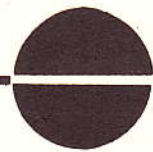




BUFORA

BULLETIN

bufora



British UFO Research Association

Nov. 1985

No. 19

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1985 - 86

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ADVERTISING DETAILS FROM The Director of Publications

BUFORA

BULLETIN

MEMBER SOCIETIES: Includes Britain's oldest UFO Group - BFSB, 15 Gledemoor Drive, Frampton Cotterall, Bristol, AVON BS17 2NZ

THE BRITISH UFO RESEARCH ASSOCIATION BUFORA LTD (by guarantee)
FOUNDED 1964. Registered office: 40 Jones Drove, Whittlesey, Peterborough PE7 2HW. Registered in London 1234924.
INCORPORATING The London UFO Research Association founded 1959, and the British UFO Association founded 1962.

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

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

BUFORA's entry on the PRESTEL viewdate system starts at page "50801" (on EASTEL).

NOVEMBER, 1985

No 019

11SN 0265-1947

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I was fascinated by Albert Budden's article on the relationship between telepathy and UFO events(1) However, as I read it he seems to have rather jumped a little further in his conclusions than I believe it is possible to go.

He correctly points out that UFO close encounters (and I make clear we are talking about them and not the entirely different UAPs) show similarities with telepathic messages. He cites the "noise reduction model" in explaining how telepathy can be facilitated and seems thus to imply that an external (alien) intelligence is communicating telepathic information and almost hypnotising the witness during the UFO close encounter.

Well, yes, that may be so. The theory is not out of keeping with my own explanations on the subject(2). Here I suggest that there is no physical alien contact, but a communication on the level of consciousness from some civilisation at an alien location. However, this is only one way of looking at the results. It is by no means the only one, and it is not necessarily the best.

EXTERNAL AGENT

Hilary Evans appears to have reached similar conclusions to Albert and myself, presumably by independent means.(3). I say this because his important new book on his theories makes no reference to the OZ FACTOR or its wider implications. I am not sure whether Hilary also believes that there must be an external agent for the phenomenon he studies (in a wider category, because he includes items such as ghosts). His book seems to suggest that.

Let me elaborate a little on how I envisage the question of the close encounter and from this try to understand the multiple choice that lies before us.

"Noise Reduction" is a poor choice of phrase by researchers into telepathy. In fact the conditions conducive to telepathy (and, as Albert remarks, to close encounters) are more related to "sensory deprivation." Not just noise is reduced, but all kinds of sensory input. That is why the close encounter is not only more common in the countryside, but seems linked with patterns such as driving late at night in the open country. "Highway hypnosis" is common in such conditions, where a driver can lose track of distance and not realise that he has travelled many miles. This is very akin to the "time lapse" of the CE4 phenomenon, because both result from the greatly reduced sensory input lulling the mind into a sort of hypnotic state.

THE DOORMAN

If you consider, the human mind receives two types of input from external stimuli (via eyes, ears) and from internal sources (e.g. levels of consciousness filtering through to conscious awareness). Schizophrenia is a medical condition where the brain is literally swamped by input. There is no way we can cope with everything from these sources, so we filter much of it out. A simple illustration is how the ticking of a clock or the twittering of birds is not noticed unless we focus on it. This is magnified a million fold in all manner of ways, by a filter process in the brain which I call "The Doorman."

The Doorman, like his physical counterpart outside a club or a cinema, determines which people to let in and which to turn away. The brain selects from both external and internal stimuli

what it perceives (probably according to neuron-encoded guidelines) as the most important "x" per cent of all data. The rest it just blocks out. Doubtless the things it chooses have, above all else, a survival value.

When the doorman falls down on his job the club or cinema is overrun - so with the brain. Schizophrenia is the result of a weak or absent doorman allowing 100 per cent of external and internal stimuli through. The person cannot then distinguish between hallucination, imagination and reality and his brain fills with contending imagery.

When the external stimuli are cut off or severely reduced (e.g. in sensory deprivation experiments) a normally operating doorman is forced to allow through more and more internal stimuli in order to fill up the "x" per cent quota. Non-real (or more accurately, internal) images make up the bulk of the consciousness of the person thus deprived.

This is why the "Ganzfeld" experiments work in telepathic research, for they stimulate sensory deprivation and any telepathic information will arrive as an internal and not an external stimulus. The fact that our close encounter conditions (e.g. lonely highways on late, dark nights) also simulate a sensory deprivation experiment are a major clue that the resultant experience is also a product of internal stimuli

But, as we have just seen, both hallucinations and telepathic data can be received this way - so the "reality" status of the UFO close encounter is left in doubt.

SYMBOLS AND IMAGES

The receipt of paranormal information (of which telepathy is one example) is far more likely during such circumstances because it lies amidst the internal stimuli (and probably is constantly present) now has a greater probability of being passed through to conscious awareness by the doorman. The doorman, however, still makes the choice and may still deny the entry of paranormal information according to its criteria, if it is not regarded as amongst the most important of the internal stimuli.

The end result of the Ganzfeld experiments, or dream searches for paranormal data, or schizophrenic hallucinations (which I would predict may well contain an interesting level of paranormal data) is that they emerge as a mixture of symbols and images and it is very difficult to sift out the genuine, hard paranormal facts from the candy-floss surrounding them.

I agree with Albert that my OZ Factor and the conditions conducive to telepathy are similar. This is because they are just a group of consciousness symptoms which determine a particular mind-set. The OZ Factor is not itself a phenomenon. It is a descriptive term for a collection of symptoms; e.g. time suspensions, sensory reduction etc. I advise people to look for it as a clue towards the occurrence of a peculiar mental state - not as an end in itself.

The mental state is what I call the QC (Quasi-Conscious). When you see the OZ Factor in a report you can feel confident that the percipient has entered the QC state, where the receipt of paranormal information is more likely than in normal waking consciousness. Really that is the top and bottom of the whole question.. That information, if it comes, might emerge in the form of telepathic data, premonitions, out-of-the-body experiences, UFO close

encounters or other similar phenomena. All these are, I contend, simply modes of expression whilst the person is within a QC state. I have found good reason to believe that the OZ Factor symptoms denoting them are not uncommon in all these types of experience.

MODES OF EXPRESSION

We have a situation rather like that of epilepsy. Epilepsy is not itself a disease. It is a set of symptoms which denote that the mind is behaving in a certain way. That may be because of a whole range of possible conditions (of which a brain tumour is only one). In parapsychology the OZ Factor, like epilepsy, describes the symptoms which sets the mind into a particular state (the QC state in parapsychology) because of, or leading up to, a range of modes of expression. Telepathy and close encounters are the parapsychological equivalents of diseases.

I realise that these ideas are difficult to grasp, but it is worth making the effort. Once we have done this it is possible to relate them directly to the UFO close encounter and ask just what we can, or cannot, claim about its origin.

NO TANGIBLE EVIDENCE

Clearly the evidence is dramatically in favour of its origins being internal, not external. The parallels with telepathy and hallucination are too close and the omnipresence of the OZ Factor too significant to argue otherwise, even if we could not back this up with the total absence of tangible external evidence (e.g. photographs of aliens or landed UFOs).

There is evidence that incoming data can mould external reality to match the message it is receiving. This happens with highway hypnosis hallucinations for example. The internal stimuli causes the brain's perception of outside forms and figures to change: the white road line might turn into a snake, a cunningly used device in the current tyre advertisement "A Gripping Experience" to be seen on television.

This works in the UFO phenomenon. There are now many cases on record where a mundane stimulus in the outside world becomes almost ludicrously altered by the witness; e.g. the moon might be viewed as a giant spaceship by a witness who is otherwise an excellent observer. The internal data being received by the mind, after being allowed in by the doorman, is being used to alter the weakly perceived external imagery to fit in with its aims. As in dreams there is a message belieing the plot, which can be expressed in all kinds of ways by various symbols.

PSYCHOLOGICAL PROFILES

Yet there remains a choice. Where does the internal information come from? As far as I can see there are the following options.

It may simply be from some deep-rooted levels of the person's own consciousness, thus reflecting a wholly subjective trauma or psychosis for which the close encounter happens to be a good mode of expression. This probably occurs sometimes, but may not be very common. There is precious little evidence, from the psychological profiles of encounter percipients, that they do have deep traumas or psychoses of the impact which one presumes would be necessary in order for:

- (a) the doorman to let the message through in the first place and
- (b) the power to be sufficient to force the mind to seriously misperceive external reality.

On the other hand it may still come from the mind of the witness himself, at a different level, yet reflect some para-normally acquired message. In my book ALIEN CONTACT(4) I suggested one possible mechanism for this. A deep cultural trauma in the near future (e.g. a nuclear war) might be of such intensity that pre-cognitive awareness would lurk in the inner recesses of many minds. When external stimuli are reduced the doorman, recognising the survival importance of the message, might allow it through, where it would inevitably get intermingled with other data and symbols. The wish for rescue by an advanced intelligence, who tell us war is bad, could be the most usual way to express the message.

Finally, as I explored in THE PENNINE UFO MYSTERY, the source may be another intelligence elsewhere in the universe. Thus, the message will contain 'true' data but it will be embodied, as above, in a mish-mash of imagery which also contains memories of science-fiction films seen, books read, UFO stories heard, etc. About the only hard facts we could distil from the consistencies amongst these 'contacts' would be:

- (a) aliens exist
- (b) they are trying to contact us
- (c) they are very advanced.

It is worth making the point that, although this third option suggests the data source is external not internal, this is in fact incorrect. I believe we have grounds for accepting that the physical laws of nature apply well to matter but do not apply at all to consciousness. Indeed, I believe there is a profound two-way split about the universe which can be summarised as follows:

MATTER (Things)	Objective	External	Cause and Effect
MIND (Consciousness)	Subjective	Internal	Synchronicity

In the world of matter if A speaks to B the vocal message is caused by A's vocal chords and detected by B's ears. Thus we tend to imagine that a telepathic message from A to B would also go from one to the other, following cause and effect. In fact the messages are at the consciousness level and so display no dependence upon cause and effect.

MAJOR INSIGHT

Rupert Shelldrake's expression of the ideas of "Formative Causation" will, I believe, prove (perhaps not until the 21st century since major insights are rarely seen immediately) to be the equivalent of Darwin's or Einstein's theories. Shelldrake has laid out the basis for an understanding of the ground rules of consciousness.

We can usefully link his ideas to the question of both my second and third options (5) If the message comes from an intelligence elsewhere in the universe, for example, then Shelldrake shows us how to expect it. Alpha Centaurians would not transmit television pictures (to reach us years later). We are wasting our time and vast amounts of money listening in for radio transmissions from the stars. They will never come because advanced civilisations will realise (in a time which is the equivalent of a blink on the cosmic scale) that these primitive methods are crude. The best way to talk to other intelligences is by utilising mind to mind communications.

But mind to mind communication occurs at a synchronistic level. No physical message is sent. The mind of a being in Alpha Centauri simply resonates with the mind of someone on earth. When the conditions are right, and the doorman can let the message through, it will reach full awareness. But it will come from that part of our own mind which has resonated, and so the data transferred will be internal not external - even though the source may be light years away.

NO CONCEPTION

Any of these three options remains a valid one given our present understanding. It is premature to assume that there must be aliens. The alien mode of presenting information might just be a contemporarily useful one, it being so at ease with modern culture. But then again, it might be more than that. All past expressions of advanced beings, (gods, elementals) might have been contemporarily useful modes when mankind had no conception of space or the universe. Each new mode of expression may be a refinement of the truth as we learn more and more about the universe, and so become better and better at expressing the message in terms closer to its absolute reality.

Above all, I think we have proven that the UFO close encounter occurs in the mind of the witness, rather than in our atmosphere or on the surface of the planet.

REFERENCES

- (1) BUFORA BULLETIN. 015/016. 1984-85. pp 29
- (2) THE PENNINE UFO MYSTERY. Granada. 1983
- (3) VISIONS, APPARITIONS, ALIEN BEINGS. Aquarian. 1984
- (4) ALIEN CONTACT. Spearman, 1982, Coronet, 1983.
- (5) A NEW SCIENCE OF LIFE. Blond and Briggs. 1982.

INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE UPDATE

S.J. GAMBLE

I have recently received information from Bertil Kuhlemann which summarises recent events within ICUR of which Bertil was appointed Chairman at a meeting held in conjunction with the 1983 BUFORA congress. In addition to BUFORA other full members of ICUR are URD (Sweden), VUFORS (Victoria, Australia) and SUFOI (Denmark). Groups from other countries have been invited to join.

Bjarne Hakansson (a member of URD) has resigned as Secretary to ICUR and Sten Lindgren (URD) has offered to stand in until the next full ICUR meeting. Former BUFORA Chairman Bob Digby was appointed Treasurer at the 1983 ICUR meeting. Bob and I met Bertil recently and decided that it would be more efficient for all ICUR officers to be in closer contact. Therefore URD will also take over the function of Treasurer.

Bertil's information contained an analysis of 1000 cases carried out by URD. These were mainly Swedish, and the analysis was carried out using an IBM 360 computer and the statistical package SPSS. Over 20 different variables were compared which resulted in over 60 pages of output. If anyone is interested in seeing this data please contact me.

Bertil concludes with a brief report on the Hessdalen project. The phenomena is still continuing and he reports that several teams are working there gathering evidence.

The author, who has asked for his name to be with-held, is a member of BUFORA. He has been interested in all aspects of aviation for over 20 years, and has been involved in aircraft engineering since 1974. He is currently employed as a Licensed Aircraft Engineer working on jet airliners.

Having read in BUFORA BULLETIN, May, 1985, the letter from Daniel Gooding - UFOS OVER LONDON - it is obvious (to me at least) that the LITS he described are no more than the external lights of various aircraft preparing their final approach to London (Heathrow) Airport. Mr Gooding's letter could have been more appropriately entitled IFOS OVER LONDON. But it did demonstrate how careful one must be in identifying an object as a 'UFO' before all the facts have been studied.

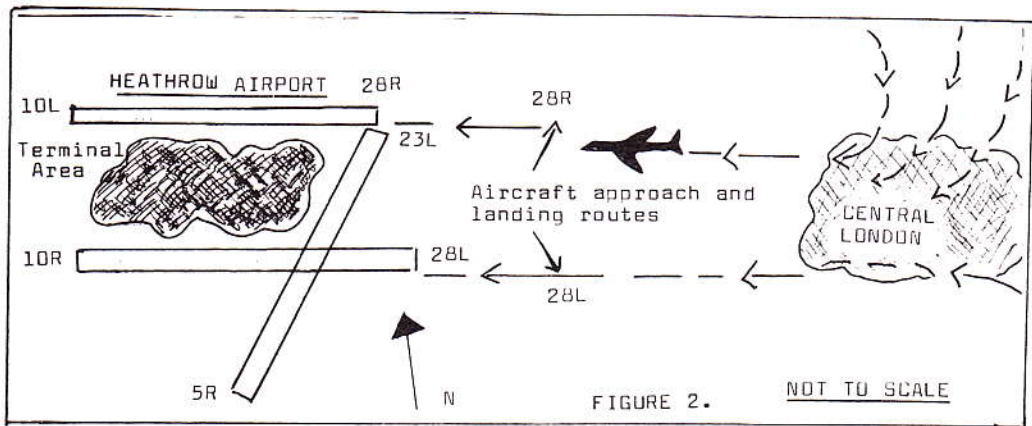
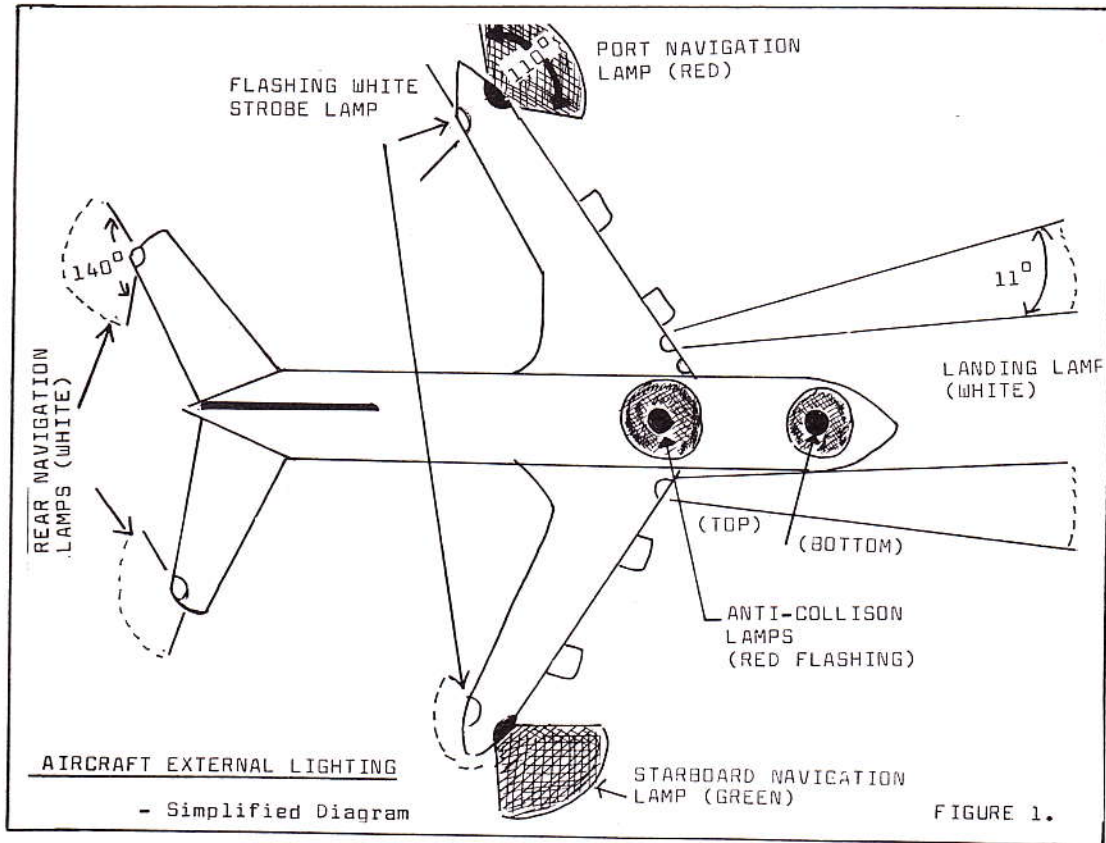
Before commenting on the various 'UFOS' mentioned in his letter I would like first of all to note a few facts regarding aircraft lighting and also about aircraft using Heathrow.

1. Figure 1, shows the plan view of a typical airliner with the general disposition of its main external lights. The position of some of these lights, such as rear navigation and landing lamps may vary with different types and some types of aircraft may have extra lights which are not illustrated on this diagram.

To simplify the diagram wing span, tail illumination and taxi lights have not been shown. In general the only flashing lights will be the two red anti-collision lamps, but on some lower weight category aircraft flashing navigation lamps may be in use as well. In fact it is air law for all aircraft, during the hours of darkness, in flight or on the ground to have navigation lights displayed as on the diagram. Flashing strobe lamps may be used on some aircraft on the wing-tips (blue/white colour)

2. Heathrow Airport is the busiest airport in the world, and often has aircraft landing on the same runway, one after the other, with only a few minutes separation between them. It has three main runways, as Figure 2 shows, with the two parallel east-west runways being the most used. For most of the year runways 28R + 28L are in use for the landing of airliners (due to the predominantly westerly winds in this country). This means that aircraft using these two runways (to land) must fly over central London and then manoeuvre or turn themselves into their final approach run whilst still over London. Their height would be several thousand feet above the ground at this point.

Now that we are familiar with the facts let us examine Mr Gooding's letter and note the following:



1. All the sightings were made during the hours of darkness over central London.
2. All the objects involved had a mixture of red/orange, white and green/blue lights. Only some of these lights could be seen at any one time on the aircraft depending on the position and distance of the aircraft relative to the observer.
3. The number of lights seen on any one object ranged from one to seven - which would also depend on the position and distance of the aircraft relative to the observer. The colours and numbers of these lights correspond to those of an aircraft.
4. The colour of these lights changed when the object altered course. This can also be explained by an aircraft changing course and its various coloured lights facing the observer in turn.
5. Some of the objects involved had flashing red lights (2) or a pulsating white light - aircraft anti-collision or strobe lights explain these. In the case of the latter a trail was left in the sky, this would equate with the exhaust emission of an aircraft engine. In these two cases the aircraft was too far away to see the other navigation lamps - the anti-collision and strobe lights being capable of being seen at a great distance.
6. The April 19th sighting at 11pm (the third that night, and within an hour!) is described as having no noise and hovering. This can be explained as an aircraft many miles away changing course and approaching the observer straight on. Because of its distance and height it would appear to be hovering and, of course, no noise would be heard.
7. "The craft seen on the evening of 29th April all appeared to be shaped like aeroplanes" writes Mr Gooding. Surprise, surprise! He then writes that on two occasions he has seen an "aeroplane" (his inverted commas) shine a white spotlight ahead of it for no obvious reason. This is quite normal procedure for aircraft during final approach, when landing lamps are required. They may even be used or switched on momentarily during other flight phases.
8. One of the 'UFOs' seen on May 13th is described as moving in an uneven zig-zag path across the sky. This Mr Gooding viewed through binoculars. It is no wonder that his LITS appeared to zig-zag as almost any light or star, when viewed through binoculars at night, will appear to do this due to the shaking of the arms, when holding the binoculars, being magnified. The greater the magnification the worse the effect is. (It is not normally noticeable during daytime viewing). Anyone who has viewed in this way at night can confirm this phenomenon.

I hope that this brief article demonstrates to Mr Gooding (and others) that there is nothing mysterious about the LITS he saw. It just shows how a few lights seen in the night sky can be turned into a UFO mystery.

(continued on page 38)



From left to right: Nigel Smith, Jayne Westward, Lionel Beer, Berni Husbands and Jeremy Lockyer.

In mid-March, BUFORA was invited by Newham Council, to take part in their Air Day festival on May 6th. The offer included pitch space at no charge, free loan of any equipment, e.g. tressle tables etc., and free advertising of the event. This was an offer that could not be refused.

Wanstead Flats, in East London, is a large expanse of ground owned by the City of London Co-operation. Since 1873, cattle have been allowed to roam and graze freely on the land. If you are ever stuck in a traffic jam in the area it will probably be due to a herd of cows meandering across the road. Not a common sight in East London!

On the morning of the event, we were all apprehensive about what the weather was going to do. The success of the event depended heavily on its outcome; especially with the main attractions that were lined up; micro lights, sky divers, model aircraft displays and stunt kite events. The forecast was for rain, and as weather forecaster are usually right when it comes to predicting bad weather, we had good reason for our collective apprehension.

We were very lucky in the positioning of our "pitch" since BUFORA's stand was located between a kiddies' inflatable castle and a hamburger stand. This proved very much to our advantage.

The promised bad weather failed to materialise and the afternoon was even blessed with some sunshine. The festival, which was officially opened at 1pm, was very well attended and I am quite sure that everyone there paid a visit to the BUFORA stand during the course of the afternoon. Books and magazine sales were high and



Mike Wootten (foreground) and Nigel Smith (behind him) queue to sample the culinary delights of the hamburger stall.

Who says that
there's no interest
in UFOs?



and many questions were asked, and answered. We received a few sighting reports, but these were mainly low definition cases. Hopefully, a few more members were gleaned from the event.

The Air Day finished at 6pm and after we had cleared away our pitch we retired to the nearest pub for a well-earned drink.

The main reason for our Air Day success was due to the sterling work of Nigel Smith, Berni Husbands and his fiancée Sue, Jayne Westwood, Jeremy Lockyer and, of course, Lionel Beer. I should also like to thank Deryk Nott (Newham Council's Entertainments Manager) for his original invitation and subsequent help.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF BUFORA LTD.

The TENTH Annual General Meeting of BUFORA LTD will be held at THE LONDON BUSINESS SCHOOL, REGENTS PARK, LONDON, NW1 in the LECTURE THEATRE at 6.30pm on SATURDAY, DECEMBER 7th, 1985 to receive the President's Address, the Chairman's Report, the Report of the Council of Management for the year ended August, 31st, 1985, the Accounts of the Treasurer and to elect the Members of the Council for the following year and appoint the Auditor according to the Articles of the Association.

Signed on behalf of the Council of Management.

Arnold West

CHAIRMAN
September 7th, 1985

NOTE:

Please note that a Member entitled to attend and vote at this meeting is entitled to appoint a proxy who need not be a member of the Company to attend and vote in his or her stead. Instruments of proxy must be lodged at the Company's registered address, 40 Jones Drove, Whittlesey, Peterborough, PE7 2HU, not less than forty-eight hours before the time appointed for the meeting. Members wishing to nominate persons for election to the Council of Management, shall give to the Secretary such nominations in writing, signed by the person proposed, stating his or her willingness to be elected, not less than four, nor more than twenty-eight clear days before the time appointed for the Meeting in accordance with Section 52 of the Articles of Association.

TENTH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING. DECEMBER 7th, 1985

A G E N D A

- (1) Notice convening the Meeting
- (2) Minutes of the NINTH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
- (3) President's Address
- (4) Chairman's Report
- (5) Treasurer's Report
- (6) Director of Research Report
- (7) Director of Investigations Report
- (8) Adoption of the Report of the Council of Management, of the Report of the Auditor and of the Accounts for the year ended August 31st, 1985.
- (9) Under Sections 49 and 50 of the Articles of Association, the following Members of Council are retiring by rotation: JOHN BARRETT, LIONEL BEER and STEPHEN GAMBLE.
Who, being eligible, offer themselves for re-election.

MINUTES OF THE NINTH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Held on SATURDAY, DECEMBER 1st, 1984 at THE LONDON BUSINESS SCHOOL, SUSSEX PLACE, REGENTS PARK, LONDON Nw1 at 6.40pm.

00000000000000000000

The meeting opened with approximately 34 members present.

1. The Chairman, Mr ARNOLD WEST, read the notice convening the meeting.
2. Apologies were received from the Honorary Secretary, Miss DIANE ROLLISON.
3. The Minutes of the previous Annual General Meeting and EGM of June 2nd, 1984 had already been circulated. These were approved without amendment on a show of hands.
4. President's Address: The Chairman extended apologies to members for the President's absence, explaining that there were mitigating circumstances.
5. Chairman's Report: This had been circulated. As an adjunct to his report, the Chairman, Mr ARNOLD WEST, announced the resignation of Mr JOHN SHAW from the Council as from December 1st, 1984, and expressed his personal thanks. He also thanked officers and members of the Association for their support during the year. Arising from the report Mr NOYES queried whether the Association had considered advertising in the press, and was advised that this was done from time to time.
6. Treasurer's Report: This had been circulated. The Honorary Treasurer, Mr CHRISTOPHER PEARSON, noted that membership numbers were falling to a critical level. The support of members in recruiting new members and/or fund raising was particularly sought. Mr NOYES suggested that the BULLETIN print run might be doubled with a view to seeking additional outlets. Miss N. THOMPSON suggested that active consideration be given to the possibility of selling magazines to such outlets, and this view was supported by the meeting.
7. Director of Research Report: The Director, Mr STEPHEN GAMBLE, said that the research files had been moved to the Registered Office at Whittlesey. Mr M.R. WOOTTEN had a computer project in hand to index reports. The Director noted his personal appreciation of Mr John Shaw. Arising from this Miss F. FARQUHARSON, seconded by Miss JENNY RANGLES proposed a vote of thanks to Mr Shaw which was approved by the meeting. Answering a question, the Director said reports on the work of the Research Department would be appearing in the Bulletin.
8. Director of Investigations Report: The Director, Miss JENNY RANGLES, reported that the Association had had 23 accredited investigators during the year. Mr KEN PHILLIPS had been appointed as Training Officer. The Director appealed for new investigators, and pointed out that there were none in Wales. Amongst press cuttings supplied by Durrants, 100 new cases had been produced. During the year (ended 31.8.1984) 45 case reports had been received back from investigators. No CE3 cases had been reported, but a couple of CE2 cases had come to light. Of the 45 completed reports, four were rated as unexplainable, three as hoaxes and three as possible ball-lightning. The Director commended Mr PAUL FULLER for an excellent investigation in Winchester on a ball-lightning case. The Director showed the meeting an example of what was considered an ideal case report. Co-operation on investigations

had been possible with six other societies in the UK. Close co-operation had been maintained with the Association for the Scientific Study of Anomalous Phenomena who passed UFO reports to BUFORA for investigations. The Director concluded with a brief report on recent investigations.

9. Adoption of the Reports of the Council of Management, Report of the Auditor, and of the Accounts for the year ended August 31st, 1984.

The Chairman amplified a few points, and went on to thank Mr ROBERT DIGBY and Mr JOHN BARRETT for their efforts on the editorial side. He also thanked Mr LIONEL BEER for organising the Conference at Kensington Central Library to celebrate the 21st anniversary of the Association. He thanked Mr KEN PHILLIPS for arranging two Training Meetings. The Chairman went on to note changes to the Council during the year, and concluded with a special note of thanks to Miss PAM KENNEDY for her hard work as Membership Secretary, which included an important liaison role.

The Reports and the Accounts were formally proposed and seconded for adoption and were passed by the meeting without dissent.

10. Appointment of Auditor: It was formally proposed that Mr N. O'BRIEN, be re-appointed as Auditor and that the Council be given leave to fix his remuneration. The resolution was carried unanimously.

11. Resolution: (The following resolution had been formally agreed and put forward by the Council of Management with a view to amending an anomalous provision.) IT WAS PROPOSED that Clause 6 of the MEMORANDUM OF ASSOCIATION should be amended to read: "If upon winding up or dissolution of the Association there remains after the satisfaction of all debts and liabilities any property whatsoever the same shall not be paid to or distributed among the Members of the Association but shall be available to be given or transferred to any Association, including a successor organisation, having objects similar to objects of the Association, and if so far as effect cannot be given to such provision, then to any body having charitable objectives."

Some discussion took place, and members expressed concern that a legal interpretation might result in action other than that intended. The vote proposed by Mr P. WAIN, seconded by Mr N.J. SMITH was taken: 23 in favour, 4 against, plus abstentions. The Resolution was therefore carried.

12. Election of Directors to the Council of Management: It was proposed that the following officers being eligible for re-election under Section 37 of the Articles be re-elected: Mr CHRISTOPHER PEARSON, Mr KEN PHILLIPS. The resolution was carried unanimously.

The Chairman pointed out that four names had been formally submitted for the remaining three positions: Miss JENNY RANGLES, Miss MARY CORR, Mr HILARY EVANS and Mr MICHAEL WOOTTEN. The meeting then called for a secret ballot.

When the meeting reconvened at about 8.30pm it was announced that from 34 ballot papers one had been spoiled, and that Miss RANGLES, Mr EVANS and Mr WOOTTEN had been elected.

13. There being no other business the Chairman closed the meeting at 8.33pm.

ENDING AUGUST 31st, 1985

THIS report and the attached set of accounts cover the period from September 1st, 1984 to August 31st, 1985.

2. The attached set of accounts show the state of the Company's affairs at August 31st, 1985. Please refer to the Treasurer's Report.

3. The principal activities of the Company during the financial year have been to encourage, promote and conduct unbiased scientific research of unidentified flying object (UFO) phenomena throughout the UK, to collect and disseminate evidence relating to UFOs and to co-ordinate UFO research throughout the UK and to co-operate with others engaged on such work throughout the world.

4. The membership of the Company at August 31st, 1985 was 289 (329 - 1984). The registered membership of the Company is 550.

5. LECTURES. Eleven lectures, organised by JOHN BARRETT were held between September, 1984 and June, 1985 at the London Business School, London, NW1. Council is most grateful to all those speakers who gave up their valuable Saturday evenings to talk to Association members and guests. It also thanks all those who chaired the meetings. A particular vote of thanks goes to ROBIN LINDSEY, the Association's Librarian who, despite a long period of ill-health, travelled down from Peterborough each month to tape the talks.

6. BUFORA PUBLICATIONS. Since the last AGM there have been two issues of JTAP (March and September, 1985) and four of the BULLETIN (January, May, July and November, 1985) all edited by JOHN BARRETT. BUFORA has been fortunate in having been able to hold its 1985 production costs for the two publications at 1984 prices, although a rise must be expected in 1986.

The encouraging trend, noticed in 1984, of members contributing articles, news reports and letters to the BULLETIN has continued and this has helped to produce some lively and interesting issues which have helped to raise BUFORA's status - particularly overseas. The editor would still welcome, however, news from members outside London, particularly of any meetings they might hold or projects on which they are engaged. Both publications belong to BUFORA's members, and are there for your benefit.

The response to find a new editor for JTAP, following the retirement of BOB DIGBY in May, 1984, has been very disappointing - not one applicant! Council is most anxious to fill this important post and it would be delighted to hear from anyone who might like to be considered. It is not a demanding job - but it is an interesting one.

During 1985 Miss MARY CORR took over ARNOLD WEST's responsibilities for the mailing of BUFORA's publications. Council is most grateful to her for undertaking this vital service.

7. CONFERENCES. No conferences were held during the period under review. A policy decision has been made to hold a low key conference during 1987 at which it is anticipated some overseas delegates and speakers will be present. Venue and date(s) are not yet certain but will be announced early in 1986.

8. INVESTIGATIONS. During 1984-85 the Director of Investigations has been JENNY RANDELS of Warrington, Cheshire. She has attended all but one of the six Council meetings held in London during this period.

Investigations themselves have been in the hands of 10 RICs (Regional Investigations Co-ordinators) - mostly long-term members of BUFORA; some since BUFORA's inception in 1962.

The National Investigations Committee (NIC) has co-ordinated investigations under Miss Randles. It comprises (as voting members)

all RICs and other AIs (Accredited Investigators).

The number of AIs during the period has remained fairly stable at 22. We have lost NIGEL MORTIMER (West Yorkshire) who retired due to family commitments. Long-term RIC PETER JOHNSON (East Anglia) retired but remains a local AI. Two new members have been promoted to AI status ALBERT BUDDEN (London) and DAVID PEARSON (Bedford).

NIC remains without AI cover in many strategic areas of the UK - Wales, the West Country and (now) Devon and Cornwall, RIC for the latter, ERIC MORRIS moved to Winsford, Cheshire during the year. He remains an AI in the new area.

To help alleviate these problems the NIC has worked with existing independent groups who investigate on BUFORA's behalf and submit case reports for the files. Involved in this scheme are: MUFORA (Lancashire); WYUFORG (West Yorkshire), SSPR (South Yorkshire and Derbyshire); SKYSCAN (Worcestershire); SCUFORI (West Country) and SIGAP (Surrey). Our thanks are expressed to them all. Many of these groups are signatories to the Code of Practice as are all but one of BUFORA's AIs.

The NIC has met twice during the year, Bradford, West Yorkshire (October, 1984), London, (March, 1985). As this issue of the BULLETIN went to press a further meeting had been arranged for November, 1985 in London. Reports on all NIC meetings are published in the BULLETIN.

A new policy which gives more detailed information to Council has been implemented. At each bi-monthly Council meeting a full description of all new cases initiated and all completed case files handed to the Research Department (with recommendation to the Department on further action) is tabled. The reporting in the BULLETIN of some of the more interesting case files has continued.

During the year the Investigations Department's principal expenditure has been on the Durrant's press cutting agency. Between August, 1984 and July, 1985 207 cuttings were received, well down on the average of 350 for 1982 and 1983. Between January-July, 1985 just 91 cuttings were produced; a marked decrease in public reporting of UFOs. BUFORA pays, of course, per cutting received. The cuttings initiate new case enquiries. As of July 31st, 1985 this year's cuttings had initiated 24 new case enquiries. Most would not have been discovered without the cuttings service.

In the 12 month period BUFORA investigators received no other remunerations from the BUFORA budget. Investigators covered their own expenses, but all AIs have the right to a 50 per cent reduction in their membership renewal fee.

During the year 36 completed case files were received by the NIC. After evaluation these were handed to BUFORA research (with recommendations) and were then filed at BUFORA's Peterborough headquarters. There they will be entered on computer and made available for membership scrutiny.

Of the 36 cases the following identifications were made: Aircraft (7); Astronomical (6); Insufficient, probable IFU (5); Balloon (3); Flares, (2); Psychological (2); Atmospheric (2); Optical (1); Marsh gas (1); Hoax (1). The remaining six cases (16.6 per cent) were rated unexplained.

KEN PHILLIPS, BUFORA's Training Officer, worked with the NIC on his anamnesis project. The NIC agreed a two year evaluation study encouraging (but not enforcing) investigators to use the anamnesis questionnaires on appropriate cases. Dr ALEX KEUL, Salzburg University will assess the results. Dr. SHIRLEY McIVER, York University will act as referee. KEN PHILLIPS will co-ordinate

the ufological involvement. After two years the successes and failures of this attempt to find psychodynamic patterns in close encounter witnesses will be evaluated.

The NIC also progressed with plans to produce a "Handbook" for investigators with specialist articles on methods of investigation of specific case types. This is a long-term project and whilst funding (approximately £50) has been approved in principle, no call on this money has so far been made.

The NIC also initiated its plans for an IFO-Sensitivity Index. This will be a set of photographs of IFOs which the investigator will use as a standard card to show all witnesses. Their responses will give some standard insight into witnesses' observational ability, knowledge of IFO phenomena and willingness to interpret anomalous stimuli as UFOs rather than IFOs. Several candidate IFO pictures have been collated, but final decisions on the make-up of the card await the submission of more candidate photographs. MISS RANGLES asks anyone (inside or outside BUFORA) to submit ambiguous photographs of a potential IFO stimulus which might be useful in this project. BUFORA hopes to launch this Index in 1985-86 and to make it internationally available.

9. RESEARCH. During the year the work of members of the Research Department has been in four main areas. These have been research projects, technical back-up to field investigations, technical support of other BUFORA activities and liaison.

STEPHEN GAMBLE has served as Director of Research for the whole of the period of this report.

During the year there has been one meeting of the research committee and two meetings to discuss JTAP matters.

Two issues of JTAP have been produced during the year. Advertisements have been placed for a new editor. Production of these two issues has relied upon the hard work of JOHN BARRETT, Director of Publications.

PAUL FULLER was appointed during the year to the position of Research Projects Officer. CORINA CLINTON was appointed to the position of Research Assistant.

The Department has continued to receive completed reports from the Investigation Department.

Members of the section have been working on a number of photographic and trace cases in support of field investigations.

Basic data from all of BUFORA's case files are being transferred to a computer data-base. So far all cases from the years 1980 to 1983 have been transferred. Cases from 1983 to date are being input as received from the Investigations Department. Work is in progress on the years 1970 to 1973. This will allow comparison between reports from the early 1970s and the early 1980s. This work is being carried out by MIKE WOOTTEN, with help from MICHAEL LEWIS, and BERNARD HUSBANDS. Earlier in the year NIGEL MORTIMER was also involved in this project.

The computer data-base has been used to extract data for exchange with other organisations.

Work is continuing on organising BUFORA's paper files. Where necessary folders are being refurbished or replaced. Reports are being grouped together in batches of 50 in order within year. Some reports are without the BUFORA reference number. This is being corrected at the same time. Rapid access will be possible by using the computer index. This work has been led by MIKE WOOTTEN.

Reports are being compared against the records of other phenomena.

During the year a research grant was made to KEN PHILLIPS for research into the UFO Anamnesis technique devised by ALEX KEUL

of Austria.

Funds from the research budget went towards the costs of computerising records and bringing the files up to standard.

The following people assisted in the work of the Research Department during the year: DENNIS BAILEY, MIKE BROWN, CORINA CLINTON, BOB DIGBY, PAUL FULLER, BERNARD HUSBANDS, ROBIN LINDSEY, MIKE LEWIS, NIGEL MORTIMER, JOHN SHAW and MIKE WOOTTEN. Council would like to express its thanks for all the hard work involved.

10. TRAINING Since the last AGM there has been a further Training Workshop using the UFO Anamnesis as a basis for the course. This second Workshop was held at Warrington on Saturday, October 27th, 1984, and was attended by just over 20 people. It did not achieve the success of the Tufnell Park event for two basic reasons: first, not one BUFORA Investigator registered with the course and secondly, those who did attend deemed the UFO Anamnesis as unsuitable for UFO investigation.

Another BUFORA/ASSAP Workshop is planned for November, 1985. The venue will again be Tufnell Park. The emphasis in this Workshop will be on a role-playing exercise, using real-witness material. This new format will give investigators a better feel for the non-physical approach to witness-centred investigations by "freezing" crucial situations in the role-play.

The point has been raised that this exercise neglects such issues as physical description. The answer is that information gathered in the non-physical sense is opening up new modes of research and evaluation which, hitherto, have not been possible since they have never before been considered. For over 30 years an accumulation of "physical" UFO data has lain uselessly in archives, and has never been used to provide researchers with repeatable and testable hypotheses.

From the preliminary surveys of the anamnesis data carried out in Austria and England, it has already been shown that the one recurring and persistent phenomenon to emerge above all others is the ESP factor. This is welcome news. We can now concentrate our efforts in a more confident and economic way, finally overcoming the omnipresent difficulty of perceptual variation.

The BUFORA research and investigation teams, therefore, look to the future with much optimism.

11. PROMOTION: BUFORA has continued its policy of advertising in FLYING SAUCER REVIEW and has received many enquiries from both this source and its PRESTEL information frames. Another source of interest arises from the mention of BUFORA in several UFO books currently on the market. Council thanks the authors for this additional publicity bonus. (PRESTEL page number 50801).

12. COUNCIL OF MANAGEMENT: Council is pleased to report that there have been no changes on the Board during the year under review, although some jobs have been reallocated. Training Officer KEN PHILLIPS relieved JOHN BARRETT as Lecture Organiser and has arranged the 1985-86 series of lectures. Our thanks to JOHN for his past labours in this field.

CHRIS PEARSON has resigned from Council with effect from August 31st, 1985 for personal reasons which in no way reflect on his excellent relations with Council. Council expresses its appreciation of Chris' services as Honorary Treasurer to BUFORA and wishes him well in the future. ARNOLD WEST has assumed the role of Acting Treasurer until a new appointment can be made.

The following Members constituted the Council of BUFORA Ltd as at August 31st, 1985: JOHN BARRETT, LIONEL BEER, HILARY EVANS, STEPHEN GAMBLE, ROBIN LINDSEY, CHRIS PEARSON, KEN PHILLIPS, Miss

JENNY RANGLES, Miss DIANE ROLLISON, JOHN SPENCER, ARNOLD WEST and MIKE WOOTTEN.

Council wishes to express its gratitude to Miss PAM KENNEDY, MBE for her continued service as Membership Secretary, and to Miss MARY CORR who has shouldered the burden of mailing BUFORA publications.

No member of Council received any remuneration during the year.

Under Sections 49 and 50 of the Articles of Association, the following members of Council are retiring by rotation:

JOHN BARRETT LIONEL BEER STEPHEN GAMBLE

Signed - on behalf of the COUNCIL OF MANAGEMENT

Arnold West

..... CHAIRMAN
ARNOLD WEST



BUFORA LIMITED

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31ST AUGUST 1985

31st August 1984

£	£		£	£
		Current Assets		
765		Bank	2400	
<u>14</u>		Debtors	<u>60</u>	
	779			2460
		CURRENT LIABILITIES		
135		Sundry Creditors	102	
<u>14</u>	(149)	Subscriptions in advance	<u>-</u>	(102)
	£ 630	NET CURRENT ASSETS		£ 2358
	===			=====
		represented by:		
		GENERAL FUND		
(503)		Balance brought forward	630	
<u>1133</u>		Excess of income for the year	<u>1728</u>	
	£ 630			£ 2358
	===			=====

Approved by the Council of Management:

A West
J.L. Spencer, ACA

; CHAIRMAN
; DIRECTOR

Arnold West

J.L. Spencer A.C.A.

BUFORA LIMITEDINCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st AUGUST 1985

31st August 1984

£	£		£	£	£
		Income:			
3277		Subscriptions		3265	
293		Donations		583	
76		Publications		152	
30		Advertisements		20	
55		Computer Research Fund		-	
10		Training		8	
	<u>3741</u>			<u>4028</u>	
		Expenditure:			
1785		Publications		1701	
420		Stationery and administration		449	
219		Research and investigation		281	
659		Lecture costs	610		
(612)		Lecture income	(845)	(235)	
20		Registration		20	
115		Audit fee		57	
-		Computer project		27	
	<u>(2606)</u>			<u>2300</u>	
	1135			1728	
	(2)	Corporation Tax		-	
	<u>£1133</u>	Excess of Income for the year		<u>£1728</u>	
	=====			=====	

Notes:

- (1) The Company is limited by Guarantee and in the event of winding up the liability of each member would be limited to £1.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

THE detailed Report of Council leaves little room for comment on the activities of the Association, without introducing repetition into my Report. I shall therefore confine myself to a (possibly optimistic) look into the future.

You will be pleased to hear that our improved financial position not only enables us to keep membership fees at their present level, but also to support greater efforts by our Research and Investigations Departments.

Membership is slightly down on last year's figures (40 as at August 31st) and while we can speculate on the effects of inflation etc., normally membership largely reflects media interest in UFOs. To counter this we are increasing our advertising, and planning a determined thrust targeted on the student body of our universities. All of you can help in this by bringing BUFORA to the notice of your family, friends and colleagues ...together we can make this a boom year for BUFORA.

An International Conference is planned for 1987 (hopefully at a budget price) it will be held at a public holiday weekend. Venue and date will be announced shortly.

There is still room for volunteers to assist in our work. Jenny will tell you of vast areas of the country not adequately covered by investigators, and most members of Council would appreciate clerical and administrative assistance. Pam Kennedy will be resigning as Membership Secretary after seven years in office - hers is a demanding position and requires a great deal of dedication from her successor. Thank you Pam for all your years of effort on behalf of BUFORA.

In closing I wish to thank all Members of Council for their loyal support and hard work during the past year, and to extend my appreciation to all officers and workers for BUFORA.

CHAIRMAN

Arnold West

BUFORA LIMITED

REPORT OF THE AUDITOR TO THE MEMBERS YEAR ENDED AUGUST 31st 1985

I have audited the financial statements as published in the official BUFORA Annual Report 1985. The audit was conducted in accordance with approved Auditing Standards having regard to the matters referred to in the following paragraph.

In common with many businesses of similar size and organisation the Company's system of control is dependent upon the close involvement of the Directors. Where independent confirmation of the completeness of the accounting records was not available we have accepted assurances from the Directors that all the company's transactions have been reflected in the records.

Subject to the foregoing, in my opinion the financial statements, which have been prepared under the historical cost convention give a true and fair view of the state of the company's affairs at August 31st, 1985 and of its profit for the year then ended and comply with the Companies Act, 1985.

N. O'BRIEN, FCA
CHARTERED ACCOUNTANT

Date October 16th, 1985

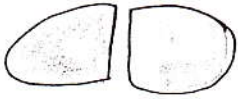
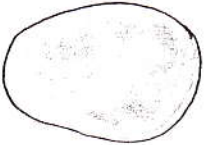

DONATIONS

COUNCIL thanks the following members of BUFORA for their donations to the Association between September 1st, 1984 and August 31st, 1985. Council wishes to apologise in advance to anyone whose name has inadvertently been omitted from this list.

C.F. Bailey	N.C. Fox	Mr & Mrs C.A.E.
L.E. Beer	D.J. Gooding	O'Brien
K.L. Benson	Miss N. Goodman	K. Owen
V. Bond	B. Greenwood	P.D. Pritchard
J. Brown	M. Hamson	G.M. Rowe
P. Burns	H. Harris	C.R. Rowlands
P.G. Castle	Mrs J.M. Heath	E.N.G. Scott
S. Chetwynd	I.J. Hill	C.E. Shervatt
S. Chorvat	Miss J. Horth	A.R. Shute
Miss M. Corr	P.F. Keung	M.B. Simons
J.S. Count	M.E. Lawrie	D.C. Skippen
J. Covell	M.E. Lewis	D.S. Smith
R.S. Digby	D.C. Loudon	N.G.N. Smith
J.J. Dinele	A.G.R. McGregor	J.A. Steer
Mrs I. Emery	S.B. McMahon	D.W. Swann
G.A. Falla	N. Maloret	A. Tough
Miss F. Farquharson	J.C. Marchant	D.G. Wallley
R. Farrar	A. Morgan	R.J. Watson
R. Fisher	K. Mulholland	M.R. Wootten
T. Fisher	P. Norman	K.C. Wright

Last November RIC Mike Wootten received a number of reports of a "luminous aerial object" which seemed to be centred around the South Bank/Festival Hall complex in London (BUFORA BULLETIN, December 1984-January, 1985), although it was also seen on the other side of the river, hovering over Cleopatra's Needle. I must admit that vague thoughts of "piezo-electrical influences" flitted across my mind at the time. Consider the following extracts from the standard BUFORA UFO sighting account forms (RI) that Mike Wootten received.

"On the night of Saturday 12th November, my boyfriend and myself went to see the lights in London, but we had come a week too early. So we parked the car and decided to go for a walk. We got out of the car and walked past Waterloo Bridge towards Cleopatra's Needle. We were looking at the Needle, then turned to look Shell Mex House clock. I then heard him say 'Look at that, what is it?' I turned to look at where he was pointing and saw a light darting about. We stood staring at it when it began darting about the sky. We had been watching this for about ten minutes when two men and two women came along. They looked up to where we were looking, they could not explain what it could be either. We were all looking at it when it began to move fairly rapidly towards the river. We all followed it walking along the river. It then started to move very fast back and forth along the river and over towards Shell Mex House. Then the two couples got into their car and drove off still discussing it. We tried to walk away, but could not stop watching it, at this time we had been watching it for about twenty minutes when another couple came along and began watching it. They asked us what it was, but we said we did not know. The boy suggested it may be a beam of light and we discussed this solution, but decided it was not because it seemed to spin, and there was not a trail of light leading to the object. They then said they were going to 'Tattershall Castle' for a drink and left us on our own again staring at it. We continued to watch it and looking out for a policeman, but began to give up. We started to walk away still looking back at it when a police-car pulled up on the other side of the road. It had three policemen in it. One got out and began walking towards a lorry parked across a zebra crossing. We began to cross the road as the other two police-men got out. We caught up with the last one as he reached the lorry.asked him if he could tell us what that is, pointing above Shell Mex House. The policeman replied 'A clock'. said "No, not that, above the clock." The policeman moved away from the trees to get a better look. He then saw it and said; 'I don't know I suppose it must be an UFO. I don't know what else it could be.' He then pointed it out to another of the policemen nobody seemed to know what to do or say so we just stood there in an uncomfortable silence, then the policemen went back to the lorry and we crossed back over the road, and continued to watch it, another girl came along but only watched it for a few minutes then went away.

	<p>It had no definite shape. At times it seemed to be two separate halves(sic). But moving together with a gap in the middle.</p>
	<p>Object at times seemed to look like (an) out of shape ten pence piece. It seemed to shimmer.</p>
	<p>Object sometimes seem flat, silverish. Seemed to spin. No definite shape.</p>

Witnesses description and drawings of the object.
 'It continually changed the way it looked' they said.





We then decided we could not do anything and so started to walk away still glancing back at it. We had been watching it for about fifty minutes. We walked as far as "The Castle" stopping on the way near Charing Cross to look back it was still there. Once we reached "The Castle" we turned back, we kept a look out for it and sighted it a number of times through the trees, and a couple of times in clearings. We reached the car and as we drove off I kept a look out for it but could not see it because of the angle of the windows. We went over to the south side, but when we came back at 1-15 we could not see it, we did not see it again.

Whilst we had been watching it at times it had been above the cloud and at others it had been below. It would move fast and then slow right down. It seemed to be spinning because sometimes it seemed to be a thin silverish line and at others it seemed to be an oval shape quite big. We sometimes lost it above the clouds and then we would see it in another place out of the clouds."

The most intriguing part of this report for me was the statement about the witnesses who could not stop watching "it", closely followed by their statement of how they "sometimes lost

it above the clouds and then we would see it in another place out of the clouds." This surely eliminated the possibility of it being a kite of any kind as they require wind, and wind would disperse clouds it could reasonably be argued. The witnesses ticked "breeze" in the wind section of the RI form anyway.

Also, such altitudes, if correctly indicated, would preclude a kite (above cloud level). So would the typical UFO luminosity, shape-changing and incredible manoeuvring - not to mention the hypnotic effect upon the witnesses. The flawless punctuation and spelling on their perfectly typed report, also adds weight to its credibility. If there was any doubt left regarding the truly anomalous nature of this aerial object the numerous drawings done by no less than at least five independent witnesses (that is to say five separate RI forms were submitted) surely dispels this. For example, the drawings and notes done by a BSc graduate currently engaged on historical research.

<p><u>Tumbling</u></p>  <p>1.</p>	<p>Flat (gold line not attached) (shape approximate) centre black - invisible</p>
<p><u>Spinning</u></p>  <p>2.</p>	<p>Ends - a ball of glittering light. Centre black</p>
<p><u>Sideways spinning</u></p>  <p>3.</p>	<p>Balls come together. Centre, gold band.</p>
<p><u>Spinning</u></p>  <p>4.</p>	<p>Bright narrow gold band in centre. Ends pointed - transparent. ? End on.</p>
<p>Witness's descriptions and drawings of object.</p>	

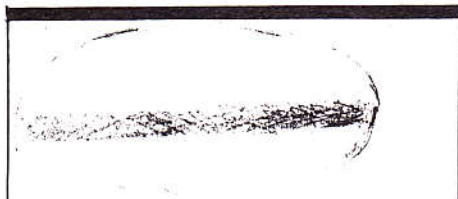
"First seen high in sky - nearly overhead. Appeared as sketch (2). Glittering and spinning fast and balls of light changed positions coming closer together and parting again. Centre impossible to define. Retreated over river and returned in jerks also jerking from left to right. When far away appeared as sketch (3).

Occasionally took form of sketch (1) always when nearest Royal Festival Hall. At lowest position in sky in this form it appeared flat and to lose power falling over and over slowly. Also there appeared a gold line to its side, going up, but not attached.

My interpretation: a radio controlled flat winged kite which became round and solid by spinning (2) and transparent when seen end on (3)."

Another witness, a young tool engineer, provided the following details of his sighting of the object.

"My girlfriend and I were walking across Waterloo Bridge towards Waterloo train station when I noticed 2-3 people in front of me looking up at the sky to their left. I also looked up in this direction and saw the object which I have drawn below to the best of my memory. I then pointed this out to my girlfriend and to a person in front of us (man about 30-35). Further along I noticed a man in his mid 20s leaning on the bridge and staring at the object. I asked him what he thought the object was and he replied: "Haven't got a clue, half of London's traffic trying to figure out what it is." The object had a pulsating glow around it and was moving up and down. It also was occasionally swaying from side to side. I took 3 photos and continued along the bridge passing a group of about 3 people at the end of the bridge who were also looking up in the direction of the object. The object was then obscured by a larger building as we proceeded towards the subway. I turned and took a final look just before entering the subway and noticed the object was in view again - but this time distant and seemed smaller."



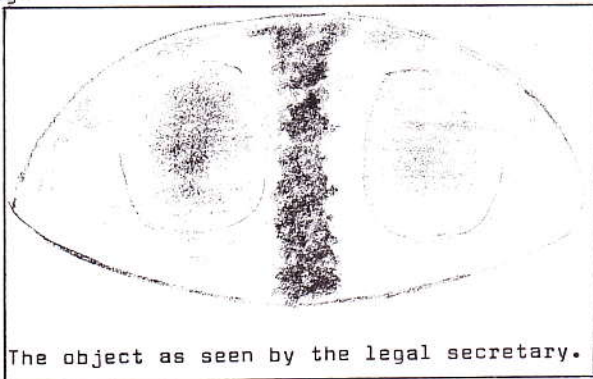
Witness's drawing of the object.

"We drove over to the south side and returned at about 12.15 am but it was nowhere to be seen.

The duration of the sighting was approximately 50 minutes from 10.10pm until 11.00pm."

A legal secretary, studying for higher education, reported the following:

"Walking along Waterloo Bridge about half way across my boyfriend pointed the object out to me and I studied it as I was walking along. The object was not moving fast, but remained in the same position for the period I studied it. It appeared as two glowing also hazy lights with a dark beam directly through the centre of the object. The actual outline was unclear to me but seem to have a curved, almost pointed, shape. The object moved in a stilted steady manner as though it was waivering (sic) in the sky. The glowing object seemed to be pulsating as though if you were close to it it would be throbbing. There was no sound coming from the object from where I was standing the object remained in the position as I watched it, although it swung across from right to left at regular intervals."



The object as seen by the legal secretary.

By late April, 1985 I had spent numerous chilly hours on Charing Cross Bridge (mainly at night) armed with a cine camera loaded with a special fast film for natural sequences, hoping to catch the object on film. The stock controller witness had thought it unusual enough to photograph with a "stills" camera he happened to have with him, but Mike Wootten had assured me that the results showed little or nothing.

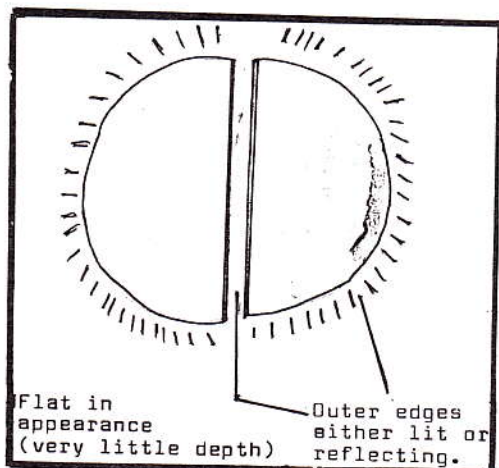
One evening in April I was crossing the river on the foot-bridge, as I often did, The Object, for once, furthest from my thoughts, when I saw it rise up quickly from the flashing neon tower on the Festival Hall/Hayward Gallery roof. I instinctively reached for my cine-camera case which I usually wear holster-style on my hip (true!) whilst, at the same time, keeping my eye on the bright orange globe before me. I had left the camera at home! I seethed with frustration and much bad language as I stood there mesmerised as this aerial light began to perform in exactly the manner described by the witnesses in the RI forms.

From a stock-controller in his early twenties, came the following account:

"On the night of Saturday 12th November, 1983 my girlfriend and I travelled to London to see the lights.

We parked the car along Victoria Embankment before Waterloo Bridge opposite Somerset House. We began to walk towards the West End and stopped to look at Cleopatra's Needle. I looked up at the clock on Shell Mex House and noticed something in the sky above. I watched it for a moment noticing the erratic movement and odd shape. I asked my girlfriend if she could see it and if she knew what it was.

We stood for some time watching it dart and spin around the sky. After about 10 minutes 2 men and 2 women who were walking past, stopped to see what we were staring at. Although we did not speak with them they could not explain what the object was.



It moved across the sky until it seemed to be directly over the river where it stayed for a few seconds before returning overhead. The other couples had left us by now but 2 other people asked us what we were looking at. The boy and girl about our own age thought it must be something projected from the ground but we were unable to see a beam that would suggest this.

They also walked on after a few minutes, but we walked some yards onwards and stayed to watch again.

At times the shape of the object seemed to be sharp but as it moved over and round on its own axis, it became unclear.

Across the road from us a police car drew up and 3 policemen got out to look at a lorry parked on a zebra crossing. We went over to them and asked if they could see the object. One of them looked up and said 'I suppose it's a UFO, ha ha.' He watched it for a couple of minutes then ignored it and us. We returned to the other side of the road still tracing its progress.

At this time I am sure I saw 3 pinheads of light leave the main object in circular motion but when I asked my girlfriend she had not seen this.

The object became difficult to track due to cloud, so we walked down river until it reappeared.

We were now at Charing Cross Bridge and it (the object) was still darting about. We walked on as far as "Tattershall Castle" then came back. It had finally disappeared.

It dipped and dived erratically and pulsed with no sound. At least I thought there was no sound until the wind changed direction and I heard a distinct fluttering. The Object whirled about the roof of the Festival Hall and I found myself running along the centre of the bridge from where I first saw The Object rise towards that building. I asked someone the time - it was a few minutes past nine. A little way from the steps leading to the Festival Hall level I stopped. The Object was still there, whirling, hovering and pulsating. I pointed it out to several passers-by who showed no interest whatsoever. I just accepted this at the time, but later this aspect seemed the oddest part of the whole sighting.

Down on the Festival Hall level I approached the building. I was soon very close to The Object from this distance, it was about twenty feet above the building roof, something then became very clear to me. The Object was flat like a piece of cardboard, and this was especially obvious when the wind dropped and it fluttered aimlessly about for a few seconds before resuming its oval pulsating form. It was a kind of rotor-kite, consisting of an oval sheet of silver reflective Mylar which gave it a self-luminous appearance, mounted on a central pivot which in turn spun within a small, thin oval fixed frame of some kind. With this realisation I stood there a long time looking up at it listening to the Mylar fluttering and flapping in the wind. I couldn't see the line at all, although one witness had previously reported "a gold line" coming from it.

I ran round the building trying all the doors and finally slipped into the front entrance hoping to get up to the roof to meet the person actually flying the thing, but found the access doors locked. I went home and wrote to Mike Wooten and Jenny Randles, giving them the details. Apart from all the lessons for UFO investigators inherent in this episode, there is an unusual sequel, or perhaps prelude would be more accurate, which will be described in a subsequent article.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

MUST be notified to the Membership Secretary AND the Chairman immediately they take place, otherwise continuity of publications received cannot be guaranteed and it is not always possible to replace publications which have not been received.

DO let us know if you change your address.

Sky Crash. A Cosmic Conspiracy.
Brenda Butler, Dot Street and
Jenny Randles. Neville Spearman. 1984.
£7.50.

Sky Crash was published in the summer of 1984. The fact that it has taken BUFORA over a year to assess a major work by, in part, its Director of Investigations, must certainly have raised some ufological eyebrows. If anyone is to blame it is the editor, who passed the book to an enthusiastic UFO buff (and old friend) who promised faithfully to review it for the November 1984 BULLETIN! No review appeared (although excuses and promises did, in galore) and the old friendship rapidly became frayed at the edges. The book has now been returned from the old friend (sans review) so it falls to me to review it myself and repair the omission.

Put not they trust in old friends - even if they are UFO buffs!

Jenny and her co-authors (Brenda Butler and Dot Street) would, I know, admit that after all their painstaking research, and five years after the event, no one knows what happened in Rendlesham Forest in December, 1980. The reader (or critic) having read the book and the other material which has filtered out over the intervening period can only have his or her personal view. That something did happen, however, is irrefutable (and that something had nothing whatsoever to do with Ian Ridpath's radio-active rabbits or his all-dancing, all-singing, all-talking Orford Ness lighthouse). The early SCUFORI investigation (although well intended) did not assist serious research and to add further confusion a meteor and a muddle over dates were added to the rabbits and the lighthouse producing a scenario which might even have served to defeat the Marx Brothers' combined talents.

My own view, for what it is worth (and I stress that this review is an entirely personal one) is that whatever happened had nothing to do with UFOs either, if, in this context, UFOs are to be equated with alien space craft. My theory is that what landed was some kind of secret missile (when better to test one than over the alcoholic Christmas holiday period? "Well, yer-ssh off'cer, I have had one or two") which was either out of control or was being used specifically to test the reactions of military personnel to a bizarre event which had been invested with ante- and post-extraterrestrial hype.

It is surely no coincidence that the dreadful Cash/Landrum encounter in Texas occurred, given the time differential, within a day of the Rendlesham Forest incident - just one of a number of similarities which the two cases share.

SNAIL'S PACE

The RAF/USAF authorities, and even the MoD, given the latter's sphinx-like attitude and snail's pace approach, to almost anything, were perhaps almost too eager to admit, under pressure from Jenny, Dot and Brenda, of a possible UFO involvement. Half the country would, of course, given the details of this story, immediately dismiss it as so much rubbish. Indeed the "News of the World" headline - UFO LANDS IN SUFFOLK - could hardly have been more

conducive to having the incident laughed out of court by that tabloid's million or so readers digesting their over-heavy Sunday lunch.

It is not so much what happened that is important (we all know that something did) but that we have on our hands a government cover-up of quite appalling proportions (pace the muddy waters now lapping over the rusting hulk of the General Belgrano and the strange death of Hilda Murrell). Perhaps something was being tested and possibly (but not necessarily) went wrong (it may, alternatively, have done precisely what the authorities intended it should do) and the UFO story was concocted as a cover-up. Someone in Whitehall must have realised a bleak, mirthless smile in formulating a UFO story in order to cover-up another story when so many ufologists already believe them to be using other stories to cover up those about UFOs!

PAINSTAKING RESEARCH

That Jenny, Dot and Brenda spent so much time trying to unravel the enigma for the benefit of ufology, is greatly to their credit. The book is a dedicated attempt to find out a truth, and one must admire the lengths to which they all went, often at personal risk and expense, in order to do so. Even if they have not discovered it (and I doubt if anyone will now) SKY CRASH is a text book on how people and information can be (and are) manipulated for the devious ends of governments and those in other posts of authority.

The book certainly contains many imponderables (manipulations?). Why should Colonel Halt's letter to the MoD have turned up so conveniently, even under the rules of the Freedom of Information Act? Why should "Steve" have told Brenda Butler, whom he knew to be a UFO enthusiast, about the incident in the first place? Why should "Art Wallace", at one time despairing for his life and hiding under a pseudonym, eventually tell more and more, including his real name?

If the object had really been a UFO I am sure no one now know anything about Rendlesham Forest other than that it is a woodland area in Suffolk. But a missile, passed off as a UFO, is a brilliant stroke of strategy by all concerned. The anti-nuclear, anti-Cruise supporters, although they might believe the missile theory, are certainly not going to be seen mixed up with a lot of crazed (sic) ufologists in order to discover the truth. The ufologists (or some of them anyway) are going to believe that it really was a UFO. They (but not, I might add, Jenny, Dot or Brenda) are not going to want to look any further for another explanation.

With so much disinformation being manufactured it becomes impossible to bring the authorities to account and to ask them to explain what went on, and now, at this late stage, to separate fact from fiction.

What SKY CRASH demonstrates is how foolish we are to trust official reports - or denials - or any of the face-saving explanations or theories from the experts. Common-sense, (why does authority consistently under-rate the public's intelligence?) given the Sky Crash data, tells us clearly that something did happen. Since no one who is in a position to do so will tell us what that was they have only themselves to blame if speculation continues and the thinking public gradually becomes more sceptical and disenchanted with a supposedly democratic government which increasingly denies those it governs information, reasoned argument and, above all else, the truth.

HOME COMPUTER QUESTIONNAIRE

Part of BUFORA's Research plans involve the computerisation of UFO reports. To allow adequate planning for computerisation it would be very helpful if members who own or have access to a computer could complete the following questionnaire and return it to BUFORA's Research Officer - PAUL FULLER, 33 Alresford Road, Winchester, Hampshire SO23 8JZ (Tel: Winchester (0962) 65513.

- | | | |
|--|-----------|--------------------------|
| 1. Do you own or intend to own a home computer? | OWN | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| | INTEND | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| | DON'T OWN | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 2. Do you have access to any other computer which you might be able to use for UFO research? If so please describe | YES | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| | NO | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 3. What model/make of computer do you own? | | |
| 4. What size memory does your computer have? | 16K | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| | 32K | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| | 48K | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| | 64K | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| | 128K | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| | Other | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 5. What operating system does your computer use?
(Consult your Users' Manual if you are unsure) | | |
| 6. What method of data storage does your computer use? | DISK | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| | CASSETTE | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| | OTHER | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 7. Does your computer have an "RS232" or "RS423" Port? | YES | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| | NO | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 8. Does your computer have some means of communicating with other computers e.g. a modem? | YES | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| | NO | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 9. What data-base do you use? | | |
| 10. Do you use any statistical programs on your computer? | YES | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| | NO | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 11. Have you attempted to store UFO data on your computer? | YES | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| | NO | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 12. Would you like to be involved in any future recording of UFO data on your computer? | YES | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| | NO | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 13. Please describe any technical/professional/academic qualifications you have | | |

FINALLY, please give your name and address on the reverse side of this questionnaire. Thank you for your co-operation.

A PHOTO-COPY OF THIS FORM MAY BE USED IF YOU DO NOT WISH TO REMOVE THE PAGE FROM YOUR JOURNAL

During the summer I received a letter from a long-standing member of BUFORA complaining in scathing terms about the falling standards of the BULLETIN's content. That author, he said, was incompetent, that one third-rate, another totally gullible. There was, he assured me, no UFO phenomenon to answer

A formidable indictment, not only of ufologists, as well-known and respected as their critic, but also of a phenomenon - UFOs - which people, often with no reward, encouragement or thanks, have written about, researched and discussed since the summer of 1947!

Ufology's critics invariably equate an interest in UFOs (whatever they are) with a belief in space-craft and alien civilisations. That belief is certainly not held by many of BUFORA's members nor, I suspect, by a large proportion of students of the subject outside the Association.

Clearly there is a UFO phenomenon to answer (as I hope to show). At its most simple it is: "Hey, what's that up there in the sky?" If the object later turned out to be a plane, a meteor or a kite it was, nevertheless, an unidentified flying object for as long as it served to puzzle. But the phenomenon is not that simple, not everything seen in the skies can be explained away after a few moments calm reflection. I respect my critic's viewpoint. His ideas, I am sure, have been arrived at with great deliberation and thought. That I do not accept them, does not mean that I deny for one moment his right to hold them, or think him incompetent, third-rate or gullible for so doing.

One accepts, indeed welcomes, different UFO theories. All theories (however odd they might appear) are valid, albeit if only to their advocates, if they believe in them strongly enough and can produce reasoned argument, or even evidence, to support them. To disbelieve others, simply because one does not share their particular view, entirely rules out any explanation of the phenomenon other than on one's own limited (but perfectly valid of course!) terms. Hardly a scientific or an objective stance.

LIMPET-LIKE

I find the ET hypothesis hard to accept. Would a highly intelligent, technologically advanced civilisation - given that it exists - behave in so childish a way? (Almost any CE4 report you care to read is riddled with the most implausible "alien" actions and messages). But if a friend arrived on my doorstep holding a frog-like creature by a damp, green digitated frond, ("Hi, John, I'd like you to meet Dekon") I would then have to believe. I have listened to people convinced of ET involvement (and indeed other theories also) with respect simply in order to gain another perspective of the phenomenon and sharpen my own thoughts and beliefs. There are far too many ufologists who, having fastened their minds, limpet-like, on one particular theory, then simply refuse to consider any other. That one's views on the phenomenon must shift as new information and data becomes available seems to me to be not only self-evident but absolutely essential if a balanced approach is to be maintained.

Recently there has been an encouraging upsurge in new ideas: regressive hypnosis - although certainly not accepted by everyone - Keul's Anamnesis test which might well offer an aid to judging witness credibility, a study of OZ Factor symptoms which might yet provide clues as to why people see what they claim to see and why the

real world around them should temporarily vanish when they do.

To ignore this progress is to be as reactionary as those who, contrary to the evidence, blindly went on insisting that they knew the world was flat, the sun revolved around the Earth and stars were simply large moth-holes reflecting light through a sort of astral black-out curtain.

EXTRATERRESTRIAL VICTIMS?

The approach to what the UFO phenomenon might represent has changed; we can see that quite clearly as we come up to the 40th anniversary of the Mount Rainier sightings. The case histories themselves, and the personalities involved, have all been re-examined, given fresh appraisals and new interpretations over the years. This change has come about from the work of ufologists, both in the UK and overseas, who have brought new thoughts and techniques to their investigations; and to the analysis of witnesses' sightings; landings; encounters; physical traces; photographs and films through the new technology we ourselves have developed.

The Betty and Barney Hill encounter provides one example. Their case has been discussed now for nearly a quarter of a century; it was at one time the CE4. There were no others which seemed quite so genuine or so free from charlatanism. In the intervening 25 years there have been very many similar encounters, and the Hills, so one school of thought now believes, were sociological, rather than extraterrestrial victims; people whose cultural, ethnic and environmental conditioning created the imagery of their encounter in the New Hampshire countryside. If we accept this new interpretation, that the Hills' experience derived from socio/political pressures, then surely we have to ask: 'Why did they see UFOs and aliens?' instead of, say, a troop of dancing Burmese elephants or a ghostly re-enactment of the Battle of Gettysburg?

For the Hills the UFO encounter really happened. We, from a purely objective point of view are not compelled to believe it; we can read and assess the available evidence and make up our own mind. But if people like the Hills and, since 1961, countless others, do see things that we might chose to disbelieve, do describe in convincing depth, detail and honesty (and that word is all important) encounters with fantasmagora, we are learning something about people if not about UFOs. That knowledge is important since UFOs cannot exist without some one to report them. If people see them, go aboard them, talk to their occupants, allow themselves to be medically examined and, in some reported cases, to have sexual intercourse, then a UFO phenomenon does exist - even if the phenomenon is filling peoples' minds rather than the skies. Far too many sensible, reliable people, all over the world, have reported such similar sightings and close encounters that it is beyond the realms of possibility that they are all liars or lunatics, and their stories hoaxes.

If, as my critic maintains, there is no UFO phenomenon then surely ufology would have died the death years ago like the hula-hoop, the Twist and every other fashionable fad which had only the attraction of novelty to sustain it? That has not happened.

Within the last decade an enormous amount of new thinking has evolved within ufological circles - the media of course, in its approach to the subject is still firmly fixed in an early 1950s time warp, quite unaware that events have moved on. Psychology and para-psychology are now commonly used research tools, as is computer enhancement of UFO photographs. It is even contended that there is not one UFO phenomenon but several. Abductions, for instance, as John Rimmer pointed out in his excellent January, 1985 BUFORA lecture, might well be an altogether separate and unrelated

phenomenon.

PARANORMAL CONTEXT

A senior member of BUFORA reflected recently (almost sadly) that all UFO stories now seemed to have as their eventual explanation a psychic or paranormal context. Where, he asked, had ET gone? I refrained from replying "Home?"

This new trend of thought should, surely, be welcomed? It shows that ufology, even if it has not yet come up with the solution, is still evolving, and still has useful work to do in exploring new paths.

Twenty-five years ago a paranormal explanation would have been regarded as ludicrous since the little-green-men-from-Mars theory was totally dominant. Little green men have now fallen from favour, at least with some, the phenomenon must, it is now argued, be in the mind, a by-product perhaps of the cultural and environmental stimuli to which we are all subjected. Ten years from now we can be certain that the psychic/paranormal position will no longer be teneable. We might even have solved the mystery, but, if not, we shall certainly still be beavering away at a number of new, and yet unthought of, possibilities.

What we have on our hands is not, I think, a phenomenon of "nuts and bolts" objects cruising around the skies. The phenomenon, surely, is the fact that the vast majority of the people who claim to see "objects" and talk to "aliens" can no longer be written off as cranks as were, and I suspect rightly so, Adamski et al in the early 1950s. The contactee/abductee/sightings group includes, quite apart from serious-minded, ordinary people, whose interest in, and knowledge of, UFOs is (or was until their experience!) minimal, policemen, military personnel and airline pilots whom, one would have hoped were the least credulous members of society. What is it that they, and others, see? Even more important, why do they seem them if, as I believe, the craft and the aliens have no actual physical reality. That question, I believe, constitutes the UFO phenomenon - real objects or imagined - and if imagined, why? The question deserves an answer.

Perhaps by 1995 ufologists will not be defending rear-guard actions, yelling over the barricades that it's all weather-balloons, earthlights, ball-lightning, secret Soviet/American space weaponry, meteors, flying lighthouses or the product of deranged minds, as the first UFO gently touches down over the Serpentine.

We should, by then, have read enough, investigated enough and still be open-minded enough not to be too surprised even by that (in my view) totally unlikely event.

CORRECTION

Apologies to RALPH NOYES for having, on page 23 of the July, 1985 issue of the BULLETIN, called his recent book "A SECRET PROPHECY."

Its correct title is, of course, "A SECRET PROPERTY" and is a must for all ufological book-shelves. Available from Quartet Books Ltd., 27-29 Goodge Street, London W1P 1FD price £7.95.

Most of us are aware that 1909 was a significant year for phantom airship sightings in Britain, New Zealand, and some regions of the United States of America. So when we are presented with a flurry of observations of something else which is of an anomalous nature in 1909, we must obviously take an interest in it.

So in the light of this knowledge it is intriguing to discover that the Jersey Devil was on the rampage in south Pennsylvania and north west regions of New Jersey, USA during January, 1909.

The Jersey Devil terrorised people due to its frightening appearance. Witnesses described it in a variety of ways, some called it a "cowbird" or "kangaroo horse" others called it "flying death", "kingowing" or anything else that came to mind which might be too impolite to reproduce in print! Apparently, this monster looked as if some American cousin of Dr. Frankenstein had grafted the head of a horse to the body of a kangaroo and added wings as a finishing touch. As a consequence this hideous creature had the ability to emit a blood-curdling scream as it flew about the skies.

In many ways this creature reminds us of Springheeled Jack, since both had an affinity for alighting on roof-tops; evading bullets; and being explained away as being escaped kangaroos.

The Jersey Devil also tended to leave hundreds of hoofprints in the snow. Tracks were even found in the vicinity of a dead puppy, and its owner said that the Jersey Devil had "left tracks everywhere, including the rooftops." Many said that the tracks were made by a "one-legged, one-footed" being. This strongly reminds us of the tracks left by an unknown "something" over South Devon and Exeter on the night of February 8th, 1855. For anyone interested in this case, which caused many "labourers, their wives and children and old crones, and trembling old men (not) to stir out after sunset, or to go half a mile into lanes or byways, on a call or message, under the conviction that this was the Devil's walk, and one other," can find this quotation from the ILLUSTRATED LONDON NEWS and other useful information in Graham Fuller and Ian Knight's article "SATAN IN THE SNOW" (THE UNEXPLAINED No.26, pp 501-505).

Since the Jersey Devil was blamed for attacks on farm animals and pets, its activities remind us of the many animal mutilation cases which have appeared in the USA in recent years.

Some witnesses said it had glowing eyes, a policeman in Burlington said it "had no teeth; its eyes were like blazing coals." Again, many weird beings have this attribute, the stories of black dogs and Keel's famous Mothman immediately spring to mind in this context.

Before 1909, the Jersey Devil was seen on many occasions, and it was said that a Mrs Leeds in 1735 gave birth to the creature. Some said it was a nasty bit of work at birth, since Mrs Leeds had cried: "I am tired of children! Let it be a devil!" others said it changed from a handsome baby into a monster soon after it was born. Several legends surround the origin of the monster and its activities. Indeed one story claims that in 1870 the Jersey Devil was seen courting a mermaid!

All this information about the Jersey Devil, and lots more, is contained in THE JERSEY DEVIL by James F. McGloy and Ray Miller Jnr (The Middle Atlantic Press, Pennsylvania, 1976). The text is a model of clarity, and I particularly like the many sketches of the devil reproduced from the newspaper accounts of its activities

LETTERS

From: Steuart Campbell.BA
(BUFORA AI) Edinburgh EH14
2LT. Scotland.

Sir -

CODE OF PRACTICE

Since my refusal to sign the Code of Practice (for UFO investigators) has now been made public (p.38 BUFORA Bulletin, May, 1985) I feel obliged to make my objections known.

When the Code of Practice was first suggested in 1981 I had many reservations, and made comments to Jenny Randles in November of that year. When the Code was later published (BUFORA Bulletin 3 pp 10-11) it was clear that my comments had not been heeded, and in November, 1982 I enlarged upon them.

The objections covered poor grammar, vague definitions and some unreasonable demands. In particular I objected to the requirement that I not only obtain a witness' written consent before releasing his identity (regardless of whether or not this had been revealed by others or even the witness himself), and before use of (unspecified) specialised techniques, but that the witness must be advised of "the consequences which may arise" if his identity were disclosed. (We were not told what these "consequences" were). I also objected to vague and naive notions, such that only "fully qualified (undefined) practitioners" could conduct interviews using specialised equipment (a camera perhaps)! Then reference to hypnosis implied that it is an acceptable technique, when there are grave doubts that this is so, and the Code used many undefined words and phrases (such as "private property") which can lead to future confusion.

There is not space enough here to detail all my objections, none of

which have been met. Nor does any notice appear to have been taken of some suggested revisions to the RI report form (revisions which would have met some of my objections to the Code). Correspondence in late 1983 with Arnold West produced no concessions on his part, although I made some. Apart from objections to the wording of the Code I objected to it being imposed on me as a pre-existing AI, although if some notice had been taken of my objections I might have felt differently about this.

Frankly the Code is a pretentious amateurish mess that reflects badly on British ufology. In its present form it will not receive my endorsement. If the Code (as I was told) is merely advisory, why are AIs asked to sign a declaration that they will abide by it, and why are several major clauses mandatory?

JENNY RANGLES replies:

Steuart Campbell's letter very much disturbs me. He appears to have totally misconceived the intent and purpose of the Code. Frankly, I am quite mystified by his insistence upon discovering minor quibbles about wordings, technicalities, and so forth, to the detriment of all that is good about the idea. There is a lot that is good about it!

This is not my opinion but one expressed by all the other, some 20, BUFORA AIs who signed it without complaint. The paranormal research group ASSAP chose to rework it

slightly and then employ it to cover their investigations of assorted strange phenomena and the Australian Center for UFO studies, the country's premier UFO group have also taken the initiative and adopted the Code.

I am pleased with this amount of support in the three years since the Code was completed, particularly so since BUFORA (indeed British ufology as a whole) has failed to do all I believe it should to promote this idea internationally. The ethical and moral responsibility of the UFO investigator is a serious issue, long overlooked and the fact that we have done something about it in unison and unity should make us proud.

I am proud and I will not be off-put by the nit-picking, finicky reactions of one or two individuals.

Nobody pretends the Code is perfect, decisions taken in committee, as this was, rarely are, but it was a joint effort by several UFO groups in Britain - not just BUFORA but the NUFON alliance and such local groups as SCUFORI (Swindon) and PROBE (Bristol) Improvements can be made to the code in the light of experience, but surely it is the spirit of the thing which counts? In meetings during 1981 and 1982 we forged the first truly worthwhile co-operative product of ufology. We were not rivals fighting it out over a case, or fanatics squabbling over this or that theory. We saw a common need - to give ourselves a moral code to try to aspire to it and we worked extremely hard to reach amicable agreement. The result was a triumph, showing what can be achieved when ufologists remember that we are all part of one subject. Our aims are (or should be) the same.

Above all else the code was meant to demonstrate to the outside world that we do care about what we do, and how we do it - we are not a bunch of childish, amateurs playing God with the lives of witnesses who are often baffled, confused and upset.

Anybody who see the code in that light, and recognises that it is not

the letter of the law which counts, but the essence behind our decision to behave sensibly, ought to have no qualms about signing. Even if it means signing something which they believe to be imperfectly written, or open to several interpretations. Compromise is about being able to do just that.

Nobody is suggesting that this is a strict set of rules, any minor infringement of which will bring down the wrath of the UFO community. It is a demonstration, both to ourselves and to the outside world, that UFO investigators are not the insensitive and irrational fools so often portrayed as such by the media.

My faith in the conviction that most of us do care about the image we present is dented somewhat when excellent ufologists like Stuart fail to grasp the point of the exercise and insist upon having everything the way they want it.

I will not go through Stuart's objections, but simply mention a couple of his comments to demonstrate why I believe he is being unreasonable in refusing to compromise.

He objects to obtaining witnesses permission before releasing their identity? Why? This is a clause on the standard BUFORA form anyway. It is a courtesy and fair protection to the witness. Witnesses have suffered because of news stories which they did not seek about their sightings. Stuart's intransigence is seen in his suggestion that signing the code means, even if the witness has already made his story public, a signatory would be barred from doing so. That is treating the code as an Act of Parliament, not a guiding principle. Common sense must be used in interpreting it.

The clause to which Stuart refers pertains to a further clause which allows for release of information if the

witness has already gone public.

I would prefer not to have the must, shall and desirable definitions - implying that must was a decision taken by those who drew up the Code and I am willing to accept it for the common good. It is not that hard to do. The fact everyone else has signed up indicates that they appear to feel the same way.

The Code is more a signal of our principles than anything else. If an investigator regards it in that light he ought to be willing to live with the few aspects over which he has his reservations.

When the Code is revised, as it will be, it may be amended.

From: Stephen Gamble. Director of Research BUFORA.

Sir -

UFO BIBLIOGRAPHY

In the January, 1985 BULLETIN Lionel Beer invites us to improve his UFO bibliography. Whilst I am in general agreement with the list I would like to suggest some additions.

Basically I would like to see more British orientated material included dealing more specifically with case reports rather than UFOs in general or with specific theories. For example whilst the list contains Adamski's FLYING SAUCERS HAVE LANDED which marks the upsurge of interest in the USA, it does not contain any of the books written about Warminster. The events there coincided with the increase in public awareness in the UK and whilst Robert Chapman's book devotes some space to this it surely warrants greater mention.

Chapman's book devotes a few pages to the extensive 1967 flap around Stoke-on-Trent. This flap is dealt with much more extensively in FLYING SAUCER REPORT written by former BUFORA Chairman Roger Stanway and former Director of Research Anthony Pace. Whilst dealing with British UFO waves we should not forget the events of 1977. This was a very good year for BUFORA which received over 900 reports. Many of the reports were from South Wales and are recorded in a number of books, including one by our own investigator Randall Jones Pugh.

If we were to include a good investigation of a single case then perhaps we should include the excellent CLOSE ENCOUNTER AT LIVINGSTON by Steuart Campbell.

Obviously one could go on adding material ad infinitum, however I feel these few addition would be most valuable to serious students of UFO phenomena in the UK. Other than that I think Lionel's list succeeds quiet well in its aim.

From: Mike Wootten. RIC
London and East Region.
Member of BUFORA Council

Sir -

A QUESTION OF IDENTIFICATION

With reference to Steuart Campbell's letter in the May, 1985 BULLETIN I am rather puzzled with his statement that he has been able to identify every sighting he has ever dealt with in the last 12 years.

According to BUFORA's case report data-base, in a period between 1980 and 1982 Mr Campbell has investigated 24 cases for BUFORA and evaluated seven as unidentified, three being level A cases (i.e. on sight investigation).

I would suggest to Mr Campbell that he should look a little closer at his own data before writing off everyone elses'.

AGM - DECEMBER 7th, 1985

6.30pm at LONDON BUSINESS SCHOOL,
Sussex Place, London, NW1.
Followed by Lecture by
HUGH PINCOTT of ASSAP.

Please note: There will not
be a lecture in JANUARY, 1986.
The first one of the New Year
will be held on SATURDAY,
February 1st.

AIR FORCE JETS SENT AFTER UFO

Herald Reporter

THE identity of the "bright flying object" seen over parts of Matabeleland and Bulawayo and which outperformed two Hawk fighter jets in a chase has still not been established.

"This was no ordinary UFO (unidentified flying object)," the Commander of the Air Force of Zimbabwe, Air Marshal Azim Daudpota, told The Herald yesterday. "Scores of people saw it. Even the two pilots of the fighter aircraft had visual contact with it over Bulawayo."

The object, said to be orange, was tracked by visual sightings on Monday afternoon last week from Beitbridge,

Gwanda, Mwenesi and West Nicholson and then Plumtree. It was then seen clearly from the control tower of Bulawayo Airport and the meteorology radar at the airport locked on to it.

Two fighters were scrambled at 5.45 pm and they were directed to the object hovering above the city at around 7 000 feet. It accelerated upwards at a "tremendous speed", according to Air Commodore Dave Thorne of the Air Force of Zimbabwe headquarters.

The Hawks levelled out at 31 000 feet and the UFO stopped at 70 000 feet.

When the two fighters returned to Thorn-

hill air force base the object was seen above the base by the two pilots and several other officers and men.

Air Commodore Thorne said some 95 percent of UFOs are easily explained. "The one that was sighted over Bulawayo and out-climbed our fighters is obviously one of the five percent that are not explainable."

The explainable UFOs that he was talking about are the swarms of bees or flying geese that have on several occasions had United States Air Force fighters scrambling after showing up on military radars.

Neither the commander nor Air - Com-

modore Thorne were prepared to believe that the flying object might have been a remotely-controlled airship because of its quiet operation and its powerful vertical acceleration.

After the craft hovered over Thornhill for a few moments it flew eastwards horizontally again at a high speed.

Trained observers at Bulawayo airport said the object seemed to be rounded with a short cone stretching above it. The diameter was shorter than the wingspan of a Boeing 707 and it was silent.

It shone very brightly in the afternoon sun and was difficult to see distinctly. The two

observers, who have both been trained to observe objects in the air accurately, said they had seen nothing like it before.

In the past Met office balloons have been seen and only identified later but this is not one of those cases; the air force says it could not have been a Met balloon and this is confirmed by other sources.

In its spectacular rise over Bulawayo Airport from 7 000 to 70 000 feet in less than a minute the object must have been travelling at more than 2 300 km/h during the middle part of its ascent, around twice the speed of sound at those altitudes.

THE HERALD. Harare Zimbabwe
August 2nd, 1985

UFO Report taken from Marchés Tropicaux et Méditerranéens dated August 16th, 1985 p.2061.

"UFO military witness: The pilots of two Zimbabwean fighter planes discovered a UFO which flew into the sky at twice the speed of sound before following the aircraft to their base, reported Marshall Azim Daudpota who is directing the Zimbabwean airforce under contract from the Pakistani army. He stated that the incident took place on July 23rd. 'It wasn't an ordinary UFO' he said. 'Dozens of people saw it, including the pilots of the two planes.'

Witnesses who stated having seen the UFO above Thornhill air base, some 200km to the north of Bulawayo (capital of Matabeleland, in the west of the country), described it as being red, round and having a cone on the top. After the radar had discovered the UFO stationary above the town of Bulawayo, the two fighter airplanes intercepted it. The object escaped by rising upwards at a speed estimated at twice the speed of sound, but came back and followed the aircraft to their base, where it stayed for several minutes before flying off towards the east. According to the authorities, the UFO was seen that very day above five villages in Matabeleland, including some as far away as 350km.

In previous UFO cases, 'we have always been able to say that it was a weather balloon or missiles returning into the atmosphere,' said Air Commodore Dave Thor. 'But we can't manage to explain this one. It certainly wasn't a balloon', he said."

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