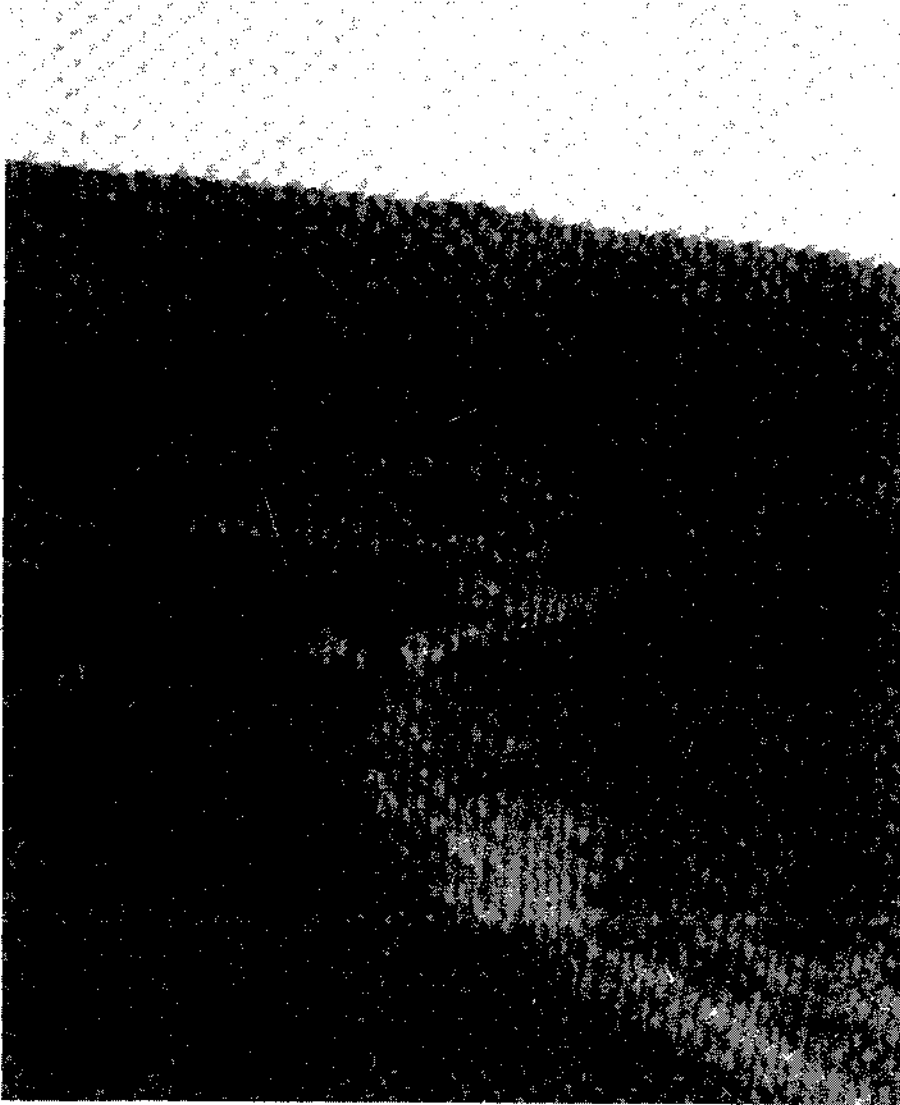

UFO TIMES

Number 4 November 1989



Lessons of Ilkley

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Ufologists investigate many amazing cases. Do we follow the right protocols? Jenny Randles looks at two typical cases

Abductions: Are there parallels between these and Out of the Body Experiences? G. Millington discusses the question.

Details of a previously unknown USAF fighter/UFO chase over the north sea is exclusively reported by Harry Harris.

Plus..... Gaynor Sunderland relates an Earthlight Anecdote. Investigation Diary, Skywatcher, News, Reviews, Letters and more.

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Editorial

Earth Lights Revelation has been on the bookshelves officially for just over a week now. Indications are that it will do well and the acceptance (although I unfortunately expect passive acceptance) of the book will slowly trickle through the UFO community.

But where will the acceptance of such a theory draw nigh? Will we see devout nuts and bolters with their crashed saucers, MJ-12, MIBs and the apparent ETH confirming abductions, drop all of the above for a sensible hypothesis? I doubt it.

As I have stated in the past, many ufologists often put the cart before the horse, decide on the stimulus for the reporting of such phenomena and sift through the available data for the evidence that best supports the theory they champion. The origin of such theory is from the heart. It starts as firm belief and the selected evidence strengthens the belief into 'fact'. I think many people have fooled themselves in blindly accepting the Extraterrestrial Hypothesis without thinking of the vastness of the claim that they make.

What a day October 10th turned out to be. Apparently everything the average ufologist has been waiting for: the day the ETs openly land in the middle of a city. But no one expected it to be a city in the Soviet Union (see stop press special on the back page). Probably none of this would have been taken seriously if it had come from any other part of the globe. The credibility of the claim hangs on the fact that the source of the story is Tass, the stern, officious press face of the Soviet Union (who have stated that they never joke).

Tass reported an alleged Close

Encounter of the Third Kind, with alleged traces, aliens, ray-guns and artifacts that are 'not of this earth' and because it's Tass saying all of this we must all suddenly believe it is true.

On the day that the news broke BUFORA were bombarded by the nation's media for comment and evaluation. I gave my evaluation to 'BBC Breakfast News', the 'Six O'Clock News (BBC1), 'Newsnight' (BBC2) and several local radio stations, comment which was cautiously sceptical; but concluding that we must wait and see what transpires .

It was interesting to see the Soviet case develop over 24 hours and how the media view of the case shifted as the hours passed. Although Tass still endorse the case in general, cracks in the story were already appearing. It was stated that the mysterious rocks supposedly left behind by the aliens were, 'not of this earth'. However, this statement has since been retracted by the scientist who claims that he was misquoted; in fact the rocks turned out to be iron ore which I understand is quite common on this planet. The question remains, if Tass misquoted the scientist how much more of the story has been 'misquoted'?

Over in the USA it seems that they are looking at the case much more seriously than we are. In fact, I understand from a reliable source that one UFO magazine in the States is going to devote the whole of its next issue to the case. I can see this story running and running; wasting more valuable time for nothing.

A slant to the story that has emerged is the relevant fact that Tass and Pravda are both struggling to keep their readership. This is due to the Soviet public being bored by the sublime: have Tass countered this situation by supplying the Russian masses with the ridiculous?.

TO BELIEVE OR NOT TO BELIEVE

The lessons of Gulf Breeze and Ilkley Moor

by Jenny Randles

Ufology in the period 1987- 1989 has gone through one of its most fascinating phases. In the USA, particularly, questions such as 'what is going on?' have been replaced in many investigators eyes by the much more startling appraisal; 'now that we know what is going on (aliens performing genetic experiments, according to Budd Hopkins and Whitley Strieber) - WHY?'

The effect has been much less dramatic elsewhere, especially in the ever conservative British Isles. However, with the sort of ironic twist that the phenomenon seems to love, both Britain and America has been simultaneously presented with very similar 'mega-cases' that involve complex and fantastic new evidence. There are lessons to be learnt by the way in which the UFO movement has responded to these challenges.

In the USA the major case has been that from Gulf Breeze, Florida. The witness is known affectionately as 'Mr Ed' and variously described as a likeable man but with some indication that he enjoys practical jokes. He has allegedly been at the centre of a literal 'invasion' by alien entities and reputedly solid looking UFOs. This has persisted for some time, certainly from late 1987 onward. However, all of it post-dates US publication of Strieber's best-selling title 'Communion'.

The reaction of the UFO community has been most interesting. The principal investigation group is MUFON and most of their 'big guns' have expressed comment upon the affair. In the early days these were nearly all completely favourable and researchers such as Budd Hopkins were found endorsing the veracity of this unusual case throughout the media.

Of course, as we know, the media can and does misrepresent our subject and those who speak out about it. Yet here there seems little doubt that, even given the odd misquote here and there,

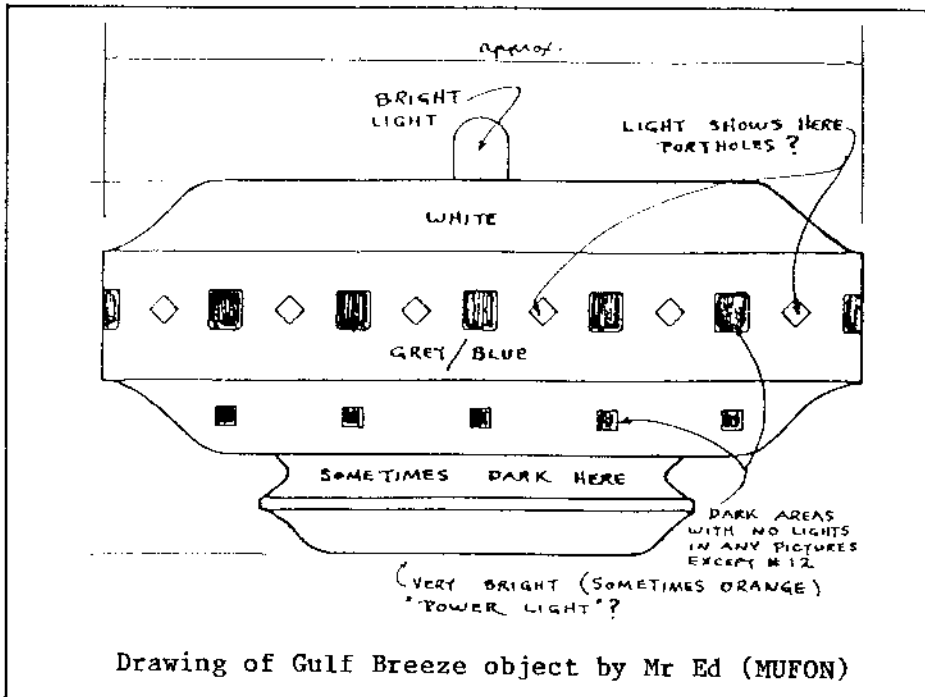
the gist of what was being expressed in public did reflect what these investigators genuinely felt.

Dubious

And yet what did we have with this saga? We had a witness quickly offering dozens of photographs taken at many different times, showing what look at first glance to be rather dubious 'solid' objects similar in certain instances to what you might get from lamp shades reflecting in window glass. The witness was even talking about features of the case which closely matched those expressed by Strieber. The classic indicator here was the 'smell of cinnamon' associated with the entities.

Now, it may very well be that this was a genuine feature of Strieber's own close encounter. However, so far as I can ascertain the ONLY other places it has ever featured in UFO cases are on the TV soap 'Dynasty' (post-dating the Strieber book) and the abduction case which Andy Roberts and Philip Mantle investigated for IUN/BUFORA from near Accrington, Lancashire. . . That one happening on the very night that the woman admitted she had just been watching the crucial episode of 'Dynasty'!

So far as BUFORA was concerned the Lancashire case (for the above reason and several other factors which emerged during investigation) offered little evidence to support a physically real kidnap experience, even though the witness herself was considered sincere



Breeze (as Bruce Maccabee has indeed fulfilled). But was it also right that too many Ufologists who ought to have known better were swayed by the media's rapid interest in the case and persuaded to give voluble quotes on what was then a virtually unexplored story? One thing is true in the UFO/media world, after you endorse a bumper then you are going to find it very hard to tip toe back towards credibility.

There is no doubt that Dr Bruce Maccabee's attempts to study these photographs from his standpoint as an

by the investigators. The prevalence of the cinnamon smell was viewed as a significant piece of negative evidence (ie negative in the sense of objective reality; although important as a way of understanding the psycho-dynamics of the case).

And yet, in the USA, such a factor had entirely the opposite effect on the Gulf Breeze claims. It was here regarded as virtual proof that the case was a genuine alien contact, because it contained such detail that fitted the recently discovered stereotype.

It is certainly true that the 'Mr Ed' saga has its interesting features, not the least being some small degree of secondary witness support (especially from 'Mrs Ed'). A number of the photographs look, to my admittedly distant eye, to be candidates for more suspicion than seems to have been afforded to them so far. I am not saying that they are fakes, but that this possibility has to be born in mind when evaluating a case of such extremity. It is noteworthy that they have many similarities with the infamous 'Billy Meier' affair (see Gary Kinder's book; "Light Years"). Yet the object lessons from this Swiss 'miss' were ignored by some people.

Of course, it was right that a careful investigation should proceed into Gulf

optical physicist were admirable. Yet he seems to have started from the premise that they were potentially real and has looked for confirmatory evidence in their support.

He did the same with the Barnsley photographs, taken around the same period (August 1987) and expended enormous effort and hard work on the analysis of this BUFORA case. I am extremely grateful for that and highly respectful of his authority. But in the end his viewpoint changed from initial feelings that the case was significant to growing reservations that he couldn't PROVE it was a hoax, thus its status nagged at him.

Birch Resemblance

Yet the response of several people involved in the case over here, on immediately seeing the Barnsley photographs (notably Andy Roberts, one of the investigators, Nigel Smith, a film editor and BUFORA's own analyst, and myself as Director of Investigations, based on numerous other very similar photographic cases I have seen over the years) was that they did have a striking resemblance to the result that you can get by sticking an object on the window and photographing the sky through that. (See, for example, the famous Alex Birch hoax photos from the same part of South Yorkshire!).

Two years on, BUFORA has had to expend much effort to backtrack from the media touted importance of this case, which was the product of several people's initial eager enthusiasm (both in this country and the USA).

The questions that all of these things pose are fundamental.

What is the correct approach to a complex UFO case? Is it right to adopt a cautious and critical appraisal, taking the line that as MOST cases turn out NOT to be UFOs in the end, that is what the odds predict in any specific instance? If there are coincidences or niggling problems (eg the cinnamon factor in Gulf Breeze or the clues about possible flat two dimensional nature of the Barnsley 'UFO') then who should have the benefit of the doubt? The witness or sensible precaution?

Witness Responsibility

You might argue that we have a responsibility not to criticise a witness. After all, they came to us with the case and our duty is to give them the benefit of the doubt. In unpublished ongoing investigations I would accept that as valid (so far as our interface with the witness is concerned - although it should not prevent our expression of private question marks).

However, that situation did not apply to either the Barnsley photos or to Gulf Breeze. Both of these were media items of escalating proportions before ufology became involved. Consequently, I would contend our responsibility MUST shift. In that instance we have to consider what we owe the subject and our colleagues. Surely that is to behave with care and scepticism, until solid evidence emerges which supports any other view.

As Director of Investigations my advice to all BUFORA investigators is work on the premise that the case most likely will not end up as a UFO. Do your job to try to find out what ELSE it could be. If you 'fail' and are left with the UFO option, then fine. Say so. . . Provided this assessment comes after the hard work of analysis and

evaluation, rather than before this.

The Gulf Breeze case has now become a legend - and a highly confused legend at that. Initially, the MUFON approach was severely attacked by the other major US group - CUFOS, the J Allen Hynek Centre for UFO Studies. They found fault with the methodology and, in my opinion, rightly criticised the mistakes that were made in the first MUFON studies. However, they in turn began to feel that the case was more interesting when the full facts came to hand and, at present, seem closer to the MUFON stance than before. Additionally, MUFON has begun to publish critical pieces in their own journal, which is a move that ufology should genuinely applaud.

Mr and Mrs Ed are writing a book with the highly inaccurate title of "UFOs: Proof Positive" (!). According to Willy Smith and Richard Hall in MUFON Journal they have the support of influential ufologists such as Bruce Maccabee and Budd Hopkins in this venture. Whether the book, and its inevitable high profile, will help or hinder our understanding of this case is I suspect very much open to doubt. We may have gone beyond the point where, barring sudden revelatory admissions from somewhere or other, the ultimate truth (if such there be) will ever really be known about Gulf Breeze. Like many classic cases (eg Roswell and Rendlesham Forest) it will live on, because of it is larger as a folk tale than a resolved case through the factual evidence that would prove its status one way or another.

What of Britain's equivalent case? This was first reported in a letter to me dated 3 December 1987 (soon after Gulf Breeze started 3000 miles away). The letter came from a former police officer who alleged that two days earlier he had seen a landed UFO and a small entity on Ilkley Moor and had succeeded in photographing the 'little green man' (which it literally WAS!). He gave his real name, but only a box number (on the other side of the country) and all my efforts to trace him in the Ilkley area failed.

There were several responses we could have shown here. We could, for instance,

have given the story to the media right away. That would have probably found the witness. But it would also have turned the case into a circus. Besides, without seeing the photo, it was most unwise to do anything other than what I did - reply to the box number given by the ex-PC and request the negative for BUFORA evaluation.

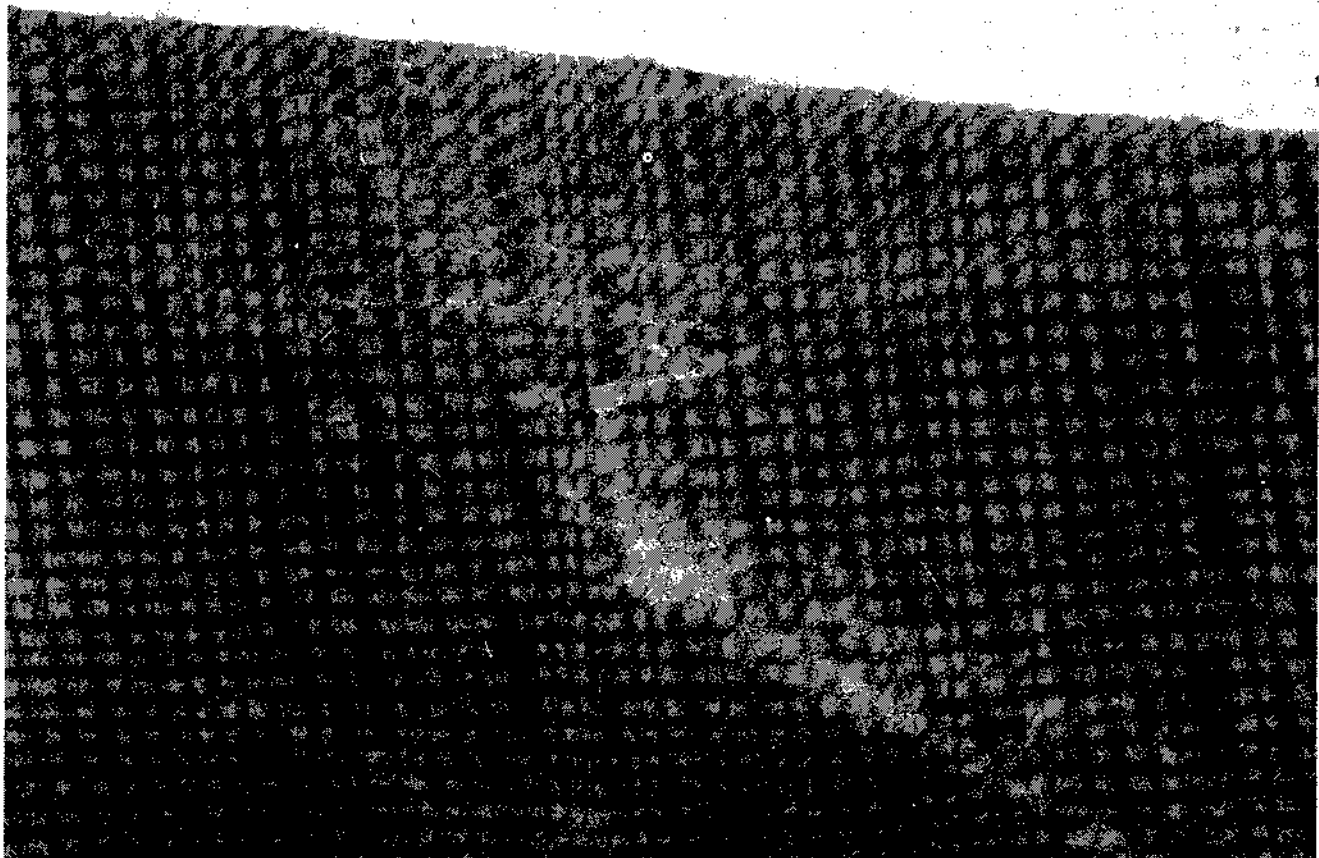
Three weeks later, with no reply having yet come (although Christmas had intervened) Peter Hough, a local colleague in the group MUFORA, happened to talk to Arthur Tomlinson of old style UFO club DIGAP and to his surprise learned that the witness (who apparently had not even collected my letter from the post box yet!) had become so frustrated by waiting that he had contacted DIGAP. Not only that he had given them the negative.

DIGAP have a nineteen fifties approach to such cases and little in the way of questioning occurred to them. They accepted the photograph and the case

and, bar a visit to the site with the witness (which they kindly invited Peter to join them on) it was really left as a story that seemed to be true. Peter persuaded them (and the witness) to let him take on the necessary tasks of further evaluation.

During the first half of 1988 we had several debates about the case within the small Manchester team handling the data. Both Peter and I spoke to the witness and, although I helped out on some of the investigation, Peter arranged for all the crucial steps. These involved photo analysis by three sources (including KODAK), later computer enhancement, study of physical effects on a compass by a university department, a geomagnetic/radiological site survey by another university department and a clinical psychologist's evaluation (and subsequent regressive hypnosis) of the witness.

Every single one of these steps occurred WITHOUT any possibility of



The Ilkley Moor Photograph

publicity. This was mutually agreed between the witness and the investigators to be grossly undesirable. As the witness wanted anonymity (and was in fact re-applying to join another police force) the most important thing to do was investigate the case, form reasoned conclusions about the evidence and never even contemplate public presentation until afterwards (if at all). For that reason only four people knew the real name, address and unlisted phone number of the witness.

There has been a modicum of criticism within the UFO field for this style of investigation. However, I briefed BUFORA NIC meetings about progress as we went along. And, although the witness did not live in Yorkshire, the local IUN team were brought in to carry out the vital comparative photography at the site on the anniversary of the event (1 December 1988). Now, with most work completed, Peter has given several lectures on the results of the case; including one to BUFORA.

Irresponsible

The publicity attracted by the case in the summer of 1988 was entirely due to DIGAP member Steve Balon, who unilaterally (and against the express wishes of the witness and everyone else involved) sold or gave the picture (there are conflicting versions) to tabloid newspapers in the USA and Britain. The result nearly killed the case and was grossly irresponsible in my view. It is the kind of action that should lead to punishment under the code of practice; if 'ufologists' like Balon even subscribed to it!

I do not pretend that the way in which the Ilkley Moor case was investigated represents the correct or perfect method. But I sincerely feel that whilst the case was free of the glare of tabloid journalism a great deal of cooperative research with scientists was feasible that would never have happened had Balon flogged the case in public any earlier.

Now, of course, the story is seen as tainted by the Daily Star and National Enquirer coverage, in just the same way

that the News of the World reports on the Rendlesham Forest case damaged that beyond repair.

In the long run we are in similar positions when we sit down and try to analyse what we 'believe' about both Gulf Breeze and Ilkley Moor. Despite the calm and assured work on the entity photograph we have not proved or disproved its nature. The witness seems sincere and shuns media attention). Yet we are forced to make value judgements that are bound to be tainted by our own beliefs about the subject.

However, it is my personal opinion that it is right for the subject that we appear cautious, sceptical and reserved about extraordinary stories. If at some future date it is revealed that there is a non-UFO explanation behind either or both of these photographic cases then just contemplate the response of the scientific communities.

If it were evident that UFO groups like BUFORA had leapt to a premature conclusion that the case was bona-fide and made extreme pronouncements, like some of those offered by some people about Gulf Breeze in the early days, then criticism would rightly follow. These sources would point out that ufologists 'want' to believe and so seek confirmation of pre-existent belief structures. It would be extrapolated to our entire argument FOR the subject. Mistakes born of zeal may seem forgivable, but they can be extremely damaging to the credibility of our field.

By trying to find evidence that negates the case (even if we fail), and by remaining modest and open-minded, with a tendency towards scepticism, I feel our positive evidence for the phenomenon must carry greater weight.

I can add that when I explained this ethos to the witnesses in both the Barnsley and Ilkley Moor cases they said that they applauded it. They were apparently not offended. The Ilkley witness commented; "If you investigate from a critical standpoint then your opinion is worth a whole lot more to me and to anybody else." . . . I entirely agree.

UFONAUTS – IMPS FROM THE ASTRAL?

by Captain G. Millington, BA, RAEC (Retd.)

Abductions, close encounters of the fourth kind have, with increasing frequency, been reported in association with the ufo phenomenon over the past forty years. In different frames of reference, usually those of folklore and anthropology, accounts of analogous events have also originated from much earlier times, accompanied by explanations in accord with contemporary interpretive paradigms.

From 'Rip Van Winkle' onwards, the fairies, or whatever elemental spirits were held to have been responsible, seem to have taken a mischievous delight in playing sometimes vicious tricks on selected specimens of humanity. Discussion has inevitably centred on how far the events described by the victims of these attentions are merely subjective and whether they bear any valid relationship to what we are accustomed to describe as objective reality. In almost all such cases the absence of impartial witnesses with no personal involvement in the events described has precluded any definitive answer. We have virtually nothing but anecdotal evidence to work with.

In two such cases, however, witnesses have been available. Jenny Randles describes how, 22 February 1973, "whilst in the driving seat of her car, and with two astonished ufo investigators only inches away, Maureen Puddy was describing the the inside of the ufo which she claimed she was now aboard." ['Abduction', p.129] Randles describes also how on 3 March 1978, while Jose Alvaro believed himself to be having sex with with an extra-terrestrial female, "a passer-by admitted he had seen the young man prone on the ground at the spot where he later claimed to recover consciousness. The traveller had walked past, assuming the youth was drunk or asleep." ['Ibid', p.140]

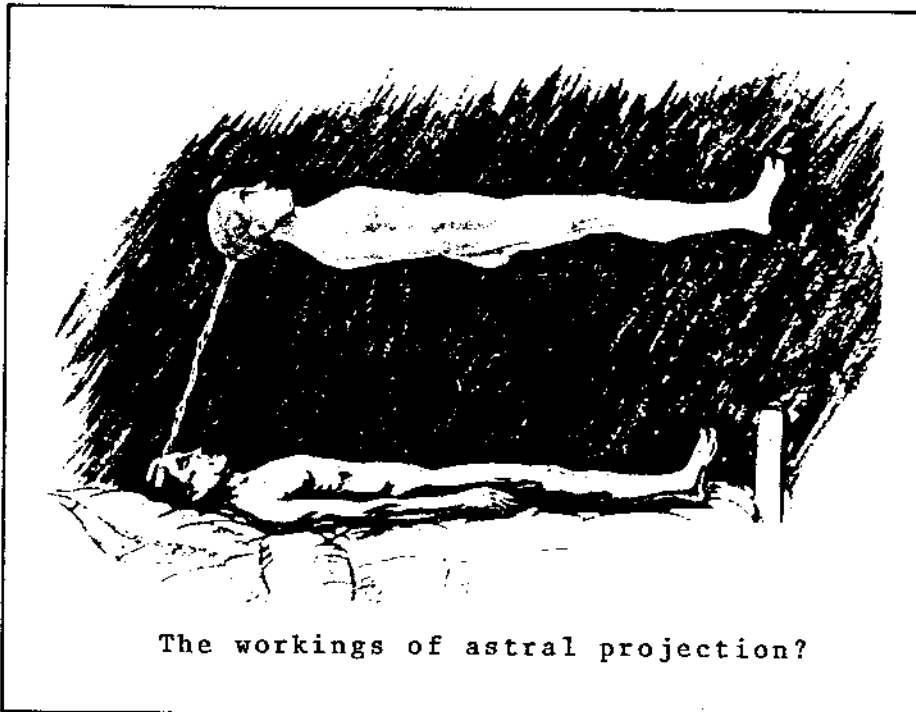
Such accounts suggest that some, if not all, ufo abductions seem to have

been what occultists and students of 'Fortean Phenomena' describe as 'Out of the Body Experiences', [OOBEs]. Indeed, the victims of the 1974 'Aveley Case', allegedly abducted from their car, described "a puzzling period where they 'saw' themselves and the car, even though they were floating about the ufo." ['IBID', p.80] Such an experience is not uncommon in the ufological literature, so there inevitably arises of what it is that undergoes the OOBE whilst the physical body quiescent, very often in its own bed. What kind of a body is the abducted consciousness then occupying?

Evocation

OOBEs are not, of course, the perquisite of ufo abductees – they have often been reported by those undergoing surgery under anaesthesia, especially when near to death. Occultists, however, claim to be able to evoke the experience at will, transferring their consciousness intentionally into what they call the 'astral body'. According to Fred Gettings ['Encyclopaedia of the Occult', 'Guild Publishing', 1986]:-

"The astral body is seen by clairvoyants as having an independent existence on the astral during periods when the physical body is asleep or when a person consciously indulges in astral travel. During such periods of conscious travel and during ordinary sleep (or in the case of imposed trance) it is quite



require to have a certain psychic sensitivity which is perhaps a prerequisite for making this postulated frequency shift to the astral. Betty Andreasson's account of her alleged abduction by Strieber-type ufo entities on 25 January 1967 at South Ashburnham, Massachusetts refers to the family being frozen into suspended animation, presumably because they lacked the psychic constitution which alone permits manipulation by these astral imps. Budd Hopkins reports in 'Intruders' a similar case of familial immobilization. After

undergoing what was to

natural for the astral body to leave the physical and etheric body behind and to lead an independent existence on its proper plane of being ..." He also adds that this astral plane "is contiguous in space (if not in time) with the material realm", which might account for the five days said to have been lost by Corporal Valdes in fifteen minutes of normal time in Arica, Chile on 25 April 1977, or the similar length of time claimed as lost by Travis Walton two years previously in Snowflake, Arizona. Moreover, if the astral plane is contiguous in space with our everyday world, we do not need to invoke the extra-terrestrial hypothesis of ufo origin to explain the incursions of such denizens into the frequency band we normally inhabit. The entity which was claimed to have visited Cynthia Appleton in Birmingham on several occasions in the 1950s told her that scientists trying to reach his place of origin would fail because they were "... pulling against the great force of gravity by going straight up ... , (ETH?) when they should travel with a sideways attitude." (A frequency shift above the ultra-violet or below the infrared?) The alleged statement of a putative astral entity filtered through the consciousness of a Birmingham housewife can be expected to be somewhat gnostic!

There is some evidence to suggest that abductees are not randomly selected, but

become virtually the standard physical examination [Sachs - 'The Ufo Encyclopaedia'. 1980], Andreasson claimed to have been conducted through a series of alien realms where she encountered strange and sometimes symbolic creatures and events, similar in many ways to descriptions by occultists of travels in the astral body. Alistair Crowley ['Magick', p.258] wrote, "this fine body perceives a universe which we do not ordinarily perceive ..." and which "is naturally fitted to perceive objects of its own class ... in particular the phantoms of the astral plane." He also warned against uncritical acceptance of any statements such entities may make, for "every spirit, up to God himself, is ready to deceive you if possible, to make himself out to be more important than he is ..." [Ibid, p,260] Perhaps this may account for some of the incredible extra-terrestrial origins said to have been claimed by some uninvited visitants? Crowley also warned of the dangers of mishandling the return to the physical body - "If you fail to do this properly you may find yourself in serious trouble. Your body of light may wander away uncontrolled and be attacked and obsessed. You will become aware of this through the occurrence of headache, bad dreams or even more serious signs such as hysteria, fainting fits, possibly madness or paralysis." [Ibid, p.260]

These are precisely the kind of symptoms described by Whitley Strieber ('Communion') and others, following their abduction experiences. Indeed, considering the ruthless lack of concern for their victims' welfare evinced by the small bug-eyed variety of ufonauts, it is perhaps a tribute to their powers of mental manipulation that they can still be perceived by their victims as essentially non-malevolent. It is this mental control apparently exercised by the agents of the phenomenon that renders all anecdotal



evidence suspect. We literally cannot trust the sensory impressions presented to our minds. Ufos appeared in medieval times as sailing ships, as dirigible airships at the time of the Zeppelins were under development and as cigars or saucers ever since the 'Foo Fighters' of World War II. Entities described may be divided into two major categories of golden-haired, blue-eyed humanoids and bug-eyed midgets, but two of the three women allegedly abducted near the Wrekin in July 1981 gave totally different descriptions of the same abductors! Are the agents of the phenomenon then able to present themselves and their vehicles to human eyes in any form they deem expedient?

psychic manipulation. We sceptics today are probably far more vulnerable - we cannot look for spells from our friendly local warlock in the yellow pages or drop in on the high-priestess of a nearby coven with a request for some protective Wicca-power! Maybe modern victims of the phenomenon should try flooding the house with garlic, wearing amulets and describing pentagrams around beds in rooms vulnerable to visitation. Such defences were once universally deemed effective when dark powers threatened humanity. Empirically, they should be worth a try today. After all, what else is there?

In the ages of faith before the scientific revolution in human thinking such questions naturally did not arise - anything that could not be accommodated within contemporary intellectual and emotional paradigms was ipso facto evil or illusory, a work of the devil and therefore to be cast out. When medieval peasants who had seen ufonauts descend from a space vehicle went in a body to their bishop. He told them such a happening was impossible and that they had seen no such thing. They believed him on authority and against the evidence of their own eyes, but maybe the bishop was not so stupid after all! Faith - any sort of faith, however misguided - is a sure shield against



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Investigations DIARY

The Regular UFO report update of cases investigated by the NIC and associate groups

Edited by Dave Clarke

It is not often that a UFO investigator arrives upon the scene as an unidentified flying object is still visible in the sky. In September 1989 Andy Walmsley, investigator and archivist with the Independent UFO Network (IUN), who is based in Halifax, West Yorkshire did just that, and his report of what he saw and photographed follows.

The light phenomena involved appeared in the Withens Moor area of West Yorkshire, a high moorland expanse in the vicinity of a large stone monument known as Stoodley Pike. This area has been identified by Project Pennine as an area with a long history of anomalous phenomena - Will o'the Wisps, strange dancing lights in the night sky, ghosts and apparitions, and so on. Even the Pike itself has a folk-legend attached to it that strange dancing lights could be seen around its base if stones were removed from the ancient site. What Andy Walmsley and the other witnesses below actually saw is uncertain; Andy himself is well experienced in identifying aircraft lights, bright stars and planets (he has his own computer astronomy programme to identify bright stars and planets as part of the IUN's investigation procedure), but is uncertain as to the explanation. Read on.

THE WITHENS MOOR LIGHTS

by Andy Walmsley

The Withens area (grid ref 037315 0/S sheet 104) captures perfectly the broody, introspective characteristics of typical Yorkshire Moorland. It is an area steeped in folklore and legends, many of which are as old as the weather-beaten hills themselves.

Instantaneous Movement

A report passed to me by Philip Mantle of the IUN served only to enhance the fascination which this area has always held for me. The witness described a considerable number of lights in the sky to the WSW of the grid reference given above. These lights were reported to oscillate, change colour, vary in number, size and intensity and also achieve almost instantaneous movement in the sky.

Upon checking my files it became apparent that at least another three people had reported this light show over a ten year period [the same area of moorland was the scene of a sighting of light phenomena by police officers from Halifax on the same evening as the

famous Alan Godfrey 'abduction' in nearby Todmorden - Ed]. I also uncovered a lengthy article run by the local newspaper, detailing an investigation involving Trevor Whittaker, a BUFORA investigator who has since left the field. I moved on to contact the witness and he informed me that these lights had appeared at roughly the same time on three consecutive nights. I therefore donned ufological longjohns, assembled my camera equipment, and arranged to meet the witness at the above grid reference on the evening of Friday, September 8, 1989.

The witness was a gentleman aged thirty who was a hospital porter. I chatted for a while and built up the impression of an absolutely sane, level-headed family man with two feet planted

firmly on the ground. I paused to speak to my girlfriend for a moment and was distracted almost immediately by an excited shout from the witness. Sure enough, eight or nine bright lights had just appeared in the sky at around thirty degrees elevation. I began to take photographs and also to observe them through binoculars at periodic intervals. The lights did indeed move erratically, alter in intensity and size and also change colour. Five of them demonstrated an uncanny ability to align themselves along geometrically perfect horizontal and vertical planes and these five appeared to be accompanied at times by red, green and bright white lights.

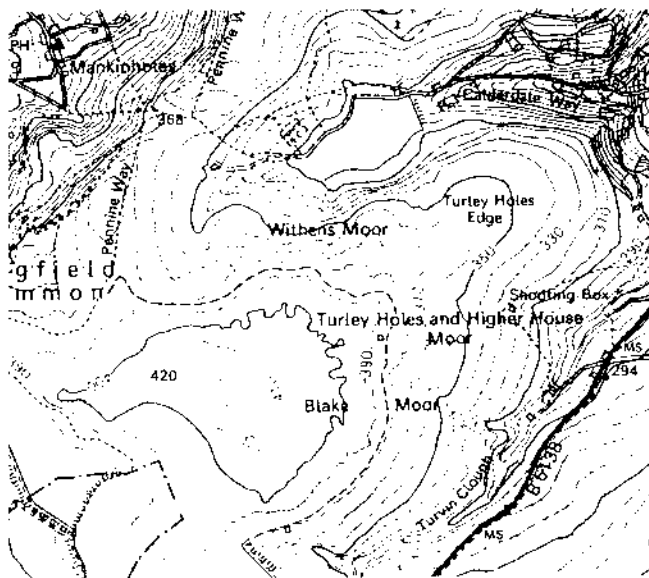
We watched this amazing lightshow for over an hour before one became detached from the rest and began to move towards us, illuminating the hills around itself as it did so. I took two more photographs before it climbed vertically at tremendous speed and was lost in the low cloud, only to appear behind us a few seconds later! The witness then had the idea of flashing car headlamps at them. All three of us gazed in wonder as three of the lights high in the sky appeared to flash themselves. We flashed our lights once more, and again appeared to receive an answer! This

continued for another five minutes before the rain which had been threatening since we arrived at 8 p.m. finally rolled down the valley below us. Conditions worsened over the next fifteen minutes and we were finally forced to leave before the small broken road leading to the site became impassable. Although I did not see this myself the witness swears that the lights extinguished as we left through the advancing cloud could well account for this.

I immediately contacted Philip Mantle, Andy Roberts and Rodney Howarth, all of the IUN. Together with the witness we mounted a skywatch the following night and, with the exception of a visit from two baffled traffic police, this proved to be a cold, bleak and very uninteresting vigil with the lights making no appearance whatsoever.

Upon development, all of the frames exposed during the sighting were found to be absolutely blank. This is inexplicable since the integrity of the camera was checked repeatedly during the sighting and tested successfully before the event itself. The witness also took some photographs with his own camera, though all my attempts so far to contact him have failed.

Obviously some very spectacular form of anomalous light phenomena is being viewed here. One could postulate that misperception could account for all of the strange sightings in this area. If this is the case then the mechanisms of misperception which exist either within the mind of the witness, or within the area of the sighting, must be relatively constant and consistent for so many people to report seeing nearly identical light phenomena. Investigation is proceeding. The IUN also have plans to mount some some form of semi-permanent, properly-equipped skywatch in the area, and the writer will be participating in this.



RECENT CASE INVESTIGATIONS

November 8, 1979. BURBAGE, Leicestershire. A mother and three teenage children walking home from the swimming baths at 8 p.m. when they noticed a bright light which appeared to be following them. The light was 20-30ft above the houses, very bright

like a neon light and had a sharp outline. When they stopped the light stopped and when they moved the light moved. When they came to the corner of the street the object stopped as though waiting to see what they would do. After turning into a road and nearing their home the object moved over some trees and just hovered. When the mother came out of the house with her husband the object had disappeared; she had the feeling that the object was 'scanning' them. Two days later she noticed a faint mark on two of the children's faces which can still be seen. **Investigation by R. Burton for BUFORA.**

May 23, 1988. SIBSEY, Boston, Lincolnshire. At 10.25 p.m. a Flight Lieutenant (RAF rtd) observed a light, yellowish in colour, which appeared to be larger than an aircraft light and was trailed by numerous reddish lights - seemingly in a fixed pattern. The light retained their relative positions on an East to West course, covering some 90' of arc over a period of 2 minutes. Five minutes later a second sighting followed exactly the same pattern. The report was technical in every aspect from a highly trained observer, who believes that with 30 years aircrew officer experience he "knows a plane when he sees one", and this he believes wasn't any aircraft he was familiar with. **Investigation: Gary Anthony (IUN/BUFORA).**

December 6, 1987. HULL, North Humberston. At 5.45 p.m. a witness in Orchard Park Estate was positioned on the 9th floor of a high-rise block of flats where he observed two flashing lights, one red and the other blue. 'Side by side' they travelled from NW to SE. The witness called on a neighbour, but by the time both looked at the object it had turned into a white light which they presumed was the rear of the UFO. A few moments later the object was obscured from view by the building - total duration, 7 minutes. Probably aircraft. **Investigation: Gary Anthony (IUN/BUFORA).**

November 5, 1988. PITCH HILL, Surrey. Two witnesses in a car in an isolated area at 9.45 p.m. when they saw a bright white light appear in the sky which moved nearer to the car.. "as the light got closer we were aware that the object had no engine noise. It was completely silent. The light stopped directly in front of us, about half a mile away from us. It then turned a complete 360 degrees circle exactly where it was and seemed to flip over, revealing red lights on top of an oval shaped craft." It then returned at high speed in the direction from which it came. Duration 10-20 minutes. **Investigation: G. Millington (BUFORA).**

October 31, 1970. RIVINGTON, Lancashire. Two witnesses walking on isolated upland track near Rivington Pike saw an elongated cylindrical luminous shape emerge from a belt of trees and move along a forest track at low altitude. After pursuing an apparently 'intelligent' course the object appeared to disappear into the ground. The witnesses went to the spot where the object disappeared and found nothing to account for it. Interpreted at the time as a 'ghost' said to haunt the nearby castle. Possibly a geophysical light-form. **Investigation: Dave Clarke (IUN/BUFORA).**

March, 1988. DORE MOOR, Derbyshire. At 8 p.m. Sheffield solicitor and his wife returning to Sheffield from Derbyshire Dales saw a light in the sky which they first thought was from a TV transmitter; the object then approached the car and was seen to be a large 'spinning top' shaped object with brilliant white and red lights. The object passed close to car and disappeared into a belt of trees. Reported to Sheffield police, RAF Finningley and Ministry of Defence. Occurred in same area of moorland as Stanage Moor case in UFO TIMES #2, pg15. **Investigation: Dave Clarke and Dave Kelly (IUN).**

The NIC and the UFO Times editorial board invite any investigator or group to submit material for inclusion in **Investigations Diary**. Full acknowledgement will be given to contributors. All submissions should be sent to the Diary's editor, Dave Clarke, 6 Old Retford Road, Handsworth, Sheffield, South Yorks, S13 9QZ.

EVIDENCE OF A COVER-UP?

Pilot Tells of UFO Intercept

by Harry Harris

On the 20th May 1957 two United States Air Force fighter planes were scrambled from RAF Manston and ordered to intercept a UFO which had invaded United Kingdom air space. The lead pilot was ordered to fire a salvo of 24 live rockets at the UFO; which out-ran him at a speed of 2 digit mach numbers within 10 seconds of the order to fire being implemented. The said lead pilot was debriefed on landing by a US civilian and threatened with a national security breach if he breathed a word about the event to anyone. Both the Ministry of Defence and the USAF say they have no record of this event! The order to fire must have come from somewhere - who gave it?

On the evening of Sunday, 5th June 1988 I was in the bar at the Cumberland Hotel in London, where I was staying overnight for the purpose of attending a conveyancing lecture the following day, when I got into a conversation with an American couple. The male partner turned out to be one Milton Torres, now a Professor of Industrial Engineering at Florida International University and who was on the 20th May 1957, a USAF fighter pilot, stationed in the UK.

Frightening

Milton informed me that he had been in the USAF for twenty years, had seen action in VietNam and that his most frightening experience was that which occurred on the night in question when he and another fighter pilot, one Dave Robertson, were scrambled to intercept and in Milton's case, ordered to fire a salvo of live rockets at a UFO.

Milton went on to describe to me (and which description he has set out in a detailed 2½ page narrative) how they were airborne within five minutes of the scramble and heading out in the direction of the North Sea, just east of East Anglia in pursuit of their prey, which Milton says was the best radar target that he could ever remember locking on to, having, as it did, the proportions of a flying aircraft carrier.

There was no visual, as Milton was flying in thick cloud.

Ground Control informed Milton that they had been observing a radar 'blip' for a considerable length of time, orbiting East Anglia. The object, which defied identification followed unusual flight patterns and for long interval remained motionless. Then came the order to fire which Milton authenticated.

As Milton closed in on the object with afterburner on at a speed of Mach 0.92 (this being about as fast as his F-86D fighter would go), the object broke lock from his radar scope and accelerated away from him.

Milton says he was informed by ground control that they had also lost the blip and he was ordered back to RAF Manston, where he was debriefed by a US civilian [?] who Milton describes as resembling a, "Well dresses IBM [not MIB!] salesman with a dark blue trenchcoat".

National Security

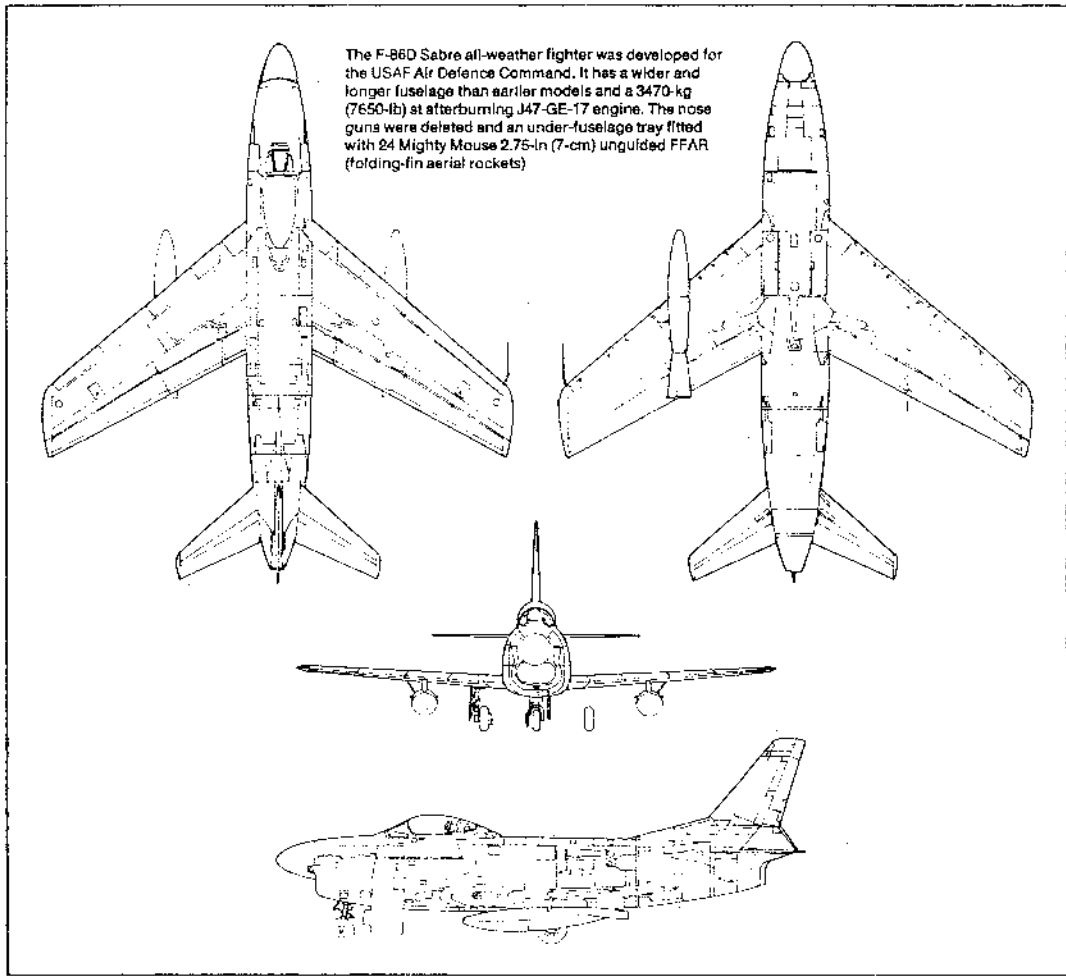
This individual immediately jumped into asking Milton questions about the mission and after the debriefing he warned Milton that he must not discuss the event with anyone not even the commanding officer. Contravention of this warning would mean that he would be faced with breach of national security.

For this reason, Milton has not spoken of the event until very recently.

I have also received 2½ page report (in letter form) from the other pilot, Dave Robertson. His recollection of the

night's events varies somewhat from that of Milton as regards where the interception began. However, he confirms that '...We did chase UFOs that evening..'

According to Dave they were already airborne but unarmed on a training flight, making simulated attack runs on each other when they were contacted by ground control and ordered to land at RAF Bentwaters where their aircraft were armed with live rockets and were then scrambled to carry out the intercept.



Dave Robertson describes how he did get several pretty good radar returns, but was unable to maintain radar contact long enough to get a 'lock on'. It is Dave's recollection that the ground controller indicated that there were several 'unknowns' which were changing speeds and altitude quite frequently.

The most interesting feature of Dave Robertson's evidence, apart from the accounts of visual sightings on other occasions, is that he recollects the name of one of the RAF ground controllers who may have been involved; being one Dick Neville, who turns out to be non other than the father of Clive Neville who is currently employed by the Ministry of Defence to deal with, among other things, reports of UFO sightings!

One possible explanation, which has been advanced by Mr E C Talboys of London University School of Electrical Engineering and Applied Physics, is that the event was staged as a radar

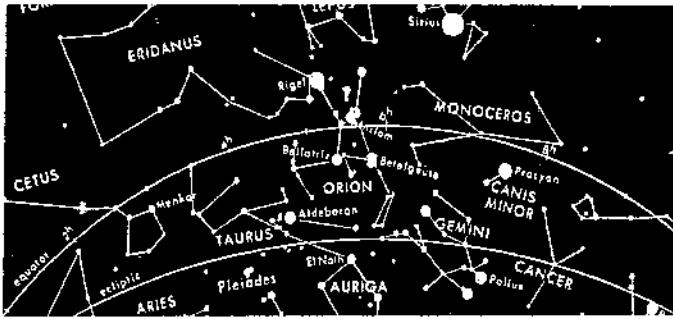
exercise and I have suggested this to the Ministry of Defence who have not commented.

Conclusion

The guts of the issue is that one would have thought that either the United States or the United Kingdom Governments would have a record of this event, whether it be a radar exercise or the real thing. **The significance therefore is that this piece history did not officially happen.**

If anyone has any information which could assist with the investigation of this case could they please telephone me on 061 973 9949.





Skywatcher

Edited by Gary Anthony

Introduction

Skywatcher brings you all the regular features: planetary positions, meteors, phases of the moon and space news. Space News in this feature concerns the Hubble Space Telescope (HST). Scheduled for launch in December, the HST is a major joint NASA/ESA scientific mission to place an astronomical observatory in space.

skydata

NOVEMBER		1989		DECEMBER	
6th	14 h 11 m	First Quarter	6th	01 h 26 m	
13th	05 h 51 m	Full Moon	12th	16 h 30 m	
20th	04 h 44 m	Last Quarter	19th	23 h 54 m	
28th	09 h 41 m	New Moon	28th	03 h 20 m	
RA	Dec	Venus	RA	Dec	
-----	-----	Mars	-----	-----	
06h > 08h	+10° > +30°	Jupiter	06h > 08h	+10° > +30°	
18h > 20h	-15° > -30°	Saturn	18h > 20h	-15° > -30°	
Meteor Showers					
Name	Begins	Maximum	Ends	Max ZHR	Radiant Coordinates
Leonids *	Nov 15	Nov 17	Nov 19	Varies	10h 08m RA +22° Dec
Geminids *	Dec 7	Dec 14	Dec 15	50	07h 28m RA +32° Dec
Ursids	Dec 17	Dec 22	Dec 24	12	14h 28m RA +78° Dec
* moonlight interferes					

Note: All co-ordinates refer to the 'equatorial system'.

The Planets

VENUS - November. Venus has increased in brightness in recent months and is now at magnitude -4.5. The planet will reach maximum eastern elongation on November 8th (47°09'), the highest for the remainder of this century. Venus is visible low on the south western horizon for nearly two hours after sunset by the end of the month. The planet passes 4° south of Saturn on November 15th and the moon is near this planet on the 2nd.

December. Venus attains its greatest brilliancy of magnitude of -4.7 on December 14th. The planet is some 40° from the suns position and dominates the southwest to western sky in the early evenings. Venus will be at its crescent phase and the moon is nearby on the 1st.

MARS - November. Mars at magnitude +1.7 is moving away from the sun now and is low in the southeastern sky throughout the month, rising only two before the sun.

December. Mars rises around 05h 30m as a morning object during December. The planet passes 5° north of Antares on

December 30th, when the planet (at magnitude +1.6) is approximately half a magnitude fainter than the star. Crescent moon nearby on the 26th.

JUPITER - November. Jupiter rises at 20h on the 1st and by 18h on the 30th, at magnitude -2.6. The planet is visible for most of the night, slowly moving westwards in Gemini. Moon nearby on the 16th.

December. Jupiter is at opposition on the 27th at magnitude -2.7, when the planet's distance from the Earth will be 623 million kilometres. The moon is nearby on the 13th.

SATURN - November. Saturn sets at 20h on the 1st and just after the end of twilight by the 30th at magnitude +0.6. Saturn is moving towards the position of the sun. The moon is nearby on the 3rd and Venus will be near this planet on 15th - 16th.

December. Saturn is into evening twilight this month, setting only one hour after the sun by 31st at magnitude +0.5. Seen in the British Isles for the first week in December.

The motion of the planets against the backdrop of stars is slow but readily noticed by hours of observing and more readily noticeable from night to night and month by month.

distance (Hubbles Law). This discovery of a universe which was expanding, gave birth to the 'Big Bang Theory', a major triumph of 20th century astronomy.

The idea behind the joint NASA/ESA mission is to place a two-metre reflecting class astronomical telescope and its associated instrumentation into low Earth orbit and maintain and operate it over an extended period as a multi-purpose international astronomical observatory. Unlike Earth based telescopes, HST will operate above the Earth's atmosphere, providing more astronomers with a clearer and much more detailed view of the universe, throughout the ultraviolet, visible and near infrared parts of the electromagnetic spectrum.

HST observations are therefore expected to have a significant impact on nearly all fields of modern astronomy.

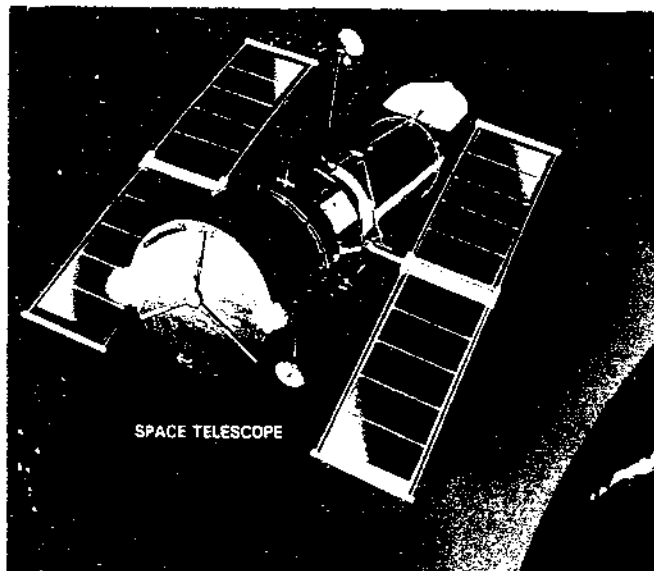
An advantage of having a telescope in space is that light radiated by astronomical objects in a wide band of the electromagnetic spectrum will enter the telescope and be focussed.

The fully assembled Hubble Telescope is 14m long, has a diameter of 4m and weighs more than 11 tons. It will be launched by the space shuttle into a 590km high, 28.5° inclination, low Earth orbit. The launch is scheduled for 11th December 1989 onboard 'Discovery'.

SPACE NEWS

HST - Ready for launch

The Hubble Space Telescope (HST) is scheduled for launch in December 1989, named after the famous American astronomer Edwin P. Hubble (1889 - 1953) who made a number of important discoveries. In 1929, this pioneer of astronomy, analysed the speeds of recession of a number of galaxies and showed that the speed at which a galaxy moves away from is proportional to its



The Hubble Space Telescope

Easy Maintenance

HST is planned to have a fifteen year lifetime, with the possibility for the maintenance and upgrading in orbit. All scientific instruments and many of the critical spacecraft subsystems are designed so that they can be repaired or replaced by a space suited astronaut in orbit.

The space shuttle is expected to visit HST about once every three years. It will thus be possible to gradually refurbish or replace the various scientific instruments as they fail to become obsolete during the observatory's lifetime.

The possibilities for HST are too numerous to mention here, but all in all the spacecraft will prove a valuable tool for astronomers worldwide, making new discoveries and aiding other space missions in pushing astronomy into a new age.

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If any investigator requires astronomical information to help with the evaluation of case investigations please write to:

Gary Anthony, BUFORA ARP, 141 Newington Street, Hull, North Humberside, HU3 5LF.

K R A T T A

It has been noticed that due to a printing error, part of Paul Fuller's article 'The Statistical Treatment of UFO Reports' (UFO Times 3, pp 11 para 3) was not reproduced correctly. We have reprinted the said section below.

If we decide to exclude Rendlesham (for whatever reasons), should we not also omit the Lakenheath-Bentwaters events? Or the Tehran (1976) case? Clearly our decision is critically important, given the number of well documented, high-strangeness reports involving military personnel.

The Editorial Board hope that the error did not cause to much confusion.



REVIEWS

Caught Live

**Yorkshire UFO Society Conference,
Ossett, West Yorkshire, September 23,
1989.**

The eighth annual UFO conference held by the Yorkshire UFO Society (YUFOS) took place in the quaint Victorian Ossett Town Hall, where 'Britains leading UFO experts' assembled to enthral a crowd of around 250 with yarns about crashed flying saucers, dark government plots to withhold information about alien presence on earth and strange 'invisible force fields' which are allegedly creating the mysterious cornfield circles across the Wiltshire countryside.

Professional Approach?

Graham Birdsall, YUFOS president, announced from the stage that the audience should note the changes that have occurred in YUFOS since previous conferences - viz "a new professional approach"; despite this announcement, by 5.40 p.m., when the days proceedings were scheduled to come to an end - two of the speakers had not yet delivered their papers! Unfortunately, however, nothing much appears to have changed in YUFOS' approach to the study of the phenomena, as very little was said about UFOs themselves during the days proceedings. Dark hints about official cover-ups of UFO crashes, an hilarious story about a saucer shot down by a laser-cannon mounted on a South African jet (!) and subsequently shipped over to Wright-Patterson AFB in the USA, and other dubious stories were discussed by the speakers but very little in the way of 'bread and butterufology' (case

reports and investigations, for instance) were given a word in edgeways.

Timothy Good, author of 'Above Top Secret' - who is treated as a kind of demi-god by the assembled YUFOS masses - trooped out his familiar 'aliens are real' diatribe, a standard feature of every YUFOS conference since 1985 - full of extraordinary claims but lacking in extraordinary evidence. The most interesting talk was by Ralph Noyes on the subject of the Rendlesham Forest case; Noyes stood out as an oasis of sensibility during a day in which, for instance, the audience had been subjected to a rambling and incoherent talk delivered by Dr. Henry ('Raider of the Lost Orchids') Azadehdel - described as "one of the world's leading experts on abductions" (!).

Possibly the funniest talk of all was that by George Wingfield on the 'mystery circles' during which he referred to the efforts of "a lesser UFO group" (presumably BUFORA) to debunk the mystery as a natural phenomena, but whose investigators had conducted no first hand investigation of their own (!!). Wingfield also referred to the plasma-vortex explanation of Dr. Terence Meaden, which was dismissed with the odd comment that "the last resort of debunkers is ball lightning"; despite the fact that all the evidence that he presented to support the absurd UFO connection to circle formation is perfectly consistent with the plasma-vortex theory. We were also informed that the circles were "evolving" in an intelligent manner and locating themselves intelligently near ancient sites such as White Horses and Silbury Hill - which to him would be impossible for a natural phenomena, whilst at the same time claiming that the formation of

circles had no relationship to topographical features (a statement which is demonstrably false). Wingfield and his colleagues prefer to hint vaguely at invisible force fields and mind-reading intelligences as the agency behind the circles. Everybody knows what he really means is that the Space Aliens are behind it all - but he daren't admit it because like the others in the Circles Phenomena Research Group, he aspires to be a 'Scientific investigator'.

Conclusion

I came away from the conference with two words impressed upon my mind - "Raving Mad!" along with the impression that, finally, the American brand of pop Ufology had reached the shores of the British Isles. A vastly entertaining day, but may the Lord have mercy upon our souls if this is the future of ufology.

Review by Dave Clarke.

NEWS

Due to higher than expected demand, BUFORA have reprinted Controversy of the Circles. Despite the competition, the 112 page booklet, written by Jenny Randles and Paul Fuller is selling wherever it is displayed for sale.

If you have not ordered your copy then order you **now** from 37 Heathbank Road, Cheadle Heath, Stockport, Cheshire, SK3 0UP. Price £4.20 (inc p & p).

BUFORA has now joined the ever growing Small Press Group, an organisation dedicated to promoting the growth of small press and publishing ventures. It is hoped that by utilising the SPG network of contacts and promotional services, BUFORA Publishing will grow in stature; producing better quality tomes and widening our customer base.

On the September 16th the SPG organised the National Small Press Fair at Conway Hall in the heart of London. BUFORA stood out prominently as a main exhibitor, displaying all of the Association's latest publications and member services. The BUFORA stand was manned by Chairman, Steve Gamble, Director of Publications Mike Wootten and Gaynor Sunderland (who got the teas!).

It seems from the press release that accompanies Paul Devereux's latest book 'Eathlights Revelations' (see, I can spell Revelations correctly), that Cassells publicity department are not very good at getting their facts right. Not only did they publish an inaccurate page count (254 pages instead of the correct 239 pages) but more importantly, they got the price of the book completely wrong. The correct jacket price for the hardback edition is £12.95 (not £14.95 as stated in the press release).

BUFORA are also pursuing the publishers for printing the wrong telephone number of UFOCALL which was helping them to publicise the book.

There seems to be a lot going on with Whitley Strieber on the publishing front

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lately.

Strieber's latest novel, 'Majestic' was published by Putnam Publishing in September. I understand the story revolves around the Roswell incident and the MJ-12 saga.

Edward Conroy has completed his book

'Report on Communion' and will be published by William Morrow this month.

Finally, the film of 'Communion', starring Christopher Walken as Strieber and Lindsay Crouse as Anne has been released in 80 US cities in October.

Reports by Mike Wootten

EARTHLIGHTS ANECDOTE

by Gaynor Sunderland

A family friend recently told me about an incident that happened to her husband. About three years ago her husband was on an expedition in Iceland. One day the group had decided to climb one of the glaciers and set out early in the morning to do so.

By mid-afternoon the group of twelve climbers had climbed the glacier and were on their descent. As they rounded a sharp bend her husband saw a massive globe of multicoloured light blocking the trail in front of them. He thought that he was hallucinating but the other people began to point at it and ask what it was.

They walked down the path towards the ball of light which he later described as about 30 feet in diameter and made up of every colour that he could imagine with each colour having a brilliant clarity to it.

Aura

He walked into the light and said that he felt completely calm walking through; he could still see the light around him. When he emerged out of the other side the outline of his body was completely covered in the light. The other people also walked through, emerging on the other side bathed in an aura of light.

They walked through it a number of times but could not explain what this huge ball of brilliantly coloured light was. They decided to carry on with their descent but as they started to

walk away they turned to take a last look at the light, it suddenly started to shimmer and then completely disappear, as did the light surrounding themselves.

When they got back to their base no-one there had ever had the same experience.

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BRITISH PHOTOGRAPHIC CASES

Part 2

by Nigel Smith

Nigel continues his photographic retrospective.

One of the 8mm cases clearly forms a category of it's own which I shall designate as 'Fortean' although I have included it as an IFO in the table. It purports to be of 'cloud phenomena' which indeed it is and jolly nice ones too, but I could find nothing remotely anomolous or sinister about them. Strangeness, I suppose, is in the eye of the beholder.

Of the eighteen cases I have so far described, I would regard the identification of eleven of them to be fairly well tied up. In the other eight there is room for clarification on certain points though I am satisfied there is nothing theoretically inexplicable about them.

So I have made a rather arbitrary distinction between these cases and a final category of seven in which there is insufficient evidence to make any final assessment, although I can provide reasonable guesses for at least four. One photograph is of a very distant LITS but is much too small to provide any information. Given the angle, position and time of day, sunlight glinting off an aircraft is a possibility. A series of photo's of a nighttime stationary LITS suffer from severe camera shake and there are also contradictions in the witness's story regarding a purported close-up of the same object. It is just possible that they are of a planet. If not, then assuming the rest of the witness's account to be true, they would be very difficult to identify, but the photographs alone provide no answers. There is another nighttime LITS case and this also suffers from camera shake. Here too, there is insufficient data to go on but I suspect a helicopter might be responsible. I have already mentioned the anonymous Solent film of a white streak that shoots along and then upward from off the Isle of Wight. The consensus of opinion is that it shows some sort of missile or other military activity, possibly even a jet. Again

there is insufficient detail to be certain, particularly as we do not have a sighting to back it up.

The other 16mm film that was given me from the archives is possibly that which is known as the 'Stanton' film, although I have no details on it's origin, date, location, etc. It shows a fuzzy white blob in a clear blue sky with no way of telling wether it is in motion or how far away it is. There is no reason why it could not be the out-of-focus reflection of sunlight on a helicopter or plane, but there is not enough information to tell. One polaroid 'photograph' contains, amid a mess of undecipherable colours, the possible vague silhouette of a building although the photographer insists none was there at the time. I don't know what to say about this other than that Polaroids are exceptionally prone to faults due to the peculiarity of their chemistry and engineering.

A photo of two lights against a black background could easily be, as evidenced by the photo alone, a pair of car headlights shot almost anywhere, However, if the witness's story is accurate and the lights were floating one above the other across a Yorkshire moor, they must be unexplainable in any conventional terms. Could they be Eathlights? Unfortunately, the print I saw will prove nothing, not even the way the lights are orientated. As is often the case, the status of the UFO depends entirely on the reliability of the photographer's testimony, not his

	Number in Total	Negatives/ originals available for	Evidence Accompanying purported sighting	Cases with both sighting/ negatives	Cases since 1985	Film/ video
Identifiable objects	10	3	8	3	4	2
Photographic Effects	6	3	1	1	2	0
Hoax	2	0	1	0	2	0
Insufficient Information	7	2	5	2	2	2
Pending	3	1	3	0	2	1

photograph. Finally, there are two photographic cases pending, including another 'psychedelic' Polaroid, and also our first ever video case - from a Police traffic control camera on the M1.

very often I had to work with prints or copies only, and this obviously restricts the amount of time worth spending on them. In fact in only nine cases did I have access to the original material and only six of these were supported by eye-witness testimony. These were: The two possible aircraft/helicopters, a weather balloon, the flashlight in the window, the possible planet with severe camera-shake and, last but not least, the cloud film. Of course all of these evaluations, even as tentative as they are, are based on mine or someone else's judgement and are always open to question, and it remains to the witness, investigator and NIC to accept or dismiss them as they see fit. The problem is that the quality of most UFO photographs is insufficient on which to make definitive judgements. Poor focus, lack of reference, camera-shake, lack of size, incorrect exposure and lack of access to the original are all distorting elements which conceal the identification of the UFO in just the same way that unreliability of human observation does. The camera may not lie exactly, but it can be pretty economical with the truth.

We are then in the position of relying

on the witness's story in order to interpret the photo, instead of as we had hoped, the other way around. And no amount of technical processes will necessarily compensate for this. However, this apart, when we have a case that would be interesting anyway, we should really consider ourselves lucky to have any additional evidence to examine at all.

All we can do is to continue to improve our experience of such material and our methods for dealing with it in the hope that something of real importance comes up. We must remember though that there will always be a limit to what camera can prove on it's own, and that ultimately a photograph is only as good as the story that goes with it.

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LETTERS

If you want to air your views on the UFO subject, then send your correspondence to:

The Editor,
UFO Times,
103 Hove Avenue,
London,
E17 7NG

Over The Top?

Dear Mike,

As a new member of BUFORA, I joined because I feel that you do a valuable job in evaluating and attempting to explain phenomena in a scientific way. For this I applaud you. But, there are times when I feel BUFORA goes over the top - particularly regarding incidents involving the RAF, such as the Stop Press item in UFO Times 3 regarding the Tornado dogfight.

I spent 9 years in RAF administration and never once heard of the slightest incident involving UFOs. Also there appears to be a lack of understanding of the RAF within BUFORA. For instance, all active Tornado Interceptor bases are on the east coast. Should a Tornado proceed on a sortie with live air-to-air missiles, it would be over the North Sea, not Irish. Should any Tornado fighters fly over the west coast, they would most likely be the Interdictor version, en route to one of the training bombers ranges. Under no circumstances would such an aircraft have live missiles on board.

However, this is not to deny that the witnesses appeared to see an aircraft fire missiles. But if a missile wasn't fired, what could it have been? Admitting that I know little of the actual event, I can think of one routine manoeuvre that could give the impression of a missile being fired at night. This is a sudden change of thrust to re-heat. To the untrained observer the effect of this operation would be to see an immediate increase in speed with a long tail of flame, much brighter than the norm. I am not saying this is what happened, but it certainly seems feasible to me.

Anthony North,
North Yorkshire.

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Editors Comment: Thank you for your comments and I am pleased to see a new member actively participating within the pages of UFO Times.

However, I would not agree with you that BUFORA goes 'over the top' with reported events involving the RAF or other military establishments. In the Stop Press article you refer to, the word **alleged** is used twice; inferring that we are keeping an open mind on the case. It is our duty as a UFO research organisation to inquire into any case (bizarre or otherwise) that we receive irrespective of whether they involve the military or not. I would also be failing as an editor if interesting information is not relayed to the readership of UFO Times.

Finally to answer your point that despite your position within the RAF and never hearing of one incident involving UFOs, I would refer you to page 82 of 'Phenomenon' (edited by John Spencer and Hilary Evans and published in conjunction with BUFORA) where Martin Shough analyses the RAF Bentwaters radar/visual case that occurred in 1956, in great detail and to a case discussed in the pages of this issue of UFO Times by Harry Harris. Many cases of this type have occurred around the world and they are highlighted by the UFO community because of the calibre of the witnesses (being trained observers) and official confirmations that come to light from time to time.

However, the points you have raised have been passed to the investigations department where I am sure they will be of use when dealing with the case in question.

Major

Dear Mike,

May I express my best compliments for the first issue of 'UFO Times'! The typed presentations is still somewhat J-TAP like, but the contents are most informative and well done, both from the reader's viewpoint and from an active editor's, like myself.

I am sure it will improve higher and higher, but just now it already stands as a "major" in the UFO publishing field worldwide. Let Britain have the national UFO journal it deserves!

Keep up the good work.

Edoardo Russo

CISU Foreign Relations Director
Italy

Editors Comment: Thank-you for your words of support. I can assure you that we will continue to strive to present developments within British ufology within the pages of UFO Times to our growing readership (a readership that has grown by over 25% in three issues).

Stop Press

If you did not read any newspapers or listen to the radio or television news on October 10th, then this UFO Times stop press is just for you.

Tass, the official Moscow news agency confirmed that an alien spaceship had landed on Soviet territory. This is the latest UFO story to appear in the glasnost reformed Russian media.

According to Tass, a large shining ball or disk was seen hovering over a park in Voronezh, a large industrial city 300 miles southeast of Moscow. The witnesses stated that the UFO landed and three creatures similar to humans emerged accompanied by a small robot. Tass said, "The aliens were three or even four metres tall (9-12ft), with very small heads," the news agency quoted witnesses as saying, "They walked near the ball or disc and then disappeared inside."

Although the original press statement did not give a date of the alleged incident, it later transpired that it occurred on September 27th 1989 following several sightings of strange objects in the skies over Voronezh.

As the world media machine latched

DIARY

- 4th November **BUFORA London Lecture What Proof Do They Want?**
Speaker Maurice Grosse at the LBS.
- 18th November **BUFORA Regional Lecture: Manchester.**
Central Library, St Peter's Square. Programme: Celtic Connections: Dave Clarke plus 3 films to be shown & discussed.
Details from Philip Mantle, 1 Woodhall Drive, Batley, West Yorkshire, WF17 7SW.
- 25th November **FUFOIG UFO Conference, Blackpool**
Speakers include: Andy Roberts, Dave Clarke, Philip Mantle, Arthur Tomlinson, Tim Good and Harry Harris.
Details from FUFOIG, 293 Devonshire Road, Blackpool, Lancashire, FY2 OTW
- 2nd December **BUFORA London Lecture Beyond the Boggle Threshold?**
Speaker Lynn Picknett
- 6th January 90 **BUFORA London Lecture Evaluating the Data**
Speaker Dr D.J. West, M.D. Litt.D, F.R.C Psych.
- 20th January **BUFORA Regional Lecture: Northampton.**
Friends' Meeting House, Wellington Street.
Programme: Northamptonshire UFO Cases, Ernie Still, Analysis of Photographic Cases, Steve Gamble
Details from Ernie Still, 46 Occupation Road, Corby Northamptonshire, NN17 2EF

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Stop Press continued from page 27

onto the story more details became more apparent, possibly showing the true nature of the case. In addition to the confusion over the alien rocks being left behind, it was also claimed that the teenage witnesses had been fired on by a ray gun; rendering one of the children invisible for some time. At this time the story was becoming more unbelievable.

It also transpires that the park (which turns out to be waste ground) is

surrounded by a housing estate of tower blocks with an estimated population of 5000. It has been admitted that the only witnesses are a handful of teenagers.

'Biolocation' (ESP in fact), was claimed to have been used to confirm the landing site, by scientists from the Voronezh Geophysical Laboratory (Paul Devereux please note).

More on this case in UFO Times 5 (if its worth it!).