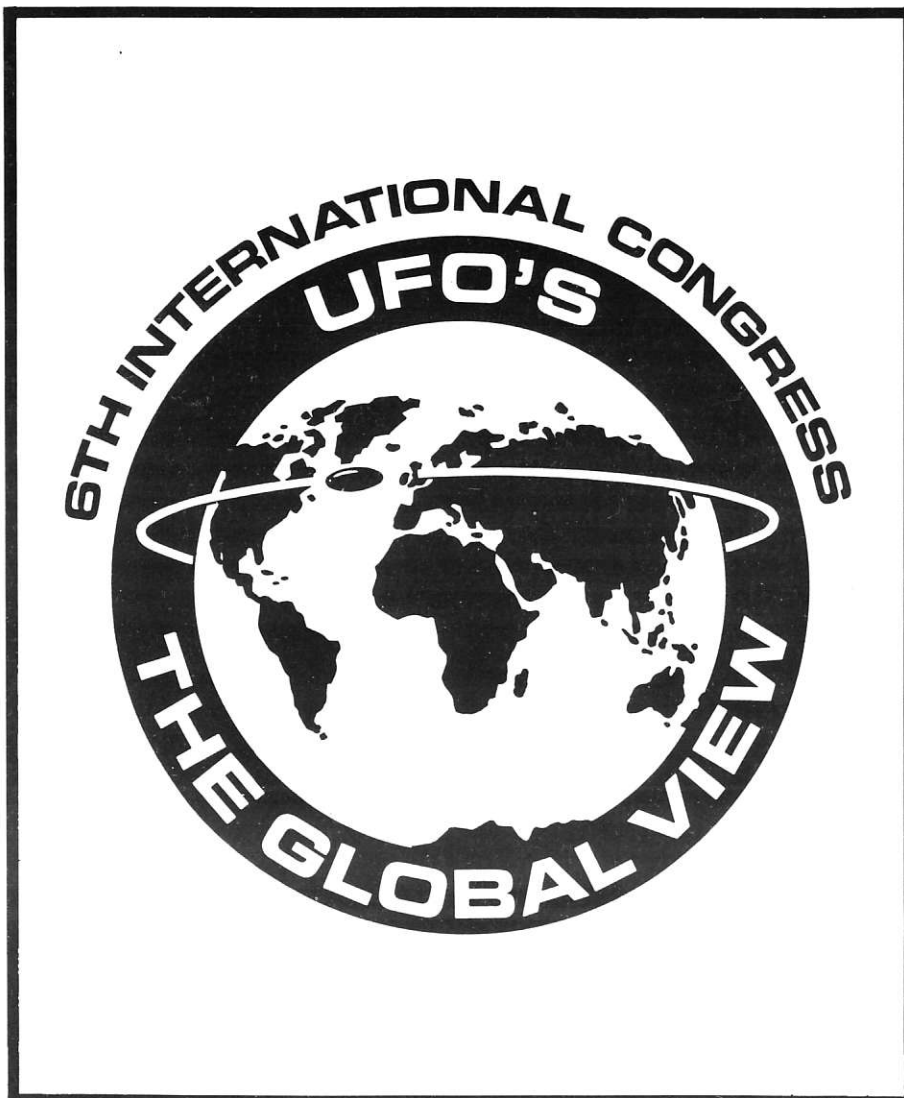

UFO TIMES

Number 14 July 1991

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*Special Congress
Issue*

INSIDE

John Spencer bites back after criticisms of his latest books and underlines BUFORA's future strategy

A mystery solved. Steuart Campbell reveals the explanation of the classic Peter Day movie film case

Gordon Millington tracks the evolution of the UFO Phenomenon

And more cases from Belgium - A hotbed of UFO activity

Plus.... An extended Stop Press update on the latest Crop Circle research, Investigations Diary, Skywatcher, Letters and more.....

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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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Front Cover

The official Congress '91 logo

There is very little time for you to book in advance. Tickets are selling extremely quickly.

UFO TIMES

EDITORIAL MJ - 12 Too Many?

It continually surprises me every time I open an American UFO magazine, that there is always a 'new' article extolling the virtues of MJ-12 or the Roswell Incident. And to say that the claims (and sometimes counter-claims) often leave the reader utterly perplexed and bewildered as to what to believe in the end, would be an understatement.

The endless discussions about typewriters, signatures, watermarks and Japanese rice paper balloons is becoming rather tedious to say the least - especially when I believe that the whole exercise of investigating these issues are a complete waste of time.

An unjustified judgement you may think. But is it?

Technology Paypoff

Let us look at an old, but still very valid scenario. If an alien spaceship did crash in Roswell and the US Air Force recovered the wreckage, which was some 44 years ago. It would seem logical to me that the US government would have gained, by now, a multitude of scientific knowledge from the years of examining the downed saucer. However, the Space Shuttle is still using firework technology to launch itself into orbit and military aircraft are still using jet propulsion. Where is the sci-fi technology? Presumably this technology is kept so much under raps that it is never used for fear of a leak and thus totally useless!

Further to this argument, Stanton Friedman, the loud deus ex machina of Roswell and MJ-12, states proudly in his enthusiastic lectures that he has been involved in a large majority of failed propulsion projects such as nuclear

rockets and electromagnetically powered submarines - all fruitlessly funded by the US taxpayer. One can postulate that he did not receive any extra ingredients or clues, gleaned from the Roswell saucer, to make these systems work. Or we would have seen some more positive results. Answer please Mr Friedman.

Does Blue book Fit?

Another general inconsistency is the status of Project Blue Book. Why create such a project with people like Allen Hynek working to examine UFO evidence, knowing full well what the answer was really? Why not simply set up the Condon Committee, whitewash the whole subject as not worthy of scientific scrutiny and be done with it.

While several American ufologists argue over micro issues such as typefaces and confusing eyewitness testimony, they have lost sight of basic macro questions as detailed above.

It also appals me to see thousands of Dollars being poured into this area of study by the Fund for UFO Research where the only results are more questions.

Maybe this is the key. Howard Blum took a fresh look at MJ-12 in his book 'Out There' and came to the conclusion that the whole MJ-12 affair was a disinformation plot by the US government (1). If it is a disinformation ploy - then it's working a treat. Ufology has been steered away from real UFO events and ploughing scant resources into a non entity. Perfect.

I believe that the main driving force behind the long life of MJ-12 and Roswell is the wish of the investigators that UFOs are of an extraterrestrial origin. The need to keep a mythology alive and kicking is a powerful one and despite my earlier thoughts that MJ-12 and Roswell would die a death in near future (2) it would seem that these topics will be high on the agenda for quite some time to come.

References

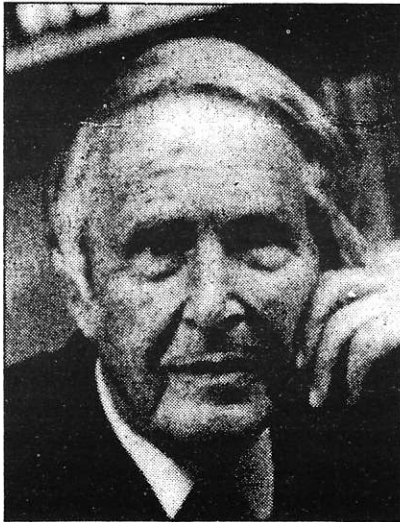
- (1.) Blum, Howard. Out There. Simon and Schuster. 1990.
- (2.) Editorial, UFO Times 11, pp 4.

News

Professor Hans Bender Dies Stalling Anamnesis Project

report by Ken Phillips

It is with great regret that I have to announce the death of the founder and head of the **INSTITUT FÜR GRENZGEBIETE DER PSYCHOLOGIE UND PSYCHOHYGIENE (INSTITUTE FOR BORDERLINE PSYCHOLOGY & PSYCHO-HYGIENE)**.



Hans Bender

The passing of Bender could not have happened at a more inopportune time as far as the ANAMNESIS project is concerned since the future of the Dept. of Parapsychology, of which the incumbent head and principal advocate of the UFO WITNESS ANAMNESIS/RORSCHACH PROJECT, Rolf Streichardt, forms the final evaluation of the project's data, is now in grave doubt.

Should Streichardt's department be forced to close and there are no alternative research groups to carry on the work then this would mean the virtual end of the BUFORA's ANAMNESIS project. As it is, Dr. Keul has asked me to suspend all further ANAMNESIS testing forthwith due to the fact that he is now fully committed to a 5-year study plan of environmental psychology at Salzburg, and therefore cannot undertake any

further psycho-social evaluation of UFO witnesses until after the 5-year period has elapsed.

Bitterly Disappointed

Many members of BUFORA who know of my work in this field will realise how bitterly disappointed I am at learning of these recent developments because I have been involved with the project since its introduction in the northern Home Counties in 1981. One can imagine the enormous amount of man-hours and personal expense which have gone into interviewing witnesses and compiling reports, only to see the project stall so drastically when we were within sight of seeing our subject gain scientific recognition - c'est la vie!

Perhaps it is now time for me to return to the more-mainstream type of investigations, using whatever new format of investigations protocol BUFORA' R&I decree for use in the last decade of the 20th century, and thus see out the rest of my investigations days in a slightly-less controversial area of UFO report enquiry. I would, however, wish to take this opportunity of thanking all those members who rendered me moral and material support in this rather awkward area UFO-witness investigations, and for putting up with the rather absurd idea that there is a connection between the 'inner world' of the witness and what is going on 'out there'.

Editor's Note: These developments have certainly been a tremendous blow to a vitally important project. I am sure that ways will be found for its continuance.

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BUFORA MEANS BUSINESS

An Interview With John Spencer

by Mike Wootten

If someone had asked you who John Spencer was a few years ago, your answer probably would have been that he was a snooker player. If the same question was asked today then your answer may have been different - John Spencer the UFO researcher and a researcher with a reputation.

Not many UFO researchers would have attempted to question such an important foundation stone to ufology as the Betty and Barney Hill case in his book 'Perspectives' or indeed be critical of many facets of UFO investigation and research in general.

His two new books 'The UFO Encyclopedia' and 'UFOs The Definitive Casebook' have not been well received within the UFO community. With this in mind, I decided to catch up with John in Sheffield recently not only to question him on his new books but also to hear of his vision for British ufology in the future.

Q: Let's talk about those books that seem to have caused some controversy. Why did we need yet another encyclopedia?

A: If 'we' consists of UFO enthusiasts and UFO researchers then we don't need another encyclopedia. There are a number of encyclopedias designed for research, which mine isn't. However 'we' are not the only people in the world though you wouldn't think so to read some of the outpourings of authors and magazine editors in this subject. For years these writers, including myself with books like 'Perspectives', have been guilty of writing only for each other, and we seem happy to go on doing it until the sun burns out. We make no real attempt to attract new readers. Of course we all hope that our books will reach wider markets, but we don't actually do anything to try to make it happen.

The brief for the books was that the subject be presented to as wide a new market as possible; these books have to

present the subject not just to enthusiasts but to pre-teenage children, to teenagers, and across the adult spectrum from people who watch David Bellamy to those who watch Coronation Street. We need to interest the young; give me a child and I'll give you back the man, they say. You try and design one book that can reach all those people - it isn't easy, it might be impossible. What we know doesn't work is only writing stuff that builds on what's gone before before most people haven't yet read what's gone before. It's never been presented in a package that interests them.

Bridging the Gap

In the end I had image consultants, experts in influencing skills and report writing designing books which they based on something like a cross between Trivial Pursuits and one of those books that you just pick up, look at a few entries, and put down. These kind of books stay 'active' for a long time. Of course we also had to be fair and compromise with the needs of the publishers who are in a commercial market, they're not UFO enthusiasts. The books use encyclopediac layout and are intended to bridge the gap between tabloid storytelling and the 'high brow' writings that we're used to. That means for example bringing in a few famous names where applicable because those names trigger agreeable associations in the general public's mind, it means not over cross-referencing because that's boring to non-researchers, and a host of other stuff. This is spelt out in the introduction I think.

Q: You mentioned the Casebook. What are the differences between these two books?

A: Well, the books together are different from other books in the field because of this question of approaching new markets. One of the best maxims in the business world is 'If you want to get something different out, then you have to put something different in.' These books are an experiment trying to break new ground.

With regard to the differences between the books themselves the encyclopedia addresses the history of over 40 years and how the public image of UFOs has been moulded; that means including the sometimes trivial comments of particularly prominent people, the particular experiences that have been corner-stones in changing perception of the subject, and of course the committees in America that frankly formulated much of the image of the ETH in the early years. The Casebook takes the global factor showing how the UFO subject is both uniform across the world but also affected by particular local cultures and of course it also has unique illustrations. One of the points brought out by the consultants looking at the subject was that people seem to crave visualisations of the UFO phenomenon which of course we should all have recognised for ourselves. Slide illustrated lectures attract twice the audience and you only have to have a line drawing on the wall at a conference for 100 people to gather round and take photographs of it. The book addresses this desire and the publishers were very far-sighted in commissioning the paintings and models at considerable cost.

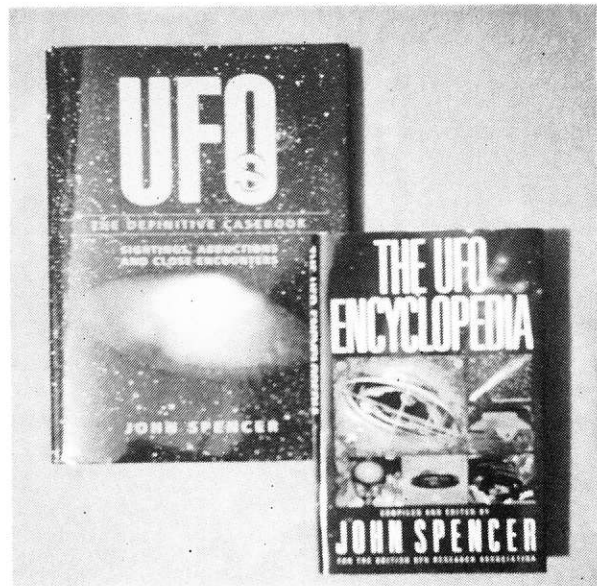
There have been criticisms of the books from inside the UFO business of course but outside they are being received well. For UFO enthusiasts maybe I should have publicized the briefs for these books before they were published; this question of assuming the books were designed for research looks set to haunt me for ever; I have a feeling that I'm going to be defending a position I never intended to take for years to come.

You've got to bear in mind this

question of writing for particular markets. A medical encyclopedia written for doctors is not going to look the same as a book about ailments written for the general public; astronomy books for the public don't read like an operators manual for Jodrell Bank. I don't think people in this business have realised that yet, in fact I'm not sure they realise how different these markets are.

Q: Are UFO books written by ufologists for ufologists outdated then?

A: Don't get me wrong - I'm not saying there is no place for specialist books like, say, Hilary Evans' which are probably the best in the world, they are absolutely vital; but there is a need for more than just that.



Q: Are the books appealing to the public?

A: They're selling well, we've got one paperback deal and both books are going into the States next year. This should give BUFORA some publicity it needs. I'm glad for both publishers because they have taken risks too; we should see ourselves in partnership with them, not opposed to them just because we have different aims.

But in fact the sales numbers are of much less importance to me than whether or not they translate into BUFORA membership or other support. That will be the only real test of whether or not I got it right, given the aims I had.

Of course we've had some flak from the more eccentric magazine editors who are using the books to have a go at me and BUFORA but that's nothing new, ask Lionel Beer - he warned me about this before I started. One or two of the magazines not backed by research organisations are nothing more than exercise bikes for editors to work out their egos on. These guys aren't out there doing any actual research for one thing. Given that background, when an organisation like BUFORA decides to take the subject truly seriously it's open to attack from every ingrained prejudice and belief system going.

From those kind of people failure will get you criticized but it takes success to really bring out attacks like plagues bring out the dead. And since my work has got me further into other paranormal areas I'm planning similar books there too so those critics had better get some very serious supplies of valium in.

Q: Some of these criticisms have suggested that the books aren't 100% accurate. Are you refuting that?

A: No. I said in the introduction of the encyclopedia that there would be errors; I have found errors in virtually every book and most magazines I've ever read on the subject but I don't try to score points by that and I don't admire it in others. The books come from a database I compiled of over 8000 items, of which about 1000 were selected as entries. I try to keep my database updated as much as possible and verify where I can but mistakes are inevitable. Remember when you're researching an encyclopedia you need a much greater range of factual items than you do for most books so the risks of error then becomes far greater.

Every item in the books, apart from those which come from personal files or resources of my own, have come from legitimate good works on the subject. About 100 books were used in the final reviews alone but of course many more have been used over the years.

However, time moves on and there will be updates I've missed. Such is the size of the subject that it is impossible for

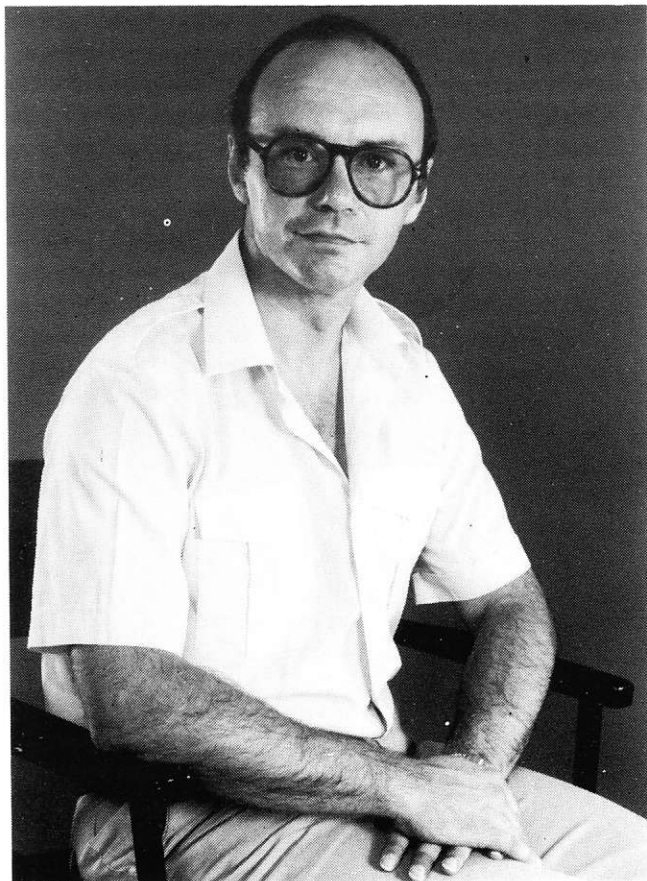
any one researcher or even any one committee to have all the constantly changing information in the world at any given time. Even between the time of finishing the manuscripts and before they were published several cases advanced; the change from basic cornfield circle patterns to pictograms, recent revelations on the Peter Day case, one or two American cases that have developed. Of course there will be private correspondences between researchers which I won't be aware of and any one of those people could point out 'errors' as such in the books. I'm not suggesting that we should deliberately sacrifice quality, but there must be a cut-off point or you never get anything actually finished. And those who have suggested I somehow missed one or two items they thought were crucial had better bear in mind I knew of another 7000 entries so they've got some catching up to do yet. I did offer the full set as a 'proper' research encyclopedia by the way but cross referenced we calculated it would run to seven volumes - no publisher in their right mind would touch it. And it would be useful to about 100 people who anyway ought to have compiled their own by now. Even then it would still amount to a snapshot, out of date even as it was published, like all encyclopedias.

Taunting the Bull

It's worth pointing out in any case that most criticisms of books in this subject, by writers who have a vested interest of course, tend not to be actual reviews but rather the author saying 'If I had done it I would have done it this way'. An encyclopedia is like a red rag to a bull; everyone knows the balance they would put it, the subjects they think are important. Point scoring is easy if that's what turns you on. I guess from the UFO enthusiasts point of view I'd have been on safer ground if I'd used another name but I still think for the wider market it's right. It is an encyclopedia, so why not say so.

Another thing: one of the most important lessons from business is that you won't succeed unless you take risks. Indeed, the only people who never fail are those who never try, and never

succeed, either. I don't know if the books experiment will work from BUFORA's point of view but I shan't worry if it doesn't; I'll go on until something works. Remember I got 'Phenomenon' placed with a major publisher, about the first book of it's kind by an organisation rather than an individual; that was a risk and indeed it's success was much less than I'd hoped for. It didn't bring in the membership to BUFORA we had hoped for, so we try something else.



John Spencer

Q: BUFORA is undergoing several changes at the present. Can you outline these?

A: Over the next five to ten years we will see BUFORA going through some radical changes; a big increase in membership numbers, much greater funding for direct research and investigation, and training programmes. Already we are in the final stages of setting up a BUFORA office with a full-time secretary and receptionist which will mean quicker responses to enquiries and the ability to set up a whole range of new services for members. It's long overdue: in the 44 years since Kenneth

Arnold's sighting we've made some advances but they are nowhere on the scale that they ought to be after that amount of time. We need to get new people and do more with the ones we've got and give members better value for money.

Q: What kind of new services?

A: In the long term we need an office or 'shop' that members can visit with library and lecture facilities but even to answer that question fully in the short term we need to ask members exactly what services they need. For the immediate future we must improve what we've been working on; quick responses to enquiries, a well publicized postal library facility, more specialist and non-specialist publications, manned phones to receive reports, enquiries and so on. We need to have a team able to respond to and initiate dealing with the media; most of this now becomes possible with the office.

Q: How do we go about achieving the longer term goals?

A: The key is to get new members and new funds in so that we can afford to do more. About 10 to 12 years ago the policy sub-committee under Les Bayer started seeking out and recruiting professionals designed to beef the company up. I was one of those recruited from the business world and my initial brief was to reverse the poor financial position, which we did. My successors as treasurer including the current treasurer, Simon Rose, have done brilliantly well to continue that long-term work.

A Blueprint for the Future

Recently our former chairman, Bob Digby, produced what will I think turn out to be one of the most important consultative documents produced for the company, concentrating on marketing and promotion. We decided to take that further and I persuaded my colleagues in management consultancy and business training to apply a little free time to our problems. We are talking about a team that charges £1,000s an hour for consultancy to some of the biggest multinational names in the world.

As I am sure you were pleased to know they were happy with two aspects, UFO Times and the UFO-Call line, both of which were your own efforts in the most part. But they also recommended a whole range of other ideas which have already started with the development of the office and staff, the production of the two books that recently came out, the Encyclopedia and the Casebook, higher profile marketing, teambuilding, goal-setting, reapplying for charity status and so on. Most of this was discussed by the current policy team and some was discussed with Patrick too, of course. (Major Sir Patrick Wall, the President.)

Q: So what happens next now that the books are done?

A: We've worked hard for the subject to be opened up to serious science which was the first major thrust we needed, and I think we've had some success, though more is needed. The effort to put this subject on a basis with respected science must continue. I spend a lot of my time going round lecturing to science and astronomy groups and I think we're getting through that BUFORA is not a crazy cult group.

Business-Speak

I think the other major drive is to instigate into the subject the best of the business world. I don't mean profits or anything like that; but in business we energise companies with teambuilding, with project focus, with specific and attainable goals, we find ways to motivate people to do good work, not just hard work. In truth UFO research, particularly outside of America, is a bit of a rag-bag collection. We see a case, study it, file it and then what? Just wait for the next case? Where are we going? What are we trying to do? Do I as a researcher have anything at my disposal now that I would not have had forty years ago and if not why not? What other field of work could show so little after so long? If all this seems frightening and clinical be assured it's not. If we set goals and focus our best minds - and find some new ones - then in ten years we will be talking about funded training programmes, offices and equipment at our disposal, quick

response networks, and a whole host of powerful tools for research. We just can't go on aimlessly, we must have purpose. For example there are no professional UFO investigators anywhere in the UK - no one person actually paid to do the job, which is the definition; we must get rid of that amateur status and find funds that enable us to pay full-time people to head up trained networks.

The best model that exists is MUFON in the States; I know we might not agree with their strong ET line but their methods are the best in the world; good inter state co-operation, organised and energised teams, training programmes, even exams for investigators. I know Jenny Randles has suggested we should loosen or cut our ties with MUFON but I think we have a lot to learn from them.

And another thing we would do well to think about is that our future teams must include the witnesses. They're not animals in a cage to be studied, they are the subject, and should be working closely with us.

Q: Your vision of what we should be doing is admirable and would revolutionise UFO research for the better, but is it not easier said than done?

A: I don't expect easy answers, I'm not naive. We may have decades to go, but let's use them well. Don't get me wrong, there are some very good people doing some very good work, but this subject lacks synergy - the extra energy that comes from energised teams working together. Researchers don't work together in any real way; Eduardo Russo said the only work being done is by individuals, not organisations, and Vallee has said that he saw no reason for joining groups to do what he could do alone anyway. But it doesn't have to be that way, it can be rewarding working in a committed, united team with a common purpose in mind. We must make more use of the offers of involvement from our membership, and we must encourage people to try new things, to take risks. To do that we must not criticise failure and BUFORA must look

Continued on page 24

Fireball by Day

by Stuart Campbell

Several times since 1976 the BBC has transmitted a documentary on UFOs called "Out of this world". It includes a few seconds from a film showing a luminous object tracking silently across a wooded horizon in Buckinghamshire. Stills from the film have since been used many times as illustrations of a "UFO" and the full film was shown at a UFO Congress at High Wycombe in 1983. Until now the object on the film has remained unidentified.

The filming

At about 9:05 on 11 January 1973 surveyor Peter Day was driving east on the A418 towards Aylesbury (Buckinghamshire). Suddenly he noticed an orange ball of light very low on the northern horizon, to his left. It was moving as he was, west to east. He could not stop on this busy road but he was due to turn off left towards Cuddington. After he had done so he stopped the car and reached for the cine camera which he always carried with him. The light was now to his right, to the north-east. He then filmed it through the open window for 23 seconds until it suddenly vanished (about 9:10 am). At no time did he hear any sound from the direction of the light. He did not see it again and drove on to an appointment in Lower Winchendon.

The weather

It was a cold (3°C), slightly misty morning with an overcast sky. There was stratocumulus cloud with a base at about 750 metres and a wind of 0.5 m/s (5 knots) from the south-east, although Peter detected no wind. Visibility at the surface was 5 to 9 km.

Photographic data

The camera was a Boots "Pacemaker 200" Super 8 loaded with Kodachrome 40 Movie

Film (Type A). This film, which has an ISO speed of 25 in daylight, was developed at Kodak's laboratory in Hemel Hempstead. The film was taken with the camera lens set on zoom (F = 25 mm). The unidentified object shows on 380 frames, at the end of the spool.

Investigation

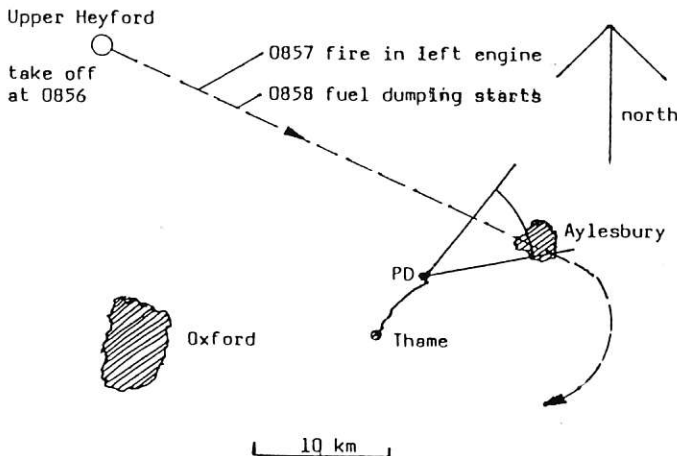
A possible explanation emerged even before Peter reached home. He had called into the offices of the Thames Gazette to tell them of his experience. However, they had already received reports of a "UFO" in the area. Furthermore they had been told by the police that the "UFO" must have been a military jet which had been dumping fuel because it was in trouble. Indeed this aircraft crashed at 9:46 am near North Crawley (now part of Milton Keynes) about 30 km from where Peter had been filming. He heard about the crash when he reached home. However, since he was familiar with aircraft, and often filmed them, Peter was (and still is) convinced that the ball of light was not the aircraft. He could see no aircraft, nor did he hear one. He believes that the object may have caused the crash!

Many individuals and groups have since examined the film and attempted to explain it. A group of scientists viewed it in case it might show ball lightning; they decided that this was most unlikely. The British UFO Research Association (BUFORA), who organized the Congress in 1983, made spasmodic investigation over many years, but without reaching any definite conclusion. In 1983 a Swindon UFO group began a new investigation, concentrating on the crashed aircraft. Sensibly they argued that the coincidence that an aircraft crashed, or was in difficulty, just about the time the film was taken should not be ignored. Consequently they attempted to obtain more information about the crash. However, all they learned was that the aircraft was a USAF F-111 from RAF Upper Heyford. It was already known from the press that the aircraft had a rudder problem and that it had circled "to use up fuel" for 40 minutes or so before the crash. Although this association was interesting it was not enough to explain the object on the film. Clearly Peter

Day had not filmed the aircraft crashing, even though it was reported to have crashed in flames. Nor was there any evidence that the aircraft had been in Peter's vicinity during the time it was manoeuvring. What they needed was a copy of the USAF's crash investigation report.

The last flight of Sewn 12

Recently, using the USA's Freedom of Information Act, I obtained a copy of this report. Consequently it is only now that the case can be explained unequivocally. "Sewn 12" was the code name for an F-111E fighter-bomber (serial no. 68-024). A wing of 72 such aircraft were deployed by the 20th Tactical Fighter Wing of USAFE, and the 55th Tactical Fighter Squadron was based at Upper Heyford.



Sketch plan of the route of the F-111 in relation to Peter Day (PD) and his filming direction

At 8:56 am on the morning in question Sewn 12, and its companion aircraft Sewn 11, took off from Upper Heyford. Sewn 12 was crewed by Major Robert J Kroos and Captain Roger Beck, and was the lead aircraft. Their take-off was into the wind, in a south-easterly direction, directly over Aylesbury (see map).

During take-off, at 8:57, Sewn 12 suffered a fire in its left engine. Although the fire was quickly extinguished, it had damaged hydraulic controls with the result that the rudder was jammed hard over to the right. The pilot could only maintain his course by banking steeply to the left. Because the crew feared a crash they then began to dump fuel (at 8:58). In this aircraft the fuel vent pipe is located

at the rear directly between two engine exhausts. Consequently the dumped fuel can be ignited by the after-burners so that it does not reach the ground. Because only one engine was operating the crew were using its after-burner to maintain sufficient power to fly the aircraft. Evidently this dumping technique was unusual. The pilot of Sewn 12 asked his companion in Sewn 11 to check for fire because he thought he could see fire behind him. He was assured by Sewn 11 that "It's okay; it's the fuel burning". This was just about 9:00 am. The conversation transcript does not record when dumping ceased, but during a conversation at 9:07 Sewn 12 reported "we're not dumping now". At this time the aircraft was at an altitude of 600 metres (2000 ft.), still travelling south-east. My sketch plan shows that the flight path came to within 6 km of Peter Day. Subsequently the flight made several right circles to the south of Aylesbury before heading north towards Peterborough. They then headed back towards Upper Heyford, hoping to be able to land the crippled aircraft. However, just past Bedford, as the crew of Sewn 12 lowered the landing gear, the aircraft went out of control and they were forced to eject. They were not injured, nor was anyone on the ground, but a \$12 million aircraft was lost.

Conclusions

The fuel was being dumped at about the time the film was taken, and the location and movement of the aircraft are consistent with those of the "UFO". At the distance of 6 km (increasing) and beside the mass of burning fuel the aircraft themselves were not visible. Nor could they be heard with the slight wind carrying sound to the north-west. Evidently the light disappeared when the crew of Sewn 12 ceased to dump fuel. Although the cruising speed of an F-111 is 919 km/h, at a distance of 6 km it (or rather the burning fuel) would appear to move only slowly across the horizon, as seen in the film. It would take fully 5 seconds to cover the angle of view subtended by the camera's lens (13 deg.). Evidently the object filmed by Peter Day was the burning fuel from Sewn 12 during fuel dumping.

Investigations DIARY

The Regular UFO report update of cases investigated by the NIC and local groups from around the British Isles

Edited by Jenny Randles

BUFORA investigators are being kept on their toes lately with some rather interesting cases; with a fall in mundane LITS type cases.

CASES:

The investigation of the Warrington video case that occurred in February 1991 is progressing well. A great deal of work has been carried out. The object was videoed a second time by a separate camera in April and the tape is under analysis by Roy Rowlands and Roger Chinery. They also have the daylight video of an object recorded in Shropshire in December 1990. Copies of these are also with Dave Reynolds, a meteorologist from the University of Swansea, who is assisting.

The Buckinghamshire car stop and time lapse also from February 1991 is in the hands of the Northamptonshire branch after initial follow up by myself. The case looks very promising and reports of progress are in the pipeline. Fuller details will be highlighted in a future Investigations Dairy.

Several good cases came to us after the appearance by both John Spencer and myself on the BBC 'Daytime UK' programmes on two separate occasions. About 40 cases were distributed for follow up, three or four of which look very promising - including a close encounter over Rendlesham Forest and a contact/abduction from the London area which Ken Phillips is onto.

A new case from Oxfordshire has just been received. It involves a perfectly triangular scar that has mysteriously appeared on a man's back. A photo of this was included.

The controversy over the Steuart Campbell 'solution' to the Peter Day movie film case is also hotting up. The solution is the one we proposed in 'Fire in the Sky', despite Campbell forgetting to say so in his article [see

page 11, Ed], and does look to be very probable.

BROADCAST NEWS

UFOs and the media

Spring was a busy time for BUFORA in the public eye. Both vice-chairman John Spencer and myself as Director of Investigations appeared on the BBC-1 TV show 'Daytime UK' during late March and early April.

John was promoting his new UFO encyclopedia and the Sheffield congress and I was handling a viewer interaction and phone-in slot about close encounter cases - with the help of a witness from Todmorden (for once NOT Alan Godfrey!) The BBC tackled both pieces admirably well and dozens of promising cases have been flooding in as a result. You'll be reading about them in UFO Times for the next year or two as investigations are carried out.

Philip Mantle, our press officer, has also been busy - including a slot on the ITV weekend children's series discussing UFO photographs. All in all a good time for serious UFOlogy on the TV screens.

Of course, the arrival of the crop circles has brought many more opportunities for media coverage. Paul Fuller has been working with several TV crews from the UK and Japan and both he and I have liaised with an independent TV company making what promises to be an exciting documentary for the Channel 4 science series 'Equinox'. Look out for that in the autumn. It intends to study the people behind the circles. Sounds fun!

Excellent press coverage has appeared in sources such as the Times, Telegraph and (of course) the tabloids. Indeed the Sunday Mirror's £10,000 offer if you can 'solve' the mystery is still open and, as one of the judges, I can tell you there is all still to play for if you

want to have a crack. Given the judges, it is unlikely ANY standard theory will be accepted (including hoaxes, alien messages and vortices) - so be a bit more free-thinking than that! Even the European has conducted an investigation this summer, using much of BUFORA's data on the spread of circle cases outside of the UK. It expressed surprise at BUFORA's support for the work of Dr Terence Meaden - presumably because our name conjures up other images.

Both Paul and I have also been busy doing radio interviews on crop circles - including an excellently researched piece with the Radio 4 programme 'Today' which appeared in mid July.

However, probably the most talked about radio programmes were on Radio 1 in June when Tim Good appeared to discuss his new book 'Alien Liaison'.

This has received only moderate publicity (although typically blistering attacks in the Telegraph will have

served to attract readers to this controversial volume). Nonetheless, Tim's two appearances on radio were an unqualified hit with the audience, jamming switchboards and including live phone calls to key US personnel who claim knowledge about the secret 'Dreamland' project to house alien UFOs in the US desert.

Ironically, the day after these shows I had a long standing (and much more conservative) feature with astronomer Dr John Mason which was aired live on Radio 5. This half hour debate and phone-in about the substance behind the shadows of UFology came over with (to some) surprising agreement and Dr Mason expressed some delight at his apparent discovery that there were UFologists who seemed sensible, scientific and not too far removed from his own wavelength.

If he tuned into BUFORA more often he would have known that already and received many other pleasant shocks no doubt!

CASEFILECASEFILECASEFILECASEFILE

72-205 5 November 1972 Banbury, Oxfordshire 22.00

R1 only of ball of light that sounds like satellite. Too old for follow up.

84-018 25 April 1984 Blairgowrie, Perthshire 17.00 Ken Higgins

Good case file of new visit to a witness of a visionary type close encounter with 'key' shape over garden. Investigated at time by Steuart Campbell but written off as hallucination. New date added. Interesting case.

86-022 17 April 1986 Liskeard, Cornwall 23.15 Doug Cooper

Report Vulcan bomber shaped craft with mass of lights making low droning sound. Similar to 'Silent Vulcan' cases. Considered to be a stealth bomber.

89-026 29 June 1989 Harrow, Middlesex 22.00

R1 only of long duration sighting of multiple dancing lights in sky. Sounds very much like our old friend the laser display. No need to follow up.

89-027 31 August 1989 Strood, Kent 23.20

R1 only of orange light seen on several occasions and several dates. Sounds so much like an aircraft or helicopter there is little point in follow up.

90-012 18 March 1990 Chalfont St Giles, Bucks. 02.00 Ken Phillips

R1 only of 'multi coloured disco lights' dancing in sky over Amersham. Again probably laser display so no follow up desired by investigator.

90-013 6 June 1990 Torquay, Devon 23.45 Doug Cooper

Woman in garden saw rectangular mass of coloured lights drifting by.

90-014 9 June 1990 Paignton, Devon 23.58 Doug Cooper

Psychic woman observed egg shape with multi coloured lights and giving off a blue slipstream at rear. Moved slowly and although seen for 2 minutes time slowed in OZ

Factor effect during sighting.

Doug suspects these two similar and geographically close cases might be related, as second date is not certain and could have been even nearer (or on) the 6th. Some famous crop circles formed locally around this period.

90-015 13 July 1990 Newton Abbott, Devon 22.00 Doug Cooper

Elderly couple observed triangle of lights in sky on more than one night (there for hours). Felt 'drawn' to it. Surely has to be stellar objects.

90-016 20 July 1990 Ingatestone, Essex 18.30 Arnold West

Arnold secured R1 and written account. UFO like 'cartoon hat' grey/green with central light or window. Descended behind trees. Dog barked 'at it' and cat 'ran away'. Witness is 10 year old girl so no follow up planned.

Not coded 1 August 1990 Wolverhampton, West Midlands David Taylor

Detailed investigation of crop circle formation found near local polytechnic. Considered a hoax.

90-017 10 October 1990 Merstham, Surrey 20.10 Neil Thompson

71 year old lady observed triangle of red lights. Husband watching TV and wouldn't come out. Car arrived to pick her up so she did not see it go.

90-018 16 October 1990 Chadwick End, West Midlands 13.28 Arnold West

Witness gardening observed black rectangular rising from roadside and drift away. Considered 'bin bag' in wind, but thought not. Could have been something like that from description.

90-019 30 October 1990 Broadstairs, Kent 22.15 Howard Weinthrop

Intriguing case began with front page story in local paper. Man and girlfriend saw 'dark mothership' and dancing lights flying around and entering it. Visible 2 hours and drifted out to sea. Others locally saw lightning and strange flashes. Report from meteorologist Dave Reynolds suggests a thunder funnel cloud plus both conventional and ball lightning which was observed.

90-020 10 November 1990 Mulhuddert, Eire 20.10 Anne Griffin/Pat Delaney

Three teenage girls observed pinkish mass descending towards ground and vanishing. Investigation revealed proximity to Dublin Airport where red flares are sometimes used.

90-021 18 November 1990 Gravesend, Kent 01.00

R1 only as blue light which fell from sky in 2 seconds clearly meteor.

90-022 25 November 1990 Sutton, Surrey 22.25

Again no follow up to R1 and written account by witness as four lights moving about in circle seen for 45 minutes clearly the demon lasers again.

91-002 6 January 1991 Liskeard, Cornwall 08.00 Doug Cooper

Object described as white and long, thin, tapered at both ends moving very slowly across sky between and behind clouds. Sounds like high vapour trail from jet but witness ex Army and familiar with trails. Perhaps this was from unusual type of aircraft and was catching the rising sun's rays?

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, Jenny Randles, 37 Heathbank Close, Stockport, Cheshire, SK3 0UP.

Tracking the UFO Phenomenon

by Gordon Millington

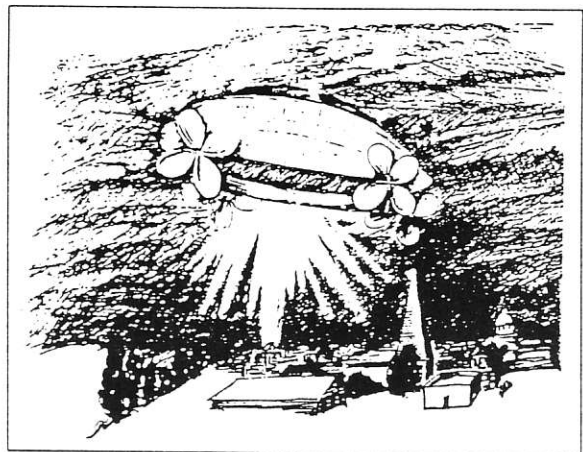
Purists may reasonably dispute any claim by ufology to call itself a discipline, for the meaning of the word must logically relate to the study of UFOs and few if any ufologists have ever got near enough to one even to begin to study it! What ufologists do study, of course, are witness accounts of UFO behaviour and, despite the lamentable propensity of the vast majority of UFOs to diminish on closer acquaintance to IFOs, many thousands of acceptable reports have been accumulated from all over the world.

From the painstaking comparison and classification of these, ufology has made sufficient progress to justify a redefinition of its scope. It has become the study of the behaviour of the intelligence behind the phenomena. We call this intelligence the Phenomenon, frankly admitting our ignorance of both its origins and its aims while still seeking clues to possible answers, some of which may be derived from an examination of its tactics over time.

Little Impact

Despite Magonia and all that, effective intervention by the Phenomena in such a way as to modify human consciousness does not pre-date the industrial revolution, for the fairy worlds of medieval legend had little impact on mundane affairs. Communications were rudimentary, most people were credulous and ill-educated. In such a climate of thought rumours thrive and fact becomes interwoven with fiction; but if a UFO were to land on the White House lawn tomorrow the whole world would know of it in minutes and the ufonauts could deliver an instant message on television to the whole of humanity. The Phenomenon, however, seems not to work like that, preferring perhaps a certain subtlety?

Consider, for example, how nicely the Phenomenon judges its presentation technology, remaining always in advance but never too far ahead of contemporary developments. When man's perennial dream of conquering the air stood on the threshold of fulfilment, Phenomenal airships appeared in the USA. We see their design as weird and impractical, resembling the products of Heath Robinsons comic muse, but to 19th century Americans their appearance was as convincing as their homespun operators, often neighbourly-seeming individuals who usually had time for a friendly chat - "We are from anywhere, but we will be in Greece day after tomorrow". Different enough, in their strange machines, to provoke comment, yet reassuring and sufficiently normal to dispel fears of the supernatural among religious fundamentalists quick to



ascribe to Satan the novel and the unfamiliar. Then for a time the psychologists of the Phenomenon seem to have lain low, having perhaps learned that modern man's attention span is short, requiring constant stimulation, that yesterday's miracle becomes today's commonplace.

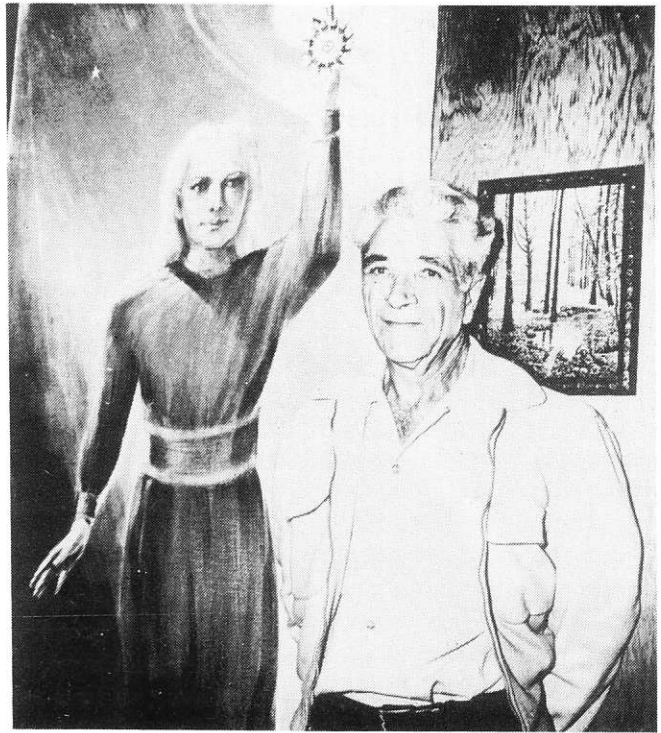
If, as some have conjectured, it is part of the Phenomenon's strategy to

provoke humanity to a wider acceptance of the paranormal, then perhaps the "Angels of Mons" and the various alleged appearance of the virgin Mary may be said to have achieved some success. Though easily enough dismissed by sceptics as collective hallucinations, such explanations fail to suggest a possible cause. A corporate malfunctioning of minds can scarcely arise spontaneously and is even less credible than the postulate of some entity purposively affecting human perceptions. Angels and inaccessible virgins, however, were unlikely to appeal to the hectic young aircrew of World War II, but they were certainly puzzled by the "Foo Fighters" which performed incredible aerobatics around them. Far from believing them to be paranormal, each side assumed them to be secret craft deployed by their enemies and, since they inflicted no harm, eventually ignored them. No score for the Phenomenon this time!

Engendering the ETH

The decades following the war became the era of Lights-in-the-Sky (LITS), the new, improved Foo Fighters which eventually engendered the widely successful Extra-Terrestrial (ETH). Initially, however, the LITS had to overcome the suspicion that they were terrestrial military developments. They worked hard to dispel the possibility of an earthly origin, buzzing the White House and disrupting electricity supplies to establish the kind of credibility they apparently needed. But, as any UFO investigator will readily confirm, LITS pretty soon become boring and the fickle interest of mankind, as exemplified by the media, soon turned elsewhere. If the UFOs were to continue to make the front pages of the tabloids, they had to come up with something more gripping than incredible aerial manoeuvres. So of course they did.

Before long people like Adamski were telling of encounters with allegedly Venusian ufonauts who took them joyriding in flying saucers to Utopian lands on nearby planets. In those days before the first satellite had pulsed out its orbital bleeps the "contactees" may well have sincerely believed them



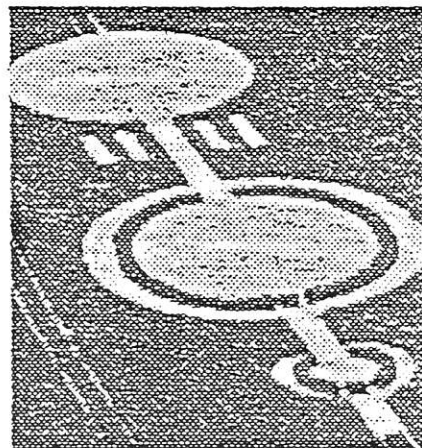
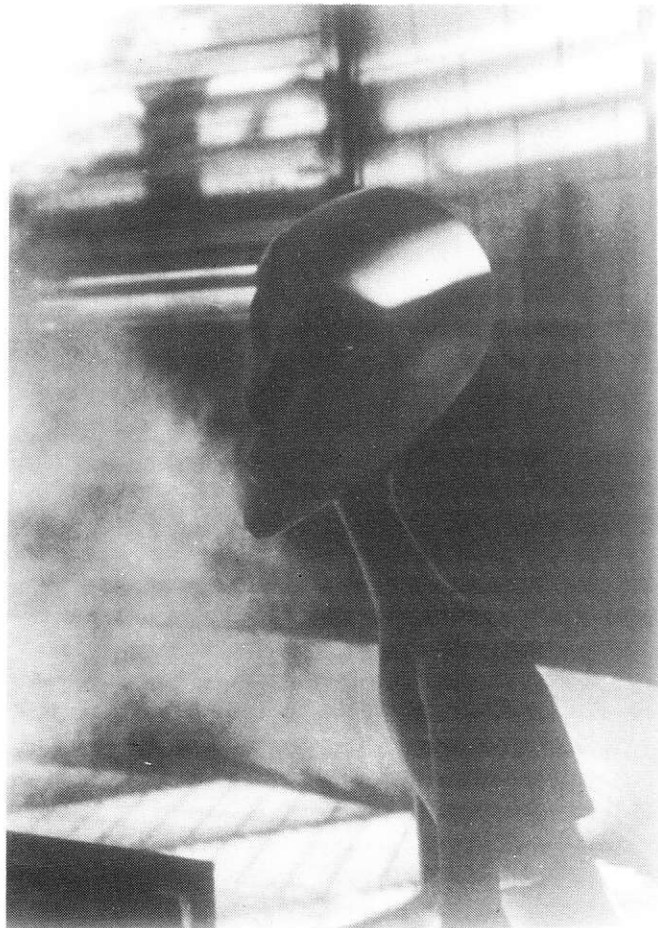
George Adamski

and the ETH, in its crudest form, was successfully launched. Certainly, others believed them and the ETH, in its crudest form, was successfully launched. These first ufonaut presentations featured beings of incredible benevolence and elevated ethics, who delivered themselves of trite exhortations about peace, war and nuclear arms. Tall of stature, blond and noble of brow, it was clear that before long their high moral tone would cloy. Expectations raised by the various saucer cults had been cruelly disappointed and once more the flighty focus of human attention turned elsewhere, leaving the Phenomenon again out in the cold.

But not for long! If Goodies were no longer any good, how about Baddies? The Phenomenon discovered the pulling power of sex and violence. Lofty thoughts, noble brows and pageboy hairstyles were replaced by bug-eyed little monsters who finally found fame by kidnapping the man most likely to write it all up. Instead of courteous invitations to step aboard for a planetary tour - by this time we all knew what the planets were really like - victims were forcibly abducted, stripped and subjected to unpleasant physical examinations and operations, followed by induced but fortunately temporary amnesia. Otherwise we would

never have heard of genetic material being extracted from unwilling donors, of involuntary pregnancies and stolen embryos, of inter-species breeding between humans and ufonauts.

Appeal, one might suppose, to a more sophisticated clientele, though the tabloids also respond at their sensational level. Is this the latest venture of the Phenomenon, or simply, as some allege, a natural happening caused by atmospheric vortices?



The lesser questions are all subsumed into the larger one - is the Phenomenon real or an illusion? What, in any case, would be meant by 'reality' in this context? The Phenomenon, in short, has cornered us so that we feel compelled to look for further evidence and more subtle explanatory paradigms. For better or worse, it has inserted itself as a permanent query into the consciousness of 20th century man.

It was all strong stuff, well calculated to horrify and engage especially the distaff side of humanity, hitherto relatively uninvolved. The abduction experience was duly charted, categorized and absorbed into UFO lore, whereupon the flow of reports diminished to a trickle, characteristic of the cyclical "flaps" which have previously distinguished the activities of the Phenomenon.

And so what now? Circles of flattened ears appear overnight in cornfields where it is said that UFOs have been seen. They concentrate particularly in ancient landscapes like Wiltshire, among the megaliths and ley lines dear to the lovers of earth mystery, so there is no fear of their going unremarked. Correlations are sought between corn patterns and UFO formations, and both related to archetypal Jungian mandalas.

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Belgian Casebook

Testimonies from EUROFON News

edited and translated by Ken Phillips

THE GAP OF AULNE

Mr. MR was walking along the Sambre near Aulne Abbey on Tuesday, 2nd January 1990. The weather was dull and it was spitting with rain. Mr. MR had just passed the railway bridge leading towards the place called, "The Gap Of Aulne."

Suddenly, at the location just in front of the tunnel which carries the railway line, he saw a triangular machine arriving above the bridge; he estimated the height of the machine as being about 10 metres. The object was dark, emitting only two, powerful, blue headlights of rectangular shape underneath.

Between the two, blue headlights, there was a very bright white light. The remainder of the machine was grey, becoming black towards the top part.

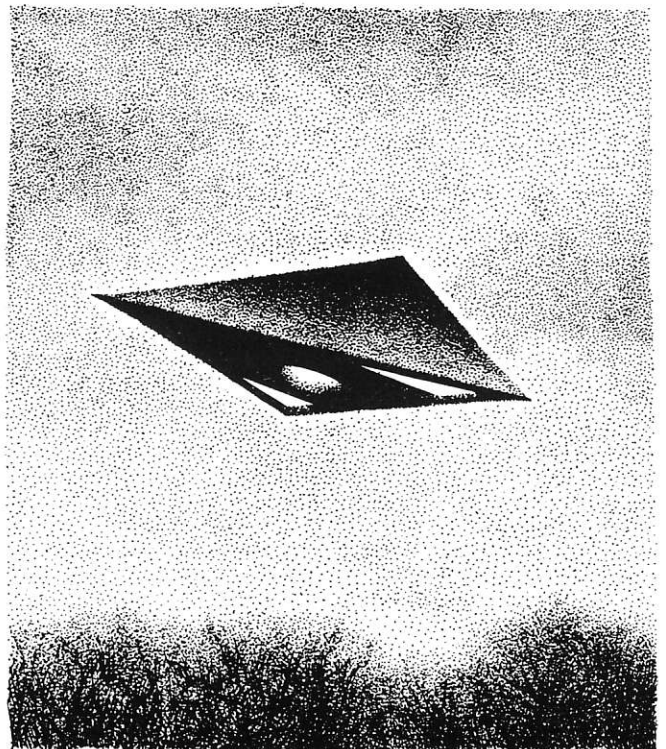
The machine looked as though it had fallen from the sky into a clearing in the trees which are numerous on this railway embankment. Next, the object passed along the Sambre, then skimmed over a meadow. It then skipped over a stream and crept in to cross the trees, eventually to remain steady for a little while above a meadow. There, the object was unable to continue, because it found itself in front of a range of poplars next to the high-tension line barring its way - another witness, located at Hourpes on the other side of the range of trees, also saw a strong light-source - finally, the object went up into the sky and disappeared.

On Saturday 24th. March we travelled over the locality in order to become acquainted with the place. According to the evidence a helicopter could never have penetrated into this thickly wooded area. The witness, MR, wanted us to outline the object which he saw, but that was not all: towards the middle of

February he saw a triangular-shaped object cross the THUIN -HOURPES road at a height of about 200m.

Pulsating

The object was composed of three yellow light sources with a pulsating, red point at its centre. On another occasion, towards the end of February, the witness was in Hourpes when he saw towards the north-east, above the Sambre Canal, in the direction of the tunnel



where he had his first encounter, two yellow lights - one on top of the other - and between them a pulsating, red light.

All of a sudden, from the main sphere, there spurted a luminous, curved ray of colour jade-green. This ray was transparent and seemed made up of a 'glass rod - like' material which had been twisted by a glass-blower; the ray was terminated by a green ball.

DREAMS OF UFOs

Recently, a young woman, Mlle MK, told me of the UFO dreams she had after a real observation.

One day in February 1990, at almost 18.00, this young woman and her husband were driving in their car in a small town in the south of Holland. Whilst they were waiting at a red traffic light she noticed a strange, grey object hovering above their car. The altitude of the object was estimated to have been 100m and emitted no light.

She described the object as disc surmounted by a dome. Underneath the 'fuselage' three 'legs' were visible. She looked at her husband who appeared not to have seen the phenomenon in spite of his efforts.

This spectacle lasted about a minute and when the lights had turned green the UFO had already disappeared. The young woman looked behind over her shoulder but visual contact had been lost.

Some days after that evening she had her first dream of a UFO. She found herself in a car with two colleagues when, suddenly, she noticed a UFO in the shape of a triangle above them. Some white particles were width-wise on the machine's windscreen; then she woke up.

During the days which followed she frequently had other dreams of this type. The last dream she had was, however, remarkable: she found herself outdoors walking her dog when she noticed a flying object near a castle moat at a distance of about 2 Km away. Next, it flew in her direction and, when

it arrived at a height just above her, a weapon fell from it and landed at her feet. She looked closer and noticed it was really a toy and, although she was not at all frightened, she did not touch it.

This dream seemed so real to her that it was as though she was not dreaming at all. The young girl went back inside to call me [investigator] on the phone. she knew that I myself had made some observations of UFOs (the last being in December 1989). She actually knew that I was implicated in the research of this subject. Mlle MK felt it was urgent that I was made aware of what she had seen; after having found my phone number in the directory she decided to call me [in the dream].

The following day (she was not dreaming this time here) she told me that she had dreamed the previous night. I asked her if she could remember the telephone number which she had composed. I was surprised: this was not mine which she remembered but, curiously, that of my father. She insisted that she had to look up my number after her dream. I can confirm that his young woman neither knew my number nor that of my father.

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in addition to the Mothman Phenomena

by D.K. Rees

This is a light hearted look into the Mothman Phenomena as investigated and documented by John Keel in the late sixties. It draws together eye-witnesses' accounts and some of this author's own theories as to what may have occurred.

What did happen on those dark hills and along those lonely roads during the years of 1966-67 in the Ohio Valley, West Virginia. Mothman came and went in the space of thirteen extraordinary months leaving behind him a trail of bewildered witnesses.

He first appeared on the 15th November on a clear, sharply-cold night at 11.30 pm. He was spotted in what would later become the infamous TNT area. (This was an area of ground used during the war to store explosives).

'Bat Like'

The four witnesses, Mr. Roger Scarberry and his wife and Mr. and Mrs. Malette, reported seeing an 'animal' standing upright to a height of six to six-and-a-half feet. It had large red eyes and also large 'bat-like wings'; they thought the creature was grey in colour. Scared, the four sped off. Mothman followed. Although the witnesses claim they were doing around 90 mph., the thing kept pace with the speeding Chevy. One of the witnesses swears she heard Mothman make 'squeaking' noises like a big mouse. And then Mothman was gone.

Incidents like this would be repeated again and again during Mothman's reign of terror. To the people of Point Pleasant, West Virginia, these creatures were a part of the UFO flap that was at its height during this period.

To attach credibility to Mothman, one must assess the people who reported seeing him: simple, hard-working individuals of all ages and social backgrounds - married couples and courting couples - people who suffered ridicule when submitting their testimonies. And there are the few preferring to forget they ever saw Mothman. To this day they wonder if what they saw was real or just a bad dream.

Mothman had the annoying habit of appearing, then disappearing before the astonished and frightened witnesses had time to call someone to corroborate his or her sighting.

This happened to Mrs. Ruth Foster of St. Albans, West Virginia. She came face-to-face with Mothman on the evening of November 26th. It appeared on her lawn and she described it [Mothman] as tall, over six feet with big red eyes.

She ran back into her house screaming. Her brother-in-law dashed out but it [Mothman] had gone, leaving a bewildered victim to ponder on her sanity.

THE MOTHMAN PROPHECIES

An Investigation into the
Mysterious American Visits of
the Infamous Feathery Garuda

By JOHN A. KEEL



Mr. Keel devoted a good deal of his time investigating this phenomena and interviewing scores of witnesses. He draws no conclusions as to what these creatures are. Could they be from a distant galaxy, sent to harass and plague our unsuspecting public? Or could they be products of mass hallucination? Or is it possible they could be a species yet to evolve on our planet.

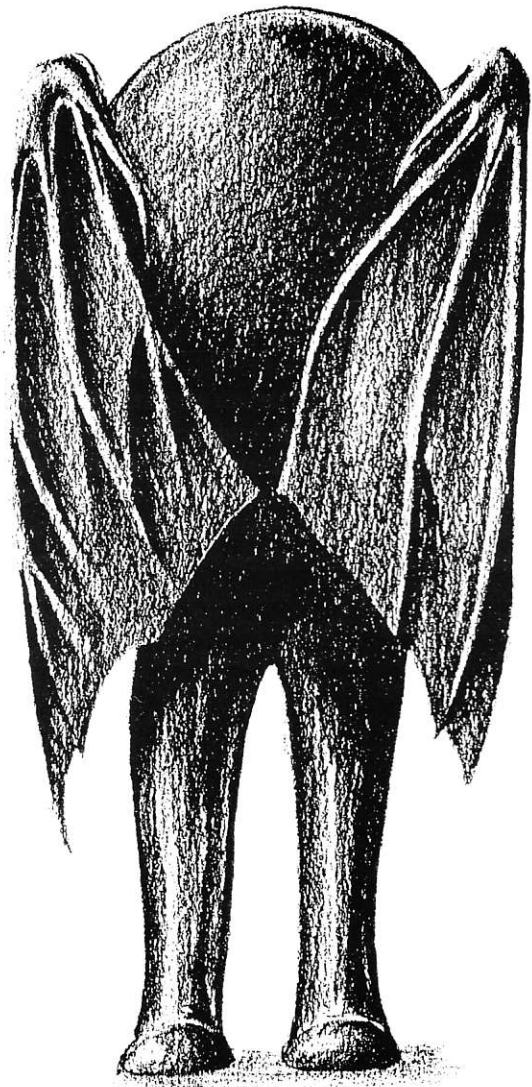
The evidence gathered via the eye-witness' reports shows some remarkable similarities, (this must discount mass hallucination):-

1. the height - between six to six-and-a-half feet.
2. the greyish colour of the skin.
3. the size and shape of the wings.
4. and in almost every case witnesses describe the creature's glowing red eyes.

Another interesting point to mention was that not only Mothman and UFOs were abroad in West Virginia during this amazing year but reports of Pterodactyls flying through the skies. What was going on?

A British Case

West Virginia cannot take all the credit for sightings. We [in Britain] have not escaped the attentions of Mothman. On the night of 16th November 1963 in Sandling Park, Hythe, Kent, Mothman put in an appearance for four teenagers on their way home from a dance. A star 'grabbed their attention' as it appeared to be heading straight for them but then dipped down behind some trees. The light changed to an oval-shaped object that kept pace with them. Suddenly, a 'figure' emerged from the woods. It was tall, dark with no visible head. All four of the boys saw wings 'like a bat'. Then, as is always the case with Mothman, he disappeared. A few days after the incident, investigators found three giant footprints measuring one inch deep, two feet long and nine inches wide; a real mystery.

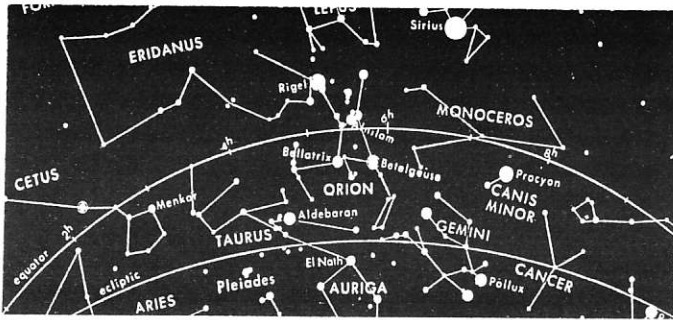


What will our future hold for us? Will we unravel the secrets of time?

Many people many years ago wrote science fiction novels with Man being the conqueror of space and going to the Moon. These books came true. H. G. Wells wrote the 'Time Machine'. In the years to come could this come true? Are our future grandchildren and great-grandchildren sending their time machines back into their past, our present, and along the way disturbing time past and time future? Could Mothman have been an undiscovered creature from our past, or a species which has evolved far into the future?

References:-

1. Visitors From Space, John A. Keel, published by Panther Books Ltd. 1976.
2. The Humanoids, Charles Bowen, published by Neville Spearman, 1969.



Skywatcher

Edited by Gary Anthony

Introduction

If the skies are clear on the 11th/12th of August, look out for the Perseid annual meteor shower - because its shooting star month again. Also in this feature we congratulate Britain's first astronaut from Sheffield. The Olympus satellite is in serious trouble and watch out ET we are listening!

The Planets

VENUS - July. Sets nearly two hours after the sun on the 1st but only half an hour by the 31st. At magnitude -4.5, Venus is stationary on the 30th. The planet passes south of Mars on the 22nd and the moon to the south on the 14th.

August. On the 22nd is at inferior

conjunction, afterwards becoming a morning star, rising an hour before the sun, before the 31st.

MARS - July. Is approaching the western horizon, setting an hour after sunset by the 31st. The rapid eastern motion of the planet against the backdrop of stars, combined with the earlier setting of the sun, retains Mars as an evening object into early November. Moon to the south on the 14th.

August - Retained at the western horizon and setting an hour after sunset at magnitude 1.8. Crescent moon near on the 12th.

JUPITER - July. At magnitude -1.7, the planet will be observed low in the north-west during the first half of the month. Setting two hours after the sun on the 1st but soon after sunset by the 31st. Moon to the south on the 13th.

August - Is at conjunction on the 17th and unobservable during August.

SATURN - July. At opposition on the 27th in Capricorn. Moon near on 26th.

August. The ringed planet is an evening object at magnitude 0.4 setting before 02 hrs later in the month. Moon passes 2° north of Saturn on 22nd/23rd.

SPACE NEWS

Helen in History

The first British astronaut, Helen

skydata

JULY		1991		AUGUST	
5th	03 h	Last Quarter		3th	11 h
11th	19 h	New Moon		10th	02 h
18th	15 h	First Quarter		17th	05 h
26th	18 h	Full Moon		25th	09 h
RA	Dec	Venus		RA	Dec
-----West-----		Mars		-----West-----	
-----West-----		Jupiter		-----West-----	
-----North-West-----		Saturn		-----Unobservable-----	
20h > 22h	-10° > -30°			20h > 22h	-10° > -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	60+	46° RA 58° Dec
Kap Cygnids	Aug 18	Aug 20	Aug 22	10	290° RA 55° Dec

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

Sharman, has earned herself a place in the history books with the eight day Soviet Juno mission. In the years of preparation for the excursion to the Mir space-station, Helen was chosen for thousands of applicants. Undoubtedly, the Yorkshire lass has done us proud. It may be a long time before we see another British astronaut, let alone from Yorkshire. Well none Helen!

Listening for ET

At NASA's Ames Research centre in California, scientists are preparing for the Search for Extraterrestrial Intelligence (SETI) project which commences in 1992. Using a vast network of radio telescopes around the globe, SETI astronomers will endeavour to listen for any signals which may emanate from other civilisations in space.

The equipment which has been developed for the SETI project is so highly sophisticated, that it is expected to exceed all previous searches combined, in the first day of operation.

ESA Battling to Save Olympus

On the May 29th, the Olympus telecommunications satellite suddenly lost essential orbit and altitude control resulting in complete loss of service. It is speculated that the advanced TV broadcast and telecomms satellite is now rotating with a period of 90 seconds and drifting eastwards at approximately 5° per day.

The ESA are still receiving signals from Olympus via the Fucino ground-station in Italy, during a portion of revolution when the satellite's solar arrays receive sunlight. Fucino are transmitting streams of commands in an attempt to enable the satellite's batteries to regain power. Charging of these batteries are essential, if the satellite is to be recovered. To this end, the ESA have sought the assistance of the US Space Command in Massachusetts. NASA have also agreed to help with their Deep Space Network, and, after obtaining the required clearances, it's Robledo station near Madrid will shortly be put into operation to transmit signals at high power to Olympus.

All information courtesy of ESA and NASA.

If any investigator requires astronomical information to help with the evaluation of case investigations please write (enclosing an sae) to:

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

Interview... continued from page 11

towards empowering people to experiment. And then we'll get some results.

The only nightmare I have about this subject is to face another forty-four years as wasteful as the last forty-four.

It is obvious to me that John's comments will generate more controversy than allay criticisms that are currently being voiced. However, his views are valid and it is vital to the future of British UFO research that at least some of these aims are fulfilled.

Looking at the two books, I can concur with some of the critical points that have been raised. The books are beautifully produced and appeal to the eye. But to the UFO enthusiast, the encyclopedia in particular is a cumbersome tome to get to grips with.

Despite some shortcomings to the UFO researcher, it is plain to see that these two books will work very well with readers who are new to the subject and are not versed with mainstream UFO literature. The design and approach of both the 'UFO Encyclopedia' and 'UFOs The Definitive Casebook' will kindle new interest in the subject of UFO research and entice more people to come forward and get involved directly. If this happens, how can one be critical?

**The 'UFO Encyclopedia' is published by
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**'UFOs the Definitive Casebook' is
published by Hamlyn priced £14.99**

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Special Stop Press Report

A Crop Circle Revolution?

by Paul Fuller

What a fascinating summer it turned out to be, and what a turn around too for the meteorologists and their supporters! Highlights so far include the discovery of many more crop circle hoaxes, as predicted, with at least two groups of hoaxers being arrested and prosecuted for causing criminal damage.

1991 will surely be remembered as the year of the Hoaxer, with the number of proven hoaxes now running into double figures, whilst a number of "genuine" formations (eg Chilcomb) just grew and grew as the summer hotted up and the hoaxers got to work adding on additional "intelligent" features (in this case a rope ladder for ET to climb up to his spaceship!).

The hoaxing began in early May, with the arrests at Butleigh Wootton and Cirencester. Sadly George Wingfield added his name to the long list of circles researchers who have promoted man-made circles as "genuine", whilst at one stage there were more hoaxes than genuine circles - a clear indication that a lack of genuine crop circles represents a psychological gap which triggers hoaxing. Many of the 1991 hoaxes are described in this issue. Note that in **every case** the hoax was easily detectable.

1991 will also be remembered as the year that the meteorologists got into the circle watching business with a vengeance! A five week long circles watch was organised with the help of Professor Ohtsuki from Waseda University in Japan. Operation Blue Hill employed infra-red imaging devices, automatic weather stations and radar, and was continually manned throughout the duration of the watch. Twice circle formations appeared within five miles of the site when the wind speed dropped to calm, just as Meaden predicts. Precise weather conditions were obtained for June 30th when two formations appeared

less than half a mile from the watch. Again how will the cereologists respond to such evidence? We wait and wonder...

A step closer to a conclusion?

Professor Yoshi Hoki Ohtsuki of Japan's Waseda University, has been able to recreate crop circle producing plasma in his laboratory.

Professor Ohtsuki's experiments, which were first reported in *Nature* (14th March 1991), attracted a great deal of media interest in Britain throughout the summer. His experiments involve the generation of a small "fireball" inside a plasma chamber using ordinary air.

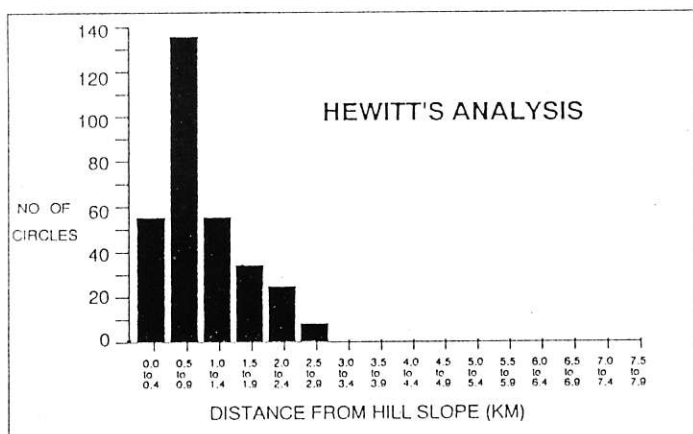
During Operation Bluehill, Professor Ohtsuki travelled from Japan with a group of willing students to take part in a CERES circles watch in Wiltshire. I took the opportunity of speaking to Professor Ohtsuki to find out about his latest discoveries and his reflections on the crop circle phenomenon.

The plasma chamber experiments conducted by the Professor have attracted a great deal of interest around the world. Many physicists and meteorologists had learnt of his paper in *Nature* and reprints were still in great demand several months later. Ohtsuki also explained that he has been invited to describe his experiments to the Japanese Society of Physicists whilst the American Society of Physicists has formed a whole new division to study Ball Lightning and the circle forming plasma. This is an outstanding achievement for Ohtsuki

because the ASP rarely form new divisions and only a decade or so ago there were still many physicists who rejected any study of ball lightning, let alone the study of a phenomenon that is being openly promoted as a possible explanation for UFO phenomena.

Professor Ohtsuki is very positive on the point of connecting the kind of phenomena he is researching and UFO reports and has been exchanging information with Fujiki, one of the few scientific UFologists in Japan.

Ohtsuki is very excited that his discovery seemed to be capable of explaining almost all the unexplained UFO data that had been brought to his attention. He has explained how the plasma was capable of exerting great force on motor vehicles, such that car stop cases would be easily explicable.



The major problem is that because we are dealing with a new science there are no text books to explain what is happening in layman's terms. This made it especially difficult for the Japanese UFologists to understand the kind of force he had discovered. He has admitted that at present the only cases he couldn't yet explain were the close encounters with entities, yet Ohtsuki was fascinated by our suggested explanation in "Crop Circles A Mystery Solved" that cases involving meetings with entities or "spacemen" might be explained as an altered state of consciousness induced by the strong micro-wave energy inside the plasma vortex.

In Japan, Ohtsuki had visited 30 of the 48 known circle events and he believed that 12 of these 30 cases (40 per cent) were hoaxes. He agreed with me that this was a surprisingly high proportion. The most elaborate hoax known to him involved five circles located in adjacent paddy fields (2 were adjacent to 3). Ohtsuki was adamant that although it would take a great deal of effort to produce hoaxes in a water-immersed crop it was still very easy to distinguish between Japanese hoaxes and genuine crop circles. In particular he noted that in genuine Japanese circles the roots of the rice plant completely disappear under water whilst in hoaxes the roots are still visible.

Ohtsuki has admitted that at present it is difficult to tell whether the complex pictograms are hoaxes or not. In Japan almost all known circles were simple patterns, with mostly single circles, a few doubles and one (possible) triplet. Another case involved a ring. He admitted that they had discovered nothing in Japan to compare with the most complex of the British circles, but he was prepared to consider that these could either be partly genuine and partly hoaxed or else a plasma interpretation could even be found for these complex formations.

Early Circles

The professor accounted for the lack of pre 1979 Japanese circles as an artifact of reporting. Prior to 1989 there had been no publicity for crop circles in Japan and 99 per cent of people had not heard of them. Then the BBC film of crop circles was shown and now virtually the entire Japanese nation has heard of circles. He was perturbed by the fact that the earliest known Japanese circle dated back to only 1979 and that the next oldest reports dated to 1985 and then 1988. No farmers reported that crop circles were known to them prior to the late 1980s.

Furthermore he had asked meteorological organisations in China and Korea whether they had received any reports of crop circles but none were known.

Moving Forward

Ohtsuki's primary aim is to fully understand the plasma mechanism and to apply this knowledge to develop a whole new science. We also hope to explain many UFO reports which were previously unexplained. It will be important for 21st century science to develop a proper understanding of the circles effect because at present all the major areas of research by physicists concentrate on the atomic structure of material. The discovery of the plasma paves the way towards a new approach in environmental science which does not rely upon 'atomism'. Our research is the beginning of this new science.

He has already patented the circle-forming plasma and that he and his colleagues already have many ideas for how its unique properties can be used to good effect. In particular the plasma may be capable of automatically producing a spectroscopic analysis of the properties of the atmosphere as well as cleaning up exhaust emission from automobiles. In Japan these are important issues for there is a serious problem with pollution control and these two applications are already attracting a great deal of interest amongst industrialists.

Unknown Intelligence?

Ohtsuki rejects completely the idea that crop circles are formed by some unknown intelligence. He pointed out that throughout history there had been many people who resorted to mystical theories to explain phenomena they didn't understand. In every case science eventually found a scientific solution and in a very short time the mystics were dismissed and forgotten. He pointed

Eyewitness

Here is a highly significant eye witness account published for the first time in "Circles from the Sky", which was submitted to the Sunday Mirror crop circle competition by a Mr & Mrs Tomlinson of Surrey. On Thursday 17th May 1990 Mr & Mrs Tomlinson were walking along a public footpath through a field of wheat near the village of Hambledon at OSGR SU 9739). What happened next is described in Vivian Tomlinson's original letter to the Sunday Mirror:

"I'm writing about the corn circles that have baffled you all. I just could not believe my luck. My husband and I have actually witnessed the circles being made.

It was about 9 pm and we were returning from our walk across the cornfields out at Hambledon. Half way, we stopped to watch the wind blowing on the corn, sending wave after wave of ripples right across the corn, making it appear like a golden brown sea. I have always held a fascination for wind and sound, and can lose myself watching it. Suddenly, there was a change in wind pattern, it appeared to be pushing from both directions. At the centre point the wind gathered force pushing forward sending strong waves in the corn. The whistling grew stronger in the corn, almost like a high-pitched pan-pipe flute sound.

We both looked up to see if there was a helicopter above us. There was none, it felt strange. Suddenly there was a gush of strong wind pushing down against us. The wind circled round us, looking down, we noticed corn being pushed down. It started with one large whirlwind. This broke into another one, pushing the offset one into the side, whirling away pushing down the corn.

The circle we were in was fast becoming interesting. Miniature whirlwinds were appearing one after another, rapidly whirling around the corn in small bunches, then gently falling down.

We stood in amazement, the corn swirled and then gently laid down. There was no feel of wind now or sound. It felt strange watching these ever-fast gathering whirlwinds. They just seemed to increase; they were enveloping around quickly. I panicked, grabbed my husband's hand and pulled him out of the circle.

out that today we only remember Einstein or Newton, but the esoteric philosophers of their time had been forgotten.

CERES held a circles workshop in Devizes to discuss the circles effect. Professor Ohtsuki showed us a fascinating video film of his experiments and the circles he was creating. Each experiment takes several days to prepare but the results were staggering. The fireball appears more like a flame than a ball, but it moves about inside the plasma chamber repeatedly spiralling down onto a sheet of fine aluminium powder for about 0.3 second, creating circles approximately 1-2 cms in diameter. The circles being created are normally ringed and indeed Ohtsuki's fireball can create single, double and even triple ringed circles

with apparent ease. It is difficult to determine the direction of swirl being created because aluminium particles are so tiny but it has already been established that some of these rings fail to contra-rotate. Time perhaps for some of Meaden's most vociferous opponents to re-evaluate their position?

Circles on the Underground

Ohtsuki's next stop was the Tokyo underground train system. After having the electricity supply conveniently turned off Ohtsuki and some engineers travelled down the tunnels to search for more evidence of the circles effect. Under the spotlights the engineers pointed out dozens of circles in dust lying next to the railway tracks or traced into dust on the walls of the tunnel. These formations included in-line triplets (with the largest formation at the end) as well as simple ringed circles. The circles are formed by small vortices created by passing trains. Fortunately, as Professor Ohtsuki reported, the tunnels hadn't been cleaned in 25 years, but the engineers who reported the circles had been seeing them for years. Perhaps the cereologists could explain why the "intelligence" that they believe causes the circles might leave evidence of its presence in underground railway tunnels for a quarter of a century ?

If mini-circles can be created in railway tunnels as well as in the laboratory, what kind of plasma would be required to create crop circles ? If anyone in the world is qualified to debate this question it must be Ohtsuki. I was very impressed to see his army of assistants collating accounts of ball lightning in a large office surrounded by large filing cabinets and computers. Such resources are unknown in the BL business ! Last year Ohtsuki published a catalogue of over 2,200 BL cases throughout the world. This is probably the largest single collection of BL cases in the world. We have obtained this catalogue and will review it in a later issue.

Finally the video shown included shots of some Japanese circles and featured two 12 year old boys who saw a crop circle being created close to their

home. A small cloud of mist appeared above a field and disgorged a radiant ball of light. The BOL hovered just beneath the cloud about 20 metres above the ground and then emitted a rotating column of illuminated mist which swept out the circle in only a matter of seconds. Sounds familiar doesn't it ?

Professor Ohtsuki's experiments and his dedicated work is a major turning point in our understanding of the circles effect. We will report on his later discoveries as and when they occur.

UFO BRIGANTIA

UFO Brigantia, the journal of the Independent UFO Network (IUN), is a must for all serious researchers of the UFO phenomenon. Published bi-monthly, it consists of 32 well-illustrated A4 pages bound in a stiff card cover, and features articles on all aspects of the subject from cover-ups to earthlights, and is not afraid to publish material of a controversial nature. UFO Brigantia also contains archive cases, current and updated investigations, book and magazine reviews and much more; all of it of vital importance to ufology in the 1990s.

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Pedantry

Dear Editor,

I write to correct statements made by Jenny randles in her report published in the 1989/90 Annual Report and Statement of Accounts. Regarding the Peter Day film, Jenny states that I have 'resolved' it 'thanks to CAUS, USA, help and recovery of previously withheld accident report on the F-111 crash.'

I have to advise that CAUS were no help to me. They could not obtain the crash report. I obtained the report by writing directly to the relevant USAF base. I am not aware that the report was previously 'withheld'. As far as I know it has always been available under the USA's Freedom of Information Act.

Steuart Campbell
Edinburgh

Editor's comment: Thanks for your correction Steuart. I am sure that Jenny's comments, albeit not accurate to your standards, were only in praise of your efforts in solving the case.

It is a shame that CAUS could not help you, maybe they are too busy in fruitlessly chasing after the proof to vindicate the MJ-12 documents.

Vortex Nonsense ?

Dear Editor,

I read a letter by Hilary Evans, or at least one purporting to be, in the MUFON Journal suggesting that: "The plasma vortex theory may not be the final solution but it is the best approach - because (it is) the only scientific

approach - we have at this time." (re the crop circles.

Evans Makes so much sense in most of his writings, that I wondered if he really wrote this bit of nonsense. It somewhat like saying we have to accept the flat-earth theory back before 1492 simply because it was the best that science could offer at the time.

A far more sensible and rational approach would be merely remain agnostic - to state that we don't know what is causing the circles, other than it is something unknown and powerful. This is something that Pat Delgado and Colin Andrews, have to their credit, maintained all along.

Jon Erik Beckjord
California, USA

Editor's comment: What rubbish. Pat Delgado and Colin Andrews have been far from agnostic. They have perpetrated a myth with regard to crop circles - they have not simply said that circles are an unknown force, but have continually made statements that crop circles are made by intelligent alien forces. Hilary Evans has made exactly the right statement and from your letter I wouldn't be surprised to find you believed the earth was indeed flat.

In Defence of the IUN

Dear Editor,

In response to Andy Collins' article in the last issue of UFO Times, I would like to defend the IUN's action of issuing the Aveley Abduction Case Report.

I was one of the people who ordered a copy of this from the IUN-compiled list and found it riveting material indeed. A must for all investigators and researchers alike. However, throughout the time that I was digesting all the material that I had never seen before, I was under no illusion that the IUN wrote or illustrated the report to any degree. It states quite clearly that the original investigator was Andy Collins (whose work I greatly admire), and as an investigator for BUFORA myself, I took it for granted that all the material

contained in the report was produced by Andy.

When I compile a case report, I do all my own editing, illustrating, map-work, background research into the weather, geology and witness character etc. In no place in the booklet did it state (or even imply) that any IUN member created any part, either of picture or text. It did imply that it was an IUN publication which appeared misleading at first, until I realised that this important case, with all its contemporaneous notes and diagrams, was part of the now defunct UFO Investigations Network (UFOIN) collection and has been dusted down, so to speak and presented to the IUN for their own private files. Instead however, they chose to publicise them. Otherwise, these, and several other key cases would have remained in relative obscurity. Other ex-UFOIN titles I believe, are becoming available, thanks to recent IUN publication initiatives. They sell them so cheaply that it is clear that profit is not their motive, but rather initiatives for the public good.

To be balanced in my comments however, there could perhaps have been a shift of emphasis re. original credits which could have been spelt out a bit more. I can only make this suggestion with the benefit of hindsight. However, whilst I can understand Andy's surprise, he was asked, he was quoted as original investigator and the implication is therefore I would have thought, that he produced all the text and illustrations as a matter of course.

I am sure that the IUN will, in their future productions, put more emphasis on who exactly did what and credit more explicitly.

Another rider to all this is a historical aspect regarding the original production of UFOIN material. In the late 1970's the UFOIN actually sponsored investigators financially to gather case material and compile it into reports, which were then deemed to be UFOIN material to do as they pleased with. In fact they were housed at the UFOIN HQ for a number of years where any bone-fie researcher could inspect, photocopy and generally browse. UFOIN also I believe,

put people up for the night if they so wished for extended study. Therefore, investigators were hired free-lance in style by the UFOIN and were paid albeit modest sums to cover expenses incurred.

So who the cases material belonged to is not as clear as it may seem at first. UFOIN obviously felt it theirs to give to IUN. I think that they did this because the facilities were abused and 16 of the files on high-strangeness cases were 'borrowed' and never returned. The collection was effectively decimated and the UFOIN disbanded and concentrated on earth mysteries. So what belongs to who is not as cut and dried as it may appear.

**Albert Budden,
London**

Editor's comment: I certainly do sympathise with Andy Collins. His grievances are to some degree justified. Andy was asked for permission by the IUN, but was not made aware that the whole case study was going to be reproduced verbatim. Despite his initial anger, he is pleased that the case is receiving further public attention but feels strongly that it should be made clearer that the text and drawings are his original work.

Your final words state that 'what belongs to who is not so cut and dried', if a document states 'Copyright Andy Collins' isn't that cut and dried enough?

Perception Question

Dear Editor,

Would it be possible to clarify a few points regarding the GEP-CENAP perception Experiment results given in UT12?

Dr Keul mentions that the procedure involved showing either a colour slide or a copy of a photograph to a select group of people and that the initiation or at least the nature of the image was kept as a surprise.

Are we to infer from this that although the timing of the showing was random the subjects were in fact

primed for an event to take place? In other words, expecting something to happen.

I think it is important to distinguish between:

(a) a totally unexpected event occurring after which the subject is asked to give an account, and

(b) the subject knows something is going to happen but not what it will be and when.

Obviously the results will only be valid for the conditions under which they were obtained.

Edward Brown
Stockport

Editor's comment: It seems relatively clear from Keul's paper that a degree of surprise was an integral part of the experiment.

Keul's findings seem to mirror similar experiments conducted in Britain by Ken Phillips.

Picto-ditto

Dear Sir,

Please find enclosed a copy drawing of a corn crop pictogrammatic symbol that was found on the Fawleys Downs, Winchester on the night of 3rd/4th August 1990. It is a copy drawing from a photocopy that was sent to me by two investigators, Pat Delgado and Colin

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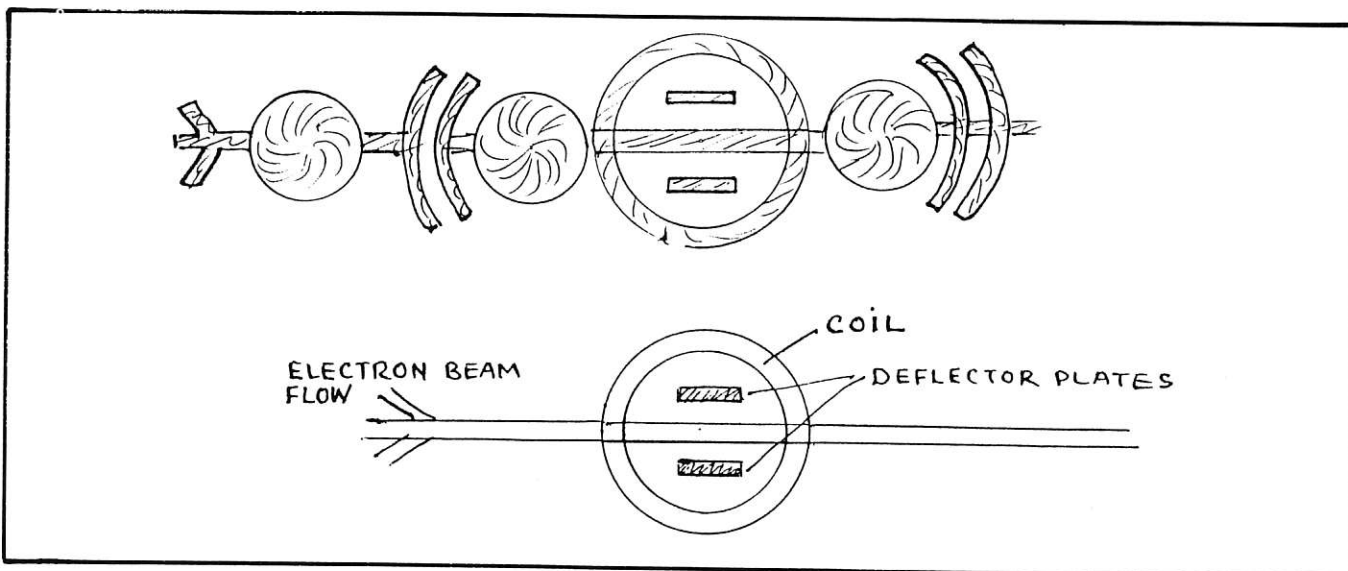
Andrews.

Note the similar drawing below which I found in a small physics booklet called 'Course Companion: Physics' for GCE O Levels and CSE. It was taken from pages 81 and 82 and is also displayed on the front cover of the booklet.

The complete Fawleys Downs corn formation is [editor's emphasis] a symbol used in physics to denote a flow of electrons through a TV tube and onto the inner screen. Both the Fawleys Downs formation and the diagram taken from the physics booklet clearly shows the large main ringed circle as the same symbol.

Roger Snow
Leicester

Editors Comment: Glad to see you are so sure of this discovery. If I were ultra-skeptical I would say that is probable that the pictogram hoaxers were studying physics at the time!





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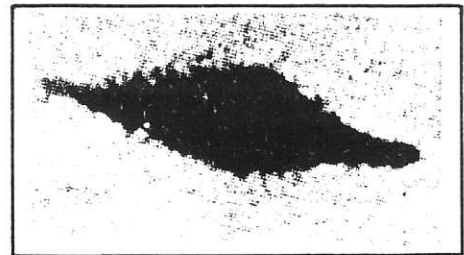
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