

UFO TIMES

THE JOURNAL OF THE BRITISH UFO RESEARCH ASSOCIATION



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and the British UFO Association (founded 1962).

WITNESS CONFIDENTIALITY

The British UFO Research Association realises the importance of treating cases submitted to the Association by witnesses as confidential. In the light of this, the BUFORA Code of Practice has been devised and employed throughout the Association to guarantee the utmost care is taken when dealing with witness personal details and case report material.

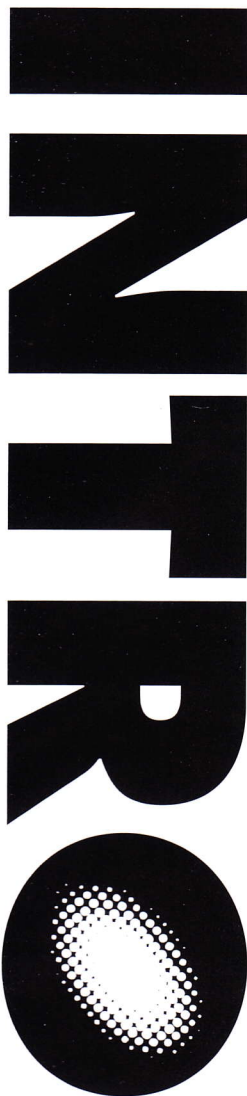
It is also the policy of *UFO Times* not to publish the names or addresses of witnesses who are not in the 'public domain'. The personal details of witnesses who have been published in the media will be treated with care by the editorship.

AIMS & MEMBERSHIP

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 UFOs.
3. To co-ordinate UFO research throughout the United Kingdom and co-operate with others engaged in such research throughout the world.

Membership is open to all who support the aims of the Association and whose application is approved by the executive committee. Member Societies include the UK's oldest group, BFSB, 3 Orchard Road, Coal Pit Heath, Bristol, Avon BS17 2PB. Associate groups include the Northamptonshire UFO Research Centre and Skyscan.

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GOING PLACES

Yep, We've done it again! In UFO Times 41 you were treated to a professional design and a colour cover. But some pointed out that we had sneakily reduced the pages to 20. In response I said. "Did you count the words." "Hah!" was the response. You see the clever people at the Design Stage were able to get the same amount of content in the old style 24-page mag in to the work of art you are probably getting used to by now in only 20 pages.

But, I took those few comments to heart and decided to bring the page count back up to 24. So this means that you will be getting more for the same. In the whole history of BUFORA, never have we been able to present a magazine of this quality and quantity.

Of course, this makes the UT team's job just that bit harder (remember we're all volunteers). So this is the time to remind you all that this is your magazine and the pages are open to all your views, case reports and reviews. So put that pen to paper (well we would prefer it either Emailed, on disc or cleanly typed) and get cracking!

We are also launching a major writing competition to mark the 50th anniversary of Kenneth Arnold's famous sighting with a first prize of £100. Full details can be found on page 4.

So get active.

MIKE WOOTTEN

THE WAY FORWARD

BY ANDY RAYNER

For many years ufology has been evolving. The frequency of sightings being reported increases daily as more and more of the public become exposed to the subject via the media and the increasing number of small local investigation groups springing up throughout the country. The public perception of the ufologist has also evolved with the subject.

No longer are we the 'anorak & bobble hat brigade' obsessed with alien invasion, which ten years ago we were perceived to be. Many now regard us to be serious objective researchers investigating a subject which merits serious objective investigation. We are considered to be the only people to turn to for help and advice when an event or encounter that they can not explain has profoundly changed their perceptions of the universe in which we exist and, in many cases, their lives. This is a huge responsibility for us to carry, but the public trust us enough to allow us to become involved in what for many is a very personal experience. If they can trust us with this responsibility THEN WHY CAN WE NOT TRUST EACH OTHER ?

The constant bickering and argument, which has always been present between rival groups and personalities in the field, will not take long to filter through to the very people who put their trust in us to work towards solving the mystery, and if this happens then we are all sunk, the trust will be lost and we are back to square one.

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A UNITED BODY

As the millennium approaches the time has come for us all to work together and to step into the new century as one united body. Every group no matter how small has a part to play and a responsibility to its members and the public to carry out its research to the best of its ability, and we can only do this by working together to form the bigger picture. Divided, we lack direction and purpose, and while other groups withhold information and keep it to themselves then how can any one of us see the bigger picture.

Because of this I propose the formation of a national information network, a group consisting of the directors (not the members) of every investigation group in the country willing to take part. Every group keeping its own independence and working on its own initiative, but at the same time working together and towards the same goals. Bi-monthly or quarterly conferences behind closed doors would be the platform for airing views and discussion of cases under investigation. This information can then be relayed back to individual groups via the directors. This would be a democratic organization with no one, single group running the show, but each member being able to cast a vote towards any decisions made. many other issues would need to be addressed but this can not be done until the network is in place.

This is not a merger or an attempt to take over any independent group, but the way forward for ufology and a way to work as one, to make progress. This venture must be based on trust, let us put our differences aside and work together for the good of all.

If you run an objective group and are interested in the concept of such a venture then please contact: Andy Rayner, 25 Grange Rd, Tadcaster, North Yorkshire. LS24 8AL. Telephone (01937) 833917.

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UFO NEWS

EDITED BY MIKE WOOTTEN

STRANGE LIGHTS OVER THE BRECON BEACONS

A college lecturer along with his wife and one his daughter saw strange lights over the Brecon Beacons, visible from his home at Llangynidr, South Wales. The wife, who has always been a sceptic of the UFO phenomenon, is now totally convinced that something strange is going on.

At around 9:30pm on the Saturday evening of September 14, Paul (pseudonym) spotted several white lights over the Brecon Beacons from the kitchen of his home. When he pointed them out to his wife Mary (pseudonym), she stated that the military must be on some sort of exercise. Both people assumed they were watching several military helicopters hovering. When they went outside to get a better look, they both realised that there was absolutely no sound associated with these lights. Military maneuvers in that area are very common, and they both know that the sound of aircraft in the area is easily audible from their home.

As they were watching, several of the lights just "took off, at least three times the speed of the jet fighters that I always see around here". From then on both Paul and his wife Mary were treated to a dramatic aerial display as lights left the group at high speed, then returned. Paul said, "It was impossible to say exactly the number of lights that were on display as they were leaving and returning at such speed."

Paul eventually retired to bed at around 10:30, but his wife has told him that the display went on for "most of the night". During all this time, there was absolutely no sound from whatever these lights were.

The following morning, Paul noted that there were military helicopters, "...all over the place, flying very low as if they were looking for something."

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UFO TIMES WRITERS COMPETITION UFO'S 50 YEARS ON

On June 24th 1947, Kenneth Arnold sparked off an enigma that has spanned 50 years. To mark this major milestone in the ufological calendar, *UFO Times* is pleased to announce the launch of a writers competition with the winning entry running as the lead article in the 1997 June/July issue of the magazine.

Along with this auspicious opportunity, a prize of £100 will also be included along with a one year honorary membership to BUFORA. Two runners-up will also receive one year honorary memberships.

We are looking for original and thought provoking material in the following categories:

UFOs: A Retrospective Alien Visitation: The Abduction Debate 50 Years On: The Future of Ufology

Each submitted article should be cleanly typed (or supplied on disc) and should be between 3000 and 5000 words. A panel of judges selected from the BUFORA membership will make the final decision. Supporting artwork will not be part of the judging process. The competition is open to members and non-members alike.



Entries must reach the following address by 31st January 1997. Please include your address and telephone number with your entry.

UFO Times Writers
Competition BM BUFORA
London WC1N 3XX

UNDESIRABLE ALIENS!

If you're a ufologist it's pretty hip to have your photograph taken in the vicinity of Area 51 in Nevada. Perhaps stood casually by the newly erected 'Extraterrestrial Highway' roadsign, or mooching coolly outside the tortuously named 'Little A'le'Inn', in the desert hamlet of Rachel, whose sign helpfully offers, 'Earthlings Welcome'.

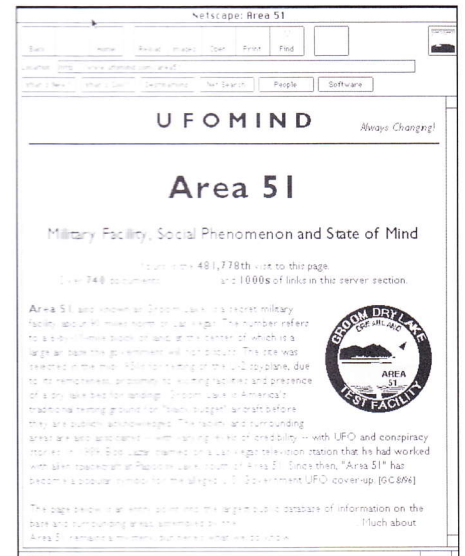
Slowly this Desert Disneyland for ufologists has seeped out of ufology into the consciousness of the world's press. The latest to take a look was the Independent On Sunday (2/6/96). This sensible article, by Tessa Souter, gives ufologists a somewhat different slant on the matter. Following the area's rise to fame courtesy of Bob Lazar's imaginative claims of captured UFOs and suchlike, all has not been exactly peachy.

"Rachel was just a peaceful, quiet little place where we pretty much all got along. Now it's business against business, person against person, friend against friend."

This statement has wider implications as unfortunately 'business' is now the name of UFO game. Witness the profits to be made by conferences, Santilli videos, the marketing expertise of *UFO Magazine*, the crapness of *Encounters Magazine*. Gone are the days of information for its own sake. If you can't market it in ufology it just doesn't matter anymore. And now even windblown desert hamlets are the latest victim.

The article gives a good history of the location and notes that like all ufological events Rachel has its fair share of, er, 'personalities'. Ambassador Merlin II/Consulate Lady Seraphim Isis II (for it is he) is certainly one. Merlin consider himself to be a "simultaneous being", hence the names. He also claims numerous contacts with extraterrestrials. Perceptively, other Rachel dwellers consider Merlin to be not an extraterrestrial but "A human with some profound personal problems".

Glenn Campbell, who wrote the *Area 51 Viewers Guide* is of that opinion but nonetheless he still believes that extraterrestrial craft are kept at Area 51. Still believes, despite making statements like "I've seen fantastic lights. Great glowing orbs that hovered in the sky. Great looking UFOs - until I realised that they were military flares for illumination of the ground



exercises." The power of belief over reason is strong indeed in Rachel. Campbell, whilst still believing in the reality of UFOs at Area 51, is however sceptical of the crass marketing which he feels Rachel has fallen prey to. He protested on the day of the re-naming of Highway 375 to the Extraterrestrial Highway, claiming that it promotes a single local business - that being the Little A'le'Inn "and the extreme right wing views of its proprietors". Heavy stuff, but right wing views are all the rage among many US ufological groupings, particularly the more far-out ones. As a result of his perfectly reasonable protest Campbell has been banned from the Inn and the battle rages on.

It's the same story everywhere. Behind every UFO venture, whether it be book, magazine, conference, video or in this case town, there are ordinary people. Ordinary people with bizarre beliefs, a will to impose these on anyone who will be fooled and often a desire for profit at the expense of reality. So, when you're planning your ufological trip of a lifetime to Rachel, Nevada, for that all important photograph, remember what lies behind it. Why not look Glenn Campbell up and offer to buy him a drink. But not at the Little A'le'Inn! *Caveat Emptor.*

Note: Glenn Campbell has an interesting Area 51 related web site at <http://www.ufomind.com>

BELGIANS SUSPECT UFO WAVE WAS SECRET PLANE

On Monday, August 12, Belgian radio announced in their news bulletins that it was possible if not likely that the UFO wave of some years ago was not a "UFO" but a secret airplane.

The bulletins were inspired by reports of some Belgian Ufologists, who have identified the UFO as the Wave Rider, a plane from the LoFlyte-project of the USAF. Last week, the USAF showed the prototype of LoFlyte (Low Observable Light Test Experiment), a prototype designed with the help of NASA and, according to some, suspiciously similar to what was seen over Belgium in 1990.

The plane can reach speeds of up to 5631 km/hour. When the Belgian Air force sent out F-

16s in order to catch a glimpse of the UFO, their radar showed it could fly up to 3000 km/h, therefore well within the capabilities of the new plane.

The WaveRider gets its name from its apparent ability to "surf" on the air. Reports show that at the end of the 1970s, tests with similar planes were already underway.

On August 13, Belgian newspapers reported on the story. TV has so far not picked up on it. It is likely that Belgian Ufologists will closely look into this new development and report on it further.

SOURCE: CNI NEWS

ROSWELL FRAGMENT CAME FROM EARTH

The metal fragment that supposedly came from the Roswell crash has been shown to be of Earthly origin.

Wreckage from the crash is of typical terrestrial composition, said Larry Callis, a scientist at Los Alamos National Laboratory, who analysed the fragment for the Roswell UFO museum.

His tests showed there was a roughly 50-50 mix of copper and silver in the fragment.

Most significant of all, Mr Callis used a technique called mass spectrometry to find the ratio of two forms of copper that showed the metal is the same as that found on Earth or in the rest of our Solar System.

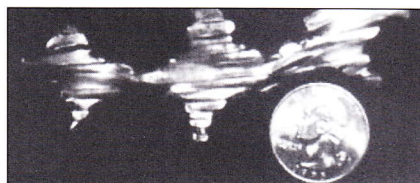
"From a theoretical viewpoint, one would expect material from another solar system would not necessarily have the same ratio," he said. "I sort of expected it to be terrestrial."

Mr Callis praised the UFO museum for submitting the sample and said it was "fun doing something different".

The metal fragment was found by military personnel investigating a mysterious crash outside Roswell on July 4, 1947, said Deon Crosby, director of the Roswell International UFO museum and research Centre.

And then of course some raving scepticism from Sue Blackmore...

A CENTRAL character in the new film *Independence Day* is the deluded old drunk who insists he was once abducted by aliens and has the last laugh when a spaceship the size of a small country descends to zap Washington. New research by a leading researcher into the paranormal, however, suggests that his friends



were right to dismiss his ravings.

People who believe they have been kidnapped by aliens have simply been dreaming, says Dr Susan Blackmore of the University of the West of England, Bristol. However real the experience might have seemed and it may have involved space travel or sexual encounters of an especially close kind, it is most likely to have been caused by "sleep paralysis".

Although only a few people report alien encounters, Dr Blackmore has found that sleep paralysis is experienced by up to three out of ten people. The dreamer hears strange noises, sees flashing lights or stars and senses shaking or juddering.

"It happens to perfectly normal people," Dr Blackmore says. "It can be confusing and distressing. The more you fight it the worse it gets. The next line of my research is to try to find a scientific explanation for what is happening physiologically." Dr Blackmore says that many cultures have myths based on the phenomenon of sleep paralysis: In medieval Britain "night demons" seduced innocent people. In Newfoundland there are tales of an "old hag" night visitor and in Vietnam it is a "grey ghost". Nowadays people are more likely to report that a 4ft alien took them from their room at night and whisked them off in a space ship."

SOURCE: THE TIMES 15-8-1996

ALL CHANGE AT BUFORA CENTRAL OFFICE

The BUFORA Central Office has now switched locations to the home of Mike Wootten. Due to ill health, Association Director, Sue Mantle, was unable to carry on with the task of dealing with over 600 enquiries per month that arrive to BUFORA from around the world.

Gaynor Wootten has been employed to take over that role along with dealing with new membership applications and renewals (a task previously managed by Arnold West). A new computer database now replaces the manual handling of the enquires and applications which has speeded up the operation of handling an ever

increasing number of letters. Gaynor said, "Each enquirer now receives a typed personalised letter and pre-completed application form. We have already seen the benefits of the new service as in the last six enquiries we have received over 100 new member applications out of 700 enquiries."

The main BUFORA address has not changed and members should send changes of address details and enquiries to: BM BUFORA, London, WC1N 3XX, Tel 01352 732473. Alternatively, enquiries can be emailed to bufora@bufora.org.uk.

NEW SERVER MOVE FOR BUFORA

BUFORA has successfully moved its World Wide Web site, BUFORA On-Line, to a new and faster server with the help of a new provider, Epinet.

With this move, we have also been able to use our new, user friendly, domain name for the first time. The new address is <http://www.bufora.org.uk>

BUFORA LAUNCHES NEW MAILING LIST SERVICE

Under the editorship of member, Rob Speight, BUFORA has launched a new free service exclusively for members connected to the Internet. *BUFORA Newsmail* is an extension of the already popular *UFO Newsfile* newsclipping publication (edited by Michael Hudson).

Produced approximately fortnightly, *UFO Newsmail* covers a selection of the latest UFO cases reported in the press. Nearly 100 members already receive the service via email with a lot of positive reaction.

If you are connected to the Internet and do not receive *Newsmail* as yet, contact Mike Wootten (mwootten@dial.pipex.com) with your name, address and membership number and Mike will put you on the mailing list and give you access to the members only area on the BUFORA Web site, BUFORA On-Line.

MACK CLEARED BY HARVARD

After more than a year of hearings, Harvard officials have decided not to discipline a psychiatrist who gained notoriety for taking seriously people who said they had been abducted by space aliens.

Instead, the dean of the Harvard Medical School, Daniel Tosteson, met with professor John E. Mack and reminded him of the standards expected of a Harvard employee. At the same time, however, the dean reaffirmed the psychiatrist's right to study any subject.

Defending the review, the chairman of the investigating committee, Professor Emeritus Arnold Relman, said the question was not academic freedom but the soundness of Professor Mack's research. Professor Relman said the dean had received "many, many complaints" about the psychiatrist. The medical school has not indicated what penalties Professor Mack might have faced.

The outcome was a relief to Professor Mack. But it had cost him dear with the legal expenses reaching \$100,000. Professor Mack's supporters said the review should never have taken place.



THE VARGINHA CASE

THE RESEARCHER'S SECRET INVESTIGATIVE DIARY

BY UBIRAJARA FRANCO RODRIGUES

I wasn't in Varginha the Saturday that the ET capture took place on January 20th '96. The day after January 21st, I arrived at about 10:30a.m. and received a call from a storekeeper who owns a shop in the centre of the town, Mr Milton. He asked if I had knowledge of what happened the day before and told me that,

"... some girls had seen a weird animal, something like a little monster..."

That same night, as I realised that the rumour had already spread throughout the city, I called Milton again to get further details. He told me that an employee of his shop would have more information. She knew the people that had seen the strange being. The girls live at Rua Tapajús (Tapajús Street), Varginha, which is where I went next.

I asked a nearby storekeeper if she knew the girls, she said yes, adding that, "she had also observed the movement around that area regarding the case." This lady said she was friend of Luisa (the girls' mother) and that she was told the girls arrived at home scared, that afternoon. They were screaming, crying and shaking. They had seen something very ugly.

Meanwhile, the rumours continue to spread through the city. Some people said the creature had been captured and taken to the Hospital Regional (Regional Hospital), that it had a big belly, seemed to be pregnant, and made a noise, like if it was crying.

FIRST WEEK OF INVESTIGATIONS

I began to investigate and was helped by a friend, SÉrgio, director of TV Princesa, a local TV station. We've got access to a boy that said he was present at the capture. But his words didn't make any sense, he was too immature and very confused. We have also got talking to a woman, who ran away the moment we approached her. Her husband tried to convince her to give us some information, but she refused.

Finally, we found the girls and took their testimony. They were two sisters whose mother, Mrs Luisa, received me a little suspiciously. I identified myself as an UFO researcher and lawyer, and explained my interest in the situation. I was extremely impressed with what they told me, especially the older girl, Liliane who is 16. When she was telling me what happened, she burst into tears. Then, I asked them to introduce me to the third witness, her friend, Katia, 22, who also cried when we met.

I asked them to take me to the place where it had all happened. They told me that when they were in the middle of that pathway, they saw a strange being squatted in the ground. To Valquíria, the youngest, "it appeared to be a giant ox heart." They realized that it was

I saw two firemen talking, speaking loudly and fluently, as if they were making fun of me, "Yeah, it should be a giant frog", one said. "No, it should be a demon, ha! ha! ha!", commented the other.

something out-of-this-world, when they returned to the street and ran.

After hearing all the story from her daughters, Luísa returned to the place to see if she could find any evidence, but she didn't. Luísa smelt a strange odour, very strongly and impossible to describe. During the following days, I kept on talking to them, and asked them to repeat several times what they had seen. This procedure is common in investigation, because it helps to find contradictions in the testimonies.

AN EXTRATERRESTRIAL AT THE HOSPITAL

Meanwhile, the rumours continued to spread, increase, and gained consistency in Varginha. The whole city started to comment on the story. In Varginha, there are three hospitals, however the rumours converged only to the Regional Hospital. It wasn't possible to be sure of anything, specially about which hospital would be involved. Everything was obscure, until I managed to talk to a nurse of the Regional Hospital (whose name cannot be revealed, in order to preserve her safety). She was very reluctant to receive and talk to me until, finally, she agreed to be interviewed.

She revealed that, on Sunday, January 21st, something strange occurred at Hospital Regional, involving physicians coming from out of Varginha, the Military Police and army vehicles. However, she didn't speak a word about the Fire Department. One of the hospital sections, according to our source, was closed for some hours, in order to avoid the access of employees, patients and visitors. She also said that, on Monday, January 22nd, she was called, together with other employees, for a meeting in the Director's room. According to her testimony, the director said that all that movement should be ignored, because "it was just training for the doctors and military personnel."

According to this witness, the meeting culminated with the following statement from the director, "Here in Varginha there are people who like to deal with "cool" things, I mean, supernatural, strange... It is probable that these people will look for you, specially that lawyer, Ubirajara. To these people, you must deny everything – and I mean, deny."

Later, I spoke to a former pupil of mine, who said she had been at the hospital entrance hall that Sunday, by 10.30pm, together with a friend of her's. She asked the receptionist if the rumours were true about the "little monster" received at the hospital. The employee confirmed, saying that the being wasn't there anymore, because it had been removed to another city hospital, the 'Humanitas'. So, the women went there, too. Now, they were confronted by a nurse who told them the

following. "You cannot go inside to see 'that' and, even if you could, I wouldn't advise you to... you wouldn't like to see it." At the same time, some parallel witnesses, who live in the Humanitas region, said they had seen troop movements at the lateral gate.

This was all I knew at that time. It was necessary to obtain more substantial evidence. So I tried the military. Firstly Commander Mauricio, from the Military Police. When I met him, I identified myself and explained the situation. I asked him if he had knowledge of the rumours that the MP was involved in the capture case. His answer was negative.

He, then, offered to check it out and verified that there were no records of such an occurrence. However, he asked me to contact him again, because perhaps he would find something. The next day, as scheduled, I called Commander Mauricio, but he didn't answer me. I made about 50 phone calls to his offices, but none of these were accepted. So I began to feel that something was wrong. They were hiding something.

A friend of mine managed to talk to a policewoman that was on duty on Saturday, January 20th, receiving the emergency calls, through the number 190 (the police number). She revealed there were some calls, "In fact, some people called saying that they saw such a little monster, but we thought they were kidding and we didn't give attention to them."

SEEKING OUT THE FIRE DEPARTMENT

SÉrgio and I looked for the local Fire Brigade and we were received by Captain Alvarenga. The moment we identify ourselves, he got the bulletin of occurrences for January 20th, in order to 'prove' there were no requests for the capture of a strange animal. He simply had a defensive attitude toward us.

During the interview, I excused myself and made a brief pause to drink some water, at the end of the corridor. I saw two firemen talking, speaking loudly and fluently, as if they were making fun of me. "Yeah, it should be a giant frog", one said. "No, it should be a demon, ha! ha! ha!", commented the other.

We went on to the Forest Police, where we were received in a very different manner. Their captain was friendly and said he likes ufology. He stated that the Forest Police weren't called at that occasion, but put himself on the line to share any further information.

We came back again to the nurse. She spoke with her colleagues in the hospital and, although they hadn't seen anything, they were all unanimous in stating that there were strange movements that day. Meanwhile, the information that a strange being had appeared in Varginha



had already reached the local media. All the local press, newspapers, radio and TV stations had already covered the case, although I had my doubts about spreading the case in the Brazilian national media. Nevertheless, due to the difficulties of the investigation and the huge cover-up, there was no other choice than to contact the national media. In this way we, could pressure the authorities.

I was interviewed live at the request of Globo TV Network (local branch). Everything was going well. In the middle of the programme, however, something we weren't expecting happened. The reporter took two faxes from over the table and said, "We just received right now, a communication from the Fire Department and another one from the Regional Hospital, denying everything, these two institutions say they weren't called and had no involvement with it." Part of the Fire Brigade fax presented the following statement: "This corporation communicates to the people of Varginha that it was not called to capture an extraterrestrial." This was said in the middle of the news.

I had never affirmed that the captured being was alien. I had only said that was a strange unknown being. I was very careful with the words I used. I used the opportunity by stating that the UFO cover-up exists all over the world and started a long time ago.

After this interview, I called the ufologist Irene Granchi, in Rio de Janeiro, who contacted the journalism department of Globo TV Network [Note from translator: Globo TV is the major Brazilian TV network]. The case then blew wide open in the Brazilian media.

At the end of the second week of investigations, I called "Revista UFO" [UFO Magazine] and let them know the facts. In the third week, a researcher from Belo Horizonte (up to then member of CICOANI - Centro de Investigações Civis sobre Objetos Aéreos Não Identificados - Unidentified Aerial Objects Civilian Investigation Center) made contact with me. It was Vitorio Pacaccini. Since then we established a partnership in the researches, that now lasts over four months.

"You cannot go inside to see 'that' and, even if you could, I wouldn't advise you to... you wouldn't like to see it."

DIARY ADDITIONS

BY VITORIO PACACCINI

Before the Varginha case appears in the media, I didn't know Ubirajara. At first, I was investigating the case for CICOANI and had already contacted some people I knew from Trés Coraões, MG (State of Minas Gerais) in order to gather information about the case, especially at the ESA (Escola de Sargentos das Armas - Army Sergeants School). This happened in the beginning of February. On Wednesday, in the carnival week, I received a call from a source who said that, "It was time for the jaguar to drink the water."

FIRE FIGHTERS ARE REALLY INVOLVED

Everyone in Brazil knows that when there is a problem with animals, like a wild beast escaping from a zoo, for instance, the Fire Department is called. However, the first phone number that comes to one's mind when in a dangerous situation is 190 (the police number). So, we've concluded that first the police were called and then, they forwarded it to the Fire Brigade.

According to our source, in the morning of January 20th, the Fire Department phone was ringing over and over. It was people informing the appearance of a weird animal in a certain region in Varginha, and requesting some help, to catch it.

In our language, it means that some important witness was about to talk.

The name of the witness, by now and for a while, cannot be revealed. I don't want to put anybody in jail or harm people's lives.

So, on this Wednesday, I went to a friend's home where he introduced me to the first witness. After some minutes of conversation, this military began to speak about the subject.

It is important to emphasize that these phone calls started very early that morning, between 7 and 8am, consequently before 3pm, when the girls sighted the creature.

In the occasion, the man in charge was Major Maciel, who would have sent four men to check the situation. These firemen, at the moment they arrived there, called the major over the radio and asked him to go there too, as the case was much more complicated than it seemed before. "Major, you'd better come here, sir, even the army is already here." So, the Major followed to the place, at approximately 10.30am.

UFOS STILL REPORTED

BY A.J. GEVAERD IN BRAZIL

A very bright, huge UFO was also filmed last week [early September 1996] Brazil, by a soldier coming back from his duties. The UFO was hovering at close range a few buildings in Brasilia, our federal capital, and could be seen by several witnesses during over 20 minutes. There are rumors that a few authorities also observed the phenomena. The control center of Brasilia International Airport said nothing was seen, as usual...

The Aerial Defense and Air Traffic Control Integrated Center (CINDACTA) is located in Brasilia and monitors all National territory. Inquired about the UFO, officials said that nothing strange was observed. This "nothing" looked like a star, but was many times bigger than one. Army Sgt. Galdino was coming home from his military installation, about 4 a.m., when he spotted the bright object.

Other people, in other cars, could see the object, too. A few guys coming from Palmas to Brasilia in a car a few minutes ahead also saw the UFO that, a few minutes later, tried to pursue the vehicle at close range. It could ascend and descend from the skies, sometimes making zig-zag moves.

Galdino filmed the UFO by about 8 minutes and the people in the car called someone else, using a cellular, to meet them at some point of the road to take pictures. Many



photos were taken and they looked just like the same as the object filmed by the sergeant.

We already have all facts determined. Our representatives in Brasilia started talking to several witnesses for a full report to come out in

about 2-3 weeks. Copies of the video and the pictures are already in our possession.

This abridged article was originally published in the Brazilian Revista UFO (UFO Magazine), Special Issue #13, July 1996, edited by CBPDV (Centro Brasileiro para Pesquisa de Discos Voadores - Brazilian Center for Flying Saucer Research), Editor A.J. Gevaerd. Kindly summarized and translated from portuguese by P.H. Andrade, with the help of his brother, Carlos who kindly supplied the material for publication in

VALLÉE ISSUES WAKE-UP CALL TO UFOLOGY

BY RICHARD CUTTING

The OMEGA conference in North Haven, CT, held on Oct 7 and 8, featured top-notch speakers including noted author and computer scientist Dr. Jacques Vallée.

Vallée's talk focused on the challenge of anomalies, the archetypes involved in human longing for contact with higher intelligences and on abductions. His deeper aim, however, seemed to be to issue an alert to the UFO research field, that it is dangerously "falling back into its infancy." "We are not dealing with spiritual transformation here, we are dealing with social T-R-A-N-C-E formation...Without perceptions of anomalies there is no science and no art. Our vision of the world is a function of the old myths with which we have grown familiar, and the new myths we pick up along the way," claimed Vallée.

"Yet the lessons of the past are also forgotten, and we jump to conclusions every time, anxious as we are to follow instructions that appear to come from above." He went on to describe how he thinks ufology today in the U.S. is in trouble by citing a prescient conversation he had years ago with Dr Allen Hynek, who said "Nobody will ever give you or me a dime to do serious UFO research on UFOs. But if we were to cross the line of professional ethics and went on stage pretending we had the answer with a capital A, and told these people ufology was the cure to all their spiritual anxieties, we could raise a million dollars today." "In the last few years that fine ethical line has been crossed again and again by many people claiming to provide both spiritual and scientific answers," said Vallée. "As a result the state of UFOs has turned into a complex intellectual maze where one person's certainty becomes another person's blasphemy. I have grave misgivings about the state of UFO research."

He reverted to his familiar litany about imposed belief systems at the hands of unknown, possibly governmental, perpetrators. "It would be easy to trigger the archetype artificially under conditions involving hypnosis, suggestion, drugs or other altered situations...the resulting belief system would be open to manipulation by sophisticated social engineers," he said.

REGRESSING

The hypno-regression cottage industry that has sprung up around the UFO phenomenon was also the target of Vallée's criticism. "Nobody has initiated an open exchange of ideas to attract independent critical thinkers to the field and bring them in contact with the people who have the real data. What has been promoted instead is a contagion of extreme beliefs. The result is a misguided crusade which centres on the notion that large numbers of individuals are being abducted by humanoid aliens with insect-like characteristics who want to create a hybrid race. I see another side of the abduction phenomenon. Some abductees tell me that what hypnotherapists did to them was 'Worse than what the aliens did,' and they want to be

hypnotised again to be healed of the nightmares."

Vallée is a fundamentalist when it comes to his belief in scientific method, and respectfully parts ways with researchers who rely heavily on hypnosis such as John Mack. He held forth on why scientists do not become involved in UFO research and what their role has been to date. "Scientists typically don't have the time, resources or training to penetrate the depths of these stories so they simply give up and turn away from the entire field. This serves to discredit the topic even more, thus reinforcing the reluctance of serious witnesses to come forward and feeding the vicious circle," he said. Sometimes it is better for scientists not to become involved, claims Vallée, citing the Area 51 and Bob Lazar cases in which the names of scientists have been introduced "to feed the story, the legend." "There are scientists who have become involved, but what we've done is not science. We are individuals who have, more or less, in their spare time, managed to apply their scientific training to bits and pieces of the phenomena. That's not science. Science would be having the entire machinery of science attacking the problem from different perspectives."

CONSPIRACY OF IGNORANCE?

What does the government know? Plenty says Vallée, but they don't really know what to do with it, and when they do, some nasty things may be on the agenda. "Clearly the major governments have data. Tons of it. My tentative conclusion is that they don't know what to do with the data. If they are covering up something, it is primarily their own ignorance. But there is more. They are lying about the fact that some of their covert services use the phenomenon to manipulate public opinion and to obscure their own craven feats," said Vallée, referencing mind control from the 1950s.

The belief in UFOs, whether or not they are real, "could be used to disguise tests of new weapon platforms and could serve as a shield for mind control experiments involving the use of drugs on unsuspecting patients," he said. Vallée sees sceptics and debunkers as a sort of loyal opposition without whom the debate would not be fully formed. If he sees any transformational aspect to

today's UFO work, which the sumptuously literate closing to his lecture indicated he does, it comes oddly enough, by way of those who would be his staunchest adversaries.

"Whether our sceptical scientific colleagues like it or not, the UFO phenomenon is important because it forces us to ask, 'Who are WE? Where do WE come from? What is reality anyway?' Unless they help us address this

eternal quest, what the sceptics say and do is irrelevant," said Vallée.

In closing, he mused, "I'm an active researcher and I've become a sorrowful bystander in this field. My impression as I watch this festival of absurdities from the sidelines is one of unceasing wonder with a touch of sadness. The wonder comes from the realisation that even in our supposed age of technology there is so little critical examination of the facts. What that says about the future is ominous, given the propensity of human beings to control their neighbours and given the technology we will be acquiring very soon in terms of mind-controlling drugs, psychological control technologies, cloaking devices, non-lethal weapons platforms and virtual reality - all of which is coming by next Christmas."

THE AUDIENCE LAUGHED NERVOUSLY

"There is no credible ongoing effort scientifically to come to grips with the underlying UFO phenomenon, which I continue to believe is real and informed - but perhaps not for today's science," he said. "But certainly for tomorrow's science, and for the future of consciousness. All we have left is a few groups of believers standing on the mountain tops with flashlights, expecting the aliens to come down and shake their hands. In that sense the UFO research is falling back into its own infancy, into a folklore that doesn't even have the odd charm of the contactees of the 1950s.

"I continue to hope that someday we will be able to sort out the signal from the noise and to get to work on the real UFO phenomenon. If I do feel one major responsibility it is to transmit the data to posterity so that future scientists will be able to make sense of what seems to us to be hopelessly dank. If we can resist the temptation to jump to hasty conclusions we emerge intellectually better and spiritually stronger into the 21st century."

UFO Magazine comes highly recommended by the editors of UT. It can be obtained at London's Compendium Books or direct from UFO Magazine, 8123 Foothill Blvd, Sunland, CA9140, USA

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FROM MY PENNINE VALLEY NOTEBOOK THE PHANTOM BOMBER

BY DAVID CLARKE

The first of a series in which roving reporter Dave Clarke reflects on 15 years on the flying saucer trail in the North of England.

It was a dark but unusually warm October night and a brilliant full moon was scudding in and out of the clouds. The moon and the distant hooting of an owl gave the still waters of the giant Ladybower Reservoir an eerie atmosphere. On this particular night back in 1982 a couple from the Peak District village of Bamford were returning from a regular visit to relatives in Glossop.

On the final leg of their journey across the Snake Pass road they pulled into a lay-by beside the reservoir to stretch their legs and take a breath of fresh air. "I was just turning away from the reservoir when, out of the corner of my eye, I caught sight of something flying over the water towards me," said the husband, Mr Shaw, later. He watched as the object swung round to the right and continued up the reservoir. "Is that a hang-glider?" asked Mrs Shaw's wife Helen, puzzled at the sight of the silent bulk skimming above the waters. Seconds later, the hang-glider solution suddenly melted away. For the flying object had turned once again and came back towards the couple until it was a mere 400 yards away.

"Just then there was a sudden burst of moonlight and I realised we were looking back at a World War Two Lancaster bomber," he said. Surprise then turned to disbelief when, after flying 200 yards further across the dark waters, the object vanished into thin air in front of their eyes. If Mr and Mrs Shaw's sighting had been an isolated one it might have been possible to dismiss it as a shared hallucination, a trick of the light, or a misperception of a real aircraft or hang-glider. But their sighting is just one of a growing list of sightings of this strange, silent grey aircraft in the Hope Valley region of the Derbyshire Peak District.

HIGH-STRANGENESS

Over the years I have heard of a number of high-strangeness UFO incidents in this same area of high mountains and three valleys which were flooded to form huge reservoirs earlier this century.

One report involved a large luminous disc with flashing lights which was observed rising directly out of the waters of the Ladybower reservoir and shooting off into the night sky. Coincidentally, one of the observations of the mystery aeroplane, reported to writer Wayne Boylan, from a Mrs P. Yates, also described it as emerging from the water with the pilot, "clearly visible in the cockpit"! Mystery unidentified aircraft are of course nothing new in the weird world of ufology, as veteran investigator John A. Keel was writing about similar cases in the USA back in the 60s. He said conventional prop-driven aircraft with wings and tails were an integral part of the phenomenon and often

turned up flying at hazardous low altitude in UFO flap areas.

These planes, which were usually dull grey or black in colour, never carried markings or insignia and behaved just like those puzzling saucer and disc-shaped objects – including a penchant for disappearing into thin air. Scandinavian countries were plagued by reports of these phantoms – dubbed 'the Ghost Fliers' in the 1930s, sparking a major investigation by the Swedish Air Force. There are also several bizarre sightings in more recent years where objects which have first appeared like conventional UFOs, have undergone a mid-air metamorphosis and sailed off looking for all the world like one of our dull grey phantom aircraft, complete with tell-tale tail lights.

In the Derbyshire cases, we have the additional connection between the sightings of what appears to be a ghostly second world war bomber and the fact that Ladybower has a unique historical connection with the famous 617 Lancaster bomber squadron.

The Ladybower dams were of course one of the locations where the famous 'bouncing bombs' were tested and partly developed before they were used by the RAF to attack the Mohne Dam in Germany during the last war.

On May 18th, 1945, a Royal Canadian Air Force Lancaster bomber of the 408 Squadron lost its way on the return journey from a mission in Europe and crashed on James' Thorn on Bleaklow mountain, killing all six crew. Two months later a USAF Dakota crashed in heavy mist just fifty yards away, 1,800 feet up on the boggy western side of the same mountain. There were no survivors from the crew of seven.

SILENCE IS NOT GOLDEN

Fifty years after these tragic events, in May 1995, Post Office worker Tony Ingle was taking a short break with his wife Susan at a caravan site in the village of Hope, near the Ladybower Dam when he may have seen a replay of one tragic crash.

One afternoon, at about 4.30, he was out walking his golden retriever Ben up a lane leading to the village of Aston, when he saw an object banking low over fields near the reservoir. "It was an old warplane, about 40 to 60 feet in the air," he told me later. "All I could see was that it was banking like it was trying to turn. It looked like it was just over the hedge. There was no sound but the propellers were going round. It was so weird. I ran up the lane to see if I could see anything. I expected a plane to be in the field but there was no sign when I got there. Everything was silent and you could have heard a pin drop," he said. "I don't believe in ghosts but this was so clear you wouldn't believe it."

Mr Ingle also noticed a strange effect the experience had on his dog. "Since then I have been back up this lane, but he refuses to go there," he said. "Now he cowers and sits down and just won't move. Then he turns round with his tail

between his legs and he's off. The wife took him up the same lane and he's exactly the same with here." When a TV crew from London Weekend TV recently visited Hope to stage a reconstruction of Mr Ingle's bizarre sighting, Ben once again refused to walk up Aston Lane. Dogs and other animals are of course well known to be sensitive to ghosts, flying saucers and other strange phenomena.

CONCLUSIONS

So what did Mr Ingle and the many others who have reported sightings in the Ladybower region really see? A ghost aircraft, a UFO disguised as an aircraft, or some kind of bizarre misperception shared by witnesses who have never met but describe exactly the same thing? There is no solution, only speculation, and on that note is it not possible that both Mr Shaw and Mr Ingle momentarily stumbled into another world or perception of this world, or someone else's memory of this event which happened years earlier and which perhaps imprinted itself upon the landscape of this valley in some unfathomable way.

Whichever path you chose, it is clear we can no longer separate reports on 'unidentified' flying objects from other earth-bound phenomena which we classify as ghosts or phantoms. The boundaries between them are fluid ones, and I believe we would be best to classify the phantom Lancaster alongside other strange flying objects which haunt us – as just another phantom of the sky.



View of Ladybower Reservoir
R L Moore, Courtesy of Rotherham Star

Dave Clarke, a journalist and freelance writer living in South Yorkshire, has been involved with the UFO phenomenon in all its guises for over fifteen years. Formerly a BUFORA Council member Dave was also a founder of the infamous Independent UFO Network (IUN). His work has appeared in numerous strange phenomena publications including *UFO Times*, *Fortean Times*, *UFO Brigantia* as well as many folklore and earth mysteries publications. His book writing credits include contributions to *UFOS 1947-87* and *Phenomenon* and he has authored *Strange Sheffield*, *Ghosts & Legends of the Peak District*.

A Guide to Britain's Pagan Heritage and Twilight of the Celtic Gods (with Andy Roberts). The UFO book he wrote with Andy Roberts, *Phantoms Of The Sky*, is currently being overhauled and updated for republication in 1997 by Cassel.

INVESTIGATIONS DIARY

BY GLORIA DIXON

I would like to begin this Investigations Diary and address the issue of photographs and video footage of 'UFOs'. The high profile of the X-Files and strong coverage of all extraordinary events has lifted UFO sightings and paranormal events to an all-time high in the last year or so. It appears as though there will be no let up to the extensive media coverage on these subjects in the immediate future.

Because of this relentless coverage, many more people are looking towards the skies and photographing and more particularly using camcorders to photograph objects in our skies which they believe to be UFOs. Unfortunately, this is rarely the case, and there have been many misinterpretations of both natural and technological phenomena, which can look most unusual in our skies. I have received several videos from Bristol, Chesterfield, Cornwall, and Darlington. These are undergoing analysis, and two videos from Bristol have turned out to be Venus and navigation lights of aircraft, all quite normal objects. Venus has been a major culprit over the first six months of this year and as the camcorder lens zooms in, it can go out of focus and generate all manner of shapes and sizes, and appear to move as the camcorder is hand-held rather than on a tripod.

Sighting reports have increased during the summer months, due to several very visible meteor showers during July and August, and as stated above the extremely brilliant Venus. Laser light-shows have also generated many reports this summer and, as they can be seen within a thirty mile radius and sometimes up to sixty miles away, can appear puzzling to those not close to the source of the lights.

BUFORA RICs and investigators are following up sighting reports from around Britain, and RICs are also administering and tutoring the postal training course in their areas. There has been a great deal of interest in this course from many investigators, who wish to become active within the investigations department and this can only be a positive approach giving some basic groundwork for investigating sightings reported to BUFORA.

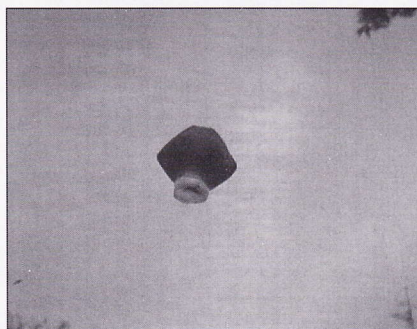
Before documenting some of the more interesting sighting reports that have been coming in to BUFORA, I would like to implement an article within the Diary written by Kevin Osborne, a photographic and imaging specialist here in the North East, on the role of photographs in UFO investigation. I think this is extremely relevant to Ufology today.

THE CAMEL UFO CAUG

Stunning headline, but would it or could it ever be taken seriously if it appeared.

Photographic evidence can be both damning and unforgiving as well as sensational. From stars of the screen to images of war, photographs have given documented credence to most of the important events of the 20th century. But not any more. UFO 'experts' and the general public alike pour scorn on photographic evidence and view it merely as a media for hoaxes and financial gain. The time has now come for photographic evidence to be given back its rightful place as a major tool in the search for facts behind sightings.

UFO reports have a history of visual evidence. For over a thousand years drawings, paintings and now photographs and video footage have caused debate and ridicule within and outside of the UFO community. But is this ridicule justified? Well, who hasn't seen the flying triangles that turn out to be ...airplanes, the flashing light phenomena that is...Venus, or the simple painted fakes of W.D. Hall to name but a few. These highlight the unreliability of photographic evidence. Deliberate or accidental, things are not always what they seem. So where did photographs go wrong, bearing in mind that many were taken by upstanding citizens and military personnel; generals from Japan, engineers, property developers and doctors to name but a few. Why would they lie, what would they gain? The answer to this lies in two main points.



- Fame and Wealth. This is self explanatory and I will leave you to draw your own conclusions.
- They didn't lie. The belief that photographs never lie was, until recently, a sound conviction. For decades photographs showed the world the facts. If you had photographic evidence you had a strong case. If you saw a strange image or light source on your negative then it was there. That is why, when people suddenly declared they had faked 'proof' of UFOs, sceptics declared the 'I told you so' attitude and the believers, while shocked, had to take a quiet back seat and were very coy about supporting any image publicly again.

This is an attitude that still prevails to this day, but with the opportunities to seriously investigate sightings by use of digital enhancement and other analysis techniques there must now surely be a case for taking and using photographic evidence more seriously.

CAN PHOTOGRAPHIC EVIDENCE MAKE THE BREAKTHROUGH?

Project Blue Book, The Condon Committee and numerous organizations and individuals have investigated photographic evidence and the breathtaking conclusions that are there for all to see are that ...'some are fakes, some we can identify and some are unexplained'. Here lies the problem with photographic evidence, on its own it is never conclusive. It will not herald UFOs into the domain of public acceptance as was originally hoped and in some instances, expected of it. It cannot stand alone as proof, it needs support. But does that put photo evidence at a disadvantage? How many cases of close encounters of any kind are proven unequivocally? Short of a ticker tape parade and a drive past by alien beings and their craft, how do you intend to prove whatever theories you hold? What about the unexplained photographs that are touted by experts you cry? Why even Ground Saucer Watch can't explain all of them.

No one will argue against the fact that some images cannot be explained at this time. I can however state that with technology at the stage it is I can reproduce any photograph taken of a UFO within the last fifty years to a quality that only image specialists would be able to refute and they would still leave doubt in some cases. This does not mean that photographs of unexplained phenomena are all fakes, it just enhances my belief that if I can reproduce

RA NEVER LIES...

HT ON FILM

EXCLUSIVE PICTURES

them to that kind of specification, then I can weed out misidentifications and fakes to a point where what is left should be examined closely without any photographic prejudice whatsoever.

A photograph should be treated the same as any other recording device, as a tool in the search for evidence of UFOs. I state again that a photograph will never be able to prove existence of a UFO on its own, it can point in the direction of strange phenomena or misidentification but nothing else. I am asked quite often if I take traditional photographs or cheat by using computers. The answer is both and because of this one can objectively view what can and cannot be achieved to identify or dismiss UFO photographs as real or not.

PHOTOGRAPHS ARE ACCEPTED NOW

No, more and more amateur and some so called professional organisations are popping up who are just looking for the one photograph to prove the sceptics wrong and make their fortune. We live in a video age where anything is possible we are told and the need to closet anything not classed as the norm has proven to be a boom for UFO theories. For example, the Stealth bomber, doesn't look like a plane, must be a UFO. Fair assumption. The point is that until unveiled, images of Stealth were UFOs but because pictures were interpreted incorrectly and the general public is wary of objects without tags, photographic evidence took the brunt of a nervous public backlash. The press too are partly responsible for the emphasis on photographic evidence because nothing sells copy better than pictures on a front page. This aligned with a need for physical evidence means that computer images have really found their niche. Who can forget the front cover of an international magazine, which moved a pyramid digitally so it would be more aesthetically pleasing, or of women with perfect skin, you too can look like a super model if you give me time to work on your pixels!!

The point to be made here is that if you point your camera at the sky don't expect instant fame and adulation. Cameras are instruments that make mistakes, distort reality and even deceive you. The trick is knowing what you

actually saw with the naked eye and what you photographed.

THE FUTURE OF PHOTOGRAPHS IN UFO INVESTIGATION

I take photographs every day. Some are instant like Polaroid, some are sheet film and some are digital. I have technology that I can control to produce any photographs you want. Is digital imaging faking? That is another topic. The point is that if I control all of this equipment, then surely it can be used to good effect in evaluating what are UFOs and what are not. There are many millions of cameras in circulation and fewer unexplained photographs being submitted than ever before. Are we that sure that all photographs will be explained or have we really been duped so often by fakes that would today be detectable? I do not believe this to be the case and would point to the following to support this.

1. People are more aware of their surroundings now, making misidentification less common.
2. An unwillingness to be thrown upon the bandwagon of cranks and crazies who stare at the skies waiting for signs, and then jumping up and down every time a farmer uses sodium lamps.
3. My main concern, however, is the lack of faith in the recorded image. 'It's a processing error' or 'so that's what a lens flare looks like' are too readily accepted by people who can't confidently make that assumption. They may be right, but photographs have gone down a long way in people's estimation of true images and this should be reviewed now if photographs are to have a more credible following in ufology.

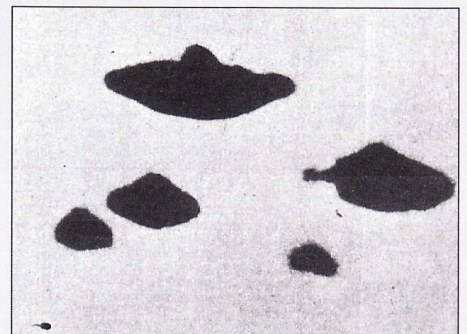
HOW DO WE DO THIS?

More should be done to improve the analysis of promising images, gone are the days of magnifying glasses and high street labs. Digital enhancement, copies of negatives and prints, variation of films and developing, etc., is a specialist service that can give many answers in many instances. I know it is time consuming and expensive, but there are a lot of people now claiming to be interested in the subject of

UFOs, so let us use them. Also, ufologists should be more open minded as to what gains photographic analysis could bring to their investigation. The facts behind the sightings and witness reports should be given to analysts to study for anomalies before the laborious task of analysis is started. If the sighting is identified early on as a misinterpretation then many hours of field work, including time and travel, could be avoided. If this is heeded then photographic evidence can take its place as a pivotal tool in aiding the investigation and understanding whatever phenomena people are seeing, and no longer will it be derided by many in the UFO community.

I stated earlier that I could fake any UFO photograph from the last fifty years. I can also state that there are photographs from the last fifty years that I cannot give a definitive answer as to what has been captured on film. Therefore they require more investigation and this is why photographs need to be used in tandem with other procedures. Photographs initially promised glory on their own, but due to hoaxes and other events are now shown scant respect. This has to change, as a true picture CAN paint a thousand words and if used in conjunction with established and trusted methods of investigation may one day find answers that will change everybody's perception of the world we live in.

I would like to extend my thanks to Kevin for taking his valuable time to conduct analysis on video footage and photographs that are coming into BUFORA.



...OR DOES IT?

IS THERE A PLACE FOR PHOTOGRAPHS IN UFO INVESTIGATION

INVESTIGATION

Before documenting below some of the more unusual sighting reports, I would like to remark on a comment made by Patrick Moore on a Sunday morning television programme, where he was discussing the implications of the fossilized organism found in the meteorite which may have originated from Mars. When asked about people who believed in UFOs he likened them to 'people who believe in Father Christmas'. What an analogy! I believe it will take a great deal of credible investigation, research and results to persuade Patrick Moore and those like him that maybe there are after all extraordinary objects witnessed by ordinary people. "Flying saucer" has always been a most unfortunate term and of course has become synonymous with UFO. This idea needs to be radically changed in the minds of the scientific community and the general public themselves.

CASE FILE

- **Location:** Pretoria, South Africa
- **Date:** 28th August 1996, early morning
- **Source:** Marius Lubbe

It has been reported on SABC TV news that video footage has been captured of an unknown object early in the morning over Pretoria. This footage was taken by a police officer on duty and shows a disc shaped object which seems to be lightly pulsating. According to witnesses, who were with the police officer they claim that there were flashing lights and that it looked like a saucer. In a different area of the city, another witness said that the object traveled silently and in an undulating fashion. An interview with a police helicopter pilot said that he and four passengers in the helicopter had chased after the object and he was extremely shaken explaining that the object outran him with ease, and its undulating movements were unusual. I will give an update on this in the next issue of UFO Times. According to a colleague and a friend of a source in South Africa, Stealth was tested in this area for a while by the US Government, and the area around Pretoria seems to encompass many of the UFO sightings that have emerged. Therefore this may be of some relevance here, although unless a copy of the footage can be obtained this of course is sheer speculation.

CASE FILE

- **Location:** A5, Between Holyhead and Anglesey
- **Date:** 5th July 1996
- **Source:** Margaret Fry, Wales Federation of Independent Ufologists

Margaret has reported receiving eighteen sighting reports from the A5 area on 5th July after the Weekly News published an item relating to three holiday makers on the A5, who reported observing an object thirty feet in front of their car which they describe in the following way 'three concentric grey rings, moving jerkily, at the same time revolving anti-clockwise and pulsating like a jellyfish'. Within the eighteen reports she received, there are two claims of missing time incidents for the Isle of Anglesey.

If anyone has any further information on these sightings could they please contact Margaret Fry on (01745) 860537

INTERNATIONAL SIGHTINGS

CROWD PANICS IN PARAIBA

On Wednesday night, October 16th, 1996, a gigantic rectangular UFO appeared over the city of Joao Pessoa (population 498,000) in northern Brazil, causing over 300 residents to flee in panic. Joao Pessoa is the capital of Paraiba, a small state in the Sertao(Northeast) on Brazil's South Atlantic coast.

The OVNI (Portuguese acronym for UFO) flew at an estimated altitude of 3,000 meters (11,000 feet). Witnesses described it as an object 'as long as a twenty-story building (72 meters or 240 feet)'. Late-night diners on the Avenida Rui Carneiro and the Rua Almeida Barretto had a clear view of the rectangular UFO, which was also seen in ten other cities of Paraiba, including Patos, 176 kilometers (110 miles) west of Joao Pessoa. (See the Brazilian newspaper [i]O Norte[i] for October 17, 1996 "Discos Voadores Chagam A Capital," page 1.)

The following night, Thursday, October 17, 'um gigantesco OVNI triangular' (gigantic triangular UFO) was seen in Campina Grande (population 326,200), the state's second largest city, 120 kilometers (75 miles) west of Joao Pessoa. The UFO flew slowly over the city on a westerly course. People dining in the 11th floor restaurant of the Rique Palace Hotel, Avenida Venancio Neiva 287, watched as the UFO drifted over midtown.

Also that night, in Joao Pessoa, people saw UFOs flying in formation over the city. They made three passes over the city and were described as 'coloured balls green on the outside with flashing yellow lights'. One eyewitness, Prof. Jacipa Lucena de Farias, 45, watched the sky show from the Rua Indio Piragibe. She said she counted 11 UFOs during the second pass over the city and 30 UFOs on the third pass. The UFO formation was also seen by passengers waiting to board intercity buses at the Transportadora Wilson.

In the small town of Jaguaribe, local residents saw 40 'green light' UFOs skim overhead at about 11 p.m. The flap went into high gear on Friday night, October 18th, with the

reappearance of a gigantic cylindrical UFO over Guarabira. This inland city, north of Campina Grande, has been repeatedly visited by UFOs since April. According to Wellington Francisco de Lima, president of Equipe Pesquias Ufologicas de Guarabira (UFO Investigating Team of Guarabira), EPUG for short, Friday's UFO was, "A cylindrical object very much like a fluorescent lamp. It moved by itself both vertically and horizontally. The object emitted a strong light but it did not move at great velocity."

A large UFO was also seen that night in the Parque Arruda Camara and at Praia de Jacare beach in Joao Pessoa.

In the rural village of Pilozinhas, Sra. Julia Monteiro de Cabral, age 92, reported seeing 'an unusual silver plane' land at 6:45 p.m. that Friday, coming down vertically beside some eucalyptus trees. Emerging from the UFO were a group of occupants she described as, "Homem pequenos e feios" (little fantastic men). Speaking a high-pitched, unintelligible language, the occupants surrounded Sra. Monteiro de Cabral's small house, and, she added, "They stole some of my chickens."

UFO CASEFILES

CASE FILE

- Location: Bristol Area
- Date: 5/6th July 1996
- Source: Chris Davies (SEARCH)

In mid July, Chris Davies recieved nine reports of circles of lights and pulsating lights seen around the Bristol area. They were described as rotating and frequently moved behind clouds in the sky. One caller described seeing about twenty lights in a circle surrounding an inner ring of about sixteen lights. He realised that these observations were highly indicative of a laser light display emanating from somewhere. However, after a great deal of research he could not find the source of the display, but with great determination he did discover that on the night in question the Welsh National Orchestra performed at an open air concert at Singleton Park Swansea. However he needs to contact the Orchestra in order to confirm the possibility that this may have been the source for the lights.

Chris chased up several companies who supply Skytracker lights, but they seemed unsure whether this system could be responsible for these sightings. However, he was then directed to a company Anark Lights in Slough, where he was informed that the lights observed by the witnesses were very possibly lights from a system known as a SPACE FLOWER or a STROBE FLOWER, which could make the lights appear to pulse. In his report on these sightings Chris comments that the movement of these lights could indicate a chain driven system. However he has not reached any definitive conclusions until he has traced the source of this show.

In Sao Neves, residents saw 'two OVNI's 30 meters (100 feet) in diameter of a discoidal (saucer) shape with blinking lights'.

SOURCE: UFO UPDATES

RECENT ITALIAN SIGHTINGS

A motorist on the road from Azzida and Purgessimo (Udine) suddenly saw five connected green balls in the sky spreading away in just a few seconds, at 5.15 a.m. on September 2nd (Messaggero Veneto, 4 September 1996).

A few days later, at 21.30, a council clerk driving his daughter and two of her friends near Tromello (Pavia) met a giant miriad of lights, like a flying merry-go-round hovering 150 meters above the ground, then moving away silently toward the Remond Air Force radar station, which later denied any detection (Provincia Pavese, 10 September; investigation by Claudio Cavallini).

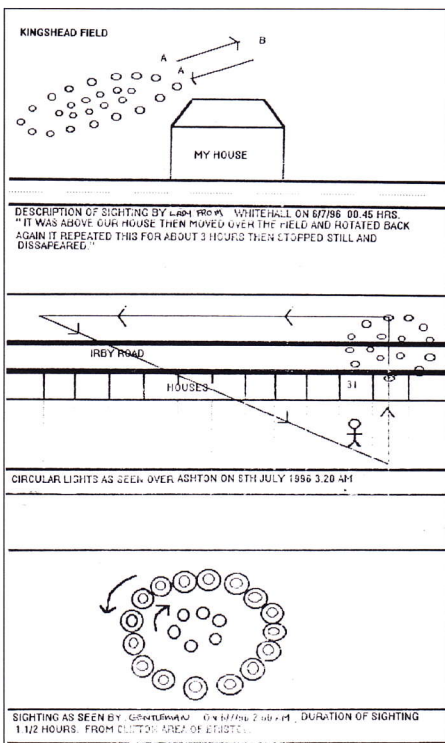
SOURCE: CISU NEWSFLASH (CONTACT EDOARDO RUSSO

EDOARDO.RUSSO@TORINO.ALPCOM.IT

CASE FILE

- Location: North Sea, 65miles east of Eyemouth, Berwickshire
- Date: 14th February 1996
- Inv. George Niedzwiedz (RIC)

JW and his fiancÈ were parked at the top of Alexandra Palace in North London at about 10pm. They were overlooking a large section of London, when suddenly they were aware of a large object in the sky, which appeared to be lit up. They describe the object as two-to-three miles high (difficult to judge), when several objects came out of the large object. These objects were all lit up and they disappeared in different directions. One of the objects traveled to a position opposite where JW and his finance were and it was then they saw an aircraft approaching, whereupon the light in the small object blinked out. When the aircraft had passed the position, the object lit up again and it appeared to follow behind the aircraft for a time. The other large object, together with the smaller objects, then lit up again. All the small objects seemed to return to the large object and then it took off at a tremendous speed, not quite vertically, but at a slight angle, until it disappeared from view. The large object remained stationary throughout these events. They did not report this to the police or even their families, and were very surprised that there was no mention of it in the newspapers during the following days. They would be most grateful if any other reports of similar sightings at this time could be forwarded to them via myself. (See drawing below)



CASE FILE

- Location: North London
- Date: Spring 1972
- Source: Letter to BUFORA

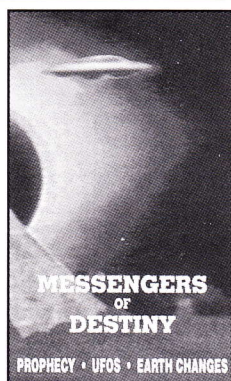
At 19.00hrs on 14th February, the crew of a fishing boat 75 miles south east of Eyemouth witnessed a strange configuration of lights hovering and moving very slowly 75 feet above their vessel. During this event the skipper radioed the skipper of another vessel, which was fishing 8 miles away, to ask if they too could see the odd lights. This was confirmed and they also commented that there was detection of the object on their radar system. The main witness described red lights, which appeared to be emerging from a background of a white ball of light. They described a black, triangular shape with approximately 15 red lights on the side of the object. Others observed that there did not appear to be any navigation lights on its underside and that it was silent. The object was in the area for about an hour and then vanished. Ten to fifteen minutes later two fighter jets were observed heading in the same direction from where the object had been last seen.

After extensive investigation the Coast guard confirmed that there had been a Nimrod exercising in the area very close to the position in which this sighting took place. This area is in close proximity to the low flying training system also. However, the fisherman felt that they were familiar with Nimrods and helicopters, and the object did not resemble either. In his conclusions George has stated that he believes the object witnessed by eight Eyemouth fishermen was a top secret military triangular flying craft carrying out manoeuvres in the low flying training area in the North Sea.

He feels this conclusion is reinforced by the article in The Sunday Times on 11th August, which states that many UFO sightings of a triangular shaped craft may have a simple explanation after all. A prototype model unveiled at the beginning of August which resembled a flying manta ray is the product of joint research by NASA and the US Air Force. Speculation is that a secret full-size version may already have been built and be responsible for countless UFO sightings. However, he still feels there are several unanswered questions, as to why it is flying in British airspace without navigation lights and would the craft be capable of hovering. I would like to thank George for an excellent report on this sighting.

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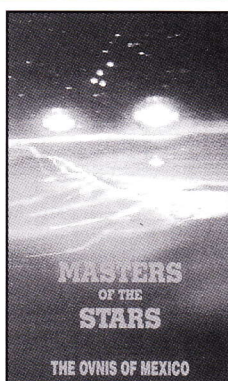
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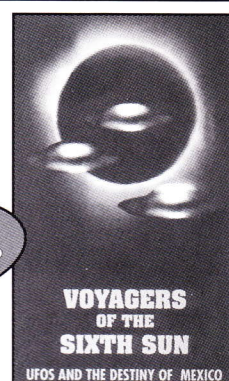


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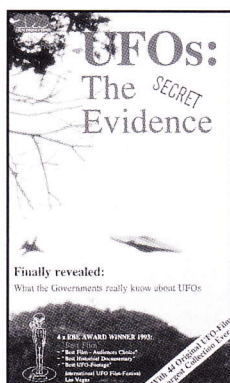
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AREA 51

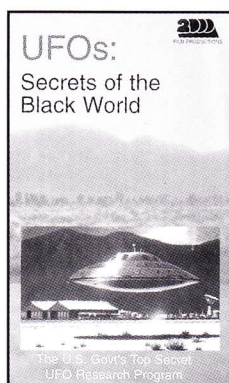
ANCIENTS & UFOs A PERSONAL QUEST



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A concise collection of UFO reports from around the world, including the USA, Russia, Belgium, Germany and Puerto Rico. Fascinating interviews with researchers and military personnel, with over forty UFO film clips.

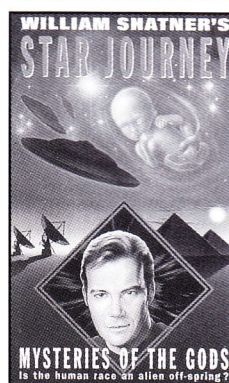
110 mins £24.99 + £1.00 P+P



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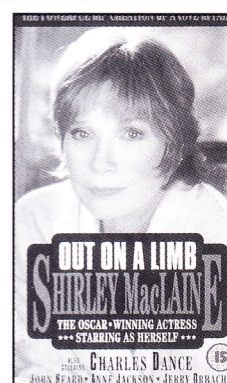
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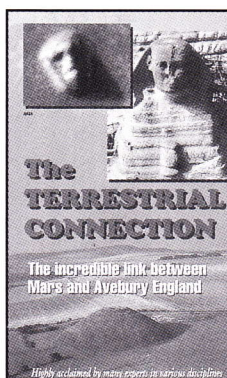
230 mins £14.99 + £2.00 P+P

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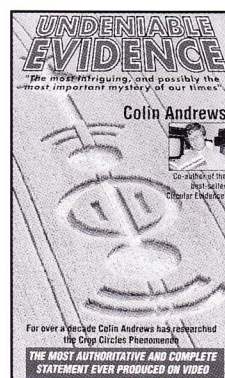
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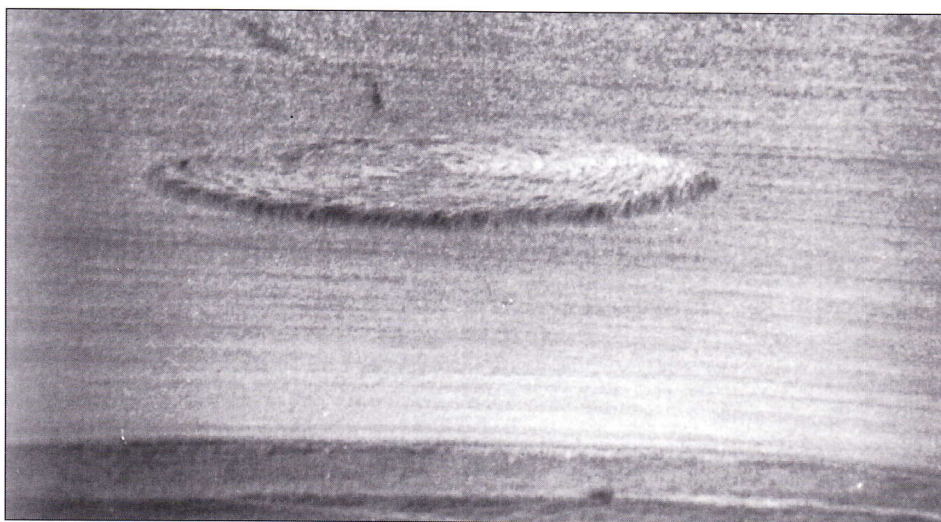
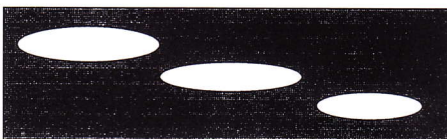
INVESTIGATIONS CASEFILES

CASE FILE

- Location: Dover
- Date: June 1956
- Source: Letter to BUFORA

DW and his two brothers were working at the Dover Gasworks on a sunny June morning at 10.45am. On looking up DW noticed an object in the sky that was a whitish transparent colour and moving at a reasonable speed from the direction of France.

He describes it as being saucer shaped, flying edge-on. He called his brothers attention to this object and then noticed it was being followed by two others flying in formation. As they passed over the men and directly in front of them, the first one flipped on end and shot up at a 90 degree angle. In this position he describes it as a 'shiny silver metallic disc'. The second and third followed this manoeuvre and then leveled off and went out of sight behind the gas works building. Seconds later they returned flying from left to right. In the distance a twin engine plane (probably a Dakota) was flying towards Dover castle. One of the objects flew directly above the plane, and in comparison was at least twice the size. Suddenly the objects shot off at a tremendous speed crossing the sky in about three seconds and disappeared. A few minutes later three jet planes appeared and DW speculates they were searching for the vanished objects. DW comments there was no sound from them and feels sure this account must be documented the United States Air Force. (See drawing).



CASE FILE

- Location: Cley Hill, Warminster
- Date: Summer, 1982
- Source: Letter/photograph to BUFORA

JW and his family had traveled from the North East to Wiltshire for a summer holiday. On the way to Warminster, they traveled along a road that took them to some hills, one of which was called Cley Hill. Leaving his mother and sister in the car JW and his father climbed Cley Hill to enjoy the view. It was a warm sunny day with a gentle breeze and, after a few minutes, both men experienced some odd events, during which the natural country sounds seemed to disappear.

They felt as though they were both suddenly placed 'into an invisible dome', which closed off all familiar sounds and there was no wind, even though they could see a farmer burning his field, not far from the hill and the wind was very obviously fueling this field fire. They then heard three 'booms', which JW felt came from underneath them. They also noticed that the hairs on both of their necks and arms were standing erect, as though we were in some sort of electromagnetic field. They could hear a faint sound, like a buzzing and it appeared to surround them. They then noticed a crop circle in an adjacent farmers field (See photograph). JW ran down to the field and took photographs of the crop circle and ran to the edge of it and took more photographs, hence the trail from the crop circle. There was no disturbance in the field outside of the crop circle. JW then returned to the hill to rejoin his father, and although baffled by the circle, looked back into the farmers field, which was on fire with black smoke emanating from it. In the black smoke, both JW and his father could see whirlwinds being created and both came to the conclusion that was what had created this circle. They were not sure about how long the 'silence' lasted for, but suddenly, the sounds of birds singing, the wind and all familiar sounds in the distance returned.

JW and his father concluded that the circle had been there for a while, and therefore felt that the

two events were unrelated to each other. However, upon returning to the car and telling his mother and sister about the experience the two men noticed that both of their wrist watches were exactly twenty minutes behind the time showing on the car clock and his sister's watch. Incidentally their car had been parked at the foot of the hill.

Before concluding the Diary for this issue I would like to quote from a letter to the Daily Mail from Heather Cooper, Pioneer Productions, Pinewood Studios, Bucks. She refers to Robert Bauval and Graham Hancock's controversial interpretation of certain events in their 'Mysteries of Mars' documented in the 'Daily Mail'. She comments as follows: 'Highly important to their conspiracy theory is the idea that the Mars Observer spacecraft was 'lost' by mission control at the crucial moment, in case it discovered more artifacts in the Cydonia region.

I happened to be in mission control, filming for a Channel 4 programme on Mars, when NASA lost contact with the probe.

Behind the scenes, I saw scientists and technical experts grow despondent as they realised that they would never regain contact. They finally accepted that the Observer must have blown up when it fired a rocket to enter orbit around Mars.

They had worked for years on this mission and were devastated by the loss of the probe. It is insulting to these dedicated people to suggest that NASA was staging any kind of a cover-up.

Finally on behalf of BUFORA, I would like to thank all the RICs and investigators for their great work and cooperation in the changes now taking place within the NIC. The way forward within UFO investigation is to create a competent, responsible and credible investigations network, with the ability to share current information with other UFO organisations and groups across the UK, and indeed, the world. This is the only way to focus more accurately on the issues of this complex and compelling phenomenon. Indeed, it is essential that we understand the questions we should be asking in order to begin to determine the answers to the meaning of the UFO experience, whatever it may yet turn out to be and however many facets it may appear to have.

UFO TIMES

WRITE UP YOUR CASE HISTORIES

Hey investigators! Contribute to *UFO Times* with your case histories. This is your investigative work and Mike Wooten, Director of Publications and editor of *UFO Times* would appreciate contributions from you. Please contact Mike about any case file you wish to have included in *UFO Times*.

WITNESSES REPORT THAT...



In recent months "Face on Mars" researcher Richard Hoagland has claimed in public speeches and radio interviews that he has acquired photographs and "insider testimony" proving NASA knowledge of massive extraterrestrial artifacts on the moon. Many critics have been sceptical, but now a new eyewitness not associated with Hoagland also claims to have been shown clear NASA photographs of structures and machinery on the moon.

Writing in the June/July 95 issue of the newsletter "Houston Sky", industrial engineer Vito Saccheri says that the moon is littered with alien structures, but is Saccheri a reliable witness? "Houston Sky" editor Gayle Nesom says: "Vito is one of the few people whose story I could accept based just on his word... Credibility is a given in Vito's work. The success of his business – he owns a technical investigations company – rests on expertise, reputation and integrity... As someone whose advice I have relied on over the last two years, he has been rational and dispassionate, conservative in his ufological assumptions, and utterly dependable. To me he is as credible as they come."

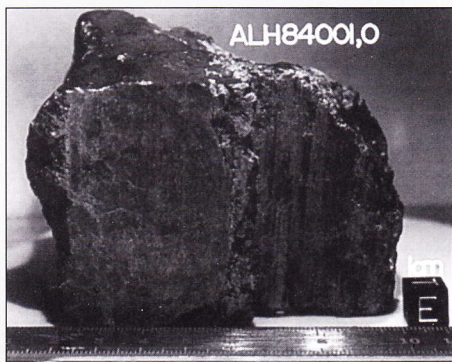
Saccheri says he first looked into the claim of moon structures after meeting another engineer named Lester Howes in 1979. Howes showed Saccheri a book titled *Somebody Else Is On the Moon*, written by a former NASA scientist named George H. Leonard. Leonard went so far as to claim that President Kennedy's historic initiative to put Americans on the moon before 1970 was driven by a series of secret discoveries made from earth-based telescopes during the 1950s, virtually proving activity on the moon. Leonard was a photo analyst for NASA and argued that because NASA space missions were publicly funded, the public had a right to see the photo evidence. On his own, he published a number of photos in his book, but they were so

small that details were blurred. He described, however, what was visible in the huge original prints and also published the identifying code numbers of the photos.

After reading Leonard's book, Saccheri agreed to go with Lester Howes to NASA's Houston headquarters and ask to see the photos. After many days of official obfuscation and delay in negotiations with NASA officials, who had never before received any such request, NASA finally agreed to check with someone in Langley, Virginia. (CIA HQ.) Persistence eventually paid off, reinforced by the law and the applicants' status as credible engineers, and the two men eventually found themselves in NASA's photo archive, said at that time to house over two million images. The librarian, a man named Roger, finally provided access to materials even more startling than the photos. In his article for "Houston Sky" Saccheri wrote as follows: "Roger announced that the photos were ready for our inspection. There were, however, strict rules: we were to get three eight-hour business days. We were not allowed pens, pencils, paper, calculators, cameras or recording devices of any kind. Nor could we be left alone with the photos. We were allowed only the book and a magnifying loupe. We would be escorted in and out for lunch and bathroom breaks. If we agreed to these terms, he said, we could begin at nine o'clock the next morning. We arrived at eight,

MARS BAH'S A SCEPTIC WRITES...

"Is there life on Mars?", queried pop-tart David Bowie when we were very young. Well, if recent revelations from NASA this summer are to be believed there is.



You're all no doubt well-acquainted by now with the story of the century: scientists find fossil in Martian rock, reveal news, world hocked, life goes on etc. The Chinese curse 'May you live in interesting times' was certainly apt during August 1996. And all this in the same week that the block-busting *Independence Day* movie was released in the UK. It's enough to make a poor sceptic feel decidedly queasy.

Mars eh? There was a certain inevitability that the Red Planet would be the litmus for revealing the universe's secrets. Humankind has been fascinated with Mars for centuries; Schiaparelli and Lowell's canals, H.G. Wells' *War Of the Worlds*, numerous pulp sci-fi and space opera books, even the odd contactee report, have all helped it burn its way into our psyches. And now, we are told, it's come up with the goods. No longer will the argument rage that there must be life elsewhere because there are so many other planets/stars etc. No, now it will be simply there is life elsewhere because NASA says so!

However, how many EThers really thought that the first announcements of off planet life would be plain ol' rock sample ALH84001 – AI to its friends? Not many, I'll be bound. The in-your-face hard-core UFO porn of *Independence Day*, (out of *X-Files*, son of *War Of the Worlds*, now at stud for all subsequent genre movies of the millennium) is far closer to the truth of the wishes and expectations of most ufologists. But not UFO Times readers, I'm sure. You're all too well informed and clear headed to fall for that aren't you? But the trouble is that real scientific progress is pretty much like the sage of the *Rock Known As AI*. It doesn't come courtesy of quarter mile wide spaceships or the mythological vacuity of greys, abductions and

implants. When it happens it tends to happen by accident borne of opportunity and to represent the start of a long, hard road for validity and acceptance. If indeed it is true at all.

So what is it then, this alien life form. Well, it's not going to be sat opposite Jeremy Paxman on *Newsnight* answering his worries about Earth's place in a free-market Universe, that's for sure. Its ability to handle, let alone crash a flying disc in the vicinity of a US Airforce base has also been called into question by experts. And should an autopsy film be made, viewers are going to be few and disappointed. Away from all the press hoopla AI is nowt but a few worm-like shapes, visible only to those who possess an electro-micrograph. These squiggles are 100 times smaller than even the smallest known ancient terrestrial fossils and frolicked on Mars some 3.6 billion years ago. In short the 'proof', whilst certainly being little, is neither green nor a man.

And already doubts are creeping in. NASA administrator Daniel Goldin's initial announcement that "We are now on a doorstep to the heavens", is being treated with caution and scepticism by many in the scientific community. Others have suggested that what is being seen is not organic in origin in any case. Being sequestered in ufology's hall of mirrors may have blinded us to all those other scientific faux pas such as cold fusion, Piltdown Man, the flat earth, and so on. Science is not infallible. Wouldn't it be fun if this latest 'scientific' interpretation of life on Mars is just another in a long line of beliefs about the planet?

Even if this 'discovery' stands the tests which will be visited upon it and comes out the other end as bona-fide proof of life elsewhere, it is a

THEY'VE GOT OUR MOON!

"This time we were escorted in by two men. We found five extra long conference room tables set up in a U shape. We had expected to find only the pictures listed in Leonard's book, but to our amazement there were thousands of photos... "The photos were huge, approximately 32 by 24 inches, with a dull grey, almost dull black, look. On the back of each technical information was recorded, such as the probe's height above the moon's surface while it was taking the picture, the angle of approach and the location of the sun in relation to the capsule... "To this day, I can remember those views: a boulder that seemed to have been rolled uphill, leaving its tracks in the side of the hill; obvious machinery on the surface, showing bolted sections; three dilapidated 'bridges' crossing a chasm that reminded me of the Grand Canyon; pipe fitting that looked like four-way Ts (or Xs) that could be seen in every photo, some with their ends turned up or down as they hung over the edge of a crater; three surprising pyramids that prompted me later to study closely the Egyptian Giza pyramid complex; apparent pipelines criss-crossing the surface, running to and from craters; a UFO rising from the surface and photographed directly above a crater; and perhaps the most memorable, the unmistakable figure of a rectangular structure placed squarely in the biggest crater pictured – the structure looked either very old or under construction, but the crater had to be miles wide, and the camera

angle gave a perfect three-dimensional view. "The clarity and resolution were unlike anything I had seen before or since, and I shudder to think that this was only the beginnings of the spy-in-the-sky technology that has evolved since then... "On our last day, as I was escorted back to the main room I noticed a false panel that was slightly ajar and peeked inside. Floor-to-ceiling bookshelves were filled with three-ring binders. Roger volunteered that most of the binders were filled with the details of NASA's scientific experiments conducted in space. The rest, he said, were simply transcripts of the manned space flights, including the moon landings.

Since he had gotten to know us over the three days and had enjoyed seeing the photos himself, he gave me a wink and a nod and allowed me to enter the room unescorted...

"I decided to browse some transcripts and flipped casually through a few... then my eyes caught it: 'Houston, we've got a bogey at two o'clock.' And there was more: 'Roger that, Apollo. Switching to alpha. Roll eight degrees and begin sequence...'

"Though I knew instinctively what it meant, I couldn't believe what I was reading. I raced through the pages of other mission transcripts and found similar dialogue:

'Mission Control, we've got Santa Claus coming over the hill...'

implants. When it happens it tends to happen by accident borne of opportunity and to represent the start of a long, hard road for validity and acceptance. If indeed it is true at all.

So what is it then, this alien life form. Well, it's not going to be sat opposite Jeremy Paxman on Newsnight answering his worries about Earth's place in a free-market Universe, that's for sure. Its ability to handle, let alone crash a flying disc in the vicinity of a US Airforce base has also been called into question by experts. And should an autopsy film be made, viewers are going to be few and disappointed. Away from all the press hoopla AI is nowt but a few worm-like shapes, visible only to those who possess an electro-micrograph. These squiggles are 100 times smaller than even the smallest known ancient terrestrial fossils and frolicked on Mars some 3.6 billion years ago. In short the 'proof', whilst certainly being little, is neither green nor a man.

And already doubts are creeping in. NASA administrator Daniel Goldin's initial announcement that "We are now on a doorstep to the heavens", is being treated with caution and scepticism by many in the scientific community. Others have suggested that what is being seen is not organic in origin in any case. Being sequestered in ufology's hall of mirrors may have blinded us to all those other scientific faux pas such as cold fusion, Piltdown Man, the flat earth, and so on. Science is not infallible. Wouldn't it be fun if this latest 'scientific' interpretation of life on Mars is just another in a long line of beliefs about the planet?

Even if this 'discovery' stands the tests which will be visited upon it and comes out the other end as bona-fide proof of life elsewhere, it is a

'Roger, Apollo. Hold your fix. Switching bravo. Do you copy?'

'Roger, Houston. Bravo link...' These guys were reporting UFO activity, but I couldn't remember ever hearing this during live broadcasts of lunar missions in '69 and '70. I was too dumbfounded to say a word and too scared to tell Les or Roger... we had no clearance to see these documents...

"When I met moon photo researcher Marvin Czarnik in 1995, I learned that he had helped develop some of the technical systems used at NASA... He knew that code words like 'alpha' and 'bravo' referred to special switching stations around the country that 'switched' broadcast reception away from Houston and Mission Control directly to CIA headquarters in Langley. This was my missing puzzle piece. I knew then for certain who it was that had the master list of photographs... "That the moon could be occupied by others who periodically visit the earth makes perfect sense to me. I remember in the 1960s, after President Kennedy mobilised NASA, that the talk was about beating the Russians to the moon and using it as a station, or stepping stone, to the stars. In those days there were great debates on who would get the mining and mineral rights... "Today, we no longer talk about using the moon as a base of any kind. Instead, we talk about using space stations. Why?"

long, long way from sentient life and more specifically, from the sort of sentient life the ETHers claim is here and probing. Its authentication, if it comes, will be good news for the scientific community and will help inform us how the universe has developed; but in actuality it will do nothing to explain or add to the UFO phenomenon which at root is quite separate from the possibility of life existing elsewhere in the universe, although the two subjects frequently intertwine. But that's another editorial altogether!

Either way if any good has come of it at all it will be that SETI may receive more funding and most of all that the space programme now has something to look for rather than just being a complete waste of time and money. NASA may even be able to put Richard Hoagland out of his misery and demonstrate life elsewhere because there are so many other planets/stars etc. No, now it will be simply there is life elsewhere because NASA says so!

However, how many ETHers really thought that the first announcements of off planet life would be plain ol' rock sample ALH84001 – AI to its friends? Not many, I'll be bound. The in-your-face hard-core UFO porn of Independence Day, (out of X-Files, son of War Of The Worlds, now at stud for all subsequent genre movies of the millennium) is far closer to the truth of the wishes and expectations of most ufologists. But not UFO Times readers, I'm sure. You're all too well informed and clear headed to fall for that aren't you? But the trouble is that real scientific progress is pretty much like the sage of the Rock Known As AI. It doesn't come courtesy of quarter mile wide spaceships or the mythological vacuity of greys, abductions and

long, long way from sentient life and more specifically, from the sort of sentient life the ETHers claim is here and probing. Its authentication, if it comes, will be good news for the scientific community and will help inform us how the universe has developed; but in actuality it will do nothing to explain or add to the UFO phenomenon which at root is quite separate from the possibility of life existing elsewhere in the universe, although the two subjects frequently intertwine. But that's another editorial altogether!

Either way if any good has come of it at all it will be that SETI may receive more funding and most of all that the space programme now has something to look for rather than just being a complete waste of time and money. NASA may even be able to put Richard Hoagland out of his misery and demonstrate to him once and for all that his gormless ideas about faces, crystal cities and giant glass shards are all complete nonsense.

Personally I remain unconvinced that any well-evolved life will ever be found – anywhere – and staunch in my belief that life on Earth as we know it is a one-off, a cosmic happenstance, a meaningless blip in the unfolding of the Universe.

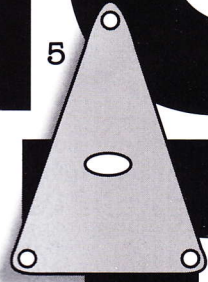
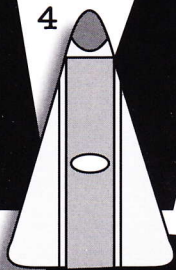
But then I'm a sceptic, and what do sceptics know? Obviously someone has the thin skinny on this one, as the day after the announcement was made William Hill the bookmakers dropped their odds of NASA confirming intelligent life on Mars from 500-1 to 25-1!

Place your bets ladies and gentlemen...

ANDY ROBERTS

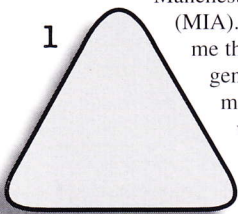
(The Sunday Times of 11/8/96 was ruthlessly rifled for information and quotes used here)

THE MANANCIAL SIGHTING



On the 8th of February of this year I was travelling home from a friend's at approximately 12.20pm. As I turned a corner onto a main road I suddenly noticed a red object darting around in the night sky over the Old Trafford area in Manchester. I stopped the car and watched it for a few minutes. The object darted upwards then downwards then to side-to-side. It performed this manoeuvre several times before completely disappearing. I can only explain the disappearance to be similar to turning a light bulb off.

When I arrived home I told my partner (Alicia Leigh) what I had seen. Being an investigator for ten years I was able to commit to memory details such as height, trajectory, luminosity, and degrees. With this information, I informed Manchester International Airport (MIA). An airport official put me through to the tower and a gentlemen preceded to ask me questions which were very similar to our own sighting account forms which we give to UFO witnesses on attending a preliminary interview.



Some of these questions were: did you notice any unusual effects to you or your surroundings, and, have you ever had a UFO sighting before?

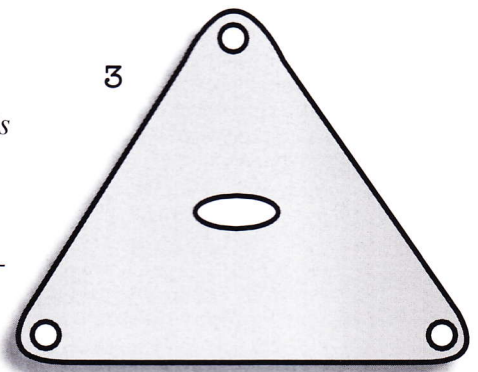
These type of questions lead me to believe that they were being read from a typical Ministry of Defence (MoD) UFO sighting account form. There is a good possibility that these MoD forms are as detailed as the ones UFO investigators use. I would even go as far as to say that they may have copied our format! I thought it would be important to inform MIA of the unusual sighting; after all, I couldn't expect the public to report their sightings if I was not prepared to do it myself.

After speaking to the airport officials I heard a knock at my front door. I opened it to find my next-door neighbour. She informed me that four students were on the radio and they were speaking live from the location of a UFO sighting. I thanked her for the information and quickly tried to tune my hi-fi to Talk Radio UK, however by the time I had located it the students

had already had their say. The only thing I managed to decipher was the location. Uncannily enough it was Old Trafford, the same place where I had witnessed something unusual that evening. Normally I wouldn't coincide the two sightings, however it can be difficult if you had witnessed it yourself. The following day my investigations started. I contacted several local newspapers who were interested in publishing an article on the given subject and also to ask any witnesses to come forward. A contact telephone number was adequate for us to be inundated with witnesses over the coming week.

WIRED STUFF

Witnesses from the age of 14 to 86 years old had a story to tell. Most of the sightings seem to have occurred on the 8th February, however some were reported to have taken place on up to the 15th. Not only UFO sightings were reported to us, but poltergeist activity, electrical and vehicle interference, apparitions of entity type figures, hummadruzz and other odd goings on. Some witnesses reported hummadruzz in our local vicinity; this was also heard by myself and others. hummadruzz is an unusual humming/buzzing sound, which seems difficult to locate. During the 1970s and 80s Government and other officials investigated these strange sounds, however they were

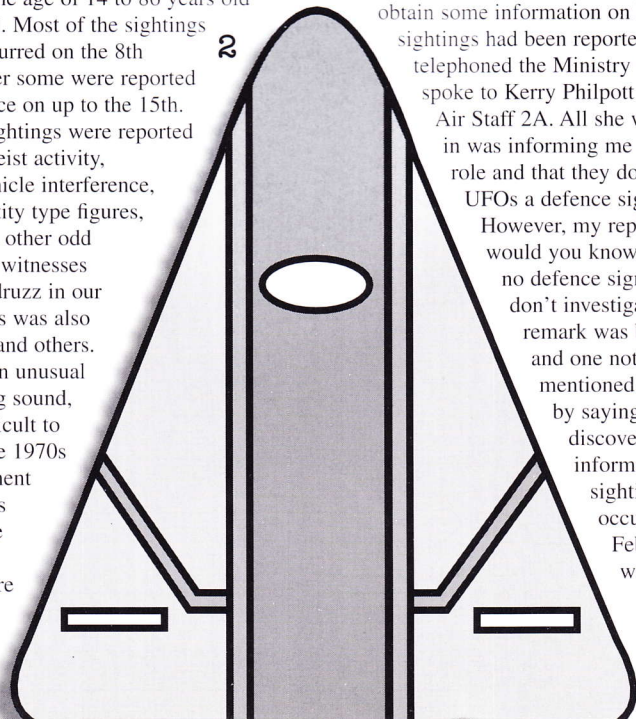


unsuccessful in reaching an evaluation or conclusion. Hummadruzz went on for approximately three nights then mysteriously ended.

All the incidents seem to be within a ten-mile radius of us, it was an investigator's dream come true. Three individual incidents of poltergeist experiences were reported within a week and any credited investigator knows that poltergeist experiences don't come in large amounts. It would be amazing to receive one poltergeist case a year let alone three in a week. After working flat out for a week with my partner we sent some letters to Manchester International Airport and the Civil Aviation Authority to try and

obtain some information on how many sightings had been reported. I also telephoned the Ministry Of Defence and spoke to Kerry Philpott who works at Air Staff 2A. All she was interested in was informing me of the MoD role and that they do not consider UFOs a defence significance.

However, my reply was how would you know if they were of no defence significance if you don't investigate them. Her remark was blunt and sharp and one not to be mentioned. She finished by saying that if she discovered any information on UFO sightings that occurred on February 8th she would in fact



THE STRAIGHT

MINGGS

- WITNESS 1. STEPHEN MERA
- WITNESS 2. POLICE OFFICER
- WITNESS 3. MRS. SPITTLE
- WITNESS 4. MRS. BOHNE
- WITNESS 5. MRS. HOBIN
- WITNESS 6. MRS. HOPE
- WITNESS 7. MR. CUNLIFF
- WITNESS 8. MR. HAZE
- WITNESS 9. MISS O'CONNOR

inform me. As I placed the phone down I remember thinking (that'll be the day). The following morning I received a telephone call at approximately 9.30. I couldn't believe it when I heard Kerry Philpott's voice on the end of my telephone say good morning. She had in fact kept her word and informed me that she had received three UFO reports which had occurred on the 8th of February. I thanked her for her unusual co-operation and carried on with my research.

It didn't take me long to find several articles that were covering a UFO incident that happened a year previously. These articles were publicised during the first few days of February. They were concerning a sighting that took place over the Pennines during January 6th 1995, by two airline pilots. Could all the witnesses be cranks and fabricating their story in conjunction to last years sighting? I think not.

Again the following day brought some interesting surprises. Another investigator who had been helping me out with the sudden workload contacted a local newspaper only to find that the secretary had witnessed something herself on the evening of February 8th. She informed him of electrical interference and unusual lights in the night sky. Would this ever end? During the afternoon, while I was typing my reports. I received a telephone call from a gentleman from the Metro newspaper. He asked if it would be possible to write an article on the local UFO activity. On obliging him we met. After talking for a while he gave me a telephone number. "Who's is it?", I asked. He told me it was one of the students off the radio station. He had asked for the telephone number on hearing them and they had given it to him.

MIBS WARN POLICE OFFICERS

I gave the telephone number to an investigator to follow up. That evening, I received a call from that investigator asking me to drive up to her house. When I arrived there, she informed me that the four students were in fact four police officers. I talked on the phone with one of the

police officers, he told me that they now consider the phone call to the radio station a foolish incident. They also informed me that they had not informed their superior before making it public. Finally he stated that none of the other police officers were willing to talk about their experience, due to them receiving a telephone calls from a Mr Green and a Mr Salt. Who these men were may never be known, however the police officer did explain what had happened that evening. On February 8th they were all on night duty, when one of them saw an unusual object. He informed the others and went outside. What they described to have seen was a triangular object with a centre white light and some sort of girder structure underneath. It slowly rotated above them about 40 feet up and slowly flew over the cricket ground opposite them across the road and eventually out of sight.

CASES MOUNT

The following day I was informed of another bedroom visitor case and also seismic activity. Is there a connection between all paranormal activity? Is there common ground? We hope to find out. I then received a phone call from Morecambe asking me to attend a conference, since I was doing a radio presentation that evening in Preston I thought why not. I spent a pleasant afternoon in Morecambe with Jenny

Randles and being interviewed for a forthcoming BBC programme.

Whilst I was there, I watched a video recording of an alleged UFO, which had been taken a week previous.

The video depicted a triangular object in the night sky and having a centre light which flickered on and off.

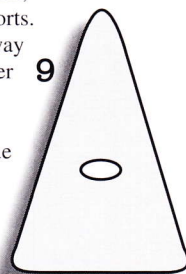
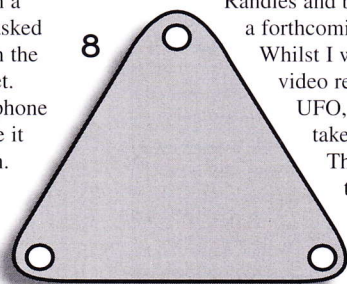
Seems like Morecambe had also its fair share of triangular UFOs. Several witnesses had their experiences to report. After leaving Morecambe, I found myself at Red Rose radio, I did a one hour presentation including a phone in and I was surprised to hear a majority of the callers were reporting seeing this triangular objects, some of

which stated they had even seen it a following night.

I left Morecambe with a view to trying to map a route of this strange craft. The following morning my partner answered the telephone to hear a woman's voice say "I am calling from Manchester International Airport, we must inform you that you cannot and will not get any information and I advise you leave this alone." What did this mean? Obviously the mystery caller withheld the number, (how convenient!) Again I telephoned the Ministry of Defence to verify if they knew about the existence of the mysterious call. Kerry Philpott stated she had no idea, yet was kind enough to accuse a rival group. I have to question, how would a rival group know of official letters sent out. Being a Chairman of an organisation I realise that Manchester has no rival groups and if there had been I would certainly know about it.

Finally, I contacted several RAF bases, Menwith Hill (NSA) and other airports. None of them were helpful in any way and gave me the runaround. However I did attempt to map a route down from the Pennines and across to Manchester. This was so difficult due to having so many witnesses. Eventually a report came in from Bolton and Wigan of similar incidents. This could probably indicate a possible route' however it would be impossible to clarify.

Investigations continue to go on, with very little answers. Something strange happened during the second week in February, not just Manchester but many other places. They may all be connected somehow yet hidden from view. To take on a scientific explanation would render us with nothing leaving only the extraordinary as a plausible approach.



BY STEVE MERA

REVIEW

BY JENNY RANGLES

THE BELGIAN WAVE UNDER A MICROSCOPE

In late 1995 I had to visit London to do a TV interview with sceptic Catherine Bennett. The item was being filmed on the Strand, in the boardroom of Blandford, one of the publishers for which I presently write. After the interview I was called into the office for a quiet discussion and the first question I was asked was 'Do you know Derek Sheffield?' – to which, I am afraid, my answer was 'Derek who?'

It was then explained to me that Blandford were to publish a book by him in summer 1996 and they were getting a little worried about the legal implications of some of its conclusions. They feared that the MoD might take offence and were having its content (even its uncompromising title) vetted by their lawyers. What could I tell them about the Belgian wave – which was the substance of the authors study?

I answered the publishers questions to the best of my ability and obviously they decided that Derek Sheffield's work was both well-documented and above reproach. It duly appeared with the title unchanged and accusations intact. Given that these are fair opinion by the author I think that was the only course for Blandford to adopt.

However, now that this book has appeared in the bookshops how can we judge what it has to say?

DEREK WHO?

First of all, to answer my initial question, who is Derek Sheffield? He lives in Kent, is a former photo reconnaissance pilot who once flew Lancasters and after leaving the RAF became a print technologist, a job from which he has now retired. He has previously written books reassessing evolution, the expanding universe and black holes!

His interest in UFOs began in 1962 with a sighting he describes (p. 7) but which, I have to say, is in my opinion a classic description of a high altitude weather balloon. This long fascination with the subject has not extended to joining the UFO Community. Indeed he seems not to be enamoured with ufology as such, given one or two comments in this book.

Sheffield supposedly discovered the Belgian wave by accident, two years after it had occurred, when he saw a reference to it in a French newspaper (even though he could not read French very well). He seems under the impression that the British media had ignored the sightings, and asks why; although I do recall reading the odd item on the subject and TV has of course, covered it fairly widely.

Not content with just reading what the newspaper told him, translated by a hotel clerk, the author then began a remarkable (some might feel obsessive) quest to find out who knew what about the wave of sightings that began in November 1989 and culminated in March 1990 with the famous encounter between a Belgian Air Force jet and a radar tracked UFO. This quest involved the author writing numerous letters to people in authority and attempting to argue them into telling him what they knew.

This ploy – an outsider from the UFO world playing on his flight experience to act like a detective and seek out the facts about this fascinating wave – initially works well as the basis for a book.

But only up to a point. Its problems very quickly become apparent as the pages progress.

THE BELGIUM WAVE

For readers unfamiliar with the Belgian wave (e.g., via Tim Good's books) then this might be a useful introduction. But I am afraid it is superficial. Despite the length of the book and the focus on just a couple of the key events in the four months wave it really offers little more than a surface perspective on the cases.

There is very little depth to the enquiry or presentation of the raw evidence. Not much assessment of possible theories or explanations. That is just one area of this book where Derek Sheffield's lack of experience as a ufologist creates difficulties.

One point where he does not fall down is the jet chase of March 30/31 1990. Here we get quite a lot of technical data, including the full transcript of the ground-to-air communication between the Belgian Air Force plane and its ground control, as well as a technical assessment of the video footage taken inside the cockpit depicting the airborne radar. Some may feel the book is worthwhile for this alone.

Indeed the first 70 pages or so of the book, in which he introduces the three main Belgian sightings, are pretty interesting. But there are embarrassing moments. He discusses the sighting of a British pilot (pp. 45-46) justifying why he cannot give the man's name. But, based upon the details of the sighting, this same pilot willingly appeared on last season's ITV series 'Strange but True?' in the episode we made about pilot sightings. His face and identity were seen before 10 million viewers in the UK alone and his story told (complete with his real name) in the book of that series, which I wrote in June 1995.

After this worthy introduction to the mass sightings – cases that involve objects the size of Wembley Stadium and some of the first of what today is a veritable flood of triangular UFOs seen worldwide – I am afraid the book rather goes downhill for me.

There is a full transcript of Sheffield's report on the sightings, which he compiled to send to the European Parliament, requiring them to take it seriously and to initiate legal hearings into the

case. This is a brave and intriguing tactic, but the report itself once more shows up his lack of UFO knowledge. It reminded me of the recent blockbuster movie 'Independence Day'. Vast sums of time and money spent on making it look good but they cannot even get the correct date for the Roswell crash (mentioned twice in the movie and wrong by several years each time!) Here Sheffield tells the EEC that noted UFO proponent and arch rival of the cover-up, Donald Keyhoe, was a member of the CIA's Robertson Panel and writes as if unaware that Allen Hynek died 10 years ago. Perhaps wrongly, I suspected by this point that he was a little out of his depth with regards to assessing the history of the UFO subject. But perhaps that is being unkind and he does have the evidence to back up such a charge.

Unfortunately, much of the rest of the book is taken up with complete transcripts of the letters between Sheffield and various figures, then their replies, and his replies to their replies and their (often increasingly short) replies to his replies. Just describing it like this gives a flavour of the tedium that it inspires and I am surprised that the editors at Blandford felt this was a good literary technique.

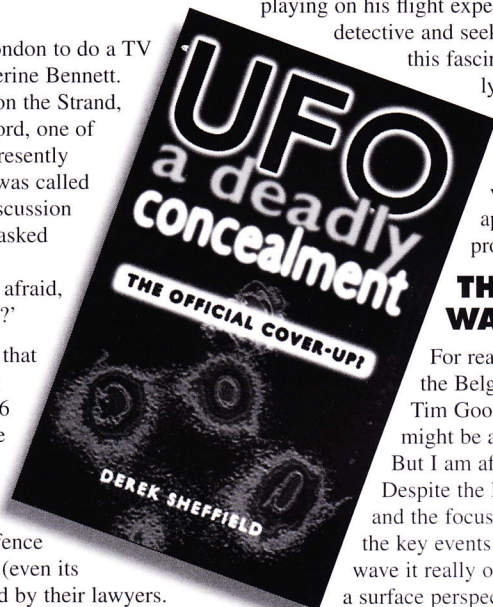
As you might imagine what tends to happen is that details are repeated on a fairly monotonous basis and, as you wait for someone to say something interesting, you rather get the impression of treading water. These letters go to politicians, colonels, civil servants, and so on. The replies vary from standard brush offs to more specific data. Few really add all that much to what we already know, and the pages of letters between himself and the GPO (as he calls the post office) regarding some problems with his mail really push the patience of the reader.

What ufologists he does consult (Bob Oeschler, Maria Ward, Linda Moulton Howe) seem rather hard to relate to the Belgian sightings at times. His dealings, limited as they are, with the British UFO group community, seem to result in distrust. For instance, he has a chapter on Contact UK and says a few things that might imply that they are somehow under the influence of (or at least in awe of) the MoD. But I did not follow his reasoning on this.

SINISTER

He also notes that they, as indeed were BUFORA, got recommended to him by Nick Pope, who was at the time of this letter writing binge, the man at the Ministry who dealt with UFOs. As BUFORAs director of investigations at this time (1991-1992) I can tell you there was nothing sinister. Nick, being a UFO enthusiast (as his recent book and lecture tour proves) was simply ensuring that witnesses got the chance to report their sightings to a reputable UFO group if not satisfied with their contact with the MoD and the unstated – but nonetheless realistic – outcome that they would never hear another word. Yet Sheffield notes how he has been warned not to deal with any UFO group recommended by the MoD, as there must be something hokey going on.

There is also an amusing (or ludicrous) episode where Nick Pope (in one of his replies to the author) happens to mention his awareness of the Belgian cases and quite reasonably cites a Tim Good book as a useful source. Sheffield then notes that he exorcised this sentence from Pope's letter when sending it amidst his package of data to the EEC. Why? Because '(it) would



of data to the EEC. Why? Because (it) would have reduced the whole subject to one of science fiction. But that, of course, could have been the intention.

Regardless of how one interprets Tim Good's opinions on UFOs (and I am by no means supportive of them all) few can doubt that he writes honest, objective and usually well-documented books. It must be assumed that Derek Sheffield's complete unfamiliarity with ufology and his apparent distrust of Nick Pope and the MoD (which is made quite evident in his writings) lead to the mistrust of a book that was quite innocently referenced by the man from the Ministry.

Indeed, the chapters in which Sheffield chronicles his near endless series of letters to and from Pope left me highly sympathetic to the MoD officer. Much as I feel there are interesting questions about the MoD and UFOs and Nick Pope's writings, one can hardly fail to see that he tries hard and with patience, to reply helpfully to the author. Of course, Nick must have been under some constraints, but he did his best to be of assistance here, probably because of his growing UFO interest. Derek Sheffield, the bit between his teeth, never lets up, firing back ever longer questions, despite the MoD's mans reasonable claim that it was not actually anything to do with them. When in the end Nick Pope, ever the gentleman, told Mr Sheffield that there was no point in further correspondence, he had held his decorum longer than I would have done!

REFUELLING

Despite my criticisms of the way this book has been written, I have to say that the author made me consider the Belgian wave properly for the first time. I have always suspected the origin of the large objects the size of Wembley stadium which kicked things off in and around Eupen in autumn 1989. Based on similar reports from Britain around the same time, which we concluded were mid-air refuelling exercises, I suspect the same could apply in Belgium.

These were USAF operations practicing for long range bombing missions to the middle east and they involved tankers with fuel and numerous small jets linked by umbilical cords all flying in tight formation at great height and with many unusual lights attached to reduce the risk of collision so obvious with so many aircraft flying close together and masses of highly inflammable aviation fuel.

Of course, from the ground witnesses often assumed the lights to be on one plane (not many) and, given the area of sky covered, and the presumption that the object was therefore huge, seriously underestimated their height. By thinking that the phenomenon they were witnessing was one single object, huge and low, descriptions of it being the size of a football field were commonplace. As were claims that it was silent or made a buzzing noise. In fact there were many aircraft close together at 35,000 feet plus, and their combined sound levels were enough to create the unusual low-level noises heard from the ground.

None of this is speculation. We know these exercises occurred and led to sightings over eastern England as the planes headed out toward the North Sea, where the actual refuelling process occurred (presumably on the grounds that if an accident occurred it was better for bits of blaz-

ing jet to fall into the ocean than onto a town or city).

I think it more than reasonable that similar (secret) operations were carried out over Belgium and some of the events in this book were of that. The similarity with the UK refuelling exercises is noteworthy.

Moreover, the later reports from the Belgian wave are compared by Derek Sheffield with some sightings from Kent. He also provides helpful scenic reconstructions. Based on these, they look precisely like a phenomenon I have seen several times myself – and which in recent years has been frequently reported as a UFO – the laser light show. The three lights on the edge of a dark triangle could well be the three lights of the laser. Anyone who has witnessed such a show reflecting off low cloud and seen at an oblique angle from many miles away will probably recognise it as I did.

I appreciate the worry here, that two of the key elements of this classic case may actually have conventional explanations (although the airborne radar case is more intriguing). But at least you can formulate such an opinion based on reading this book and even if you do not agree with me (as I am virtually certain the author would not) then it shows that good ufology is possible even from books such as this one.

THE FLY

I really don't quite know what to make of this book. I started off quite liking it and ended up wanting to throw it in the bin.

Its a bit like a fly buzzing around your living room. At first it is fascinating, watching it flit to and fro. Then you decide to take action, corner it with a newspaper and, wham – it gets away. So you corner it again – and it gets away again. So you corner it again – and, well, by now, you take my point. Fascination turns to frustration very rapidly indeed. If you then decide to contact the United Nations and tell all who will listen that this super evasive fly is really an alien from the planet Zog and your government knows it but refuses to admit the truth, most folk will by now be rooting for the fly.

The authors credentials as a ufologist may be in doubt. His skill as an investigator is something I have a few reservations to confess. But what he is undoubtedly a master at is writing letters and boy do we get to see that in this book. His enthusiasm and undoubted sincerity is infectious. Even his naivety about UFOs has its charms. One may wince at his errors and his traces of needless paranoia, brought on by his unfamiliarity with the complex world of UFOs. However, the book rarely fails to hold your attention for too long and, whilst it ultimately leads nowhere fast, the journey is at times quite fun to follow.

This is a long way from being the definitive book about the Belgian wave. It has numerous foibles and problems associated. But it is a hard book to dislike too much and the author is obviously someone who has tried hard and was willing to devote much time and effort to his quest. I personally think he made a bit of a hash of it, but I still respect him for trying and his book is worth a look if only because it is very different.

UFO A Deadly Concealment is published by Blandford, 1996. 275pp. illus. £9. 99

REVIEW

MARION SUNDERLAND



Regency Press, 1996.
203pp. £7.50

It was with a sense of relief and great expectancy that I received this book.

At last, for a change, a book actually written by an everyday person who had appeared to have been witness to something extraordinary. (No, I haven't forgotten Mr. Streiber, and I certainly wouldn't class him as ordinary!)

After the first couple of chapters, in which Elsie tells us about herself and a detailed account of her encounter, it began to be hard work reading the rest of the book. And I DID read every word!

By the time I was a third of the way through my eyes were glazing over as I read through a litany of every single radio and television broadcast Elsie had ever made, along with innumerable newspaper and magazine interviews she had given. Whilst acknowledging her courage in being prepared to speak out, the overriding feeling one gets is that the merry-go-round of publicity that witnesses can become involved with became the mainstay of her life. I don't think it would encourage other witnesses to 'boldly go where few have gone before'.

By the time I had reached the end of the book my mind was boggling as to how her life could contain time for anything that was not connected with ufology and it's spin-off attachments.

The over-all impression I was left with was that, as Elsie herself states, she is very open-minded; so much so that she seems to take on board anything and everything that people come up with and somehow manages to connect it all to one sighting (an abduction, that to me, has not been proven).

Nevertheless, Elsie shows a happy and positive outlook as a result of her particular experience and firmly believes that through her healing she is helping others, and if she is then that is no bad thing.

I think this book may well have been some kind of catharsis for Elsie herself, but I honestly cannot see what anybody else would gain from it.

EDITORIAL

ROLE MODELS DEBATED

Dear Mike, I had to let you know that I just got my *UFO Times*. And I must say congratulations! Your opening page role models was super.

I don't know how much you know of my case but amongst other things the initial investigating team were enough to put any one off! The hypnotist they brought in promptly started showing me pictures of Greys & other "bods" before we even got into the hypnosis session. Then to follow it up, I was told I "HAD" been abducted by aliens! Heavens above (excuse the pun); you can imagine how it felt.

Well for ages I believed that it was true and that was the end of it. However, I am a bit sceptically minded and it didn't answer everything I was asking. Me being Me I listened to both sides of the story and eventually I came to the conclusion I am at now. Something happened, what, I do not know. Paranormal or interdimensional are the best theories so far, but I am still searching for answers.

The point is as you may know, I sit on an Internet Relay Chat Saturday nights and I do get contacted by quite a few people these days who are quite happy to open up their experiences to me. The end result being, they, like me, want answers.

Dear Mike, With reference to your introduction in the May/June issue of *UFO Times* concerning hypnotic sessions with claiming abductees. With respect to the code of practice that hypnotic techniques are banned from within the Association, which maybe a valid point in some instances.

Investigators themselves are intrigued with the subject of UFOs obviously and in mind have many questions they would like answering on certain issues to further their own knowledge of the subject and abductees can certainly answer a few. But when an abductee goes in good faith to an investigator when seeking support through a traumatic experience, hypnosis may be the key for some people to come to terms with such an experience. They may find an answer to a lot of disturbing questions for their own piece of mind.

Personally, if such an experience happened to me, I would want a string of hypnotic sessions to find my own answers. Not just because an investigator is trying to root our answers to certain theories just to further his own investigations and popularity.

With reference to John Mack's book *Abduction*, he spends years with some abductees, getting to know them and more on the experiences they've had for their sakes, not just his own enquiring mind.

Some abductees are at the point of suicide. After a few hypnosis sessions, abductees walk away with more calm

Dear Mike Congratulations on your editorial "Role Models" (May/June '96) in *UFO Times* concerning UFO groups.

Circular Forum (a Gloucestershire group) has been established for over four years now, and your sentiments reflect those of my colleagues and myself. We too are concerned about bad practice of some groups and individuals claiming to be experienced and have therapists to help them through traumatic experiences. Unfortunately they are doing a great deal of harm not only to the witness but to ufology as a whole, and it needs to stop – now !

Two colleagues and myself recently visited Redlesham Forest, camping over for two nights at nearby facilities. On returning from an evening meal in Woodbridge, we drove past the end of the runway only to see a group of twelve or so people dressed in camouflage and black balaclavas. Plugging up courage and being pushed out of the car, I approached to ask what they were doing, thinking it may be some military exercise. No, it was one of these "new breed" UFO groups on a skywatch!

What sort of image this portrays to everyday folk is frightening to say the least. It won't be long before some major cock up is made by such a group or individual which the media will

Now I am loathe to say, "Yes, you were abducted." I much prefer trying to lead people down the path of constructive questioning of themselves, events and surroundings. To try to sort the wheat from the chaff, to examine what they believe happened through seeing too many *X-Files* movies and what could have actually happened, and then at the end they can see the experience for what it is rather than what they thought it was. In most cases just a bad dream. Or an airplane coming too close.

I am not a psychiatrist and I have only one set of letters after my name that is "WEIRDO" So I can't see how it is that others can hand out answers willy nilly as to what happened to the poor unfortunate before them, spilling out the story of the night before on a dark road.... Heck I have been there and I don't have the answers.

So thank you for saying what you said! Maybe now a few people will sit up and try to explain THEY DON'T KNOW.. BUT... This is a list of questions of things to investigate for yourself.

ROS REYNOLDS, CLACTON

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confidence and enlightenment than before and can get on with their lives: sometimes more religiously than before.

I just what to say that all cases are individual. Some need more support than others. But, sometimes it is up to the investigator to give advice and counselling because there is no one else witnesses can turn to trust or believe them. It is a hard situation.

GEORGINA MILLS, WORCESTERSHIRE

Editor's comment: *This is a very important point that you have made. Hypnosis may be a useful therapeutic tool to ease trauma after an experience. But that is not what it is being used for. At worst witnesses are being mentally raped and having the 'right answers' prized out of them with a crowbar in the form of hypnosis.*

Although we do have a blanket ban on regressive techniques, practically speaking, there have been witnesses who have asked for hypnosis and investigators have recommended 'non partisan' professionals (i.e. therapists who do not have a vested interest in the subject matter) to undertake the session on a private level. But the BUFORA involvement would stop there.

The overriding point is that it is not proven that hypnotic regression can retrieve hidden or lost memory. In fact, most of the research points to the opposite being true.

parade before the world, ridiculing everything that serious groups are trying to achieve. Yes, lets have UFO investigation regulated but please, fully consult those that are seriously studying the phenomena before asking them to join up with a code of practice. We have very strict rules concerning our group, our members and our activities, which is why we support your comments 100%, and would welcome a national conference to discuss everyone's concerns; I for one would welcome an active role in accomplishing this.

Keep up the good work.

ROBIN COLE, CIRCULAR FORUM CHELTENHAM

Editor's comment: *The current Code of Practice was indeed written together with other groups as a partnership. If groups are keen to come together again to sign to a updated code then they should also have full and equal input to its contents.*

There are a number of us who are very keen to organise a national conference of groups. I for one would be happy for BUFORA to sponsor it financially. Group polarisation should come to an end – after all, we are all ufologist!

Please address your correspondence to:
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WC1N 3XX
You can e.mail us at
mwootten@dial.pipex.com

BLOWING ONE'S OWN TRUMPET

Dear Mike,

I just wanted to say how pleased I was with the new look *UFO Times* (issue 41 – May/June 1996). It is a definite improvement. Keep up the good work!

JENNY HILLIER, HARTLEPOOL

Dear Mike,

Doesn't *UFO Times* look great! And excellent content too, with a balance of views all too rare in the field. Congratulations to all concerned.

KEVIN MCCLURE, HARROGATE

Editor's comment: *Thanks! The only thing we need to crack is to get the magazine back on a proper schedule. But with a great team everything is possible.*

ELSIE SPEAKS OUT

Dear Mike

I found it very interesting to read Steuart Campbell's theory regarding my UFO (UT 41 pp. 19), not because I need to understand what happened when I drove under it in 1978, but because the opinions written about it nearly 18 years later are mostly being arrived at from facts taken from other people's published accounts describing what THEY think happened to me.

Two years ago I was told by Albert Budden that my UFO Close Encounter was a visual seizure which caused me to hallucinate in an electro-magnetically hypersensitive hot-spot area, so it was interesting to read Steuart Campbell's suggestion that it "could have been a mirage of a first magnitude star." It appears that Formalhaut was setting in the SSE at approximately that time and was on a bearing of 161° at an angular altitude of only 60° also that such a mirage could have been caused by a temperature inversion.

He admits that he took the details of my journey on that day from *Without Consent* and states that "in view of Elsie Oakensen's letter in UT 35 (where I stated that there were 40+ inaccuracies in that account) there must be doubt that these details are correct."

Actually, I do agree with that comment as Carl Nagaitis and Philip Mantle both travelled to interview me, separately and for different reasons, along that stretch of the A5 and in *Without Consent* described the A5 as a dual-carriageway, which it isn't and never has been.

A dangerous piece of road it seems. Perhaps it really is an electro-magnetic hot-spot and they were both affected in that area by double-vision?

But whatever did happen to be the cause of my CE 4, it is sad that so much research is carried out by those who have no contact at all with the UFO witness concerned.

Albert Budden refused to interview me, preferring to copy Jenny Randles's version from her book *Abduction*. Steuart Campbell preferred to use Carl Nagaitis and Philip Mantle's version from *Without Consent* even though he suspected, quite accurately, that it was not a correct account.

What a pity neither realised the value of talking personally to ME. I could have saved them hours of agonising, by informing them that over the last 16 years I have been carrying out my own research into my own sighting and that it is now published in a book entitled *One Step Beyond – A Personal UFO Abduction Experience*, which is published by Regency Press in paperback at £7.50 [See the review in this issue of UT, Ed]. It contains 200 pages of detailed research and I can assure them now that my sighting was not due to a visual seizure, a mirage, not even double vision.

Whilst I respect all researcher's rights to have an opinion on the research being done it would be more to their credit if they would actually speak to the person involved, then that research would at least begin from the basis of truthful facts.

We should all be aware that each CE 4 witness's encounter is different. Yes, there can be similarities between some, but no two are wholly identical. Sadly, members of the Witness Support Group have, over recent years, reached the opinion that once the accurate original details become a BUFORA Casefile that seems to be the end of the witness's importance in the research process.

In *One Step Beyond* you will read about real people who influenced MY research; the witnesses with an inner understanding of the UFO phenomenon, something rarely found outside the CE 4 experience.

For researchers like Albert and Steuart et al., it must be very difficult to do research when all you have to go on is a map of the area and a second-third-fourth-hand account of that which you consider warrants your attention.

I cannot dispute any findings you have obtained from the limited number of facts you were able to use to prove your point, but I do wish you would not attach my name and address to your assumptions, thereby implying to the reading public that I co-operated fully with your work. Perhaps in future a rider should be added to all these research findings stating whether or not the person named had actually been contacted during the project.

All research is only as good as the weakest link within it and here you both have the same weakest link – ME – the person you named but didn't have the courtesy to consult before you started.

I am the only person in the world who knows every detail about that encounter. I was the only person there at the time. Nobody else was – and those details will never be erased from my memory – and if you don't wish to speak to me personally please, in future, do consult *One Step Beyond* – my own book, not somebody else's.

ELSIE OAKENSEN, NORTHAMPTON

Editor's comment: *Whilst I totally agree that researchers should get the facts straight, no case is above the search for a rational explanation, so long as you don't try to false-fit the data to accommodate a theory.*

However, I totally reject your assumption that BUFORA has no regard for witnesses. Why do you think we have fully funded the Witness Support Group meetings for the past few years, with, I have to say, little credit from the WSG?

DID ELSIE SEE A MIRAGE?

In *UFO Times 41*, Steuart Campbell's suggestion that Elsie Oakensen's experience involved a "mirage" seemed far-fetched: the description in *Without Consent* reminded me of my first operation with the – I believe – pretty newly acquired piece of MoD kit the "Night (Nite?) Sun" searchlight around 1977/8 mounted on a Sioux helicopter. Perhaps this man-made "sun-light" sported by the "bar-bell"-shaped Sioux, if operational or under test in that area at the time from a nearby MoD base, could explain Elsie's sighting as she crossed the flight path. The MoD are unlikely to acknowledge (as are the crew to have reported) a possibly unauthorized encounter with civilian traffic.

Elsie's "healing" conversion is not uncommon. As a Member of the UK Doctor-Healer Network for several years I know that many "healers" believe that everyone has the capacity to "heal" yet few develop this capacity ("gift") until they are subjected to a unique (for them) experience such as the death of someone close or visions/dreams or the prompting of another "healer" or a clairvoyant or other person who informs them that they have the ability. This fact is not always revealed by the Healing Organisations some of whom like people to think they need special training to "heal"; perhaps Elsie would like to comment?

JOHN HEPTONSTALL, LEEDS

WE WANT YOUR COPY!

The pages of *UFO Times* are open to anyone wishing to present a paper for consideration by the editorial board. Submissions can be clearly typed or supplied on 3.5" floppy disc (MS-DOS) or 3" Amstrad format and sent to the editor at the above address. Copy sent by Email is warmly welcomed and should be sent to mwootten@dial.pipex.com.

CHANGED YOUR ADDRESS?

If so, let us know by sending your address details to **Jim Dandy BM BUFORA London WC1N 3XX**

BUFORA NATIONAL UFO LECTURES

4TH JANUARY 1997 LONDON CONFERENCE

**OPEN WINDOWS, CLOSED MINDS -
NICK POPE**

The UFO man from the Ministry, Nick will open the MoD X-Files and answer whether there is a cover up within the corridors of Power

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**RECENT UK UFO CASES -
GLORIA DIXON**

After this years explosion of UFO reports, our very own Director of Investigations will present some of the best cases investigated by BUFORA.

OTHER EVENTS

15TH DECEMBER

ENCOUNTER - THE PARANORMAL EXPERIENCE

New Trinity Centre, Bristol

Speakers include Nick Pope, Colin Andrews and Jenny Randles
Tickets £15.00. Contact "Tickets at Our Price", The Galleries, Bristol, BS12XX

25TH JANUARY 1997

A DAY OF DISCOVERY

Shelbourne Hotel, Lord Street West, Southport

Speakers include Jenny Randles, Ananda Siriscna, Tony James, Mathew Williams, Paul Earl and Tim Mathews
Tickets £10.00. Contact Steve Meads, Lancashire UFO Group, PO Box 73, Lancaster, LA1 1GZ or telephone 015254 381520

23RD FEBRUARY

**TEMS MEETING THE OAK ISLAND MYSTERY-
LIONEL FANTHORPE**

Venue: The Greenwood Centre, School Road, Hampton Hill, Middlesex 2.30pm to 5.30pm

Tickets £2.50(ASSAP/TEMS) Non members £3.00
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