

THE SUN  
11 JUL 97  
Page 6



## PROOF MEN IN BLACK EXIST

By Dr RICHARD LAWRENCE

Top author on UFOs

MEN IN BLACK is set to become this year's box office smash.

The movie, which opens on August 1, is about two men who work for a secret Government agency silencing people who spot UFOs. No wonder it is set to become so popular.

In a phone poll on Michael Aspel's Strange But True TV show, 82 per cent of 100,000 people who called said they believed aliens had visited Earth.

Men in black DO exist. They turn up in two with official ID and persuade people they did not see a UFO.

### Lifted

I first came across them when I investigated a case in Worcestershire. Joyce Bowles was on a country road with pal Ted when a UFO lifted her car off the ground. It landed in a field and a tall alien with pink eyes walked over. Joyce was visited by a man in black who told her to say no UFO had landed. He claimed the alien was a milkman!

In 1988 four people took a photo of a UFO above Ilkley Moor, West Yorks. Later two Ministry of Defence officials demanded the negative. The MoD admits having thousands of UFO reports on file. Why won't they release them?

# UFO ALERT

INVESTIGATORS are opening an X-Files report after a family claimed they were "buzzed" by a UFO on the A47 between Peterborough and Wisbech.

The terrified party were returning from a visit to the city along the dark and deserted road when suddenly their vehicle was bathed in a bright pink light.

Looking up they saw a dark shape swoop above them and then pursue them down the

by NEIL SHAW

NEWS REPORTER

road apparently observing them.

The jet black UFO was triangular in shape with bright lights at each point.

The shocked family had their extraterrestrial experience last November but have only now broken their silence to renowned UFO experts.

The British-based International UFO Research Network

(IUFORN), which has branches in Northern Ireland, Belgium, four American states and Australia, says it is taking the report seriously.

It is now appealing for further witnesses.

IUFORN leader Russell Kellett said: "This is the first report we have received from the skies of Peterborough, and we are taking it very seriously."

"Four witnesses have stepped forward, after quite a while, and reported the same thing."

"Sometimes there is a delay in

reports, because people can be frightened of what will be said, so that could be why it has taken so long to come to our attention."

"One of the things people always say with these things is that they are military aircraft, and there are bases around Peterborough, but some things like the pink glow don't match up."

The four in the car, the driver, his girlfriend, her mother and a friend have asked to have their identities kept secret.

PETERBOROUGH EVENING TELEGRAPH

21 JUL 97

American national security officials systematically lied to explain reports of UFOs at the height of the Cold War, a study released by the CIA says.

In what amounts to the first admission of federal deception on the issue, the survey said most reports of unidentified flying objects in the 1950s and 1960s stemmed from glimpses of supersecret US spy planes, the U-2 and the SR-71

Blackbird.

Rather than disclose the existence of these aircraft, developed to photograph enemy targets from high altitudes, the military put out false stories.

This deception added fuel to claims the government was covering up evidence of extra-terrestrial craft and beings, the study added.

The report was written by Gerald Haines, a historian at the Pentagon.

According to CIA officials

who worked on the U-2 and Blackbird projects, "over half of all UFO reports from the late 1950s through the 1960s were accounted for by manned reconnaissance flights" over the US, Haines says in his report.

"This led the air force to make misleading and deceptive statements to the public in order to allay public fears and to protect an extraordinarily sensitive national security project," he said.

EASTERN DAILY PRESS

05 AUG 97

Page 7

PETERBOROUGH EVENING TELEGRAPH

22 JUL 97

Page 7

CLOSE ENCOUNTER: Experience changed man's attitude to alien life

# 'Until now I didn't believe in UFOs'



FLASHBACK: In yesterday's Evening Telegraph it was revealed a UFO expert is investigating sightings near Wisbech.

by NEIL SHAW

NEWS REPORTER

THE motorist at the centre of a close encounter with a UFO says it has changed his attitude towards the existence of aliens.

The 26-year-old man has been forced to rethink his beliefs after his vehicle was buzzed by a dark shape as he made his way along the A47 between Peterborough and Wisbech.

The student, from Wisbech, who did not wish to be named, contacted The Evening Telegraph after we exclusively revealed yesterday how a top UFO investigator is examining his X-file. The man explained he was returning from the Wyrall with his girlfriend, also a student, a friend and his girlfriend's 56-year-old mother during the early hours. He said: "Until that night I didn't believe in UFOs - but I'm not so sure now."

The triangular object, about twice the size of an aeroplane, had lights on each point and was surrounded

## Hampton workers spot white light

CONSTRUCTION workers in Peterborough have told how they watched a bright white circle in the skies above the new southern townships early on Monday morning. The three men have told how they watched a UFO sweep over the Hanson Land south of Hampton at about 12.15am.

Site worker Ian Cooper said: "It was brighter than any of the stars, and as we watched it started to move

first going up and down, and then along figures of eight in the sky. I thought it was the police helicopter, but it was completely silent, so that ruled that out. Ian Cooper stood with fellow workers Martin Crouch and Steve Stanforth watching the orb.

A police spokesperson said: "We can confirm the police helicopter would not have been up at that time."

by a pinkish, purplish haze. He claims it was hovering about 150 feet above the fence.

He said: "There was a full moon that night and I could see it clearly as it followed the car."

"I then stopped at the roundabout with my window rolled down and it stopped too."

"It was the most bizarre thing that has ever happened to me. It was dead

silent, you could hear a pin drop."

He denied he had been drinking and added: "I have seen the stealth bombers at Mildenhall air show and this didn't look like one of those."

RAF bases have confirmed there were no aeroplanes flying in the skies the night the craft was spotted.

A Ministry of Defence spokesman suggested it may have been a private plane from a nearby airfield.

**AS THE CIA CLAIMS TO COME CLEAN ABOUT THE UFO PHENOMENON, THE MYSTERY STILL REMAINS**

# If spy planes are behind UFO sightings, what could possibly explain the five vast objects that hovered over Britain?

**T**AKEN at face value, it was an attempt by the CIA to clear up a perplexing mystery. The agency admitted, albeit reluctantly, that more than half the sightings of unidentified Flying Objects recorded in the Fifties and Sixties could be explained after all.

The wartime silver saucers seen in the sky and in classic reports of the members of the public were not flying saucers or alien space ships of any kind. They were U.S. military spy planes doing top-secret reconnaissance missions from bases in Nevada and California to the Soviet Union at the height of the Cold War.



Will we one day prove the existence of alien craft?

The aircraft, the Lockheed U-2 and the Lockheed SR-71 Blackbird, flew at very high altitudes — the latter capable of more than 2,000mph at up to 65,000ft. No wonder people squinting into the heavens thought they'd seen strange objects.



from NICK HOPKINS  
IN NEW YORK

Duplicity had been necessary, the CIA reasoned, in the interests of national security.

The air force had made misleading and deceptive statements in order to allay fears and to protect an extraordinarily sensitive project, the agency said. So the public had been fobbed off with half-hearted explanations of the sightings — weather balloons which had gone astray and atmospheric phenomena were the favoured white lies.

The optimists in the CIA hoped that this belated admission in documents published on the Internet would be another nail in the coffin of the UFO 'believers' who have been a thorn in their side for 50 years. But the realists acknowledged that far from defusing the issue, it has only added to the intrigue.

After so many years of fooling the public, why should anyone believe the CIA now? And why has the CIA suddenly come clean about a subject in which it always maintained it had no involvement?

**E**VEN if the report were true, what about the other UFO sightings which the CIA cannot explain? There is a strong body of respected opinion on both sides of the Atlantic that believes the CIA has pumiced in the face of an enormous surge of interest in all things extra-terrestrial.

While the number of UFO sightings rises every year, the vacuous explanations and stonewalling have remained the same.

'The old cover-up stories just don't wash any more,' said John E. Pike, head of space policy at the Federation of American Scientists, based in Washington. 'The flying saucer community is definitely onto something.'

The UFO 'believers' who have dissected the report are in two camps: the radicals who don't believe a word the agency is

saying; and the moderates who accept the CIA is probably telling the truth — but not the whole truth.

Walter Andrews, international director of the Mutual UFO Network, is in the radical camp. 'The public are not stupid,' he said. 'They've been lied to by the government so often over the years that they are not going to believe it.'

There are Britons, though, who are less dismissive. They think the CIA is boxing clever to try to assuage the thousands of people who believe they have seen a UFO but are still inherently sceptical.



Fact or fiction: An image alleged to depict an alien from the Roswell crash

soundings could not be explained by freak weather conditions either.

In the same year, personnel at the RAF base in Church Lawford, Warwickshire, saw a spherical craft accelerate from a standing start to 1,400mph. Again, the incident was filed and forgotten.

There have been other more recent developments which have stirred the imagination.

Earlier this year, an archaeologist called Jerry Freeman embarked on a 700-mile trek through restricted U.S. Air Force property in the Nevada desert looking for inscriptions made in 1849 by members of a pioneering wagon train.

Mr Freeman had badgered the military unsuccessfully for five years to allow him onto the land and, having tired of their refusals, decided to go anyway.

**A**FTER several days of trekking across barren landscape, he was astonished by what he found. Not the inscriptions he had sought, but a military base tucked between two valleys. He saw cars and lights, and a hangar door. But the installation was not marked on any maps, and when he returned home the military denied the base existed.

Later, he discovered he had come across what many UFO buffs have come to see as the holy grail. For years they have maintained that there is an underground hangar in the desert where an alien spacecraft is being stored.

Though Mr Freeman's

discovery was hardly conclusive, at least a reliable source had confirmed there was 'something out there'.

The most enduring of UFO stories was the Roswell incident, which has confused and confounded since 1947. Onlookers claimed they saw alien bodies being taken from a craft which had crashed into the desert in New Mexico. At first military sources denied everything, then they said a secret weather balloon had plunged to ground.

Finally this summer, on Roswell's 50th anniversary, the U.S. Air Force said the conspiracy theorists were wrong. Yes, they had seen bodies, but they were not aliens. They were flight-test dummies dropped from high altitude as part of an experiment. The Air Force said this was the 'final word on Roswell'. But it wasn't.

'How anyone in the U.S. military expected people to believe that explanation is beyond me,' said Dr Colin Ridyard, of the British UFO Research Organisation. 'If that was all that Roswell amounted to, they could have told us years ago.'

Nick Pope has his own theory. Governments are under more scrutiny than ever over UFOs, and they are under pressure to come up with answers. The intelligence community is being brow-beaten because it is inexorably losing the battle for 'believability'.

'There seems to be a concerted strategy to debunk the phenomenon. The problem is that the agenda is so obvious, people don't believe the authorities. What are they trying to hide?'

## Goodness, gracious, a great ball of fire

A MYSTERIOUS ball of fire has been spotted over Colchester.

A 59-year-old woman, who did not want to be named, said she saw the baffling object when she looked out of her window in Mersea Road at about 4.45am yesterday morning.

The ball, which was described as being orange red in the middle, orange on the outside and making a crackling sound, was heading south.

It had flames coming out of its centre and was said to be dropping towards the ground.

A Colchester police spokesman said they had not had any reports of mysterious objects in the sky and said the ball could have been caused by certain atmospheric conditions.

# ABDUCTED

WELWYN & HATFIELD TIMES  
23 JUL 97  
Page 9

## The mystery of Stardust

THEIR flight began at London Airport on Wednesday, July 30, 1947.

Six passengers flew to Buenos Aires where they transferred to the Stardust, a British South American Airways airliner.

The captain was Reginald Cook, his First Officer Norman Cook, Second Officer Donald Checklin, radio officer Dennis Harner and air stewardess Iris Evans.

The flight took off on the 2nd August bound for Santiago in Chile. Flying across the Andes was, and always has been, an arduous exercise for airmen.

The flight was expected to take just under four hours and its estimated time of arrival was 5.30pm.

There was no reason to suppose that the aircraft was in danger.

The plane had enough fuel for more than six hours of flight.

For several hours after take-off, the plane radioed back its position and at 4.45pm Santiago sent a weather report informing the crew that cloud top was at 23,000 feet.

This was vital because one of the dangers of flying through cloud is the risk of ice building up on the body of the plane.

At 5pm, captain Cook reported his height at 20,000 feet, rising to 24,000 feet to take it above cloud top and at 5.30pm the Stardust radioed its ETA for just 15 minutes later.

It was never seen again. According to the book *Into Thin*

Air, at 5.41pm, just four minutes before it was expected to land, Denis Harner, the radio operator, sent a "single, mystifying word 'STENDEC'".

The Chilean Air Force operator at Santiago later told accident investigators that the message was received loud and clear and given out very fast.

"He did not understand what the word meant and asked for it to be repeated. Twice in rapid succession the aircraft radioed STENDEC."

Then there was silence. A full-scale search was launched, involving ski

### SKI HUNT FOR BRITONS

Airliner lost in snow

Express Staff Reporter: Santiago (Chile), Sunday  
Ski troops, helped by planes of two air forces, are hunting mountain passes in a blizzard this evening for the Lancaster airliner Stardust, 24 hours overdue on a flight over the Andes with eight Britons aboard.

troops helped by planes of two air forces. Nothing was ever found.

The incident was reported in the *Daily Express* (above) of August 4.

The Accident Investigations Branch of the Ministry of Civil Aviation failed to reach any conclusions, save for criticising the captain's choice of route.

The plane's disappearance still remains a mystery.

According to Denis Plunkett there was one clue. Flying saucers had been seen the area within the previous fortnight.

Perhaps significantly, this was the year of the Roswell incident in which, some claim, alien corpses were recovered from a crashed UFO in the USA.

## WHAT'S so unnerving about talking to the Denis Plunketts of this world is the fact they may be right.

After all, they always are at the movies. Take one look at *Close Encounters of the Third Kind* or *Invaders From Mars* and see how they're poo-pooed until the last 20 minutes (by which time it's too late).

Up to that point they're pursued by the authorities, ostracised at work and rejected by those they love. And all because they claimed to see little green men.

Today, thankfully, the sexual frisson of agents Mulder and Scully in TV's *The X-Files* means everyday folk with out-of-this-world stories can be assured a more sympathetic audience.

At 66, Denis Plunkett is not as agile as Fox Mulder and represents the Men in Beige as opposed to the Men in Black (who, as every UFO enthusiast will tell you, are mysterious 'people' who call in the night to tell people not to go public about what they have witnessed) with his short sleek pale blue shirt, casual trousers and comfortable shoes.

Like Mulder, Denis is involved with a bureau. In fact he oversees it; the Bristol-based British Flying Saucer Bureau, the oldest established UFO body in the world.

And even more coincidental, he too has had a relative disappear. Mulder lost his sister to aliens; Denis believes he lost his cousin to flying saucers over Chile on August 2, 1947 (see panel).

It therefore seems appropriate in the light of these revelations that for 20 years Denis Plunkett was also 'dead'.

Precisely how he died was unknown. But as reports of Plunkett sightings began to filter through to UFO enthusiasts around the world, the strange truth surrounding became known.

Denis Plunkett, it turned out, wasn't so much dead as married and living in Westbourne, Bristol, and working as a civil servant. He hadn't been beamed up, simply written out of existence by a poorly phrased paragraph.

It was the work of his father actually, Captain E L Plunkett who, in detailing the origins of the bureau for the members' first handbook, wrote: "When National Service with the Royal Air Force claimed Mr Denis Plunkett, his father stepped into the breach..."

And so a legend was born. Indeed, even as late as 1976, the journal of the British UFO Research Association (BUFORA) referred to him as having been 'unfortunately killed during National Service'.

A fact which Denis now says came in "handy", especially since

by JEREMY SMITH

during the late Fifties, experts and investigators in this new field of UFOlogy (which had he been 'alive' would have certainly included Denis) were reportedly fast vanishing from the planet.

Not surprisingly for someone so self-immersed in UFO lore, Denis likes to ponder the possibilities of just why by suggesting all manner of sinister government cover-ups and conspiracy theories.

Not that it stops there! Conversations are peppered with references to Area 51, alien autopsies and the military; phrases such as "cloak of secrecy" and "disinformation" spill out and every revelation seems to point to an unworlly coincidence.

In fact, this search for disquieting coincidences is probably what binds UFO enthusiasts together. That and an unchained imagination.

Although not to Denis' wife, Maureen. "When I first met Denis I thought he was a communist and a nutcase," she says 30 years on. "I thought, what am I doing with this man?"

But even Maureen, healthy sceptic that she is, says she was with Denis the night he finally spotted lights in the sky.

"It was in the mid-Sixties," says Denis, though he can't remember quite when. "I was upstairs in the bedroom, pulling the curtains when I saw nine, luminous objects.

"I don't know how far away they were but they moved very fast. One went off in the direction of Frampton Cotterell. I had my camera and binoculars, I felt if I left the window they wouldn't be there when I came back."

Since then he's seen nothing, apart from those alleged UFO sightings he's watched again and again on one of his many videos.

However, should ever get to meet ET, he says the first question he'll ask is: "What have you done with my cousin?"

Although there is no evidence to suggest that the crew (Denis's cousin, D Harner, was the plane's radio operator) and passengers of the Stardust witnessed anything strange in the skies that fateful afternoon, Denis is convinced the loss of the plane was due to extraterrestrial activity.



## A SHAGGY DOG STORY OR A UFO?

A DOG owner got more than he bargained for at the weekend when he looked up to admire the moon.

Steve Butler was walking his furry friend near his home in Wheatley Close, WGC on Sunday when he happened to glance at the night sky.

Mingling among the silvery stars and full white moon were three mysterious lights hovering over Hertford.

Mr Butler said: "I saw these lights and I wondered what it was, it definitely wasn't an aeroplane. They were bright orange lights, like a triangle, just hovering in the air. The lights lasted about a minute and then went out."

But expert Steve Ford, who is an astronomy lecturer at the University of Hertfordshire in Hatfield, is not excited by the sighting.

He said: "It's nothing of extra-terrestrial origin. It might have been someone playing around with lights, or it could've been laser lights. It's certainly nothing that we know about, it sounds like just one of those things."

BOLTON EVENING NEWS

26 JUL 97  
Page 5

## UFO is a disco

POLICE were inundated with a spate of UFO sightings in the night sky above Bolton last night.

One excited caller reported seeing a large UFO displaying lights over Farnworth. Other reports were made to the police from householders in Great Lever and the Gilnow Road area of Bolton.

Police investigated and discovered that the sightings were actually the laser lights from a nightclub in Bolton town centre.



by Simon Ritchie

PARANORMAL researchers are investigating two crop circle formations which have mysteriously appeared in fields on the outskirts of York. The strange formations, which are only about half-a-mile apart, are by the busy A64 close to Copmanthorpe and the outer ring road.

Whether they are the work of extra-terrestrials, strange weather conditions or simply hoaxers no one knows for sure - but the Yorkshire UFO and Paranormal Research Group is on the case. Spokesman Andy Rayner said these were the first crop circles to be reported to the group in about three years.

"They are both pretty impressive. We have collected samples of grain and soil from both inside and outside the formations and we will be analysing these, and growing the grain to see if there are any differences."

He said the one close to the outer ring road measured about 50 metres in length, had one large circle (a diameter of 30 paces), and two smaller ones.

The other, in a field off the A64 where a crop circle was discovered three years ago, was made up of four circles of varying sizes.

"This formation is really weird, it looks like an upside down T, with circles on each end and another one radiating off at an angle."

Both cover wide areas, but can't be easily seen from the road.

Andy Rayner: both formations are pretty impressive. There were no tyre tracks or footprints by either formation. Hoaxers also tend to damage the crops but in these cases the crops were flattened but not damaged, and Mr Rayner said:

He concluded that a number of the crop circle formations, which have sprung up across the world in recent years, were made by other people working in an intelligence form of communication, a very basic form of communication, similar to those we had on Earth thousands of years ago.

The A64 circles are only a few miles from the former Wild Man pub where strange lights in the skies baffled ufologists and the public two years ago.

YORKSHIRE EVENING PRESS (YORK)

28 JUL 97  
Page 3

## FOCUS (SEVENOAKS)

05 AUG 97  
Page 2

A UFO is seen night after night by residents in Shenden Close, Sevenoaks. Chronicle reporters spend Wednesday night finding out the truth themselves. See the photographic evidence in next week's paper.

# Diary

## EARTH CALLING, EARTH CALLING By Richard Grant

**I** AM STANDING on a street corner in Roswell, New Mexico, asking passers-by if they've ever been abducted by space aliens. The fifth person I ask is Cynthia Martin, 35, a massage therapist from LA with a very weird and intense look in her eyes. 'I go to an abductee support group three times a week,' she says. 'I'm learning to accept what happened, but I don't think I'll ever get over it. In many ways, it was a typical abduction. One moment, I was driving down the freeway. The next thing I knew, I was in the spacecraft, lying down on a metal operating table.'

You get accustomed to this kind of conversation at Encounter 97, the 50th anniversary of an alleged UFO crash in the desert outside Roswell. 25,000 believers have crowded into this remote ranching town, and there are 220 news organisations here trying to make sense of it all. At first, it seems like good, clean, zany American fun. Fairground rides have been erected for the occasion, Main Street is festooned with rubber aliens and plastic spaceships, and vendors clog the pavements, selling alien-themed

merchandise: T-shirts, baseball caps, sun visors, porcelain aliens for the knick-knack shelf, and so on.

Most people here describe themselves as 'UFO fans': devotees of *Star Trek* and *The X-Files*. Like 22 per cent of Americans, they believe that space aliens are visiting the Republic, but this is not an all-consuming passion in their lives. Their main purpose in coming to Roswell is to have fun, talk

her how she knows this and she replies, 'You can feel it, that you don't belong on this planet, that you're not like other people.'

It's the abductees that fascinate me. Hundreds of thousands of people around the world claim to have been beamed aboard alien spaceships. The overwhelming majority of them are Americans, and 17 per cent of their countryfolk, according to a recent

danger of nuclear proliferation. Now they want to lead us to a more spiritual existence. They want to save our planet, according to ufology theory, because they have destroyed their own with radiation and lost the ability to reproduce; they are taking our sperm and ova to create a hybrid race.

All week long there have been rumours of alien craft in the vicinity, and for all the talk about our benevolent saviours, many abductees are nervous. The ufologists assure them that no abductions have ever been reported from the area. The spiritualists assure them the aliens are coming to take us to a better place, but for those who shudder at the memory of probes and extractions, these are anxious times.

After a lecture by Budd Hopkins, an authority on abduction, he is besieged by the audience. 'There is an extremely high risk that I, and my family, will be abducted again,' says one man. 'Is there any kind of abduction shield or repellent you know to be effective?'

'I'm afraid there's really nothing you can do,' comes the bleak reply. 'The best we can offer at the moment is the comfort of support groups.'

### A woman tells me that she and her whole family are pure-blooded space aliens

freely without fear of ridicule, and load up their cars with souvenirs.

But then you meet the zealots, the wild-eyed and the beetle-browed, for whom nothing else in life matters, and these include abductees, intergalactic conspiracy theorists, and 'Jesus Was an Alien' cultists. A man gazes into my eyes with missionary zeal and points his finger at the sky. 'Are you going up? They're coming to rescue us and it's gonna be beautiful.' A woman tells me that she and her whole family are pure-blooded space aliens. I ask

*Time* magazine poll, believe they are telling the truth. Throughout history, people have believed in similar creatures - trolls, goblins, leprechauns - and the modern alien, with its big, domed head, slanted black eyes and small, spindly body, looks much like a medieval elf in a space suit.

Despite their penchant for sinister medical experiments - anal probes, brain implants, and sperm and egg extractions - the aliens come across as essentially benevolent. In the Seventies they warned abductees about the

# What's this over the sky to Skye?

WEST CUMBRIAN EVENING NEWS & STAR

18 JUL 97  
Page 28



**UNIDENTIFIED** flying objects are one of the greatest mysteries of modern times. There are already 40 million recorded sightings of UFOs worldwide as well as five million claims of alien abductions, and every year these numbers continue to rise.

Decades of research by leading ufologist Jenny Randall, former director of the British Unidentified Flying Object Research Association, together with evidence amassed by Nick Pope, one-time head of the Ministry of Defence's UFO desk, reveal that UFOs have been with us for a very long time.

They are on the agendas of national defence and security agencies across the globe. And there are very real concerns that the UK's air defence

He snapped this strange-looking image five years ago while on a walking holiday in Loch Garry in Scotland, just north of Fort William on the road to Skye.

He had been camping beside the lake and took the photograph in the early morning, thinking it resembled some sort of aircraft with parachute. He has never shown it to anyone before now and swears it is not a faked picture.

Early tests seem to indicate it is the genuine article. The question is, what does it show?

If you have any ideas what this uncanonically-looking aircraft could be - or want to share your own UFO experiences - contact Andrea Thompson at the *S-Files* on 01900 601234.



The UFO captured on film at Loch Garry by Cliff Sandham. Have you an explanation?

## A phenomenon spotted in Flimby

FROM the *S-Files* dossier of local UFO sightings comes yet another intriguing report - about an unusual aircraft spotted over Flimby.

Netherhall school pupil Alexander Henderson is convinced that UFO activity is going on in our skies after his UFO encounter in November.

It was late afternoon on a typically dusky autumn night and Alex

his home in Maryport - and he has continued to scan the skies ever since for evidence of more UFO activity.

● To learn more about the weird and wonderful world of UFOs, pop along to Hallam University in Sheffield next month. The British UFO Research Association is staging a two day conference, entitled Fifty Years of UFOs, on August 16 and 17. Call 01484 721993 for details.

# UFO STAYS A MYSTERY

**INVESTIGATORS have failed to solve the mystery of a near-miss incident in the skies above Stevenage.**

Intensive inquiries were launched after airliner pilots flying at 9,000ft over the town on their way to Stansted Airport reported seeing a streak of red, white and blue hurtling towards them.

Within two seconds it had vanished, leaving no trace on radar screens, and sparking an inquiry that has taken a year to reach a conclusion.

The craft was said to have passed down the right side of the Aer Lingus BAe 146 airliner 100ft below and less than 300 yards away.

The colour scheme and shape described by the witnesses suggested it may have been a Red Arrows display team Hawk jet.

But investigators from the joint Airprox Working Group, made up of civil and military flight professionals, soon accounted for the whereabouts of those planes, plus all other RAF and BAe Hawks - none had been in the area.

The owners of other jets in private hands were also traced and their planes were eliminated from the inquiry.

## Unusual decision

And Airprox Working Group investigators concluded the pilots had seen "an unknown object" in June last year.

A spokesman for the Civil Aviation Authority said that "very few" such reports reached this conclusion.

"We have had them in the past," he said, adding that the matter was no longer being investigated by the CAA and its affiliated bodies.

He added that details of sightings of unidentified flying objects were handled by the Ministry of Defence.

**Air experts can't explain near miss**

By NICK WRIGHT

A PARANORMAL group believes it has found the answer to a lights in the sky mystery.

When brilliant flashes were seen over Stoke-on-Trent early last month they prompted a flood of calls from people believing they had spotted a UFO.

But today alien spaceships were ruled out - in favour of the Russian space station Mir.

The accident-prone craft which was recently damaged during a docking manoeuvre with a supply vessel was over England on Monday, June 2, when the sightings were made.

Staffordshire Paranormal Investigations and British UFO Research Association representative David Pointon researched the incident.

He explained: "We are convinced that the light was caused by the sun reflecting off Mir.

"The American space agency NASA which is co-ordinating the Mir project has told us that the space station was above England

By Gill Abbott

when the sightings were made.

"It would only have been visible for about five minutes but that ties in with reports received from the public.

"From this information we can conclude that what the people saw was the sun reflecting off the Mir space station."

Seven calls were received by the Staffordshire group from people in Mow Cop, Chesterton and Bradwell.

One of them was from motorist Clare Tideswell, 21, from Bradwell who was driving home at 10.50pm when she saw the strange light in the sky.

She said: "There was a bright light at the sky.

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

Staffordshire Paranormal investigations is always willing to hear from people who have seen unexplained objects in the sky.

They can be reached on 01782 522620.

## UFO 'show' may be cereal

A UFO investigator on his way to Shropshire was today facing a race against time to prevent his X-Files investigation hitting an earthly obstruction - combine harvesters.

Russ Kellett was heading for the Telford area to find out if the truth is out there.

He wants to investigate a strange oblong shape cut out in the crop linked to reports of a UFO. But in the meantime, farmers have been at work and harvesting in a nearby field.

A 29 year old businessman from Dawley called in Mr Kellett after spotting a huge disc-shaped object hovering above a barn near the Shell petrol station at Sutton Maddock, on Monday. The next day his friend spotted the strange shape.

Mr Kellett, founder member and head of investigations for the International UFO Research, said he never ruled out the possibility that crop circles were an elaborate hoax.

"But there's a lot of people who are suggesting that the circles are to do with UFO phenomena."

Mr Kellett is planning to see two reported crop circles in Shrewsbury.

STAFFORDSHIRE EVENING SENTINEL

03 JUL 97

Page 12

NEWS & STAR (CARLISLE)

24 JUL 97

Page 9

## UFOs spotted over Cumberland Show

CARLISLE: The News & Star has received reports about unidentified flying objects over the Cumberland Show. They are described as pulsating disc-like objects which hovered near a plane releasing parachutists at 5pm.

Anyone who saw these strange bright phenomena should contact us on 01228 23488 ext. 346.

# ALIEN FLYING DOCS CURED MY CANCER!

By PAUL BALDWIN

MUM Lynne Plaskett claims her cancer was cured by ALIENS.

Lynne was given only three months to live after doctors discovered her body was riddled with a rare cancer called Convolutic T-Cell Lymphoma.

Lynne, then 25, went home to make plans for the care of her three-year-old son Clifford.

She collapsed on her bed - then claims she had an alien visit which changed her life.

Lynne, a senior planning officer, said: "I suddenly heard a buzzing noise then the room was filled with a fog-like white smoke."

"I was levitated off the



ALL-CLEAR: Lynne

was examining me then it left." She fell asleep, then woke to feel she was cured.

Doctors at Harbour General Hospital in Torrance, California, started chemotherapy treatment with little hope.

But within four months Lynne was given the all-clear.

Now, at the age of 48 and still healthy, she has spoken for the first time about the "alien flying doctors".

She said: "I didn't tell anyone for years because I didn't want to be ridiculed."

Her doctor Barry Rosenbloom said he put a large part of her cure down to positive mental attitude sparked by what she believed she saw.

bed about a foot and a half and I was paralysed.

"Then a disc-shaped object about eight inches across came in through the window. It was gyrating and had multi-coloured lights around its edge.

"It went across my body three times slowly as if it

## UFOs 'were really US spy planes'

THE US Air Force concealed from the public that what many believed were UFOs were actually American spy planes on Cold War-era missions, says a CIA report.

"Over half of all UFO reports from the late 1950s through the 1960s were accounted for by manned reconnaissance flights (namely, the U-2) over the United States," it states.

"The Air Force knew that the vast majority of the sightings involved the U-2 and SR-71 spy planes, but was 'careful not to reveal the true cause of the sighting to the public', it says. The U-2 first flew in August 1955, and, starting at about that time, pilots and air traffic controllers began

reporting unidentified flying objects. SR-71 flights began in 1964.

Early models of the U-2, which could fly at over 59,400ft, were silver-coloured and tended to reflect sunlight.

The Air Force "tried to explain away such sightings by linking them to natural phenomena such as ice crystals and temperature inversions," says the study, entitled *CIA's Role in the Study of UFOs, 1954-1990*.

The Air Force made "misleading and deceptive statements to the public... to protect the sighting to the public," to protect an extraordinarily sensitive national security project," says Gerald Haines, a CIA historian and author of the study. — AFP

## Spy plane explanation of flying saucers alienates UFO spotters

By TUNKU VARADARAJAN

FLYING-SAUCEER watchers have attacked as "yet another deception" a newly declassified CIA document which states that virtually all the UFOs sighted in the 1950s and 1960s were spy planes.

According to the document, *CIA's Role in the Study of UFOs, 1947-90*, the US Air Force knew that the sightings of flying "disks", "saucers" and other objects were glimpses of the Lockheed U2A and the SR71 "Blackbird" surveillance aircraft.

The disclosure, however, has drawn derision from "UFOlogists", who regard it as a fresh cap of deception on a many-layered bundle of lies.

Richard Hall, the chairman of the Washington-based Fund for UFO Research, a

non-profit scientific organisation dedicated to an "open debate" on the subject of UFOs and extra-terrestrial beings, said: "The report contains a very poor, and very inaccurate, account of history."

"To say that all sightings were of spy planes is absurd. It perpetuates the stereotype that sightings have only been made of flashes of light in the sky. There are many reliable accounts of clear, structured objects, flying low and close to the ground. How do you explain these?"

"We're not conspiracy theorists at all. We just want to know the facts. This document is not only dumb - because UFOs were sighted well before the air force started to put U2s into the sky - it's dangerously

deceptive. It suggests that we should now stop looking for answers, which is something we're not prepared to do.

He added: "We are now even more interested in getting behind the cover-ups, which have happened since Roswell in 1947." He was referring to the alleged crash of a spacecraft and military recovery of alien bodies in New Mexico.

The document, by Gerald Haines, a historian, was written for *Studies of Intelligence*, a secret CIA journal. It says that the air force was intent on concealing the identity of the objects. A straightforward public explanation would have exposed its large fleet of spy planes - a security risk that military planners were

unwilling to take at the height of the Cold War. Instead, the air force disseminated spurious explanations, allowing UFO hysteria to grow. The air force put out the word that the sightings were simply "natural atmospheric phenomena".

The U2s, which flew at more than 60,000ft, and the "Blackbirds", which reached 80,000ft, bristled with powerful cameras and electronics. The U2 spotted Soviet nuclear arms in Cuba, which sparked the 1962 missile crisis and took the superpowers to the brink of nuclear war.

After the Cuba incident, the air force painted the silver planes black - and the UFO sightings largely ceased.

STRANGE objects have been seen in the sky over Carlisle. Six independent witnesses have described pulsating discs of light over the city during the weekend of July 18, their accounts. Defence is investigated by Maureen Moran.

They were first seen by Maureen Moran, 40, who lives in Carlisle, after going for a run into the country. "It was like a star. It was when it disappeared completely I knew it wasn't it. It appeared too fast. It just seemed to go. When I saw it I was scared people would think I am crazy. I did not want to tell my body that I had seen aliens," said Mrs Moran.

Another witness, who wished to remain anonymous for fear of ridicule, said she saw a bright disc-like object move back and forth in front of her Harrovy home.

It was seen the next day over the Cumberland Show, where visitors saw a pin prick of light emerge at 5pm and begin to pulsate. The unidentified object appeared at the same time parklands jumps are adjacent above the show, but to the parachute event. "We were confused about the minutes," said one woman. "At first we thought it was a balloon. Then another witness saw three discs of the same sort at roughly the same time on Saturday. Edward Cooper, 18, of Corby Hill, says he saw star-like discs above Brunton Park on the Saturday afternoon. "One was orange

and high up and the other was white and quite close to it," said Mrs Moran. "I looked back again and they were still there. It was about 3.0pm. It was a very clear day and I thought they might be stars, but I have never seen stars during the day."

At the same time dental surgeon Bill Taylor, who was driving along the Asparta to Maryport road, saw a strange light over light Solway. "It was an extremely bright light that didn't appear to be moving and then disappeared," said Mr Taylor. "They will investigate to find out if the objects were foreign fighter planes, but have no official UFO investigation policy."

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## People of Cumbria, you are not alone

## Spybase in UFO cover-up claim

Cheltenham spybase GCHQ has been covering up UFO sightings for decades, says a new report.

UFO expert Robin Cole says sources 'close to the base' have told him that information has been concealed from the public for the last 40 years.

Mr Cole, who lives in Cheltenham, is demanding the base comes clean about UFOs. He has published a booklet detailing his research called *GCHQ And The UFO Cover Up*.

He said: "The time has come when the truth should be told." Mr Cole, head of investigations for Circular Forum, a Gloucestershire UFO group, has concentrated his research on a sighting last October when a green and red rotating light was seen off the coast of Skegness in Lincolnshire. It appeared on the radar at the coastguard station.

The official explanation given to Mr Cole by the MoD is the lights were probably from the planet Venus and a blip appeared

on the radar screen because of freak weather conditions. But Mr Cole says that on the night of the sighting two senior civil servants were called to GCHQ. He says the conclusion of their meeting was that a UFO had been observed.

Mr Cole also says that two GCHQ security guards were reprimanded in March last year for speaking publicly about two bright objects they observed over Oakley site.

A GCHQ spokesman referred the Echo to a letter written by the base's director David Ormand to Mr Cole last January. "In the letter Mr Ormand says: 'We're not engaged in any way whatsoever in any monitoring for suspected UFOs and we hold no information from our normal work which would shed any light on the debate whether UFOs have or have not been detected. So a nil return from us.'"

The booklet costs £3.95 plus 40p postage and packing. It can be purchased from Mr Cole on 0973 778906.

## Third close encounter of the triangular kind

A THIRD close encounter of the same kind has been reported by a stunned sunbather in Birmingham.

Mrs Jean Dean, of Nottingham Avenue, saw an object flying miles above her in the sky as she sat in her back garden on Monday afternoon - and called the Express

Advertiser straight away to report what she had seen. This is now our THIRD report confirming a sighting of the strange object this year.

Little did Mrs Dean realise that the description she gave - a triangular shape with a silvery appearance - was a spookily match for two previous sightings revealed exclusively in this paper.

On June 18, the Seal family from Heaton Moor spotted the brightly lit object over the M56 - a sighting corroborated by pilot Malcolm Smith who reported seeing a strange craft. Mrs Dean said: "I was just there sunbathing and I hap-

pened to look up and there it was.

"At first I thought maybe it was a paper bag but then the wind wouldn't have been able to carry it that far. It was a triangular shape and silvery in colour. I watched it hovering in one place for about five minutes.

"Then I heard a plane coming in and the shape shot away at high speed and vanished. I just wish one of my neighbours had been here because I think else and yes, I was a little bit nervous before but now I don't think UFO's do exist."

# Alien life-forms descend on town, and buy T-shirts

ANDREW HAY  
In Roswell, New Mexico

SELF-DECLARED alien abductees, an alien family and countless UFO believers were among the tens of thousands of people drawn to the New Mexico town of Roswell this weekend to mark the 50th anniversary of an alleged UFO crash.

Some visitors watched the skies for alien spacecraft and searched for answers about strange experiences, but many were content to buy an alien-face T-shirt and watch the extravaganza unfold.

Hundreds lined Roswell's Main Street yesterday morning to get a taste of what they believe happened nearby half a century ago. Crowds scattered as Jay Miller's unidentified craft veered out of control, crashed and burned. Miller, a syndicated political columnist from Santa Fe, won top prize in the "Crash and Burn Extravaganza," a soapbox destruction derby.

Roswell's mayor, Thomas Jennings, looked on approvingly as his town's week-long 1997 UFO Encounter reached its fiery climax. "When you live 200 miles from anywhere you've got to create your own fun," said Mr Jennings, dressed in an alien-festooned denim shirt.

Visitors paid \$15 to be bussed to a site on the Corn Ranch where the alien spacecraft is said to have crashed. "There has to be life out there," said David Samaha, a science

teacher from Beaumont, Texas, as he stared up at the vast skies. Dave Whitesel, 35, a lorry driver from Longmont, Colorado, said he had to visit Roswell to find out more about a bright light he saw 16 years ago. "Where I come from, most people think you're crazy if you mention this kind of thing."

The event attracted some 35,000 people and earn the town of 48,000 \$2.5 to \$5 million. Crystal Chaves was among Roswell satisfied residents. "These are just rocks from around here and people are buying them," said Ms Chaves, who was selling silver-painted rocks for \$2.

Not all residents were pleased. Pastor Jim Suttle, of Roswell's Calvary Chapel, said festival-goers were being drawn by Satan. "People are looking to UFOs as a replacement for God," he said. "This is Satan distracting people from the Lord."

Stan Crosby, festival organiser, said people could believe what they liked. "If aliens show up here let them try to convert them."

In Roswell's convention centre, a New Orleans family tried to convert passers-by to their alien faith. "I'm an alien, and I've always known it," said April Morgan, 20, handing out copies of a book, *An Interview With Jesus Christ, the Head Alien*. Janet and Joseph Morgan said they raised their five children as aliens. "April's always been different from other people her

age," said Mrs Morgan, of her daughter dressed in a black lycra body suit.

Nearby, Russel Seifert sold pickled alien foetuses and other alien-orientated wares.

A few booths down, Bill McDonald, a private investigator and forensic artist, found that sales of spacecraft model kits were taking off. He did admit he meets a lot of strange people at such events. "Out of every 100 people here I'd say six are genuine, 50 are here for the sex and the rest are mentally ill."

John Mack, a Harvard psychiatry professor who works with people who claim to have been abducted by aliens, said 25 to 30 per cent of them are mentally disturbed, but added: "We have to face the fact that were not the top being."

Leah Haley, a chartered accountant, said she knows intelligent life is out there. She claims to have been abducted by aliens several times and that humanoid babies were created from her ova.

UFO researchers continue to look for hard evidence of the alleged crash. Russel Vernon Clark, a chemist, said last week that he has debris from the Roswell crash, but failed to produce evidence.

Some have given up. "Roswell is this huge dead red herring lying in the path of UFO research," said Karl Pflock, a writer and UFO researcher. "The legend, the myth has taken on a life of its own; the facts don't matter anymore."

### THE SCOTSMAN

07 JUL 97  
Page 9

THE INDEPENDENT  
04 AUG 97  
Page 1

## US spy jets behind UFO hysteria

Kate Watson-Smyth

The US Air Force may have fuelled conspiracy theories about a big cover-up regarding alien life after it emerged at the weekend that it repeatedly made up stories to hide the fact that their secret spy planes had been spotted.

Gerald Haines, a historian at the National Reconnaissance Office, said that when called upon to explain alleged UFO sightings during the Cold War years, the US Air Force frequently provided explanations that were untrue in order to deflect attention from their planes.

"Over half of all UFO reports from the late 1950s through the 1960s were accounted for by manned reconnaissance flights (namely the U-2) over the United States," he wrote in the spring issue of *Studies of Intelligence*, an unclassified CIA journal.

Concern about the public finding out about the secret spy planes "led the Air Force to make misleading and deceptive statements to the public in order to allay public fears and to protect an extraordinarily sensitive national security project," Mr Haines wrote.

"While perhaps justified, this

deception added fuel to the later conspiracy theories and the cover-up controversy..." regarding the existence of UFOs, he added.

Mr Haines based his article on a review of CIA documents from the late 1940s to 1990.

He described how the Air Force sought to deflect attention from the development of its high-altitude experimental aircraft, the U-2 and the SR-71.

The early U-2s were silver and reflected the sun's rays, especially at sunrise and sunset, and often appeared as fiery objects to people below, Mr Haines said. The U-2s were lat-

er painted black. Air Force investigators, "aware of the secret U-2 flights, tried to explain away such sightings by linking them to natural phenomena such as ice crystals and temperature inversions," Mr Haines wrote.

By 1956 the Air Force internally had clear explanations for 96 per cent of all UFO sightings, Mr Haines wrote, referring to the experimental aircraft. "They were careful, however, not to reveal the true cause of the sighting to the public."

He also said that the CIA, during the height of the Cold War, hid its involvement in studies into UFO sightings be-

cause the agency was concerned that if word came out it would lead to a national hysteria that could be exploited by the Soviet Union.

The director of space policy at the Washington-based Federation of American Scientists, John Pike, said the study raises questions about other possible government cover-ups involving unidentified flying objects.

"The flying-saucer community is definitely on to something," in accusing the military of hiding something, Mr Pike told the *New York Times*, which reported on the study in yesterday's edition.

# Silver discs in sky —more witnesses

ANOTHER two North-East Fife residents think they might have seen a UFO at around the same time as a Luthrie man who said he was baffled by a strange object in the sky.

Last Saturday The Courier reported how a man walking his dog near Norman's Law saw a silver disc with no definable front or back heading north-west in the early morning sky of June 18.

He said it was visible for five minutes from about 5.20 am and was definitely not a balloon or a plane. The man said there was another object, hovering directly above it, which was "deathly silent."

RAF Leuchars have said that as far as the base's air traffic control centre was concerned, there were no military or civilian aircraft in the area at that time.

Yesterday the mystery deepened as a woman from the Scooniehill Road area of St Andrews said that she saw something remarkably

similar passing over the eastern skyline of the town as she looked from her window at about 5.30 on the same morning.

The woman was so intrigued by what she saw that she even went out to her front door to try and get a better view.

She said, "It was a very still morning with no sounds at all when I saw them. There were two silvery objects with no definable front or back—things which seem to be exactly the same description as what the man from Luthrie had seen a few minutes earlier heading in the opposite direction.

"At first I thought they were gulls but it was the silver which caught my eye. I watched them for a few minutes flying one above the other then one shot up into the clouds while the other kept going dead straight.

"I have no logical explanation for what I saw and I don't believe in

UFOs—my girls have been laughing at me all week about it urging me to phone The Courier—but I would just like the man in Luthrie to know that he was not alone in whatever it was he saw."

Meanwhile, an 85-year-old Auchtermuchty woman told The Courier yesterday that she had seen something equally as strange in the early hours of June 17. She said a motionless disc-shaped light hovered over Falkland for at least 45 minutes prior to 2 am that night before moving southwards towards the Lomond Hills.

The location is close to where a craft of some description is alleged to have landed in a field at Newton of Falkland late last year.

"I looked at the light through my binoculars and it was a dimly lit circle with bright lights around the outside. When I opened my window there was no sound," the woman said.

A UFO terrified a family from Heaton Moor, as they made their way home after a holiday.

Peter and Wynn Seel were on the M56 with sons Craig and Scott on June 1, after a holiday in North Wales, when they spotted the brightly lit object in the distance.

By the time the Seels reached the High Lee area, the mysterious triangle was directly above them, hovering in the air.

The family were then stunned when it suddenly zipped across the sky to the opposite side of the motorway at roughly 100mph before disappearing behind trees.

## Frightened

The four were too frightened to stop and search for the object, which had red lights on each corner and a large white light in the middle. But on their return home, they contacted UFO expert David Cayton.

Mr Cayton and the Seel family returned to the scene over the weekend and spoke to farmers in the area. But so far they have been unable to find any other witnesses.

Peter, 47, a mature student, said:

"We were coming along the M56, when we saw a light in the sky to our left. We kept watching as we went along and thought nothing of it. As we got closer I expected to see some structure holding it up because it was that still. But then I realised it was just hovering in the sky.

"To be honest, we were very frightened. We just wanted to get away from it. I have always kept an open mind about UFOs. Even now I find it hard to believe. But I'm just saying what I saw. I want an explanation for what it was."

David Cayton said a number of objects fitting the Seel family's description had recently been spotted across the UK. He said: "I am convinced this is genuine. They were very frightened. They knew very little about the subject before, but now they are very interested.

"We would like people on the motorway that night to come forward if they saw anything."

■ Anyone who thinks they may have spotted the UFO, between junctions 7 and 9 of the M56, can contact David Cayton on 4834956 or 0831 594331.

## Mystery UFO over village

THERE could be something strange hovering in the skies above Hockley — or so believes Allan Seymour.

For he is convinced the round, shiny object he saw in the evening sky was something out of this world.

He said: "It was a bright, glowing sphere. "It made me think of a highly polished saucer, without a handle or a lid."

Mr Seymour and his wife Patricia were driving along Lower Hockley Road, last Wednesday when he spotted the alien object.

He said: "It went into a small puff of cloud, and this was the strange thing — I never saw it come out."

Mr Seymour, 62, of Westborough Road, Westcliff, who spent many years working on airport runway constructions around the world, is adamant his UFO wasn't a plane.

He insisted: "I know a plane when I see one."

Southend Airport press officer Diane Hollander said: "We have no record of any such object."

EVENING ECHO (SOUTHEND, CASTLE POINT, ROCHFORD)  
15 JUL 97  
Page 5

EVENING ECHO (SOUTHEND, CASTLE POINT, ROCHFORD)

16 JUL 97  
Page 7

## Others spot the UFO

STRANGE sightings in the skies above Hockley have been backed up by two more people.

Allan Seymour, 62, of Westborough Road, Westcliff, told how he spotted an alien object while he was driving with his wife along Lower Road, Hockley.

It was said to be a bright, glowing sphere which went into a small puff of cloud and never came out.

Now two more people have recounted similar sightings last Wednesday.

Sylvia Culham, 56, of Lonsdale Road, Southend, saw an object in the sky between 7.30 and 8pm from back garden over the Rochford area.

She said: "It was quite high in the sky and bright." Hadleigh resident Keith Hayman, of Church Road, also spotted it and took a closer look through his binoculars.

He said: "It was a bright sphere with two lights on either side. It gradually got smaller and smaller until it disappeared."

BARNSELY CHRONICLE

25 JUL 97  
Page 5

lines

## Appeal made on UFO sighting

A UFO researcher has appealed for information about a sighting of an object over Langsett Reservoir from almost 40 years ago.

David Sankey, 38, who is the South Yorkshire investigations officer with the British UFO Research Association, wants more details of a sighting of a large green cigar-shaped object in June or July 1959.

He is collecting the information on behalf of a Doncaster woman Jan Cole who says she saw the object at the time but never reported it for fear of ridicule.

Anyone recalling the sighting should write to Mr Sankey at 4 Southmoor Avenue, Armthorpe, Doncaster DN3 3BB.



# Are there aliens in Dundonald?

HARBOROUGH MAIL

24 JUL 97

Page 7

## ARE the aliens coming?

In the week that has seen the build up to the most thorough examination yet of the planet Mars — by mankind — the question on the minds of people in Dundonald is whether or not the aliens are already here, studying us.

About a dozen people watched a strange spectacle in the sky over the town last Friday night.

For about two hours, an unidentified object appeared to drift over several houses.

At first the object appeared to be elliptical and was about the size of large radar satellite dish.

There seemed to be 14 or 15 flashing lights underneath it as the unidentified object slowly drifted around, passing over houses in Auchans Drive and Cochrane Avenue.

People watched it from about 11.20 pm to about 1.20 am on Saturday morning.

But at times it seemed to change its shape and it resembled a large letter 'M'.

Sometimes it appeared to be high in the sky and at other times it looked as if it was just above the rooftops.

Some of the witnesses were genuinely afraid, but the others were astounded.

The spectacle was seen by villagers Shirley and Arthur Woodcock and by Geordie and Rena McNally.

Debbie McNally described the thing as "a series of circles, giving off lights and rotating."

Eventually the whole thing disappeared.

But even though it was gone, the mystery continued next morning. Two neighbours each

found that when they switched on the light in their bathrooms the bulbs exploded. The object had hovered over both houses.

So what was it? Air traffic control at Prestwick, the official reporting agency for any unidentified aircraft and other airborne objects, say that nothing was reported to them from Ayrshire on Friday.

The spectacle may, however, have a perfectly natural explanation.

Dundonald people may have seen a rare example of the Gegenschein or a similar phenomenon.

The Gegenschein is rarely seen as far north as Scotland. It appears in the sky, exactly opposite the sun, after sunset and is caused by dust in the atmosphere. That dust could have come from the volcano in Montserrat. The flashing lights could have been the stars shining through the fainter light.

But even if that theory is correct, it does not explain the exploding light bulbs.

Meanwhile in Galston, a more solid object was seen last Thursday by someone who lives near the school.

He described the object as a large black silent triangle with a white light at each corner.

It was seen sometime between 11 pm and 11.30 pm and was heading south.

Did you see the mystery thing over either Dundonald or Galston? If so drop us a line giving as much detail as you can.

Write to UFO sighting, Kilmarnock Standard, 1 Bank Place, Kilmarnock, KA1 1HJ. Remember, the truth is out there.

# Mystery orange lights hit skies over town

And the couple had another strange sighting the following Thursday at about 11 pm. She said: "All of a sudden this orange light appeared and this time it was hovering, almost as if it was watching us. It appeared again as we walked up Northampton Road. "I have no explanation as to what it was, but there must be some explanation." UFO expert Patrick Leonard of Scaldwell said this was a classic sighting of an unidentified flying object and is keen for anyone else who saw the orange lights to come forward. He said: "This is a really good report. The aerial performances, which are intriguing, and the bright orange light means it is not a conventional aircraft. "We don't know what it is for sure but we have to keep an open mind." ● If you saw these orange lights, please contact The Mail newstack on MH 462626.

By Mandy Ryan "It kept coming back and then going forward again, it was moving fast but kept disappearing like it was playing a game. About 45 minutes later another orange light, went across the top of the house, high up. This was faster, too fast to be a plane. "The two joined up and went off together."

MYSTERY lights seen in the sky above Harbourough have intrigued a UFO expert. The bright orange lights were seen by a Northampton Road resident and her boyfriend at her home and on another occasion in the town. She said: "We were sitting on the patio on Wednesday, August 2 when we saw a bright orange light, like a lamp-post light, but higher."

WEST CUMBERLAND TIMES & STAR  
20 JUN 97  
Page 32

# Something spooky . . .

SINCE featuring UFO investigator Sharon X's April 9 flying saucer sighting recently, The S-Files has been inundated with calls from local sky watchers who have also spotted strange craft in skies above Allerdale.

These are just some of the cases we'll be reporting over the next few weeks:

One woman from Seaton told us of her sighting, which happened on April 9 - the same day as Sharon's. She was taking a shortcut through Kelsick Park and Milburn Croft just after 10pm that night when she saw a bright light in the sky.

"It was as bright as the brightest star and it seemed to be quite high up. At first it looked like two stars moving away, but then I saw one was moving and one was static," she said.

As she watched, the object moved very quickly from west to east and then change direction before moving further and further into the distance until it was no longer visible.

"It was very unusual," said the woman, who has also seen UFOs over Thames Board and above Vulcan Park in Workington.

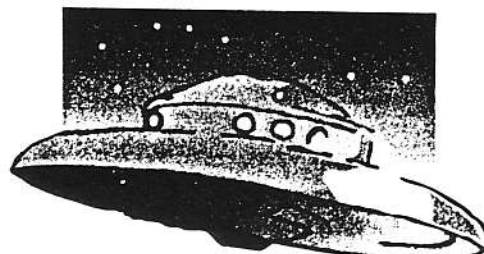
People in Workington thought they were being April Fool-ed when two cycling sisters told them of their close encounter on April 1, as they were riding through the Laybourne Court area of town. It was about 7.50pm and as they looked across towards Moorclose sports centre they

saw a huge saucer shape craft cloaked in the clouds. It was, they said, metallic grey coloured, had no lights and was moving up and down erratically. They believed it was certainly not from this world and admitted to being quite frightened by it.

Sharon X, a representative for North West Cumbria UFO Research and Investigations, recently reported an aerial phenomenon spotted at 5.13am on May 24.

According to reliable sources, a very large, long silver object was seen moving in a slow, accurate pattern from left to right, pausing in the middle each time, in clear skies over the Solway Firth.

"This is just one of a large number of sightings over the Solway Firth and Flimby woods areas in the last two years," said Sharon, who is hoping to organise a sky-watch with other UFO enthusiasts in the near future. Watch this space for details . . .





STRANGE lights in the sky sparked fears that aliens were about to descend on Devon.

Coastguards, police and the Echo were contacted by hundreds of worried people claiming they had seen UFOs.

The first calls started in the early hours of Sunday morning.

People reported seeing small white lights darting around the sky.

One 40-year-old Exeter woman said: "It looked really weird, I just saw this bright white light zig-zag across the sky."

"I knew it wasn't a plane and it didn't look like a shooting star."

But coastguards confirmed the lights were meteors.

The shower, known as Beta Taurids, was seen all along the Devon and Cornwall coast.

A spokesman for Brixham Coastguard said: "We have had an awful lot of calls from worried people, but it's nothing sinister."

## Resident baffled by 'UFO' in sky

A baffled Telford resident looked to the skies in disbelief after spotting what he believes is a UFO hovering over the horizon, today, Terry Wilcox, 51, tracked it for two and a half hours.

Terry Wilcox, 51, noticed what he described as a "pulsating object" as he looked out of his window at his home in Winston Drive, Donnington, at about 12.20am.

He sat watching as it appeared to change direction and colour from silver to orange in the sky towards Weston Park.

"I thought at first it was a police helicopter but now I think it was a UFO. It has left me a bit baffled," he said.

Mr Wilcox, a co-ordinator for a neighbourhood watch group in Donnington, is eagerly waiting to pull out his binoculars again tonight to see if the circular object re-appears.

A Telford police spokesman said the force helicopter had not been up at the time and that RAF Shawbury were not carrying out any night flying.

"We are still mystified as to what he saw," he said.

# Spot the aliens

By KIRSTIE NEWTON

truth about Roswell. Some even claim to have seen alien bodies recovered from the craft which, they say, were whisked away to undergo experiments in the now notorious secret testing base Area 51.

Tim Shavercross believes that his book offers the "authoritative account" of what happened that fateful night. But this is debatable, for while he asks the age-old questions and interviews eye-

witnesses, he does not seem to provide any answers. But maybe that's just as well, as both the believers and the sceptics deliver accounts which are equally credible and yet also equally flawed, making it impossible to climb down from the fence. For this reviewer though, the sceptics shade it. While the heavily-quoted official Air Force report makes dull reading, its essence hits home: the object was a weather balloon with no occupants. The fact that it crashed when flying saucers were en vogue, with an entire nation

MANCHESTER EVENING NEWS

11 JUL 97

Page 58

YORKSHIRE EVENING PRESS (YORK)

12 JUN 97

Page 14

HEXHAM COURANT

04 JUL 97

Page 10

Willow Green, Otterburn.

### What was it?

DID anyone else spot the UFO which appeared briefly over Hexham on Wednesday?

It was a glowing, yellow radiant disc, which was visible for about five seconds before disappearing behind the clouds.

STARGAZER

Name and address supplied

WOOTTON BASSETT GAZETTE

24 JUL 97

### Lights in sky shock

I AM writing to express some concern over an incident which occurred at 11.30pm last Sunday, July 20.

I am now aware that the military were involved. On the night in question my wife noticed in the sky a bright orange circular light which appeared to be stationary.

My wife and I witnessed the glowing light. After a few seconds a second light came into view just a short distance from the first one. Both lights continued to glow, one slowly faded after about 15 seconds and the other after about 20 seconds. My wife Debbie was visibly shaken, and I too was concerned.

Tessa Ghent, from Truthseekers Wiltshire, was able to confirm that military activity involving ground manoeuvres had taken place around the area of Upavon.

This activity involved the use of unconventional flares, and it has been suggested that this is what my wife and I witnessed. If this is the case, can I suggest to the bases that the public are informed of forthcoming activity.

ROGER MALLETT

Director of Investigations for Wiltshire Society for Paranormal and UFO Research

THREE UFO sightings in a week have been reported in York.

All three people saw a silver disc shape speeding silently across the sky, and all are sure that it was not a plane.

Bill Rooke, 43, who watched the silver shape for several minutes over Strensall, said:

"It was a clear day, with blue sky, and I could see jet planes at the same time. The silver disc was five or six times bigger than the planes."

Mr Rooke, a self-employed designer, of Foxwood, said: "I pointed it out to my friend, Eric, and he watched it with me."

Mr Rooke said his son and his son's girlfriend had seen a silver shape zig-zagging over Acomb Green two days earlier. "Their dog was spooked out by it. There were planes in the sky too, but the silver disc was the only one not leaving a trail," said Mr Brooke, who spent 15

minutes watching a similar spectacle in 1982.

Mr Brooke, who saw the UFO two weeks ago on Thursday, came forward after Raymond Brookshaw, of Skelton, reported a silver shape flying through the sky last week.

UFO investigator Andy Rayner, of Tadcaster, said: "There have

been very few sightings recently so this is worth checking out. It is possible people saw gliders, which can appear silver at high altitudes,

though they're not disc shaped."

But he warned: "Sometimes our investigations come to nothing. It is amazing how many times the moon is reported as a UFO."

Philip Inman, a spokesman for RAF Linton-on-Ouse, said, when asked if radar had picked up anything: "Nothing seen. Nothing heard. Nothing known."



SHROPSHIRE STAR  
10 JUL 97  
Page 28

adscene week ending Friday 18th July 1997.

# HAVE YOU SEEN UFO?

PARANORMAL investigators are asking witnesses of an apparent UFO landing to come forward.

More than 30 drivers are believed to have seen the bright oval shape in the sky over Sturry.

Paul Marsh and John Jenkins, who co-ordinate the Herne Bay based Truth Research Investigations group, have interviewed one witness who claims he was one

of about 30 drivers who stopped at the side of the road in Sturry Hill to watch the UFO on Monday, 7 July.

Mr Marsh said: "The object appeared to be oval, 500 to 700 metres above the ground and was lit up bright orange. It was stationary and a second, smaller, object seemed to break away from it and go to the ground."

The lights of the UFO then went out and lit up again when the two parts appeared to rejoin. The object then went dark and disappeared from view.

The entire episode lasted about eight minutes.

"We don't generally go about chasing lights in the sky, because they could be anything," said Mr Marsh.

"But this is a particularly interesting sighting, especially because there were so many witnesses there at the time."

Anyone who believes they may have seen the same UFO, on Monday, 7 July, can contact John Jenkins on 01227 365079.