 feet in diameter and apparently made out of dark grey gun-metal. There was a dome on top and a row of port-holes lined the junction between the two places. From the underside came a short burst of red flame that was directed downwards. No sound accompanied this. After about five seconds of stable motion in this way, the craft wobbled slightly and then began a swift clockwise rotary motion (clockwise as viewed from above). Then, in a very brief instant of time, it rose upwards, accelerating dramatically, and flashed out of view - heading straight into the sky.



Mrs Frater is convinced that the object was on the point of take-off from the field when she chanced upon it. She said she found herself wishing "If only I had a camera." But now she wonders if she would have had the composure to use it even if she had. It was such a shock to see it there as broad as day. She felt it was hiding from view since the tall hedgerows masked it from traffic on Cliff Hollins Lane.

She cannot get over the way a few seconds can change your life from scepticism to total belief - confronting something so real and solid that nobody could ever explain it away. It was so sudden and unexpected.

Nigel Mortimer visited the site and noticed that a small hillock (Hunsworth Hill) is immediately beside the "landing" spot and contains an old pit shaft (for earthlights enthusiasts!) The actual spot where the object was lies in a hollow and from the witness's position it would have been impossible to see the object below a few feet off the ground. At a spot about 100 ft from the postulated location of the landed object (according to the witness) a bare patch of ground was found. In this were two small holes (about one inch diameter) separated by about two feet. He thought this might be due to posts that once tethered horses, but checks with the field's owner proved that only grass and crops had ever been in the field.

Closer to the landing site they found a strange circle of grass exactly measured as 16.666ft in diameter. It looked like a perfect circle with the grass in the centre the same as that elsewhere in the field. But a band of grass about one foot wide formed the outer edge. Here growth was much lusher (at least 1.5 times the height of the normal grass). Underneath this lush growth it seemed as if about six inches of grass had been removed, leaving the ground markedly darker in appearance. This location, when viewed from the position of the witness across the field, is more or less exactly where she says the UFO hovered!

These traces were discovered in September, 1983, when they were measured and photographed by fellow investigator Walter Reid. They do not profess them to be positively related to the alleged UFO landing, especially in view of the six year time lapse following Mrs Frater's sighting. But they have similarities to traces found at other close encounter sites inspected immediately following the incident.

In conclusion we have no explanation for this case. It is one of those where the witness is either lying or deluded or she truly saw a strange craft. The NIC regard this as one of their prime cases from 1983. We feel the characteristics described by the witness regarding the postulated "take-off" may offer valuable data about the propulsion methods of UFOs.

CASE 82-025 Investigation by STEVE CHETWYND
12th MARCH, 1982 19.30GMT In and around Heathrow Airport.

This report is particularly noteworthy not so much for what was seen, but rather for what the NIC regard as superb investigation work. It was considered one of the best reports of 1983 on that criterion. Investigators would have much to learn by adopting Steve Chetwynd's methodology.

He discovered the case whilst investigating another, more recent one, and checking back issues of a local Slough newspaper in order to do so. This led to him contacting the original witness (a Mr H.) and through this tracking down several independent people who claimed to have seen the same (or a similar) thing.

Mr H. has pharmacological qualifications and lives in Berkshire. His work has led to his development of a personal study into hallucinations, since he works with drugs that cause such effects. He lives in a house that affords a close view of Heathrow Airport, some four miles away.

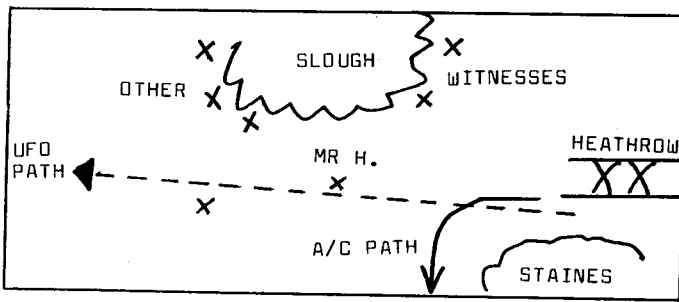
A car outside alerted him and he went to the window thinking that unexpected visitors might be calling. He observed a Boeing 747 on take-off from the airport and watched it bank away to the south. But as it banked a light seemingly detached itself from the main cluster of lights around the plane and apparently shot across its path and then headed off west. It was in view for 5-6 seconds and travelled at about the speed of a very fast military jet. It was creamy-coloured and as bright as the aircraft's lights. He thought it might be an aircraft and was very concerned at the danger it could have caused for the Jumbo jet. He was positive it was about the same distance from him and not something much further away which merely came into line of sight with the plane.

The weather had been poor during the day, with hail/rain and a blustery wind from the south west. The object was not moving with the wind and although it was dry there was cloud in the sky (although not total cover).

Mr H. received eight phone calls in the week after the local newspaper carried the story of his sighting. He made notes on these reports but kept no names. From these notes it is possible to place these reports (which involve 10 witnesses in all) onto a map and construct a trigonometrical pattern of the course of the object. Steve Chetwynd did just this and his report well-demonstrates the consistency of this. The sightings mention the aircraft and term the object a bright white light, although there is one reference to green or bluish/white tinges. No strange behaviour is afforded to it by any witness and the duration is always under 10 seconds.

Steve moves on in his report, after giving these details and plotting the map, to reconstruction conducted at the home of Mr H. Here the elevation (30 degrees) and bearing (095) and duration (7-8 seconds) were measured. A plea was put in the same local paper requesting new witnesses to come forward, but without success.

Bracknell Weather Centre supplied details of the conditions at the time. Then Steve wrote to the CAA at Heathrow. Their reply (APPENDIX A of his report) confirms the aircraft responsible and



that it behaved in the way the witnesses described. Neither could explain the light's behaviour.

The CAA passed on Steve's letter to the Ministry of Defence who responded and sent him a report form that they had on file! This report forms APPENDIX B and C in his study and describes a light seen at the same time from Osterley Park tube station. APPENDIX D is from the Ministry of Defence apologising for the fact that they had wrongly typed the report form (giving a 1983 date instead of 1982!) It further adds that no other details of the case are on file with them.

Suspecting the true explanation of the event Steve Chetwynd checked with the British Astronomical Association. George Spalding, in charge of their meteor section, described how they had a report from Sussex of a bright fireball meteor seen at 19.35hrs that night. He suggested this might be the explanation. From this Steve Chetwynd sent him the report details to check through and he concluded "even had I not had the fireball report ...this on its own would be decisive." As he said, "Not every unidentified event is easy to explain, but I think you can assume the book is closed on this one."

With this in mind the NIC has closed the case as almost certainly referring to a fireball meteor. The manner in which this explanation was arrived at is a testament to skilled investigation. It is a model for any would-be field ufologist.

AN INTRUDER AT THE AIR DISPLAY

CASE 82-026 Investigation by JENNY RANGLES, PETER WARRINGTON and the Manchester UFO Research Association
 8th June, 1982. 15.10 Ramsey, Isle of Man. Photographic

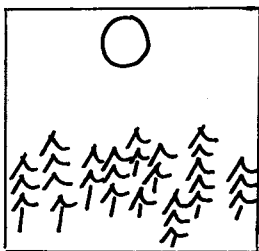
The witness, a 37 year old engineer with the Ministry of Defence, wrote to BUFORA a few weeks after the event to describe a sighting he had had whilst on holiday in the Isle of Man watching the famous TT motorcycle races. Since, by chance, Jenny Randles was on the island at the same time (trying hard not to watch the famous TT motorcycle races!) investigation was handled by her and Peter Warrington.

This case was particularly intriguing because the witness, Charles C, had taken two AGFA transparencies of the object seen.

Charles C was at Mooragh Park in Ramsey watching a display of vintage motorbikes. Thousands of others were in the park too. It was a glorious day, temperature 75°F and only a very slight breeze (under 5mph). There was little cloud.

As a spectator beside him pointed out an object in the sky which Mr C then watched. It was a fine white elliptical ring that was vertically orientated. It was, he said, "something like a smoke ring" but it had a very narrow cross section and the sky was visible in its midst. He guessed its height to be around 500ft and its diameter about 30ft. It moved away very slowly to the west and never varied its altitude shape or speed. In about three minutes it was lost due to the distance beyond the trees in the west. One of the spectators beside him claimed to have seen two similar rings immediately before this sighting.

Mr C had a Chinon CM3 camera with a focal length set at 150mm (telephoto) and shutter speed at one 2/50ths of a second. At an unknown F-stop he got two pictures of the object on 200 ASA film. When developed these faintly showed the object just as described by the witness. But faintly, is the operative word as the white ring is both hard to distinguish against the bright mid-afternoon sky and also, as stated, finely elliptical and very thin. A measurement of the image size as compared with a tree visible in one shot gives a diameter not wildly inconsistent with that guessed at by the witness (although this is likely an over-estimate from a reality more akin to 20ft in diameter).



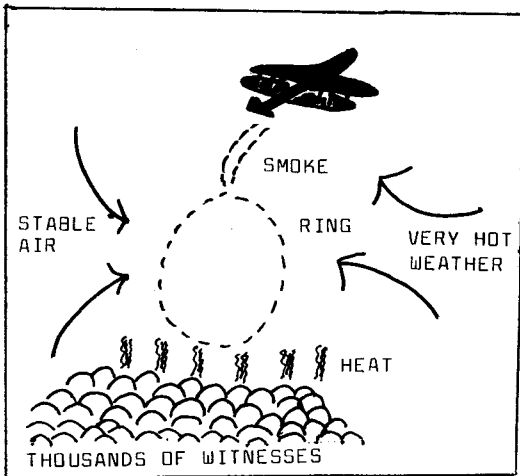
The film was loaned for analysis for a limited time period and it was decided not to pass this to BUFORA's research team for detailed study as investigation provided a feasible solution.

At 15.00, just 10 minutes before the object was seen, an air display took place over the park. Jenny recalled seeing this from another part

of the island (the plane involved toured around in the air, stopping periodically to do a loop-the-loop turn over key spots). It was a Pitts Special bi-plane and its short routine (which ended several minutes, approximately four to five before the photographs were taken) included loop-the-loops. The witness could not recall if smoke was emitted by the plane during the display (he was not watching it closely). But Jenny Randles can confirm that when she saw the display the aircraft did emit a smoke trail for effect at one point.

A detailed consideration of these facts lead to a hypothesis. Attempts to check with the aircraft owner have not met with success. But since it seems such a likely solution the case has been suspended barring new evidence.

The aircraft doing a loop-the-loop and emitting smoke would start a smoke ring in motion by the technicalities of the operation. Because the ground consisted of a mass of people and a large number of motorcycles emitting exhaust gas and because the ambient temperature was high in any event a mass



of warm air existed between the ground and emitted smoke. The air was virtually stable and this would prevent dispersal of the smoke. The end result would be the trapping of the vapour into a stable smoke-ring pattern. This would then drift very slowly away, with the aircraft now miles away, thus leading to the strange phenomenon in the sky.

Investigators are urged to reconsider other "ring-like" UFOs in the light of this analysis.

THE TRAIN ARRIVING - IS A UFO!

CASE 83 - 009

Investigation by ERIC MORRIS and the Plymouth UFO Investigation Centre.

21st MARCH, 1983.

23.45GMT

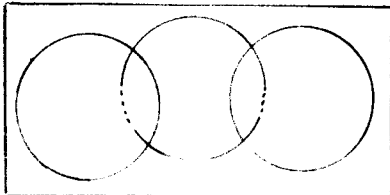
Paignton Devon.

MEDIUM Definition.

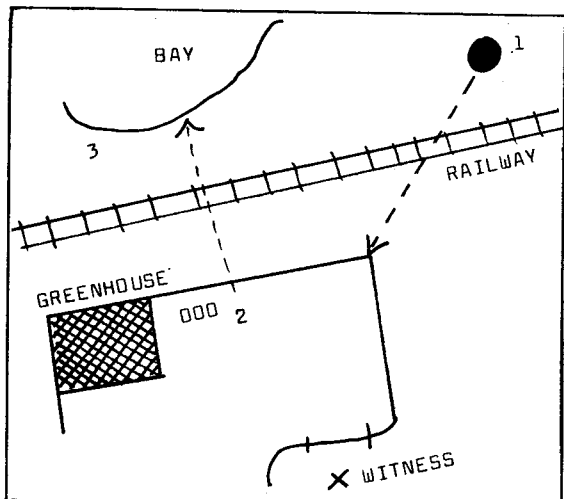
This case was discovered by accident through the daughter of the witness. The witness herself is an 83 year old lady, Mrs R. who was a Polish immigrant many years ago, but married an Englishman. Despite her age Mrs R. was considered of above average intelligence and had marvellous faculties for her age. Her husband was in bed. She was the only witness.

Mrs R. lives in a house which is immediately adjacent to the Torbay/Paignton railway line. This runs a few feet from her garden. Across this there is only open fields, a slight rise and then Torbay beyond. Because of this her bathroom window, which faces directly towards the bay, contains a large pane of unfrosted glass affording clear views of the track and the sea.

It is her custom to wash herself before retiring and she entered the bathroom, switched on the light and ran water in the sink. In doing so she glanced out of the window and was surprised to see a bright light approaching from her right (the south). She checked that it was not a reflection off the window from the room light, but then realised it was not one light, but three, side by side and over-lapping.



These lights grew brighter and approached, moving along the railway track towards her. But this was not a mid-night special coming down the line. It was a UFO! This became apparent when the object entered her garden,



having crossed the line. At closest approach it was only feet from her and was about 10-15ft in diameter, judging from the greenhouse, above which it hovered.

The object(s) rose to the height of the window, as if peering in, and then sank back again to their/its original position. It was in her garden for about two minutes before moving away across the railway line and decreasing in size as it headed out to sea. Total duration was about five minutes, and no sound was heard at any time. Although the window was closed Mrs R is not hard of hearing. Nor

does she wear spectacles for normal purposes.

The investigators checked the site less than a month after the events. Some of the hedges beside the railway track were seen to be suffering from a wasting disease (especially where the UFO had hovered). But there was no evidence that this was in any way relevant to the sighting. A geiger counter (kindly loaned by the Geology Department, Plymouth Polytechnic) was used to check the garden: but nothing beyond background levels of radiation was there. Mrs R and her husband did find a small area of soil in their garden freshly dug the morning after the event. They had not been gardening and had no idea what had caused it, but had thought nothing much of it and raked it over.

Attempts to find an explanation proved fruitless. The possibility of a signal from a naval vessel, that might have been anchored overnight in the bay, was looked at, but the geography of the land proves this to be improbable and Mrs R knew that such things happened from time to time and said that what she saw was nothing like anything she had ever previously seen. No aircraft were found to be in the area, and although there are two lighthouses a few miles from where Mrs R was located (roughly in the direction from which the UFO first approached) the group feel that this is an unlikely explanation.

The case is considered to be unexplained.

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The BUFORA National Investigations Committee (NIC) comprise a team of Accredited Investigators (AIs) who are given local autonomy to investigate case reports to standards as laid down by the NIC. Any BUFORA member is entitled to apply for AI status but must satisfy his RIC (Regional Investigation Co-ordinator) and supply an acceptable case report to the NIC Standard before this can be granted. AI status gives the member certain discounts in exchange for expenses incurred on case investigations.

If you discover a sighting report then you are requested to inform your closest AI or, if there is not one sufficiently near, then the RIC for the region concerned.

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HOW YOU CAN HELP BUFORA

Investigators are urgently required in the London and Home Counties area. Members who are interested in contributing to this important work should contact STEVE CHETWYND, 23 ALBANY ROAD, OLD WINDSOR, BERKSHIRE. It is emphasised that all those appointed must fulfil the minimum criteria laid down by the National Investigations Committee (NIC). Apart from that no previous experience is necessary, just an open minded, objective approach to a complex subject and a sympathetic manner towards the witness who has, invariably, undergone an unnerving event.

Those in other parts of the UK who would like to help with investigatory work are asked to contact BUFORA's Director of Investigations, Miss Jenny Randles, whose address will be found on the inside front cover of this issue of the BULLETIN.

Members can also help the Association in passing on to their local RIC cuttings on UFO reports from their local, regional and free advertising newspapers. BUFORA's newsclipping service covers most of the important regional and national newspapers, weeklies and dailies, but there are, inevitably some omissions.

This work would greatly assist the investigation teams and make a positive contribution to the better functioning of your Association.

Mr Jamaludin's interest in the UFO phenomenon is mainly in the field of major UFO waves. He believes its study probably comes the closest to finding the real stimulus behind the phenomenon, be it subjective or objective in its nature.

He has produced a report on his investigation and analysis of Malaysian UFO cases in "A SUMMARY OF UFOs AND RELATED EVENTS IN MALAYSIA (1950-1980)" which was reprinted by CUFOS. The author has had other reports and/or research articles published in Flying Saucer Review, MUFON Journal, UFO Register and Fortean Times.

Introduction

A comparison was made between fourteen amnesia and fourteen non-amnesia UFO abduction experiences as a search for possible clues to the actual cause of memory block in hypnotic-recalled UFO abduction experiences. The comparative results seem to suggest that hypnotic-recalled UFO abduction experiences are another form of the UFO abduction event and that post-hypnotic suggestion from UFO abductors does not play an important part in inducing amnesia. The most logical alternative it is suggested is attributable to the time difference between UFO and earth reality times. This usually happens when the UFO time is longer than earth time and not vice versa.

Abduction Claims

Claims of being abducted by entities from UFOs usually appear in two forms. One, the witness consciously remembers the shocking experience of being taken aboard the UFO, given a physical examination and then released. Second, the witness reports a sighting - a strange light in the sky - and of the light then shooting away. Later, the witness becomes aware of a "time loss" and under hypnosis the UFO abduction event emerges.

While the first case could be termed a true UFO abduction, many workers have questioned the validity of the time loss experiences (1-3) when related under hypnosis. The experiments by Lawson (4,5) seem to place more doubts on these types of UFO abduction claims. To top it all even the validity of hypnosis itself has been challenged (6).

In view of these controversies, an attempt to analyse UFO abduction experiences cannot question the validity of using hypnosis at this early stage. It is insignificant to what is related under hypnosis. The most important thing is to determine whether time loss experiences are another form of a UFO abduction. If so what makes it different from the true UFO abduction? Most important of all is what actually causes the amnesia.

Materials and Methods

For this analysis we have taken fourteen cases with reported time loss and amnesia (TABLE 1) Only four main criteria are adopted, as follows:- (1) the environmental situation/condition just before the abduction; (2) whether there is any intelligible communication from the abductors; (3) whether there is a possibility of hypnotic suggestion from the abductors; (4) the personal condition of the abductee immediately after being released, i.e. within a period of about five minutes.

TABLE 1. LISTING OF 14 AMNESIA CASES WITH UFO
ABDUCTION EVENTS RELATED UNDER HYPNOSIS

NAME(S) OF ABDUCTEE(S)	CONDITION BEFORE ABDUCTION	INTELLIGIBLE COMMUNICATION	HYPNOTIC SUGGEST- ION	CONDITION AFTER RELEASE
Betty Andresson	Normal	YES	YES	NORMAL
Herbert Schirmer	Normal	YES	YES	NORMAL
John & Elaine Avis	Abnormal	YES	NO	NORMAL
Louise Smith, Mona Stafford, Elaine Thomas	Abnormal	YES	YES	ABNORMAL
Carl Higdon	Abnormal	YES	NO	ABNORMAL
Fortunato Zanfretta	Abnormal	YES	NO	ABNORMAL
David Stephens	Abnormal	YES	NO	NORMAL
John Hodges & Pete Rodriquez	Normal	YES	YES	NORMAL
Lee Parish	Normal	NO	NO	NORMAL
Dionisio Llanca	Normal	YES	NO	ABNORMAL
Barney & Betty Hill	Normal	YES	YES	NORMAL
Peter & Francis*	Abnormal	YES	YES	NORMAL
Charles Moody	Normal	YES	YES	NORMAL
Judy Kendal	Normal	YES	NO	NORMAL

* This refers to a South African case in which the participants wish to remain anonymous. An account of the abduction was reported in FSR 21.2 and their true names are on file with FSR.

The situational condition before abduction refers to the normality or abnormality of the environment. An abnormal situation is when the witness reports any of the three following conditions: Strange Total Silence, Presence of Green Mist or An Abnormally Straight Road. In the second criteria, intelligible communication refers to either spoken words from the abductor or by telepathy which the witness clearly understood. The third criteria refers to the intelligible message from the abductor which may suggest a form of hypnotic suggestion such as "You Are Not To Reveal Your Experience." or "You Will Not Remember What Has Gone On" etc. In the fourth criteria, the prominent personal condition immediately after the abductees release may be Dazed, A Headache or Unconscious.

TABLE 2 lists another fourteen cases relating to non-amnesia UFO abduction experiences.

Results

A comparison was made from these two types of UFO abduction events and certain characteristics were noted. TABLE 3 lists the per centages of observed traits. It is evident that the most distinguishing factor found in amnesia cases is that intelligible communication from the abductors accounted for nearly 93 per cent of the cases. The opposite seemed to occur for the non amnesia events. Post-hypnotic suggestion from UFO abductors is non-existent in non amnesia cases. In the amnesia cases, the possibility of post-hypnotic suggestion to forget the experience is observed for only half of the cases studied.

Discussion

What actually causes the amnesia? Since, in only half of the amnesia cases post-hypnotic suggestion seems to play a part in inducing amnesia, the other 50 per cent of the cases must, therefore, have been caused by some other factor.

TABLE 2. LISTING OF 14 NON-AMNESIA CASES WITH UFO ABDUCTION EVENTS RELATED WITHOUT THE AID OF HYPNOSIS

NAME(S) OF ABDUCTEE(S)	CONDITION BEFORE ABDUCTION	INTELLIGIBLE COMMUNICATION	HYPNOTIC SUGGESTION	CONDITION AFTER RELEASE
Charles Hickson & Calvin Parker	Normal	NO	NO	Normal
Liberato Quintero	Normal	NO	NO	Abnormal
Salzburg case(1951)	Normal	NO	NO	Normal
Lehi, USA case (1973)	Normal	NO	NO	Normal
Taunton, UK case(1973)	Normal	YES	NO	Abnormal
Antonio La Rubia	Normal	NO	NO	Normal
Benjamin Parravicini	Normal	YES	NO	Normal
Alejandra dePascucci	Normal	NO	NO	Normal
Jose Antonio deSilva	Normal	NO	NO	Abnormal
Gilberto G. Ciccioi	Normal	NO	NO	Abnormal
Carlos Alberto Diaz	Normal	NO	NO	Abnormal
Travis Walton	Normal	NO	NO	Abnormal
Antonio Villas Boas	Normal	NO	NO	Abnormal
Jan Wolsky	Normal	NO	NO	Normal

TABLE 3. PER CENTAGES OF THE MAIN CRITERIA FOUND IN AMNESIA AND NON-AMNESIA UFO ABDUCTION CASES.

CRITERIA	AMNESIA CASES	NON-AMNESIA CASES
Normal condition before abduction	57.1	100
Abnormal condition before abduction	42.8	0
No intelligible communication	7.1	85.7
Intelligible communication	92.8	14.2
No post-hypnotic suggestion	50	0
Post hypnotic suggestion	50	0
Normal condition after release	71.4	57.1
Abnormal condition after release	28.5	42.8

That an abnormal situation is encountered in 42.8 per cent of the amnesia cases is a good indication that a certain trance-like situation was created to put the witness in a hypnotic state. This correlates well with the possibility that post-hypnotic suggestion occurs in 50 per cent of the cases. In the non amnesia cases, a normal condition was encountered in all the events (100 per cent) therefore we do not expect any form of hypnotic suggestion to take place. This is confirmed in our sample cases (with 0 per cent).

Lawson postulated that the hypnotic-recalled UFO abduction experience is the reliving of the birth trauma experience (7). He has shown that most of the characteristics or image-constants found in imaginary UFO abduction(8) and hypnotic-recalled UFO abduction claims are identical to drug-induced hallucination and death-bed narratives. There is, however, one main flaw in the theory. During the birth process, the baby does not use telepathy or any other means of communication with either parent or doctor. The comfort the baby finds with its mother is more by instinct and adaptability rather than by communication. If the birth trauma hypothesis is correct, why is it that 92.8 per cent of the witnesses claimed some form of intelligible communication with the abductors? In the consciously recalled UFO abduction event 85.7 per cent of the cases did not involve communication.

Why is it that intelligible communication occurs more frequently in amnesia cases than non amnesia cases? (93 per cent versus 14 per cent). We have no answer at the moment but any researcher attempting to explain away the hypnotic-recalled UFO abduction experience must also explain this observed trait.

There is, however, one important factor which may have a bearing on the amnesia cases. This factor is TIME. There have been several cases of time dilations in UFO abductions. What is found in these cases is that the witness estimates of time on board the UFO is shorter than their actual time that they were missing on earth (e.g. daSilva (1969), Walton (1975)) In these type of events, the witness does not suffer amnesia. On the other hand, the Valdes case (1977) was the opposite. His missing earth time was only about 15 minutes but his abduction time frame was five days. This, interestingly, turns out to be an amnesia case. This offers us a good suggestion of time (both earth and UFO time) determining whether the abduction event would result in amnesia or not. If UFO time and earth time are not the same, as the cases seem to suggest then if 15 minutes of a person's life time is taken and placed in another time frame that is moving faster, the possibility is that once he returns to the earth time frame after release, he cannot remember what had happened in the UFO time frame because it cannot be recorded in his conscious memory. If one hour of witness time is taken and introduced into another time frame that is slower, say, for example 15 minutes, the witness can remember the event as during the one hour, the conscious memory has ample time to record what occurred during the 15 minutes UFO time. To use an analogy, if a person was asked to watch a film lasting one hour within a period of 15 minutes, he would be confused and uncertain of what he had seen. On the other hand if he was given one hour in which to view a 15 minute film he could describe exactly what he had seen. In our analogy the time is constant only the show is speeded or slowed down. In UFO abduction events, there are two different time frames and if the time is not in favour of the abductee's time (i.e. the earth time) viz a longer UFO time, a type of time shock would occur, hence the amnesia.

Conclusion

As post hypnotic suggestion from UFO abductors does not contribute in inducing amnesia in all the time lapse cases, the most logical alternative may be due to the time difference between earth and UFO time. Since there are extreme time dilation cases, ranging up to five days, there must, therefore, be "borderline" time differences where the difference between the earth and the UFO time range from minutes to hours. In these cases it would be difficult to determine the actual UFO time unless the witness could give a fairly good estimate. Amnesia and non amnesia cases are therefore of the same origin and stimulus and cannot be separated. The conditions of time determines whether the abductee would remember or forget the experience. If UFO time is longer than earth time, then the time shock would result in amnesia. The opposite does not occur if UFO time is shorter than earth time.

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FORTHCOMING EVENTS OF INTEREST TO MEMBERS AND FRIENDS

People living locally might be interested in one of the following slide-lectures being presented by Lionel Beer, which will cover the UFO experience and its implications. (Any queries - please telephone Lionel the evening before)

North London, Tuesday 25 September 1984, 8 pm.

Special meeting of the North London Astronomical Society, at Caxton House Community Centre, St.John's Way, N19. (About an 8-minute walk from Archway Tube Station)
The organiser says all are welcome, and you might only be asked for a small donation.

Sutton, Surrey, Thursday 22 November 1984, 8.30 pm.

Cultural event arranged by the Library and Arts Services of the London Borough of Sutton, at the New Central Library, Civic Centre, St.Nicholas Way, Sutton. (Close to Allders of Sutton, and not far from Sutton BR Station) Nominal charge.

Paul Dormer read physics at London University (Chelsea College), and worked for the Theosophical Society at their Hyde Park headquarters. He has a deep interest in the philosophical and often disturbing implications of the quantum theory. He has no particular religious convictions but an insatiable curiosity about the universe. He believes that the solution to the UFO problem, when it comes, will be accompanied by a revolution in our understanding of reality, and is currently working on a book putting forward this theory.

Paul currently lives in Blackpool where he works as a freelance journalist. This article first appeared in PREDICTION, and an article by him on the quantum theory will appear in that magazine shortly.

One of the most tantalising characteristics of UFOs is a tendency for them to disappear suddenly into thin air, like the Cheshire cat in Alice - leaving only a smile on the face of the sceptic. Ghosts too, as every psychic researcher knows, behave in exactly the same way. A superficial similarity, you might think. But analyses of reports of both kinds reveal deeper and subtler ones.

Consider the following account of a UFO sighting given to me by a Rochdale music teacher (who has requested anonymity)

"It was late November and I had just got home from college. Mother was about to draw the curtains as it was already dusk, when she called me over to the window to see something.

"I looked out and saw this extraordinary craft hung low in the sky, motionless and completely silent. It must have been about 100ft long, cylindrical-shaped but rounded at the ends, and it was surrounded by a halo of blue light. There were portholes along its entire length and I could see figures in silver space suits moving about inside.

"I could hardly believe what I was seeing ... I wanted to cry out but couldn't. Neither of us could move or speak. I felt as if my arms and legs were paralysed. We just stood and watched this thing as it began to glide slowly across the sky. Then it just disappeared. It didn't just move off at great speed, it vanished into thin air. And another strange thing, we seemed to be watching for only a few minutes, yet when I looked at my watch afterwards, I found that a whole hour had gone by."

The case is typical of close encounters, especially of Type 3 where UFO occupants are observed. The silence of the craft, the sudden disappearance, the feeling of being paralysed and of being unable to speak, the time distortion, the multiple witnesses (the UFO was also seen by neighbours and reported to the local press): all are patterns which readers will immediately recognise as running through thousands of UFO reports all over the world. What is interesting is that these same patterns can be found running through reports of ghosts - or more technically "apparitions" - such as those

analysed by Celia Green and her colleagues at the Oxford Institute of Psychophysical Research. Let us look at some of these.

SUDDEN DISAPPEARANCE

"It vanished like a bubble bursting" reads one report of a ghost or apparition sighting. Another describes the figure as 'standing there several seconds, then suddenly there was nothing.'

SILENCE

Ghosts, like UFOs, are generally silent. 'There was no sound of footsteps as it walked, despite the hard surface;' 'no sound of breath, though it seemed to be breathing heavily'.

PHYSIOLOGICAL DISTURBANCES

These afflict UFO witnesses and apparition subjects alike and are of the same kind in both cases: paralysis, inability to speak, etc. 'I tried to speak but no sound came to my mouth'; 'I tried to move but my muscles wouldn't work'. It is clear that these effects are not simply the result of shock, for they occur even in cases where the subject is not afraid.

TELEPATHY

Both ghosts and UFO occupants, when they communicate, are generally said to do so by means of telepathy. 'The ghost did not actually say the words but they came to me'; 'I did not hear an actual voice, but in my mind I knew what it was saying.'

TIME DISTORTION

Those who have had UFO encounters frequently report lost or missing time. For apparition subjects, too, time seems to flow abnormally.

POLTERGEIST ACTIVITY

Contrary to popular belief, this occurs so often in connection with ghostly apparitions that it is not clear where the dividing line should be drawn. The association of poltergeist activity with UFOs is well known.

'COSMIC NANNY' PHENOMENA

Researchers into both UFO sightings and spontaneous psychic occurrences have testified to the uncanny way in which their investigations seem to be thwarted: poltergeist activity ceases just when the recording equipment is set up; vital tapes and papers burst into flames, witnesses mysteriously disappear Strangest of all are the men-in-black who call at the homes of those who have had UFO sightings, warning them to keep their mouth shut - or else! 'It is almost as if,' writes Lyall Watson in THE ROMEO ERROR 'we are being kept in check in our planetary kindergarten by some cautious cosmic nanny.'

MULTIPLE WITNESSES

Despite all the absurdities, both ghosts and UFOs are frequently seen by more than one person. Celia Green has on her files authenticated cases of up to eight people simultaneously seeing the same apparition, while about one third of close encounter cases involve more than one witness.

The list is not intended to be an exhaustive one, but it is sufficient, I think, to suggest that there is some sort of connection between traditional ghosts and the mysterious objects which haunt our skies.

Those who have had UFO sightings will naturally balk at the idea that what they saw was in any way insubstantial. 'The craft was solid, metallic' they will object. But ghosts too appear solid and as real as you or I at the time - a fact which further strengthens the link between the two.

To seemingly add to the confusion, Jacques Vallee has shown that there are patterns linking UFOs with faerie lore (see PASSPORT TO MAGONIA). Others have drawn parallels with angels, demons, ancient gods and so on, suggesting that all the 'fable and endless genealogy' of human mythology are part and parcel of a single underlying phenomenon.

What does all this mean? How can all these things possibly be related? One easy answer is that people are simply hallucinating. UFOs, faeries, ghosts etc, it is suggested, are nothing more than close encounters with our own psyche.

At first, the hallucinatory hypothesis does seem to offer a neat solution comfortably within the framework of orthodox science. And there is no denying that there is a curiously subjective, almost surrealistic quality about most encounters - almost as if the subject were standing just for a moment with one foot in the real world and the other in the silent timeless world of dreams. But the theory can only be held at the cost of ignoring some of the facts. For how, we may ask, can hallucinations burn grass, leave indentation marks and interfere with cars? Above all, how can hallucinations be 'shared'?

When we look at all the facts, we have to admit that we are faced with a paradox. On the one hand, such phenomena have at least a degree of physical reality. On the other, there is an obvious connection with the human psyche.

The situation is not unlike that in which physicists found themselves at the turn of the century. Light, they observed, behaved sometimes like waves and sometimes, in different conditions, like particles. It could not be both! But against all the odds of commonsense, that is exactly what it did turn out to be - a discovery which led to the bizarre world of quantum theory.

Like light, the phenomenon we are seeking to understand may turn out to be dual natured: physically real to some degree, yet linked with the human psyche. This suggests the rather startling possibility that matter and the unconscious may link up at some fundamental level.

On the face of it, this sounds absurd. But modern physics, particularly quantum theory, has shown that the world is not real in the way we once thought. Quite simply, we construct reality with our minds. We may believe that there is something 'out there' which lies behind our mental perceptions, but we can never know it, for it lies forever beyond our psyche.

The same is true of the unconscious. It only becomes known when it manifests itself in dreams and so on - but by then, of course, it is no longer unconscious. The only difference between the unconscious and what we call 'matter' is that the one manifests itself in internal, the other in external phenomena. There is therefore no a priori reason for rejecting the idea that both are at bottom one and the same. Indeed, the Swiss psychologist C.G. Jung and the physicist Pauli believed there was good evidence (beyond the scope of this article) to support it.

It may be, then, that in looking to the stars for a solution to the UFO problem, we are looking in the wrong direction. For the answer may lie within ourselves. UFOs, faeries, dragons, vampires, angels, mermaids ... may be nothing less than the dreams of humanity: ancient archetypes which now and then surface like sea-monsters for a moment or two before plummeting back

to the depths of the Collective Unconscious.

But what of Vallee and others who see evidence of an intelligence behind the whole charade? Are they on the wrong track? Not necessarily. There may be an intelligence - but this may be none other than ourselves, the unconscious and ultimately the driving force behind the universe.

If the reader thinks he detects a faint whiff of religion at this point, he is not far wrong. These ideas do have much in common - whether through coincidence or otherwise - with Eastern philosophy. And it is here that we must be cautious. For the way ahead does not lie through the muddy waters of mysticism, but through careful application of the scientific method. Or at least through scientific thought - for what is lacking may not be more data, but the nerve and imagination to see the startling implications in the evidence we already possess.

We have, in the UFO experience, an almost unbelievably absurd phenomenon, and one which is unlikely to have a commonplace explanation. What is called for, I believe, is nothing less than a new view of reality. The great quantum physicist Nils Bohr once addressed a colleague with the words: "We are all agreed that your theory is crazy; the question which divides us is whether it is crazy enough." The extraterrestrial hypothesis is, I feel, not crazy enough.

I have suggested the lines along which I believe a solution to the UFO problem might lie. And if there are any readers who have ideas on how the theory might be further developed - or who perhaps see serious flaws in the arguments presented here - I would be delighted to hear from them.

My address is 293 Devonshire Road, Blackpool, Lancashire FY2 0TW. An exchange of ideas might prove fruitful.

NUFON CONFERENCE - SATURDAY, 13th OCTOBER, 1984

Victoria Hall, Saltaire, Shipley, Bradford, West Yorkshire.

1.00-5.30pm Admittance 50p on the door (open to all members)

SPEAKERS: JENNY RANGLES HARRY HARRIS WYUFORG

TOPICS: Is There A Cosmic Cover Up? Local UFO Case Reports
(Refreshments available)

Saturday evening Harry Harris Video presentation of UFO cases.

SUNDAY 14th OCTOBER, 1984 BUFORA NIC MEETING.

Overnight accommodation in nearby hotel: £20 single 888.
£28 double 888.

Meeting on Sunday afternoon. It is essential that all AIs attend.

Details of travel arrangements from: NIGEL MORTIMER, 33 Green Lane, Addingham, West Yorkshire LS29 0JH. Please send see with enquiry.

Unidentified Flying Objects (UFOs) are also known as "Flying Saucers." The latter designation came into common use in 1947 when Kenneth Arnold reported his historic sighting of nine shining objects flying over western Washington. Inappropriate as a description of what has turned out to be a major scientific enigma, the more recent alternative is similarly open to objection. UFOs are not "objects" as commonly understood, though perhaps not too incompatible with the concepts of quantum physics, and the second qualifying adjective has misleading connotations in suggesting some kind of flying machine. Finally: who are they unidentified by? This basically negative definition is all too familiar to parapsychology and its critics.

In 1979 it was proposed to substitute "Transient Aerial Phenomena" and a journal incorporating the new name JTAP was published by BUFORA. But Transient Aerial Phenomena also fails to give satisfaction as a totally adequate description. For one thing, JTAP's scope includes Identified Flying Objects (IFOs). Such phenomena are (eventually) resolved in terms of identified or identifiable misperceptions of, e.g. planets and stars, which hardly qualify as "transient." For another, humanoids or ufonauts (so-called) - perhaps the most significant, and certainly the most intriguing constituent part of the syndrome - are not "aerial", but bear a suspiciously close generic resemblance to ghosts and apparitions. Some are revealed as only tenuously related to lights in the sky, while in many cases the former have been reported quite independently of UFO sightings. Thus semantic problems bedevil serious study at every step. This is not surprising since UFOs are among the most intractable problems known to man, only comparable to Psi phenomena in this respect. Ufology as a discipline is at best 30 years old, whereas the Society for Physical Research, the leading centre for the study of anomalies, has been in existence for a century(1).

UFOs eventually came to the attention of the American air force. At a loss as to how to dispose of them, they finally decided that, as they did not seem to constitute a threat to national defence (an opinion by no means consistently held by them) it was perhaps best to hand the material over to the University of Colorado. In that remote part of the United States they fared no better, for Edward Condon (the distinguished atomic physicist) was in equal measure unprepared and unable to cope with his strange new task. Eventually that University gave birth to a monstrous abortion since known as the "CONDON REPORT," which predictably attracted much adverse comment. The rash of paper-back books that flooded the market in the late 1960s typically contains lengthy criticisms of Professor Condon's notorious mis-adventures in UFO land.

POLAR CAPS

At present, while there are plenty of "explanations" to choose from - or, at least, many variations on a few themes - few deserve serious consideration, the vast literature on the subject being most remarkable for its unevenness, with regrettably frequent descent to bottomless lunacy. Thus some have postulated that UFOs hail from polar caps, or from the inside of the "hollow earth" that they are attributable to the spirits of the dead, or to hypothetical entities ("elementals"); or that they are downright diabolical, which may at any rate be admitted of some of the hypotheses. A highly commendable angle (from the commercial point of view) is to proclaim UFOs as visitors or messengers from outer space, an extension of the ET hypothesis (see next page) that pays off richly in the currency of the realm, if not necessarily in academic prestige. We have it on

good authority that "the age-old evidence of Space-man (is) before our very eyes," throwing "a dazzling light on our U.F.O. researches." For those who prefer dazzlement to study, here is plenty more from where this comes; sufficient, in fact, to make one realise that this is a game that anyone can play, provided he is endowed with a wide imagination and a complete absence of common sense and, above all, a fluent pen that commends itself to prospective publishers.

Only three theories commend themselves as "scientific", i.e. capable of being falsified and of making predictions. The one appearing to qualify most highly by this objective criterion is:

A. The Terrestrial Hypothesis, according to which UFOs are secret weapons. It enjoyed popularity about the time of the immediate post-war period, when the climate was right for the western allies to assume that they were of Russian origin, whereas the Soviets were equally sure that they must be American! This farcical situation was bound to explode sooner or later, the theory in question being not only falsifiable but manifestly false. The Nazis also came in for their fair share of the blame, but for once without good cause.

Where little is known for certain, even a negative is of value, and it is now known for a fact that whatever UFOs may or may not be, they are not man-made artifacts of terrestrial technology. This erroneous concept can therefore be eliminated from the list of likely candidates for causation.

B. The Extra-Terrestrial Hypothesis. This, already alluded to, is known to practically everyone; no silly season is complete without journalistic lampooning of "little green men from Mars", accompanied by the appropriate cartoon, and I have referred to it elsewhere as the "Kids' Comic Hypothesis." Its invidiously implied assumption of a superior cosmic intelligence at work within our own solar system tends to discredit the subject within the scientific community, while at the same time generating most popular interest. It is a hypothesis redolent with fear, false hopes, panic and cheap titillation, as well as deep suspicion at times amounting to paranoia.

In the late 1960s Europe suffered a full-scale invasion not, as alleged, from Outer Space, but by American pulp-writers "proving" this very theory. One particularly recalls the seductively reasoned arguments of one Frank Edwards with his assurance that space-ships had landed on our planet. By comparing, blow by blow, NASA's program with his own data, Edwards' conclusions seemed cogent. First, the alleged space-craft had been improved on the original design observed on earth; then discreet, indirect or direct contact had been established. Finally, "their" astronauts had furtively landed, coincident with a saturation of sightings (2). The last aspect of an otherwise feasible plan of action (which NASA might have followed up if the Moon or Mars had been found to be inhabited) was to prove the final debacle.

A typical close encounter as described by increasing numbers of otherwise normal people goes as follows. You are driving along a deserted country road in a rural region. Around a bend in the road you find your way blocked. By a psychological process known as "assimilation" you observe a crashed car or plane just ahead of you, but on second thoughts and closer inspection, it turns out to be a weird, luminous, saucer-shaped structure of the traditional "Flying Saucer" design. Men in overalls are frantically busy with emergency repairs. The location, though isolated, rules out restricted areas of the military establishment. Moreover, as soon as you are spotted the "emergency" is at an end, and the overtime workers rush for cover into their "ship" to take off at an unbelievable speed. Stranger still, if that were possible, the apparent object disappears

instantaneously before your very eyes, dematerialising into thin air (or, at least, becoming invisible). This is the stuff of science fiction, were it not for the many instance of physical traces left both by craft and occupant. Whatever may be thought of their simulated technology, it is all too obvious that they present themselves as fearful of being apprehended, but why? who are they?

Some scholars who have weaned themselves from this theory think that we are being deliberately deceived; incidents as that described are staged for our benefit by "messengers of deception"; but why and how? There are also the notorious alleged "abductions" which owe so much to the vagaries of hypnotic regression.

C. The Psychological Hypothesis. It will be clear by now that not everything can be taken at face-value; the problem is rather whether anything can! (We are assuming that reports are mostly bona fide, as suggested by the evaluation of the data). The present counter-hypothesis may be said to be not so much a theory in the proper meaning of the word (i.e. a "system of ideas explaining something" COD) as a "dustbin" for the entire spectrum of alternatives to the above. It embraces unpopular implications which some sections of the ufological fraternity would rather sweep under the carpet, or perhaps into the star dust. These include the fact that "(Some) UFO reports are hoaxes, or ... misidentified man-made artifacts or natural phenomena." (3). Such propositions are basically falsifiable in accordance with established scientific procedure. So what are the hard facts?

Here is another which is fairly certain: most authorities agree (4) that about 90 per cent of all aerial sightings (i.e. lights in the sky as distinct from close encounters) are "imposters" and IFOs rather than true UFOs. While most of the photographic material is suspect, there are many genuine mistakes in reports of sightings as opposed to deliberate chicanery, and illusions predominate over hoaxes to a considerable extent. Fraud and ignorance are discrete categories and personal experience as a field investigator of anomalous phenomena suggests that people are more likely to be honestly mistaken, or down-right stupid, than deceptive. This is borne out by the statistical tables published by the Ministry of Defence, in which "hoaxes" are masked by being associated with unrelated factors. Even so, the total for the group is a mere eight per cent while in America prank balloons (a likely source of confusion) are not a major factor in false, i.e. IFO-type reports.

Many reports have to be discarded when it is discovered that they have been activated by ordinary stimuli such as unrecognised astronomical objects, aircraft of all descriptions, meteors, and re-entries of satellites (in that order of frequency). A substantial residue of unexplained sightings remains none theless.

* The American air force, the first on the scene to study the phenomenon, after a fashion, revealed a somewhat ambivalent attitude. At one time it seemed to take it very seriously without, however getting sufficiently involved in the nitty-gritty of actual field investigations, while at another there emerged a negative tendency to argue that since the overwhelming number of cases had to be discounted anyhow, it was only a small and natural step to jettison the lot. This (in the felicitous, if dated phrase of David Saunders) could be called throwing out the space ship with the meteor.

But many cases are much too well-attested to deserve such cavalier treatment (5); others are at least of psychological interest, sometimes with quasi-mystical overtones. As to the latter, contact - particularly close contact - with UFOs (and yes! - even IFOs) may cause conversion-like symptoms with resulting personality

changes. While the most famous instance are the visions of Fatima, other seemingly and striking examples of paranormal experiences involving healing are on record. More often, it is true, the reaction in man and beast is one of unmitigated terror, followed by sickness indicative of radiation effects rather than of psychosomatic simulation; a far cry indeed from the trivialised "aliens" of the mass-media's matinee entertainment for the young.

BIZARRE REPORTS

There are thus a multitude of apparently reliable accounts of events, or supposed events, which for sheer evocation of wonderment - if not of incredulity - rival the most bizarre reports of the seance room and of the antics of the poltergeist. Often there is an element of confirmation not only through multiple witness, whether independent or not, but by synchronous radar sightings. Interference with apparatus and appliances, usually described as electro-magnetic, is an established feature of the syndrome, to say nothing of physical traces of "landings."

Lately attempts have been made to revive and revitalise a "natural" theory in terms of plasma and ball-lightning, but these fail to account for the fact that UFOs are basically a post-war development. Alternative interpretations drawing on the data of parapsychology have to be seriously borne in mind as a counter-hypothesis, and the general disillusionment with discredited models has been a strong temptation to look to the latter.

The mysteries of the UFO, whether or not they are amenable to an eventual evaluation, raise a multitude of seemingly insoluble problems, a dilemma also encountered in parapsychology (Psychical Research). Its general affinity with the latter is obvious, but ufologists (with very few exceptions), however aware of its potential, are insufficiently acquainted with serious research in the alternative field, while parapsychologists prefer to stay clear of involvement "Flying Saucers"(6) whose literature, to be sure, is none too alluring to the scientifically inclined.

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- (1) For the (London) Society for Psychical Research (Founded 1882) see Haynes, R. The Society for Psychical Research. MacDonald. London, 1982.
- (2) Edwards, F. Flying Saucers - Serious Business. Mayflower. London, 1966.
- (3) A Guide to the U.F.O. Phenomenon. BUFORA 1976.
- (4) The BUFORA Guide (supra) gives the percentages as 10 per cent (pp 1,2,13) 5 per cent (p8) and 9 per cent (p13) respectively. Professor A. Roy puts it as high as 25 per cent, while A Hendry sticks to the more conservative 10 per cent.
- (5) See e.g. Campbell, S. Close Encounter at Livingston. BUFORA 1982.
- (6) The Parapsychological Association, a professional body founded in 1957, turned down a paper by the writer on the Psi/UFO Interface on the grounds that it was of too little interest.



The editor has kindly invited me to expand on my ideas for the future of research within BUFORA. As many of you will know, last year I was asked by Council to take over responsibility for research activities. I propose to set this article out under three main sections. The first will cover my general philosophy towards research, the second will cover my immediate proposals whilst the final section will deal with the longer term view and the financial implications.

GENERAL

In the past there have been two major moans voiced by Ufologists. These are why aren't scientists interested and why doesn't the government actively research UFOs? These two questions are easy to answer. Professional scientists tend to co-operate only with those individuals and organisations with a proven track record of good solid research. This would be particularly the case with a fringe subject such as UFOs. A scientist involved in a major research project probably has enough work to fill 25 hours a day without becoming involved with time wasters. On the other hand, professional scientists like to work at solving specific problems. As we get more experience in research we will be able to phrase these problems better.

The government is unlikely, in the short term at least, to fund any research into a diverse subject such as this. Over the years all governments have failed to provide sufficient funds for all the worthwhile "respectable" research to be undertaken. Whilst we might see UFO research as important, it must be considered insignificant whilst such things as cancer research and research into mental illness are under-funded. Recently government research has suffered from cutbacks, making it even more remote that this is a source of funding.

Given the above, the course I propose to adopt is one of self help. If funds cannot be made available from public funds for UFO research, then we must fund it from our own resources (we are, after all, supposed to be a research organisation!) If the people from whom we need help will only work with organisations with a good track record then we must build up a good reputation based upon our research work. For many projects we will need people with expertise in a variety of fields. If we can not recruit these then we will need to gain our own expertise in these fields.

Research is essentially a long drawn out process being usually based on a retrospective view of material. As such I consider it unlikely that there will be any urgent research matters that need answering immediately. This is one reason why I do not allow my phone number to be advertised. Another is that I do not consider it my job to speak to members of the press, these are frequently just looking for "cheap copy" and use up valuable time which could be spent more profitably on BUFORA research.

As Director of Research I receive many requests for help. Although a request might be important to the enquirer as the only project on which they are working, it must be remembered that I may have several similar projects, and many other requests to deal with in the course of any one week. This is in addition to any other BUFORA work I may have to do, for example arranging research meetings, writing reports to Council, or articles such

as this one.

Typical of the requests I receive are those which read: "Dear Sir, I am writing a book and need full details of all your cases involving military aircraft over East Anglia. I need this information by the end of the month." I assume that this is the kind of request received by other directors of research in the past. I give this kind of request extremely low priority. I am not in a position to act as a writer's unpaid assistant. If I had the time to sort out information of this kind I would be publishing myself, via BUFORA. Any request that finishes: "I need it by the end of the month" shows that the enquirer does not realise just how much work is involved and obviously does not have a full time paid staff.

Given that I only have limited time to spend on BUFORA matters, I will give top priority to those items that are of direct benefit to BUFORA. Ultimately, when we can afford an employee we could offset some of the cost by carrying out this kind of research on behalf of authors on a chargeable basis.

There is no point in carrying out research if we keep the results to ourselves. We will continue to support BUFORA publications especially JTAP, but also the BULLETIN and, if appropriate, special publications. As part of the documentation of research I feel that all the meetings of the various research groups should be minuted and copies placed at the registered office.

I hope to involve as many people as possible in research, however, as with all the work of the research department, we have the option of doing it quickly or doing it right. I propose to do it right, get the right people doing the right job. Two jobs which I see as having high priority are, first, to find somebody to take up offers of help from members. In the past we have not been in a position to take up many of the offers we have had. The second job is to find somebody to act as a research secretary. Much of the correspondence I deal with is fairly routine involving such things as sending out meetings notices, acknowledging receipt of reports and minute writing. As the activities of research expand, there will be even more of this kind of work. I could delegate most of it to somebody else (providing they are the right person). All serious offers for either job are welcomed! (They are both honorary posts).

SHORT TERM PLANS

In the short term I feel we should be tackling the problem on three major fronts. These will be via:-

- (a) Techniques sections;
- (b) Theories sections; and
- (c) Project grants.

(a) Techniques sections

These will consist of people with expertise in a specific group of techniques which might be useful in investigating the phenomena. At the moment there are four such sections i.e. photographic, traces, computerisation and statistics.

All of these sections have existed for some time, but frequently they do not get the recognition they deserve in this country. As well as their research functions both the photographic and the traces sections help in investigations. Over the years a great deal of expertise has been built up in the study of these physical effects. The computer section is actively involved in the designing of an international data base.

(b) Theories sections

These will be a new addition to the work of the research department. At the moment four sections are planned. These will be:-

(i) UFOs are natural phenomena

This will cover such things as ball lightning, fireballs and other natural phenomena.

(ii) UFOs are psychological or physiological phenomena

This will include UFOs resulting from temporary or more permanent forms of hallucination or as a result of physiological imbalance. Effects of this nature may be "side effects" of some of the other theories discussed here.

(iii) UFOs are the result of advanced technology

This can include both terrestrial and extra-terrestrial constructions.

(iv) UFOs are psychic phenomena

I express no opinion in support of any particular one of these groups. In fact the number and variety of theories of cause of UFO phenomena would indicate that we do not really know and that there is no authentic evidence to support any particular idea.

The work of these groups will be in four main areas.

- (i) Using case reports and other material and produce evidence to support your theories.
- (ii) What characteristics are produced by phenomena consistent with your theory? This will be of use in the future when we look at instrumented observation and in the shorter term can be used in designing the computer data base.
- (iii) Are there any hazards associated with this group of phenomena?
- (iv) Review incoming reports from the investigation department and assess these in relation to your group of theories highlighting areas of agreement and areas of discord. This in a way will act as a kind of evaluation. Each case will be studied by each of the groups, independently. Obviously it will take some time for each case, but as I said earlier it is better to get the right answer than a quick answer. By using a number of independent reviewers it will avoid the possible bias if only one reviewer or group of reviewers had been used.

(c) Project grants

An individual or a small group may be interested in doing a research project which falls outside the scope of one of the existing research groups, or would form a self-contained limited time span piece of work. Ultimately we should be able to support this either by small monetary grants or by making facilities available. Obviously we would need to control this kind of activity very closely. A set of rules will need to be drawn up.

I believe that we should support these individual efforts but also we should be working on much larger projects as well. Why should people work within a large organisation like BUFORA if we only do the same work that they could do themselves?

There are, additionally, a number of areas where we should carry out self-contained research programmes. The main area in which I see this being of use is in the study of ways of obtaining more reliable data. The two things I feel we should do are to study methods of instrumented observation and, secondly, to look at ways of improving the reliability of witness data. Some workers have tried hypnotic regression, for example, to acquire accurate witness data. However, there seems to be some serious scientific doubt about its use. Since this particular technique raises its head from time to time, we should undertake a definitive study to evaluate its usefulness and, dependent upon the results, either make more use of the technique or throw it out once and for all.

This organisation is fairly similar to that used by the government research councils where they support their own units to carry out basic research, units to do applied research and support work of excellence through research grants.

LONGER TERM IMPLICATIONS

Obviously the above research programme will cover a lot of basic research in a wide range of fields. Some of this will be to do with transient phenomena, other than strictly UFOs. We should branch out into these other fields and express a long term interest in the other related phenomena.

In the longer term I feel that if we are to accomplish anything significant in research we are going to have to devote much more in the way of resources in order to do it. With the current state of interest (or lack of it!) from outside funding agencies this will mean raising funds from within BUFORA. It has long been the case that if a particular project needed doing, it has either been funded from general donations or a special appeal has been made. Clearly this kind of arrangement is not satisfactory for long term projects, e.g. the computerised records system. Fortunately the Council have agreed to look at longer-term funding. An important factor in this is the number of members that we have. If we have a small number of members either the amount that can be raised for research will have to be small or, alternatively, research will have to take a much larger proportion of each members' subscription. If we wanted to raise £1000 for research, this would mean £4 per member from our membership of 250. Either this would mean a large increase in subscription or a corresponding cut in existing services such as publications. Clearly neither of these alternatives is really acceptable. We could, however, achieve reasonable and long-term funding with an enlarged membership. If we had a membership in the order of 1000 then we could raise the suggested amount for research by using just £1 from each person's subscription. So you will see that the amount and the quality of the research BUFORA can actually do lies in YOUR hands.

If every members make the effort to find a new member we might not be that much nearer the solving of the UFO enigma, but at least we should have taken the first few steps in the right direction.

By jingo! THE GREAT AIRSHIP by Captain F.S. Brereton (Blackie & Son Ltd., London, Glasgow and Bombay, 1914) is a ripping yarn indeed! However, the sight of this adventure story for teenage boys might not fill every ufologist with glee; but it is of a certain amount of relevance with regard to our dealings with the British 1909 and 1913 phantom airship waves.

The novel reveals a fear of the German Zeppelin and its aeronautical capabilities, an example of this can be seen in this passage: "To us had belonged the mastery of the sea for years, the heavier element hemming our tight little island around, Now the lighter element was in danger of conquest by some other nation, by a nation which at any moment might prove to be an enemy, and which, within a few hours might have her air fleet hovering over our ports, our arsenals, our war harbours, even over London itself." (p.95)

On the first few pages Andrew Provost and his young nephew Joe Gresson, are treated to the sight of a Zeppelin carrying out a dramatic practice attack upon a sea-bourne target. This and the taunts of Carl Reitberg (the cowardly villain) cause Andrew and Joe to bet that they can construct a superior aerial craft, and navigate it around the world within nine months.

Fortunately Joe had the turn of mind of a first rate inventor. Modestly he admitted that his prototype air vessel had caused the British airship scare (presumably the one experienced in 1913), and that he had invented a lightweight, strong, flexible, transparent material which he called cellulidine. So, armed with cellulidine and the genius of Joe Gresson, they soon constructed a giant airship capable of out-smarting the Zeppelin, and powerful enough to circle the globe.

The specifications of this "great airship" are quite impressive. It could travel at a speed of 200 mph, and rise to a height of 40,000ft, which is demonstrated on their journey when they land near the peak of Mount Everest and plant a Union Jack upon the summit. The motors, which run on crude paraffin oil, deliver, through hydraulic power, drive to the main 40ft., diameter propellers, which also act as a rudder for steering the ship. The machine is kept aloft by coal gas, which is manufactured onboard, thus saving the need for refuelling manoeuvres. The inventor, in his wisdom, ignored the fact that his airship using such highly inflammable materials as coal gas and paraffin, would make a perfect aerial bomb! It should be added that the airship did carry a biplane should anyone wish to escape, and the airship was furnished with an automatic pilot and other innovative devices.

On the voyage around the world, the British crew show their courage and spirit in the face of all difficulties. In particular, Midshipman Dicky Hamshaw and his friend Alec, joyfully fight, in the besieged city of Adrianople, in the Balkans; the nasty and fierce Pathans in the North-West Frontier; the hungry savages in New Guinea; and countless other dangers. Danger has no truck with these brave patriots of the Crown, who easily outsmart the scheming and pompous Carl Reitberg and his sinister side-kick Adolf Fruhmann.

Like the author, we must agree that "We live in a world of marvellous and incredible invention. The armchair sceptic and unbeliever of today has his views and scepticism shattered almost before he was finished speaking. The marvels of the Zeppelin, acknowledged to be the last word in airship construction, were now overshadowed and belittled by the wonders of Joe Gresson's invention. The world was raving about the ship. Scientists and inventors in every country were longing to be made familiar with its intricacies." (p.233-34).

THE GREAT AIRSHIP is a memento of a bygone age of chivalry

and imperialism best forgotten. However, it is strange to think that a readership served with such a powerful portrayal of British ingenuity and true grit should live to see the British Empire dissolve before its very eyes.

All communications to: Nigel Watson, Westfield Cottage, Crowle Bank Road, Althorpe, South Humberside DN17 3HZ.

THE TRAUMAS OF RUNNING A UFO STUDY COURSE LIONEL BEER

In September 1983, Albert Budden tried to run a UFO course at the Putney and Wandsworth Institute. It was promoted along with other esoteric courses under the aegis of "The New Philosophy." Only eight students signed up and the full-term course was closed after the first night. Albert had neglected to advise BUFORA, so we got to hear about his efforts too late to take action. It was felt in retrospect that the Institute could have done more on the publicity front, and the administration seemed rather *laissez-faire*. Maggie Hyde, a tutor and administrator at the Mayfield Adult Centre, and official instigator of this, was not discouraged. Consequently I was invited to run a short summer course, commencing Monday, 4th June, 1984. Paul Devereux, editor of the LEY HUNTER, and past tutor at Mayfield sent his good wishes.

The run-up was not without incident. Originally the venue had been designated as The Hotham Centre on the west side of Putney. The night I went to inspect it there was a force 7 gale raging and I was lucky not to get blown off Putney Bridge into the River Thames. Hotham was unsuitable, so Mayfield, West Hill, Putney, was again chosen. Locally, Mayfield was known to have an asbestos problem, and the second attempt seemed in peril. The problem was in the new building, and the administration were able to make use of the adjacent older Edwardian block. On opening night, I thought "Well, that's it" when I saw only three names on the class register. But by the end of the evening, some 13 people were signed in, and 15 by the following week. We had beaten the asbestos scare and the course was viable. However there was still the administration to come to terms with. I had been firmly promised a carousel slide projector for 7.15pm. 7.15pm came - and went. A class member was delegated to make the longish trek to the office in the new building. Success, he came back bearing a black box with the projector. Next I instituted a class project to find a power socket. Guess what? The office had omitted to supply an extension cable. Second student delegated to seek and find. Success! Now what to put the projector on? Lady member suggested a filing cabinet. Decided I was not in the hernia creation business! Problem solved by placing chair on desk, and, hey presto, the focal distance was OK. Not the ideal start to a class!

ERUDITE CONTRIBUTIONS

Every one of the five Monday evening produced some problem with organising the projector. To my surprise (I am not the world's greatest public speaker!) class members remained constant. Albert Budden, Mary Corr and other BUFORA members were present and made erudite contributions to class discussions. Ten of us were free to celebrate at the Prince of Wales public house after the final session, and I did not get home until nearly 12.30am. For the academically minded, the syllabus was a truncated version of that used at Morley College in 1979 (featured on BBC television news when some 44 people signed up. It was sub-divided as follows:

- (1) Introduction and general overview.
- (2) Historical and mytho-

..... A Proposal For Field Investigators

One of the difficulties which besets field investigators is the assessment of the capabilities of a witness. How do we measure whether or not he or she could, under normal circumstances, tell what a somewhat unusual stimulus might look like? Can he or she be reasonably sensitive to potential IFOs, or insensitive?

I think it is possible for BUFORA to develop quite simply an IFO sensitivity index which will at least offer some scientific measure of this factor which at present is merely subjectively guessed at by the investigator.

The idea came to me when a witness sent a photograph, after reading one of my books. This photograph was of a most unusual dome-shaped object floating in the sky above his house. I quickly recognised it for what it was (a distinctive lenticular cloud of a very spectacular appearance). Eventually such a concensus view was reached with the photographer who ultimately agreed he had suspected it to be a cloud, but it had looked so much like a UFO!

It occurred to me that showing this photograph to a person and asking him what he thought it was would be interesting. I tried it out. A few knew (or suspected) it to be a cloud, and said so. Many had no real idea, but did not think in terms of a UFO, but instead of an IFO. A few did feel it could be a UFO. I think the results were a measure of the way in which they are UFO/IFO sensitive.

My proposal, therefore, is that we develop a set of half a dozen photographs. The cloud would be one. Others might include aircraft landing lights display (similar to that on the front cover of my book UFO STUDY) and a balloon of the new fairground variety. If we had several ambiguous photographs of common IFO stimuli, that tend to get reported as UFOs, we would have the basis for a quick and easy test. I would propose seeding within the set at least one photograph of a phenomenon genuinely regarded as a UFO.

The test could be simply administered. The six or seven pictures, pasted to a card and lettered A, B, C, D, etc could be shown to the witness who would be told that they may or may not be UFOs; could he suggest if he thought that they were and, if not, what he thought that they might be? A correct identification could gain one point, a totally incorrect diagnosis, minus one point, and indecision (i.e. a willingness to ascribe an IFO rating to a picture, but no knowledge as to what the IFO was) a score of zero. The witness would then reach a score between plus seven and minus seven. A high plus score would demonstrate he was very IFO sensitive; a score around zero would be fairly normal. A minus score would indicate varying degrees of low IFO sensitivity. This should then be quoted in the report on the witness and might help as a valuable standard reference to the potential validity of the testimony.

Obviously this over-simplified method is not going to prove anything. It may well be fallible. But in practice it would at least provide an interesting experiment that may devise useful modifications and improvements.

I think BUFORA ought to pioneer this test as standard practice in all its field investigations. It has the advantage of being simple to understand and score and not time-consuming. A witness can answer it in five minutes. Nor does it pry into the witness's background in the way that psychological tests can do.

My aim is to work towards designing the test and providing a set of photographs to all BUFORA AIs by the end of 1984. In order to do this I would like all members to search your files and records and see if you have any photographs of common IFO stimuli that you may feel to be suitable for the project. If you have please loan me a copy so that the best half dozen or so can be selected for the test. An early response to this would be greatly appreciated.

The IFO SENSITIVITY INDEX thus formulated from this work will, at least, be an aid to case evaluation.

Readers and investigators are urged to make any comment on the idea to BUFORA's Investigation Department, 21 Whittlewood Close, Gorse Covert, Warrington, Cheshire WA3 6TU.

(continued from page 29)

logical aspects (including reference to Charles Fort) (3) Parameters of the phenomena, classifications, theories and photographs. (4) Official attitudes, meetings and studies, worldwide (a book in itself) (5) Entity or humanoid accounts and their interpretations.

Class members were supplied with a number of background or briefing* papers including two unique chronological lists.

Did I make a lot of money? Well, no, since the ILEA pays only for teaching time, and takes no account or preparation time, nor cost of slides etc. Was it a success? Regular attendances and feedback from students makes this an affirmative.

However, there is an unresolved postscript. A copy of an ILEA minutes was passed to me for comment, and I feel it is worth re-printing unabridged. I have carefully made my displeasure known, but nonetheless am working on a formal and sober reply.

RE COURSE APPROVAL FOR UFO PHENOMENA

(RECEIVED 25 JUN 1984)

Course Tutor: Mr. L. Beer

The above course syllabus had been sent to Valerie Hider for approval but came back with a few questions. Once these questions have been answered Mrs. Hider will consider the course again.

- 1) The aims and objectives of the course have not been clearly identified. The list of topics to be covered does not constitute a study but is a series of presentations.
- 2) The syllabus as it stands is insufficient to display progressive learning and involvement of students.
- 3) How does the institute justify including this topic, given other pressures on resources.
- 4) Please let Mrs. Hider have a bibliography that Mr. Beer would recommend to students.

I would be grateful if the above questions could be answered as soon as possible so that Mrs. Hider can consider the course again.

*(A set of 10x4 class notes or background papers is available from Lionel for £1. incl. photocopying and postage. They contain much useful data)

LETTERS

From: Jenny Randles.
Director of Investi-
gations.

ALLEN HYNEK - A REBUTTAL

Sir - I write in response to the quotation from the Danish magazine UFO CONTACT (p.35 February, 1984 BULLETIN) as I would not wish BUFORA members to run away with the impression that these wild tales about Dr. J. Allen Hynek have any validity.

Allen is, of course, aware of their telling, and has attracted similar accusations before (as long ago as 1966, during the infamous Swamp Gas misunderstanding). Indeed, anyone at the forefront of UFO research tends to find themselves accused in this way sooner or later, and Hynek is a prime candidate because he was a US government consultant for over two decades. Obviously, this puts him in the excellent position to be labelled "plant" and "CIA agent."

I know Allen as well as do most British ufologists; having spent much time with him over the past few years. He and Mimi Hynek were also extremely kind to allow me the use of their then empty house last autumn to do research for a new book, a gracious act that would be ludicrous if they were covert agents of any kind. (If one accuses Allen, then one must also accuse Mimi - who is as knowledgeable and active in ufology as her husband, although too often under-rated).

Let me briefly remark upon the specific 'lies' offered by both Donald Todd (of APRQ) and Hans Petersen (as quoted in the BUFORA article UFO ROUNDUP). For 'lies' is the only word which adequately covers these extremely stupid remarks.

1. Allen Hynek has never seen a UFO. Whilst I fully agree with

the editorial comment that this is totally irrelevant (I have not seen one that I would give any credence too either) it is in fact completely false in Allen's case. He has published a copy of a photograph he took himself from an aircraft. This has appeared in books and magazines (including his own) several times. Any ufologist professing to comment on Hynek, and who has thus conducted any background reading, would know this fact, since it has never been offered secretly by Allen. He has constantly eschewed its strangeness and unidentified nature.

What is more, any careful reader of the Project Blue Book files (which are available to any UFO researcher) would know that Allen and his family witnessed a daylight disc from their Canadian holiday home some years back. This incident (which involved military pursuit) was reported by Hynek to Blue Book and when he asked what to do about it received the reply - "You're the expert - so you tell us!"

In other words, Todd's claims are a complete nonsense.

2. As for Petersen's assertion that CUFOS has not released a single investigated UFO report this is so outlandish it scarcely bears discussion. What about the monthly and bi-monthly issues of INTERNATIONAL UFO REPORTER and CUFOS Newsletter which appear (and have appeared throughout the past decade?) Each is packed with investigated case reports. This says nothing of the special reports CUFOS have produced (e.g. on the Ohio helicopter chase). The CUFOS publishing record is unparalleled in ufology and easily outstrips that of UFO CONTACT, I might add. It contains some of the finest material in UFO history and forms the basis of one of the best books (Hendry's THE UFO HANDBOOK) - written whilst he was full-time paid investigator for the Centre.

Petersen's claims are disgraceful untruths.

In my opinion Allen Hynek has been the single most important influence on the history of our subject. Without him there would

be no real ufology. He deserves enormous recognition for his tenacity, braveness and intellectual skills. It disgusts me that fellow ufologists (as Todd and Petersen purport to be) have the gall and apparent lack of intelligence to dream up such innuendos.

At the very least, if they wanted to make out a case for their theory they could have built it around facts that had some semblance of truth. As it is they have simply insulted a great man with pathetic nonsense.

I would be fascinated to know how Allen is serving the CIA by spending so much time and effort bringing the subject before the public, always pointing out that the US government are seriously at fault and usually professing a belief in the extra-dimensional origin of UFO reports? Not mention "minor" things like several best-seller UFO books and consultation work on Spielberg's CLOSE ENCOUNTERS OF THE THIRD KIND.

Todd and Petersen's assertions are so extraordinary that they would perhaps be best left unanswered, but I do feel very strongly about them.

BUFORA owes Allen Hynek at least the justice of a rebuttal. I trust that I have adequately defended him.

LOU ZINSSTAG (1903-1984) (see obituary in June, 1984 BULLETIN) Lionel Beer writes: I recall meeting Miss Zinsstag when she was in London in May, 1964, together with Judy Hansen and Dr. G.G. Doel, at my London flat. A report of the meeting was published in BUFORA JOURNAL & BULLETIN, Vol.1 No.1 Summer 1964 and is reproduced below: "Miss Zinsstag is a keen UFO researcher and has done much in this connection in Switzer-

land: she helped in the organizing of Adamski's European tour, and has contacts in many parts of the world including New Zealand where she says there is a thriving group.

"We were very interested to learn that she is a second cousin of Dr. Carl Jung who himself wrote a book on Flying Saucers. She said he expressed almost total belief.

Miss Zinsstag has built up a considerable collection of interesting UFO photographs, some of which she very kindly showed us. Among her collection she has a complete set of the seven Monguzzi photographs, three of which apparently show a suited spaceman. A close friend of hers is also a friend of Mr Monguzzi and through the Association she was given a more intimate knowledge of the misfortunes which followed in Monguzzi's life as a result of the photos (he lost an excellent job). She expressed an explicit belief in the truth of this story. Other photos included colour prints of a circular golden UFO, which slightly resembled a wave cloud, which was taken at night over Texas. Some of the unpublished Adamski photos and many others were shown and discussed.

This lady very kindly supplied myself with a set of the Monguzzi photos and a copy of the Leibnitz spider, and lent Dr. Doel several photos for copying; she was also very willing to supply us with any information we requested.

We all agreed that it was a pleasure to meet this charming and enthusiastic lady, and that a valuable contact had been established for BUFORA."

**CHANGED YOUR
ADDRESS?**

**If so please let the
Association know**

Books

The Evidence For
Alien Abductions.
John Rimmer. The
Aquarian Press.
Wellingborough, North-
amptonshire. £2.50.

That I found John Rimmer's book in the "Evidence For" series of great interest can be attributed to two facts. The first is that I believe the subject to be of particular relevance to the study of the UFO phenomenon and, secondly, I agree totally with the author's conclusions. What they are you must find out for yourself by buying the book!

The conclusions will not of course please everyone for abductions form a major part of the ufological controversy. Are they actual happenings, as real and as physical as stepping onto a number 38 bus, or are they dreams, waking hallucinations or lies? Certainly some (i.e. Cergy Pontoise) fall into the latter category, but these, surprisingly enough, given the wide scope for hoaxes which the subject contains are in the minority. The majority of often very weird stories, do have to be taken seriously for it is obvious that the abductee(s) had undergone a very real, often quite terrifying experience.

John Rimmer discounts the ETH as the cause. I agree. It is unlikely, surely that any extraterrestrial civilisation, especially one so advanced as to be judged capable of designing and flying UFOs, should behave in so bizarre a fashion as do the alleged aliens once they have landed? Linked to this anomaly we also have the inconsistency of the physical appearance of the aliens themselves.

Everything in the anatomical spectrum is represented from three feet high, foetus like

dwarves, sometimes bearded, to 7 feet high, metallic-suited astronauts. One civilisation from one planet, or lots of civilisations from lots of planets? Is it likely that scores of extra-terrestrial David Attenboroughs are conducting their own survey of life on planet Earth? "Now here we have a fairly common species, the Kansas housewife. She how she scurries along the highway enveloped in her protective little tin coat - or car.- I'll just zap her up and ..."

I think not.

Mr Rimmer, who is editor of MAGONIA concentrates on abduction stories which will be known to readers already (the Hills, Travis Walton, Hickman and Parker, Alan Godfrey, Villas Boas). There are no new cases with which to get to grips, and those which are discussed are done so fairly perfunctorily (perhaps because of their over familiarity). What would have been welcome here would have been an attempt to fill in details on the abductees subsequent to their alleged experience. What, for instance, ever became of Walton or Villas Boas? Perhaps their lives post 1974 and 1957 might yield important clues to the events of 10 and 27 years ago and help us to understand the phenomenon itself.

But if there are no new cases Mr Rimmer does not stint his reader on theories. The Lawson hypothesis of abductions linked to the birth trauma, for instance, which, to my mind had an undeservedly short-lived acceptance, does warrant further in-depth investigation for the similarities are very striking indeed. It is most unlikely that our subconsciouses do not retain memories of what, after all, was the most important event in our life - our birth. Why should we not still have this memory when we often cannot rid ourselves of vivid recollections of the most trivial and insignificant events of our past?

How did the world appear to us at the moment of our arrival? In almost all instances it would have contained brilliant white lights, a white coated attendant or two

grouped around a bed assisting hands and a brief medical inspection. We would have been entering a completely new and alien dimension of voices, lights, movements, smells and sounds of which, at that precise moment, we could comprehend nothing, except our own fear and pain. The parallels with countless abduction stories are impressive and the birth trauma is not only one which we, and all the abductees share, but which contains for all of us, more or less the same basic similarities.

Mr Rimmer has also researched the possibility of coincidence linking abductees and their experiences. He has discovered some, although as he readily admits, on too small a sample at the moment to be of any great significance. Still, it is a step in the right direction of useful research.

I too have attempted, over the last two years, to work out a pattern in alien abduction stories, since it seems incredible that such a pattern should not exist. My samples are even smaller than the author's for the work has been somewhat sporadic (no Brownie points for effort!) but in the 16 cases so far analysed, and chosen quite randomly between 1951 and 1980, 10 happened between September and November, with the three September abductions occurring between the 15th and 24th of the month, and the four October ones between the 11th and 25th. The November events were much more widely spaced in time. Of the 16 cases, five occurred on a Tuesday, and four on a Wednesday. No definite pattern certainly, but a pointer towards the autumn and early winter months, mid to late month, early to mid week. Just coincidence?

Mr Rimmer's search for a pattern concentrates on the

emotional lives of some of the women involved; and here the trend is to those who are divorced or separated or were undergoing some particular crises at the time of the event.

He also examines Vallee's hypothesis of modern contactee stories locking in to the folk and fairy tales of our earliest childhood. This theory is also an attractive one and shares with the birth trauma idea much detail which is very similar to, or coincidental with abduction stories. So much so, that one feels some small, hitherto overlooked clue would reveal the entire enigma.

The alien abduction experience demands a much more before-and-after study by interested ufologists. The phenomenon is worldwide, it embraces the greater part of the modern 40 year period of UFO research and it can no longer be dismissed, as it was in the early 1950s, as the outpourings of publicity seekers and/or the mentally unbalanced.

Mr Rimmer's book serves to emphasise the value that a detailed research project into the phenomenon might have, and the amount of data now available to us makes work on such a project long overdue.

ALIEN ABDUCTIONS is compulsory reading for all ufologists.

JB

JOHN RIMMER WILL BE GIVING A
BUFORA LECTURE ON THIS SUBJECT
ON JANUARY 5th, 1985.

The Evidence For Bigfoot
And Other Man-Beasts. Janet
and Colin Bord. The Aquarian
Press. Wellingborough.
Northamptonshire. £2.50.

The book is also one of ASSAP's Evidence For series and the authors have stuck closely to this restriction, presenting evidence rather than drawing conclusions. Fair enough - we were warned by the title - but this does leave the subject rather up in the air. We cannot blame the authors for not solving the mystery but an extra dimension is added if you have an idea of their own feelings on the matter.

The evidence for Bigfoot is really rather flimsy; sightings often not well documented or supported, footprints often without a related sighting, and curiously, smells. Page 33 contains some descriptions of encounters of the olfactory kind that are best left until after the cheesboard has been removed. "Like a dog that hasn't been bathed in a year and suddenly gets rained on," "like unwashed armpits" and "like an uncovered septic tank." This is actually very interesting; in all areas of anomalous phenomena sight and sound feature heavily but smells very rarely yet there is much play on it here. Disappointingly we are not offered a guess as to why this should be, and the lack of research, as such, which has been done on the subject is admitted by the authors. Scientists say they want a Bigfoot to study before they can offer theories, but in a world where enemy troop movements can be studied in detail from 100 miles up, it is difficult to see why they cannot locate a 16ft hairy monster on the rampage, especially with so many to choose from.

The best evidence for Bigfoot's existence should have come from the 1967 film, but even here there exists a contradiction. One strength of the film, we are told, is that muscle movements in Bigfoot's body are so "realistic" that even the Disney studios considered it "an effect they ... would not attempt to achieve" but in the next paragraph there is apparently controversy over whether or not the film shows a baby Bigfoot hanging onto the adult.

The treatment of the subject - possibly because of the lack of breadth offered - is rather dry and lacks the entertainment value needed to bring it alive. For 90 pages it consists of repetitive descriptions of man-beasts a-prowl and a-smell in all continents of the world (apart from Europe which probably has an ECC restriction on the size of feet!) By the end you really feel that when you have

smelt one Bigfoot you've smelt them all. It lightens up, however, with the names the creature has acquired throughout the world; Sasquatch, Yowie, Yahoo, Yeti, of course, and the Hiba-gon monster to name but a few. Even more amusing is the report of a 1977 Himalayan expedition which reported that a night visitor had stolen a carton of 36 chocolate bars. A Yorkie chomping Yowie is too fearful a beast to contemplate.

I must stress that most of the above is a criticism of the subject as it presents itself and of the lack of real research, not of the author or the book which is both interesting and comprehensive. Trying to be too comprehensive is a criticism which must be levelled at the authors however. After convincing us that the phenomenon is - or must certainly contain - species or races of animals not well-documented but as natural and normal as trees and birds and which must be investigated in their own right the book then wanders off to discuss man-beast sightings connected with UFOs and man-beasts mystically invulnerable to bullets. A place is clearly needed in order to speculate on these areas but this book is not the right place. Proper conclusions on Bigfoot will be made with ethological and ethnological studies, but not UFO-logical.

An interesting book for any enquiring mind and a vital piece of luggage for an expedition to the far-flung corners of the world - together with a large bore gun and a Sherpa-load of Mars bars. A valiant effort at a rather (pardon the pun) woolly subject and a book that whets the appetite for more.

That alone fully justifies reading it.

John Spencer.

MEETINGS

BUFORA LECTURES - 1984

SATURDAY, 1st SEPTEMBER, 1984

THE GODFREY CASE AND ITS WIDER IMPLICATIONS - HARRY HARRIS

Abduction cases in the UK, at least those as well documented and researched as that of PC Alan Godfrey at Todmorden in November, 1980, are very rare indeed.

This lecture, to be given by Manchester solicitor Harry Harris, will be a resume of the Godfrey case and its similarities to and differences from other "time lapse" cases. Mr Harris, who has been involved in general UFO research since 1978, and hypnotic regression research since 1980, will also give his opinion and theories on what may be deduced from the common ground shared by this case and others like it.

It is hoped that Alan Godfrey, who resigned from the West Yorkshire constabulary in June of this year, will also be present.

SATURDAY, 6th OCTOBER, 1984

SKYCRASH IN RENDLESHAM FOREST - WAS IT A UFO?
- Mrs Dot Street and Mrs Brenda Butler

The alleged landing in Rendlesham Forest, Suffolk of a UFO in December 1980, excited interest not only amongst ufologists, but in both the national and international media. This lecture, to be given by the two investigators into the incident, is complementary to that given in December, 1983 and coincides with the publication of Mrs Street and Mrs Butler's book "SKYCRASH - A COSMIC COVER UP" written in collaboration with Jenny Randles.

This up to date lecture on the events in Suffolk will bring together new material and background detail to a story which, at first sight, seems incredible and yet is substantiated by painstaking research and reliable witness evidence.

Both meetings at 6.30pm at the London Business School,
Sussex Place, Outer Circle, Regents Park, London NW1.

A full lecture programme for the 1984-85 session will be available in the early autumn.

Lack of space in this issue has prevented the publication of the report of the Council and evening lectures in May and June, 1984 and also the UFO ROUND UP feature. It is hoped to include both items in the next BULLETIN.

BUFORA PUBLICATIONS

- SPECIAL OFFER

The following publications are offered at a special rate to members. Applications to Robin Lindsey, Librarian, 7 Station Road, Whittlesey, Peterborough, together with your cheque/PO for the appropriate amount(s).

CLOSE ENCOUNTER AT LIVINGSTON

64pp. Large format £1.50 (previously £3)

UFO INVESTIGATION. Standard field investigators handbook. £1.50 (previously £3)

CONGRESS '79 32pp Large format. Papers Edoardo/Knewstab/Hill/Anderson. 75p (previously £1).

VEHICLE INTERFERENCE PROJECT Geoffrey Falla. 102pp. Case reports. £1.50 (previously £3).

21st ANNIVERSARY MEMORABILIA

Lionel Beer also has some copies left of the four page leaflet produced to mark BUFORA's 21st anniversary, outlining the Association's history, together with some of the special red lapel badges, overprinted with the Association's logo. Send two 12½p stamps (10p for each extra badge ordered) to Lionel Beer at 15 Freshwater Court, Crawford Street, London W1N 1NS. For the leaflet send two 10p stamps. For the badge and leaflet send 30p in stamps.

BOOK ON RENDLESHAM FOREST UFO

SKYCRASH - A COSMIC COVER UP is the title of a book by Brenda Butler, Dot Street and Jenny Randles, BUFORA's Director of Investigations, to be published by Neville Spearman Ltd., within the next few weeks.

This important book will examine all the official evidence and documentation so far on the Rendlesham Forest UFO incident of December, 1980.

The evening lecture on October 6th, 1984 will look again at the Rendlesham incident and examine the evidence which has come to light since the first lecture on this subject in December, 1983.

Brenda, Dot and Jenny will be the main speakers and, it is hoped that copies of the book, an essential for every ufologists book shelf, will be on sale.

KENNETH ARNOLD

1916-1984

Kenneth Arnold the commercial airline pilot whose sighting of nine discs over Mount Rainier, Washington, on June 24th, 1947, started off modern ufological studies, has died.

His death occurred in a Washington hospital on January 16th, 1984. He was 68.

The British UFO Research Association does not hold or express corporate views on UFO phenomena. Contributions reflect only the views of the editor or the authors.

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