

## AIR PICTORIAL

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# RADIO WATCH

SINCE I wrote the piece about the near-miss between a Boeing 737 and a UFO near Manchester. I have learned that I saw two UFOs in March 1993! At least, that is what a newspaper preview of the new and supposedly authoritative book *Open Skies, Closed Minds* tells me, but I remain unconvinced. One of the book's authors, Nick Pope, ran the official UFO desk at MoD for three years. Apparently, at around 1 am on March 31, 1993, there was a countrywide wave of sightings of two bright lights, with sometimes a third fainter one, at the heads of contrails.

The author describes these happenings as 'the one thing that convinced me that extra-terrestrial spacecraft are regularly visiting Earth'. I, too, saw those lights from the tower at Liverpool Airport. The last of the mail flights had just departed when I noticed two bright lights to the west. I dismissed them initially as the usual closely-spaced landing lights of a Boeing 757 going into Manchester, a common sight in this area.

However, a check through the binoculars revealed that there were two aircraft in close formation, leaving contrails. As I recall, it was a moonlit night which made the trails show clearly, although the aircraft shapes could not be made out. A check on our direct telephone line to Manchester Area Control Centre drew a blank. The TMA (West) Controller was a chap I have known for many years and he told me there was nothing showing on his radar, not even a primary blip without transponder information on height, etc.

Obliviously, he tried Manchester's alternative radar heads at Claxby in Lincolnshire and Cleve Hill in Shropshire but was still unable to pick up any traces. He suggested that they

were probably using military transponder squawk codes which would not show up on his civilian radar. He went on to say that there was no point in ringing London Military Control as they wouldn't tell him anything!

These aircraft were following the line of Airway Upper Bravo Three heading south-west. It was difficult to estimate height or speed, but they were very fast, well over 500 knots, judging by how quickly they went out of sight at contrail height.

I still do not believe that they were UFOs. My guess was, and still is, that they were stealth aircraft, hence the lack of primary radar contact at Manchester. Unfortunately, I was unaware of the furore they caused so never added my views to the debate! It does seem odd that MoD could not identify them, however, especially as they were flying in controlled airspace.

UFO sightings tend to be made by well-meaning people rather than oddballs but, having handled many queries to ATC over the years, I know that it is very difficult to convince them that what they saw was the planet Venus or aircraft lights just above the horizon on clear nights. Perhaps readers can tie up F-117 visits to the UK around that time or tell me if F-117s have a downward recognition light?

## Object in the sky 'totally alien'?

**DID YOU see a strange bright light over Oswestry last Wednesday evening?**

Well one Oswestry man did. Marcus Evans, 23, of Salop Road, Oswestry is totally convinced that he saw a strange alien force in the skies over Oswestry as he and a friend drove back from Shrewsbury at 11.30pm.

Marcus said: "I know people are not going to believe us but we definitely saw something.

"There was a brilliant light in the sky that shot over at rapid speed to the left and then quickly back to the right.

"I know it sounds hard to believe but it was definitely like nothing else I have ever seen before."

Marcus is now keen to hear from anyone else who saw something strange on Wednesday night. He said he will be reporting the incident to RAF Cosford.

## UFO mystery

**A**N ANNAN woman has recalled a strange encounter as she walked past the *Annandale Observer* offices in Annan, I hear.

Speaking on the popular Sunday night phone-in, on Carlisle-based radio station CFM, the listener described how she had seen a strange light in the sky passing over our building and the The Bruce Restaurant behind.

Contributing to a discussion on UFOs, she told how the object later vanished from view.

Digest would like to hear of any other sightings for our very own X-files. Don't be shy!

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## Mystery deepens

**MORE PEOPLE** in Huddersfield have reported sightings of possible UFOs in the skies above the town. For the second time in three weeks, strange lights were spotted circling different parts of the town and again, there seems to be no logical explanation. Linda Hunnybell, of Lindley, saw a line of brightly-coloured lights high in the sky at about 8.45pm. "They were in a line and seemed to be tipping from side to side." And a caller from Shepley claimed he and his wife saw "a cigar-shaped light" travelling over the village about 8.15pm. A previous theory of the laser and light show at the Old Corn Mill pub in Cooper Bridge being responsible has been ruled out. Last night's display was not switched on until 9pm.

## HUDDERSFIELD

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## OSWESTRY & BORDER COUNTIES ADVERTISER

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Please feel free to submit any material for inclusion in BUFORA UFO Newsfile to BUFORA Newsfile, 70 High Street, Wingham, Kent CT3 1BJ. Fax 01227 720774 or e-mail mhudson@oriontrade.win-uk.net

# Hunting the spider — lights flashing

CAST your mind back to the night of November 24 1995.

Did anyone see a strange object floating in the sky from Winterslow towards Firsdown around 1.45pm?

According to a witness, it had a series of lights like an upside-down spider, was about the size of a house and 50ft off the ground.

"It moved towards

fields belonging to the MoD, where it stayed for a good half-hour with lights flashing," says David Pye, of the British UFO Association.

He heard about it from the witness, and is anxious to find more witnesses. If you did, please phone him on 01793 613072. All information will be treated in the strictest confidence, he emphasises.

Following the success of the X-Files, the mystery of corn circles and numerous science fiction movies, more and more people are becoming 'believers'. Richard Schoppler (pictured right), of Kingswood, is one of the many convinced there is something 'out there'.

He has taken a keen interest in the matter - going as far as serious research development - dating back to 1970.

"I decided there was quite a lot more to this subject than meets the eye. Governments will go to any length to cover this up." Large and small conferences are taking place at prominent venues throughout the UK.

He said the number of sightings which could not be put down to aircraft led him to be sure of the existence of UFOs.

"An estimated one-



million long unidentified craft was seen simultaneously in three US states in daylight. These craft are becoming more and more obvious in revealing themselves to

people all over the world.

"I have never seen one myself but in some ways that's a plus. It leaves me with a more open mind.

• Anyone interested must have a serious interest in the subject, and can write to Mr Schoppler at 26 Orchard Vale, Kingswood, Bristol BS15 2UN.

## Report by Eileen Payne

BRITISH Airways pilots were not the only ones who had a close encounter with a mysterious flying object as they came into land at Manchester Airport.

Mark Lloyd saw the same unidentified craft near his home at Gatley.

Now Mark, who has a photographic memory, has reconstructed what he saw with the help of computer graphics student Harold Withers from Stockport College.

The sighting took place on January 6, last year, but was not publicised until more than a year later when a real life "X-file" report on the incident was released by the Airmass Working Group of the Civil Aviation Authority.

Mark, of Westend Avenue, Gatley, was driving down Styal Road not far from his home when he saw the UFO.

### Ship

"I was driving down Styal Road when something caught my eye," he said. "I realised it wasn't Concorde, but it looked like a massive space ship the size of Wembley Stadium, flying at about 4,000 ft."

He added: "I saw it through the clouds. It was shaped like a Christmas tree and was so huge it must have cost hundreds of billions of pounds."

He said it was in some ways like a space shuttle, but much more advanced scientifically.

Mark, a painter and decorator, realised when he read reports of the pilots' sighting a year later, that it was the same UFO.

Mark teamed up with computer graphics artist Harold Withers to reconstruct what he saw on that January early evening, 18 months ago and produced what we have reproduced here.



Computer graphics artist Harold Withers from Stockport College with the reconstruction

Mark said he had not reported the sighting to the press until the pictures were complete.

The UFO was seen by British Airways pilots captain Roger Willis and first officer Mark Stuart as they were approaching Manchester Airport in a Boeing 737 flying from Milan.

They described a mystery craft with a black stripe down its edge and a Christmas tree arrangement of lights silently flashing past the jet.

The report from the Airmass

Working Group of the CAA said the pilots were convinced that it was a solid object, not a meteorological phenomenon, balloon or other craft with which they were familiar, such as a Stealth bomber.

### Courage

It added: "The group were anxious to emphasise that this report, submitted by two responsible airline pilots was considered seriously and wishes to commend the pilots for their courage in

submitting it.

"Reports such as these are often the object of derision, but the group hopes that this example will encourage pilots who experience unusual sightings to report them without fear of ridicule."

David Cayton, of Davenport, UFO investigator for Quest International, said the object seen by Mark and the pilots was "certainly extra terrestrial" and he would like to discuss the sighting with Mark.

## MYSTERY OF TROON UFO

ALIENS may have visited the west coast — in a UFO the size of a FOOTBALL. Stunned Dave Workman spotted the mysterious bouncing orb hovering over houses in Troon.

He told investigators from UFO Magazine: "It was just after 10pm when I saw a small bright light, about the size of a football, moving towards me.

"It was bouncing along on the air about 30ft above ground. I watched it skim over my head and away down the road at a slow speed until it vanished."

Dave, who believes military helicopters flew in to investigate the incident, added: "There was no way it was a meteorite



Scientists awaiting a phone call from ET say it is just a question of 'when' not 'if', explains **Bruce Dorminey**

# Is there anybody out there?

As America watched hostile extraterrestrials wreak havoc in the new film *Independence Day* last week, an interdisciplinary colloquium of scientists converged on the Italian island of Capri to discuss their all-life search for alien intelligence.

For most of the 200 participants including three Nobel Prize winners at the week-long 5th International Conference on Bioastronomy, the question is not whether such extraterrestrial intelligence exists, but when, where and by what means it will be discovered.

The issue has heated up since the recent announcements of Jupiter-like gaseous planets circling relatively nearby stars. San Francisco State University's Geoff Marcy and Paul Butler reported yet another new planet, about 60 per cent of Jupiter's size and in orbit around Upsilon Andromedae some 40 light years away.

Of six known extra-solar planets, none is like earth. Earth-like planets could still exist in these newly discovered planetary systems, it is just that current technology is unable to detect them. No matter, extra-solar planets bolster the argument for extraterrestrial life. Yet after surveying four of the six new systems, there are no signs of a radio signal.

Searching for intelligent narrow-band radio beacons from beyond the solar system has been a continuing process since 1959 when Frank Drake first directed West Virginia's Greenbank radio telescope towards Tau Ceti, a sun-like star 16 light years away. But MIT's Phil Morrison came upon the notion of looking for intelligent signals in frequencies ranging from 1,420 to 1,720 MHz (about the wavelength of a microwave oven). These frequencies encompass natural emissions of hydrogen and hydroxyl, both common in the universe.

In the last 25 years Seti (Search for Extra Terrestrial Intelligence) has been primarily conducted by four groups in the US: the California-based Project Phoenix, Harvard's Beta Project, Berkeley's Serendip IV and Ohio State University's Big Ear search. Argentina's Meta II project has a southern all-sky search and Australia has just formed a Seti Institute that would like to continue Project Phoenix's targeted southern star survey.

Yet astrophysicists everywhere cringe at the thought of being associated with either the expanding UFO field or the scores of people who claim to have been "abducted" by wayward aliens.

"Do I think we have ever been



On the lookout for extraterrestrials

visited?" asks Stuart Bowyer, chairman of the conference's scientific organising committee and director of the Serendip IV search. "No. Do I think that we will ever be visited? No. The resources needed to produce an interstellar space vehicle are huge and then what do you do when you get there?"

If extraterrestrial intelligence were discovered, earth's perceived monopoly on intelligent life in the universe would be swept aside. "The problem is not that there won't be life out there," says Darren Leigh at Harvard. "The problem will be aiming telescopes at each other and starting a conversation. "We can now send interstellar telegrams out to 1,000 light years at an energy cost of about a dollar a word," he says. "Radio

operators currently send each other signals by bouncing signals off the moon. With that same sort of equipment they could send radiograms to Alpha Centauri."

With a \$3m (£1.9m) annual budget, the privately funded Project Phoenix can afford to complete its 1,000-star survey of sun-like stars within 150 light years of earth. After surveying 209 stars from listening posts in Australia, it has had 39 false positives, but no verifiable detection of any radio signals. From September, it will continue its search using the 140m-wide Greenbank telescope and a second, much smaller, radio telescope in Georgia for signal verification.

"I can't tell you how many civilisations are out there," says Bowyer. "But I can tell you once we get the carrier signal then it will be one year or less until we get TV pictures from them."

Perhaps the most famous signal seen as a real message was 1977's Wow! detection at Ohio State University, so-named for the exclamation scribbled by an excited staffer on the computer printout. "We went back 100 or more times in subsequent days and never found a thing," says Bob Dixon, the project director. "But we know it came from at least as far away as the moon and did have what communication engineers would have called sidebands which are what carries information in an AM [medium wave] broadcast signal."

While searchers can now process 250m channels simultaneously, present search strategies and protocols still suffer from lag time. Most Seti searches assume civilisations will be constantly communicating in a directed signal beacon, which precludes the possibility of a sweeping or intermittent beacon.

It is a question of being in the right place at the right time, while avoiding ever-increasing terrestrial radio interference. This is why some Seti searches want to place a huge radio dish on the dark side of the moon. They have targeted a 100km-wide crater near the lunar equator, the only place in the solar system with no radio interference from earth.

# Are they the next big thing?

**AFTER being compared to REM, Smashing Pumpkins and The Manic Street Preachers, Brummies Dissident Prophet have proved with their new single that they are an original band in their own right.**

Hang Him High is released on August 12 and the West Midlands band have been touring to promote it.

On Tuesday night they rocked Manchester's Roadhouse with a sparkling gig.

But after the gig they swayed away from the norm and instead of trashing hotel rooms guitarist Tom Livermore hit the M63 trying to find

evidence to support his claims of extra terrestrial conspiracy theories.

The wannabe Agent Mulder thinks there is a link between motorway lighting patterns and the navigation of UFOs.

Anyway back to the music.

Their songwriting is really diverse yet all of the songs are linked with fluidity and a sound that can only be described as sheer class.

Many bands these days get labelled with the title, The Next Big Thing, but Dissident Prophet definitely deserve such an accolade, and I reckon they have every chance of being just that.

● by Perveen Akhtar

MUSIC

# Don't be so green Dave

A LETTER came in for UFO Update this week from a somewhat sceptical man called David from Lower Ince.

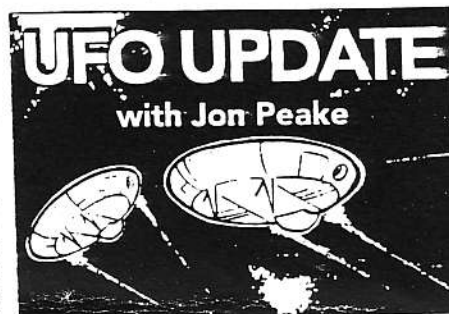
He writes: "Could you tell me why you print UFO Update because there is no such thing as flying saucers and little green men that glow in the dark?"

David refers to last week's story from a lady called Sheila who claims she saw a being at the foot of her bed.

He responds: "When you wake up in the middle of the night you are not with it."

"Could Sheila from Wigan tell me where the little green man landed and how did he manage to get into her bedroom and stand at the bottom of the bed looking at her?"

"If there is such a thing as little green men



from another planet - prove it.

"I bet you cannot, so why lead people on?"

Thanks for the enlightening letter David and you're right I can't prove there are aliens in the skies above Wigan. If I could I'd be a millionaire.

### Evidence

UFO Update is not in the business of trying to brainwash the people of Wigan into thinking there are "little green men" out there terrorising local residents and lasering six foot holes in

their best curtains.

"UFO Update simply prints letters and UFO sightings from the people of Wigan.

Believe what you will, this column doesn't come with a genuine UFO guarantee but we try to print the more plausible letters from the dozens we receive each week.

To be so narrow-minded in the face of such convincing UFO evidence coming to light now is wrong.

Keep an open mind, the universe is a big place.

# Riddle of guy in the sky!

EXPERTS were last night probing reports of Britain's first unidentified flying MAN.

The mysterious UFM was spotted soaring over St. Austell, Cornwall, by a woman walking her dog.

She said he was small and squat and dressed in a black suit.

The woman, who hasn't been named, told UFO investigators that he appeared out of a clear, blue sky as a tiny silhouette and swooped low over the town before disappearing in a blaze of light.

The bizarre sighting has been logged with a specialist magazine.

And Britain's top flying saucer trackers, recruited in a bid to confirm it, are appealing for other witnesses.

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# JON PROVES THE TRUTH IS OUT THERE

FLYING saucer expert Jon King is over the moon following the soaraway success of his magazine UFO Reality

There were 12,000 copies printed of the first edition, which was published in March. But following unprecedented demand from the public, the second edition, printed in May, ran to 33,000 copies... with 5,000 going to the USA and a similar number to Europe.

Jon said that Latin American countries, especially Chile, were raving about the magazine and there was a strong possibility that the first and second editions would be reprinted to satisfy demand.

"My distributor has managed to get the magazine onto the bookstalls of most of the big chain stores like WH Smith. And now I find myself under tremendous pressure to produce an edition every month, instead of every two months as I do at present.

## Report by Roger Willmott

"The success of UFO reality has astounded me.

"The idea first came to me in January 1995. Only then the plan was to produce a newsletter. Also, at that time I was in the middle of writing a science fiction novel.

"In October 1995, with the help of my publisher David Duhig, I decided to go ahead with UFO Reality. I had, and still have, a shoestring budget.

"The cashflow side of things needs sorting before I can contemplate going monthly. However, the next issue will have a press run of around 50,000 copies."

Jon, who lives in a Glastonbury cottage which overlooks the Tor, says much of the magazine's success is due to the cult TV programme The X Files.

"The programme has raised everyone's awareness of UFOs.

"Although much of the programme is over the top, I believe there is a conspiracy to keep the truth about UFOs from the public. I also believe the our Government and the US are wrapped up in that conspiracy.

"I hope my magazine will bring pressure on both governments to come clean on what they know about UFOs.

"When Maurice Chatelain, the former NASA director of communications, retired he said that every Mercury and Gemini launch had been followed by UFOs.

"Even NASA astronauts admit they have seen UFOs through the windows of their space vehicles.

"There is too much evidence to ignore."

Jon remains convinced that the truth is out there and he is determined to reveal it.

Watch out for him on GMTV this week when he will be talking about crop circles. He also appeared on breakfast TV three weeks ago.

LINCOLNSHIRE ECHO

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I AM attempting to identify a UFO witnessed over Colsterworth at 2am, Friday May 17, 1996. The UFO was described to me as consisting of many small, red lights arranged in a wedge or vague triangular shape. It was observed, at high altitude, for about six seconds before moving from view. There was no noticeable noise associated with the UFO. There is a chance that it was observed in other parts of the county and, possibly, reported to UFO research groups. If this is the case, I would invite such groups to contact me so data can be compared. I can be reached on (01664) 812736 or at 14 Woodhouse Road, Asfordby, Melton Mowbray, Leicestershire LE14 3YR. ALAN SMITH Asfordby, Leicestershire.

# Talking about strange encounters of the utterly mysterious kind...

Andrew Norfolk

IT WAS one of those typical summer evenings in the city... you take the kids or a stroll along the river bank, look for wild flowers, see a nery ball land in a nearby field, get abducted by aliens and then walk home to your husband.

Lynda Jones, 52, who says that happened to her in Manchester, will be talking about her encounter with six extraterrestrials at a one-day international conference in Sheffield on Saturday.

She will be joined on the podium by a host of speakers who have either experienced or researched stories of alleged alien kidnaps from around the world.

They include a best-selling American author who was taken from his log cabin by dwarf-like humanoids smelling of cinnamon and a regression hypnotist who claims to unlock buried memories of alien abductions.

More than 500 UFO enthusiasts are expected to attend Saturday's Day of Abductions conference, run by BUFORA, the British UFO Research Association, and held at Sheffield Hallam University.

BUFORA's Batlev-based director of investigations, Philip Mantle, readily accepts that accounts of alien kidnaps tend to be greeted with raised eyebrows, even by those who believe in UFOs.

But he says the growing number of such exotic experiences being reported

around the world — at least 40 in the past two years — have lent credence to the tales, many of which contain common features.

Typically, the victim will recall being taken on board a spacecraft, subjected to a medical examination, shown around the ship and then returned to Earth, often having been given a vital piece of information which later turns out to make no sense.

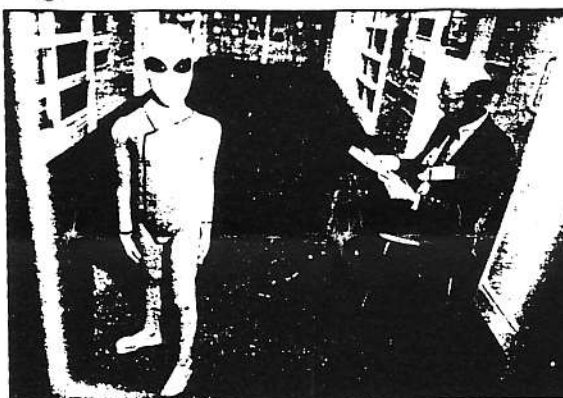
"The people who make these claims, far from being lunatics, are ordinary, average people," said Mr Mantle. "You're basically dealing with personal experiences, and it all comes down to whether you believe the individual or not."

One further common thread to such encounters is the growing role played by hypnosis in enabling victims, including Mrs Jones, to recall details of their alleged abduction.

In August 1979 she was walking with her 15-year-old daughter and five-year-old son by the banks of the River Mersey in South Manchester when a "ball of fire", which she assumed to be a burning aircraft, sped towards the family.

"My daughter said the moon was coming towards us. We ducked, but it landed in a held 30 yards away and hovered above the ground. We went a bit nearer for a better view, but then it just seemed to disappear."

It was only when the family reached home that Mrs Jones realised that an



UFO speaker: US counselling psychologist Dr Ian Sprinkle. He's on the right.

encounter she had thought lasted for a few minutes must have taken up at least an hour of the evening.

Under filmed sessions of regression hypnosis, she later recalled being examined by six identical, vaguely humanoid creatures with yellow skin and almond-shaped eyes who were dressed in dark clothing up to the neck.

She says she was so traumatised by watching the films later — she still has no direct memory of what happened — that for a long time she was unwilling to talk about the experience.

"I'm a rational, down-to-earth person. I'm not deluded, and I know that what I saw in that field

was a physical object. But I still can't come to terms with what I was saying on that videotape.

"Something happened during that hour which was completely wiped from my memory. Things like that just don't happen."

Yet if American author Whitley Strieber is to be believed, they do — and to so many people that he now believes alien abductions are a form of secret school, preparing humanity for the mysteries of the future.

He may be right, at least about the mysterious bit. Under hypnosis, Mrs Jones recalled an elaborate ritual in which pieces of ice were placed on her legs. Oh, cold new world...



Philip Mantle: Leader of UFO research group.

STAFFORDSHIRE EVENING SENTINE

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## Closed minds

SIR, — May I say how delighted I am with the recent coverage given to UFOs, and how especially pleased I am that North Staffs is playing an important part in giving this subject a higher profile in the public eye. I personally have found myself reporting UFOs to the police on two occasions; another 'ordinary person in extraordinary circumstances'. There are far too many closed minds and it's time we got the subject out into the open.

J MAYER  
Newcastle



# Will we ever be told?

THE Defence Ministry's denial that it has a section permanently dedicated to studying UFO reports, and the Daily Mail's British X-files series, have tapped a rich source of experiences among those who are aware of out-of-the-normal happenings all around us. Critical readers may note that although these stories are more numerous than one might think, they are also fairly homogeneous and break down into only a few recognisable types. Is this evidence of their human reality, in the realm of the unconscious, or of their super-reality, as aspects of another existence 'out there'?

Read on for some of the many stories you have sent to the Daily Mail.



THIRTY years ago, as a ten-year-old boy living in Conisbrough, South Yorkshire, I saw a strange object in the twilight sky and felt a strange tingling sensation go through my body. My parents and other saw it, too. Several people in our street, including a family called Dalry, had been watching the aerial spectacle for some time before from above the town. My parents told my elder brother to open the door to the house and take out the camera. A Kodak Instamatic, with the lens set for cloudy conditions, Stephen took one photo but, strangely, not one object but three appeared on the picture. South Yorkshire has had its fair share of UFO sightings but that one is its most famous, proven genuine by the top experts and leading scientists, though there are many cover-ups and sceptics who have caused our family much earache and pain over the years. This was a genuine UFO and it all always remain to me one of the best British UFO sightings of the last 30 years.

KEVIN PRATT, Tansworth, Staffs.

## Simply powerless?

THE Ministry of Defence would have been better advised to stick to the habit of 50 years and keep its mouth shut rather than make an unprecedented statement in *RAF News* that there's no evidence to substantiate the existence of UFOs (Mail). There's more evidence for their existence than would normally be needed to convict a murderer in a

court of law. My own experience began in 1960 with a half-hour-long sighting of a glowing clear shape which hovered in the broad daylight of a March morning over the local air weapons establishment, north of Portsmouth.

Two noisy RAF Meteor jets were scrambled from a nearby airbase, whereon the object changed from horizontal to vertical and then vanished, leaving the jets to stooge around vainly. In a quick phone call to the airbase I was told I had seen neither the object nor the jets.

This has remained the pattern throughout the succeeding years and has failed to convince me that my experiences, about which there's nothing vague, never happened. And there are thousands of similar reports from people far more experienced than me. The lid is coming off this phenomenon.

The things we've seen exposed lately which have caused an uproar and threatened government stability are nothing to what's on the horizon.

The Ministry of Defence had representatives at the Beijing World Conference on UFOs and space exploration not so long ago.

Can it be true that the U.S., UK and other world powers are struggling to decide how to release the truth to the people, because it would expose them as simply powerless?

ERNIE SEARS, Nelly Abbey, Hants.

## Red alert

I SERVED with the 2nd Battalion, The Bedfordshire Highlanders, as a front-line soldier of the 51st Highland Division from January 1940 to July 1946. At that time I was too

battle-hardened and trained in observation to suffer from delusions.

We had been out of the line for a while, stationed in a small Belgian village near Liege, when I saw a very strange object in the sky, about the size of the setting sun.

I calculated it was about a quarter to half a mile away, fairly low and travelling quite slowly. I watched this red object for a few minutes before it disappeared from view behind some buildings. I didn't know what it was and, to avoid ridicule from my fellow soldiers, I kept quiet about it.

Many years later I was amazed to see references to similar objects in Harold P. Wilkins's book *Flying Saucers On The Attack*, which detailed objects seen at that time

by British and American pilots. They were christened 'Foo Fighters' and each of the opposing forces thought they must be some secret enemy weapon.

P. McPHAIL, Prestwick, Scotland.

## Off my guard

MY story goes back to autumn 1943 when my battalion, the 2nd Battalion the Somerset Light Infantry, the 13th of Foot, was stationed on Gibraltar.

That night, I was on guard duty on the drawbridge position near Europa Point, when over my shoulder I observed a bright light which rose, steadied and moved again.

Helicopters were not unknown then, but no plane could move as

this did, suddenly changing direction, one second going left to right, hovering and changing again, then making off or curving above the rock as I stood there, completely transfixed.

I was so engrossed that I didn't think to call the guard. Suddenly the thing, with its bright light, took off southwards at a fantastic speed and I called out my mates. No plane of the time was capable of attaining that sort of speed. I would guess 2,000 or 3,000 miles per hour.

By the time the guard came tumbling out of the wooden hut the flying object was just a tiny bright blip in the sky over Africa. The rest of the guard didn't believe me, but I know what I saw.

W. C. POWERS, Southampton, Hants.

When she got home, she found that at the same time, her video recorder went haywire and her satellite dish beamed in the wrong programmes.

A spokesman for the British UFO Research Association said there had been a marked increase in incidents involving videos.

## Haywire

POP fan Katrina Ketch is blaming aliens for wrecking her favourite tapes. She claims her stereo and video gear has gone haywire since her car was buzzed by a mysterious glowing ball as she drove home with her nine-year-old son, Katrina, of Cheltenham, Glos, said: "When it disappeared I tried to play my *Baby D* tape but it had been wiped clean."

# ALIENS ZAP MY VIDEOS

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## UFO-watcher David Atkinson is keeping his feet on the ground while his 'head's in the stars'

For though the sky-watcher realises his belief in most things out-of-this-world may class him as 'weird' in some people's eyes, he is opening up his studies even further with hoped-for recruitment to his fledgling UFO society.

"It's something I truly believe in," says David, who works as a graphic designer in Bury, "though I do get some people telling me I'm wasting my time."

And because he's so 'into' the subject, the Westrate Avenue, Blackley enthusiasts told me, he just doesn't give a Black Hole what other people think of his unworly pursuit.

With the help of a couple of

other enthusiasts, he's set up Manchester UFO Research Network an organisation that will really succeed if he can implore more locals to join it in its role of investigating the whole phenomenon in the area.

Ultimate aim of MUFORN (The Search For Truth) is to look into any sightings in the skies over North Manchester and Middleton.

This involves taking eye-witness accounts, checking with all airports, RAF bases, the Met office and the Ministry of Defence to find out whether a certain glowing light in the sky has extra-terrestrial connections.

"A UFO is just what it stands for: an unidentified flying object," explained David. "And only a small percentage of sightings throughout Britain are

unexplainable."

What has been especially exciting his interest locally though was the level of sightings in February — the highest ever recorded. "And with Manchester having its fair share, then there's a great opportunity to add our voice to the mass of research on the subject," says David.

Though the Blackley X-Files investigator is a fervent believer in the existence of life on other planets, he says he has still yet to see a UFO himself.

But he is optimistic the crowded skies over North Manchester will lead to further evidence that we're not alone.

Anyone wishing to know more about the group should contact David at 1 Westrate Avenue, Blackley M9 8DZ, telephone number 0161-795-4140.

## THE SKY'S NOT THE LIMIT

THIS Saturday (6 July), Middleton and North Manchester enthusiasts get the chance to track themselves an alien or alien craft. For the local UFO research Network (see main story above) is planning on holding its first sky-watch.

It involves camping out under the stars and monitoring everything from the tem-

perature to the cloud cover — and the occasional flying saucer, the sceptics might mock-invid.

But the 'watch' is being planned in all seriousness says organiser David Atkinson. Though it sounds boring, confesses David, he says he knows of other sky-watches which have proved successful elsewhere in the country.

"We all split up into groups and if anyone sees anything we phone the next group alone to continue to monitor the object," he says. "That way if something has come all the way up from the South, we can add our research to other groups tracing it."

Other 'watches' are planned for 13, 20, 27 July, and the 17 and 18 August. Phone 0161 795 4140 if you are interested.



RIGHT: The truth is out there... UFO investigator David Atkinson studies latest research findings. (Q2055) INSET: The official logo of the movement David's hoping will attract support to make it a sky-high success.

# the Yfiles



Fred Walker, who believes he saw a UFO on the A64, between the sketch Fred made at the time.

## I nudged the wife and said to her: 'What the hell is that?'

**Fred Walker spotted a flying saucer while driving on the A64 York to Leeds road - a hotbed of UFO activity. He tells SIMON RITCHIE of his close encounter**

THE metallic-looking craft hovered in front of Fred Walker's car for about three miles as he drove along the deserted A64 towards home. "It was a bright metallic colour, like aluminium. The light from the windows were absolutely bright. "My son Fred, who was 20 at the time and sitting in the back of the car, said he saw different coloured lights underneath it," said Fred, 65, who remembers the night quite vividly. It was around 12.45am on a September morning in 1991. Fred, his wife Jean and son Fred were returning to their home in

Bradford after an evening out in York. They set off along the A64 York to Leeds road and after a short time Fred noticed a very bright light above the car. "I was driving at 55mph and this light continued to hover just in front of us. "I then had a closer look at it and realised it was a silver object, metallic-looking like aluminium. It had a very bright light and had a sort of tower on the top. "I nudged the wife and said to her 'What the hell is that?' "My son Fred, who was sitting in the back, got a view of it from a different angle and saw that it



had little coloured lights underneath it. "He kept telling me to pull up but there was nowhere to stop. I kept looking up at the object and trying to concentrate on the road at the same time. "We wound down the window

**Have YOU had a brush with the paranormal or a close encounter with a UFO? Contact Simon Ritchie on the Y-Files desk on York 653061 ext 347**

and heard a very high-pitched sound. "There were one of two cars going in the opposite direction so they must have seen something." They followed the object for about three miles. "I looked at the road and then up to the object and it had just vanished. None of us saw it go." Fred, a retired HGV driver, is convinced he saw something out of this world. "I did not see a UFO, an unidentified flying object, I could identify it. I saw a flying saucer. "I'll go through any lie detector test there is. I know what I saw. "Believe me this is the God's honest truth. I saw something that I cannot explain. I was really afraid. He is now a member of the Bradford-based UFO Research Network. He contacted the Evening Press after our investigations into UFO sightings near the former Wild Man pub on the A64 featured on the national cable channel Live TV. There were several unusual sightings of UFO along the A64 corridor late last year. A full-scale rescue was put into operation after two barns at the Wild Man reported that something had crash landed by the pub. No wreckage was ever found.



UFO expert Timothy Good, whose new book is out, says that he spotted the UFO on his jet

## RAF pilots spotted UFOs speeding after jet

RAF pilots based in North Yorkshire spotted a UFO travelling at an incredible speed nearly 45 years ago, according to a book out this week. Officers and aircrews at RAF Topcliffe near Thirsk watched a UFO follow a Meteor jet which was approaching neighbouring RAF Dishforth near Ripon. The sighting took place at 10.53pm on September 19, 1952, during the NATO exercise Operation Mainbrace. The episode is featured in Beyond Top Secret - The Worstcase UFO Security Threat by world renowned UFO expert Timothy Good. Flight Lieutenant John Kilburn spotted the UFO as his jet was

descending. "The Meteor was crossing from east to west when I noticed the white object in the sky...silver and circular in shape about 10,000ft up some five miles astern of the aircraft," reports Fl Lt Kilburn. "I said 'What the Hell's that?' and the chaps looked to where I was pointing. "As we watched, the disc maintained a slow forward speed before starting to descend. While descending it was swinging in a pendulum fashion from left to right. "He said that as the Meteor turned to start its landing run, the object appeared to be following it. "But after a few seconds it stopped

descending and hung in the air, rotating as if on its own axis. Then it accelerated at an incredible speed to the west, turned south east and then disappeared." The whole incident lasted only between 15 to 20 seconds. "We are all convinced that it was some solid object. Our combined opinion was that it was something we had never seen before in a long experience of air observation. "One other pilot and four aircrew witnessed the object. Copies of an Air Ministry report were sent to the Commander in Chief, Air/East Atlantic (a NATO command post), the Secretary of State for Air,

Chief of Air Staff and the Air Ministry's Scientific Intelligence Bureau. Beyond Top Secret is the fully revised, all updated version of Above Top Secret which shot to the top of the best seller charts in 1987. It contains new evidence, including officially documented sightings by commercial and military pilots around the world. And defence chiefs from Russia, America and Europe admit that UFOs do exist. ♦ Beyond Top Secret by Timothy Good (Macmillan, £16.99) is published on Friday.

### SHROPSHIRE STAR

15 JUL 96

Page 4

# Bases hold UFO puzzle key

A UFO investigator has claimed servicemen from two Shropshire air bases hold the key to a mystery sighting. Nick Pope, who works on the Ministry of Defence's top secret UFO desk, claims in a new book that servicemen at RAF Shawbury and RAF Cosford saw the mysterious craft in March 1993. In the book, Open Skies, Closed Minds, he says he was sceptical about the existence of UFOs until the incident in 1993. He says reports of sightings

came from all over the country from witnesses, including policemen and military guards. Mr Pope said the most detailed information came from servicemen at the two Shropshire bases who saw an enormous craft firing beams of light at the countryside. No special prototype planes, foreign or British, were flying that night, Mr Pope said. But a Ministry of Defence spokesman today said they had no information that servicemen

claimed to have seen any such craft. "When sightings of UFOs are reported they are assessed for any security risk they pose to the country. "None as yet have proved to be a security risk so our interest ends there," he said. "No doubt some pilots have seen some unexplained things in the night sky but we have no information about it," added the spokesman.



# EX-COP CLAIMED HE WAS KIDNAPPED BY ALIENS

WHEN former police officer Philip Spencer set off across Yorkshire's Ilkley Moor on the morning of December 1, 1987, he was stepping into a UFO mystery.

He took with him a camera to photograph the town from the moor tops, and a compass as a precaution against the weather.

Half an hour into his walk, something caught his eye. He spun around and saw "a small green creature". The being ran into a quarry cut into the top of a hill.

## Identity cards

Before it disappeared behind an outcrop, Spencer brought up his camera and took one photograph. Then he saw a silver disc-shaped object rise rapidly into the air and disappear into cloud.

He immediately returned to town where a further shock awaited him. It was much later than it should have been. Almost two hours was missing from his life.

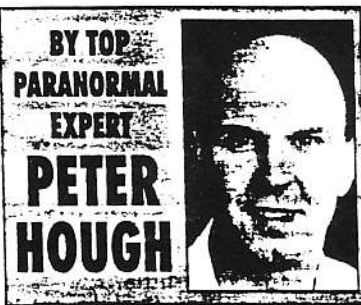
I immediately orchestrated a full investigation into what some construed was a hoax. But the witness had no apparent motive.

He insisted we keep his identity secret, and has never sought to make any money from his story — even though it was on offer.

The photograph was examined by Kodak who verified that the negative had not been tampered with. Spencer discovered that the polarity of his compass was reversed — it now pointed south instead of north.

Scientists at the University of Manchester Institute of Science and Technology (UMIST) found that this could only be brought about by someone with specialist scientific knowledge, which Spencer appeared not to have.

When clinical psychologist Jim Singleton



noticed him to relieve the experience, it was discovered that during the "missing time" Spencer had been abducted and examined by several of the beings in a white room. Jim told me, "He described things typically as someone would recall a past event. I think I've helped Philip recover memories that were hidden deeply in his mind."

## Denied

Several weeks after the incident, two middle-aged business-suited men arrived at his house. They showed him identity cards with the letters "MoD" printed across the top.

Underneath were photographs of the men, with their names, Jefferson and Davies. They wanted to interview Philip about his UFO experience.

Spencer's wife verified

the men's presence, so I wrote to the MoD for their comments on the matter.

They denied that their agents were involved, but ignored my query regarding the men's names. This is one of many cases involving "bogus" officials.

In 1976, a young receptionist called Shelley had a UFO experience near Bolton, Lancashire. Two weeks later, two official men arrived at her house and bullied her for over four hours, finally warning her to keep quiet about the sighting.

Her parents witnessed the interrogation by these "officials". Despite the constant denials, are government agents investigating UFO cases?

In 1978, when the Freedom of Information Act was passed in the USA, hundreds of documents were released proving that government agencies had carried out investigations into UFO incidents, at a time when they had vociferously denied it.

British ufologists believe that a similar situation exists here. But Britain has no FOIA.

On Thursday, April 11, at 8 pm, on BBC2, a new six-part series on the unexplained begins. It

# SKIES ARE ALIVE WITH THE SIGHT OF UFOs!

FROM Balmoral Castle to a British Airways flight deck — they've been experiencing close encounters of the strange kind.

Britain has been having record sightings of UFOs.

One group of UFO watchers, Skysearch, is so convinced that the intense activity in our skies is leading to an actual landing, that they are setting up alien "welcome centres" in the south of England this summer.

## Christmas tree

One of the strangest encounters was reported recently by the Civil Aviation Authority after a year-long investigation into a bizarre sighting by two British Airways pilots.

They were approaching Manchester Airport last January in their Boeing

737 when suddenly, at 4000 feet, a strange wedge-shaped object lit up like a Christmas tree flashed soundlessly by the plane's right side and vanished at astonishing speed.

The craft swept past so closely that one of the pilots actually ducked.

The two pilots radioed a near miss but the CAA could find no explanation for what they saw.

But so many other people have reported seeing the same V-shaped craft, and other UFOs in the skies above a strip stretching from Birmingham to north of

Manchester, that the area has been named the Pennine Corridor by UFO watchers.

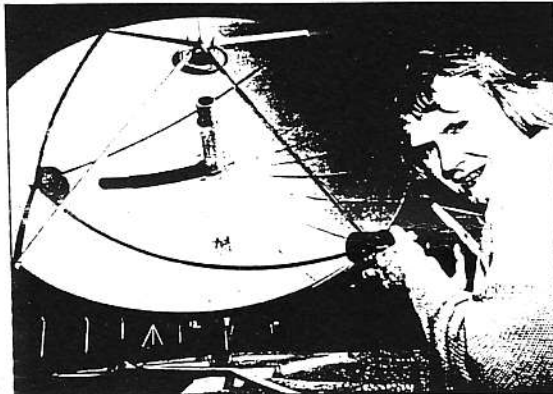
It joins the Bonnybridge Triangle near Glasgow as a hotspot of UFO activity.

## Silent Vulcan

A UFO was recently reported over Balmoral Castle and aircraft controllers in the area confirmed sightings of strange wedge-shaped craft lit up like a Christmas tree.

The triangular-shaped craft, known as the Silent Vulcan, because it looks like an old RAF Vulcan bomber, has been reported all over Britain, along with other weird objects which look and act like no recognised aircraft.

A new six-part BBC series alleges secret government departments are treating these 'X-File' cases seriously



UFO expert Jenny Randles who appears in the new series.

kicks off with a half-hour documentary entitled "UFOs: Britain's Secret Files" and features ufologist Jenny Randles.

Jenny interviews Nick Pope who, until recently, was chief executive officer of Air Secretariat ZA at the MoD.

## Contacts

He confirms that department's continued interest in UFO activity, as does Ralph Noyes, former under-secretary for Divisional Secretariat 8.

The programme also throws new light on a classic case. In August, 1956, multiple radar and visual contacts were made of round, white,

rapidly-moving objects that abruptly changed direction over East Anglia.

American Air Force personnel at RAF Bentwaters in Suffolk made the first radar contacts. The information was passed to RAF Lakenheath, 15 miles north-west of Bury St Edmunds, who reported a bright light travelling at "terrific speed" over the base.

Two RAF Venom night-fighters were scrambled and a cat-and-mouse game ensued. But the UFOs easily outmanoeuvred the aircraft and eventually disappeared when they seemed tired of the game.

Ralph Noyes remembers the incident well — "We had radar reports of objects travelling up to 4000 mph across the North Sea into British airspace, as big as battleships. We made every effort to investigate, but we never found out the truth."

## No doubt

In the programme, Jenny tracks down one of the pilots, and the navigators from both aircraft.

She told me, "There is no doubt that they thought they were dealing with something highly unusual."

Soviet spy planes kept out at sea and flew at an altitude of around 30,000 feet. These objects

were overland at under 5000 feet!"

Some American ufologists believe that their military is adapting alien technology from crashed UFOs for use in aircraft.

Are UFOs spacecraft piloted by extraterrestrials? What are we to make of abductions, like the case on Ilkley Moor, where witnesses are apparently taken and examined by alien beings?

## Answers

I have been involved in this subject now for over 20 years. For the last three, I have been working with a psychoanalyst in a study of abductees. As each year passes, the answers are harder to find, not easier.

Some researchers have sought to explain cases away in terms of hallucinations.

Like most theories, it makes some sense, but is not a blanket explanation. Hallucinations cannot be tracked on radar, nor can they be photographed.

People cannot have identical hallucinations.

The idea that we are being visited by ETs seems to some to be too obvious, too easy.

Official cover-ups are probably nothing more, and nothing less, than cover-ups of ignorance. They don't want you to know that they don't know the answers either.

THE DAILY TELEGRAPH

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## Falling star

A man chasing a "UFO" fell 60ft into the dry moat of Fort Purbrook, near Waterlooville, Hants. The light was from a student ball.

THE skies over Ipswich have been busy in recent weeks, judging by calls to our Files Hotline.

One mystery caller told us about mystery lights for night after night over the Gainsborough region of town.

Another caller told us she and her husband had watched an object like a giant star pass high over Ipswich, from north west to south east on two consecutive evenings at around 11.30pm. Was it a satellite or something more sinister? If you have seen something unexplained in the skies of our region, and you are prepared to go on record, then give our Files Hotline a ring on 01473 282310.

IPSWICH EVENING STAR

24 JUN 96

Page 11

# THE UNEXPLAINED

## Top secret UFO mysteries the MoD ignored

By JAMES MOORE

NICK POPE is the man with the real X Files. For three years, sceptical Nick, 30, was UFO investigator for the Ministry of Defence. But he became convinced that alien spacecraft have been visiting Earth. In his startling new book, *Open Skies, Closed Minds*, Nick says: "My experiences convinced me that UFOs are a real and threatening phenomenon."

Nick ran the UFO desk at Secretariat (Air Staff) 2a from 1991 to 1994 dealing with all UFO sightings. "Since 1959 the MoD has received 9,000

reported sightings of UFOs, though that is probably only the tip of the iceberg," he says.

"By the time I finished my stint on the UFO desk I believed they were probably the most important issue currently facing the human race."

Here Nick looks at some of the "unexplained" mysteries that changed his mind.

Open Skies, Closed Minds is published by Simon and Schuster, priced £14.99.



NICK POPE... investigator

### Sometime in 1988

## Alien encounter cost victim job

A MAN out for a quiet walk in the Quantock Hills encountered a UFO that cost him his job and almost his life.

It was a clear, still day in 1988. The man heard a deep rumbling above and ahead of him and saw a huge black craft moving towards him.

Its body was saucer-shaped but with two bat-like wings, one on each side.

It hovered for about five minutes, close enough for the witness to see that the main fuselage had two decks and a dome on top.

He could even make out a small figure wearing some kind of helmet through the windows of one of the decks.

The craft flew directly overhead, no more than 30ft above ground. Instinctively, he threw himself to the floor and as the shadow passed over him he felt a burning sensation. When he got home he discovered his clothes had been singed.

### Suffering

Over the next two years the witness's health deteriorated and he lost his job. He found it difficult to eat and experienced waves of nausea.

His wife was terrified that he was suffering from radiation sickness and would die unless he got help. So she wrote to me.

I got in touch with a UFO organisation and their researchers contacted her husband's doctor. In the end the man was treated and recovered. But I could find no rational explanation for the black craft.

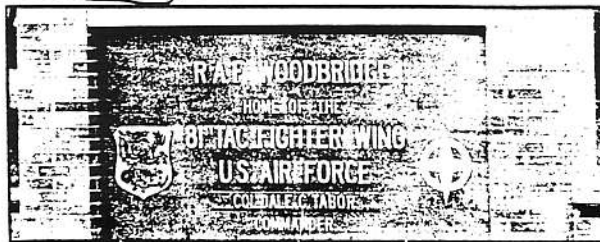
What made me really interested in this case was that it was similar to that of Betty Cash and Vickie and Colby Landrum from America. In 1980 they had an encounter with a diamond-shaped spacecraft while driving through a remote, swampy area in Texas.

After stopping in the road in front of them it left - pursued, they say, by 23 helicopters.

Afterwards they experienced symptoms like those of radiation - loss of hair, diarrhoea and nausea.

FLYING LOW... an alien object over Scotland

December 27, 1980



HIDDEN EVIDENCE... locked gates at military base where a UFO appeared

## 'Crashed plane' was spaceship

ONE incident I learned about during my time at the MoD's UFO desk helped convince me that aliens really do exist. Two security guards at the RAF-U.S. Air Force base at Woodbridge, Suffolk, were patrolling the perimeter which borders Rendlesham Forest on December 27, 1980.

They saw bright lights among the trees and their first thought was that it was an aircraft that had overshot the runway and come down in the woods.

They went to investigate and it soon became clear that the object was not a plane. They saw a metallic, triangular craft unlike anything they had seen before and classed it through the trees.

Two nights later there was a similar sighting and a larger team, led by the

deputy base commander, USAF Lieutenant Colonel Charles Halt, went out to investigate.

As Halt and his men advanced into the forest their equipment started registering interference.

A light came towards them. Halt remembers: "It pulsated as if it was an eye winking at you. Around the edges it appeared to have molten metal dripping off it."

The light suddenly exploded into pieces and three sources from it hung in the sky for three hours. Locals also saw them. Some officials said the beams came from the lighthouse at Orford Ness but Halt's men would have been used to seeing these. The MoD have given no answers to Halt's reports.



FOR many years residents of Bonnybridge in Scotland have reported UFO sightings.

Despite their worries that strange things were happening, the Government did not seem to care.

In February 1994 I received a very detailed report of a UFO sighting in the area.

Civil servant Ian Macpherson, 43, was walking along the banks of Craigluscar reservoir taking photographs of the landscape. Suddenly he became aware of an odd humming noise.

He looked up and saw something coming low over the dark waters. It was several feet in diameter, disc-shaped and metallic, with lights on its

rim. It descended until it was stationary, hovering 100ft above the water.

He watched the object for 15 minutes before it began to move off slowly.

Then it accelerated and vanished. He managed to get two photographs.

### Blips

The first showed a frisbee-shaped object in the sky. The second, taken only a second or two later, revealed a mere dot in the distance. I carried out all the usual tests.

There were no weather balloons, radar blips or aircraft in the vicinity.

The photographs he took have been analysed and there is no evidence of them being faked.

People from UFO groups in Bonnybridge rang me but I told them the Ministry were not reporting their sightings to me.

I wanted to go to there but that was not permitted. The Ministry's official verdict is "unexplained".

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The party line at the Ministry was that there was nothing going on that could be a threat to national security.

But if there is any truth in just one of the many UFO sightings there then that is enough. How can we say there is no threat if we don't know what we are dealing with?

March 31, 1993

## 'Buzzed' at 1,100mph

I ARRIVED at work at 9am to find there had been a major wave of UFO sightings the previous night, March 31, 1993, with many police and military witnesses.

The first call came from a constable in Devon who had seen a UFO while on patrol with his colleague in their car.

Two bright lights and a third fainter one were flying in perfect formation ahead of vapour trails. From what he told me they were clearly not aircraft lights.

Then I began to get other calls from people who had also seen the lights. Some described them as travelling at high speeds, others talked of a virtual hover.

If all the sightings were of the same object then it was zig-zagging in a random pattern at incredibly high speed. It was the biggest wave of UFO sightings ever reported over Britain.

One came from a man in South Wales who was experienced in aviation and mathematics. He had calculated that it was travelling at 1,100mph.

### Rocket

In Rugeley, Staffs, a family of five saw a huge diamond-shaped object.

And at RAF Shawbury in Shropshire the meteorological officer reported an object that was first stationary, then moved towards him at several hundred miles an hour.

He estimated it to be the size of a jumbo jet - but jumbo jets don't hover.

There had been no military aircraft activity that came close to fitting any of the sightings.

Officials at RAF Fylingdales early warning centre in North Yorkshire said the sightings might be debris from a Russian rocket. But this would have burnt up in the atmosphere and the flaming tail would have lasted only seconds.

I ordered radar tapes to be impounded and sent to me. They showed little.

Whatever it was had evaded our radar. My frustration turned to fear. There were too many witness reports to ignore.

I drew up a report on the UFO for my bosses. It read: "Type of craft - unknown. Origin of craft - unknown. Motive of occupants - unknown."

October 29, 1993

## Cadet told 'Do not be afraid'

IN the early hours of October 29, 1993, something happened which I still can't explain. While on leave, a young cadet from the Britannia Royal Naval College in Dartmouth, Devon, saw a bright object glowing eerily in the sky.

Hovering over a sports field near his home in St Austell, Cornwall, it was disc-shaped with several different coloured lights and three protrusions on its underside.

And it seemed to turn anti-clockwise. The witness - a trained Navy observer - said he received telepathic messages of greeting, telling him not to be afraid.

However a large bird plummeted to the ground after flying too close to the object.

Then a bright light glowed on the underside of the craft and it shot vertically upwards at great speed.

The cadet reported the incident to the police who contacted me.

No explanation was ever found.

YOUR UNEXPLAINED EXPERIENCE HAVE YOU had a close encounter with a UFO or alien? Write to: *Allen*, The Sun, 1 Virginia Street, London E1 9JD.



# UNEXPLAINED

December 27, 1980

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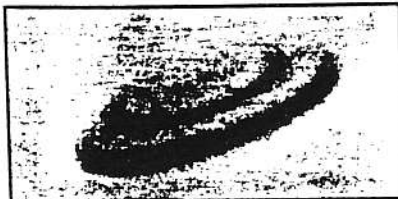
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February 1994

## Hovering craft is snapped... but still hushed up



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Alien or hoax? ... The Unexplained, now to be seen on CD-Rom.

## Many mysteries to explore and enjoy

THE TRUTH is out there somewhere - and a new CD Rom claims to reveal some of the answers to UFOs, monster sightings and other phenomena. A game based on the hit sci-fi TV series *The X-Files* is currently being developed by Fox Interactive.

But until that comes along, those of us with creeping paranoia, grand plot theories and an unquenchable appetite for the bizarre have something else to keep us busy.

*The Unexplained* (Flagtower, £29.99) tackles the well-known puzzles like the UFO Roswell Incident, sightings of Nessie and the worrying evidence over internal combustion.

But it also raises some less publicised mysteries. What about the weird happenings in 1990 in San Gottardo, Italy, when TV sets and cars kept turning themselves on and off? Objects caught fire for no apparent reason, and the locals complained of headaches and skin inflammations.

Then there's the identical twins, separated at birth, but both christened James. When they reunited some 40 years later, they discovered they had each married a woman called Linda, both had a son called James and a dog named Toy. Both guys had previously married and divorced a woman called Betty. The stones go on and on. There's



By STEVE FOUNTAIN

the sightings of UFOs over the White House and "cold flames" flickering around people's bodies. The *Unexplained* is fascinating. But - like the *X-Files* - raises more questions than it answers. And the evidence on each topic is rather sketchy.

However, there's enough here to give mystery fans a huge collection of cases to research themselves. Incidentally, if you ever want to do this yourself, the World-Wide Web is groaning with sites devoted to the unknown.

To end this week, here are some tips and cheats:

- Cheats are easy to use in Microsoft's PC game *Fury*. Type "TRYMEON" for invincibility, "GIVITUP" for all weapons and "JUMPNTIT" to skip to the next level.

- Rambo-wannabes can make themselves indestructible in *Lone Soldier* on the Sony PlayStation. Just press Pause, up, left, circle, triangle, up, left and Pause.

or from the simple fact that no intelligence of note exists.

The author is a sufficiently experienced researcher to concede that anything up to 90% of reported UFO sightings have logical explanations, mainly due to natural phenomenon or to mis-remembered aircraft.

The *USAF* closed its own "study of UFOs" in 1969. It was then that there was no evidence of any threat to national security, that no sightings represented technology beyond current scientific limits, and that even the 700 incidents categorised as unidentified could not be regarded as proof of extraterrestrial vehicles.

Good claims that a number of research projects on the subject are still ongoing, and that public statements are deliberately geared to disinformation. He also says he believes that alien races may already have established bases within our own solar system, and that the trickle of alleged evidence so far documented about alien physiology shows a genetic link with humanity which may link at a hand in our own.

Current scientific thought favours the possibility of making contact with anyone or anything which may or may not be out there by radio signals. Don't hold your breath, however, since it will be another 25,000 years before the last batch of signals transmitted from earth reaches its target star system. Until then, you either believe or you don't.

IAN BRUCE

### BOOK OF THE WEEK

# The challenge of gods and little green men

in a recent poll in Detroit, Michigan, a number of people were asked what treatment visitors from space might receive if they landed openly. Reaction ranged from "they couldn't be any stranger than what's walking around the city already".

It still begs the question of why no direct contact has been established, given the huge investment which would be needed for such a venture and of how it might be possible to identify them as they are. The first steps, perhaps, should be to establish systems in the first place.

There are an estimated 200 billion stars in our galaxy alone. Many of these will be orbited by planets, and the law of averages states that at least some should contain lifeforms, perhaps, though not necessarily similar to our own.

Good cites a number of examples of military aircraft being scrambled to intercept UFOs and either disappearing with their pilots or crashing for no readily apparent reason. In that respect, he believes that the planet may be visited by a number of different races with different intentions, some less benevolent than others, starting only a common foreign policy towards less developed races.

The research has drawn several conclusions. It is not likely that alien races were produced in the 1940s and 1950s, and somewhat dated in content. Later material suffers from what must be either his claimed international governmental conspiracy to suppress all UFO intelligence,

although not all refer to having seen bodies. The balance of evidence from those claiming to be aware of what happened points to three separate crashes, and to the recovery of parts of at least one survivor, and the possibility of at least one survivor.

All accounts agree that the "aliens" were no more than 4ft tall with large, bulbous heads, other information, mainly unconfirmed, says there may be as many as 30 extraterrestrial bodies stored in deep-freeze conditions at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, home of the USAF Air Technical Intelligence Centre, and a major research establishment for new technology.

That, however, raises another point. Good claims that many thousands of UFOs have been detected on radar since the 1950s. But, if the United States, still without the ability to project near-cross light years, can develop stealth technology and use military air traffic which are effectively invisible to radar, then why would alien spacecraft show up on radar?

Any race of high-speed craft, surely, also be capable of developing radar impossible to detect using earth's fairly primitive radar,

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## WOLVERHAMPTON EXPRESS & STAR

16 JUL 96

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# Servicemen 'hold the key' to UFO sightings mystery

GLASGOW HERALD  
06 MAY 96  
Page 13

A UFO investigator has claimed servicemen from two Shropshire air bases, including RAF Cosford, hold the key to a mystery sighting.

Nick Pope, who works on the Ministry of Defence's top secret UFO desk, says in a new book that servicemen at Shawbury and Cosford saw the mysterious craft in March 1993.

In the book, *Open Skies, Closed Minds*, he says he was sceptical about the existence of UFOs until the incident.

Reports of sightings came from all over the country from wit-

nesses including policemen and military guards.

The most detailed, however, was from servicemen at the two Shropshire bases who saw an enormous craft firing beams of light at the countryside.

No special prototype planes, foreign or British, were flying that night, Mr Pope said.

The Ministry of Defence, however, said it had no information that servicemen claimed to have seen any alien craft.

"When reportings of UFOs are reported they are assessed only for any security risk. None as yet has proved to be a security risk so our interest ends there," it added.

AN UNIDENTIFIED flying object was filmed on video by a Woodbridge man after he saw a bright light in the sky through his kitchen window.

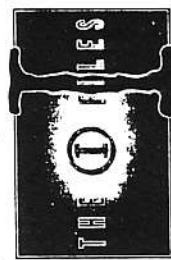
Ivan Barrows had gone into the kitchen at about 11.20pm on April 2 to make some coffee when he saw a bright, round light apparently hovering over the Grundisburgh area.

Ivan quickly called to his wife Felicity and together they watched the object through binoculars as it hovered in the sky with its Para-one VHS-C camera.

"Through the binoculars, it looked like a ball of light made up of a lot of white or yellow lights," said Ivan.

At one stage Ivan thought he saw something like a rocket flash across above the object.

"I saw what looked like a band round it which seemed to be rotating," said Felicity.



would put it over the parish of Grundisburgh.

Eventually it seemed to grove further away and they stopped watching it.

Suffolk Police spokesman John Mayhew said there had been no other reported sightings or during the night.

A spokeswoman for the Ministry of Defence said: "We would only be interested in anything which could present a threat to national security."

She was not asked to confirm or deny any military activity or unexplained sightings in the Woodbridge area on Tuesday night.

### Moon

The video shows a faint point of light, similar to a dim image of a full moon - but at one stage the object appears to revolve around a diagonal axis rather like a globe on a stand.

The couple watched the object for about half an hour, during which time it did not move around the sky.

Ivan estimates that it was about three miles away, which