



IRELAND

Monday, February 26, 2001

Desmond Leslie dies in France at 79

By Marie O'Halloran

Novelist, second World War Spitfire pilot and spritualist Desmond Leslie has died in the south of France, aged 79.

His wife, Ms Helen Strong, his six children, sons-in-law, his older brother Sir John Leslie and Ms Jennifer Fibbs, with whom he had a daughter, were with him at the time of his death in hospital in Antibes.

Mr Leslie was the second son of Sir Shane Leslie, of Castle Leslie, Glaslough, Co Monaghan.

He wrote a number of books, including the bestselling *Flying Saucers have Landed*, which he co-authored with George Stransky. It was translated into more than 50 languages. He also co-authored *Space Race* with the astronomer Patrick Moore.

His novels included *Suzy Saucer* and *Ronnie Rocket* and *The Incredible Mr Lutterworth*. He also wrote *The Jesus File*. At the time of his death he was working on *Pandora*, a novel about the women in his life.

He had lived in St Jeannet since the late 1980s with Ms Strong, his second wife, with whom he had two daughters, Samantha and Camilla. Samantha runs the Castle Leslie estate. He was first married to the actress Agnes Bernelle, with whom he had three children.

Mr Leslie once famously punched the BBC drama critic Bernard Levin on the nose during the TV programme *That Was The Week That Was*. It was in 1963 when the critic had written a bad review of the show *A Cabaret of Savagery and Delight*, presented by Ms Bernelle.

Blackpool Gazette
Saturday 10th February 2001
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Flying a UFO kite

AS I stood on Whitegate Drive last Monday afternoon I couldn't help noticing at the way the high flying jets kept correcting their course as they approached the Tower, and it was at this moment that a passing stranger got into conversation with me about an unusual flying incident which happened recently over Fleetwood sands.

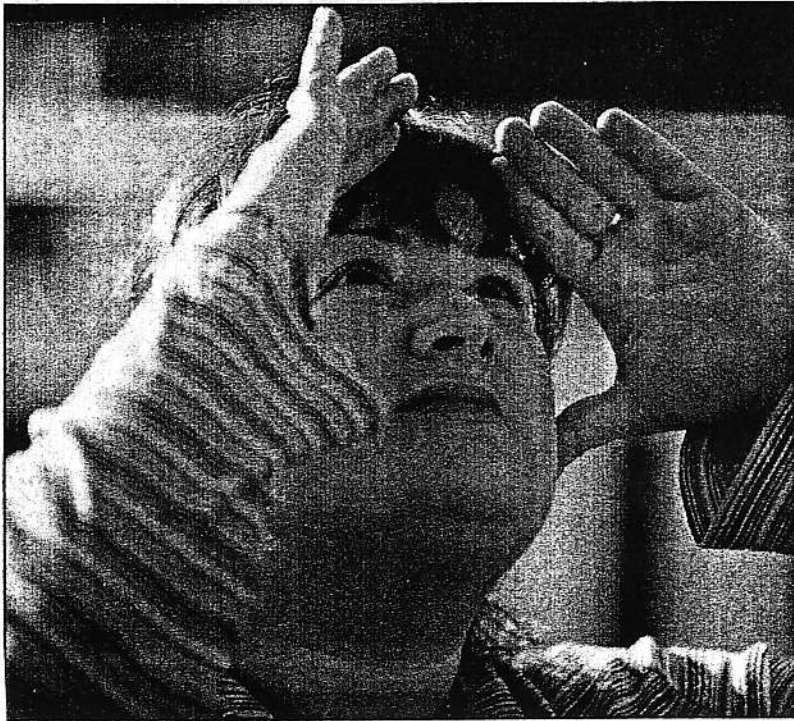
It appears that two youths were flying their lit-up kites one evening when they were spoken to by the police concerning the danger to low flying aircraft.

However, the youths had contacted Squires Gate Airport; they evidently assumed that it was all right to continue flying their lit-up kites.

Since this though I have discovered that there are in fact a few professional kite flyers living in the district who sometimes fly their kites at well over 1,000 feet so this being the case it looks as if the policeman was just playing safe and of course this aforementioned incident could have been responsible for the UFOs seen over Fleetwood.

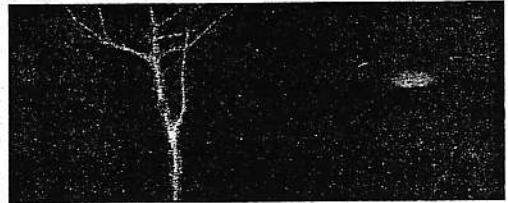
WARNER KELLY
Chepstow Court
Dingle Avenue
Blackpool

The night they saw the light



● Sky watch... Corina Rigazio observes the unusual phenomena, above
● Pictures: TRACEY O'NEILL

Dancing shapes over city suburbs



THERE were strange goings-on in the night sky above Merseyside last night.

ECHO readers have reported seeing dancing lights in the sky.

Eileen Davidson, from Broadgreen, spotted four orange lights just after 6pm.

Mother-of-two Eileen said: "At first I thought it might be a meteor shower but they were far too organised."

"They had a definite formation and seemed to move in an organised way."

"I called out my husband and children and we all just watched them completely transfixed."

Corina Rigazio, from Wavertree, said she had not been able to sleep after seeing the peculiar light show.

She said: "There seemed to be a series of lights coming towards me from the direction of Edge Lane."

"There were about four of them and they were arranged in a diagonal formation, equally spaced apart."

"I know it sounds crazy, but one of the lights seemed to be leading the way and they were moving in a formation."

Tim O'Brien, an astronomer at Jodrell Bank in Cheshire said the lights could be linked to a meteor shower over the North-West last week.

"Although meteors tend to be green and the descriptions your readers have given do not seem to match that."

He added that aircraft lights in the far distance could be the answer.

Middleton & North Manchester Guardian

Thursday 8th February 2001

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Truth is out there



WE ARE not alone.

Strange lights in the night sky over Middleton have certainly left four young men wondering just what it was they saw.

Anthony Gill, Reece Fleming, Ben Dale and Dexter Schofield were walking along Mosedale Road, Langley, about 9.45pm on Wednesday (31), when two burning bright lights in the heavens caught their eye.

Ben, aged 18, who works for his dad, said: "At the moment, I find it unexplainable. There were two very bright lights and they definitely weren't planes. One was still while the other was moving around. They then completely vanished in a split second."

They claim the fact that the light was so bright, almost like a fireball, was what got their attention in the first place.

Reece, aged 21, who works for Rochdale Council, said one of the lights was still and the other seemed to be moving towards it.

by Duncan Ponter

"We thought at first it was two planes and it looked as if they were going to crash," he added.

Manweb Electrical worker Anthony Gill, aged 19, said: "We watched them for about 30 seconds and then they just disappeared, just like that they were gone."

The lads, left a little bewildered by the strange sighting, have had a bit of a hard time since telling people about their close encounter.

Anthony, on telling his mum, said: "She just started laughing at me, she doesn't believe me at all."

Workmates of Reece also gave him a bit of a hard time and are yet to be convinced.

Ben added: "There may be a reasonable explanation, but at the moment I don't know what they were."

And no, the lads say they had not touched a drop.

STRANGE lights in the sky have left pals Reece Fleming, Ben Dale and Anthony Gill wondering what it was they saw.
(06ed14-01)

- EERIE lights in the night sky have prompted phone calls from dozens of baffled readers this week.
- Felicity Newson talks to astonished eye-witnesses about their X-File style experiences — and challenges the experts to convince us the aliens are NOT landing.

MULDER and Scully were otherwise engaged. But strange lights in the star-scape have had Liverpool so abuzz with UFO rumours this week that we decided to launch our very own investigation.

Brilliant white arrowheads have hovered in the sky over Wavertree. Bronze lights with blurred edges have been scudding through the night towards Childwall.

And glowing red discs have moved in surreal precision formation over the rooftops of Huyton.

Cynics may say it all sounds supernaturally sci-fi: as if the special effects department of Men In Black had decided to use the Merseyside skyline as the backdrop for a new movie.

But we have heard so many accounts of uncanny after-dark sightings — and had so many direct calls from incredulous readers who sound as if they have their feet firmly on the ground — that we could not just dismiss the reports as mass UFO hysteria.

Over the last few weeks there has been a flurry of weird other-worldly lights in the night sky over Merseyside, some of it documented on photographs and video film.

However it was this week that sightings really reached a peak with many readers contacting the ECHO newsdesk to give accounts of experiences, many of which are too similar to be simply coincidental.

One of the most graphic accounts came from amateur astronomer Dave Lancaster, from Huyton, who says he was outside his house with his binoculars just after 10pm when he noticed an unusual red light appearing over the horizon.

"I looked out in the direction of Jupiter, towards the west when I saw the light and at first I thought it was a police helicopter," says Dave. "But the light was too red and the I saw another and another, all more or less in a straight line from the horizon upwards.

"They were in a kind of triangular shape and seemed to stay still

Aliens ... or aeroplanes? What is really going on in Liverpool's sky at night?

for about 10 seconds before moving eastwards across the sky, with two of them seeming to be ahead of the other and the lights seeming to keep in this strict formation all the way.

"Because I couldn't get enough detail with my binoculars I went indoors to get my birdwatching telescope, which has about 20 times the magnification, but all I could see was that they were solid red discs, though one seemed to have a halo.

"I know quite a bit about

astronomy and I have seen plenty of meteorites and fireballs in my time, but I have never encountered anything like this.

"I kept on looking for about three or four minutes as they suddenly seemed to fade, just leaving the kind of glow that you get if you turn off a red bulb or a gas burner."

At exactly the same time, Corina Rigazio of Wavertree was taking advantage of a TV commercial break to let her two chihuahuas out into the front garden

to heed a call of nature.

"Immediately I saw these really strange white lights in the sky — very bright, but not too dazzling to look at," Corina explains.

"There were four lights and at first I wondered if they were from a helicopter, but you quite often get police helicopters round here and the lights were nothing like I had seen before.

"There was absolutely no noise either and the atmosphere was quite eerie. I bundled the dogs inside but even though I was quite frightened and part of me wanted to go and knock on a neighbour's door there was something very mesmerising about the lights and I had to go on looking.

"They were moving quite fast across the sky and eventually seemed to settle over Kensington, where they seemed to manoeuvre out of their original arrow-head formation into a straight diagonal line.

"They stayed in the sky for about 10 minutes and then just seemed to fade away.

"I do look at the night sky often but this whole experience was so strange that I didn't sleep at all."

Another eye-witness from Wavertree saw bizarre lights from her garden earlier the same evening.

"It was about 6.35pm when I glanced up to the left and saw four deep bronze coloured lights which looked circular but with blurred edges," the woman says.

"There were five of us watching including one of my daughters who is a police officer. We often see helicopters and we are also under the flight path to the airport, but this was something completely different.

"They moved in the direction of Childwall and after about 10 minutes they just flickered and disappeared."

The truth of what's really out there

AFTER this week's spate of strange sightings we persuaded Liverpool UFO expert Anthony Eccles to do a night vigil in Princes Park, near his home.

Anthony, 32, became an accredited investigator with the British UFO Research Association and co-founded the Merseyside Anomalies Research Association, after a spooky experience of his own back in 1988.

But although Anthony reckons that 10% of supposed sightings cannot be explained in any accepted scientific context, he does not believe that this week's events in the sky qualify as inexplicable.

"In the past strange lights in the sky which have been wrongly claimed as alien experiences have actually been caused by meteors," Anthony says.

"Having looked at the sky this week, though, I am sure that the lights people have been seeing have been caused by a combination of factors, including aircraft,

rogue shooting stars and the International space station.

"There are also two very predominant stars in the sky at the moment, Arcturus and Sirius. And there has been a bolide — or fireball — which has been visible in Merseyside, the Manchester area and Derbyshire.

"It also has to be said that people are often not very good observers — they don't actually study the sky in detail very often or stand outside late at night — so they don't necessarily know what's normal."

So how does Anthony account for the one-out-of-10 sightings which ARE inexplicable?

"The idea that something can move from one planet to another in a physical spacecraft is now very old-fashioned," he says.

"However there could well be time and energy implications and what is possible is that what we term UFO activity may well be to do with a complex dimensional factor which is capable of manip-

ulating our world and takes us into the realms of quantum physics."

Dr Tim O'Brien, from Jodrell Bank, says the observatory has also had more calls than normal in the last few days and agrees that astronomy alone cannot explain away the recent bout of nocturnal activity.

"We do often experience an increase in strange sightings after a big astronomical event and we did have the lunar eclipse in January," Dr O'Brien says.

"There was meteor activity last week, which means that the earth passes through debris left by a comet.

"And there are several bright planets which have been visible this week because of the clear sky — including Venus, Jupiter and Saturn.

"However the kind of experiences which people have described to us in the last few days could not be attributable to astronomy alone."

Liverpool Echo
16/02/2001

Bizarre bracelet of lights

A COUPLE who claim to have seen a bizarre set of lights in the sky are appealing for anyone else who saw them to get in touch.

Eileen Davis and her husband, of Ashby Close, Moulton, woke at about 2.30am yesterday to see a circle of white lights in the sky.

Mrs Davis said: "We looked out of the window and saw a huge circle of

flashing lights, like a bracelet."

She said the lights hovered for 10 minutes, changed colour to red and then floated out of view.

Mrs Davis' house faces east towards Sywell Aerodrome but it could not explain the apparition.

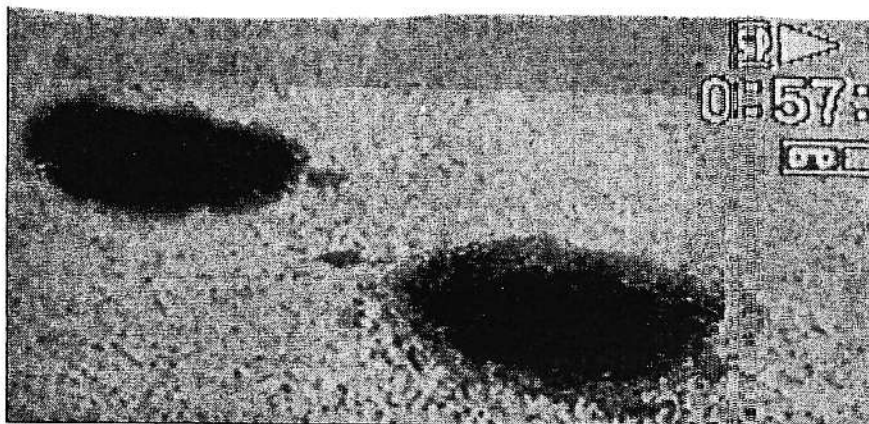
Anyone with information about the lights can contact Mrs Davis on Northampton 670208.

Chronicle Editor

1/4-2-2001

Lowestoft Journal
Friday 16th February 2001

MYSTERY SPOTS: Two of the mysterious scorch marks found on the beach in 1997.



Picture: SUPPLIED

Calling all UFO sighting reports

AFTER recent screening on national TV of my video footage of UFOs over the Lowestoft area I have been encouraged to write a book on the subject.

I would be most interested to hear from others in the area who have captured on video or film, or have had any sightings or

encounters with UFOs.

I would also be grateful to anyone who could offer me an explanation as to the origin of five burn or scorch circles, about 12ft in diameter, caught on video on October 7, 1997.

They were on the beach in front of the old MoD radar station between Corton and

Hopton (still frame enclosed).

There may well be a straightforward explanation for these. Please let me know.

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Tameside Reporter
Thursday 15th February 2001
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Meteor hits town!

RESIDENTS had a close encounter when more than a hundred sightings of a UFO were reported high in the night sky.

But what looked like an alien craft to people all over the region was in fact a burning meteor - the size of a small stone.

A blinding flash of green light descended over the region last Thursday at about 7.30pm.

Astronomers later confirmed the object - which turned a reddish orange colour as it continued to fall to Earth - had entered the atmosphere at a speed of 'several kilometres a second'.

Dr Tom Muxlow, an astronomer at Jodrell Bank, witnessed the amazing sight while driving to the research base.

He said: "It was an intense green light which then turned orange within a few seconds - then nothing."

by Matthew Rogers

The rock - which disintegrated before it had a chance to hit the ground - was only about 2cm in diameter.

Yet it was seen as far away as Leeds, Colchester and Macclesfield before it loomed in on Droylsden.

Despite the size of the object, it would not have caused any damage had it hit the town.

Ian Morrison, also of Jodrell Bank, said: "There is no evidence ever of anyone being injured by a meteor, although one landed in a car boot in America some time ago."

Meteors can appear completely at random but usually break up before they hit the ground.

Bob Wheeler, Droylsden town manager, said: "The pace of development in Droylsden is so fast and exciting, it's wonderful it chose to descend on our town."

THE TOWN could not be more ordinary - flat-fronted brick bungalows with fitted curtains and PVC double-glazing, bus-stops with plastic seats looking on to trimmed green verges. It is enough to make your head spin. Strangely, it is not heads that are spinning here, but Unidentified Flying Objects. More than 60,000 sightings have been made in the town of Bonnybridge, near Falkirk in central Scotland, since 1991.

Locals spend their nights standing on purpose-built platforms gazing at the sky. They bring picnics, drink beer, and share stories. Some UFO sightings sound like hallucinations until you see the video footage. They have been variously described as "like floating loaves of bread" or "like eyes", and the films show strange, translucent forms of light shuddering through the air. Sometimes the UFOs stay still, move up, move down or blink their lights seductively. They inspire awe and terror.

"We are the UFO capital of the world," says local councillor Bill Buchanan. "The Muslims have Mecca, UFO enthusiasts have Bonnybridge." Mr Buchanan wants to twin Bonnybridge with Roswell, the American town that has become synonymous with other-worldly encounters. "I spoke with the mayor of Roswell last week," he says. "Let's just say that we have made progress." In 1947, grey, bulbous "humanoids" were reportedly found crushed under a space-ship in Roswell, New Mexico.

Bonnybridge can't compete with the mystery, conspiracy theories and sheer spectacle surrounding this incident. But still, it is trying.

"We want to build a high-tech theme park here, catering for 20,000 visitors a week," says Mr Buchanan. "We can't guarantee that they will see a UFO. But we can guarantee hospitality." The theme park, featuring virtual reality rocket rides, is expected to cost in the region of £250million. "Not everyone in Bonnybridge is happy about the proposal," admits Mr Buchanan. "But when they see how much the town could gain from new jobs, tourism and industry they will change their minds."

The Bonnybridge UFO phenomenon began with a normal family evening. "It was 1991," remembers Neil Malcolm, the eldest son of the Malcolm family, owners of a local restaurant. "I was driving down the street when this big white light the size of a jumbo jet appeared above me. It started following me. I was afraid. I didn't know what it was."

His mother, Ann, takes over the story. "I was sitting right here," she says. "Neil burst in looking like he'd been in a car crash. I ran outside to take a look at this so-called 'white light'. It was there for a long time." Her daughter-in-law grabbed a video camera and filmed the event.

Neil was badly disturbed by the incident. "I couldn't speak about it to anyone. When people asked me what happened I would just say 'nothing'." Now even his mother is reluctant to speak about the sighting, which belies cynical rumours that the family are only "seeing" UFOs to promote their restaurant business. "I get tired of people

This big white light the size of a jumbo jet appeared and started following me!

Did you see UFO craft?

SOUTH Kirkby is set to become a hotbed of interest to UFO spotters following an alleged sighting of a spaceship.

A South Kirkby resident claims she looked out of a front window at 7.30am last Friday and saw a large orange shape in the sky and, at the same time, heard a sound like a vacuum cleaner coming from the object.

She described it as huge and like two sides of a triangle with two white lights.

UFO enthusiast Paul Westwood, who set up a research group 12 months ago to investigate alien craft sightings, would like to hear from anyone who saw the object. He can be contacted on 01977 609068.

Hemsworth & South Elmsall Express
Friday 16th February 2001
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Sunday Express
Sunday 18th February 2001
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Looking up for star-gazing residents of Britain's UFO capital

With a crick in its neck

Picture: JAMES WILLIAMSON



BEHIND YOU: Restaurateur Neil Malcolm is not the only resident of Bonnybridge to see strange things in the skies above the Scottish town

g to me: 'Have you seen any more green aliens fly?' she complains indignantly. 'It belittles experiences.'

Afterwards, Joe Lemetti, owner of a fish and shop near Bonnybridge, endured his first encounter with a UFO at a barbecue. 'A group of 30 were sitting in the garden when this UFO just red out of the sky. It looked like a ball of light backwards and forwards, up and down. Then came - about 16 in all. Helicopters don't do well certainly not at that speed.' The spectacle went on for three hours.

He was stopped by police in the middle of the night, adds Mr Lemetti. 'I tell them I am looking for UFOs and they let me go. So far I've had 12 to 15 sightings. The last one was a year ago.' Mr Malcolm mentions casually that he has seen 10. 'I see more, but I'm too busy to go out every night to look at the sky.'

Malcolm is associated with the British UFO Research Association. He is a first call for anyone who has spotted a UFO, and he is first to be approached by the Malcolms. He can distinguish "time-wasters" by their body age and the books under their chairs. 'They'll want to get on television,' he explains. If he is sure about their credibility, he'll sift through

the evidence. 'I check with the air force to make sure no aircraft have been in the area. Then with the Ministry of Defence. My job is to make sure that the sceptics are satisfied.' Ninety-five per cent of all UFO sightings can be explained away.

'The person may have spotted an aircraft or a comet - all of which can appear perplexing viewed from the ground. What fascinates me is the five per cent left over.' This amounts to six or seven genuine sightings a year, he says. The Malcolms' was one.

BUT the case that most impressed him involved Gary Wood and Colin Wright. They were driving along the A70 between Edinburgh and West Lothian when a "black disc-shaped object" appeared before them, hovering over the road. A curtain of molten silver dripped on to their car and they were "catapulted into complete darkness".

Months later under hypnosis they "revealed" that small grey creatures had forcibly removed them from their car, taken them to a circular-shaped room, stripped them naked and subjected them to a "medical examination". Sounds like a dream? 'I've never met two more honest to goodness gentlemen,' Mr Robinson insists. So why has Bonnybridge become the Mecca of UFOs? 'Well, it has more than

its fair share of military establishments. Perhaps the UFOs are being used as surveillance,' says Mr Robinson. Many UFO researchers feel that the disproportionate number of sightings around military bases may be associated with intelligence gathering.

However, astro-physicist Dr John Watkins, now a GP in south-east Wales, insists that multi-witness sightings are an example of mass hysteria. The human mind is apt to play games, he explains. 'It tries to make some kind of logic out of a pattern of occurrences which are not logical.'

A Ministry of Defence spokeswoman chuckled at the mention of UFOs. 'Our official line is that we remain totally open-minded.' And your unofficial line? 'We have no interest in UFOs at all,' she said, bluntly. Then, hearing a sigh of disappointment, she added: 'Unless of course they constitute a threat to national security.'

Mr Buchanan is philosophical about disbelievers. He can afford to be. His wife, a nurse and a scathing sceptic, has finally seen the light. On January 2 this year she was driving home from work when a bright white gas emerged in her path. She didn't think about national security. She didn't worry about being accused of hysteria. She didn't freeze up in fear. Instead she kept on driving. 'I just knew that Billy would be pleased,' she says.

Mystery that still lies deep in the desert

By Beverley Glick

ROSWELL would have remained a backwater in the New Mexico desert if it had not been for the events of July 7, 1947.

On that day, a local farmer drove into town to report the discovery of debris on his land. He had found a 300ft gash in the ground, surrounded by a scattering of silver metallic confetti over three quarters of a mile long. It appeared that an object had delivered the earth a glancing blow.

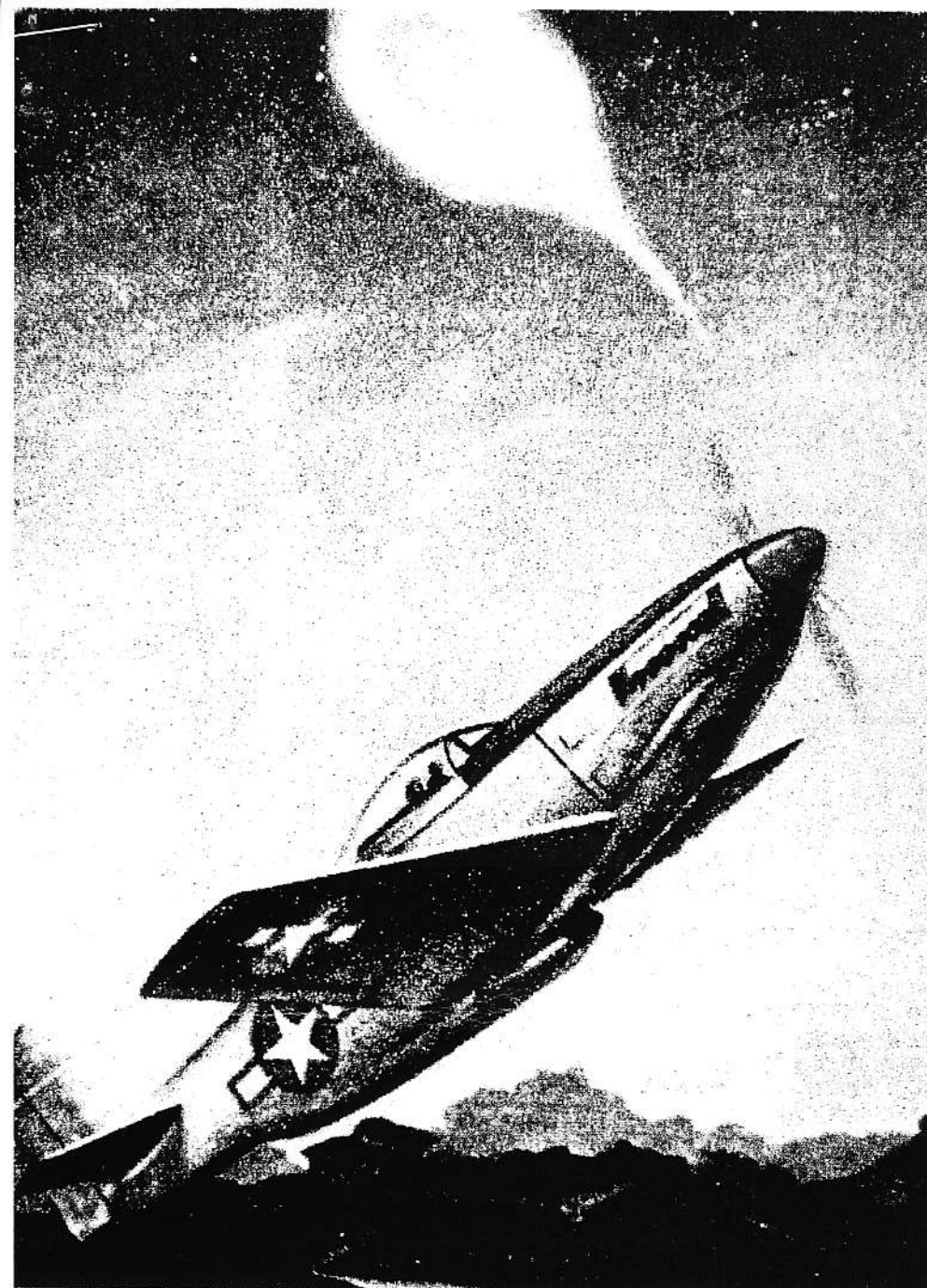
Some 30 miles away, embedded in the side of a low escarpment, some campers separately claimed to have discovered a craft slightly larger than a helicopter. Inside this cigar-shaped craft, according to witnesses, lay the bodies of extraterrestrial life forms.

The sheriff told the local airforce base. After visiting the sites the base commander issued a press release claiming a crashed flying saucer had been recovered.

The local radio station immediately reported the news. But after that, the truth became obscured in a sandstorm of controversy and a major slice of UFO folklore was enshrined.

Pick and mix as you wish from reports of aliens recovered alive and dead, authentic or faked films of autopsies and orders for small coffins, liquid metal and weather balloons, intimidation of witnesses and vacuumed desert floors, cover-ups and conspiracies, hysteria and fabrication. The list - and the number of web sites - is endless.

Whatever did happen out there turned a one-horse town in the New Mexico desert into a worldwide centre of UFO interest. That same commercial magic is about to be injected into the one-kilt town of Bonnybridge.



On 24 June 1947, the term *Flying Saucer* was officially coined following the bizarre experience of an American pilot named Kenneth Arnold. At approximately 2.00pm on the day in question, Arnold had taken to the air from the Chehalis Airport, Washington State, to assist in the search for a C-46 Marine transport aircraft that had gone missing somewhere in the vicinity of the Cascade Mountains. There was a \$5,000 reward on offer for anyone who successfully located the wreckage of the C-46 and Arnold considered that he was the man for the job. As it transpired, however, Arnold came across something far stranger than a crashed aircraft.

Bright Flash

'I hadn't flown more than two or three minutes on my course when a bright flash reflected on my plane,' explained Arnold in a report that was forwarded to the FBI. 'It startled me as I thought I was too close to some other aircraft. I observed a chain of nine peculiar looking aircraft flying from north to south at approximately 9,500 feet elevation and going, seemingly, in a definite direction of about 170 degrees.'

Arnold continued: 'What kept bothering me as I watched them flip and flash in the sun right along their path was the fact that I couldn't make out any tail on them, and I am sure that any pilot would justify more than a second look at such a plane. The more I observed these objects, the more upset I became, as I am accustomed and familiar with most all objects flying whether I am close to the ground or at higher altitudes.'

Ironically, Arnold never actually stated that the objects he viewed over the Cascade Mountains on that fateful day in 1947 were saucer-like in design. Rather, he offered the observation that they were, in fact, 'crescent-shaped' and flew 'like a saucer would if it were skimmed across a pool of water'. Nevertheless, following the intense media frenzy that accompanied Arnold's unique report, the image of the Flying Saucer was born and to this day remains one of the most enduring in Western popular culture.

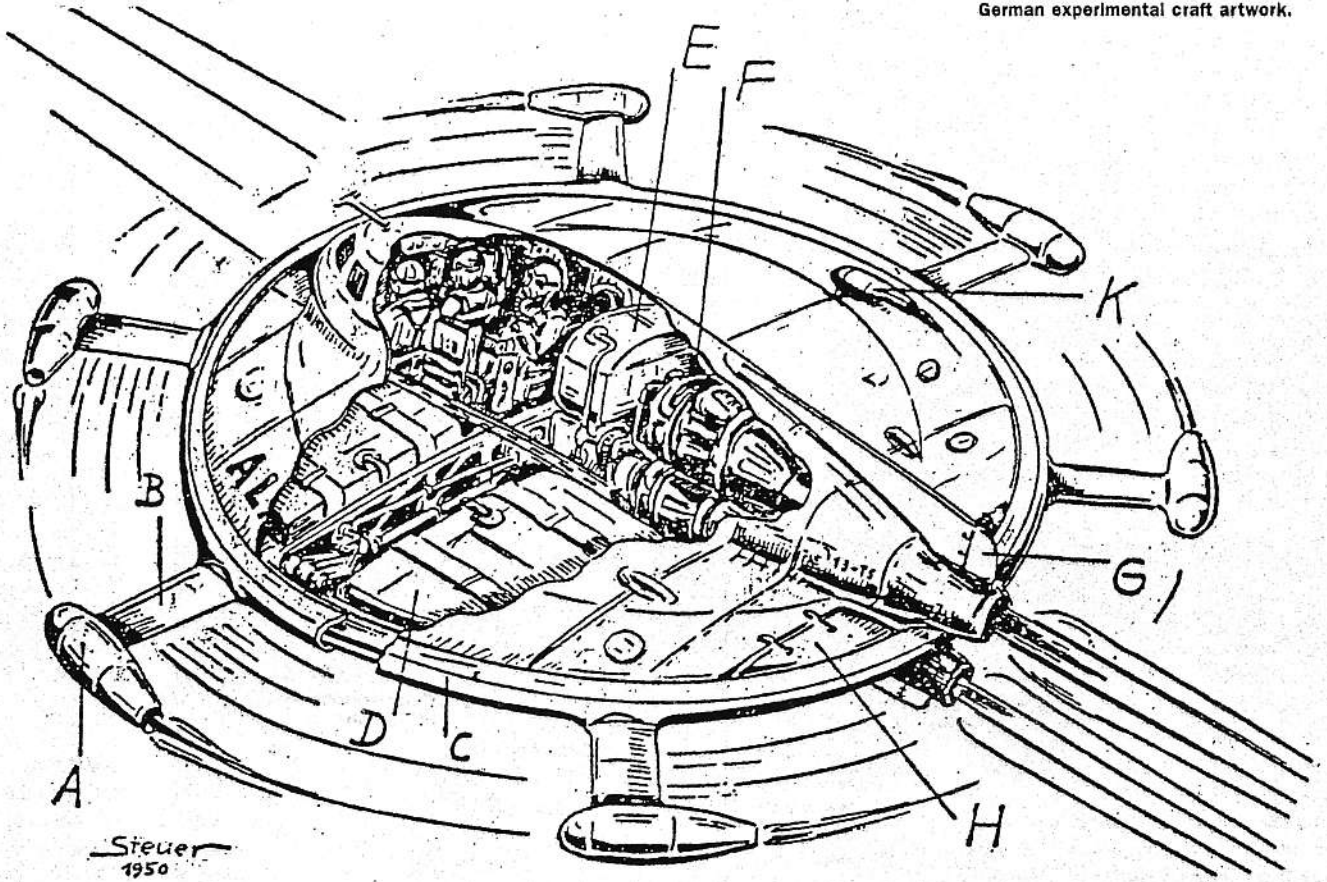
At the time, Kenneth Arnold's mysterious encounter provoked furious controversy – particularly in light of the fact that he was a trained observer and a former military pilot. Indeed, even the FBI felt moved to comment: 'It is difficult to believe that a man of Arnold's character and apparent integrity would state that he saw objects and write up a report to the extent that he did if he did not see them.' Kenneth Arnold died in 1984 and to the end was convinced that he had seen something truly extraordinary on that June afternoon more than half a century ago. Was Arnold privileged to see the first wave of alien visitors

Opening the Military X-files

It was Second World War pilots who first saw UFOs and coined the language of unidentified flying objects, but what did they actually see? Best-selling UFO author NICK REDFERN investigates the world of Foo Fighters.

Top left: Flying Saucer artwork of 1952. (Peter Newark's Military Pictures)

Military Illustrated
January 2001



from a distant world making a stealthy flight over mainland USA? Or was he, as some believe, simply confused by a flight of aircraft or even pelicans? Whatever the answers to those questions, thanks to an impressive and ever-growing body of documentary evidence and on-the-record testimony, we now know that Arnold's encounter was not the first of its type. Indeed, a host of similar reports had been filed by both Allied and Axis pilots during the Second World War. And the aircrews of that bygone era had their own name for these decidedly mysterious aerial objects: Foo Fighters.

Foo Fighters

As with the Flying Saucers that appeared *en masse* in the post-war years, the origin of the term Foo Fighter is steeped in legend. According to some, the name was taken from a 1940s comic-book character: Smokey Stover – The Foolish Foo Fighter. There are, however, other possibilities, too. Many of the Foo Fighters were described as being fast-moving balls of fire; and, therefore, Foo may very well have been a corruption of the French word for fire: *feu*. On the other hand, the distinctly similar French word *fou* has an altogether different meaning: confused!

Although reports of strange lights and unknown aerial objects had been reported sporadically in the early years of the Second World War, it was not until 1943-1944 that matters escalated. For example, the South

Wales *Argus* newspaper reported in its 13 December 1944 edition that: 'The Germans have produced a "secret" weapon in keeping with the Christmas season. The new device, which is apparently an air defence weapon, resembles the glass balls which adorn Christmas trees. They have been seen hanging in the air and are apparently transparent.'

Similarly, according to the *New York Herald Tribune* of 2 January 1945: 'On Dec 13, 1944, newspaper men were told that the Germans had thrown silvery balls into the air against day raiders. Pilots then reported that they had seen these balls, both individually and in clusters during forays over the Rhine. Now, it seems, the Nazis have thrown something new into the night skies over Germany. It is the weird, mysterious "Foo Fighter" balls which race alongside the wings of Beaufighters flying intruder missions over Germany. Pilots have been encountering this eerie weapon for more than a month in their night flights.'

In response to the publicity that was afforded the Foo Fighters at the time, a number of military personnel came forward with details of their own close encounters with the mysterious objects. Consider the words of Lieutenant Donald Meiers of the U.S. Army Air Force: 'There are three kinds of these lights we call Foo Fighters. One is a red ball which appears off our wing tips and flies along with us. Number two is a vertical row of three balls of fire, flying in front of us.

Number three is a group of about 15 lights which appear in the distance, like a Christmas tree up in the air, and flicker on and off. The pilots of this night fighter squadron, in operation since September 1942, find these fiery balls the weirdest thing they have yet met. They are convinced these Foo Fighters are designed to be a psychological weapon, as well as military; although it is not the nature of the balls to attack a plane.'

Meiers further stated that: 'A Foo Fighter picked me up recently, at 700 feet, and chased me 20 miles down the valley of the Rhine. I turned to starboard, and two balls of fire turned with me. We were going at 260 miles an hour, and the balls were keeping right up with us. On another occasion when a Foo Fighter picked us up, I dived at 360 miles an hour. It kept right off our wing tips for a while, and then zoomed up into the sky. When I first saw the things off my wing tips, I had the horrible thought that a German, on the ground, was ready to press a button and explode them. But they don't explode or attack us. They just seem to follow us like "will-o'-the-wisps".'

Unidentified Objects

It was not just the Americans who had an awareness of the Foo Fighters. Contained within the wartime archives at the Public Record Office at Kew are a number of reports that fall squarely into the Foo Fighter category. A formerly secret document dating

from late 1943 entitled *Bang On* (that served as the semi-official newsletter for 115 Squadron of the Royal Air Force), states under the heading of *PHENOMENA* that: 'On the 11th December the Yanks paid one of their daylight visits to Emden. Visibility was good and the weather clear. An unidentified object was seen in the target area. It was about the size of a Thunderbolt and passed 50-75 yards beneath the formation. It flew straight and level (No chaps, it was not a Lanc gone mad...) at a terrific speed, leaving a streak like a vapour trail which remained visible for a long time. The object passed so quickly that the observer could not determine it more accurately.'

The report continues: 'Another of the attacking aircraft was hit by a length of wire which bit deeply into the nose. Twenty feet were coiled around the nose and something caused the bomb door to open. The wire may have been towed behind a fighter which had just made an attack upon the bomber; some form of explosive charge or weight may have been attached to a parachute fired from a rocket projectile, though no parachute was seen. An examination of the wire is taking place and it is hoped that this will shed some light on the occurrence.'

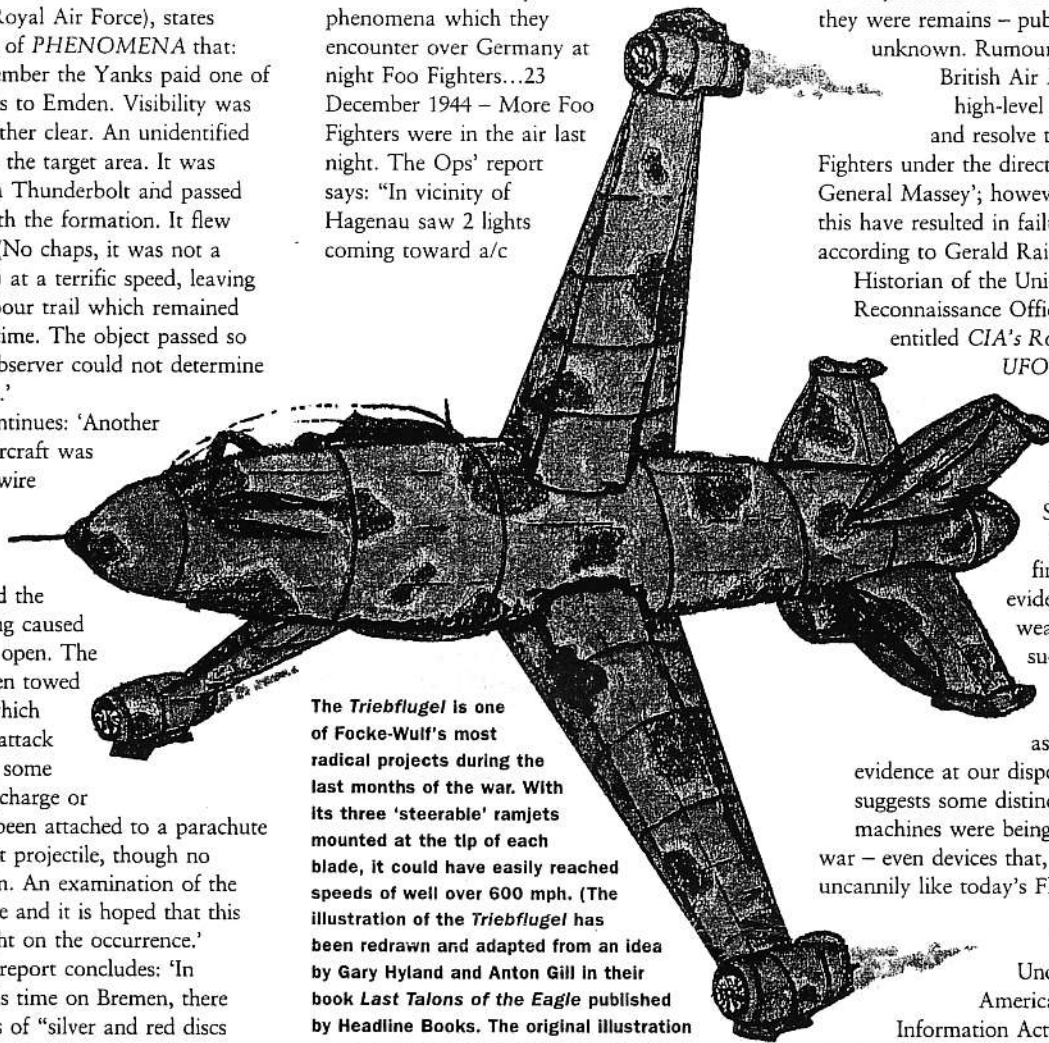
Crucially, the report concludes: 'In another attack, this time on Bremen, there were many reports of "silver and red discs above the formations". These have been seen before but up to now no one has been able to decide their purpose. Suggestions, please.'

Similar reports abound in the files of the United States Army Air Force. From a batch of formerly classified files covering the period November 1944 to January 1945, come the following extracts: 'December 18 1944 - In Rastatt area sighted five or six red and green lights in a T-shape which followed a/c thru turns and closed to 1,000 feet. Lights followed

for several miles and then went out. Our pilots have named these mysterious phenomena which they encounter over Germany at night Foo Fighters...23 December 1944 - More Foo Fighters were in the air last night. The Ops' report says: "In vicinity of Hagenau saw 2 lights coming toward a/c

Whether never fully determined, lost or hidden, the answer to the question of what they were remains - publicly, at least - unknown. Rumours abound that the British Air Ministry launched a high-level investigation to try and resolve the mystery of the Foo Fighters under the direction of a 'Lieutenant General Massey'; however, efforts to confirm this have resulted in failure. Similarly, according to Gerald Raines (the Official Historian of the United States' National Reconnaissance Office) in a 1997 report entitled *CIA's Role in the Study of UFOs, 1947-90*: 'Fearing they might be Japanese or German secret weapons, the Office of Strategic Services investigated but could find no concrete evidence of enemy weapons and often filed such reports in the "crackpot" category.'

The Foo Fighters aside, there is yet further evidence at our disposal that strongly suggests some distinctly unusual flying machines were being developed during the war - even devices that, on reflection, seem uncannily like today's Flying Saucers!



The *Triebflugel* is one of Focke-Wulf's most radical projects during the last months of the war. With its three 'steerable' ramjets mounted at the tip of each blade, it could have easily reached speeds of well over 600 mph. (The illustration of the *Triebflugel* has been redrawn and adapted from an idea by Gary Hyland and Anton Gill in their book *Last Talons of the Eagle* published by Headline Books. The original illustration was drawn by Bob Corley Artist Partners.)

from ground. After reaching the altitude of the a/c they levelled off and flew on tail of Beau for 2 minutes and then peeled up and turned away. 8th mission sighted 2 orange lights. One light sighted at 10,000 feet, the other climbed until it disappeared."

As the war drew to a close, so did encounters with the elusive Foo Fighters.

Nazi Prototypes

Under the terms of the American Freedom of Information Act, the FBI has declassified a number of documents pertaining to interviews with both former prisoners of war and members of the *Luftwaffe*, who claimed to have seen prototype Flying Saucer-like devices that had been developed by the Nazis under cover of overwhelming secrecy in the early 1940s.

One such report, filed with the FBI in 1957 by a former PoW who was held at Gut Alt Golsen (30 miles east of Berlin) during the war, makes for illuminating reading: 'According to the man, during 1944, month not recalled, while *en route* to work in a field a short distance north of Gut Alt Golsen, their tractor engine stalled on a road through a swamp area. No machinery or other vehicle was then visible although a noise was heard described as a high-pitched whine similar to that produced by a large electric generator.'

The FBI report continues: 'Approximately 3 hours later in the same swamp area, but away from the road where the work crew was cutting hay, he observed circular enclosure approximately 100 to 150 yards in diameter protected from viewers by a tarpaulin-type wall approximately 50 feet high, from which a vehicle was observed to slowly rise vertically to a height sufficient to clear the wall and then to move slowly horizontally a short distance out of his view, which was obstructed by trees.'

Mansfield Chad

Wednesday 14th February 2001
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'UFO was a meteor'

RAINWORTH residents who saw green lights whistling across the skies on Thursday night have been told by the British UFO Association that they were probably looking at a meteor. Gloria Dixon, director of investigations told Chad that meteors and other atmospheric rock and dusts were often responsible for reported sightings of UFOs.

Sentinel (Stoke On Trent)

Friday 9th February 2001

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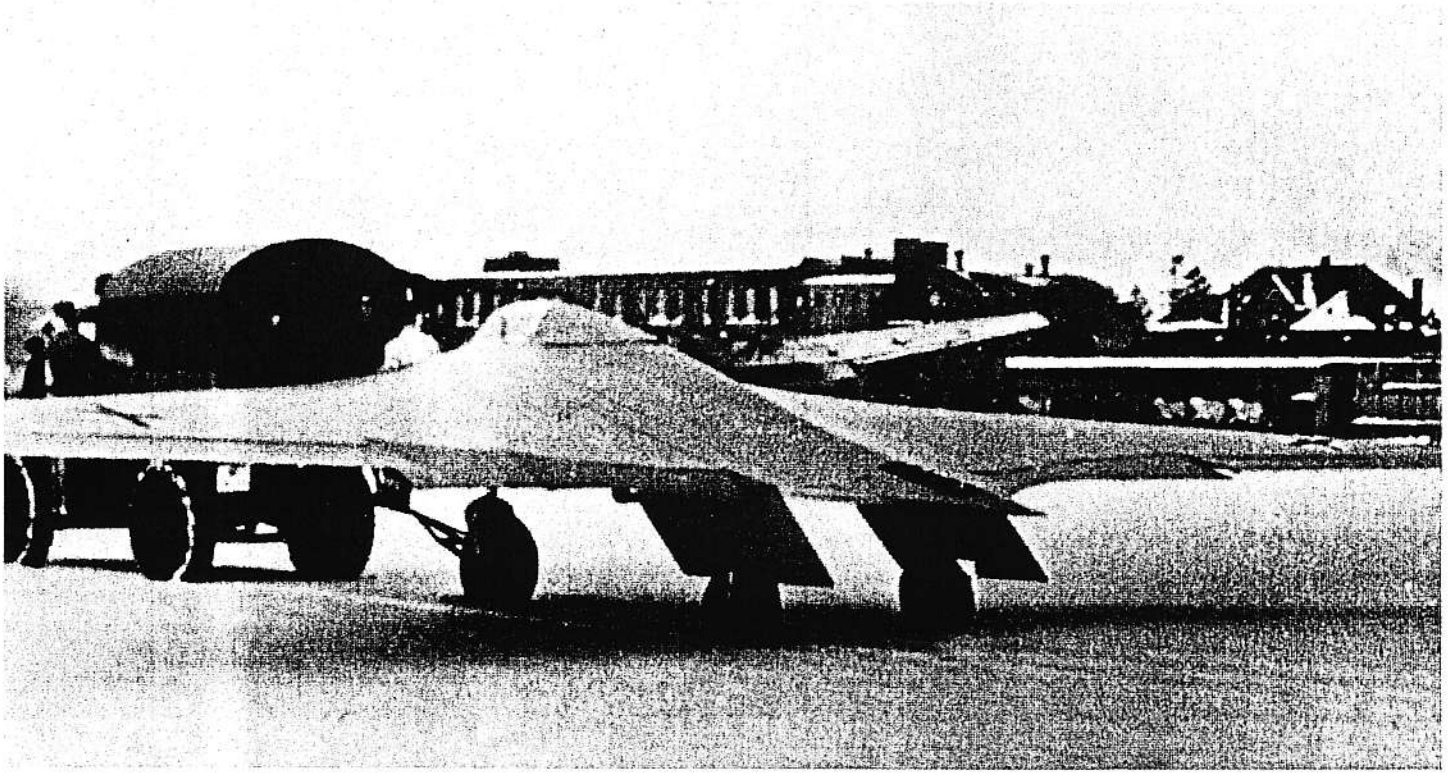
Does anyone recall that UFO?

SIR, — Can the readers help us, please, with our research into the UFO Phenomenon, with regard to any knowledge of a UFO Sighting that took place on February 7, 1977, when pupils at Edenhurst School spotted an 'object' flying through the sky between the clouds?

According to information at the time, Mrs Jill Jefferson, who was the school secretary at the time, witnessed the phenomenon, along with her son, Justin, who was then aged nine. In addition to this, a police sergeant, two male constables and a woman constable also saw the 'object'.

Can any reader put us in touch with any of the parties above, please, or pass on any knowledge of this particular matter?

JOHN HANSON
Retired police officer and
DAWN HOLLOWAY
Researcher
Consultants for FSR



Pulled in position by a truck, an unpowered Horten 'flying wing' prototype prepares for its first flight over Gottingen. It was towed by a He 111 up to an altitude of some 13,000 feet. In late March 1944, the craft was transported for testing at Oranienburg.

According to the FBI's informant: 'This vehicle, observed from approximately 500 feet, was described as circular in shape, 75 to 100 yards in diameter, and about 14 feet high, consisting of dark grey stationary top and bottom sections, five to six feet high. The approximate three foot middle section appeared to be a rapidly moving component producing a continuous blur similar to an aeroplane propeller...' Ten years later, the following high-quality two-page summary was prepared by FBI agents at Miami, Florida: 'On April 26, 1967 [the witness] appeared at the Miami Office and furnished the following information relating to an object, presently referred to as an unidentified flying object, he allegedly photographed during November 1944. Sometime during 1943, he graduated from the German Air Academy and was assigned as a member of the *Luftwaffe* on the Russian Front. Near the end of 1944, he was released from this duty and was assigned as a test pilot to a top secret project in the Black Forest of Austria. During this period he observed the aircraft described above. It was saucer-shaped, about twenty-one feet in diameter, radio-controlled, and mounted several jet engines around the exterior portion of the craft. He further described the exterior portion as revolving around the dome in the centre which remained stationary. It was his responsibility to photograph the object while in flight. He asserted he was able to retain a negative of a photograph he made at 7,000 metres.'

The FBI added that: 'According to him, the above aircraft was designed and engineered by a German engineer whose

present whereabouts is [sic] unknown to him. He also assumed the secrets pertaining to this aircraft were captured by Allied Forces. He said this type of aircraft was responsible for the downing of at least one American B-26 airplane. He has become increasingly concerned because of the unconfirmed reports concerning a similar object and denials [that] the United States has such an aircraft. He feels such a weapon would be beneficial in Vietnam and would prevent the further loss of American lives which was his paramount reason in contacting the Federal Bureau of Investigation.' Likewise, when Flying Saucer hysteria was at its height in the USA during the Cold War years of the 1950s, both the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) and the U S Air Force became embroiled in trying to determine if the UFO mystery had its origins in a Top Secret wartime Nazi project. A CIA report of 27 May 1954 amply and succinctly highlights their concerns: 'A German newspaper recently published an interview with George Klein, famous German engineer and aircraft expert, describing the experimental construction of Flying Saucers carried out by him from 1941 to 1945. Klein stated that he was present when, in 1945, the first piloted flying saucer took off and reached a speed of 1,300 miles per hour within 3 minutes.'

The CIA continued that, according to Klein, this had resulted in the construction of several Flying Saucer-like craft. 'When the Soviets occupied Prague,' said the CIA, 'the Germans destroyed every trace of the Flying Saucer project.'

National Security Agency

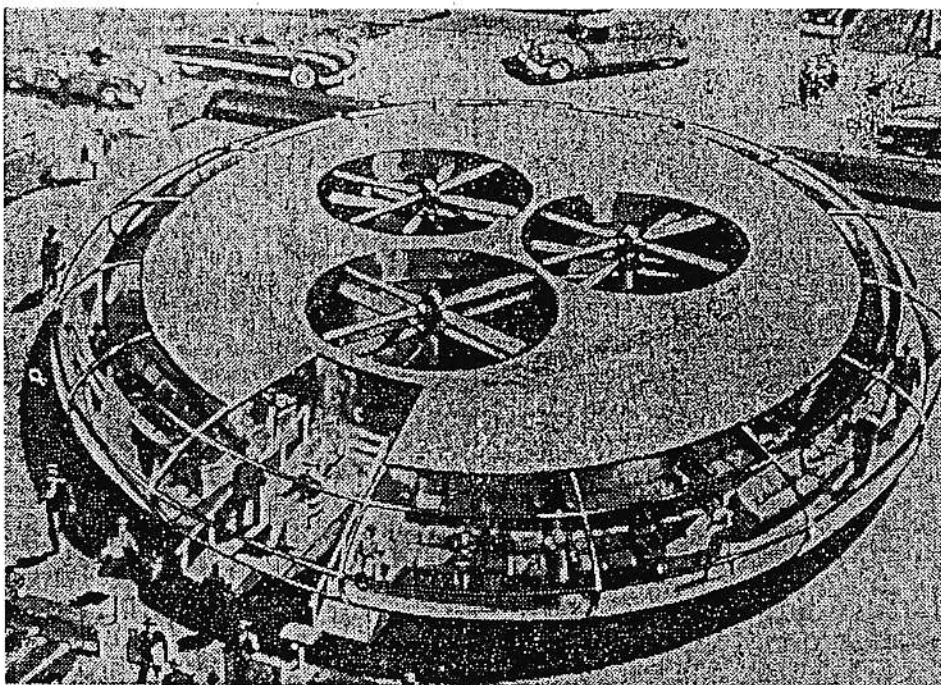
A U S Air Force report of 1952 demonstrates clearly the line of thinking that was occupying the minds of the American military at the time. From Brigadier General W M Garland to General John Samford, the Air Force Director of Intelligence (and later director of the highly-secret National Security Agency), it states: 'The continuing reports of unusual flying objects require positive action to determine the nature and origin of this phenomena. It is logical to relate the reported sightings to the known development of aircraft, jet propulsion, rockets and range extension capabilities in Germany and the USSR. In this connection, it is to be noted that certain developments by the Germans, particularly the Horten Wing, jet propulsion and refuelling, combined with their extensive employment of V-1 and V-2 weapons during World War II, lend credence to the possibility that the flying objects may be of German and Russian origin. The developments mentioned above were completed and operational between 1941 and 1944 and subsequently fell into the hands of the Soviets at the end of the war. There is evidence that the Germans were working on these projects as far back as 1931 to 1938. Therefore it may be assumed that the Germans had at least a 7 to 10 year lead over the United States.'

Similarly, over the course of the last three years, the British Government has declassified a series of documents – all titled *Unorthodox Aircraft* – that were previously withheld at Top Secret level and that dated

from the late 1940s and the early 1950s. The documents originated with the Air Ministry and contain the notes of interviews conducted by British Intelligence agents with former Prisoners of War who had seen unusual and radical aircraft in the vicinity of German and Russian airfields and military installations.

Interestingly, contained within the files are a host of foreign newspaper and magazine clippings on both UFOs and the attempts of the Nazis to build and utilise such craft. Moreover, copies of the relevant files were distributed to a wealth of agencies and departments, including: the Joint Intelligence Bureau; the Air Ministry's Scientific and Technical Intelligence office; MI10 at the War Office; and Air Intelligence. In other words, it appears that numerous key departments in the British Government and military during the late 1940s were extremely interested in learning the extent to which the Nazis had made advances with respect to Flying Saucer-type aircraft designs.

According to television's most paranormal and paranoid show, *The X-Files*, 'the truth is out there'. It may well be. As the aforementioned witness testimony and official documentation makes abundantly clear, however, the Flying Saucer mystery that has been with us now for half a century may have originated not with



Eine „Fliegende Untertasse“ hat der Amerikaner G. F. Miller konstruiert. Mit 32 Meter im Durchmesser und 3 1/2 Meter Höhe wiegt sie nur 700 bis 1000 Zentner. Drei Rotore, von 2400 PS angetrieben, sollen dem Ungeüm eine Geschwindigkeit von 200 km/st geben.

creatures from some far-flung corner of the galaxy, but with the scientific elite of Nazi Germany. Perhaps the UFOs of today are not flown by little green men, but by six-foot-tall men in standard military flight

suits! Truth really may be stranger than fiction...•

Nick Redfern is the author of three best-selling books on UFOs: *A Covert Agenda*; *The FBI Files*; and *Cosmic Crashes*.

Tameside Reporter
Thursday 15th February 2001
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Meteor hits town!

RESIDENTS had a close encounter when more than a hundred sightings of a UFO were reported high in the night sky.

But what looked like an alien craft to people all over the region was in fact a burning meteor - the size of a small stone.

A blinding flash of green light descended over the region last Thursday at about 7.30pm.

Astronomers later confirmed the object - which turned a reddish orange colour as it continued to fall to Earth - had entered the atmosphere at a speed of 'several kilometres a second'.

Dr Tom Muxlow, an astronomer at Jodrell Bank, witnessed the amazing sight while driving to the research base.

He said: "It was an intense green light which then turned orange within a few seconds - then nothing."

by Matthew Rogers

The rock - which disintegrated before it had a chance to hit the ground - was only about 2cm in diameter.

Yet it was seen as far away as Leeds, Oldham and Macclesfield, before it loomed in on Droylsden.

Despite the speed of the object, it would not have caused any damage had it hit the town.

Ian Morrison, also of Jodrell Bank, said: "There is no evidence ever of anyone being injured by a meteor, although one landed in a car boot in America some time ago."

Meteors can appear completely at random but usually break up before they hit the ground.

Bob Wheeler, Droylsden town manager, said: "The pace of development in Droylsden is so fast and exciting, it's no wonder it chose to descend on our town."

South Wales Evening Post (Swansea)
Monday 19th February 2001
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Workers puzzled by sky sight

A GROUP of Swansea workers spotted some possible UFOs in the sky on Saturday - three silver coloured spheres the size of planes.

The five colleagues, who work in Mount Pleasant but do not want to be named, said they were totally bewildered by the sight at about 11.15am.

One of the group said the spheres were spotted in the sky over Mount Pleasant.

He added: "We saw these three spheres - one was stationary and another one knocked it across the sky towards Mumbles and replaced it by remaining stationary itself.

"These two spheres just disappeared after this. The whole thing lasted about five minutes.

"It was really spooky. They were all about the size of a plane high up.

"We thought at first it might have been balloons but not after one of them shot off towards Mumbles."