

KILMARNOCK STANDARD

11 JUL 97

Page 2

BURTON DAILY MAIL

10 JUN 97

Page 3

Did the aliens zap Debbie's camera?

THERE ARE strange skies over Ayrshire.

Several people have seen something odd in the last couple of weeks.

And there have been more reports of gadgets going wrong.

After our feature last week about the mysterious sighting over Dundonald, more reports have come in.

Members of the Ralston family from Saltcoats saw something strange over Dundonald and Saltcoats on Friday, June 27.

The object over Dundonald 'kept disappearing and coming back'.

By the time Mr Ralston was back home in Saltcoats he and his family could see something strange in the sky there.

"We saw three layers of electric blue triangles inside an oval shape which hovered just above the rooftops tilting on its side.

"It would disappear for a few seconds and come back lower down in the sky.

"This lasted up to one hour and then it would disappear. It was very frightening."

Philippa Knapp from Dundonald wrote to tell us what she saw over Dundonald on the same night.

She says: "My husband, son, friend and I all witnessed the strange sighting over Dundonald.

"My husband referred to them as lights but my son and myself thought they were more like

a cloud type substance of a purple shade, small circles rotating forming a larger circle.

"We watched it come towards us over the rooftops in Castleview from the south west direction. As it got close to us it changed shape, swirled to its right then left and then disappeared, but two or three minutes later, exactly the same format took place.

"We observed it for over an hour from about 11.35.

The suggested visit of extraterrestrials is still very much in people's minds in Dundonald and the Gegenchein phenomena has been rejected out of hand.

More house lights have been reported not working and one domestic appliance working prior to the vision no longer functions.

Debbie McNally, using her sister's camera photographed the 'thing'.

The film has been printed and every picture on sister Tracy's film is fine but the frame showing the mystery light is blank.

Well, is Ayrshire the latest UFO hot spot? We are still looking for more reports of strange sightings over the skies of the Kilmarnock area.

Have you seen anything odd in the sky? Can you help explain any of the odd things that have been seen?

If so drop a line to: Strange Skies, Kilmarnock Standard, 1 Bank Place, Kilmarnock, KA1 1HJ.

Probe into spooky sighting

A PARANORMAL group is to investigate the reported sighting of a UFO by a motorist.

Hospital worker Clare Tideswell, 21, from Bradwell, was driving home when she saw a strange light in the sky.

She stopped and got out of the car to take a closer look.

Clare said: "There was a bright light at the top and two smaller lights at the side, making a triangle.

"I am sure it was not a helicopter because it did not make a sound.

"It seemed to drift sideways before disappearing into a gap in clouds."

Clare hurried home where the rest of her family reported seeing the same mystery object.

She added: "It was really spooky."

Staffordshire Paranormal Investigations and British UFO Research Association representative David Pointon said:

"We would like to hear from anyone who saw an unexplained object in the sky at 10.50pm on Monday over Bradwell."

The group can be reached on 01782 522620.

NEWS DIGEST

UFO 'spotted' over Swad

POLICE have revealed they had a report of a UFO spotted hovering in the sky over Swadlincote.

Police received a call last night at 11.45 from a man in Chestnut Avenue, Midway, who said he had seen a UFO. It is described as crescent-shaped "brightly lit like the moon" which promptly disappeared.

A spokesman from Swadlincote Police Station said they would like to hear from anyone in the area who spotted the object. Anyone with a sitting can contact police on 01283-550101.

In this week's M-Files, reporter RICHARD LOMAX continues the archive adventure into the paranormal...

Is the county UFO crazy?

SUCH was the response to last week's M-Files, when we examined some of the many cases of haunting and ghostly manifestations on record in the Leicester Mercury's cuttings archive, that this week, we continue in the same spirit - with the county's history of UFO sightings.

One of the most spectacular reports comes from October 1978, when more than 200 people claimed to have seen a triangular object flying low over the county.

The craft had white spotlights on the front and coloured lights underneath. It was seen by people in Nuneaton, Hinckley, Ellistown, Coalville, Whitwick and the Charnwood Forest area, and was described as very low-flying but completely silent.

In another report, from October 1963, BBC Radio Two presenter David Jacobs caused a furore after mentioning that he had seen a UFO in Leicestershire.

Critics jammed the BBC switchboard after Mr Jacobs described seeing a mysterious ball of light hurtling across the sky as he was travelling along the M1 between junctions 21 and 22.

He said: "It was extraordinary. A brilliant white

light with a tail shot from left to right in front of us, at a height of 200 to 300 feet, then disappeared."

In July 1984, several people reported seeing a saucer-shaped, blue and silver object hovering low over the Clarendon Park playing field in Coventry Road, Hinckley.

Hovered

"Witnesses said there was no sound as the craft hovered, circled the area for about a minute and then shot off at great speed towards Nuneaton.

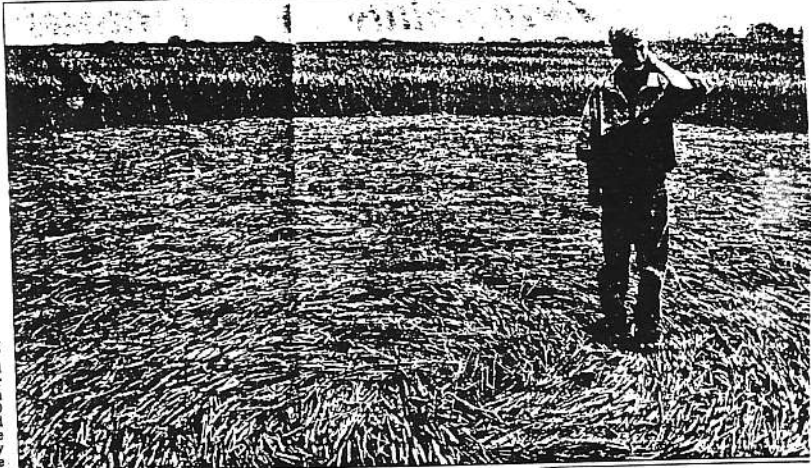
County police and media organisations received more than 30 reports of a bright yellow light, travelling through the night sky, apparently changing shape as it went, in May 1988.

According to Mercury

reports, neither East Midlands Airport nor RAF Lutterham air base picked up anything on their radar, but a spokesman for the National UFO Investigation Society said that the sightings were consistent with a steady rise in UFO activity since August 1987.

The phenomenon which has given rise to the most news stories must be the so-called 'corn circles'. The first Leicestershire circle appeared in the summer of 1968, when a 25-yard diameter of flattened wheat was discovered in Gaddy.

And in June 1992, 'experts' were baffled when a 70-foot circle of flattened crop was found in a field near Countesthorpe (see main picture). These patterns of flat-



BAFFLED: Danny Mapp, aged 15 in 1992, examines the crop circle near Countesthorpe

tened crops have appeared every summer in Britain for more than a decade now, mostly concentrated in southern counties, and although many theories have been put forward - from whirlwinds to UFOs - no conclusive explanation has been found.

A passenger jet had a close encounter of the unknown kind at 9,000ft over Hertfordshire, an official report revealed.

Both pilots of the Stansted airport-bound BAe 146 - believed to have been flown by Irish carrier Aer Lingus - reported seeing a red, blue and white striped aircraft pass close by.

But after extensive inquiries, an aircraft proximity team were unable to find any trace of another plane being in the area.

And in a report, the airprox working group said it felt sure that what had been seen "was NOT an aeroplane".

The group added that the incident "could only be assessed as confection between the BAe 146 and an unknown object".

The airprox report added that in its opinion there was "no doubt that both pilots clearly saw something and agreed in some detail in their descriptions of what they had seen".

The BAe had taken off from Dublin and was over Stevenage at 6pm on June 7, 1996, when the incident took place.

The pilot saw what he thought was a military aircraft heading towards him which flew down his right side about 200-300 yards away and 100ft below.

His co-pilot also saw the other aircraft which appeared to be avoiding the large clouds on the right.

The co-pilot thought it looked like a military Hawk aircraft and he noted the engine air intakes against the sides of the fuselage.

After the reporting of the incident, exhaustive inquiries drew a blank.

No Hawks or Red Arrows were in the air at the time and no trace of any other aircraft could be found.

Also, it had not been possible to trace any aircraft that were in the area at the time to determine what they saw.

Recordings from air traffic control radar also failed to throw any more light on the incident and the working group said it was "most disappointing not to be able to explain the BAe 146 pilots' sighting".

It added that using the words "unknown object" to describe the incident "reflected the group's members' recognition of the pilots' conviction that they had definitely seen something, whereas declaring the incident as unassessable might be interpreted as questioning that conviction."

A spokesman for the Civil Aviation Authority which published the report said: "The whole incident is a bit of a mystery and we will probably never know exactly what happened."

CAMBRIDGE EVENING NEWS

20 JUN 97

Page 3

'UFO' sighted

■ **BARTLOW:** Five men believe they saw a UFO over the village.

Paul Savage, 24, of Haverhill, said they were driving down the A604 when they saw an orange star.

"It became brighter then dimmer, before suddenly enlarging until it was the size of the moon. Then the object began to flash red and white, as if it was rotating."

A Cambridgeshire police spokeswoman said: "We have not received any reports of a UFO on this occasion."

■ **Did you see a mysterious object over Bartlow on Thursday night, or can you explain the sighting? If so, please call the News Newsdesk on (01223) 43 44 55.**

SHROPSHIRE STAR

19 JUN 97

Page 26

The truth is out there . . .

Residents of a north Shropshire village have been left wondering whether the truth is out there after a close encounter of the weird kind.

Villagers in Myddle looked to the skies last night and saw a series of strange narrow beams pulsing from every direction.

The faint white or green lights flashed at irregular intervals.

A spokesman for West Mercia Police said there had been no reports of strange activity and no events they were aware of which could have caused the light show.

YORKSHIRE EVENING PRESS (YORK)

06 JUN 97

Page 4

York UFO mystery

A UFO has been spotted over York. Mr Raymond Brookshaw, of Brecksfield, Skelton, saw the silver shape speeding silently through the sky.

He said it was a silver shape and was not a plane. The incident happened on Monday at about 7.45pm. Mr Brookshaw was outside when he saw the UFO reflected by the sun. He said: "My fiancée was watching Coronation Street and would not come out."

"It had caught my eye as a reflection from the sun and looked something like silver foil. I kept watching it and it was going at a fair rate and not making any noise."

"All I can think is it was a UFO. Then, suddenly, it was there one minute and gone the next."

SHROPSHIRE STAR

12 JUN 97

Page 6

Is there really no one there?

AMERICAN military bosses believe the truth is out there — and the truth is, there's nothing out there.

Over the past few years, the US Pentagon certainly never crashed on earth, the US Pentagon declares categorically.

It comes as quite a disappointment to the growing generation of fans who have been molested by bug-eyed monsters.

The Pentagon ruling follows the long-term Blue Book project which has been going on since between 1940 and 1969 sightings of unexplained sightings in the report were investigated.

And at the same time, scientists have pinpointed further possibility of life beyond Earth.

The space probe Galileo has detected the building blocks of

by ANTHONY BARNES

life on two of the moons around Jupiter, which raises the possibility that some form of life exists elsewhere in the Solar System.

Space buffs have long found fossilised remains of some sort of lifeform on Mars.

The probe Pioneer 10 — which finally lost contact with NASA last year — was sent to explain the origin to any other life forms it might come across.

But, eminent UK scientist warns that any contact with visitors could be a bad move.

When Christopher Columbus reached the West Indies, his crew introduced infections that killed a good many natives.

Other people, however, are better for their tolerance of indigenous culture.

Could not the same thing happen if we were visited by superior aliens. Prof Hawking said that would be their fate.

Of the reports received in five and a half months the Dixon took over as director of investigations at the organisation. 38 per cent have been of which can be the sky on a craft, haars and various astronomical phenomena.

A further 10 per cent describe a close encounter experience and the rest are of a triangular number of reports. BUFOKA believes to be the result of a top-secret British defence project.

But Dix's project. "So much time is spent looking at sightings that can be explained that it is taking away from the study of the 5 per cent of unexplained sightings.

But the numbers have rocketed this century — particularly since the advent of science-fiction movies.

"It's great that these ideas have captured the public's imagination but there is some concern that we're going out there and we're on the edge of being as far as reports are concerned," says Dixon.

"The problem is, more people are misinterpreting their observations in the skies with technology in the skies with satellites and things.

"But there's no doubt that we cannot explain a large number of sightings I have no doubt that there is something out there."

And reports don't all come from what some of us might dismiss as drunks.

meanwhile sci-fi author Arthur C Clarke believes there is a real chance there may be life somewhere in the depths of space. The signs are "encouraging", he says.

Whether aliens are out there already having an effect on the way some of us behave.

The 39 Heaven's Gate cult members who committed mass suicide in San Diego last week were going to join an extra-terrestrial spaceship travelling in the wake of the Hale-Bopp comet.

Gloria Dixon of the British UFO Research Association believes there are undoubtedly sightings that are unexplained but she has found empirical evidence of alien visits.

"There are a lot of rumours but we have found nothing very convincing and no real evidence that we've been visited at all," she says.

The number of sightings received by BUFOKA has tripled in the past year with more than 500 reports in 1996.

KENT TODAY (ROCHESTER EVENING POST)

20 MAR 97
Page 9

The couple, on call-out 24 hours a day in their search for ghosts and alien activity, have already conducted eight trans-Atlantic telephone interviews for television and radio.

Their last interview was shown on *The World Tonight*, a Panorama-style news programme broadcast in Vancouver, Canada.

Colin, 25, said: "It has been a busy time for us but we are pleased with the way the group has started off.

Colin and Sally Walker, of Bernard Street, Gravesend, have been described as the real-life X Files couple by news stations in the United States and Canada.

THE fame of a paranormal research team launched in North Kent last month has spread across the Atlantic.

By NEIL REYNOLDS

A RHU man was flabbergasted when he spotted a mysterious bright light in the sky early on Monday morning.

Ian Drummond, (70), of Laggary Road, was walking up his stairs to bed at 1am when he noticed a moving bright white light in the sky.

He told the Advertiser: "I spotted the light and stood watching it for a while. It was a very clear sky so it was easy to see. It was like a bright star and it moved in different directions very quickly.

"It could have been a small aircraft but it moved very quickly and I saw some

blue, red and green lights.

"These could have been reflections with different coloured light being formed through the white light. But I looked at it through the binoculars with the dark lenses on it and all I could see was the round bright white light."

Ian, a retired joiner, was unsure what to make of it. He said: "I decided after watching it for about an hour that it wasn't going anywhere or doing anything. So I went to bed."

Ian then contacted the British Astronomical Association to report his sighting and possibly shed some light on the bizarre situation.

The Association then

pointed Ian in the direction of one of the foremost minds of the Sky at Night, Patrick Moore.

Ian revealed: "Patrick told me that it would be a weather balloon. They have had some similar sightings like mine and he knew that there would be the possibility of the balloons being seen by people on such a clear night.

"The weather balloon explains the round aspect of white light and it clears up the situation."

Patrick Moore confirmed to the Advertiser: "Yes, it was a weather balloon. It's a common sighting."

HELENSBURGH ADVERTISER

03 JUL 97
Page 5

'UFOs' mystery hovers over village

UFO HYSTERIA took hold of Dundonald in the early hours of Saturday morning when a group of teenagers claimed they had seen several spherical objects floating above the skies over the village.

Although neither police nor the Air Traffic Control at Prestwick Airport received an official report of this sighting, the ATC say that in an eventful night, several calls were lodged from the West of Scotland.

A caller from Springburn contacted the tower at the Airport when she saw red shapes in the sky, and teenagers out late in Dundonald told locals they saw flying saucers.

A spokesman at Prestwick's observation tower said: "There was a TV programme on about this subject on Friday night, and we started to get what I would consider to be crank calls as soon as it got dark."

The TV programme was chaired by Michael Aspel and asked experts and the public to debate whether there is really something out there.

TROON & PRESTWICK TIMES

03 JUL 97
Page 1

Dr Hendry's UFO Casebook: Recent Scottish sightings

Sightings of UFOs from the ground are numerous, but here are a few recent examples from Scotland where - from November 1992 until December 1993 - there were 200 reports alone from Bonnybridge, Falkirk.

In 1993, the Ministry of Defence received 258 sighting reports at its London UFO unit. The MoD has a public relations function: "we give people who claim to have seen UFOs a polite reply and we usually provide these individuals with the names and addresses of clubs they can join." In the UK in January 1994, they received reports of 70 sightings.

That year, amateur artist Ian MacPherson, from Rosyth, was out sketching a scene near a dam when he heard a noise and, turning round, saw a disc. He noted that the top part was extended, but when it moved away, he noticed the extended part had collapsed into the top of the craft.

He was so shocked that he almost forgot he had a camera with him, but managed to capture the disc on film before it left the area. He subsequently made a painting based on the film and his memory of the object. I have a copy of the painting in front of me as I write - the disc looks like an inverted light-grey metal plate and there are apparently five or six lights on the underside rim. The dam was near Dunfermline (the case was quoted in the Sunday Express of January 1, 1995).

In 1994 there was a strange incident at Glenochil Jail, near Alloa. About midnight for about five minutes, a brightly lit object about two feet in diameter - like a polo mint - was seen in the security cameras, moving back and forward purposefully over the security fence.

Two prison officers went outside but were unable to see anything, although those inside

the prison could see the object on the monitors hovering above them, reacting to their movements. Ron Halliday, of Scottish Earth Mysteries Research, said there had been a great many UFO sightings in the area over the years and it often happened that cameras could pick up strange, unexplained phenomena undetected by the human eye.

In April 1996, Mr Raymond Meyer (41), from Guardbridge, a civilian maintenance engineer for the Leuchars runway, was on night duty in his office. The runway lights were turned off for pilot night flying instruction using special goggles, and a number of Harrier planes were expected from Germany.

It was a fine but cloudy night. At 10pm he saw, through a break in the clouds to the north, an enormous bow-shaped sausage-like structure the size of a football stadium. It was stationary and surrounded by a greenish fluorescence.

"I thought it was just the moon behind the clouds at first although it was lower in the sky, and there was no reflected light that night," he recalled later.

While watching the structure for 15 or 20 minutes, he saw a piece of the sausage "break away from the main body, arched down in the sky and then joined back on to it. I couldn't believe my eyes."

Mr Meyer returned to the office where he described what he had seen to his colleague: "a few days later it was reported in the papers that other people had seen a similar object over Balmoral Castle that same night, and sketches were drawn."

A couple flying from Inverness to London saw this UFO and told their story in the News of the World, and other local people saw it.

A spokesperson for RAF Leuchars could not confirm details of the incidents, although two jets had been scrambled to Balmoral where the

object had been sighted, but saw nothing of it (St Andrews Citizen 13.12.96).

Mr Meyer also talked about his encounter in "Speaking Out" at 10am last Boxing Day on BBC Radio Scotland.

On September 27 last year, Mrs Margaret Ross, of Falkirk, took a video recording on a camcorder from her bedroom window at 6am -

half-moon shape with four diagonal bars of high intensity brightness.

"It began rotating and returned to its original shape. It then seemed to speed away eastwards in the direction of Linlithgow," she said.

Her daughter, Alexis, and her family - two miles away - also saw the phenomenon. At 7 o'clock she phoned Mrs Ross who told her she had it on tape.

Six months ago, Mrs Ross filmed a similar light in the sky. Archie Roy, emeritus professor of physics and astronomy at Glasgow University, said: "This is one of eight per cent of sightings which science cannot recognise."

Ron Halliday, of Stirling University, added: "We will examine the tape frame by frame and this will take some time," while Kenny Higgins - who has researched UFOs for 20 years, said: "The tape is the best evidence of a UFO that I've ever seen."

On October 16, 1996, at 6.40 pm, Barry McDonald and his girlfriend, Jane Adamson, in a car travelling from their home in Hallglen, Falkirk, saw an orange-coloured saucer-shaped object low down in the sky above Camelon, just a few miles from Bonnybridge.

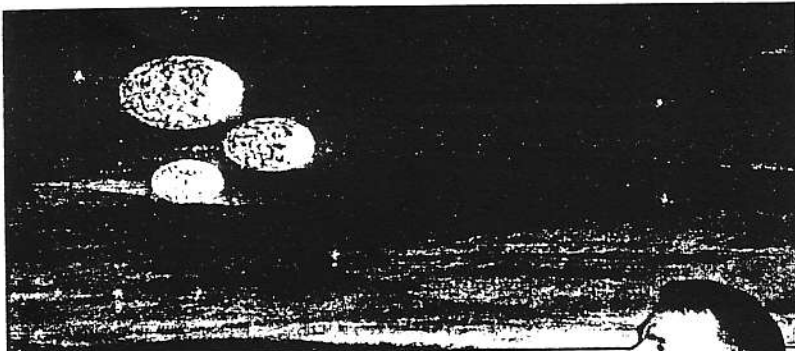
In a video lasting a minute, it turned white against a bright blue sky and then vanished.

Ron Halliday said of the tape: "It's by far the best bit of daylight film of a UFO I have seen."



Dr David Hendry, a retired Cuppar GP, has already written a book 'Cuppar Doctors' - and their families, published in 1992. It is available in Cuppar from the Courtyard Bookshop, Menzies Bookshop, Cuppar, and the Fife Herald office. Price £3.95.

UFO: Rocket man blasts US Air Force over denial of alien life



MYSTERY: Brian Dunnett, right, drew this picture of what he saw over Netherton in 1995, and is convinced that UFOs do exist - despite the USAF's announcement.

Seeing is believing

THE US Government might say they don't exist - but Brian Dunnett is convinced we are not alone.

Mr Dunnett's defiance comes as the US Air Force has published the results of a 22-year-long study known as Project Blue Book which concludes there is no evidence alien spacecraft exist at all.

But the father-of-two is adamant a sighting he had outside his home in Netherton, Peterborough, is proof that they do.

He is also convinced the powers that be are masterminding a cover-up campaign to keep us all from knowing the real truth.

Mr Dunnett (51), who works for city printing firm G H Fisher and Sons, said: "I'm not at all surprised at the announcement. It's very predictable, and I'm convinced there is some sort of cover-up going on."

"What I saw was definitely three craft of some sort - they were not just lights. They were doing these amazing manoeuvres in the sky and lots of people have seen similar things over the years."

"There's definitely something out there and it's funny this announcement has come from a country where there have been loads of sightings."

by EDWARD PORTAS

Mr Dunnett had his sighting at 10pm on August 23, 1995.

He had gone outside in the hope of catching a glimpse of the passing Mir Space Station, but instead he saw some bright lights in front of three airship-shaped craft.

The craft slowed down and moved into a V-shape formation, then travelled in a straight line towards the west.

Mr Dunnett remembers they were silver and were completely silent.

The whole experience lasted less than a minute and ended with the craft suddenly accelerating to an "amazing" speed before disappearing.

Since his sighting Mr Dunnett has been shown photographs of identical craft taken over a Kent cornfield and has heard details of a similar incident experienced by a woman in Scotland.

In compiling Project Blue Book researchers investigated 12,618 reported UFO sightings.

Adding to its conclusion, Pentagon officials said there was never a threat to US national security, they denied hiding the remains of alien spacecraft and said there had never been a cover-up.



Signs of UFO life seen from Peterborough

BRIAN DUNNETT is not the only person in the Peterborough area who has seen evidence of UFOs.

In 1981 Ivor Roose of Thorpe Road, took a photograph of three unexplained objects hovering over Orton Waterville.

In the same year Orton Goldhay couple Terry and Sue Myers saw a sequence of flashing lights from their home.

Gaye Pollard from Glington claimed to see a V-shaped object hanging over the A1 in 1987.

And in 1990 some bizarre crop circles appeared at Silson Airfield near Wansford in 1990.

The Ramsey-based Anomoly Investigation Association (AIA) is interested in hearing any stories of unexplained sightings.

● You can contact the group on 01487 815960.

Did you see the light?

■ SIR: I would dearly love to know if any of your readers saw a very bright light over Rivington on Wednesday, June 18.

When looking through the kitchen window at around 11.45pm, I saw a very bright object which seemed to be hanging in the sky over the Pigeon Tower. My first thought was the police helicopter, but it was much too bright for that. My wife was upstairs at the time and when I ran up to tell her, she just couldn't believe what she was seeing.

Looking through the binoculars, we saw two extremely bright lights which lit up the sky in the surrounding area.

One was a large light with a smaller light beneath it.

We watched for about half an hour but they never moved from that same position. Wondering if anyone else had seen this, I mentioned it at work the following morning to which a colleague replied: "Yes", a friend of my wife had seen the same at around 10.30pm while looking through her bedroom window in Adlington and she was very alarmed at the time."

Mr J Mullin
Hillside Avenue, Blackrod

CAMBRIDGE EVENING NEWS

'UFO' sighting

■ SAWSTON: An 80-year-old woman spotted what she believes was a UFO - just eight miles from where five men saw a similar object in Bartlow last week.

Beryl Atkinson says she saw two bright lights in the sky at around 2.30am as she looked out of her window. They disappeared after about 20 minutes.

On Thursday, Paul Savage and four others saw a bright orange light with red and white flashing lights, as reported in the News.

THE STAR (SHEFFIELD)

LOCAL NEWS

Weird and wonderful

FANS of X-files mysteries are in for a treat as Sheffield gets set to play host to two national UFO spotters' conferences.

Hundreds of enthusiasts are expected to turn out in force to hear some of the subject's top names speaking on aliens, Government cover-ups and the latest flying saucer sightings.

American expert Budd Hopkins and British writer Paul Devereux are both lined up for the British UFO Research Association's conference at Sheffield Hallam University in August.

Hopkins claims in his latest book - now being serialised by a Sunday newspaper - that the former UN Secretary General Perez de Cuellar and two Secret Service agents saw aliens snatch a woman from a New York tower block.

Meanwhile Sheffield-based group the Yorkshire UFO Network are planning a major regional conference at Sheffield

A feast for fans of the unexplained

By DAVID CLARKE

United's Executive Suite on April 9. Mystery aircrashes on the moors near Sheffield, crop circles, super-secret Stealth aircraft and alien abductions are just some of the topics to be explored at the conference.

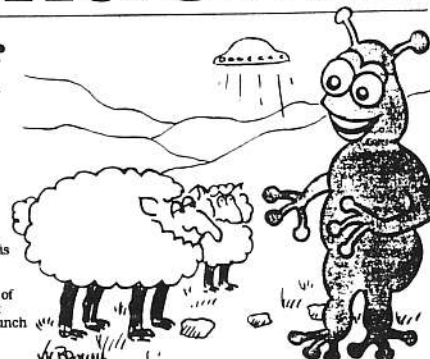
Top investigator Nick Redfern is also to reveal former secret documents which show how the Ministry of Defence set up a special unit which sent out special agents to interview UFO witnesses.

Organiser Martin Jeffrey said the event would mark the end of a "UFO week"

organised by the society, which features skywatches near Sheffield on March 29.

A major display of the group's work is set to go on display in Rotherham's central library beginning on April 2. Martin told The Star: "There is a lot of interest in the subject at the moment and we felt it would be an idea to launch the UFO week while everyone was watching the comet."

■ Tickets for the one day conference cost £10 or £8 with concessions, for more details ring YUFON's hotline on Sheffield 2736144.



Take me to your Spice Girls

The truth is out there for green children and X-file junkies

MIKE ANDERIESZ HEARS STRANGE TALES FROM THE FORTEAN TIMES UNCONVENTION

WITH all the interest in the X-files, it is easy to forget that two investigators were snooping around the bins of science and government a full 20 years before agents Scully and Mulder.

Bob Rickard and Paul Sieveking are the men behind *Fortean Times*, a magazine which grew from a photocopied fanzine into a major publishing success now selling 60,000 copies a month.

To the uninitiated the *FT* (as it is

affectionately and irreverently known) is a guide to explained or ignored areas of human experience. Part investigative, part tabloid tbits, its style is as varied as the subjects it covers - everything from three-toed swamp monsters to a step-by-step guide to starting your own country - if the current issue is anything to go by.

At the weekend, the magazine held its fourth annual "unconvention" in London where more than 3,000 people turned up to listen to topics such as "Volts, Vampires and Holes in the Ground", or the "Green Children of Woolpit in Suffolk", and hear people such as Budd Hopkins, a world expert on UFOs, explain his theory on the aliens who visit us.

This scatter-gun approach to strange phenomena was well in evidence at the convention, ominously

staged on the anniversary of the Waco siege and the Oklahoma bombing. So what is it all about? The answer is nothing and everything.

"We tackle subjects that other media wouldn't touch with a barge-pole," explains Rickard, the editor and founder.

"Half the magazine is simply a collection point for interesting stories. We don't prejudge their authenticity or crave scientific approval," he says.

"The rest certainly appeals to information junkies," continues co-editor Sieveking. "But we try to strike a balance between the two styles. Everything is both serious and deeply comic depending on your point of view."

The deliberate vagueness is very much in keeping with the principles

of Charles Fort who gave the movement its name. Fort, born in 1874 was the maverick American philosopher who believed the scientific community ignored, suppressed or ridiculed unwelcome evidence from X-files from a man who died in 1932 but who wrote that "to this day it has not been decided whether I am a scientist or a humorist".

Fort doubted everything including his own speculation. Nothing can be known for certain about the universe of the nature of existence; it wasn't a religious man but he granted that the totality of things might be an organism of infinite size," says Sieveking.

The unconvention visitors were promised "a weekend of the 'extraneous' and were entertained by a series of formal presentations in the theatres and various satellite

venues. *Fortean Times* the successful spin-off on Channel 41 and the merchandise. Attendees were of all ages, with disproportionate numbers of students and an unmistakable "new age" influence to the dress code.

On Saturday, Paul and Jason sitting behind me were both students simply there to chill out and pick up interesting stuff. Rowena in front was waiting to hear Budd Hopkins, the acknowledged guru of alien abductions.

If the objective of the convention was to cover a lot of ground, it certainly succeeded. Hopkins talked through a 35mm camera, but personally experience in an almost fashion fashion in marked contrast to the film. Kass's investigation of multiple sightings, which required

an in-depth knowledge of radar to appreciate it fully. Yesterday the packed agenda included a discussion of Shakespeare's true identity and the theoretical potential of cold fusion.

In case you are wondering, the Green Children of Suffolk was a talk given by Duncan Lunan, a writer on astronomy and space research.

The two children mysteriously appeared in a 12th century chronicle but had been accidentally sent from another solar system, claims Lunan. The chronicle of the time reported the green-skinned children in the village of Woolpit in 1173, wearing clothes of an unknown material and speaking a language no-one understood. Is the truth out there? It is difficult to tell when so many worn and woolly topics were aired over the two days.



Strange bedfellows: Paul Sieveking and Bob Rickard, the co-editors of the cult magazine *Fortean Times*, at their "unconvention" in London

ROSS-SHIRE JOURNAL

27 JUN 97

Page 3

Alien action reported in Ross skies

UFO sighted from Ullapool, John and Pat Macleod, who are owners of the Spar grocery store, told of their good fortune in making a video recording. John had been delivering an order to St Valery when he noticed a number of people staring intently into the sky.

"I dashed home and told my wife Pat. The very bright object, with touches of red and blue colour, seemed to be close to the village and to the right of the mountain, Beinn Ghobhlaich. It moved slowly to the north towards the Summer Isles.

"I asked Pat to come out with our video camera and she recorded the UFO for two minutes from the wall at the top of our garden. Some shots included on film showed both our house and the object to give an indication of size and perspective."

Mr Macleod added, "Audrey, one of our friends, took pictures of the UFO with a 35mm camera, but when the film was developed the frames on which the object should have been demonstrated, were all blank. All other exposures on this film were normal."

An ITV programme scheduled for Friday, June 27 will probe the suggestion of a cover-up over UFO's at government level. The betting odds on the chance of discovering intelligent aliens have been cut from 1000-1 to 33-1.

FOLLOWING the reported sightings of UFO's in Ullapool recently other witnesses have come forward describing the observation of unexplained objects in the Ross-shire skies.

Mr Roy Keen, his wife Tina and their friend Jane Hannah left a house in Evanton on the night of June 7 at 11.45pm.

Jane said, "What's that light?" pointing to the south east where there was disc of pure white light.

"It travelled south towards the Rosemarkie transmitter," said Mr Keen.

"I watched it for a few seconds, noting that it was a sharp disc with no diffuse edges, then I went to my car for binoculars, but they didn't help.

"It travelled at some speed but made no noise. I tried to judge its size but couldn't as at this point it disappeared into a cloud.

After the sky cleared and I could again see the moon and stars it gave me confidence that there was something abnormal about the object we had all witnessed.

"Our friend Jane Hannah who is an itinerant hairdresser subsequently discovered that one of her clients, Mr Noble, of Alcaig on the Black Isle, and who regularly studies the sky at night, also witnessed the object coming from Ben Wyvis and then passing over Evanton. He'd never seen anything like it."

FOR three years, Ministry of Defence official Nick Pope was the UFO desk officer in the MoD division, Secretariat (Air Staff) 2a. In that time he concluded that there was compelling evidence for some encounters being of extraterrestrial origin. His subsequent expose, *Open Skies, Closed Minds*, was an instant bestseller. Now, in a second book, *The Uninvited*, he has reached an even more startling conclusion. Aliens, he believes, are actually abducting thousands of people, possibly as a programme to civilise human society. Today, in our final extract, he focuses on more strange cases and looks at conventional explanations for alien abduction.



by Nick Pope

FORMER UFO DESK OFFICER IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE

WHAT happened to Patsy Ryan, a 28-year-old psychology graduate, in June 1992 is the sort of experience that sends ufologists into a frenzy.

She was spending a quiet afternoon sunbathing in a park near her London home when suddenly she found herself being lifted up into the air in a violent spinning motion.

From more extraordinary, not just because she seemed to be about 50ft above the ground, she was embarrassed that others would see her up in the air.

With a thought might suggest that Patsy was dreaming, but there was too much dramatic and compelling piece of evidence to support the theory that something more remarkable had happened.

The immediate concern was to get back down to the ground. Willing herself to return, she came down slowly but surely, although she is sure in her mind that the last part of the descent was the hardest.

Some memories of a strange jolting sensation, which she believes was of spiritual bodies interlocking with hers, remain.

From she became aware of great pain in her upper thigh, the most painful of which she has ever known. She found a wound about 10cm long and 1cm wide.

In time the wound became redder and more raised. She sought advice from her friend Hazel Gilbert, a nurse, who said the wound looked like a burn.

Two or three days later, the pain spread to the rest of her leg, and she asked Hazel to take her to the casualty department of Guy's Hospital in London. Nurses at Guy's examined the wound and confirmed Hazel's view that it looked like a burn. But Patsy was adamant that she had no recollection of having received such an injury.

The wound healed slowly, but the scar remained, and is still faintly visible. It is reminiscent of the type

of scars often reported by abductees as resulting from medical operations carried out by extraterrestrials.

How did Patsy receive such a serious burn in a public park? Why did she not recall being injured? How did it occur without leaving any mark on her shorts?

There was a gap of three years, Patsy believes, before she finally met extraterrestrials face to face. The encounter happened on the afternoon of Saturday, September 23, 1995, while she was working in a Central London art shop.

A group of people assembled outside the shop in a quiet side street, and Patsy said to one of her employees, Maggie, that it looked as if a coach party had arrived.

The 13-strong group were definitely unusual. All of them were oddly dressed, as if uncomfortable in their clothes. One middle-aged man, for example, was wearing a swish pin-striped suit, but had a pair of scruffy trainers on his feet.

A man with what appeared to be an American accent said hello to Patsy as they went into the shop, but she found herself unable to speak. It was as if an other-worldly atmosphere had descended. All the visitors were talking, but Patsy and Maggie were unable to make out a single clear word.

The group, having made no purchases, finally began to filter out of the shop, but then a Swedish-looking woman stepped forward and bought a single pencil.

Since then Patsy has flirted briefly with the world of ufology, but she has decided it is a world she wants little to do with.

ABRIDGED extract from THE UNINVITED by Nick Pope, published by Simon & Schuster on June 2 of £15.99. © Nick Pope 1997. To order a copy p&p free, call 01624 675137.

If Patsy had just dreamed of floating above the park, why had a mysterious wound appeared on her body...

■ DURING September 1990, James and Pamela Millen went camping in Dorset. One night they woke just before 3am and James, intrigued by lights he could see through the canvas, went outside. He saw several orange balls of light that seemed to be dancing in the air over an adjacent field. He pointed them out to Pamela and the couple watched, mesmerised, as the glowing spheres moved silently around. After a couple of minutes, he decided to get his camera, but what happened next remains unclear. Pamela recalls that James reappeared

and commented on a pile of cigarette ends at Pamela's feet, which seemed odd as he had been away for only a minute or so and she could not have smoked that many. When they looked at their watches it was 5.40am. More than two-and-a-half hours were unaccounted for. James subsequently had recollections of being in a circular white room, lying on his back girded in robes rather like those worn by the Ku Klux Klan. He has no idea what happened to him, but believes that it was 'beneficial'.

■ ON November 9, 1979, forester Bob Taylor was walking in Dechmont

woods near Livingston, in Scotland, when he saw a huge, domed UFO hovering silently about 250ft above the ground. Two small, round balls detached from the craft and moved rapidly towards the startled forester. The objects had spikes on them, and looked rather like old naval mines. The balls attached themselves to Taylor's trousers, cutting him, and he recalls an acrid smell, which was his last memory before passing out. When he came to, he recalled the sound of an object moving off at high speed. When he returned to his truck, it would not start. Later, the police concluded that an object weighing several tons had been in the clearing.

SERIES



Lost hours on a weird car journey

LONDONER Mary O'Donnell, a 31-year-old secretary, was apparently involved in one of the most spectacular 'missing time' incidents I've come across. Last October, Mary was travelling on the M1 approaching Leeds with her friend Brenda Bailey when she noticed what she thought was a small aircraft flying across the road ahead of them. She turned towards their car and, while Mary had a brief impression that it might be trying to land on the motorway, Brenda reached for some drinks that were in a bag on the floor. When she looked up again she yelled: 'Where the hell are we?' They were no longer on the motorway, but on a roundabout in central Leeds. Mary and Brenda had both experienced the same sudden transition from motorway to roundabout. Just before Mary saw the aircraft, they had made a note of the time — 2pm. Now, an instant later as far as they were concerned, it was 5.30pm. The scenario fits the classic story of aliens intercepting people travelling in cars, but surely anything unusual would have been witnessed by countless other motorists. Could some form of mass hypnosis have been involved?

BIRTH TRAUMA

MANY psychologists believe that the trauma of birth is one of our most profound experiences, and is largely responsible for shaping our psyche. Is it not conceivable that recollections of abductions are recollections of births? Some of the images reported in a typical abduction experience mirror images associated with birth. Many abductees report being in an environment that contains no right angles. Might this not be a distorted memory of the womb? The aliens bear more than a passing resemblance to a foetus. The central procedure reported by so many abductees is medical, and is recalled as traumatic. The problem with such a theory is that, unlike birth, the abduction phenomenon is experienced by only a small percentage of the population.

NEAR-DEATH/OUT-OF-BODY EXPERIENCES

IN A typical near-death experience (NDE), said to occur sometimes in hospitals when a person is clinically dead for a few seconds, the subject reports a lifting sensation. There is a feeling that they are travelling down a tunnel, at the end of which is a bright light. Some experts believe NDEs arise from the brain being starved of oxygen. But this would not explain the NDE cases where people report details of real conversations that occurred outside the room they were in. The out-of-body experience (OBE) is similar but is not limited to critically-ill people. They will typically report seeing their body lying below them. The similarity of sensation and imagery between abductions, NDEs and OBEs — especially the lifting sensation — is remarkable.

Explanations for these disturbing occurrences

HOAXES

FRAUDSTERS are often intelligent people who are capable of constructing intricate and believable fantasies. Some do it for fun, others for publicity and money. Then there are those who have a 'fantasy-prone personality': the psychologically-driven need to be at the centre of dramatic events. However, bogus stories account for relatively few abduction testimonies.

FALSE MEMORY SYNDROME

MEMORY is not an accurate record of past events. Sometimes, when we play events over in our minds or relate an experience, what started as something about which we were unsure finishes up as a certainty. This is called false memory syndrome.

HYPNAGOGIC OR HYPNOPOMPIC IMAGERY

JUST before we fall asleep and just after we wake up, our minds are in a curious state of consciousness. In this state we sometimes see images or experience sensations that seem real.

TEMPORAL LOBE LABILITY

THE temporal lobes are areas of the brain associated with memory,

emotion and understanding of speech. They can be extremely labile — that is, unstable and responsive to stimulation — and give rise to the feeling of a strange presence, a sense of ascending into the air, and panic.

ELECTROMAGNETISM

SOME researchers suggest that many UFO and abduction experiences have their roots in electromagnetic anomalies — possibly caused by tectonic stresses in the Earth's crust — which can cause hallucinations in those who come close to them.

SLEEP PARALYSIS

THIS is the biological process which inhibits our movements during sleep. In the borderline state between being asleep and awake, it can lead to situations where people wake up and are momentarily unable to move, perhaps giving them the impression that something is holding them down.

CHILD SEX ABUSE

SUCH events have a devastating effect on the victims, who will carry the mental scars for life. The mind often suppresses memories of traumatic events. The problem is that they never disappear and can resurface from the subconscious at any time, often in a jumbled or disguised form.

■ HAVE you had any experiences of the paranormal? Send your accounts to the Features Department, Daily Mail, Northcliffe House, 2 Derry Street, London W8 5TT.

IF ABDUCTIONS are nothing to do with an extraterrestrial presence, what conventional theories might explain them?

Columnist

The truth is not here

EAST FIFE MAIL

18 JUN 97

Page 19

THE Pentagon has issued a statement categorically denying the existence of UFOs following an exhaustive survey of over 22,000 cases dating back to 1969.

Are we really expected to just accept that?

The supposed survey was carried out by the US Air Force, hardly an independent body considering the accusations that they have been covering up evidence of extra-terrestrial visitations since the famous Roswell incident of 1947.

Their conclusions now are no different from 50 years ago, or during the Project Blue Book investigations up to its closure in 1969 and since.

Can anyone really be so naive to imagine that the Freedom of Information Act would ensure that the truth about Roswell would finally come out this year?

Decades of cover-up and misinformation would hardly be revealed just because the 50 years statute of official secrecy was up. There is too

On the case

With Edward Case

much at stake here, and not just in the USA.

Not only would the world's governments have to admit to half a century of lying to the people, the effects on our entire social fabric would be cataclysmic, bringing into question the validity of all organised religion (which is reason enough for the dollar-conscious Americans to keep quiet).

Nothing has changed. The official position is still one of denial while sightings which defy explanation, are grouped in with the nutters claiming to have visited Pluto and cults with a deathwish and a comet to catch.

Whether UFOs exist or not, if the truth is indeed out there we deserve to know either way.

The latest Air Force statement has all the weight of a helium-filled weather balloon.

LEVENMOUTH could be gaining a reputation as a UFO 'hot-spot', following reports of strange lights in the sky.

Sharon Coull, of Dubbieside, Methil, who collates details of unidentified flying objects, says she's been told of a couple of incidents in the last fortnight alone.

In fact, so many UFOs have been brought to her attention since she started gathering information four years ago, that she now believes Levenmouth is busier than Scotland reputed top hot-spot at Bonnybridge, near Falkirk.

Sharon said: "I've heard of hundreds throughout the country and between 15 to 20 in Levenmouth.

"A few people have seen more than one and for some it's quite a frightening experience."

The latest sightings reported to Sharon were in Kennoway on June 6 and off

the Methil coast two nights later.

She said: "The first one was some kind of white light in the sky and was seen by people on a bus going through Kennoway. The driver apparently slowed down to let everyone get a look.

"I heard about the other incident from a woman in Elm Road who said she and a couple of neighbours had watched an object with a trail of bright coloured lights.

"People in a nearby factory were watching too and it was visible for several hours."

The UFO spotters, added Sharon, were adamant the objects were not aircraft — a view backed by RAF Leuchars, which ruled out any air force activity in the area.

Flight Lieutenant Jack Taylor said: "Our air traffic control have confirmed nothing was flying in the area over that weekend.

"We've had no reports of anything unusual and I'm unable to offer any explanation of these apparent sightings."

NEWS OF THE WORLD

15 JUN 97

Page 32

ALIENS 'ARE TAKING OVER OUR BODIES'

By EDWARD TREVOR

ALIENS on visits to Earth have secretly placed sinister implants in humans, a former CIA agent insists.

In bizarre claims that mirror the far-fetched plots of the hit TV series The X-Files, Derrel Sims also alleges that the implants may be able to affect behaviour.

Agent Sims claims he himself has been involved in the removal of implants from 12 Americans.

Most could recall having had a UFO-type experience, ranging from

sightings to abductions earlier in their lives.

Mr Sims, who will reveal his findings at the annual conference of the British Research Association in August, said: "I will be showing some of these implants. They have been removed from various parts of the bodies of these people.

"Our investigation so far shows that the implants may be connected to nerves able to modify behaviour in some way."

They were discovered

by baffled doctors during routine medical examinations. "It's quite remarkable," Mr Sims said.

"They were encased in a substance that is almost impossible to remove with a blade, were needle-like and about half an inch long.

"We took the implants to a laboratory without telling them the background, and the material was meteoric in origin."

Mr Sims, who has probed alien abductions for 27 years, added: "We know something unusual is going on."

UFO sightings are set to soar this summer and autumn as the RAC buzzes the air with its own lightship — a 130ft long airship as tall as a four-storey building.

The RAC lightship christened The Spirit of Mobility, is the only one of its kind in Europe from this month it will be flying over major events across the UK, supporting the RAC's repositioning as a mobility organisation and carrying the new RAC logo. More than 20 million people are expected to see it.

Dubbed a lightship because of its megawatt internal illumination, the 'Spirit of Mobility' will light up the night skies for miles around. Similar ships in America — flown by Virgin Lightships — sparked UFO alerts with thousands of people convinced the Martians were coming!

YORKSHIRE EVENING PRESS (YORK)

12 JUN 97

Page 2

Jet in UFO mystery

PASSENGER jet pilots may have to call in Mulder and Scully from TV hit The X-Files after air investigators failed to clear up a close encounter of the unknown kind.

Air investigators said they were stumped after failing to identify an object seen by two pilots over Hertfordshire.

But despite concluding the object "was not an aeroplane", the report did not speculate on what the object could have been.

Both pilots of the Stansted bound BAe 146 reported seeing a red, blue and white striped object. The object appeared to be avoiding large clouds.

SELBY STAR

12 JUN 97

Page 16

FLYING SORCERERS

Myths from Mars satisfy needs older than proof or disproof

Next Wednesday is the 50th anniversary of the Roswell incident. More than 60,000 believers are expected at this otherwise unremarkable town in the New Mexico desert in order to celebrate the birth of a potent modern myth, and to scan the sky for omens. For at Roswell on July 2, 1947, the age of the flying saucer was born.

Within days of the first sighting *The Times* became the first British source for the new phrase found by *The Oxford English Dictionary*: "Reports that dish-like objects, nicknamed 'flying saucers', have been seen travelling through the air at great speed have come from the United States and Canada." The vivid slang was soon replaced by the less flippant "unidentified flying object", or UFO. And the notion of alien visitors from space had taken root in the public imagination. The books, comics and films have ranged from doom-laden thrillers in the jet-stream of *The War of the Worlds* to cute encounters with loveable aliens. *ET* was the best Disney film that Disney never made.

Like most myths, the flying saucer had its genesis in real events. Fifty years ago a rancher found strange, shiny debris on the sand near Roswell. The army air forces issued a news release about the landing of a "flying disk", but next day changed their story to a downed weather balloon. Local residents declare that they watched soldiers put hairless aliens into body bags. And the modern myth took off. A recent Gallup poll found that 42 per cent of American college

graduates believe that flying saucers have visited the Earth. More than 70 per cent of Americans believe their Government knows more about UFOs than it lets on. Thousands of Americans have reported being abducted by aliens.

The myth of UFOs sprang from the dawn of the atomic age and fed on fears of the Cold War and anxieties about new doomsday science and technologies. A nation of immigrants has an atavistic belief in the possibilities of immigration. And the last frontier for a land of new frontiersmen lies upwards. Space is not remote at all. As Nasa has shown, it is only an hour's drive away if a car could go straight upwards. Millennial anxiety and the public's healthy suspicion of official Washington attracted conspiracy and cover-up theorists with paranoid fantasies. Above all, ufology is a religious myth satisfying the age-old yearning that man is not alone in the Universe.

UFOs can be interpreted as a conflict between science and pseudo-science. It is alarming that so many millions "know" more about aliens than they do about thermodynamics. The tourist authorities of New Mexico are true and profiteering believers. Yesterday the US Air Force reported that the first flying saucer was a weather balloon and that the hairless aliens were dummies used to test parachutes. It can think again. More than an official report will be needed to ground the flying myths from outer space.

Lighting up the skies

UFO sightings are set to soar this summer and autumn as the RAC buzzes the air with its own lightship - a 130ft long airship as tall as a four-storey building.

The RAC lightship christened *The Spirit of Mobility*, is the only one of its kind in Europe from this month it will be flying over major events across the UK, supporting the RAC's repositioning as a mobility organisation and carrying the new RAC logo. More than 20 million people are expected to see it.

Dubbed a lightship because of its megawatt internal illumination, the 'Spirit of Mobility' will light up the night skies for miles around. Similar ships in America - flown by Virgin Lightships - sparked UFO alerts with thousands of people convinced the Martians were coming!

'Aliens' were parachute test dummies says US

The US Air Force yesterday offered what it hopes is the final word on claims by UFO buffs that alien bodies were recovered at a crash site in New Mexico in 1947: The "bodies" were not aliens but dummies used in parachute tests.

The explanation — on the eve of the 50th anniversary of the incident — is in enormous detail in a 231-page report. It is meant to close the book on longstanding rumours that the Air Force recovered a flying saucer and extra-terrestrial bodies near Roswell, New Mexico, in July 1947, and then covered it up.

The title of the report tells it all: *The Roswell Report, Case Closed*.

The Air Force in 1994 issued a report on the Roswell incident that said the "spacecraft" that supposedly crashed in the New Mexico desert was an Air Force balloon used in a top-secret program, Project Mogul, intended to monitor the atmosphere for evidence of Soviet nuclear tests.

The Air Force called that report its final response to the Roswell rumours. But later the Air Force came upon evidence it believed would explain the additional rumours that space aliens were recovered at the



Test: One of the dummies.

crash site and were covered up. Yesterday's report was put together to provide what Air Force Secretary Ms Sheila Widnall called a "complete and open explanation."

The possibility of a government conspiracy to cover up an actual UFO sighting was ridiculed yesterday by retired Air Force Col Richard Weaver, who wrote the 1994 report.

"I don't think the government is capable of putting together a decent conspiracy," he said.

Asked if he thought the new report will put the matter to rest, he said, "No, I doubt it. This has become a religion to many people."

Although the Air Force's explanation of a mix-up of parachute dummies for space aliens seems reasonable, there is one aspect that troubles some UFO researchers: The tests with the dummies came a decade after the Roswell incident.

Did those who claimed to have seen the "aliens" mix up their dates that badly?

"I think this is a real stretch," said Mr Karl Pflock, a UFO researcher in New Mexico who said he does not believe the Roswell incident involved alien spacecraft.

The life-size dummies were used in high-altitude parachute drops from 1954 to 1959 to devise a way to return a pilot or astronaut to earth by parachute if forced to escape at extremely high altitudes.

The dummies were transported to altitudes up to 98,000 ft by balloons and then released. Balloons dropped 67 dummies throughout New Mexico in the 1954-59 period. The majority landed in eastern New Mexico, near Roswell, according to the Air Force.

“Making money is not alien to an American army base”

“I’ll tell you one thing. They didn’t have big eyes or long, stringy fingers,” 80-year-old Frank Kaufmann says of the aliens. “No ma’am. These were trim, good-looking people.”

In 1947, Kaufmann and a handful of other men stationed at the Roswell Army Air Field stumbled onto what they say was wreckage of a spaceship northwest of town.

This year, the 50th anniversary of the story, Roswell is cashing in. “Something happened here and it’s probably the most credible UFO event in the world,” said Mayor Tom Jennings. “We’ve taken that and developed it into a whole new industry — tourism.”

Roswell, which sits on the plains east of the Sierra Blanca mountain range in southeastern New Mexico, expects its 48,000 population to double as UFO believers, researchers and the curious flock to town for a July 1-6 golden anniversary of the alleged crash.

Although the Army air field is long gone, replaced with an industrial park and municipal airport, what allegedly happened here lives on.

Kaufmann, a retired government intelligence agent, said he watched soldiers put

five dead aliens into body bags and haul a damaged spaceship onto a flatbed truck to the post.

Glenn Dennis, a mortician at a Roswell funeral home, said he got a call from the Army post to send out several small, medically sealed caskets.

Army Lt Walter Haut, then the post’s public information officer, issued a press release that a “flying disc” had been recovered. The next day a new statement went out saying it was only a weather balloon.

“I guess they changed their mind,” said Haut, 75.

Others didn’t. The story spawned numerous books and is considered by UFO buffs to be the biggest cover-up in US history.

It was mentioned in the movie blockbuster *Independence Day*, which featured a super-secret government lab where scientists had studied alien cadavers for decades.

In real life, people usually drove right

Martha Mendoza discovers how Roswell US Army Airfield is cashing in on the most famous UFO event ever reported.

through Roswell, a centre of the state’s oil and gas industry surrounded by dry grass, high plains hills and cattle ranches.

The antiquated courthouse on Main Street, the tree-lined neighbourhoods, the quiet parks — all made Roswell a nice place to live, but a dull one to visit.

While no aliens have been spotted lately, strange phenomena have occurred.

The historic Plains movie theatre at First and Main streets is now a UFO museum — one of two in town — with a big flying saucer on the roof.

A country-western band of alien figures cut out of plywood — “The Pleiadians” — is jamming in the storefront window of Gingsberg Music Co.

Michelle Watts, owner of the Quilt Tale fabric store, is doling out her newly designed fabric with aliens and spaceships.

“This boon could go on indefinitely. People just can’t get enough of it,” said Rande Hesse as he rang up sales of alien T-shirts and mock spaceship crashes at the

Star Child gift shop. Anniversary celebrations dried up for a bit when members of the Heaven’s Gate cult killed themselves in March, claiming they were headed for a UFO.

“That’s all but forgotten now,” said Stan Crosby, the anniversary organiser. “We’re booming.”

Planned events include daily tours to the alleged crash sites, a Crash and Burn Extravaganza derby on Main Street, and UFO lectures.

Aliens are hot. *The X-Files* television show, in which FBI agents track the paranormal and extraterrestrial, is part of America’s pop culture. *Star Trek* remains indefatigable, *Independence Day* made megabucks, and wasn’t that basketball star Michael Jordan shooting hoops with aliens and Bugs Bunny in the *Space Jam* movie?

“We don’t get a lot of looks,” said Deon Crosby, director of the International UFO Museum and Research Centre museum and Crosby’s wife.

“OK, there’s this old man who comes in and he claims to be an alien,” she said, “but we see a lot of learned people, professors, doctors, professionals interested in researching this phenomena.”

THE TIMES

25 JUN 97

Page 26

Pentagon shoots down flying saucer

■ As Roswell in New Mexico welcomes 60,000 UFO fans 50 years after a legendary crash in the desert, the Pentagon published a report; *Roswell: Case Closed* which debunks theories about aliens with blood like tar, flying saucers and the like. The mystery object was a high-altitude balloon carrying life-size dummies simulating parachute drops.....

IPSWICH EVENING STAR

12 JUN 97

Page 2

UFO baffles air investigators

PASSENGER jet pilots may have to call in Mulder and Scully from TV hit *The X-Files* after air investigators failed to clear up a close encounter of the unknown kind. They said they were stumped after failing to identify an object seen over Hertfordshire.

THE SUN
13 JUN 97
Page 11

Irish pilots in UFO mystery

TWO pilots on an Irish jet saw a red, white and blue UFO — 9,000ft above Hertfordshire.

The Aer Lingus crew said the mystery craft missed their BAe 146 jet by only 200 yards.

Air traffic controllers said no other craft showed on their radar.

Investigators said the Dublin to Stansted flight was the only plane in the area at the time.

They said the sighting “was an unknown object — NOT an aeroplane.”

An Aer Lingus source said: “It’s a mystery.”