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MIDDLETON & NORTH MANCHESTER GUARDIAN

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UFO buzzes ex-Air Force controller

IT wasn't a bird, a plane or even a comet that retired RAF traffic controller Peter Bryan saw over Hengistbury Head at around 7.30 on Saturday night, March 30.

"It was a mystery...a UFO," said 43 year old Peter of Hurn Way, Christchurch, who was out on the Head with his brother John, viewing the visiting comet.

They saw the comet, which is 10 million miles away, but the bright light they first spotted over the Purbecks which then swooped towards them was just a few hundred feet up.

The object, which made no sound, sometimes hovered, coasted towards them till it circled

by David Haith

the Head's kite-flying area and then hurtled off at high speed towards St Catherine's Hill.

Peter said: "It gave off a bright white light which, unlike the lights from a plane or helicopter, was always as bright even when it changed direction."

Peter phoned Bournemouth Police, who said they'd had a report of light off Swanage which they put down to a flare.

Portland Coastguards had two reports of white lights seen, one from a woman in Swanage and a man in the Purbecks. Hurn Airport reported nothing on radar.

Now Peter would like to know of others who may have been buzzed by the UFO.

Aliens 2? The Latest

MIDDLETON has had another mysterious visitor following last month's *Guardian* reported UFO sightings over the town, writes *Dave Edwards*.

Reader Danny Wright wants to know if any other readers observed "strange lights" he saw in the sky.

His sighting was between 8 and 9 on Tuesday 26 March when Danny looked out of the window of his Norman Street home, in the Oldham Road area.

"I was looking in the direction of the Parish Church when I noticed four or five blobs of white light in the sky," he said. "They were

round, just like what you get when searchlights reflect on cloud.

"But in this case there were no beams of light going up from the ground.

"I called out my wife and she watched them as well. They must have been going round and round in a huge arc for at least ten minutes. I've never seen anything like it before."

● If anyone else saw the lights, or has an explanation, please contact the Guardian newsdesk on 0161-643 3615.

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The mystery of the Silent Vulcan hovers on

MILITARY men call it the Flying Triangle. UFO investors prefer the description Silent Vulcan. All of them agree it defies rational explanation.

In the last ten years scores of reliable witnesses across the North of England have reported a strange silver-grey wedge shaped object gliding silently across the night sky.

It is supposed to resemble the old Vulcan bomber and some people have claimed it could be the famous American B-2 "Stealth" bomber on top secret training missions. But, good as it is, the B-2 can't accelerate from almost standing still to 5,000mph in less than a second. Nor can it execute turning manoeuvres that would snap the neck of any pilot in an ordinary fighter-bomber.

UFO investigator Jenny Randles has spent years researching the Silent Vulcan looking for an explanation. As

After years of denials, the men from the ministry are starting to take UFOs seriously. NIGEL BURTON asks: is somebody out there after all?

Jenny reveals in *Secrets of the Paranormal*, a TV series starting this evening, the craft remains a mystery.

Until recently sceptics denied the Silent Vulcan existed. Witnesses were seeing something that wasn't there, they said.

That was before the Silent Vulcan nearly knocked a British Airways Boeing 737 out of the sky somewhere over the Pennines at 6.48pm on January 6, 1995.

As the Boeing prepared to begin its descent into Manchester Airport, Captain Roger Willis and First Officer Mark Stuart had a terrifying encounter.

The Civil Aviation Authority air miss report provides a transcript of the conversation that went on between the aircraft and ground control at Manches-

ter Airport. Three minutes after being given clearance to start a gradual descent, Capt Willis came on the radio.

He told Manchester: "We just had something go down the right hand side just above us, very fast."

The baffled air traffic controller shot back: "Well there's nothing seen on radar. Was it, er... an aircraft?"

Capt Willis replied: "Well, it had lights, it went down the starboard side very quick."

First Officer Stuart said the UFO approached so fast that he instinctively ducked as it crossed in front of his plane. He was entirely convinced that it was a solid object and not a balloon, or another aircraft. First Officer Stuart had seen a Stealth bomber and he knew

this was nothing like the B-2.

The CAA report into this sighting confirmed to Jenny Randles that something very strange indeed was buzzing British skies.

The Ministry of Defence has maintained a UFO file since the Fifties. It has logged at least 8,000 sightings; many of them are still classified.

MoD official Nick Pope, who headed the RAF's very own X-Files between 1991 and 1994, said the Flying Triangle was taken seriously in the corridors of power.

"It clearly behaves in a way that is beyond the cutting edge of our technology," he says. "It can move from hover to massive speeds in less than a second, acceleration that would kill any human

occupant... and who knows if there is an occupant."

UFO investigators are fascinated by the Silent Vulcan. They say a Silent Vulcan was the UFO which Belgian air force fighters engaged in 1990.

As the pilots tried fruitlessly to lock on and fire missiles the strange craft appeared to be toying with them before it disappeared at impossible speed.

Randles believes the British Government prefers to cover up UFO activity. The Belgians held a press conference to discuss the Silent Vulcan - something that would be unthinkable in the UK.

"I suppose the secrecy occurs not because anybody has any answers, but precisely because they don't," she says. "No Government likes to admit its own weakness. What's being hidden, I'd suggest, is ignorance rather than guilty secret."

□ *Secrets of the Paranormal* starts on BBC2 at 8pm tonight.

UFO sighting at spy base

Workers at Britain's biggest spy base were baffled by the sighting of a UFO. Employees at GCHQ in Cheltenham watched amazed as two bright lights flew silently over the base at 4.30am yesterday. Ruby Hoare, a security guard at the base, said it was like a scene from the TV series The X-Files. "We were amazed," she said.

EASTERN EVENING

03 APR 96

NEWS (NORWICH)

Experts

EXPERTS are investigating the latest reports of mysterious bright lights in the skies over Norwich and examining possible links to a sighting over Mile Cross in November last year.

The Evening News has been inundated with calls about sightings of the mystery white light, which was not believed to be the comet Hyakutake which we featured in yesterday's Evening News.

Eye witnesses reported seeing a strange bright light on Monday night

across the Norwich area, including Mile Cross, Hethersett, Hellesdon and Little Plumstead.

In November, Mile Cross resident Glen Webster filmed a silent, biscuit-shaped object.

He is to meet Kevin Armiger, of Hansell Road, who caught the latest sighting on camcorder (pictured left).

Anyone else who saw the white light on Monday night or has had other sightings is asked to contact Annette Hurst on 01692-581083.

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Report by David Haith

pink phenomena some distance below it.

Explained Jim: "Sid saw it first and we both trained our binoculars on it. Inside the ribbon shape were about a dozen silver discs. They were in a very wide V formation and moving twice as fast as a satellite. They streaked across the sky. We must have watched them for five seconds until they disappeared."

He added: "They were definitely not planes or balloons. When we saw the discs inside the pink we knew we were watching UFOs."

Jim, who reported the sighting to Bournemouth police, has a theory about why the discs were in the pink.

He explained: "I've been studying astronomy magazines which say that when satellites pass at

speed through the earth's magnetic field lines there's a plasma discharge which produces a glow as if they've caught fire. This might explain the pink we saw."

Confirmation of the pink platters came from another comet watcher Iris Aubrey who with a friend was watching the skies above Southbourne close to her cliff-top home. They saw five or six 'pink ribbons' streak by.

Meanwhile another report reached us from a family of two adults and two children who were at Hengistbury Head on April 3, watching the eclipse of the moon.

They saw what they at first thought was a bright star travel at speed towards them which then moved up, down and sideways.

One of the witnesses who want to remain anonymous because they fear ridicule, said: "It moved in short bursts and then stopped. We could see red and blue lights on one side of it but it definitely wasn't any sort of plane. We watched it for a full hour."

SOUTHERN DAILY ECHO

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Total eclipse brings home the martians

THE eclipse of the moon proved out of this world for two Stubbington sky-gazers.

For as the pair of astronomy enthusiasts gathered on the village green they spotted what they described as a triangular-shaped UFO.

The unnamed duo from Gosport reported the sighting on Wednesday night to police at Park Gate.

Inspector Russell Bray said: "They said they first saw an orange star over the Isle of Wight which remained static for about ten minutes.

"It then moved closer at speed before turning into a triangular-shaped object."

The UFO, added the inspector, was apparently last seen heading off in a south easterly direction.

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Sky sightings spur interest

BUCKINGHAMSHIRE: Mel Donovan, who witnessed strange lights in the sky above High Wycombe a few months ago, wants to hear from others who have had similar experiences.

He aims to collate the information with a view to putting together a booklet or video of unexplained local sightings. Mr Donovan has urged people to write to him at PO Box 872, Marlow, Buckinghamshire, SL7 15N.

I MET ALIEN 'NUNS' IN 50s

UFO buffs were left speechless when a middle-aged woman told them: "Aliens landed in Glasgow 41 years ago."

The woman told of an X-Files-type encounter when she was a child.

Experts from the Clackmannanshire-based Strange Phenomena Investigations heard that the meeting in the city's west end came as the woman and her sister played with five other children.

They became aware of strange-looking beings in "flowing robes like a nun's habit".

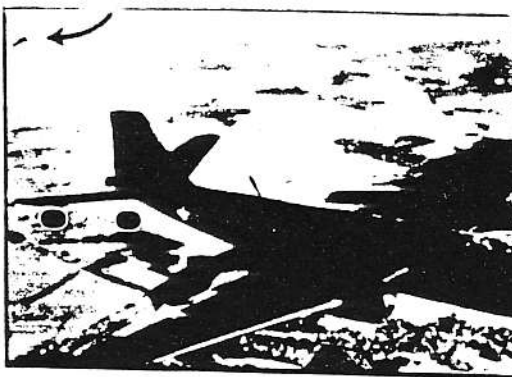
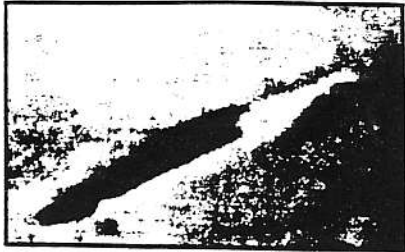
The woman - who did not wish to be identified - told a conference in Falkirk: "They were not female, neither were they male."

"They had penetrating

eyes, pointed faces. They were simply not human." Now the woman, who remembers a "craft" or "machine" is looking for other witnesses to back up her story.

SIP's founder Malcolm Robinson said: "This case adds to the growing list of weird happenings."

Science fiction .



■ A cigar-shaped UFO (arrowed above, enlarged left) above Edwards Air Force base, September 1957. This was one of more than 12,000 UFO reports investigated by Project Blue Book, a 20-year official study of the phenomenon which ended in 1969.



UFO Update brings you a sighting from an Orrell woman this week.

The woman says she was out walking her dog one night when there was a power cut and everything went black.

She looked to the sky where she saw a triangular object with a light in each corner above her.

"Suddenly it moved round very fast" said the woman. "Then it disappeared, there's no way it could have been a plane."

What was this object? Have you seen anything like it?

Another sighting comes from a man in Ashton who saw a very "bizarre" object in the sky a fortnight ago.

He described the object as "a disc shaped silver craft which seemed to change shape ever so slightly if you looked closely. It looked like mercury."

The man said he had an overpowering feeling that something was watching him as he walked down Princess Road. When he turned round he saw the object literally 100 feet above him.

He doesn't know how long he was stood there but felt calm and relaxed, not frightened.

Have you seen anything like it? Contact Jon Peake, tel 228000 if you have.

The winners of last week's Paul McKenna video competition are: Michael Berry of Orrell Post, Mrs W Melling of Orrell, Jean Ball of Billinge and Mr G Pike of Higher Ince.

Your prizes will be sent as soon as I receive them.

... or science fact?

AROUND 95pc of all supposed sightings of UFOs can be explained away rationally.

But that still leaves five per cent of the many incidents reported each year for which there is no answer.

Sceptics dismiss this as being science fiction, but there is ever-increasing evidence that this is science fact.

One man who needs no convincing is Graham W. Birsdall.

Graham - editor of UFO magazine - has been interested in life on other planets since he was a teenager and had a personal encounter that remains unexplained to this day.

"I was 13 and I saw a silver object travelling over my parents' house back in 1967," said Graham.

"It made no noise and it just disappeared. I have always been an aviation enthusiast and throughout the years there has never been any rational explanation for what I saw."

And Graham is definitely not alone in his conviction.

Nelis footage

More and more evidence seems to point to the fact that there is a world out there that defies explanation - and that's not just the feeling of the ordinary man in the street.

On Saturday Graham and a whole host of experts will be in Newcastle holding a UFO conference, which will include showing footage that has never before been seen in this country.

"Some of this stuff completely defies explanation," said Graham.

That includes material known as the Nelis footage, secretly picked up on security cameras in Nevada, where a number of strange objects that seemed to change shape were picked up on film.

The conference is also being attended by former North Yorkshire policeman Anthony Dodd, who has spent years investigating UFOs and has become an authority on alien abduction and animal-mutilation incidents.

"There have been a number of cases where animals have been found with surgical incisions made and their reproductive organs removed," said Graham.

Also talking will be Ananda Sirisena, editor of Sri Lanka's UFO Register, who will also be displaying some amazing pictures from the surface of the moon and Mars, which seem to indicate that there are certain constructions

How a close encounter made Graham a believer

By BERNICE SALTZER

that have been built by extra-terrestrial civilisation.

Whatever the public's opinion is of UFOs, the truth is that governments take it very seriously indeed.

If you think that the FBI's involvement in extra-terrestrials is confined to the fiction of The X Files and Mulder and Scully, there's another case where truth is stranger than fiction.

"When we're in Newcastle we'll have documents highlighting FBI investigations into UFOs that stretch from the 1940s to the present day," said Graham.

The Ministry of Defence in this country has also carried out its own investigations, and its UFO department was headed up by high-ranking RAF officer Nick Pope.

Initially sceptical, after three years in charge Pope came out with the shocking statement that he was "convinced that the extra-terrestrial hypothesis is real."

restrial hypothesis is real."

His findings will be revealed in the book *Open Skies, Closed Minds*, due for publication later this year.

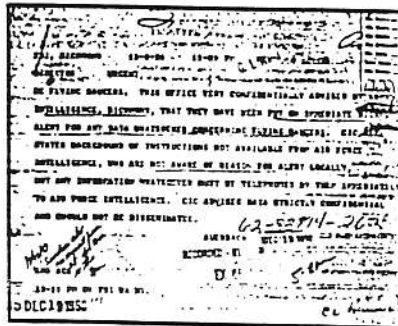
Graham firmly believes that the sheer weight of material available and the amount of people who claim to have seen UFOs means that it is a phenomenon simply impossible to dismiss.

The freedom of information act in America means that endless amounts of documentation and footage are now available, and some of it will be seen in Newcastle on Saturday.

"This really should be a fascinating event, even for those who are extremely sceptical," he said.

The UFO conference is being held at Newcastle Civic Centre on April 6 and begins at 11am. Admission, which is £6 for adults and £4 for concessions, is payable on the door.

More details are available from UFO magazine on (01943) 850860.



Boldly going on and on

THIS week's UFO conference may be all about science fact, but science fiction also marks a special anniversary this year.

Despite the fact that one prestigious paper described it as "a dreary mess of confusion" Star Trek celebrates its 30th birthday this year.

"The sky's not the limit on this Trek" pronounced another magazine, echoing the general lukewarm reception the series

received back in September 1966.

However Star Trek has boldly gone from strength to strength, spawning not only the spin-off series *Deep Space Nine* and *Voyager* but the ever-popular movies and masses of merchandise.

The fans' dedication to all the series is breathtaking, illustrated by the recent Star Trek conference held in Newcastle which attracted more than 500 devotees who dressed up, watched and generally lived through three days of

sci-fi heaven.

It's been a case of from Captain Kirk to Captain Kate, with the latest Star Trek spin-off *Voyager* having a female captain at the helm.

Actress Kate Mulgrew won the coveted role as *Voyager* chief Kathryn Janeway. It's a far-cry from her last main TV role - as the wife of scruffy detective Colombo.

Deep Space Nine has also spawned an unlikely pin-up, in

the shape of Klingon Worf, played by actor Michael Dorn.

He gets fan mail by the sack full, despite having a complexion resembling a lunar surface. He's something of a hero in real life too, as Dorn is a qualified jet flier and has flown in manoeuvres with some of America's Top Gun flying aces.

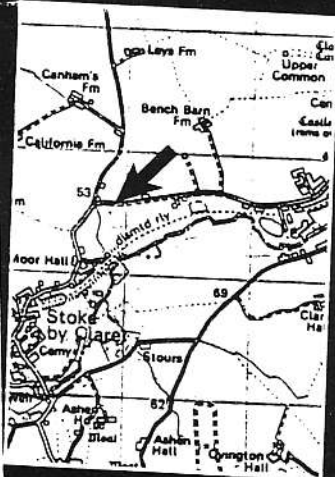
This is the year when Star Trek will be more popular than ever before - a sure sign that the original series and all its spin-offs will "live long and prosper."

IN BRIEF

Alien killings

An American who claimed that space aliens forced him to murder two women has been sentenced to death. Robert Joe Moody, 37, had asked to be executed, saying that extra-terrestrial beings would then resurrect him to prove their existence. Prosecutors in Tucson said he killed the two to get money for his drug habit.

I was abducted by aliens on the A1092 in Suffolk



CLOSEST ENCOUNTER: Ros with an impression of one of the aliens. Right, the spot where she was abducted

NIGHT had closed in as Ros Reynolds-Parnham and her boyfriend Philip drove along a quiet country road to a relative's house. Then a light caught her eye.

Suddenly, a blazing shape was hovering above them. Terrified, Philip put his foot down — and everything went blank.

Four hours later, Ros came round to find herself back in the car, her head spinning, a rash on her neck throbbing.

Then she remembered. It was an experience too terrifying to believe.

Ros had been abducted and "raped" by aliens.

The shastly encounter on the A1092 in Sudbury, Suffolk, has taken a terrible toll on Ros — and denied her the chance of motherhood. She says she has not had a period since the incident 14 years ago.

"I'm not a weirdo," says the 35-year-old show dog breeder who still shudders when she looks at the sky. "I'm telling the truth. I'm just so scared that they will come back."

Ros is not alone in her fears — she is one of Britain's 100 "abductees".

Now strange encounters and weird happenings are the basis of the new six-part BBC2 series *Secrets Of The Paranormal*.

Ros, of Essex, says: "After the abduction, I can remember being on a perspex pedestal in this pinky-grey oval room. I can't remember any doors. There was a bright light above

By AMANDA WARD

It. I just felt terror. I couldn't move, scream or faint. It was as if I was an onlooker. There were grey figures all around me.

They had very large heads and big black eyes. They didn't have a nose, had a slit for a mouth, no ears and they were about 3ft 6ins. They smelled like rotten eggs. They had long, spidery hands with four fingers.

"These aliens were very cold calculating and they did some experiments. I know they did something because of the scars at the top of my legs. I felt raped, abused, dirty. They were saying something about 'juice'."

Ros and experts believe her abductors were interested in finding out about the human reproductive system.

She says: "I don't know what they did to me but I haven't had a period since."

Ros's hand reaches up to touch the scars white scars on her neck — the result, she says, of the four-hour examination. The incident occurred in

September 1982. Ros says: "Philip and I were driving to see his relatives when this horse-shoe shaped object, about the size of a helicopter, swooped down."

"It had multicoloured lights blazng underneath. At first, I thought it might have been reflection of my glasses. It was really bright but there was no sound."

"We were terrified and Philip accelerated. Then the car died. I thought Philip was joking. I was in a blind panic and neither of us wanted to get out. I remember saying that I would count to three and we'd get out together."

THE next thing Ros knew was that she was back in the car, with the engine running.

"I felt a bit dopey but I just wanted to get out of there. We didn't say a word as we drove to our destination."

When the couple arrived it was 2am. They should have been there at 10pm. Ros says: "I woke up with a mark on my back and like a burn mark on

my neck. It kept itching." But there was something far more unsettling to come. "I began to 'sleep-write'. I'd get up in the night and draw things in dots. I looked at the first one and it was a pair of large eyes. Then I'd write strange formulas or type odd letters. I couldn't remember doing it."

Her symptoms got worse: "I got terrible headaches. As if someone was sticking a red-hot needle into my head. I'd also hear a noise at the same time, like a fax going off. I was backwards and forward to the doctor's but he only gave me pills. I didn't take them. I didn't want to be drugged up."

The strain became too much and Ros and Philip split. She spiralled into despair.

She says: "Even now, I don't go to bed before 3am. I'm scared I'll start writing."

Last year the Ministry of Defence recorded 373 sightings of 'aerial activity not immediately identifiable to the observer'. That's compared to the 1994 figure of 250.

Philip Mantle of the British UFO Research Association (BUFORA) says: "Some abductees report seeing hieroglyphic type writing, or grey figures who smell like rotten eggs."

More females are reporting this type of incident. Others report removal of sperm or ovum — perhaps for interbreeding. There are still many questions but this is one of the most convincing cases I've heard."

Ros shivers and says: "I ask myself why me? I know one thing — I won't go back to that road again."

FOR more information, call BUFORA on 01924 444049

Woman sees mystery lights

A WOMAN has reported strange goings-on in the skies over the city.

The 27-year-old and her husband, who did not want to be named, watched an object with three bright flashing lights jump and rotate in the sky between Earham Road and Colman Road on Monday night.

The woman was closing the curtains in her bedroom when she spotted the bright object above her home in George Borrow Road.

"It definitely was not a plane. It was rotating and jumping about, dropping about 20ft. It was just going so crazy and the lights were really, really bright," the woman said.

Did you see anything similar on Monday night just before 11pm? The Norfolk UFO Society would like to hear from anyone who sees anything strange in the sky on 01692 581083.

Wellington UFO riddle solved - a red giant star

LOCAL amateur astronomer Angela Thorne has identified the unexplained bright object seen over Wellington about a month ago.

It was spotted by printer Chris Perrin, who took a picture of it in the night sky from his garden in George Street.

The photograph showed a series of splodges, or dashes of light in a straight line, almost joined together.

Mr Perrin said he had an open mind on the subject of UFOs but thought there could be a logical answer.

Angela, of Springfield Road, Wellington, said: "I have investigated this strange sighting with Mr Perrin's co-operation and can confirm that the object was Arcturus, a red giant star seen in the constellation of Bootes."

"I would not wish to discourage anyone from coming forward with any possible UFO sightings because even though a large percentage of such incidents turn out to be stars, planets or aircraft and such like, the others often remain unidentified."

"For myself, I believe there are UFOs, and, as well as I know the night skies, I have certainly seen a few things I can not explain."

"Reports such as Mr Perrin's can help people become more aware of the sky."

"During the summer months there will be a star very low down in the south which will be another red and green giant called Antares, and this is often mistaken for a UFO, as is Venus, which is shining brilliantly in the west at the moment."

Cath's UFO terror

A SWANSEA woman claims she experienced a frightening and unnatural phenomenon at the weekend.

Cath Hayne says she was in bed at her home in Brokesby Road, Pentrechwyth, at 1am on Sunday when her bedroom became filled with a bright light.

"People may laugh but it was very frightening," she said.

"I got up and looked out of the window and saw a funny figure on the roof of the three-storey block of flats opposite."

"It was like a huge silver balloon person and seemed to float down to the street and I got a bit frightened."

SWANSEA SOUTH WALES EVENING POST

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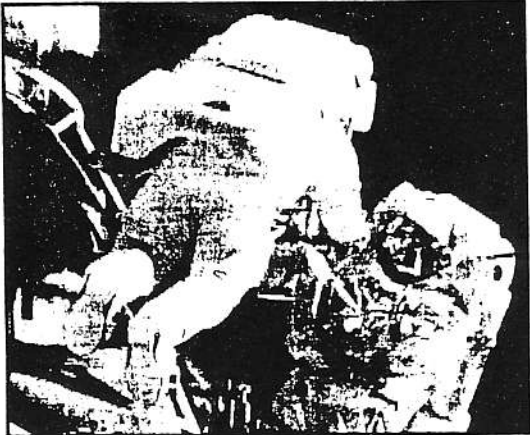
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Bright lights 'were space shuttle and space station'



Astronauts Linda Godwin and Rich Clifford from the Shuttle Atlantis complete the first ever space walk from a docked space shuttle during the manoeuvres which Max White believes were spotted from Cheltenham.



Star gazer: Max White with the satellite tracking equipment in his garage. Picture: Simon Pizzey

Max unravels UFO mystery

by Kirsty Senior

GLOUCESTER space expert Max White says he has solved the riddle of the UFO spotted by spy base workers.

Mr White, who has been tracking satellites, shuttles and space stations for more than 16 years, has come up with an explanation for the strange craft spotted by staff at Cheltenham-based GCHQ last week.

He is certain the two bright lights travelling at break-neck speed over the base in the early hours of last Friday were man-made and of an earthly origin.

Mr White, who worked at the Royal Observatory for 10 years and has been

across the world tracking cosmic gunge- on, thinks the UFOs were the Russian Space Station Mir and the US Space Shuttle Atlantis completing an orbital manoeuvre.

He said: "If their orbital ground tracks are calculated for that day, the two were flying directly over Cheltenham at 0413, at an altitude of 250 miles.

"Both objects were illuminated by sunlight and clearly visible to observers on the ground and other confirmed sightings were made throughout Northern Europe.

"I am disappointed I missed it and am extremely jealous of those who saw it."

Mr White was amused by last Saturday's article in The Citizen which revealed that spy station management were in the dark over the incident.

"I find it extremely ironic that a Russian space station was directly over their heads and they knew nothing about

it," he said.

The two craft - each weighing 100 tonnes - were part of an on-going space project between the US and Russia.

The American shuttle was dropping off supplies of water and oxygen as well as astronaut Dr Shannon Lucid, who has joined two Russian men for a five-month research stint in space.

Strange sightings

POLICE in Dunoon were swamped with reports of a flying saucer and strange lights in the sky above Loch Eck last weekend.

But the strange sightings were put down to rumbling electrical storm and unusual mist patches in the area on Sunday night and early Monday morning.

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Weather centre clouds UFO issue

AN unidentified flying object spotted by people in Furness on Good Friday could have been a rare type of cloud, a Met Office official has suggested.

Spokesman for the Newcastle Weather Centre, Stuart Lawson, said a cigar-shaped cloud called an Altocumulus Lenticularis is rare on the west coast.

But he said one could have formed in weather conditions similar to those on Friday.

Eye-witnesses said the object travelled at low speed over Kirkby Moor and then over the Duddon

By JANET SHIELDS

towards Haverigg, Eskmeals and the Isle of Man.

Mr Lawson said if this is correct, it would have been following prevailing wind-currents.

He said the wind at 8pm on Good Friday was south to south easterly, which meant clouds would have been travelling towards the setting sun, at about 15mph at low levels and 20mph at 2,000ft.

Mr Lawson said: "Altocumulus Lenticularis is a cigar-shaped cloud which is more common on the eastern side of England

because the prevailing winds are usually in this direction.

"It needs certain conditions, like increasing wind with height, which was what things were like on Good Friday.

"The front of the cloud facing the sunset would glow with reflected light."

Several onlookers reported that the cigar-shaped UFO had a glowing orange front and was setting off a greyish-black broken vapour trail.

It was travelling at what would be normal air-stalling speed for a conventional aircraft, and at an altitude of 1,500 to 2000 feet.

STILL MORE UFO REPORTS

MORE and more people have come forward about the recent alleged UFO sightings above the district two weeks ago.

One woman said that her children have never slept properly in bed since the sighting, and another said she clearly saw a cluster-shape hovering near her flat in West Bridgend.

"This was no plane or helicopter," said Mary Rose Murray, of Brucehill. "Around twenty of my neighbours also saw that thing. We deserve an explanation, whether it comes from the police or from someone else."

"It looked like two plates on top of one another, glowing luminous green. There was also an icicle-shape coming out of the top."

The goings on that Sunday night cut off the local woman's electricity and television several times. Every since it happened, she said, the electrics have never quite been right.

"It was about 70-80 feet across, and moved across the sky, towards the submarine base. I only have limited vision and when I looked at it, there was a burning hot sensation in my good eye."

"I thought I was hallucinating, but my girl of eleven and boy of ten both saw it clearly. They were a bit panicky, because it would still not go away two hours later."

Mary Rose added: "The whole thing is pathetic. So many residents have seen it, and yet the police just took my name and address."

The Westbridgend woman, Mrs Carr, (77), was also adamant that this was no illusion. "It was a saucer-shaped object that hovered over the Craggs. A cluster of silver, red and blue colours was coming out of it, and it stayed in the sky for quite some time. I might be old, but I my eyes are still good."

Did you see anything unusual that Sunday night? Give us a call on 763335 if you spotted something out of the ordinary.

A STRING of bizarre sightings has seen alien buffs heading in their droves to spots in North Warwickshire and the surrounding area.

By JOHN LINSTED

An unusually high number of reported experiences involving Unidentified Flying Objects, has seen even the heads of such organisations as the Birmingham UFO Society interviewing witnesses.

The high concentration of sightings has left experts baffled.

Marilyn Aldworth, who has spent years studying strange phenomena, runs the Birmingham society with her husband Rob.

She said: "There has been an unusual amount of UFO sightings in the area."

"We are not sure if this is to do with the current trend and people are reporting it more, or whether there has been a dramatic increase in UFO activity in North Warwickshire."

"Our main problem is actually getting people to talk about what they have seen."

The best experiences have included an incident in Sheepy Magna where a businessman was woken by his neighbour who had spotted lights across a nearby field.

Pinwall, when he saw four beams of white light shining down onto a field, they went out and he watched as a dark object shot 'very quickly' into the night sky.

Several residents of houses living near Merevale Hall have reported seeing strange objects flying very close to their homes.

Mrs Aldworth said: "Perhaps the most exciting one was at a farm near Tamworth."

"A farmer was woken by a noise outside and saw an object shining a beam of light down onto three of horses."

The Birmingham society are calling for anyone who has seen anything strange to contact them on 0121 6816344.

Pulsating

The pair investigated and saw a pulsating white light near trees across the field, with beams of white light shining from it. A month later the same thing happened in the same spot.

On March 6 a taxi driver was heading along the country lane from Sheepy Magna to

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Was it a bird, was it a plane ...

A COUPLE who believe they saw a UFO over Aylesbury are appealing for anyone else who saw it to get in touch with them.

"We're not daft, and we can only say what we saw and hope that others saw the same thing," said Sheila Davis.

Retired postman Peter Davis (63) and his wife (61) were watching television at their home in Hartwell End near Rothmans headquarters when they saw a bright red object 'like a glowing red football' rising about 50 feet above the ground over houses in the distance.

"It all happened so quickly but we know what we saw," she said.

"We saw it first through the curtains and then both dived to the window and saw it for about two or three seconds as it went up in an arc and down behind houses towards the Rowland Way area," said Mrs Davis.

"We've talked and talked about it and asked around but so far no one else saw it, which is a great pity. We'd love to hear from someone else!"

They considered whether it was a firework, kite, some sort of balloon or a laser beam but the



only explanation they can come up with is that it was a UFO.

The police and fire service control rooms in Aylesbury said they had no calls.

● Mr and Mrs Davis are pictured at their home in Aylesbury from where they saw what they can only assume was a UFO.

● Did other Bucks Advertiser readers see the UFO?

If you did or if you have an explanation for what Mr and Mrs Davis saw, call the newsdesk on 01296 24444.

UFO researcher set to probe mystery Inverness sightings

A UFO investigator compiling a book on strange sightings and close encounters is probing a spate of recent incidents in Inverness.

Penfalkirk-based John Jenkins has devoted most of his spare time over the last 18 months to digging out relevant material from an enormous variety of sources.

A spate of recent strange sightings in the Inverness area has caught the attention of Mr Jenkins who is now seeking more detailed information from credible witnesses.

And he is also to probe the response of the Ministry of Defence to sightings, claiming the Government body has routinely dismissed out of hand reports which have been filed from across the country.

Admitted Mr Jenkins:

"When I first starting researching this, I expected people of a fairly low intellect to come forward. But that has simply not been the case. People have seen real solid objects and there are a lot of similarities between the stories they tell."

Over the past two months the Inverness Courier has carried reports based on apparent sightings in the night sky by a number of people. These include:

- A Black Isle family who say they have captured video footage of a UFO above the Beauy Firth at the beginning of February.
- An Inverness journalist and his daughter who also spotted an unidentified object in the area a fortnight later

Mr Jenkins, who is a piano-tuner and part-time music lecturer, said he was

concerned about the MoD's complacency over the matter.

"They seem to send people who think they may have had sightings a fairly standard letter which says there is no threat to air superiority."

His own interest was sparked by a daylight sighting of a shining light in the sky. It shrunk to a tiny dot before disappearing and then re-appearing again. Said Mr Jenkins: "It's the sort of thing which would never cross my mind. I assumed it was only the sort of thing that happened in science fiction."

He remained sceptical until talking to others who had similar experiences. And his decision to probe further came after he interviewed an ex-police officer from Nottingham whose claims of being ab-

ducted by aliens matched to an uncanny degree those related by two other people.

Said Mr Jenkins: "The people had no knowledge of each other's experiences and the cases weren't reported. But the similarity down to very specific details was remarkable. There is a definite phenomena ongoing. But unless something crash lands in Princes Gardens in the middle of the Edinburgh Festival, no one will take much notice."

He admitted: "You tend to think in the beginning that it's a load of nonsense. But increasingly I'm finding that people are not now so sceptical."

He said he would be interested in hearing from local people with strange experiences to report. He can be contacted on (01968) 677666.

Have the boys in blue got little green men taped?

IF IT really was a genuine UFO sighting then it is being kept top secret.

Detectives are shielding a covert video tape of a bright light in the sky that could be the main clue into yet another report of strange night-time sightings in Central Scotland. Police officers refuse to give any details away, and say even a sneak preview of the tape they made with a closed circuit television camera is out of the question.

Their investigation began when bemused housewife Catherine Penman, 40, thought an alien craft was hovering near her home in Halgaiton, Falkirk, and called in the police.

Yet, by the time two officers arrived, the bizarre flying light had mysteriously vanished.

Now the Central Scotland Police have coyly revealed the object was caught on film a couple of hours later, when an officer trained a CCTV camera on Mrs Penman's home.

She now thinks the reluctance of Chief Constable William Wilson to release the video tape for public scrutiny suggests the force may actually believe her claim.

Superintendent Jim Forbes, of Falkirk police office, said he had seen the tape, but admitted he had no idea what had caused the bright light.

But he added: "We can't let anyone else see the tape, for purely operational reasons of course."

"I think a little green man would have to walk into Falkirk police station and introduce himself before I believe that this was a UFO."

But Mrs Penman was unrepentant: "There's no way it could have been a helicopter or a plane because of the length of time it hovered."

NORTH WEST EVENING MAIL (BARROW IN FURNESS)

09 APR 96

A LARGE cigar-shaped UFO sighted by a local walker above the Duddon Estuary was watched by other astounded witnesses.

Ron Whitworth was watching the panoramic view from his elevated living room in Romney Park, Dalton, on Friday when he saw the "unidentified flying" object travelling towards Haverigg.

He said he watched the object for about ten minutes until it was overtaken by a passenger jet.

Yesterday walker David Frith reported to the Evening Mail that he saw the comet-like UFO as he walked up Dalton Lane at 8pm on Friday, and thought it may have caused a grass fire on Kirkby Moor.

In response to an appeal for other witnesses, Mr Whitworth said: "I saw this thing and got my binoculars."

"It was cigar-shaped, and was leaving a vapour trail, and the front appeared to be glowing red, but it was flying towards the setting sun, which suggests that the front of it may have been metal and reflecting the sun's rays."

"It flew out in the direction of

By JANET SHIELDS

Haverigg, not towards Kirkby.

"It was travelling as if it would go over Eskmeals, and in that direction, and I saw it overtaken by a passenger jet."

Mr Whitworth, whose wife also witnessed the UFO, says the object was travelling really slow, at about stall-speed, and the vapour trail was dark grey, as if it was smoke and the object was on fire.

He said their home has a view as far as the Isle of Man on a clear day, meant that he was able to watch the object clearly.

He estimated it would be about 1,500 to 2,000 feet up in the sky, and should have shown up on radar.

But another eyewitness, who lives close to Walney airstrip, said the UFO was just a plane coming into land on the island.

He said: "It was a plane. I don't think it was an UFO."

"You don't normally see the front of planes. Obviously it was a plane coming in to land. The talk of UFOs is rubbish."

GLASGOW EVENING TIMES

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Mystery of UFOs

AIR TRAFFIC control offices at Glasgow and Prestwick Airports were besieged with phone calls last night after "strange lights" were seen in the sky.

Sightings of the supposed UFOs were made in both Glasgow and Ayrshire and a Civil Aviation spokesman said today that all details on the claims have been passed on to the MoD in London for investigation.

The CA spokesman would not reveal details of the strange sightings.

My X-files experience

STRANGE But True has received this interesting eye witness account of a UFO sighting from Chester Grusinski of Michigan USA.

"I am a witness to the 1958 UFO sightings seen by crew members of the US Navy Aircraft carrier the USS Franklin D Roosevelt (CVA-42 which was also tracked on the ship's radar.

"We were on a shake down cruise near Guantanamo when a small light was following our ship, then it came at us. A cigar shaped object with a row of windows with figures

inside watching us.

"Then it turned a red-orange colour, this is when I could see its cigar shape because it was dark outside, it took off up very fast. Bridge watch was screaming on the ship's intercom for the officer of the deck or bridge to get up on the double. The ship's manoeuvres stopped suddenly for some unknown reason. They kept the incident quiet.

Excuse

"Special investigators, CIA, came aboard to investigate gambling below decks - at least that was the excuse they used.

"Years later after I was out of the Navy I and other researchers were investigating the '58 UFO sighting. We found out that the 1958 sighting was not the first or the only sighting to be seen by the FDR crew members and tracked by ship's radar.

"A 1952 UFO sighting during Operation Mainbrace, photos were taken from the deck of the FDR as the object overtook the NATO Fleet. This incident is also in the book Anatomy Of Phenomenn by Jaque Valle, 1965.

"A 1953 UFO sighting reported by a Navy Commander while the ship was in the

Mediterranean Sea. It was both a visual sighting from the bridge and CIC radars.

"There were two different 1956 UFO sightings while the ship was at anchor in the port of Rio De Janeiro, Brazil. One witness drew a sketch of the objects that were seen by many, including Officers. The sketch was sent to the Defense Dept and he was told to tell no one for 20 years. And there was a 1973 UFO sighting.

"There's nothing on the ship's logs about any of the UFO sightings but this could be because of Regulation Jan AI-146. Freedom of Information Act requests to the Navy dept, CIA and NSA produced no information about any of the FDR UFO sightings.

"I have letters from the ship's crew members that seen the UFOs and copies of the 1952 UFO photos taken by a press reporter from the deck of the FDR in Operation Mainbrace.

Theory

"Why all the UFO sightings during the 1950s from one US Navy aircraft carrier? One theory is the FDR was the first US carrier at the time that had thermonuclear capability. The first and only carrier at the time allowed to transport the H-Bomb.

"The USS Franklin D Roosevelt CVA-42 was decommissioned in October 1977 and sold for scrapping in March 1978.

"I believe this information should be made public and our government should tell the truth about this UFO cover up that has been going on for 50 years!"

RETIRED businessman Gordon Chamberlain told yesterday of his encounter with a cylinder-shaped UFO over Somerset.

His sighting is the latest in a spate of reports of strange craft seen above the county. Mr Chamberlain, aged 64, who owns a furniture factory in Taunton, was driving home on the M5 with his wife from an army reunion dinner near Weston-super-Mare.

They were approaching Bridgwater at about midnight on Saturday when he noticed a bright light apparently keeping pace with his car.

As Mr Chamberlain looked closely he made out what appeared to be a brightly-lit cylindrical craft, which then flew over Taunton and hovered above Kingston St Mary.

When he arrived at his home in Bishops Hull, Taunton, he watched the craft through binoculars for about 15 minutes before it disappeared at high speed.

Mr Chamberlain said: "Before I saw this thing I would have laughed at anyone who said they had seen a UFO."

"But I know what I saw. It was

Business boss: I was followed by craft

definitely not a star or an aircraft, it was some sort of craft.

"It was a clear night and my wife saw it as well."

There have been more than 50 reports of unknown craft in the skies over central Somerset in the past few years.

Lights

Most describe a dark triangular ship with lights in each corner. Others report brightly-lit cylinder or disc shapes.

Widow Mrs Doreen Woodward, 82, of Winscombe, near Weston-super-Mare, told how she glimpsed a large triangular craft from the window of her flat on Thursday evening.

She watched as the shape with lights in each corner and one in the middle, swooped over the village towards the Mendips.

Mrs Woodward said: "I wondered what it was at the time and now I realise it matches the other sightings."

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Black night for our UFO enthusiasts

A BIG thank you to all who took part in the Star's 24-hour Skywatch which was a success without a result.

Despite clear skies for much of the period, all watchers appear to have drawn a blank.

Nonetheless, the level of interest stimulated by The I Files Skywatch has prompted Paul Tricker, of Acton Gardens, Ipswich to tell for the first time about a fascinating UFO sighting he made over Whitton in 1972.

He was eighteen years old at the time and had

By GAVIN HODGE

altitude with blistering speed. It hurtled up at an angle and then came to an instantaneous halt. I remember thinking to myself that such a manoeuvre just was not possible," said Paul.

He watched on amazed as the light zoomed down again at a steep angle and again came to an instantaneous stop. He estimates it descended thousands of feet in a second.

"I was totally bewildered by what I was seeing, but there was no doubt in my mind that a vastly superior intelligence was either flying or controlling it," said Paul.

Eventually after flying its zig-zag path across the sky the UFO zoomed off to infinity, disappearing at exactly the same point where Paul had first seen it.

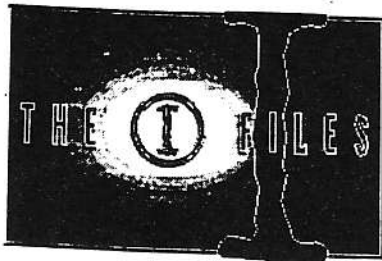
He had run home to tell his mother what he had seen and they tuned in quickly to local radio for Paul felt sure many people must have seen it. There was nothing.

"The next day I couldn't wait to buy an Evening Star, and I felt sure the front page would say UFO OVER IPSWICH. But to my utter disbelief there was no mention of the sighting."

Paul concluded that he must have been the only witness, and, fearing ridicule, he has remained silent about the sighting until now.

Does Paul's story and sketch jog anybody else's memory?

■ Please keep your eyes on the sky on clear nights and report anything strange that you see to Gavin Hodge on 01473 282310.



been on a date with his girlfriend when he saw "a fantastically bright, white light" which began descending from left to right as Paul looked up from Whitton Rec.

At first he thought it was a shooting star, but when the light came to an abrupt halt over the Whitehouse area, he couldn't believe his eyes.

"The white light went out and began to change colour. It began pulsating red, blue and green. I distinctly remember snapping my eyes back into focus on the object because I thought my eyes must be playing tricks," said Paul.

"Suddenly it began to move again, gaining

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Close encounter

Governor Bob Miller of Nevada has announced that he will rename state highway 375 as Extraterrestrial Highway on April 8. A panel discussion by scientists and others interested in Unidentified Flying Objects will follow the ceremony. It's part of the governor's program for drumming up tourism. The 98-mile (157-kilometer) stretch of Extraterrestrial Highway is a desolate road through rolling desert country that "has achieved fame for frequent UFO sightings," the governor's announcement says.

International Herald Tribune

This week
File One

THE WEST MALLING

Kent's X-files

ALMOST 43 years ago an extraordinary encounter took place in the skies over Kent. It was to lead to a debate in the House of Commons and interest by Prince Philip, the Duke of Edinburgh. For a remarkable nine days the Air Ministry allowed the Press and media free access to a pilot and his navigator after they reported seeing an unidentified circular object while flying at 30,000 ft. But then the shutters came down, the incident was dismissed as a case of mistaken identification and the media's access to servicemen was ended as abruptly as it began.

Those shutters have remained down ever since despite repeated attempts by researchers and journalists on both sides of the Atlantic to find the answer to the biggest question of them all: are THEY here? But now the pilot of the jet involved talks for the first time in more than 40 years about his bizarre experience.

Justin Williams opens the first of Kent's X-Files - the West Malling Incident.

THE age of the UFO controversy dawned over South East England on November 3, 1953 at 30,000 ft over Kent.

A pilot, Flt Lt Terry Johnson, and his navigator, Flying Officer Geoffrey Smythe, were in a two-seater Vampire night fighter on a reconnaissance mission out of West Malling at about 10am.

The day was bright and there were few clouds in the sky. The two airmen were flying north.

Mr Johnson spotted a very bright circular object dead ahead which he described as being about a mile away and about half the size of a full moon.

"It was a bright circular object which was glowing with greater intensity around its periphery than at the centre."

Mr Johnson, now a successful businessman living in Hampshire, mentioned to his navigator who had not seen the object on his radar screen. He looked up and they both followed the UFO as it moved across the sky.

"After about 10 seconds it moved to our right, to the east of the plane, at very high speed," said Mr Johnson.

"It did not appear on Geoff's radar screen at any time as you would have expected a normal solid object to have done."

The entire incident was over in less than 30 seconds and the two men continued with their reconnaissance before landing back at the base at RAF West Malling.

"We fully expected to have our legs pulled about the incident," said Mr Johnson.

But the opposite happened - when the two men landed they were questioned by Sqd Cdr Furze about their experience who in turn reported it to the station commander, Grp Capt Hamley.

The group captain's interest was aroused because he had had similar experiences to Johnson and Smythe during the Second World War.

During bombing missions over Berlin, Sqd Cdr Furze, like many other British and American airmen,



THEN AND NOW: Pilot Terry Johnson pictured in 1953 and right, as a successful businessman living in Hampshire.

had encountered mysterious lights flying alongside their aircraft. At first these "foo fighters", as they became known, were assumed to be experimental German aircraft.

But after the war Luftwaffe pilots told the Allies that they too had seen the lights and had assumed they were British or American.

Now called the foo fighters were back and flying unchallenged over the skies of South East England.

Mr Johnson said: "We were called up to the Air Ministry to give a full report of the incident to the Duke of Edinburgh's equerry. We were told that Prince Philip was interested in flying saucers."

After 48 hours the Air Ministry voluntarily released information on the sighting to the Press and media.

Such openness was not to last long and has never been repeated since. Mr Johnson added: "It was the first time in Britain that there was official mention made of flying saucers."

This was followed a few days later by a second astonishing announcement. In a sensational press release which appeared to back up everything the two airmen had seen, the War Office said that on the same day at 2.30pm an unidentified object had been tracked on ground radar based at Lee Green.

The object was circular and motionless and the radar echo appeared to show that it was up to 200 feet across.

After 10 minutes the object moved away slowly until it was lost from radar range.

At 2.45pm the same object was also observed on radar by four men at a

nearby anti-aircraft workshop. The War Office also said that it had received three other radar trackings of UFOs between September 14 and 22.

But in a sudden about-turn the Air Ministry put out a second press release stating that the object tracked on radar at Lee Green had been a meteorological balloon released at Crawley, West Sussex, at 2pm. The ministry also said that what Johnson and Smythe had seen in the morning had been a balloon released earlier.

Even now, 42 years after the event, Mr Johnson is in no doubt that what he and Mr Smythe witnessed was not a weather balloon.

He said: "If it had been a balloon then we would have approached it very quickly. This object moved off at

very great speed, something which a weather balloon was not capable of. "I have no idea what it really was but we were familiar with all aircraft of the day and it was certainly nothing like anything we had ever seen. It is possible that the object was extraterrestrial."

Mr Smythe is also under no doubts about the UFO. He said: "It was not a balloon but there is every possibility that what we saw was extraterrestrial."

His conviction is backed up by an interview given at the time by Sgt Waller, one of the anti-aircraft workshop crew. He was convinced the object was not a balloon and that, for it to have given such a strong radar return, it had to have been metallic.

Sgt Waller also said that he had previously seen five objects flying at impossible speeds in perfect

FLYING INCIDENT



ssman living in Hampshire today



formation in a separate incident. On November 24 the Air Ministry's attempt to explain the sightings as balloons appeared to have succeeded. In a debate in the House of Commons Mr Birch, Parliamentary Secretary to the Secretary of State for Defence, confirmed the ministry's version. Mr Isaacs, the Labour MP for Southwark, said to loud laughter, "Will the minister agree that this story of flying saucers is all ballooney?" Mr Birch said that Mr Isaacs' appreciation was "very nearly correct". It was learnt on by the infant UFO research community as evidence of an attempt to keep the truth about the flying saucers from the public. The era of the great UFO conspiracy had begun.

fly counter

UFOs over Kent - 90 years of sightings

January 1913 - Strange glowing disc-shaped object sighted over Dover.
October 1932 - Army captain sees two round objects like hollow mos moving at speed over Herne Bay. They make no sound.
November 1953 - Pilot and navigator in Vampire jet encounter bright disc over West Malling.
September 1963 - Strange glowing object spotted hovering over east Kent coast. The RAF at Manston investigates but can find no logical explanation.
August 1967 - Round, flat disc seen hovering over Maidstone. It makes no sound and suddenly disappears at incredible speed leaving behind four fading shafts of light.
February 1970 - Coastguard at Margate observes white and green disc at 2am for half an hour. Two police officers report seeing same object.
November 1972 - Revolving disc-shaped UFO coloured red, white and green moves at tree-top height across the Thanet Way at Whitstable and Herne Bay. More than 30 employees at Faversham Shipyard report discs and cigar-shaped objects over the Creek. Investigated by Ministry of Defence.
February 1976 - Captain Philo, flying a British Air Fares Convar from Basle to Soudend reports bright light moving at incredible speed over Dover.
February 1977 - Six people see pulsating red oval object over Boxey Hill, near Maidstone.

Object disappears vertically at high speed.
July 1977 - Silver disc seen hovering over West Farleigh.
August 1987 - Bright disc seen travelling at high speed over the Weald. Police receive reports from residents in Charing, Biddenden and Cranbrook.
April 1991 - Captain Achille Zaghetti piloting an Airbus MD80 passenger jet from Milan to Heathrow reports a near miss with a brown missile-shaped object over Lydd at 22,000 ft. He said afterwards: "I used the word missile because of its shape, not because I saw a missile. It was about 10ft long, light brown in colour and I said to my co-pilot 'Look out! Look out!' and he saw what I saw."
December 1991 - Large UFO witnessed hovering low over Teynham Church, near Sittingbourne. Lynne Tates said: "At first it looked just like a huge star but something shot off from it and then lots of different beams of light started flashing. It stayed around for about half an hour. It is nothing like I have ever seen before."
April 1992 - Eisie Bassett-Burr sees a large object hovering over Herbert Road, Rainham. She said it was like a wheel with spokes and had at least 110 white lights.
March 1996 - Large dark triangular-shaped craft seen moving slowly over the Smeaman area. Witnesses describe a low humming sound and banks of lights around its edges. This list is not exhaustive. There are many hundreds of sightings every year.

KNOW YOUR UFO

DISC/SAUCER



Usually silver in colour and seen mostly during the day.

CIGAR/MISSILE



Brown or silver in colour. Moves at high speed.

TRIANGLE



Referred to as the Silent Vulcan. Now as common as the disc.

BRIGHT SPHERE OR BALL OF LIGHT



Usually small and slow moving. Seen at night.

ABERDEEN EVENING EXPRESS

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Army solve mystery of thing that go flash in the night

By STUART REID

"The flares can be seen from miles away and do account for some reports of strange objects in the sky," Ron Halliday, chairman of Scottish Earth Mysteries Research and assistant registrar of Stirling University, said Army flares could account for some, but not all, the sightings in the area - a UFO hot-spot. He said some lights could not be accounted for by flares, aircraft or any other explanation.

light fall quickly from high in the sky. It took only a few seconds." The police, Edinburgh Airport and the RAF could offer no explanation but Major Roddy Young, training staff officer for the Army in Scotland, said the

ARMY top brass have offered an explanation for an Edinburgh UFO mystery. Photographer Gordon Terris was mystified when he saw a 'bright light' plunge to the ground. The 30-year-old saw the spectacle from his Morning-side Road flat and could think of no rational explanation. He said: "I was watching television at about 10.15pm on Thursday when I saw a very bright