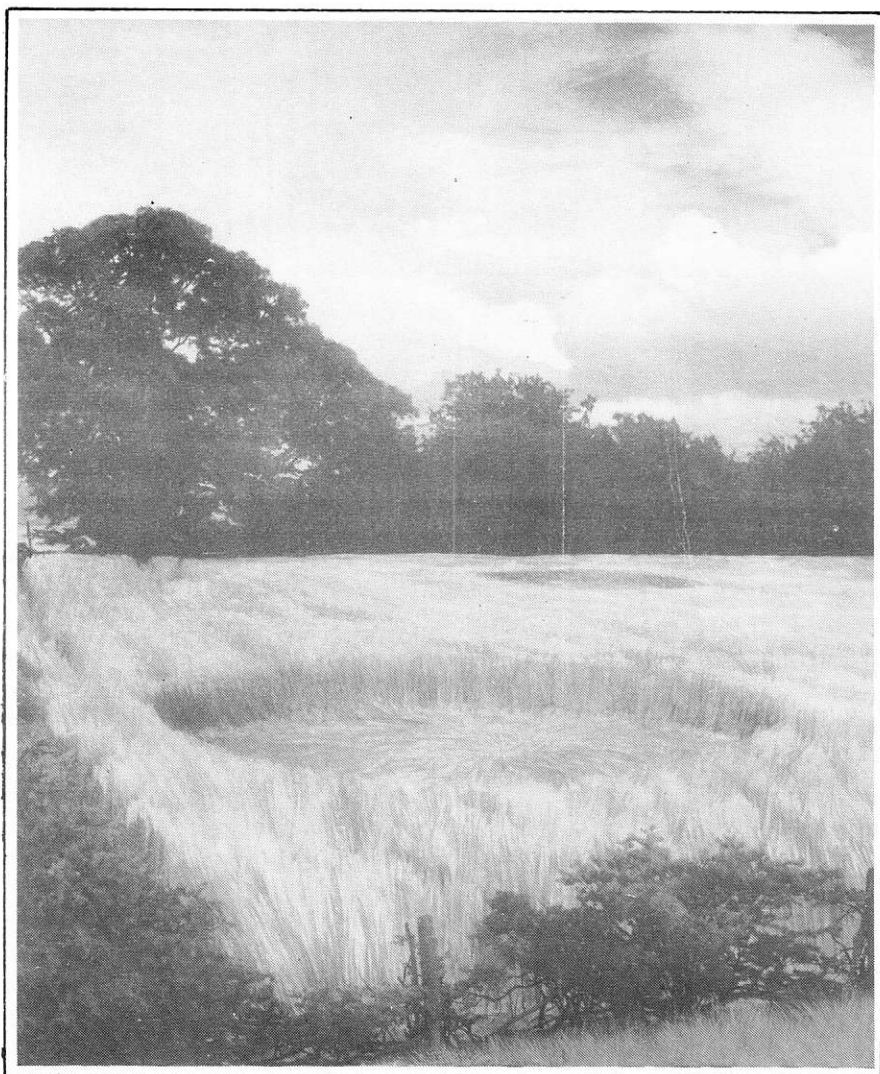

UFO TIMES

Number 7 July 1990

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CIRCLE MANIA

INSIDE

Patrick Vidal of SOBEPS gives a detailed analysis of the UFO wave in Belgium at the beginning of the year.

Corn Circles are back, with an increased crop of them this year - diversifying with a multitude of patterns. Paul Fuller presents a 1990 status report and John Spencer expresses his views on their impact on ufology

Anamnesis - Ken Phillips gives an update of his in-depth research

Plus.....
Thomas Bullard on the Hill Abduction Skywatcher,
Letters and more..

A BUFORA PUBLICATION

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RESEARCH AND INVESTIGATION

DIRECTOR OF RESEARCH

Stephen Gamble,
16 Southway,
Burgess Hill,
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DIRECTOR OF INVESTIGATIONS

Jenny Randles
37 Heathbank Road,
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Philip Mantle,
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PRESS OFFICER

Philip Mantle,
1 Woodhall Drive,
Batley,
West Yorkshire,
WF17 7SW.

NEWSCLIPPING ARCHIVE

Michael Hudson,
71 Knight Avenue,
Canterbury,
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AIMS

1. To encourage, promote and conduct unbiased scientific research of unidentified flying object (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.

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EDITOR

Mike Wootten,
103 Hove Avenue,
London,
E17 7NG
U.K.

ASSISTANT EDITORS

John Spencer
Ken Phillips

RESEARCH EDITOR

Steve Gamble

FEATURE EDITORS

Jenny Randles
Gary Anthony

OVERSEAS LIAISON

Hilary Evans

ARTIST

Edward Clark

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Apologies to readers for the delayed publication of this edition of UFO Times. It is hoped that we will be able to catch up with the next issue.

UFO TIMES

EDITORIAL

Circles are back and back with a vengeance. Towards the end of last year and leading up to the 'circles season' it seemed that those backing and presenting the meteorological theory had won the argument once and for all.

Now, that position has changed. The argument and all current theories have, in my opinion, been well and truly thrown back to square one. The amount of circles appearing this year are almost poised to break all records and there is at least another six weeks to go until harvest time. Circles are bigger this year. Circles have been recorded that are some 92 metres across, which is huge.

Now the circles are not necessarily just circles. More and more complex and amazing patterns are forming to baffle the myriad of researchers now involved with this phenomenon.

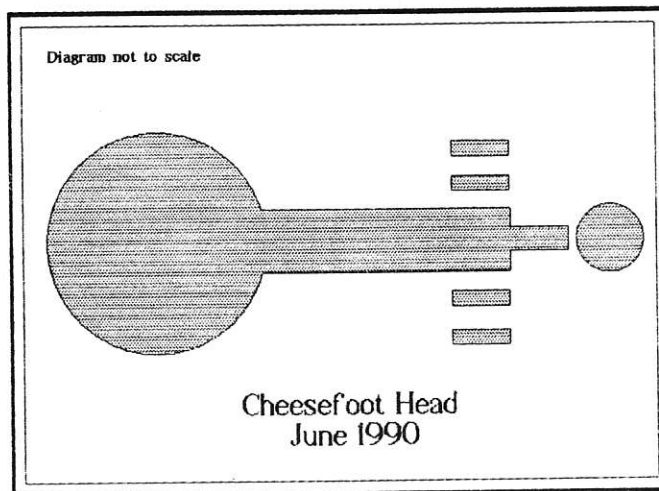
Pristine

So what is happening? Who or what is behind it? After hearing that new patterns were appearing this year, I pretty well convinced myself that these were clever hoaxes. This may still be the case, but how are such elaborate patterns produced in such a pristine condition with little or now damage to the host crops' stems. Surely damage would be evident, especially as the process generally occurs at night. If a 'what' is behind this phenomenon then what kind of 'what'? Plasma Vortex theory postulated by Terence Meaden may certainly cover many of the circles produced but cannot conceivably explain those patterns recently discovered at Cheesefoot Head this year. Approximately six patterns similar to the diagram

below has been recorded, appearing only it seems to frustrate circle researchers.

However, despite these new formations, feet must be kept firmly on terra firma. Talk of 'intelligences' and 'some kind of force field' are not good enough explanations and do not (in themselves) defeat Meaden's more formulated explanations, although the media love it. As I have said before it is dangerous to explain an anomalous event with an anomalous explanation - that gets one nowhere.

Another facet of the circles is their apparent ability to appeal to all areas of the paranormal. If I didn't know better, I would have thought that circles had taken a degree in Marketing! If your either in the new age, UFOs, earth mysteries, the occult, the circles seem to have an affinity with all these groups or visa versa. Keeping all of the people happy all of the time!



One final message on circles from me. To all those currently working on this; can we please cut the rhetoric. There are differing views to this amazing phenomenon, whether it be hoax, meteorological or as yet undiscovered invisible intelligences - working together and cutting the bitching, back biting and threats of legal action against one another simply will detract from some of the good work that is being carried out.

MORE BENELUX U F O S

by Patrick Vidal (SOBEPS)

translation by Ken Phillips

This paper is presented in order to inform you of recent, unexpected UFO events in Belgium. Our purpose is not to engage ourselves in controversy or to defend a particular hypothesis; we are merely keeping to the facts and to the preliminary indications resulting from the study of the reports.

During the course of an inquiry carried out in the east of Belgium at the end of October 1989, a woman in the region of VERVIERS shared with us an observation of a strange, triangular 'aircraft' which appeared to be phosphorescent. At that moment it perplexed us somewhat but the object concerned was an isolated case and the idea came to us that we were confusing the object with the body of a MIRAGE 5 aircraft.

Our surprise was intensified when, at the beginning of December 1989, we learnt that two gendarmes on patrol in the region of EUPEN on the evening of the 29 November 1989 were confronted by an aerial phenomenon of a triangular shape. There, at 17h 24 in the evening, the attention of the gendarmes Nicoll and Von Montigny was attracted by powerful lights coming from a meadow at the side of the road. These bright lights were emanating from a sort of triangular 'platform' of large dimensions. There were three large white lights on the 'platform' and were arranged in the form of a triangle; at the centre of this triangle, a rotating light of a reddish-orange hue was visible. The object, at first stationary, put itself into motion and proceeded towards the NE.

This incident, which we can only summarize very briefly here came from a lengthy series reported by the Belgium press (the last of these which, by the volume of references pertinent to the

reports, allowed us to access a number of witnesses), so at an early stage we were able to determine the exact location and were able to meet the two gendarmes.

In fact, these two officials were not the only persons to see this strange object there on that evening. In the days which followed, SOBEPS [Societe Belge D'Etude Des Phenomenes Spatiaux] received dozens of reports from witnesses affirming to have observed these triangular objects manifesting in that region on the evening of the 29 November 1989.

These people have all been perplexed by the imposing size of the 'machine', its very slow speed ("..... I could have followed it at a walking pace", said one witness), its almost total absence of sound, its very low altitude and the power of its lights.

Throughout the months of December 1989, January and February 1990, the secretariat of SOBEPS logged dozens of reports. At this moment in time (March 1990) more than 600 cases have been notified to us. In the first weeks most of the reports came from the same region (in the east of the country) but gradually we received reports originating from the other provinces (from the regions of: Namur, Tournai, Charleroi, Flandre and the Ardennes amongst others).

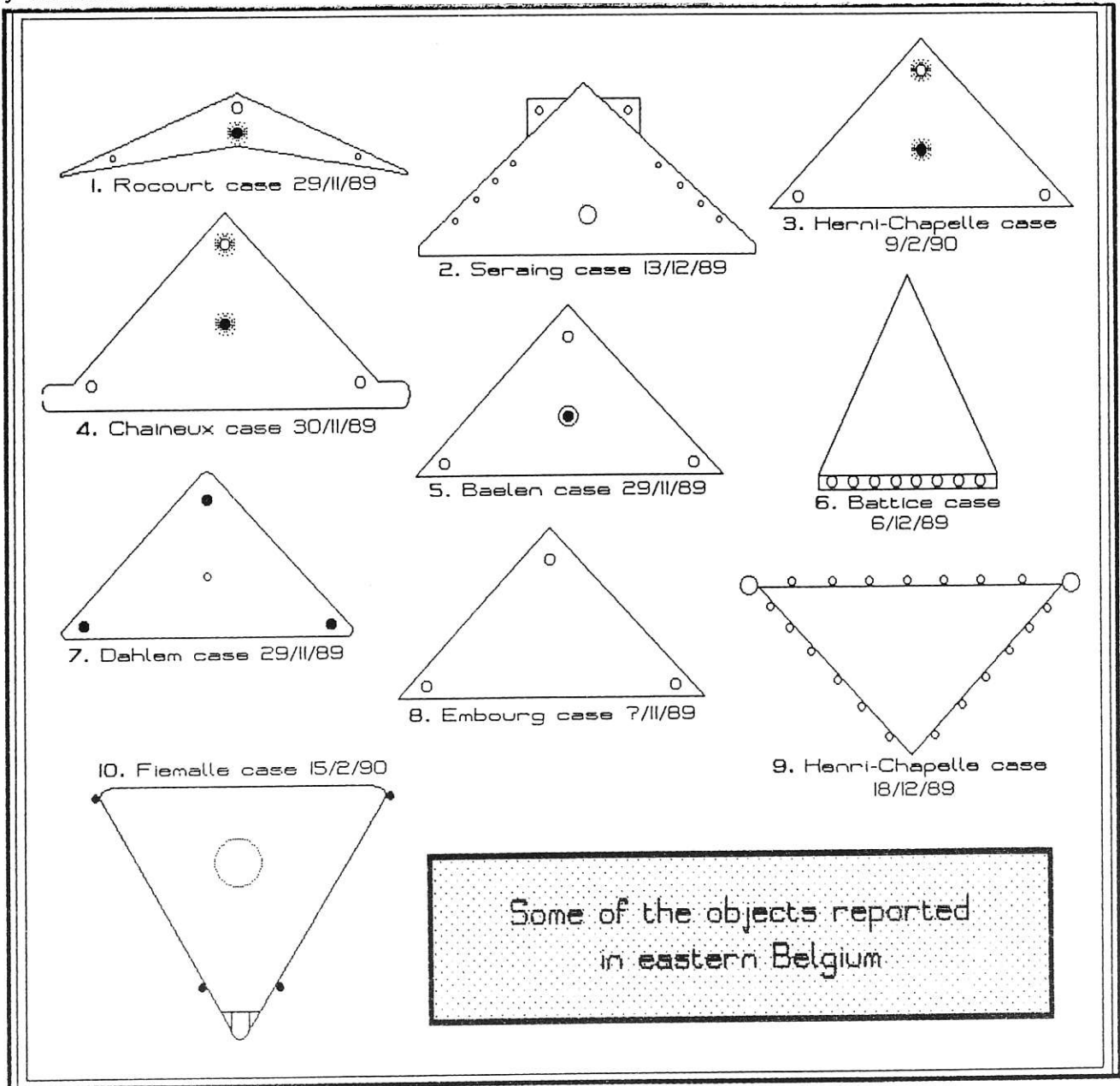
Many cases are inexplicable because

the information is succinct and/or the distance separating the observer from the phenomenon was too great. Nevertheless, from the descriptions given to us we had sufficient data to affirm that the general shape was triangular (the corners often rounded) and frequently of immense size.

Many reports describing the characteristics of the object seen estimated it to have been the size of a football stadium, moved very slowly (in numerous cases the speed seemed less than 100 Km/h) and relatively silently (certain witnesses referred to the detection of a noise resembling that of a small, electric motor or to that of a gas turbine slowing down), through the Belgium airspace at various times over many months.

Diverse observations made referred to a red, luminous mass or to small, luminous bodies wider than the 'machine'. In certain cases the witnesses generally describe an illumination of a green colour, the source of which is as bright as the sun and directed towards the sky. The green lights (of great intensity and duration of many seconds) have manifested themselves in the same way as the other lights.

In the framework of this vagueness it is sometimes imperative to question the landings or quasi-landings since no CEIII case has been brought to our attention. However, physical effects and effects on the behaviour of the human witnesses and animals as well as the electromagnetic effects (on public



sodium lighting notably) have been indicated.

On the subject of physical effects we cannot yet give any explanations because research is still in progress; caution then is indispensable.

Some contacts have been made with the Belgium Airforce but they indicated that the reported objects were unknown to them but it was agreed with the airforce to form some collaboration between them and SOBEPS.

The same type of collaboration applies with the Belgium Gendarmerie who, henceforth, will transmit all information relative to UFO reports made to them.

Video Details

More than 15 video sequences have been filmed by witnesses as well as numerous photographs. Altogether, these documents are not of exceptional detail, but they are in the process of being examined and one of these has been entrusted to RICHARD F. HAINES in the USA for analysis. Information gathered on the ground by about 40 investigators will be drafted into a reports in the near future for reference purposes.

We have envisaged many working hypotheses but recently we had to eliminate them for diverse reasons. Here are some examples:-

1) **CANULAR:** too many people are involved. Duration estimates are vague.

2) **HALLUCINATIONS/MISINTERPRETATIONS** numerous mistakes are suspected in cases where the observation distances are great, nevertheless, in those reports which concern close observations we can eliminate the first hypothesis of hallucination because of the video films and photographs, the number of witnesses involved and the geographic distribution. In the region of Eupen (in the east of the country) the people there are used to seeing advanced aircraft and radar planes of the AWAC type based at Beirset in Belgium and at Geilenkirchen in the west of Germany.

3) **DRONES [Remotely Piloted Air Vehicles]]:** any apparatus known and deployed in this sector of NATO do not have the size given by the witness (more than 50m). Furthermore, the Belgium defence minister affirmed categorically that the Defence Ministry would not have such a machine.

4) **LASERS, HOLOGRAMS:** the geographic distribution of the cases, the descriptions given by the witnesses, the video films and photos allow the elimination of these hypotheses.

5) **NATURAL PHENOMENA:** the objects described and the numerous repetitions argue in favour of material objects and not natural phenomena.

6) **ESPIONAGE APPARATUS:** by the nature of their flight, their lighting and the repetitive characteristics of the manifestations renders the objects as non-discreet and, therefore, do not correspond to a typical espionage apparatus (not to mention the risk of crashing and the diplomatic fall-out which would follow as a consequence).

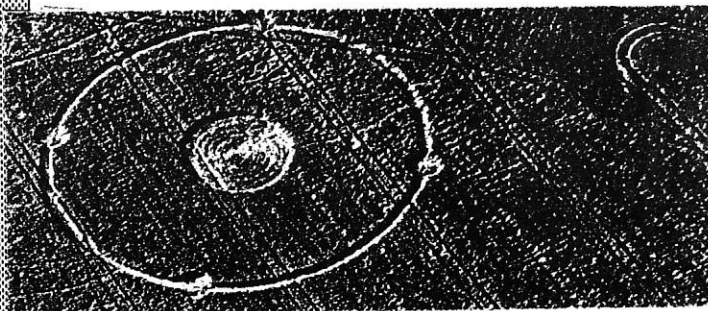
7) **STEALTH AIRCRAFT:** in a press communique dated 21st. December 1989 the Belgium defence minister affirmed, after enquiries to the general headquarters of the USAF in Washington, that the United States Ambassador in Brussels has flatly denied any presence of stealth apparatus in the Belgium airspace.

At this time, the phenomenon (which continues to manifest), remains unidentified. We cordially invite you, therefore, to communicate with us any relevant information on similar reports which might have unexpectedly arisen in your country [GB] in the course of recent years or over the past few months as such communication will facilitate our research in this domain.

We will keep you informed of the situation during the course of our investigations.

UFOLOGY COMING FULL CIRCLE?

by John Spencer



There has been a great deal of controversy over the 'Cornfield Circles' in recent months, and there may be a strange twist to this sub-set of Ufology that should be watched with caution.

I should say at the outset that this is not really an article on the Circles as such. The Circles are not a part of the UFO phenomenon that I have studied personally so I have no expertise to offer, and all of my knowledge comes from reading what other people have done. I am interested in them of course but my own particular cases and areas of work allow me little time to do more than watch from afar.

However, I am crucially interested in the UFO phenomenon as a whole, and I have been delighted to have been a part of the modern trend towards a serious and scientific analysis of the subject. Those who have attended the numerous lectures I have been giving around the country in the past few months will know that I have used them - with some success - to appeal directly into the scientific community for respect and help, and I believe that the positive feedback achieved has been a result of my demonstrating that BUFORA has led the way in the UK towards an unbiased and objective study of all areas of the phenomenon.

This inevitably has led to criticism of those who have in the past forty years sought to turn an objective study into a cultist form of worship, of those who have asked us to 'believe' without evidence.

We must never forget that the image of UFOs and UFO groups which was born from the Californian Contactees of the 1950s is an image which persists in the minds of the media even to this day as the embodiment of UFO research. It is an image of uncritical acceptance without study, an image of sloppy and unscientific study, an image of devoted worship, of people who could see pictures in the flames in the fire if they looked hard enough and then tell the world it constituted proof.

And I'm not talking about the witnesses. I'm talking about the so-called researchers themselves.

And they wondered why the world sneered and why we're still regarded as 'silly season' material.

Image Banishing

In the past few years I've felt smugly contented that we were on the road to banishing that image; that our work would be less hampered by the tabloid media and more aided by front-line scientists.

And then the Circles came to the fore.

The Circles are a totally unique part of the UFO phenomenon. They are not the subject of only witness testimony

requiring corroboration, nor do they require analysis of witness-credibility. They exist for all to see. They remain after the event to allow for full scientific study. Of UFOs it has been said that we don't study UFOs we study UFO reports, we are dependent on people. That is not the case with the circles; we come as close here to 'unbolting UFOs to see how they work' as we will ever do. Whatever causes them; hurricane vortex, mating hedgehogs, the drunks from the local pub or the bug-eyed guys from Zeta Reticuli, the one indisputable fact about them is that THEY PHYSICALLY EXIST.

The nearest thing we have had to Circles in the past is photographs. Yet photographs can be easily faked, and in conditions of secrecy which allow for little exposure by accident. Circles presumably can be faked (give Spielberg \$25 million and see what he can do before you say it CAN'T be done!) but certainly they can't be faked easily, and the danger of exposure is high since obviously you have to stand in an open exposed place to perform the hoax.

Proving Ourselves

So in the circles we have a tremendous potential resource. Not to solve the UFO mystery or even the Circles mystery (though of course that too). But mainly the resource we have here is PROOF OF OURSELVES.

PROOF that we can research scientifically. PROOF that we are not cultists seeing only what we want to see. PROOF that when given the evidence we can deal appropriately with it. PROOF that we are not self-perpetuating myth makers but ready to say 'job done and finished' when the time comes. PROF that we are 'in the business' to find answers, not to pander to our own fantasies.

The Circles are a phenomenon that - because of their obvious physical existence - can be shared by non-UFO researchers. They are evidence that even the most hardened sceptic cannot say 'it's all in the mind'.

AND IT IS A FACT THAT OUR FUTURE REPUTATIONS MAY STAND OR FALL ON HOW WE PRESENT OUR APPROACH TO THE CIRCLES.

Why? For the obvious reason that our work can be checked after the fact. That others not sympathetic to our views can do their own work; and can tear our approach to shreds if we do defective work. We are - for the first time in the forty-three years of Modern Ufology - threatened with external audit.

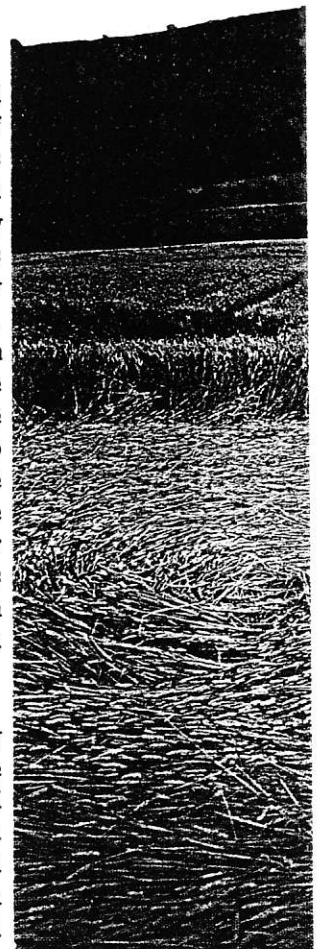
And if we are seen to be sloppy and unscientific then it will be said - perhaps with justification - that the same must be true of all of our work.

Ufology will have come full circle, and we shall again wear the image that we wore in the 1950s and 1960s, a prospect we should fear greatly if not for ourselves then for the sake of the many sincere witnesses that we represent who look to us for support.

Why then all this hand-wringing self-doubt?

Take a look - as I have - at the work of the various Circles researchers. I can't say that I know enough to know who is right in the many theories offered, though I admit I am impressed with the presentations of the meteorologists who claim that the Circles could be natural weather formation. If this represents a bias on my part, I think it is a small one.

But I'm very unimpressed by some of the material I hear or read just because of what it means to Ufology as a whole, whether or not it turns out to be right or wrong. I



make this point because of how we might all be judged on such presentations.

In recent 'Circles' lectures I have attended (and I have attended many) several points have been made that troubled me and for a while I couldn't think why. When I realised what it was, it was quite a surprise.

Let's look at some of those points:

- I was told that it was 'obvious' that the circles were not the product of natural weather phenomenon because no wind was capable of the extreme accuracy of 'cut-off' at the circle boundaries; that in many circles flattened crop lies only millimetres from unaffected crop. I wanted to be told why wind could not do this. I wanted to know what experiments had been done to try to produce the wind-types that might be necessary. It seemed to me that a definitive statement that wind could not do this had one very difficult hurdle to surmount - that the circles are the suggestion that wind can do just that! (Until proven otherwise!) Now perhaps it cannot, but to say so at this stage must mean that we know - without doubt - what exactly causes the Circles. And the presenter of this statement seemed to offer no such proof. Yet we are dealing with a testable hypothesis that doesn't seem to have been tested, just assumed.

- I was told that no wind or 'ordinary' agency could bend crop stalks in the manner seen in the Circles; yet there was not one jot of evidence given showing precisely what stresses vegetable matter could withstand and

under what laboratory conditions these tests had been made. And these are tests that can be performed by those qualified to do so. Again, it seemed the Circles were the suggestion that this theory was wrong, until proven otherwise. No such proof was offered.

- In proving that the circles have 'progressed' in style and number I was told that one man had filed a report of a 150 foot wide circle many years ago and that his claim had to be wrong because there were no known reports of such Circles at that time. So what was his report! If ever there was a case of selecting evidence to fit the desired result this was it!

- I was told that there were 'true' Circles and there were 'others'. It was apparently difficult sometimes to tell the difference unless you were an 'expert' and knew what to look for. (I was even told who to talk to for Truth, and who to avoid.) On the evidence then presented it seemed to me that a 'true' Circle was one that fitted your theories, and the others were irrelevant.

- The scientific analysis of such as Terence Meaden and Paul Fuller was dismissed as defective because it had failed to spot the Real Truth behind the Circles i.e. did not support the speaker's conclusions. No respect was given to the good work of others.

- I have heard a good many facets of the Real Truth; that the Circles are a new and increasing phenomenon; that they are increasing also in complexity; that they

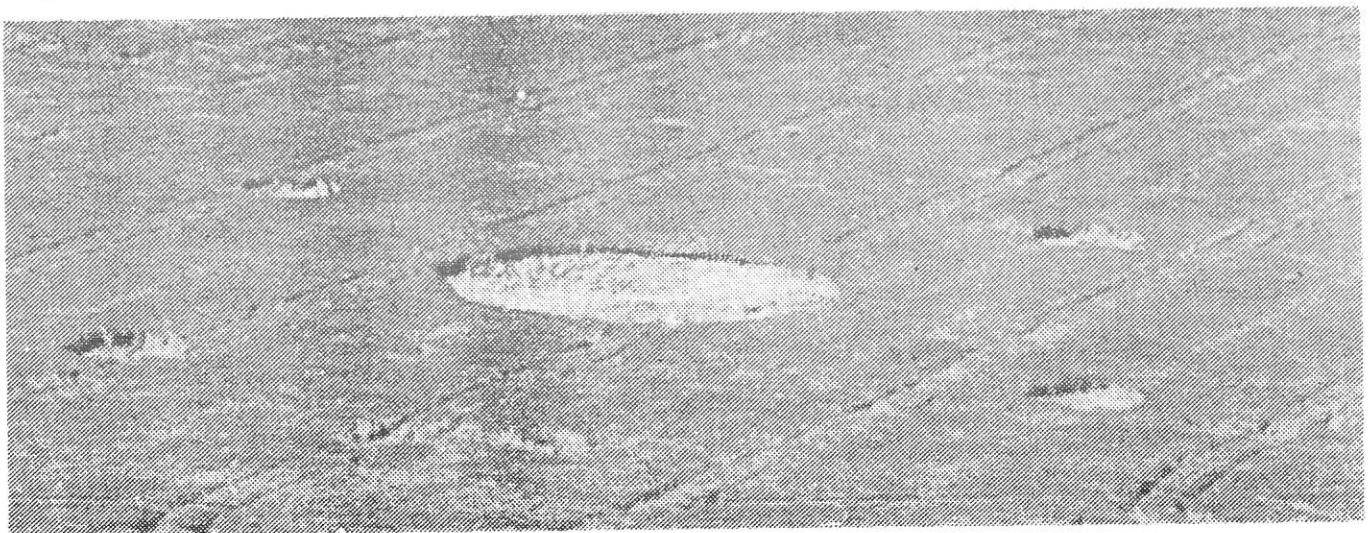


exhibit intelligence; that they are formed by an 'Agency' of some mysterious force; that they started at Warminster and they are spreading out slowly across Southern England (tomorrow the World!); that they talk to each other (I quote that exactly!); that we are approaching an inundation which has Meaning. There were Circles in the shapes of crucifixes and it was darkly hinted that here we see some of their True Meaning. Not one piece of evidence was offered to support any of these 'theories' that would stand even basic scientific analysis; yet most were presented as FACTS.

- It goes on: Circles are responsible for ancient monuments, for the killings of nearby residents, they can down aircraft in flight and kill the pilots. (Can there be an end to it - is there in fact any aspect of human life that we cannot tie in with the Circles. There are always pictures in the flames in the fire.) Some of the theories suggested to me 'anonymously' by delegates to lectures taking me aside are breathtaking in their audacity. At the current rate of theorising it can only be months before we discover that the Circles are a Global Join-the-Dots competition which will spell out the name of the home world of the originating aliens!

And in fact I'm ready to believe any or all of this - GIVEN PROOF. But I'll believe none of it just because I'm told it should be obvious to me.

But what was it that worried me? What was it that I couldn't grasp for so long until the image 'clicked'?

Doesn't it all sound familiar: an intelligence with purpose, increasing in it's complexity (presumably it's meaning), targetting certain areas, understood only by certain people who have the ability to see the Real Truth (so we must depend on them to translate the Message to us mere mortals); defying even basic scientific reason because They (the Circles) are Special.

It's the Contactee Cults all over again!

Those friendly old, innocent Circles are mutating into the new Contactee Era. And the consequences look like being very

'Californian'; with new High Priests to bring the Message of the High Intelligence to the Masses.

Silly Season

And the Press? When they get wind of this lot (yes - pun intended) we are going to be seen again as the silly season, sloppy, unscientific bunch of clowns they so desperately desire for their tabloid papers. Ufology will have come full Circle.

BUFORA must take the lead - as it has done so often in the past - in bringing rational thinking to this subject. Paul Fuller and Jenny Randles have already done much in this regard. And I don't believe my views are borne only of loyalty to the Association; Ralph Noyes seems to take a quite different view of the Circles to either Paul or Jenny yet I admire his crisp demands for Proof as much as I do their own. It is only a dangerous few who might drive us back down the road we've struggled so hard to put behind us.

If we can't stop these ridiculous claims - and we can't, we're not Ufological policemen after all - then we can at least take every opportunity to show these claims for what they are and to continue in our scientific study to understand the physical mechanisms which give rise to these formations.

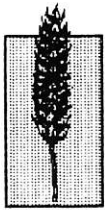
And we can recognise that here is evidence we can use to show to the world that we have come of age.

If we fail, the circles will become a mirror which the world will hold up to us, as the Knight of the Mirrors did to Don Quixote, to show us how foolish we all really are.

L A T E S T N E W S

DATELINE: UNITED STATES. Controversy is raging as a model similar to the objects depicted in the Gulf Breeze pictures has been discovered in a former home of Ed Walters. However, the evidence seems to show that the model was a deliberate plant. More in UT9.

CIRCLES, CIRCLES EVERYWHERE...



by Paul Fuller

As regular readers of UFO Times will know, BUFORA has been investigating the curious phenomenon of the crop circles since 1980. In 1989 we produced our second progress report "Controversy of the Circles", which was an attempt to defend the credibility of UFOlogy and to bring some kind of rationality to the subject in general. Regretfully, over the past two years the public's perception of the crop circles has been grossly distorted by sensational and irresponsible publicity to become a major media topic.

The reason for this dramatic turn of events will be known to many. Over the past two years the crop circles have acquired a fascinating social mythology that masks and distorts what is happening. The wild claims of opportunists and publicity seekers has now ensured that the UFOlogists will be unable to take a scrap of credit for our response to the crop circles. In the eyes of Science the actions of our less critical colleagues will always be used as a defence mechanism against UFOlogy and the very real anomalous phenomena we study. The history of crop circles research mirrors in microcosm the destructive process that UFOlogy itself went through more than forty years ago - a process that ultimately led to the complete dismissal of UFOs as a subject worthy of scientific interest and resulted in our forty years of failure. It is to be hoped that crop circles research can still be saved from the same fate that UFOlogy suffered because of this all-too-human tendency to attribute natural events to the actions of non-human "intelligences".

The 1990 Patterns

This summer, as in previous years, the complexity of the reported formations has once again become more and more complex, thus leading to further intense speculation about an "intelligent" phenomenon. So far more than 290 crop circles have been reported in Britain,

the majority (but by far not all) appearing in "haunted Wessex" (particularly in Wiltshire). These formations include

- a quadruple-ringed single on Beckhampton Down (south of Avebury, Wiltshire);
- two quadruple-ringed quintuplets (Bishops Cannings near Devizes, and Upton Scudamore, near Warminster);
- a single circle surrounded by seven smaller satellite circles near Newton Abbott in Devon (appeared 15th/16th June);
- seven doublets linked with spurs and accompanying rectangles ("coffins") arranged in parallel about the spur (the so-called "dumb-bells");
- a triple-ringed single with two satellites lying close to the outermost ring;
- a linear triplet with three rings around the central circle.

Almost all these formations have been examined by Terence Meaden, 'Busty' Taylor, and Richard Andrews - the latter a leading member of the newly formed Centre for Crop Circles Studies who for twenty years was a government crop inspector. On June 5th I visited the first Chilcomb doublet, after Terence

Meaden and George Bathurst had obtained prior permission from the farmer to walk on his land. This formation was significant because it allegedly completely broke with all previously reported formations. The circles themselves exhibited that characteristic swirl pattern and were precisely situated on a tramline. Extending from the larger circle was a spur, half of which lay between the tramlines, and which extended to within a metre or so of the smaller circle. The crop in this spur pointed away from the larger circle whilst arranged about the spur but originally without connecting tracks were four rectangular areas about two metres in length. The wheat was laid down in a U-shape within each rectangle and the directions were symmetrically opposed on either side of the spur.

This formation soon attracted extensive media interest with TVS "Coast to Coast" (May 24th) and the "Western Daily Press" (June 12th) carrying items on the formation. My first reaction to this latest twist in the crop circles mystery was that the circles might be genuine but the rectangles and spur were a subsequent addition by hoaxers. However, with so many sightseers having trampled the formation and the surrounding crop it was impossible to judge. Nevertheless, the appearance of 'new' formation types has long been a painful thorn in the side of those researchers who claim that crop circles are the result of purely 'natural' forces. It may be that there are historical records of "dumb-bells" lying hidden in some obscure corner of British folklore, thus proving that modern "dumb-bells" are not the latest in an "intelligent" evolution. However, we should not forget that several years ago many UFOlogists were very quick to claim that triplets, quintuplets and ringed circles were all "newly evolved" formation types and that therefore no 'natural' phenomenon could ever be the mechanism behind the crop circles. The discovery of pre 1980 complex formation types (eg at Earl Shilton, Twywell, and now the Mowing Devil case) all suggest that UFOlogists should retire to the historical archives before leaping to conclusions and proclaiming the "dumb-bells" as proof of alien visitation. On the other hand it is easy to sympathise

with the view that the formations appearing now are just SO complex that it seems almost impossible to reconcile them with a purely meteorological mechanism (or any other 'natural' mechanism for that matter). Could it be that we are witnessing a genuine 'natural' phenomenon that is being cynically manipulated by powerful vested interests in order to promote a myth ?

Whatever the truth behind the amazing "dumb-bells", none of us were too surprised when other well-known circles researchers quickly claimed in media interviews that the dumb-bell formations "ridicule the whirlwind theory" (?) and that "The (new) patterns have the whirlwind and plasma vortex theorists running around like headless chickens" (Portsmouth News, July 3rd). Let me put my meteorological head back on again and reiterate that NO ONE to my knowledge is suggesting that ordinary "whirlwinds" are creating crop circles. The one scientist who HAS been studying the phenomenon (Terence Meaden) for the last ten years has been suggesting since 1985 that crop circles are created by an UNRECOGNISED vortex mechanism. Whatever the strengths or weaknesses of his case Meaden is NOT promoting the theory that is so emotively and feebly dismissed on page 167 of "Circular Evidence"



**The First International Conference
on the Circles Effect**

Since the UFO phenomenon first attracted mass media interest in 1947 we all know how the subject was quickly removed from a topic of scientific interest and relegated to a matter for crackpot UFOlogists and mystics. Over the past few years we have seen the same sort of process contaminate the crop circles, with a corresponding reluctance by professional scientists to become

associated with the subject through fear of losing their professional status. This reluctance by the world's meteorologists to comment on such an emotive subject was finally dispersed at an International Conference on the Circles Effect which was held at Oxford Polytechnic on June 23rd. The conference was organised by the Tornado and Storm Research Organisation (TORRO) and was attended by 150 UFOlogists, physicists, meteorologists and members of the public.

The conference was opened by Dr Derek Elsom, Head of the TORRO Research Centre at Oxford Polytechnic. The first liberally illustrated lecture was given by Dr Terence Meaden, Director of the Circles Effect Research Group (CERES) of TORRO. Dr Meaden began by describing his decade of research into the phenomenon and his reasons for believing that all the evidence so far collected points conclusively towards a meteorological explanation for the crop circles. In his lecture Dr Meaden emphasised that hoaxing was only a minor part of the phenomenon, and that accounts of crop circles were NOT limited to just the south of England or to the past few decades (as had been claimed elsewhere). His talk included many examples of crop circles forming on hills and in the lee of hills and several examples of circles forming when frontal systems passed overhead.

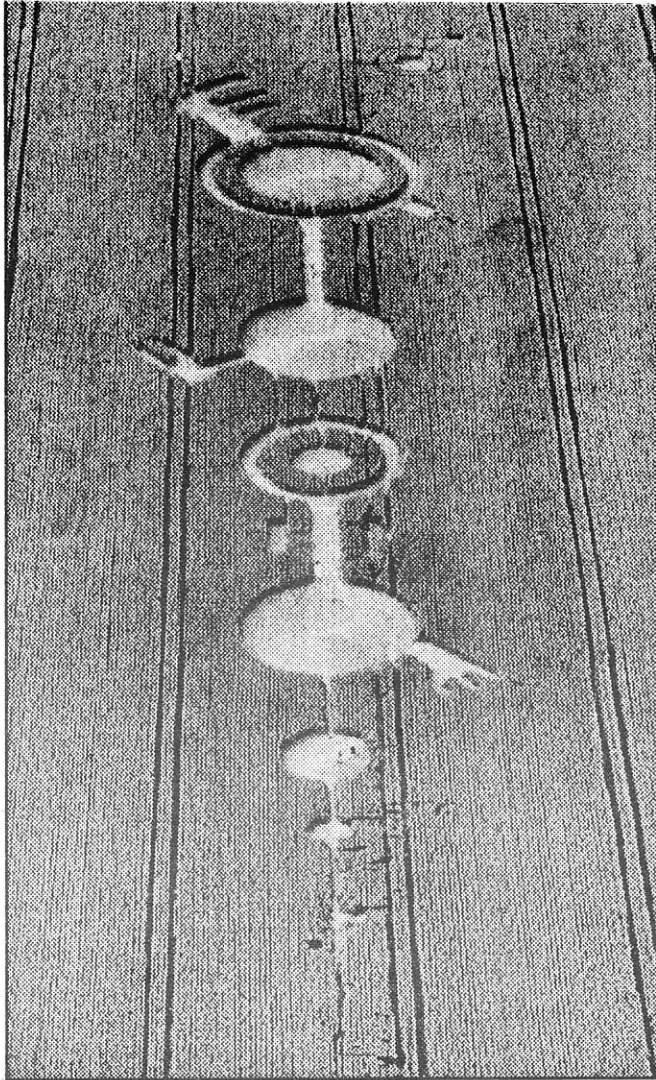
Meaden's introductory lecture was followed by a short video show compiled by arch circle hunter 'Busty' Taylor, who is reputed to have the largest collection of crop circle photos in the world. Taylor's undoubted expertise allowed the audience to examine in close-up the intricate and complex layering and banding effects that characterise genuine crop circles. Professor John Snow of Purdue University, Indiana then gave a lecture on behalf of himself and Professor Tokio Kikuchi of Kochi University, Japan. Snow described the basic mechanisms that are generated within ordinary atmospheric vortices and speculated about the type of vortex that would be required to account for both the simple crop circle patterns and the more complex formations that have generated so much publicity these past few summers.

Following lunch, David Reynolds of the University of Lancaster presented a paper which discussed the amazing crop damage at Kings Bromley, Staffordshire (first observed on 24th June 1989), which was so complex and extensive that barely any of the field escaped circular or swathe-like damage. Reynolds postulated that the damage was created by the explosion of a "multi-nodal toroidal vortex" (something I imagine that few of us would care to meet on a cold dark night in darkest Hampshire). Reynolds further described a second example of this type of damage reported on a beach near Broadstairs (Kent) in 1980.

The next speaker was Professor Yoshi-Hiko Ohtsuki of Waseda University, Tokyo, Japan. Ohtsuki is one of the world's premier experts on Ball Lightning and his talk was in my view probably the most important ever given by a professional meteorologist to the large gathering of UFOlogists present. Ohtsuki discussed the detection of an unidentified radar target near the Hawaiian Islands in December 1986. The target was detected on two different radar systems and approached an Oceanic Research vessel at a speed of approximately 5000 km/hr, circled the ship twice and then executed an abrupt V-shaped turn before disappearing. A second target subsequently appeared and was confirmed visually before disappearing. Professor Ohtsuki interpreted these events as an observation of Meaden's proposed plasma-vortex and went on to show a video of his 'endurance' style attempts to recreate the plasma fireball in his laboratory. I am sure that many UFOlogists present were immediately reminded by this lecture of many of the classic radar cases in UFO history. It must be the supreme irony of crop circles research that the UFOlogists and the meteorologists are both studying the same material but coming to entirely different conclusions about the origin of these phenomena.

The second Japanese professor to lecture was Hiroshi Kikuchi, a well known atmospheric physicist from Nihon University, Tokyo. Kikuchi's lecture was purely theoretical and I suspect that many members of the audience found the

series of complex equations presented by Kikuchi quite beyond their comprehension. They certainly had me bamboozled ! Nevertheless it was clear that Kikuchi was quite happy to entertain the idea that crop circles might be created by an electrostatically charged vortex phenomenon, and he summarised by suggesting areas of work that would be required to improve upon our limited understanding of such phenomena.



**Circle complex in Pewsey
Wiltshire**

Finally, BUFORA's Jenny Randles and Paul Fuller attempted to apply Meaden's proposed plasma-vortex mechanism to the unexplained UFO data. Their basic contention, that the UFO Myth has masked a scientific understanding of a fascinating natural atmospheric phenomenon, was supported with many case studies of close encounters and vehicle

interference cases that seemed ideal candidates for a rotating electrically-charged vortex mechanism hovering in the lower atmosphere and being generated by the flow of air over topographical features. Randles and Fuller went on to announce the impending publication of their book "Crop Circles, A Mystery Solved" (Robert Hale), which is to be published in August. The fact that two UFO researchers were allowed to share the stage with some of the world's premier authorities on unusual atmospheric phenomena must surely rank as a major turning point for the subject and an outstanding achievement for BUFORA, Britain's premier UFO research body.

Overall I found the conference a fascinating and pleasurable experience, although it would have been nice to spread the conference over two days so that speakers and investigators could have spent more time discussing their findings at length. The proceedings of the conference, to be titled "Circles From the Sky" (details to follow), are to be published in hardback by Artetech later this summer, and are recommended to anybody who couldn't circumnavigate the fire regulations (which set a limit on the numbers in the audience to 150) to attend the conference in person. I hope that this publication will prove absorbing material for the many members of the public who attended the conference and who may have found the meteorology more than a little daunting.

King of the Circles

Despite this growing scientific interest in the crop circles, it is regrettable that two circles researchers subsequently claimed that Dr Meaden was "in league with the government" (Sunday Express June 24th) and that Dr Meaden's theory was "insulting the intelligence" of "many people" and that it was "very arrogant of anybody of any scientific discipline to set themselves up as kings of understanding about how (circles) occur and why" ("Southern Evening Echo" June 27th). We look forward to seeing how these researchers who have no qualifications and training in physics

Continued on page 18.

anamnesis update

by Ken Phillips

For over two years now, the ANAMNESIS PROJECT has been continuously applied to all C/E subjects with whom I would come into contact. Moreover, within that time period I am delighted to inform you that the ANAMNESIS PROTOCOL is now the standard investigative tool in at least three other countries of varying cultural backgrounds; one of the countries concerned being non-European Argentina.

No doubt some of you, particularly those who attended my last lecture, would be interested in knowing the results of the extended ANAMNESIS PROJECT and compare notes with the preliminary outcomes given at that lecture. However, before I do this I feel it necessary to give you a resume of just what the ANAMNESIS is, since it became apparent during my talk given at last summer's ICUR INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS that there remains a good deal of uncertainty amongst the UFO fraternity as to the exact nature and purpose of the ANAMNESIS PROJECT:-

THE ANAMNESIS IS A WITNESS-BASED INVESTIGATIVE TOOL WHICH COMPRISES OF A TIME-INVARIANT, CULTURE-FREE PROTOCOL WHICH ENABLES 'SOFT-SCIENCE' RESEARCHERS TO STUDY THE LIFE PROFILES OF CE UFO PERCIPIENTS/EXPERIENTS, THE PRINCIPLE COMPONENTS OF THESE LIFE PROFILES BEING: 1) THE SUBJECT'S DEMOGRAPHIC WHEREABOUTS WITHIN HIS OWN SOCIETY, 2) HIS BELIEF SYSTEMS, 3) HIS MEDICAL HISTORY, 4) HIS FORMER ANOMALOUS EXPERIENCES (IF ANY) 5) HIS CREATIVE ABILITIES & 6) HIS EDUCATIONAL BACKGROUND.

WHAT THE ANAMNESIS DOES NOT DO - AND I WOULD LIKE TO MAKE THIS PARTICULARLY CLEAR - IS STUDY UFOS: WHATEVER THEY MIGHT BE! IN OTHER WORDS THE ANAMNESIS STUDIES THE UFO WITNESS WITHIN THE UFO EXPERIENCE AND SCRUTINISES POTENTIAL SOCIAL & RELIGIOUS THEMES ARISING THEREFROM. PERHAPS BY CITING AN ARGENTINIAN CASE HERE MIGHT HELP TO PUT THE SITUATION INTO PERSPECTIVE:-

CASE CHARACTERISTICS:-

The following report is an abridged version of an ANAMNESIS study carried out by the Argentinian investigator Janoch Heriberto and all due acknowledgements must be given to him for the fine work he has done on the case.

The witness is a 32 year-old male working as a cleaning supervisor in a car factory. He lives in a rural settlement and was brought up by his grand-parents [the parents of his father] who worked at a cattle farm. The witness did not meet his true parents until the age of 20 since they often had to move around the country in order to find employment. He has eight siblings [five younger brothers and three younger sisters]. After a mere 6 years at school, he worked as an agricultural worker, repairing agricultural machines.

Stationary

In February 1987, shortly before midnight, he was out in the fields working on a diesel tractor with about 15 other workers with him. Suddenly, a 'bright star' was seen to the east and approached rapidly, within about 15 seconds, to a position very close to that of the witnesses. Once there, the object remained stationary for 10 minutes and, since the weather at the time was very clear with no wind, the witnesses were able to observe without impairment.

The object, whatever it was, looked like "an aircraft without wings, glowing

like hot iron and about 80 metres long". The oblong shape seemed to have two rows of "windows" and a "door".

After the standstill the object shot away at great speed making a "shab-shab-shab" sound and gave off sparks in the process. The tractor engines, which had been left running when the witnesses left them to witness the strange aerial phenomenon, were off when the witnesses returned and, moreover, their watches had stopped.

Belief Systems

Further questioning of the principle witness revealed he was single and very much a loner. A year before the incident his fiancée had left him shortly before they were due to get married which left the witness suffering from nightmares. he also suffered from insomnia after his 1987 encounter and was only able to get to sleep after 4 am. He is a member of a religious sect believing in a "miraculous place" [whatever & wherever that is!] with all its attendant wish-fulfilment associated with such a belief. Before the breakup of his engagement he used to go dancing regularly, but now no longer does so. He is also a vertigo sufferer.



Ken Phillips

Before the 1987 encounter, one of his uncles also saw a UFO and consequently supports the witnesses account, but those of his workmates who did not participate in the observations were highly sceptical of the whole episode. Subsequent to his 1987 experience, the witness has had further, but more distant, UFO sightings.

The witness believes that UFOs "come from another country, i.e. from Russia or United States" and is ambivalent towards society in general.

One final mention was that in August 1988, whilst working late and alone in his office around 4 am, he claims he heard "footsteps", but there was nobody there at all.

I would now like to give you some salient points which emerged during the ANAMNESIS interview:-

Parental family disorder
illness/handicap
dream recall
flying dreams/UFO dreams
religious/mystical experience(s)
ESP event(s)
religious conviction
life change
ETI belief

This is not the only case using the ANAMNESIS method to originate from outside Europe and in fact, during the 1989 ICUR CONGRESS here at the London Business School, I was privileged to read out synopses of two non-European cases without identifying the country of origin and then inviting the audience to write down which country they thought the cases emanated. The interesting outcome of this mini-study was that most of the audience thought that the cases originated from western, first-world countries. Indeed, one case took place in Nigeria, the other in Argentina; the case cited above.

Now the prominent questions arising from such a poll outcome is: firstly, why is it most of the ICUR audience considered the two cases to have originated within the western, first-world (remember, most of the audience were very well read in Ufology!) and

secondly, what is the common denominator linking all these widely varying cultures which causes people to have such bizarre UFO encounters the nature of which, quite frankly, make no sense at all? More to the point - and this is where the ANAMNESIS comes into play - is there something about CE witnesses which sets them apart from the rest of the world's population?

From the point of view of Western Europe the ANAMNESIS studies continue to profile a witness who is, in order of the strength of response: a) a self-reporter of ESP phenomena, b) a UFO-dream recaller and c) a social inconsistent within his [usually] highly creative and intelligence faculties. Make no mistake: these people are very unusual in this respect and their 'inner world' [read: subjective truths] is extremely rich and creative. However, does this situation apply to CE witnesses from other cultures of the world? Well, although it is early days yet to jump to too hasty a conclusion, the results according to the preliminary cases now coming in agree with the European Witness profile very closely indeed. In other words, these people are the 'visionaries' and 'prophets' who have always been with us from the Judaic Patriarchs of the early Biblical Old Testament right up to the present day where now the contactee message seems to be: 'New Age'! The only variant in all this seems to be the social situation in which all these various witnesses have lived, but then again, as anyone who takes the trouble to find out by studying cultural and religious movements throughout the ages, these changes are caused, by and large, by the very same psychic elements which appear in our ANAMNESIS studies!

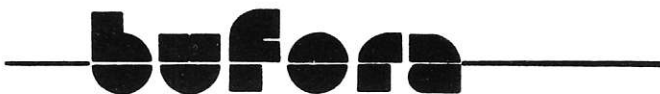
Well, what does all this tell us about the physical nature of UFOs? Unfortunately nothing at all, but what the ANAMNESIS study does outline is the social impact the UFO phenomenon is having upon the various cultures in our ever shrinking world; this impact, which has been outlined so elegantly in Vallee's book 'Dimensions' [do read this book if you have not already done so, I commend it to you], is 'New Age'.

There is still much research to be

done. For example: what is it that separates CE witnesses from the rest of the world's population? Is it blood group? Something to do with diet? Is it genetic or what?

After 40-odd years we now have our constant, physical residue of the UFO experience [in fact it's been there all the time!]: the human witness. Furthermore, with the help of the professions who have the necessary resources with which to advance our understanding of this seemingly incomprehensible and highly complex subject of Ufology we can, perhaps, put Man into the perspective of the overall phenomenon.

I wish all your readers interesting thoughts about this aspect of our subject.



Circles..continued from page 15.

and meteorology can justify such comments when almost a dozen people have come forward claiming to have seen crop circles being created by a meteorological mechanism.

1990 will surely be seen as the turning point in the history of the crop circles. No longer is the phenomenon restricted to the amateur investigator or to self-styled "experts" claiming that crop circles are created by "an unknown force manipulated by an unknown intelligence in an unknown manner". The professional meteorological community has now turned its attention to the crop circles and it is to be hoped that their better understanding of unusual atmospheric mechanisms will finally put paid to those hoary old tales about giant spaceships with retractable legs. Ufology has now reached a turning point in its chequered history and must decide whether it is a movement that exists purely to promote myths or whether Ufology can come to terms with its own demise and accept that scientific knowledge transpires man's need to believe in the fantastic and the impossible.

John Spencer's careful study of the Hill abduction account leads him to some thoughtful cautionary conclusions. The Hill case holds a unique position in the history of abductions. Not only because this case was the first to come to public attention, but because that attention has included a popular book, national magazine serialisation and a TV movie. Most elements of the abduction story appear full-grown in this account.

The Hill Abduction

The Other Side of the Coin

by Thomas E. Bullard

Spencer builds a powerful argument for this abduction being subjective in origin and a guiding influence on subsequent reports, especially with the help of investigators overzealous and undercritical in their efforts to establish the ETH.

These warnings deserve study by anyone concerned with the abduction phenomenon. Yet as strong as his argument is, I still find reason to disagree with several of his points:

- The proposition that Barney Hill derived his experience from Betty's dreams runs into serious difficulty when we realise that his account compliments hers, rather than duplicates it. He was less conscious, less aware throughout the period of captivity, according to both witnesses' accounts. The Hills tell similar stories of the time they spent together in captivity, allowing for this differential consciousness. But when Barney separates from Betty, his story becomes his own. It is not an elaborate story, again in keeping with the apparent effectiveness of mind control over him, but the course of events deviates from hers. If he picked up her dream, why did he choose selectivity from it? His experience tallies with hers when they are together but fails to copy hers when they are apart, yet he knew the full contents of her dreams. This independence strikes me as more like true memory than contamination.

- Barney felt himself floating, while Betty saw him half-lifted and half hauled. There is a clear conflict of perceptions here, but not necessarily a conflict of facts. The line separating dreamlike feelings from actual dreams maybe fine, but it is also important. If he was truly deeper "under the influence" of some form of mind control, the differential perceptions make sense. In this light the scuff marks on the tops of his shoes gain significance as well.

- A case can be made that Betty's image of alien abduction grew from her readings and fantasies. Yet an equally persuasive case can be argued that repressed memories motivated her interest in UFOs, inspired her nightmares and provoked her anxieties at such sights as an ordinary road-block. Barney's ulcer problems and perhaps his psychosomatic warts could trace as well to terrifying memories rising to the surface. Otherwise the warts remain difficult to explain.

- Story elements in the Hill case recur throughout the abduction reports now on record. Influence is one explanation, but similarity of experience is another. Spencer lists missing time and genetic manipulation among the recurrent elements, but he could have built up a long list. One element in the Hill case is "doorway amnesia", a momentary lapse of

consciousness while the witness passes through the doorway of the craft. This element appears in Barney's account and only heroic efforts by the hypnotist filled in the gap. This same incident recurs time and again in other reports, yet it was never thematised in discussions of the Hill case and the event itself is a nonsense occurrence, without logical integration in the story or any apparent purpose. We must imagine that abduction investigators are so remarkably perceptive that they pick up even the most trivial and unorganised details and use them to influence their witnesses, or we can regard such an incident as a repeated part of the abduction experience.

- The experts indeed caution that hypnosis may lead to confabulated fantasies and false testimony. These dangers are real possibilities, but are not necessarily realised. Hopkins has reported that some people came to him thinking that they have been abducted, but no abduction story emerges under hypnosis. Let us not forget that some abduction reports emerge without help of hypnosis. I found that about one fourth of 104 high-information, high reliability case did not involve this technique, yet a comparison of sequence and content showed that the stories were essentially the same. Contrary to Klass's proposal, abduction narratives do not seem to reflect the personalities of the hypnotists to any significant degree. Some 50 independent investigators contributed those 104 cases to the literature, yet the stories are strikingly consistent despite so many opportunities for investigators to influence the witness with their idiosyncrasies. Hypnosis is undeniably risky to gain the truth, but comparative analysis of the evidence simply fails to confirm these fears.

Conclusion

I do not mean to suggest that all abduction stories are identical. Anyone who has read a few accounts knows that the appearance of the beings differs now and then, that some abductions are more elaborate than others, or that some details may vary. Yet the overall picture is one of similarity. It is a

greater degree of similarity than the normal dynamics of folk narratives would lead us to expect and more than seems reasonable for investigators to impose in any way short of careful and deliberate collusion. If these narratives arrive through the channels of dream, fantasy, of fiction, we would expect a great deal more creativity and personalised variation than we see. The consistency of abduction reports remains one of their most remarkable qualities and squares most imperfectly with the subjective explanations hitherto offered.


An objective explanation fares little better. By any standard the stories remain bizarre and leave many questions unanswered. I too would like to know why the alleged aliens can seem so familiar with some aspects of our culture and so naive towards others. Subjective explanations can answer some questions, objective explanations others. Both leave holes big enough to fly a mother ship through! This moral is perhaps the upshot of all our studies of the abduction phenomenon and needs recalling in the wake of such an excellent paper as John Spencer has given us.

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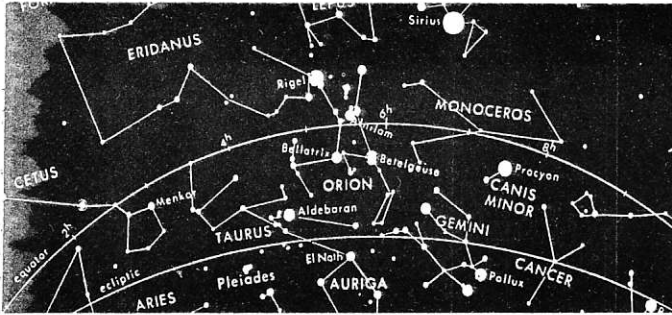
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SKYWATCHER

Edited by Gary Anthony

Introduction

In this edition of Skywatcher we have all the regular features, the planets, skydata and space news. On the 12th and 13th August, Venus passes close to Jupiter while the brightest annual meteor shower - The Perseids - is at its peak. We also have updates on the progress of the Hubble Space Telescope and the Hipparcos astrometry mission.

The Planets

VENUS - July. Rises before 02hrs by the 15th. Crescent moon to the north on the 20th.

August. Venus rises two hours before the sun on the 1st at magnitude -3.9. It then passes close to Jupiter on the 12th/13th. Moon is close on the morning of the 19th.

MARS - July. Will rise by midnight on the 1st and half an hour earlier by the 31st. The planet is at 0 magnitude, slightly brighter than May and June. Moon is close and to the north on the 16th.

August. Mars is now a conspicuous ruddy coloured object at magnitude -0.4. Moon is nearby on the 13th.

JUPITER - July. Is in conjunction with the sun on the 15th and thus unobservable on this month.

August. Jupiter is now a morning object, rising at 02hrs. Moon nearby on the 18th.

SATURN - July. Is above the horizon all night, at opposition on the 14th, reaching 0 magnitude. Moon passes a couple of degrees to the south on the 8th.

August. Saturn will set soon after midnight by the end of the month. The Moon passes south of Saturn on the 4th/5th.

skydata

<u>J U L Y</u>		<u>1 9 9 0</u>		<u>A U G U S T</u>	
8th	02 h	Full Moon		6th	14 h
15th	11 h	Last Quarter		13th	16 h
22th	03 h	New Moon		20nd	13 h
29th	14 h	First Quarter		28th	08 h
RA	Dec	Venus	RA	Dec	
-----East-----		Mars	-----East-----		
02h > 04h	00° > +25°	Jupiter	02h > 04h	+00° > +25°	
- Unobservable -		Saturn	06h > 08h	+00° > +30°	
18h > 20h	-15° > -30°		18h > 20h	-15° > -30°	
Meteor Showers					
Name	Begins	Maximum	Ends	Max ZHR	Radiant Coordinates
Capricornids	Jul 10	Jul 25	Aug 5	20	315° RA -15° Dec
Perseids	Jul 25	Aug 12	Aug 17	50+	46° RA +58° Dec
Kappa Cyg	Aug 18	Aug 20	Aug 22	5+	290° RA +55° Dec

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

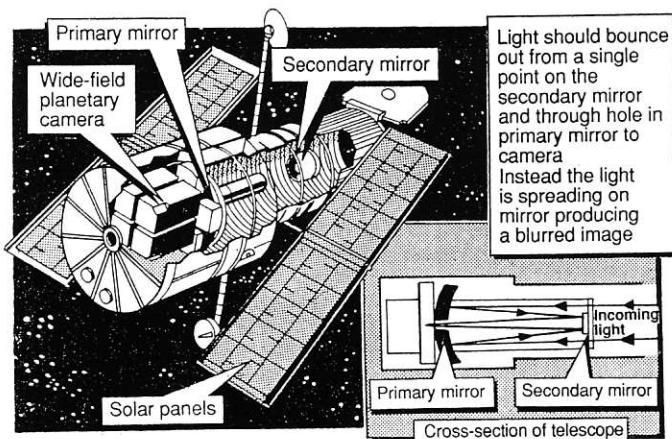
The Perseids

The richest annual meteor shower, the perseids is active during early August. The light from the waning moon may obscure all but the brighter meteoroids. The shower reaches maximum on the 12th and is over by the 17th. No optical equipment is required to view a meteor shower, so if you've never seen a 'shooting star' (common name for a meteor) take half-an-hour observing on any clear night in early August.

SPACE NEWS

Hubble Trouble

Disaster has struck the Hubble Space Telescope. After taking twelve years to build and suffering launch delays after the Challenger tragedy, hopes were high for a successful, trouble free launch and deployment for the billion pound 'scientific marvel.



But it was not to be. A serious design flaw has shown up in one of the satellite's mirrors, literally giving it double vision. The fault described as a 'spherical aberration' is producing a distortion equal to 1/50th width of a human hair causing focussing problems.

Hundreds of experiments have now been cancelled, however, Hubble's other capabilities like its deep space infrared and ultra-violet viewing will be used to the full.

Astronauts are not scheduled to service Hubble until 1993 when repairs to correct the aberration may be possible.

Hipparcos Close Call

Hipparcos, the first astrometry mission in space was launched from Kourou in French Guiana in August 1989 (see UT 6 pp 26) but was trapped in a highly elliptical orbit, following the failure of the Apogee boost motor. Experts immediately met at ESOC, the ESA's European Space Operations Centre in Darmstadt and planned a revised mission for Hipparcos.

The long eclipses in March this year were the most critical test for the satellite. For long periods, Hipparcos remained in the shadow of the Earth and the solar panels received less power from the Sun. On the 16th March the critical point came when scientists feared the satellite would loose power during a 105 minute eclipse, but with barely 5 minutes to spare, Hipparcos continued to operate and measurements proceeded without interruption.

If Hipparcos has a lifetime of 18 months, the parallaxes and proper motions of around 100,000 stars maybe obtained. However, the satellite requires a two and a half to three years lifetime to obtain the intended accuracy of two milli arc seconds. On the question of Hipparcos' operational life-span, ESA scientists are cautiously optimistic.

Three ground stations now supplement the initial station at Darmstadt: the CNES station at Kourou, French Guiana, the ESA Perth Station in Australia and the NASA Goldstone Station in the Mohave Desert in California.

All information courtesy of ESA and NASA.

If any investigator requires astronomical information to help with the evaluation of case investigations please write to the **new** BUFORA ARP address:

Gary Anthony, BUFORA ARP, 119 Askew Avenue, Hull, North Humberside, HU4 6LT

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

Ufological Stagnation

Dear Editor,

The UFO fraternity seems to be blessed with a few prominent personalities each with an outrageous ego and each trying to out do the other by promoting so called all encompassing theories to the phenomena and discounting all the others. This generally goes hand in hand with the publication of new books as part of the promotion technique.

They tend to be wrapped up in their individual belief systems and totally unbalanced in their judgements with regard to the overall situation. This characteristic would not be a problem if alternative and more open minded and balanced views by other individuals were allowed to be heard. The situation that manifests itself however is that these prominent individuals having been on the scene for more than a little time have a great deal of instantly available historical data to help promote their ideas, and as such, by the use of historical rhetoric are able to shrug off any criticism, so keeping the limelight to themselves.

Research cases tend to be selected according to the credence they give that particular viewpoint, and discounted if they cannot be explained by the individual hypothesis. Also in a great number of cases the conclusions reached by the individual bear no relationship to the actual research done. Somewhere between research and conclusion, a totally unrelated speculative idea is often introduced purely to enhance the hypothesis of that individual whilst adding nothing to (and dare I say it) a

valid scientific judgement. It is because of this situation, promulgated by only a very few people that ufology in this country is suffering from stagnation.

Personalities have become more important than ideas and belief systems have become more important than sound judgement. If anyone is under the illusion that this is not the case then an examination of the specific details associated with those concerned will dispel all doubts.

Jenny Randles and Paul Fuller both respected members of BUFORA have firmly cast all doubts aside and solved the mystery for us in their new book, "Crop Circles, A mystery solved". The order form resume actually states that they have unveiled astonishing new evidence that an atmospheric force called The Meaden vortex is causing all the crop circles, whilst rare meteorological data- such as ball lightning and electromagnetic clouds can account for all the cases of 'alien' literature. They also go on to say that the death of the UFO as popularly conceived is imminent. I for one can't wait to read it so that I can progress to another enigma instead of UFO's, or perhaps go on to study meteorology.

At the first international Circles effect/Plasma Vortex conference on 23rd June in Oxford, Jenny Randles and Paul Fuller stood up in front of all the conference delegates and blatantly proceeded to relate specially selected UFO cases in a bid to prove that the actual subject itself should no longer be considered worthy of too much serious effort, at least by us amateurs. They then went on to throw the whole of their weight behind the scientific postulations of Dr. Terence Meaden.

Meteorological Phantoms

At the Phantoms of the Sky Conference in Sheffield, organized by I.U.N., Jenny Randles again gave the same sort of discourse- this time entitled "The death of Ufology", where she firmly placed the subject in the hands of the scientists- especially meteorological scientists. I suppose this means that with the death

of ufology Jenny Randles has written her last book on the subject. I wonder! Three hours before Jenny got up to speak, a lady by the name of Elsie Oakensen gave a talk entitled- A personal UFO experience recounted. This particular experience before the conference was considered to be a valid UFO abduction. It was in fact Jenny Randles who researched this case and brought it to the public's attention in her book called "Abductions", except the name had been changed to protect the lady from adverse publicity.

Little did Elsie know that three hours after her talk and on the same stage Jenny Randles would tell the world that they had both been mistaken. Elsie was not an abductee but the victim of a descending Meaden vortex, interspersed with ball lightning and electromagnetic clouds. Poor Elsie!

Circles Circus

Now what of Dr. Meaden, Jenny Randles and Paul Fuller's mentor. How is it that where science has failed UFO's for the last 40 years Dr. Meaden has succeeded. His claim to fame was the successful postulation of a type of atmospheric vortex that could descend to ground level and provided all the right conditions prevailed, create the crop circles effect that we are currently witnessing.

However, apart from Colin Andrews and Pat Delgado who get extremely agitated at even the mention of Dr. Terence Meaden, and firmly believe that crop circles are produced by intelligently controlled forces, no one has deigned to mention the basis premise on which he based his theory. It was in fact based on the testimony of witnesses who stated that they watched the crop circles forming. It is interesting to note that had they stated they saw a UFO at the time the circles formed they would have been ridiculed and discredited especially by Dr. Meaden, but because all they heard was humming noises, saw some dust and felt atmospheric wind and pressure changes a whole new science was born in the mind of Dr. Meaden. Bravo! What I would like to postulate however

is, what if all the effects that the witnesses perceived were only second order factors to Andrews' and Delgado's 'intelligent force'. Perish the thought. Anyway the meteorologists slide rules will be ultra busy this year trying to calculate how a descending vortex can possibly plait the corn. As for me, I think it is part of a programme being researched by the breakfast cereal manufacturers, to produce instant shredded wheat.

Stan Conway
London.

Editor's comment: Thanks Stan for your critique. In some respects I quite agree with you. Although researchers are presenting what appear to be sensible, coherent hypotheses, none seem to clear up the whole phenomenon completely - there are too many loose ends. But I am sure in time we will crack it! But equally, I am sure that the UFO phenomenon will not be the same (as it is today) in 50, or maybe even 10 years from now - it will evolve just as man will.

'Fear Response' - A Response

Dear Editor,

Although I must say in truth that I found Stuart Campbell's article; 'FEar Response in UFO Reporters' of interest, I still feel that somewhere in his theorising, he misses the boat, so to speak.

Deducing, as he does, that resulting physiological effects apparent to UFO sightings, etc, are primarily due to human fear symptoms, Stuart also rules out the possibility that the UFO source may be itself responsible for the same effect upon the witness.

In his own account of a personal attack of hyperventilation, he rightly states the fact that this was due to stress. In his own words, we have here an explanation to the stimuli for his attack (ie, his recovering from hepatitis and the 'fear' of suffering Heart attack).

From this, we are we to deduce that all witnesses to UFO events are suffering from medical conditions? Of course not!

To arouse FEAR in any situation, I would say that some kind of influencing stimuli must be apparent. This stimuli would be recognisable to the degree that it would promote FEAR through either its actions or simply its being. Steuart mentions an example of symptoms reported by American aircrews during combat including a list of effects that could be associated with a number of medical disorders, including hyperventilation. Again, rightly so, these are found in many UFO-related experiences. But, surely Steuart realises that those same airman 'should' be realising these effects because of the situation that they were in. Its not every day that your flying a mission that may mean the end of your life! The stimuli of feeling fear in this case would be both internal and external, involving thoughts about the situation and the persons own well being for starters.

To rule-out the possibility that induced fear within UFO witnesses could be the effect of the object observed/the UFO experience, does not explain the many cases where other physiological effects are found - ie. exaltation and deeply felt emotional feelings of long-lasting periods. I have yet to find an account of someone suffering a severe medical condition who actually 'desires' the symptoms to continue. Yet this situation IS apparent in some close encounter cases. In one such case (from Todmorden - W. Yorks., November 1980) a reporter to a CE3 claims a sense of affinity with the UFO and entities that she saw - even after her legs being paralysed at the time of the experience (which held her down to the ground by some external force) and has not divulged any sense of fear, before, during or after the encounter!

Nigel Mortimer
Addingham, West Yorkshire.

Editor's comments: I must admit that when I first read Steuart's 'Fear' article I thought "Looks like a new Campbell theory in the making." However

Steuart does have a point. If a witness genuinely misperceives the planet Venus - fear could be aroused to a level which amplifies the perception of an 'unknown'. But this cannot, in my opinion, explain physiological disorders like radiation sickness for example where witnesses loose their hair and suffer from sores and wounds that will not heal normally. These surely cannot be self inflicted. Steuart would probably say yes, but like me he is not an informed opinion on the subject.

Blackpool Sighting - 'Dogfight' Continues!

Dear Editor

Two different versions of the Tornado aircraft are built and test flown at an airfield only seven or eight miles from Blackpool promenade. One of these versions were designed as a low level strike aircraft, whilst the other is a medium/high level fighter. The two versions look very different as regards external weapons, shape of fuselage and colour scheme. Perhaps the witness would care to describe the tornado which he witnessed?

In UT7, the witness seeks to convince us that the tornado had been scrambled specifically to intercept an alleged UFO - there is absolutely no proof to sustain this allegation (the scramble that is). Has the witness actually seen missiles fired from an aircraft prior to this sighting? I think not, otherwise he would know that modern air launched missiles produce whitish smoke - not black. In answer to the obvious question, yes, I have seen them fired many times.

Tornados produce blackish smoke from their engines when operating at high power setting without reheat: this is most marked when power is reduced from reheat to 'maximum dry' power (in reheat no smoke is produced).

Incidentally, the 'strike' Tornado is perfectly capable of operating as low as 50ft over water at supersonic speeds for long periods; the fighter version may be capable of operating at this level but

only for very short periods.

Terence W. Clark
Air Traffic Services Consultant
Frimly, Surrey.

Dear Editor

With reference to the 'Witness Bites Back' letter in UT7.

It is true to say that RAF Leeming (not Leaming) is 'not far from Blackpool'. England is rather narrow at this point; even Scarborough is not far from Blackpool.

The writer comments that the Tornado was not on a training mission. I take it this confirmation has come from the RAF themselves? The writer then goes on to say that I think 'Tornadoes cannot fly on the west side of the country'. I said nothing of the sort. I simply pointed out that the area of operation for Tornado Interceptors was the east coast, where the treat is said to lie. Of course Tornadoes have the capability of flying to the west coast. They have the capability to bomb Paris, but it is unlikely that they would. When will people learn that misinterpreting the opponent is no way to win the argument?

I admitted in my original letter that I knew little of the actual event and was just offering a possible explanation based on my own experience. TO attempt to ridicule such inputs is counter-productive and can put many people off entering the debate, thereby doing a dis-service regarding pursuit of the truth.

The writer went on to speak of a dull flash under the fuselage with black smoke in front and behind the aircraft. For future reference, readers may wish to know of several explanations for such an effect. Air can build up within a jet engine and ignite. Hitting air turbulence can cause immediate evaporation of water molecules against the fuselage. Flying over the sea, fuel jettisoning can occur (at high speed, this could look like smoke). Finally, bird strikes can give a similar visual effect. Is Blackpool minus a seagull?

Perhaps I should end with a comment in the April 1990 issue of NUN: 'The case is now officially labelled HOAX.'

Anthony North
London.

Editor's Comment: Thanks for your enlightening comments. This case has been clearly debated to its full, so I would like to draw it to a close. Except to say that according to the principle investigators the case is still officially OPEN!

Whose Blinkered?

Dear Editor,

Whilst I dislike 'continuing correspondences' in any journal, it is clearly necessary to reply to your comments on my letter published in UT7 since some are irrelevant and others are a matter of opinion or semantics.

1. I did not claim Dave Clarke's views were same as those of BUFORA (which, if I recall correctly, does not have a corporate view anyway) or, indeed, your own: nor did I suggest you should not have printed his 'Ossett' review.

2. He is perfectly entitled to his own opinions, but BUFORA members are also entitled to know there is another side to the coin - hence my letter.

3. I agree with your comment insofar as 'UFO' meaning 'Craft of unknown origin' is concerned: my phraseology could have been clearer. What I intended to convey was that investigating, correlating and researching the 10%, 5%, 3% - or whatever - of UFO reports that are of craft of unknown origin should be the prime object of UFO research.

4. Certainly I do not dismiss IFO data. The first thing to do with any UFO report is to go through all possible explanations - and then some! My 'tinkering around' remark referred to the endless astronomical/meteorological etc. tables and arguments that are primarily concerned to prove the small percentage that are craft do not exist.

5. If the word 'craft' is objected to in

cases where it is perfectly justified then it is those who object to it who are blinkered.

6. I did not say I wanted to believe or disbelieve in the 'S.A. Crash Retrieval' story. My words were that it was 'being investigated (by YUFOS) in a far more active and detailed manner than I have come across elsewhere'.

7. UFO - then Flying Saucer - societies were first established to discover the origin of the 'alien' (not necessarily E.T.) objects that were flying around our skies. The basic difference - as I see it - is that I consider we should concentrate on this (admittedly small) percentage, whilst others seem to deny that any such percentage can possibly exist.

Come along to my talk in the next BUFORA series and then see to what extent you disagree.

Norman Oliver
Lincoln.

Editor's comment: Well Norman, you seem to only reiterate the points you made in your previous letter rather than answer the points I raised. I agree with point number one, however at the time there

were many people who were outraged at someone being allowed to express his opinion in public - to the point of threats of legal action. My opening paragraph set the record straight for those individuals and was not necessarily directed to you.

We obviously have a differing viewpoint of what ufology is. I am always intrigued and impressed with many cases, but as an individual, I simply want to get to the bottom of the phenomenon. If your 'aliens' are novel atmospheric events with a large slice of psychology thrown in, I'm happy: we've been successful in explaining another mystery - pushing the bounds of human science a little further back.

Looking at the S.A. case most if not all the evidence points to a complete hoax and if you had read the IUN research in UT7 (which has been a highly active investigation) you may change your mind. Once again YUFOS seem to be backing another dead duck (do I hear echos of Crecoe again?) Stop filling ufology with rubbish and lets get down to the real stuff.

I will be along to your talk and you never know your luck, I may even chair the meeting!

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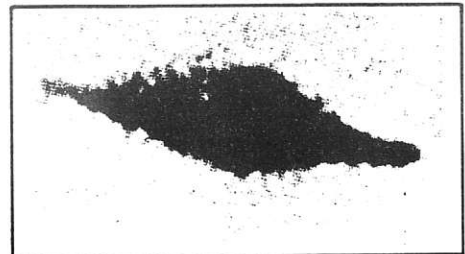
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