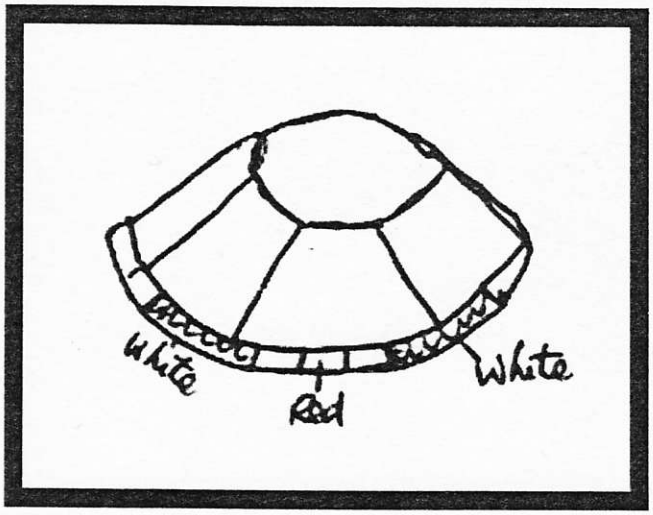
BUFORA BULLETIN

Journal Of The British UFO Research Association



The Leighton Buzzard Incident

No. 10

Apr-May 1999

bufora

Council 1998-1999.

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THE BRITISH UFO RESEARCH ASSOCIATION LIMITED

(founded 1964).

AIMS:

1. To encourage, promote and conduct unbiased scientific research of unidentified flying object (UFO) phenomena throughout the United Kingdom.
2. To collect and disseminate evidence and data relating to UFOs.
3. To co-ordinate UFO research throughout the United Kingdom and to co-operate with others engaged in such research throughout the world.

Membership of BUFORA is open to all who support the aims of the association and whose application is approved by the executive committee. Application forms & general information can be obtained from BUFORA's registered office.

BUFORA BULLETIN No. 10.
Apr-May 1999.

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- Contents -

Who is "Peter"?

The 7th February 1999 edition of U.K newspaper **"The Sunday Times"** featured an article entitled ***"Kidnapped By Aliens"***. This item reported that former head of the MoD's "UFO department" (AS)2a, Nick Pope, author of ***"Open Skies, Closed Minds"*** and ***"The Uninvited"***, is an "abductee".

This claim relates to an account featured in Chapter "12" of Pope's recent book **"The Uninvited"** (which focuses on abduction claims). It features the account of two people called "Peter" and "Jenny", who claimed to have experienced an instance of "missing time" while in Florida, USA, during 1991.

However, knowledge of this claim is **not** new. Jenny Randles noted (back in 1995) that details of this account was included in a draft version of ***"Open Skies, Closed Minds"***, where it actually named Nick Pope as the male witness concerned! This chapter was later removed from the final printed version of ***"Open Skies, Closed Minds"***, but was later included in ***"The Uninvited"*** (albeit with the witnesses' identities disguised).

The publication of the above **Sunday Times** story generated considerable debate within several internet UFO forums, particularly **"UFO UPDATES".**

As a result of this (and also the ***"Sunday Times"*** story) Nick Pope made the following statement in the **March 1999** edition of the e-mail newsletter **"HOT GOSSIP UK";**

"[Peter's]..... a pseudonym, because he doesn't want to go public. Certain Ufologists say Peter is actually me. "

".....They say that if Peter is me, then as the experience took place in January 1991, I couldn't have been a sceptic when I began my official UFO research at the Ministry of Defence a few months later.....

This was nonsense. Why? Because.... Peter's hypnotic regression took place in 1995 - a year after I'd left Sec(AS)2a. Furthermore, Peter's only memory of the event prior to 1995 was a recollection of mysteriously getting from one part of the road to another whilst driving home..... No UFOs. No aliens."

"[Am] I really Peter? Well, I have a strict policy of not discussing my personal life with anyone in ufology..... I have never denied the allegation that I am Peter. I have never confirmed it either. This policy will not change."

Cheshire "UFO Landing" Hoax.

On the 2nd of March 1999 ***Tim Matthews*** (secret aviational technology researcher and Press Secretary of the **British UFO Studies Centre** (BUFOSC)) posted details of a claimed recent U.K 'UFO landing' on the **UFO UPDATES** internet forum. This incident was reputed to have taken place around the 28th February-1st March 1999 period, near Knutsford, Cheshire.

The claim mainly related to the reported "observation" of red and white lights, which were allegedly observed descending into a nearby wood, seemingly under "intelligent control'. The report was jointly investigated both by the BUFOSC and Matthew's own **Lancashire UFO Society** (LUFOS).

Ground traces (in the form of burn marks and scorching), a 60 metre area of "squashed" bracken and "tree damage" and "disturbance to local wildlife" were later discovered. Soil samples were also taken for further professional examination.

The case seemed posed to become a "classic" high-strangeness UFO event.... until further investigation by BUFOSC and LUFOS revealed the case to be a hoax!

It was discovered by **LUFOS/BUFOSC** that one of the two known "witnesses" to this event had (while in the USA) authored a book on "scientific hoaxes" the previous year. Additionally, it was found that nobody out of 100 people living in the immediate area had noticed anything untoward, and that the supposed "UFO landing traces" had been present on the site for "weeks". Additional factors associated with this claim (and the fact that it was impossible to see the sighting locus from the claimed observation vantage-point) collectively demonstrated that this case was a fabrication.

All in all, this must be one of the most ambitious attempted UFO hoaxes for many years!

This event may have a strange and hazy potential prologue. Several months ago, the **Bulletin's** editor was informed (by a prominent UK Ufologist) that a mystery "woman" was planning to perpetuate a major hoax on BUFORA. Alarmed by this, he informed various other association members of this situation. In the event, **no** such hoax (to our knowledge...) was enacted. Given the above turn of events, your editor cannot help but suspect that this mysterious woman and the individual involved in the Knutsford hoax were the **same** person!

Did this "woman" have a change of mind and tried to hoax another UFO organisation? Or are we merely, unknowingly, awaiting our turn on the "chopping block".....!?!

An "Alien" Skeleton?

The March 1999 issue of the **MUFON Journal** prominently featured a potentually astounding piece of physical UFO evidence; the possible skeleton of an "extraterrestrial"! This "find" was reputedly "discovered" some years ago in Texas by palaeontologist Dr. Bob Slaughter (now deceased), and was recently donated to MUFON by his widow.

These "skeletal" remains appear to be of a 39" tall "armour"-attired humanoid entity, with four digits on each hand and an skull endowed with large eye-sockets. This "find" is also associated with a letter (reportedly written in 1925) that describes a saucer-landing and burial said to have occurred in 1897.

The authenticity of this "skeleton" has already been deemed extremely dubious by several commentators (but enthusiastically supported by others). One particularly telling point **against** the "skeleton's" authenticity is that Dr. Slaughter was associated with the manufactured fossils of "fairies" and other fictitious creatures, which he featured in a book published in 1997. Even more damning is that a chapter of this work (***"Fossil Remains of Mythical Creatures"***) was devoted to this particular "alien" skeleton!

These particular facts have been conceded by **MUFON** Director ***Walt Andrus***, who nonetheless states that he still considers the question of the "skeleton's" authenticity (or otherwise) to be currently unresolved.

A more detailed appraisal of this controversy will be featured in the next issue of the **BUFORA BULLETIN**.

Some Bones Of Contention.....!

1970's CANARY ISLAND "UFOs" EXPLAINED.

It has been recently confirmed that five well-known Canary Island "UFO" incidents occurring in the 1970's (featured in numerous books and magazines) were actually observations of ballistic missiles, launched from US Navy submarines located under the North Atlantic.

Ricardo Campo, Press Office director of the **Anomaly Foundation** (a Spanish organisation dedicated to the scientific study of UFOs) recently informed newswire agency EFE that they had contacted - through ufologist **Vicente-Juan Ballester Olmos** - several prominent experts in rockets and missiles. One of the scientists consulted was **Jonathan McDowel, Ph.D.** (Harvard-Smithsonian Centre for Astrophysics), a world authority in this field.

McDowell has been able to correlate dates and times of those five sightings of luminous phenomena over the Canarian skies with declassified US Navy records relating to intercontinental missile launches. The data obtained identified their launching platforms (submarines), the type of missile involved ("Poseidon's" in each case) and their launching-times.

Also consulted by Mr. Ballester Olmos on behalf of the Anomaly Foundation was renowned spaceflight specialist **James Oberg**. He explained that the launches were made from the Oriental US Testing Field, a big area covering from Cape Canaveral to Ascension Island. Unfortunately, the exact position of the submarines involved is still classified.

The following UFO incidents are explained as missile tests:

November 22nd, 1974 -

A rapidly-ascending red light was observed, which formed a circular halo. This phenomenon recurred three times.

June 22nd, 1976 -

A point of light was seen to climb up from the horizon, increasing in size until it became a large, brilliant semicircular halo. A foreign tourist also took a photo of this phenomenon.

November 19th, 1976 -

An ascending point of light following a "spiralling" trajectory was observed, which was subsequently seen to markedly expand in size.

March 24th, 1977 -

A reddish revolving light appeared to emerge from the sea and climbed rapidly up into the sky, leaving behind a large halo which lasted ten minutes.

March 5th, 1979 -

The most spectacular event of all. Multicoloured concentric rings were seen on the horizon. From them, a point of light moved out leaving a luminous jet that began to expand, and developed into a huge bright dome. Many photos of this event were taken (which were later claimed to depict "UFOs" by the more sensationalist element of the Spanish UFO community).

These luminous phenomena were observed by thousands of astonished witnesses in the Canary Islands, and were also investigated by the Spanish Air Force. Even though the military inquest was not very profound, the opinion of the judge suggested the possibility of missiles. Unfortunately, the low interest of the Spanish Ministry of Defence regarding UFOs prevented this explanation from being confirmed at that time.

Now (some 20 years later) the Anomaly Foundation has been finally able to conclusively demonstrate that these reports were instigated by missile launches.

Credit; Anomaly Foundation, Spain.

A Reply to Kevin McClure's "CHALLENGING RV".

Richard Conway.

Introduction.

The following is a reply to Kevin McClure's commentary on Richard Conway's article **"A Week With A Remote Viewer"**, published in **Issue 8** of the **BUFORA BULLETIN.**

Kevin you don't know me. I have met you on one occasion two years whilst trying to organise the BUFORA congress, amidst a vast minefield of obstacles. You stood up at a meeting and slandered me for allowing Derrel Sims to speak at the congress. He did eventually speak at the congress and regardless of your belief system his presence was very welcome by a large crowd. My role is not as a UFO vetting agency and I give everybody a fair and due say. People have always been intelligent enough to evaluate evidence and come to a reasonable conclusion on their merits.

Similarly Malcolm Robinson's efforts have to be commended to have included so many speakers in the new BUFORA bill in the face of so much dissent. Yet you have unequivocally attacked him at every available opportunity in recent times.

However, you don't know me so I don't understand how I could have been the focus of your poorly-researched response. I have never taken the responsibility of knighting myself as an ambassador to remote viewing yet you seem to have bestowed the responsibility onto me. I have little exposure in the way of RV except the attendance of a week-long course and you proclaim me as the new RV messiah.....

No Kevin, you've got it all wrong, yet again. I am no expert and don't proclaim to be. My article was written to entice people to find out about RV for themselves by attending one of the courses I did. The course (as I mentioned in my original article) was of great benefit to me and I had wanted others to try it thus giving them enough information to make an informed decision on RV, a decision which you are not in a position to make. I would urge you to do the course as well, as your knowledge on the subject is greatly lacking.

Not once did I mention Courtney Brown or Heaven's Gate or Tim Rifat or anybody else for that matter aside from David Morehouse who I had met and had the opportunity to put many questions to. Since the course I have reviewed some of the material of the aforementioned people and more and think that a great deal of them have little relevant to say on the subject of RV (as do you). What is your problem Kevin; again you want censorship. It is not my job to filter out information in an article that I don't think people should hear.

David Morehouse claims to have had a legitimate experience viewing the TWA 800 plane over Long Island. How can you persecute me for mentioning this? Would it not be greater crime if he hadn't said anything about this and it turned out to have happened in this way? In the past a cover story used by the USAF is the ignition of fuel tanks due to sparking. Thanks to Judith Jaafar I can document this now.

On the subject of scientific proof that RV is a legitimate phenomenon. Get a life, Mr. McClure. The process of RV was created in SRI and it was experimentation that took it from the domain of the psychic into the domain of the military soldier. If you have any problems with this please log onto the JSE web site and you'll find a whole host of scientists that have conducted experiments in RV.

Another poorly-researched statement of yours is that it has never been used in police investigation. My article was about David Morehouse and as you had replied to it I would have assumed that you knew something of him. Obviously not, but then you have already shown what you know about RV and it's history. David Morehouse has worked

Continued On Page 14 >>

Mosborough "UFO" Picture Controversy

David Clarke, Robert Moore & Jenny Randles.

In early March 1999 a long-forgotten controversy from British Ufology's distant past returned to publicly and loudly confront modern-day researchers. For many years the 1962 Mosborough "UFO" picture has widely been deemed to be a hoax. In 1972 it's photographer – Alex Birch – publicly confessed to fabricating the image; hence confining this picture (or so it seemed at the time) to the dusty realms of Ufological history. This photograph enjoys particular notoriety in the annals of BUFORA, as Alex Birch spoke at our association's inaugural meeting (held some eight years prior to his "confession").

However, in 1998, Birch publicly retracted his 1972 confession, by boldly and unequivocally stating that the image was, in actuality, "authentic"! As far as the general public was concerned this claim was first broken on the 4th March 1999, when the following story was released by news agencies in Sheffield, Yorkshire (additional comments by Robert Moore):

SCHOOLBOY Alex Birch, blamed for hoaxing the world with a sensational DIY flying saucer snap 37 years ago, now insists his story was true. Alex, now an antique dealer and grandfather, claims pressure and ridicule forced him to claim the UFO sighting in 1962, which made him a world wide celebrity was a fake. Now he says the world must know the true story of what happened in the garden of a semi-detached house in Mosborough, Sheffield, on March 2, 1962 ***(1)****.*

(1): It is stated elsewhere that the event occurred in a "field ". Also note Jenny Randles' comments re this report's date, cited later...

Alex, then a 12-year-old [sic?] schoolboy, was playing in the garden of his parents home with two pals. They were using an old Brownie 127 black-and-white box camera to take snaps of each other.

As they played together, they claimed five flying saucer objects appeared in the sky behind them, hovering over trees and bushes.

In the 20 seconds the objects were visible, Alex wheeled round and took a single picture. It captured the fuzzy objects, with the nearest and largest showing what appeared to be a dome on top. The photograph was to change the life of young Alex. It was pronounced genuine by Kodak experts, and the [British] Air Ministry ***(2)*** *...*

(2) To my knowledge these examinations only focused on whether the negative appeared to have been tampered with, which it (seemingly) had **not** been. However, the fabrication-method originally stated to have been employed by Birch (by Birch himself!) does **not** involve **any** physical manipulation of the negative. As far as is known, no-one tried to duplicate the image during the course of any of these various 1960's examinations of the Mosborough image .

.. and the Pentagon examined copies and ordered an investigation. The picture appeared in newspapers, magazines and on TV stations throughout the world and Alex became a celebrity guest at UFO spotters conferences.

The snap became one of the most convincing pieces of evidence in a 1960s Britain obsessed with flying saucers and proving their existence. Alex and his father were called to London to be grilled by Air Ministry officials.

But then 10 years later, Alex called a press conference and said the photo was a simple cut and paste fake. He said it was a schoolboy prank which snowballed out of control.

He and his chums had cut out the shapes of flying saucers, pasted them on

glass, and then took the picture which fooled the experts ***(3).***

(3): It has also been claimed that the images were **painted** onto a pane of glass.

At the time, UFO experts throughout the world refused to believe him. Yesterday Alex, now 49, explained why he had changed his strange story yet again - and why the world famous Roswell Museum in New Mexico, set up after the sensational Roswell Incident in 1947, dare now begging Alex to allow them to exhibit the camera that took the picture.

"People think I made a fortune out of the photograph, I have heard estimates of up to half a million pounds", **Birch said.**

"In fact I made practically nothing, but I did become internationally famous for it. The Pentagon had a file on the incident, the Air Ministry called me and my father to London. But with the fame came a lot of misery. I faced a lot of ridicule and pressure. I decided to claim it was a fake in the hope that it would all go away and the pressure would be taken off me. But it did not work like that."

"Stories and pictures continued to appear and to appear and some of the pressure even passed on to my son. Adrian. People were not prepared to let the story drop. The reason I have now decided to let the real story be known now is because I think it is important that the public should know."

"Now my own five year old grandson is UFO crazy, with pictures and specially made models in his bedroom. The Roswell Museum want the old Brownie camera to put on display because they believe the picture was genuine. I still have it and it's become an old friend and I have not made up my mind yet about parting with it. But it seems that one black and white picture taken in a garden all those years ago will be having an impact on our lives for some years to come."

However, certain members of the British UFO community had been aware of the retraction of Birch's confession a year previously, as Jenny Randles reports.....

I got quite a surprise in the summer of 1998 when publishers Collins & Brown asked if I would speak to someone called Alex Birch. I recalled that he was the photographer responsible for a well-publicised UFO photograph taken in the early 1960's, which was stated to have been hoaxed some 10 years later.

Birch subsequently contacted me, and had quite an interesting tale to tell me. He was attempting to track down those who had used his photograph in order to obtain copyright fees from them (he has, I believe, secured quite a few of these to date). But the big news he offered was that the real hoax was not in fact his photo but his subsequent confession; the picture was genuine after all!

Apparently, Alex had been hounded by all manner of people since the sighting and his one to one with the Air Ministry. Such was the pressure he felt under suspecting he was being followed around for example, that the hoax confession plan was cooked up to take the heat off.

At this juncture it would be worthwhile to examine Alex Birch's original signed statement (drafted on the 28th July 1962), which describes the circumstances of his claimed experience in some detail.....

At around 11.30 am on (possibly) the 25th February 1962 at Mosborough. Sheffield, Alex Birch (then 14) was taking photos of his two friends (16 year-old "AA" and 12 year-old "BB") and a dog in a field. "AA" then reported thrown a stone at a tree and shouted ***"look up there!"*** When they did so, all three youths saw five "flying saucers" emitting "white bubbles".

These were so reportedly bright they made the boy's eyes squint and they had to look away. Nonetheless, Birch stated that he managed to take one photograph just before

the formation left at speed heading towards Beighton. When developed, this photograph was shown to depict five fuzzy vaguely disc-shaped dark blobs with white marks in front, visible against a hazy countryside backdrop.

The first point we should note in connection with this account is that Birch was (even at this time) unsure of the date; it may have been the 5th of March. Both the other witnesses backed his story with written statements. In August 1962 "AA" confirmed the saga, adding that the previous shot taken by Alex was of him jumping off a rock and how the objects were silent and at first moved slowly, then accelerated. The youngest boy ("BB") wrote an almost identical statement.

The gap between the occurrence of this event (February-March) and it's subsequent reporting in June 1962 was partly due to a delay in processing. All the boys were interviewed separately by their teacher at school in June and in the process the negative was studied (and got rather scratched in the process). But by September Alex was big news. He and his father went to London, met the Air Ministry UFO team at their request and were star guests at BUFORA's first meeting. The media reported this event, such as the ***"News of the World"*** who printed the photograph in it's 23rd September 1962 edition. It has been reproduced in numerous books and magazines since that date.

BUFORA's early assessment of the photos rejected obvious causes (such as mirages), but noted that the UFO-images were "transparent". One analysis of the picture noted that the background trees were in sharp focus but the reputedly distant UFOs were not. However, this was accounted for by the "fact" that ***"sharp definition is not a characteristic of saucer photographs"***(!).

it was commonly believed by many Ufologists at the time that haziness (and other similar anomalies) noticeable in many professed "authentic" UFO pictures were attributable to an encompassing "forcefield" surrounding the UFO concerned.

In regards to the Birch case, this reasoning was compounded by a further study, which proposed that the "bubbles" depicted in this picture were water droplets suspended within an antigravity field (generated by the UFO's propulsion-system)!

Largely due to this prevalent mindset, the majority of those who analysed this photograph during the 1960's deemed it to be authentic (such as one assessment which concluded the image showed ***"fairly normal Adamski type saucers"***). Even the MoD studied the negative without making public any suggestion they suspected trickery.

About the only critical comments I have seen were made by a ufologist called John Adams in the early 1960's. He was sure the fuzzy nature of the images was due to camera-focus and not to the objects motion. Adams was also suspicious of various other features of this photograph; e.g. the lack of perspective that you would expect from five craft flying at differing distances from the camera.

However, on the whole the world seemed to adopt the Birch photo as genuine and even the MoD studied the negative without making public any suggestion they suspected trickery. And then it all came tumbling down. On the 6th October 1972, almost 10 years to the week after the case hit the headlines, Alex Birch appeared on TV. His BBC interview on a news show coincided with a talk by Rex Dutta, promoting his new UFO book .

Sadly Alex was not about to do Rex any favours. The case was, Birch confessed, a hoax. He had painted the UFOs onto a sheet of glass and filmed the trees and sky through this, creating the impression that the discs were flying. They were fuzzy because they were much nearer the camera than the trees and consequently out of focus. Apparently even Alex Birch's father was not told the truth until the day before this TV confession. Previously he had staunchly defended his son in public by citing his long grilling by the MoD.

Since 1972 the photo has appeared widely as an example both of how early Ufologists were easily fooled and of how simple it is to fake UFO images. As a photo of UFOs the Birch shot might well have been long forgotten but for this sequel. Birch himself was not heard from again for at least 26 years after his "confession".

The case itself does not seem to have had much UFO world attention come 1972, save for its occasional use to illustrate features, and it is certainly fair enough that Mr. Birch would now seek recompense for the wide-scale use of his print after the confession. I am just not as sure as he might be that "it will become as popular in future in books and on TV shows" now that its main claim to being different has disappeared.

As an example of how a young lad fooled leading UFO buffs, the MoD and media with a do-it-yourself technique the case is a fine object lesson to all. As just another fuzzy photo that supposedly shows real UFOs, it is not really any big deal. The newly attached sequel to this case may ensure that this "hoax that was not a hoax' gets another lease of life and we will see it popping up in the media once again. Unfortunately, some might hesitate just in case there is another twist to the story a few years from now.

So this photo that was real, and then hoaxed, is now said to be real once again. Indeed, perhaps Alex simply did react as any youngster would to the pressure he was put under and the later TV confession thus becomes quite understandable. But we also have to forgive those who are so confused by it all that they might prefer to wait and see. As for me, I think I've got a headache trying to work all of this out!

Dr. David Clarke (BUFORA's press officer) is a professional journalist based in the Sheffield area. This made him ideally suited to investigate this claim in some depth. He tracked down the two other "witnesses" to this "sighting" a few months ago; what they had to say about Alex Birch, the photograph and his sudden reappearance was most illuminating.....

"BB", now 48 years old, still lives in the Mosbrough area. He made the following statement to me (David Clarke):

"It was a hoax. Alex has always run with it more than I have. It was painted on glass. We were just messing around in Alex's dad's greenhouse when we had the idea to do it. We were all into "Quatermass" and "War of the Worlds" at the time. "

"It was Alex's idea to take the photo but then his dad and a teacher at the school got hold of it and we all got swept along with the hoax, which just snowballed. It was an incredible experience and we had our ten minutes of fame at the time. I just want to forget about it now."

"AA", the third "witness" who was 16 at the time, and is now 53, was even more forthcoming. He stated to me:

"Alex is a Jack-the-Lad and he is always on the make. It was a fake and no matter what Alex says that's what it was all along - he's just out to make money out of it and I can only guess he's fallen on hard times. We had a teacher at school who was a UFO freak and I said let's fake a photo of one and so we did, We did this picture and got the money to develop it, which took us 8-9 months. But it was a perfect picture and this teacher fell for it straight away - next thing it was in the papers and on TV all around the world. "

"We just painted them on a pane of glass - we got the idea of the basic cone shapes from comic books and TV. If you look at the original negative you could see the British Oak Pub in the background, the chimney stack is at a slant and you can actually see the edge of the pane of glass that we painted the UFOs onto".

"So we had another negative made - that's the one which we gave to Phillip

Rodgers (a UFO researcher who died in 1973). ***The more people believed in it the more it took off and mushroomed. We had a right good system of lying at the time - we could lie to anyone and they would not know. We all agreed to stick together and stay with the story, and that's what we did for ten years."***

This cautionary tale should teach us a few basic lessons. Firstly, hoaxers are not necessarily always in it for the money: they often merely get satisfaction out of fooling people. Others "get off" on the fame and attention fake UFO stories bring them. Secondly, multi-witness sightings do not indicate genuine UFO sightings. Here there were three witnesses who successfully lied for ten years. Lastly, Kodak's top experts analysed the Birch photos in 1962 and pronounced them genuine; even the MoD could only offer a shaky "ice crystals" explanation.

Conclusions (Robert Moore).

If the Birch photograph had been taken in the 1990's and submitted for critical assessment by today's ufological community, it's evidential value would be probably deemed extremely low. Contemporary ufology is now much more aware of the various photographic techniques capable of creating fabricated "UFO" images.

Many Ufologists in the 1960's were enveloped in a uncritical and all-pervading extraterrestrial paradigm, where inconvenient facts could be explained in terms of effects generated by "forcefields", and other exotic (and unproven) suppositions. In those days there was often "face-value" acceptance of even the most exotic claims. Engineers would labour over "UFO" photographs (such the Birch image) and find "evidence" of exotic propulsion-systems being employed by the "UFO" concerned .

During the whole course of the original Mosborough photograph saga none of those who analysed this picture ever seemed to have asked themselves the most vital question of all; ***could I create an image similar to that depicted in this photograph?*** This was a point stressed by the Condon project; i.e if a picture **can** be duplicated it's value as UFO evidence is diminished!

Today we live in a world where "UFO" images can be digitally created and superimposed onto a landscape-backdrop. We look back at the 1960's as a time when hoaxes were fairly crude and (reasonably) easy to spot.....albeit for those sufficiently objective enough to spot such a hoax!

So, where does Birch's retracted confession leave the Mosborough photograph? The main witnesses' retracted hoax-confession notwithstanding, most UFO researchers accept that this photograph could **very** easily be duplicated by the methods originally stated by Alex Birch. That alone reduces the evidential value of this photograph.

In fact there is nothing in the photograph itself which contradicts the view that it merely depicts five dark UFO-shaped blobs painted (or pasted) onto a pane of glass! We must also consider the statements of the other two witnesses, obtained recently by Dr. David Clarke. Both clearly state that the photograph **is** a hoax, and both would like this matter to die a quite death and be forgotten.....

Taking these various facts into account it seems only prudent to still regard this photograph as a hoax.

However, this retracted confession could well result in this once-ignored picture once again being presented as "authentic", especially in those badly-researched botboliers which dominate the "Ufology" section of most bookshops. We can hope that - in this instance - Mr. Birch will get the loyalties due to him; which is only fair, as the picture was (largely) his creation. One can only hope that the questionable nature of this picture is noted, and this image is not entered into UFO sighting-catalogues as a "true UFO" photograph.

LETTERS PAGE[s]..

Sir,

I was very interested in Elsie Oakensen's account of her Daventry UFO sighting, and her "letter to Ufology" in the previous two issues of the ***BUFORA BULLETIN***. As I was much involved in the **BUFORA Vehicle Interference Project** report published in 1979, which included several hundred cases of this type of incident, I was particularly interested to note that Mrs. Oakensen's account included apparent malfunction of her car during that event.

I was however rather perturbed to see Steuart Campbell's attempt to explain the sighting as being caused, among other things, by a mirage of the star Fomalhault. As a long-standing member of our local astronomy group, I have yet to see a star or planet move around in the sky, let alone come close enough to be described as a structured object hovering over a road.

This brings to mind other notable cases which Mr. Campbell has tried to explain as mirages, for example the Brazilian Navy photographs of a UFO manoeuvring over Trinidade Island in 1958 and the report of a close proximity encounter at Livingston, Scotland in 1979 of an apparently structured object which caused physical effects to the witness and left a pattern of ground markings. Both of these events were in daylight and were explained by Mr. Campbell as being mirages, as I recall, of the planet Jupiter.

Although I do not have a ready answer for Mrs. Oakensen's sighting, it seems to be another notable incident to add to the already impressive array of evidence in support of the case for the true UFO as being a presently unexplained phenomenon worthy of proper scientific study, as recommended in the recent Sturrock Report from Stanford University.

To be honest, in attempting to explain almost every UFO sighting as a mirage, Steuart Campbell appears in danger of being labelled as just a debunker, if he has not consigned himself to that role already.

Yours sincerely,
Geoff A. Falla

Sir,

Round about midnight during the last weekend of February 1999, a friend saw a circular object glowing orange underneath, hovering over the Winchmore Hill area of north London. What caught her attention were lights flashing around the edge of the object.

She said it did not look like a police helicopter (a common late-night occurrence) and it seemed the wrong shape for an airship. As the sky was clear, laser-lights can be discounted. She was driving a car and chose not to stop at that time of night, but passed a male driver who had stopped for a better view. Does anyone have any idea as to what the object might have been?

Yours sincerely
Lionel Beer,
Middlesex.

Sir,

John Heptonsall is somewhat too hasty in dismissing celestial objects as the cause of The Leeds Incident. There **were** 'celestial objects visible at the time likely to have generated the majority of the sightings'.

The sun set at 1648, and was surely

LETTERS PAGE[s]..

below the West Yorkshire horizon during the sighting. It was followed down by both Mars and Jupiter in the SW, only 5 degrees apart. These can have been the two objects which caused the incident, especially if affected by atmospheric distortion (mirage) causing apparent movements. Mars set at 1857 and Jupiter at 1816, about the time the sighting ceased.

John claims that Jupiter was too low over the horizon. But it's when celestial objects are low in the sky that they get mistaken for UFOs. Saturn was high in the south and Sirius was rising in the SE (rose at 1733). Neither can have been involved in this incident. So not 'highly unlikely'; **highly likely**. Far more likely that unknown RPVs.

Yours,
Steuart Campbell,
Edinburgh.

Sir,

In regards to Anthony North's article in *BUFORA Bulletin No.7* ***("Thoughts on Alien Abductions")*** I think Mr. North is quite correct to suggest that we should be careful, in investigating, to form hypotheses based on scientific methodology, rather than developing new belief-systems to fit the evidence. I think, however, that he may be making the same mistake in speculating on the effect of electromagnetic radiation on the brain, which also goes outside known science, and should not be accepted as more than a possibility without considerable research.

A more acceptable alternative, I think, lies in an extension of the collective unconscious theories developed by Jung. There is a conflict within all of us, between protection of the environment and our western standards of living. For instance, although we all recognise that the motor vehicle is one of the significant contributors to the greenhouse effect, and localised smog, there are few who are able to do without it, in the face of little or no reasonable alternatives. Public transport is often inconvenient, especially in more rural areas. Thus in accepting pollution, to a certain extent, as a necessary evil, we may be "repressing" our concerns. This pressure, always at the background of our minds, might occasionally force itself forward to manifest in dreams, as a warning of an environmental disaster, which we all fear we are not doing enough to prevent.

This all assumes that the abduction phenomenon is hallucinatory in nature. I also, however, think an open mind is a necessity for investigation, and that we of a more sceptical bent should be prepared to accept that alien abduction may well have a subjective reality, even if that reality issues from the collective unconscious of man. Those who have suffered abduction would probably feel deep resentment at the suggestion that their experiences are imaginary.

Yours,
H.M. Reynolds.

(Continued from page 7...)

for the New Jersey police department for a number of years where he has helped train police officers and is called in as a specialist for murder enquiries.

I would suggest that if you're going to write about remote viewing in the future you should meet some of the people that have experienced it in the US military, or go on a course and make up your mind based on your experience (You may need to open your mind a little before you do this).

Richard Conway, March 1999.

INVESTIGATIONS DIARY SPECIAL

THE LEIGHTON BUZZARD INCIDENT

JOHN P. HEPTONSALL & DAVE PEARSON.

Initial Event:

At 22.45 hrs on the 22nd October, 1997, Ms. A.B, accompanied by her mother (B.B), was driving along the road between Soulbury and Linslade (just leaving the village of Soulbury) when she noticed a bright light out of the corner of her eye through the car window. She initially assumed this to be the Moon.

They continued along the road and, as it straightened she had a better view of an object which, as the clouds parted, she distinguished as having two bright white lights with a smaller red light in the middle. At first she thought it was a plane but then realised it appeared to be too big for a plane. She told B.B who was able to see the object and suggested it was the Moon as it was a very bright white light shining in the clouds, but A.B argued it could not be due to the red light making up the object.

The clouds, which by now were turning red like a sunset, parted and B.B says she saw a very large bright red light. The object did not appear to be moving in any direction but rotating slowly. It was much bigger than any aircraft and B.B felt terrified for the two of them. There was no other traffic nor other obvious sources of light. They drove home as fast as possible.

A.B had read books on UFOs. B.B estimates the position of the LITS to have been due WSW and at an elevation of about 45 degrees from their location. It was unusual for them not to see any other cars at that time. B.B was half-way through reading Nick Pope's book at this time; she developed headaches which lasted for several weeks and were an unusual development. A.A was not affected in any way, nor did they notice any unusual environmental effects.

Further Witness Data:

1: Mr. C.M of Leighton Buzzard reports that at between 22.30hrs and 23.00hrs on the 22nd October 1997 he went out into his back garden for a smoke and noticed a red light shining on the wall of his house. The light was moving backwards and forwards from left to right and he also heard a humming sound; he looked up into the sky and saw a silvery-grey object, round with corners on it. The object was all lit up with 2 red lights and some very bright white lights - he thinks four white - which hurt his eyes.

The red light shining on the house seemed to be going on and off. Clouds covered the lights although he could still see the white shining through the clouds, then it faded away. Although the lights did not change position it was as though the round middle part of the object was rotating slowly anti-clockwise.

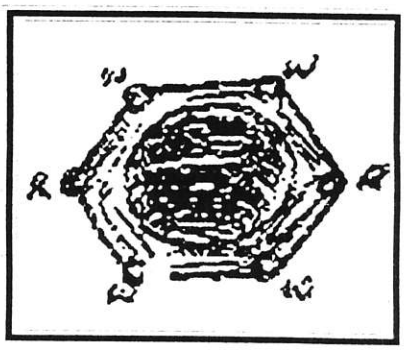


Fig 1: Mr. C.M 's "UFO".

C.M estimates the position of the object to have been about W-S-W from his location and at 45 degrees. He watched it for between 5 and 10 minutes. He has no interest in UFO material.

2: On **4th November 1997** at about 19.20 hrs **Ms. K.M** of Leighton Buzzard was travelling along Vandyke Road, LB (her husband) was driving. At this time K.M saw three LITS; one was big and bright rather like a light-bulb, and there were two smaller red lights underneath.

All the lights were stationary. After a few seconds the red lights moved closer together under the white light. Then the two red ones moved smoothly away from each other until they disappeared from view, leaving the white one stationary in the sky. The white light was still in the sky when they arrived home. She saw it for up to 90 minutes until she went to look and it had gone. At no time did she see a shape, only the lights. She has read the odd sci-fi book and enjoyed one or two such films.

3: **Ms. E.M**, of Linslade, Beds had quite a spectacular experience a couple of days after the sighting by B.B and A.B above. On Thursday **6th November 1997** at about 17.55 to 18.00 hrs she was driving home from work through Heath & Reach Village when she saw what she though were 2 separate bands of white light, separated by one red light between them in the sky very far away coming from Aylesbury direction (she thinks).

Her attention was fixed on it as it was a very bright and unusual shape in that it was curved (like the front half of a necklace); in 2 to 3 seconds it was much nearer and practically overhead – she thought it had passed over her - but the next second she saw a massive 'disc-shaped craft' hovering in the sky. It seemed very close, stayed there for a couple of seconds and then was gone. It was enormous and cannot be sure how big as she could not estimate the height. She heard no sound but the car radio was probably on.

She could not see the base as the object was tipped towards her slightly as if banking left (to its right); there was a very bright strip of white light, a dark gap, then a smaller red light, followed by another dark gap, then another strip of white light. The red light threw off a reddish haze which did not go out very far. Above the lights she saw octagonal panelling seemingly made from silvery coloured material which seemed to throw off a silvery haze. There was a slight bump on the top where the panels met. The whole shape was well lit and very clearly defined and there is no doubt in her mind that it was some sort of craft.

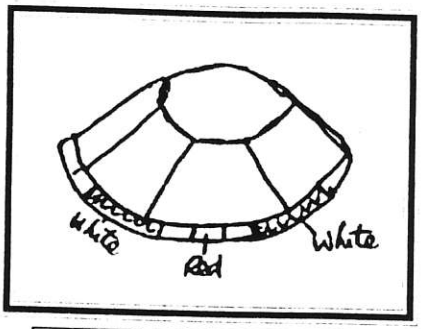


Fig 2: E.M's "UFO".

4: **D.D**, of Leighton Buzzard, Beds (aged 10 years) was playing in his garden at about 21.00hrs on the evening of **25th October 1996** when he heard a deep rumbling sound; he looked up to see an object approaching overhead, over next-door's garden, about 10-15 Mts. above the height of the house.

It continued to pass over the house, when directly overhead he ran inside and called everyone outside to look. When his father arrived the object was about 400 yards away over several houses, he confirms the height of the object, he could also see 4 lights in a straight line and it began to turn left as he watched it; he assumed it was a plane and went inside.

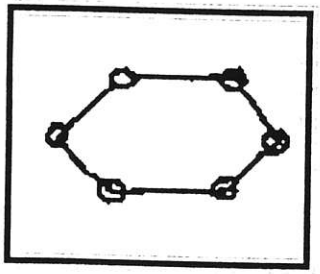


Fig 3: D.D's "UFO".

Additional Information.

There is a local RAF station called RAF Stanbridge which does not usually support flying nowadays. The Supply Control Division of the (relatively) newly-formed ***Logistics Support Services Organisation*** is based at RAF Stanbridge. The Automatic Data Processing Computer at this Supply Control Centre at RAF Stanbridge holds central records of every item of spare equipment held throughout the RAF, the equipment Supply Depots and the RAF Stations at home and abroad - daily corrections are made.

Several articles were compiled using B.B and others' information in Milton Keynes' "***The Citizen***" newspaper.

B.B has since read the there had been reports of 'abductions' involving a mum and dad and two kids in the middle of Eggington around 1995.

A check of RAF and related establishments was made via the Internet. Several locations were looked at including:-

- **RAF Bedford (MOD PE), which is linked to DRA (DERA).**
- **RAF Cardington.**
- **RAF Chicksands.**
- **RAF Henlow.**
- **RAF Stanbridge (satellite of Henlow)**

Visits to some of these establishments by BUFORA rep. David Pearson proved fruitless. Other possible sources of airborne machinery included Flying Clubs which, although active, were discounted by David after cursory checks. The police helicopter was not flying in the areas in question at times stated.

Centres having current or past links to government, in a restricted and secret mode, would be RAF Chicksands. This base is believed to have entertained the USA NSA until a couple of years ago. It is now supposedly closed down to such activities - yet it sports an unusual "elephant cage" communications aerial....

Chicksands was extensively featured in the media some years ago, in connection with a "foul up" which led Washington officials to believe that a nuclear war was imminent! This related to an exercise conducted by this base termed ***"Dummy Run"***; the spurious nuclear alert arising due to Chicksand's commander failing to advise other military establishments that it was merely a civil defence drill... A Lieutenant-Colonel and a senior civilian were quickly transferred from the base as a consequence.

It should also be noted that there is reputed to be a "Ghost of Chicksands" associated with a former priory standing within the base's parameter. Local folklore states that it is haunted by the spectre of a nun, who was walled up within the priory as a punishment for getting pregnant by one of the local monks. It is claimed that American airmen (billeted in temporary lodgings there) saw this ghost at one time. The old priory is also supposedly connected by a tunnel to a ruined church some miles away; this church is said to have been used by a coven of witches at Halloween.

RAF Cardington was used for balloon development at one time, but no longer according to David Pearson. Now it is believed to be used for fire research by government personnel. 'Cardington Laboratory is enclosed in a massive hanger, 247m long, and has areas dedicated to fire research such as an old Boeing 707 fuselage, full-scale fire test-rigs and a complete two-storey domestic house.

DERA.

Probably the most likely terrestrial explanation for sightings of "craft" which appear to defy normal description, and one which is to some extent supported by locality, is the presence of a DERA establishment at Bedford - not very far from our area of

sightings around Leighton Buzzard and Milton Keynes. The Internet allows us to identify this establishment as being particularly involved in 'Simulator' science, the use of simulators to provide artificial trialling and testing of various novel engineering for the 'aerospace industry' - this must be a major 'suspect' behind unusual sightings and, perhaps through testing of UAVs or the like, could easily have 'transgressed' by neglecting the concerns of local people.

DERA and British Aerospace work closely together and are believed to have various prototypes, from small triangular craft to a variety of shapes and sizes of UAV/RPV craft that may fit the description given by witnesses. There is no excuse for the close proximity of these 'craft' to the public, particularly flying low over houses and it is unlikely one could find out if such events had occurred either in error or by design. It is quite likely that use of such machinery is illegal over the areas in question. This does not seem to worry such establishments if one accepts anecdotal evidence from numerous witnesses!

A closer look at the work of DERA-DRA (?) and British Aerospace in that vicinity may be fruitful, perhaps with questions asked in Parliament, without neglecting National interests.

Summary of Information.

The sighting on 22nd October by B.B and A.A was reported in the local newspaper; description of the object had been arrived at by consensus between B.B and the other witnesses - some of which are related it appears - as being well lit with white and red lights around a 'hexagonal' frame.

A couple of weeks after A.B's & B.B's sighting (and just after a newspaper report detailed it) E.M was driving home from work along a quiet dark country lane when she had her own 'sighting' as detailed in her questionnaire. She was a confirmed sceptic and had not read the article preferring to bin such stories. However, after her own sighting she retrieved the article from the bin and read it. She immediately understood why other witnesses had described the object as being hexagonal, she had seen the object close up through her windscreen and believes that the surface design of the 'craft' gave the impressions of being hexagonal. At intervals there were sections whose divisions tracked from peak to edges of the object, and the white and red lights were visible around the edges of the object. The object appeared to tilt towards her as she viewed it, a similar phenomenon was experienced by two males witnesses to a similar object in Worcestershire some months before.

The apparent speed of approach of the lit object from high in the sky to suddenly appearing clearly in the top right of her windscreen and then within 2 seconds disappearing again skyward does not support a UAV/RPV theory, unless the military have such well-controlled speedy craft. Known UAVs/RPVs do not handle that well and it would probably be illegal to subject a civilian to such a potentially dangerous encounter with a piece of remotely-controlled hardware.

Descriptions by both E.M and C.M of a 'saucer-shaped' object, white/red lit, capable of moving in a highly irregular fashion and - in C.M's case - having a rotating mid-part and a sound of humming. They both state that a silver-grey colour made up the structure of the object.

Conclusions to Date.

At present we have a "UFO" confirmed with sightings by several witnesses - perhaps located in the Milton Keynes/Leighton Buzzard area for several weeks (if not over a year according to similar description from a family who saw a similar object the years before).

It is suspected that our military have "flying saucer" capability handed down from research which originated during the period of The Third Reich, the WWII and before era. Canada and the USA initially denied being involved with such technology but had to admit to lying when "saucers" were seen on the ground at a secret Canadian facility in the

1950s. The Avrocar project is said to have ended not long after starting as the engineering did not come up to scratch - the prototype residing in a USA military museum for several decades now for all to see.

The heavy incidence of sightings of "flying saucers" continuously over the decades suggests that they may still be lying, or ET has been here for a long time!

Russia is said to be soon to unveil the EKIP 'flying saucer' which is designed to carry personnel, eventually up to 2,000 passengers, with a prototype due for flight testing in 1999. Do we have a similar capability under secret testing in the UK?

The most obvious "craft" to fit such descriptions is the Unmanned Aerial Vehicle or the Remotely Piloted Vehicle (UAV/RPV), which are terms assigned to craft designed for just that purpose - to be flown from a remote-control platform either ground-based or also in flight. These come in various shapes and sizes, some more widely known of and others no doubt still under secret wraps.

They tend to be smaller than the average plane, with manoeuvrability in excess of many conventional aircraft having been designed pilot-less either because a pilot could not stand the 'G' forces exhibited or as reconnaissance aircraft sent into dangerous situations where loss of pilot life can thus be avoided.

Some are drones developed for aircraft target-acquisition and dispatch. They come in all shapes and sizes, even 'saucer-shaped' like "The Cypher" which is deployed by the UK military. However, none are yet rumoured to be able to zip into view and zip out of view in 2 or 3 seconds.

A search of the BUFORA and the American 'U' databases for the area in question produced the odd report of interest. On 15.8.95 at 17.20hrs at least two separate observers saw a 'classic domed saucer' SW of Heathrow hovering over houses.

In addition to that search I also checked the area bounded by 54N and 52N, with 2W and 2E, for "saucers" between 1/1990 and 1/1997 from the **'U'** database. Sightings were listed only to October 1995 but in that 5 year period, throughout that area almost 100 sightings of 'saucer-shaped' objects have been recorded by researchers. It is clear that such objects are regularly being seen around the Country. During the same time period a 'world-search' realised over 160 such objects had been recorded by civilian, and some times well-trained, observers.

Further research obviously needs to be done in relation to this group of UFO events.

Anomalous Entities

Malcolm Chamberlin

The subject of Ufology is now half a century old and we don't seem any nearer solving the mystery of Lights In The Sky (LITS) for all the time that has passed since Kenneth Arnold's famous sighting. There have been theories enough: little grey aliens with stick-like limbs are our space brothers or some such, that UFOs are anomalies of space and time, they are secret warplanes, they are collective delusions and so on.

All the saner strands of Ufology, as epitomised by BUFORA, have been able to do in all this time has been to collect, sift, analyse and record - and after 50 years we are still doing that. The interest is stuck very much in a rut, perennially discussing such insubstantial things as lights in the sky which, necessarily, leave no trace behind

Camcorders, a latter day development, do seem to be adding a bit extra. If nothing else a taped record of LITS at least proves that *something* was visible, that they can't all be collective delusions. Some even, a weird double axe-like configuration which appeared over my native city of Norwich on November 11 1995, for example, have actually added a smidgen to the general pool of knowledge. That is just about all a camcorder *can* do. It records visual phenomena in a rather more authoritative way than a straightforward verbal report and for that reason might be regarded by some as being that much more believable.

That's where we are today, turning over the odd stones of data that come our way with little to find underneath except more of the same when we should be expanding our thinking outward. If we seek to understand the phenomena now universally styled as UFO then surely we must consider details which stand out because they do not fit into the normal strictures of daily life and which do not, at first sight, seem to have overmuch in common with Ufology.

Such details may not seem related but only study will reveal if they are. It will require a good deal of collecting, sifting and analysing but only by this means can we be sure it's a bum steer or an actual part of the whole UFO conundrum. LITS are all very well and are a staple of the interest but these other aspects hardly ever seem to get a mention in the Bulletin perhaps because some of them smack, not so much of the oddball but of the way-out off-the-wall oddball.

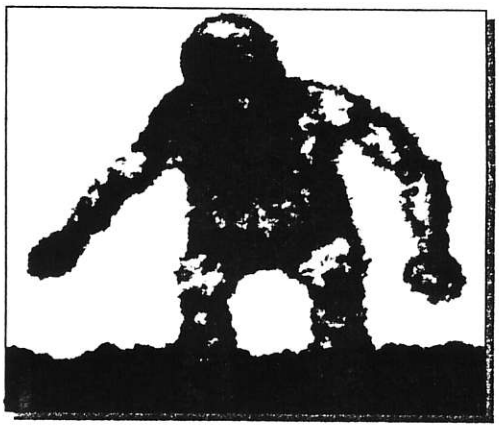
What I am referring to are the reports that smack not so much of Ufology but of something older and, dare I say it, of something more alien. There is throughout the world a sub strata of common knowledge that is normally referred to as folk tales which relates the inter-reaction of people (Homo sapiens) with other, most definitely non people, by which I am referring to goblins, fairies, trolls and so on. There isn't a culture or a civilisation under the sun which does not have a vast record of such relationships.

In other countries and other continents the non-human species go by other names. The Hindus, for example, have a library full of such incidents all of which deal with the inter-relationship with us, the human, and them, the not human. I think it safe to assume that the phenomena of humans dealing with non-human species is a world wide effect of some considerable age. The Hindu, to continue the example, can go back 4000 years without blinking and have a rather unsettling theory on human relationships which revolves on, I believe, a 75,000 year cycle. That's a sobering number of years. How on earth, or out of it, did they come by such a figure?

Be that as it may, there are grounds for believing that the contact between humans and others is not one that has died, it continues, if covertly.

But how often; we don't know! But, for now, we do have a **few** such reports to go on. One major source of those that are generally reported is the eminent Ufologist Dr. Jacques Vallee who is not too embarrassed to mention a few in several of his books, most notably **"Passport To Magonia"** but in others as well.

The same notable author even mentions the case of a woman Oxford don who became aware, during a visit to the English countryside, of a malevolent being in the garden which seems to have had the shape of a faun or satyr, that is half goat, half man. She declined the offered meeting and left the house the next day.



Whatever opinion this leaves us with, one wonders why the lady saw a creature that properly belongs to the Graeco-Roman strata of culture and not to the native-born British. We have to accept that that is what the form of the creature appeared to be to the witness.

This leaves us with the thought that was her mind being steered? For an Oxford don, a person presumably steeped in the ancient culture of Greece and Rome, the sudden appearance of an unlikely figure, an alien concept, automatically jolted her mind backwards as she sought to find a familiar concept with which to compare the apparition. The being would then have been acceptable to her mind as a creature associated with the rural beginnings of Ancient Greece. As for the ancestral British, the Celts, wouldn't they have had a different kind of creature, one without the Attic pastoralist icons of goat's legs and hair that would have been the dominant concept of a herder in the golden age of ancient Greece? But, would the don have recognised it if it had presented itself as Nodens or Nessa or any of the other Celtic demi-gods?

Be that as it may what we need are more reports of this sort of thing. How do we know for sure that the Earth is not home to more than one order of nature, the order from which these creatures appear to spring.

How do we know that the LITS are not related to them in some way? How do we know that the appearance of such phenomena do not lead to a recrudescence of such antique concepts as the Oxford don's satyr. We don't.

The study of this phenomena has occupied me for some years and I am no nearer an answer than I was at the start. What would make a difference would be reports of this very sort of phenomena and the more odd-ball the better. The reports I like are the ones where the witness isn't too sure they believe it themselves.

ENTITY PROJECT.

BUFORA would be interested to hear from any reader who knows of (or has had) an experience similar to that described in Malcolm's article. Please forward all correspondence to the ***"Entity Project"*** c/o the **BUFORA BULLETIN** address.

Electric UFOs

Fireballs, Electromagnetics and Abnormal States.
Albert Budden.

Blanford Press, 1998.

ISBN 0 7137 2730 6 (h/b) £16.99.
ISBN 0 7137 2685 7 (p/b).

Electric UFOs is a highly detailed (although not over-technical) treatment of the whole issue of electromagnetic pollution and it's relevance to UFOs. The crux of ***Electric UFOs*** is that many UFO "close encounter" cases result from their participants being protractedly exposed to artificial and natural electromagnetic (EM) emissions.

This work recounts the process and various symptoms of **EHS** (**electrical hypersensitivity**); the allergic reaction exhibited by some individuals as a result of prolonged exposure to high levels of EM radiation. This occurs when a susceptible individual resides within a so-called "hot-spot"; a region where emissions from electricity cables, radio and/or telecommunication networks converge on a specified location.

Even seismic processes (usually in conjunction with underground bodies of water) can generate such a "hot-spot", allowing for the possibility of EM-generated "paranormal" events to have occurred even in pre-technological eras.

To demonstrate the relevance of EHS to "high strangeness" UFO events, Albert Budden lists a number of detailed case-studies where EHS symptoms are reported by the witnesses concerned.

The EHS concept can be applied to phenomena other than UFO entity encounters; electromagnetic effects can also potentially explain "poltergeist" and apparitional events.

The author demonstrates the viability of this concept by citing several detailed case examples (although one quoted instance - the Enfield Poltergeist - is weakened by long-standing allegations of hoaxing made by various psychical researchers).

This work also discusses the recent discovery of naturally-occurring magnetite within humans and animals, and it's relevance to EHS and the "alien implant" myth. The author describes (probably for the first time in book form) the "Hutchinson effect". These are spontaneous "poltergeist"-like manifestations generated by a complex electrical device located in Canada.

This aspect of the electromagnetic equation has been proving especially controversial, although Albert Budden (and others) seem to making some positive headway in proving the actuality of these alleged effects.

Less controversially, he cities the work of American researcher Nicholas Reiter, which has (independent of Albert Budden) demonstrated an electromagnetic component to alien abduction claims.

Equally important is the chapter on ***"Unclassified atmospheric phenomena"***. This focuses on UAP reports - those UFO sightings which appear to involve little-understood ball lightning-type phenomena. One of the problems in understanding UAPs has been in identifying their mode of generation (which has proved to be somewhat elusive to date).

Electric UFOs documents the work of Kenneth and James Corum. It has been known for decades that controversial inventor Nichola Tesla claimed to generate "ball-lightning" type phenomena with his

famous high-voltage electrical coil device. The Corums appear to have successfully duplicated his results, by repeating (in precise detail) the precise circumstances of Tesla's original experiments.

This work obviously has major implications for ball lightning (and UAPs). The author also details other recent refinements to ball lightning theory which may collectively result in a reasonable understanding of this effect. UAPs are, of course, especially relevant to EHS, as close exposure to such phenomena - which are electrical in nature - can instigate this condition in witnesses, or exacerbate it where it is already pre-existent.

I would strongly encourage anyone interested in the concept of electromagnetic hypersensitivity and it's relevance to UFO events to acquire this book, whatever their views concerning this issue. It is refreshing to see such a work in print, that attempts to account for UFO events in strictly scientific terms. It is, in effect, a scientific explanation for the UFO entity (and "apparitional"-type) phenomena, which nonetheless takes away **nothing** of the strangeness and exotic nature of such events.

It is likely that discussion of this hypothesis' relevance to existing and future "high strangeness" UFO reports will be a notable feature of this subject over the next few decades. It is here where the final chapter to the EHS saga will be played out.

However, some - such as Albert Budden himself - would argue that the evidence contained in ***Electric UFOs*** (and the research of others in this field) have already demonstrated the viability of this concept.

Robert Moore.

THE SOVIET UFO FILES

Paul Stonewall.

Brambly Books 1998
HB ISBN 1-85833-858-1 124 pp £4.99.

The Soviet UFO Files attempts to relate a historical perspective of "UFO" events within Russia, from prehistory to the late 1990's. It covers both "UFO" sightings and the various official responses to UFO claims throughout modern Russian history. This work does that job reasonably well, but is marred by a naive (and at times notably uncritical) attitude towards it's subject-matter. It is, nonetheless, an excellently presented "coffee table" format book.

The Soviet UFO Files begins by examining various ancient Russian legends, which this book claims to be connected with UFOs (a link which, in many cases, seems notably "stretched"). Evidence of an uncritical mindset surfaces here (as in many places within this book); for example, an ancient statue (one of the - now infamous - Japanese Dogu statuettes) is unquestionably presented as a "creature in a spacesuit". Many archaeologists and historians would doubtless disagree with that assessment.

Other historical Russian incidents describe forms similar to other pre-1947 aerial anomalies recorded in Western Europe; i.e "phantom warriors in the sky", fiery "pillars", multiple "suns", etc. As with the similar incidents in Western Europe, the description of these events suggests a variety of rational explanations; mirages, perihelia, sun-pillars, comets and so forth.

However, other accounts (such as the 1663 Robozero incident) could have involved something more unusual, and deserves further investigation. A few "exotic" pre-1947 UFO reports (similar to modern accounts) are also featured, the authenticity of which we

in the United Kingdom can only speculate on.

Another problem is the lack of any source-references for the reports and claims contained in this work. This, sadly, gives the impression that this book was written more to entertain than to inform. In a book dealing with unfamiliar cases in a unfamiliar land, the citing of source-references is essential. Nonetheless, where this book uses material mentioned elsewhere the data seems reasonably authentic (even if it is often presented in a breathlessly enthusiastic and uncritical manner).....

Nobody should be too surprised that the **Soviet UFO Files** includes the 1908 "Tunguska Explosion" (albeit not in any great depth). I am sure many of those with a degree of astronomical knowledge will be annoyed to see - once again - this event being unquestionably presented as a critical spacecraft "malfunction" (or, according to another interpretation, a spacecraft taking off!). To ignore the fact that the Tunguska event was probably caused by a cometary body/ fragment is to set aside a considerable volume of supporting scientific evidence.

This book then moves to detail various 20th century UFO events. A variety of air-to-air encounters are discussed, ranging from various Soviet WW 2 "foo-fighter" events, Lt. Colonel Vyarkin's 1967 aerial "collision" with a UFO, to the (somewhat vague) "Moskalesnko's Ghost" incident. As elsewhere in the world, Russia has also been host to several alleged UFO "crashes" (for example at Dalnegorsk in 1986 and Monchegorsk in 1987. It also has regions similar to the "UFO Windows" of western Europe and the USA, such as the so-called "M-Zone". Among the better-known cases detailed include the Petrozavodsk 1977 incident (which everyone – except the author of this work – have long accepted as being explicable in terms of a covert rocket launch), and the Voronezh 1989 CE 3 event.

As intriguing as these cases are, doubts remain in all these stated instances. We do not know how well these reports were investigated, or whether possible rational explanations were considered (and actively pursued). As with any random collection of sighting-accounts, some are very questionable, some (probably many) are explicable and a few may be genuine anomalies. The book also features - of course - various Russian pictorial UFO "evidence"; i.e. the usual collection of too-dark fuzzy discs and hazy light-forms atypical of "UFO" photographs taken throughout the world.

It must be noted that a number of the accounts featured in **"The Soviet UFO Files"** read like (very) tall stories. There is (for example) the tale of a pyramid-shaped "meteor" that crashed in the Sikhote-Alin highland region of Russia, which supposedly emitted fiery "drops" for three days! When trying to place such outlandish claims into some form of context, one should remember the secretive, restricted and impoverished nature of communist-era Russian society. Modern times have seen little improvement; the current perilous state of modern Russia has merely generated new psycho-social factors to replace the older ones that have passed into history.

Additionally, the influence of Russian science fiction and this countries' very active space program is often quite evident; for example some interpretations of the Robozero & Tunguska events account for them in terms of advanced extraterrestrial "rockets".

The Soviet UFO Files collects many Russian UFO accounts in one cover, in a concise format. In that sense this book makes a useful primary source for these various claims, reports and occurrences. However, much of the data it presents still requires detailed and rigorous examination before we can accurately assess the actual "reality status" of these various accounts A useful and concise book, but one to read with an extremely wary and (very) critical eye!!

Robert Moore.

UFO CRASH-LANDING

Friend or Foe?

Jenny Randles

Blandford, 1998.
£9.99.
ISBN 0-7137-2655-5

UFO Crash Landing attempts to give an up-to-date assessment of the Rendlesham Forest incident; a series of UFO observations occurring close to the (then) American airbase at Woodbridge, Suffolk in late December 1980.

UFO Crash Landing is (in some ways) a sequel to the book ***"Skycrash"*** (first published in 1983). In comparison to this earlier work, ***UFO Crash Landing*** gives a much more definitive and complete version of this event. Since the publication of ***"Skycrash"*** much more information has come to light about the Rendlesham Forest incident, with many of the witnesses making more complete public disclosure of both themselves and their accounts.

This event has become notorious mainly for the confusion surrounding the actual details of what happened over those several nights in December 1980. However, as a reading of ***UFO Crash Landing*** will show, the details of what supposedly occurred is now much clearer (if still, sadly, not as clear as most other British UFO events).

To begin with, there no longer appears to have been any "UFO crash-retrieval" event. The claims of "Steve Roberts" (who alleged there was direct communication between senior base personnel and the UFO's entities) are markedly downgraded in this book. Those now considered (in the author's view) to be the main Rendlesham incident witnesses include John Burroughs and Jim Penniston (events of the first night), and also Adrian Bustinza and Charles Halt (events of the second night).

There is also, of course, Larry Warren. Those interested in the full substance of Warren's claims are advised to read ***"Left At East Gate"*** (Michael O'Mara, 1997), which gives a fuller account of them than this book does. Although he is a Rendlesham witness of considerable prominence elsewhere, Jenny Randles raises some questions concerning his testimony in ***UFO Crash Landing***.

The crux of ***UFO Crash Landing*** is that, early on the morning of 26th December, 1980, a strange light was observed (by Woodbridge base personnel) to come down in Tangham woods, a section of Rendlesham Forest located a short distance from the airbase's parameter. Several military personnel travelled out to the region where it seemed to have descended and saw (at very close quarters) a triangular multi-coloured "UFO" that darted in and out of the surrounding trees.

Following this sighting 3 "pod" marks were found on the ground, and a Geiger-counter supposedly detected anomalous radiation readings. On the 27th December, numerous mysterious lights were seen in the forest, which a group of base personnel (lead by Charles Halt) observed for many hours. In the latter case, a recording of these ongoing events was made. This is the so-called "Halt Tape", which has been in public circulation now for more than a decade.

This book details, in reasonable depth these various events, along with other possibly-related UFO incidents involving civilian inhabitants of this area. ***UFO Crash Landing*** also tries to place the Woodbridge case into some kind of context, by comparing the UFO(s?) encountered by the various Rendlesham incident witnesses with other cases that have occurred in the UK and elsewhere.

What has ***UFO Crash Landing*** to say on the origins and nature of the Rendlesham Forest incident? As well as being the UK's most renowned UFO case, it has also been the most intensively examined! As a result, various rational explanations have been cited to account for this case. A detailed and specific explanation for the first night's events

has been proposed by science writer Ian Ridpath. He proposes that a fireball event (known to have occurred at 02.50 hrs on the 26th December, 1980) was observed by the base personnel, which they interpreted as a mysterious object coming down in the woods.

Following this event, various base personnel entered the woods where they eventually encountered a "UFO" shining through the trees. This "UFO", Ian Ridpath proposes, was (in actuality) the Orford Ness lighthouse! The "pod" marks are explained in terms of scuff marks caused by rabbits and the radiation readings are viewed as not (on more detailed examination) being particularly significant, after all. As for the "UFOs" seen on the second night, sceptical commentators ascribe these to stars, lightships and also (once again) the Orford Ness lighthouse.

The viability of these proposed explanations have been hotly debated ever since they were initially proposed. The advocates of a rational solution have refined their "case" over the years; however, these explanations are still resolutely challenged by Jenny Randles in this book. She remains convinced that this event remains an impressive one, and cites many facts which she feels refutes the mundane solutions put forward by the various Rendlesham incident "detractors".

Several notable portions of ***UFO Crash Landing*** proposes links between this case and the **Cosmos 749** satellite re-entry event, which occurred hours before the first Rendlesham event on the 26th December, 1980. The possibility is mooted of "UFOs" using - in this instance and several others - satellite re-entries as a "cover" to overfly regions where a particular re-entry is visible over!

The author also proposes the idea that the first night's events were directly instigated by the re-entry event itself! Jenny Randles suggests that the "UFO" was a re-entry capsule containing intelligence data (possibly spy-satellite photographs). Jenny Randles feels it is possible that this "capsule" was brought down into the forest by a secret experimental radar unit known to have been located at Orford Ness.

However, since the publication of ***UFO Crash Landing***, new information from a number of researchers (namely Ian Ridpath) has come to light, that casts doubt on this theory; most notably that the portion of **Cosmos 749** which re-entered the atmosphere that night was merely an expended rocket fuel-tank!

So, what **did** happen at Rendlesham? Jenny Randles herself puts forward a number of possible (fairly prosaic) scenarios to account for this event. These range from the sceptical view (outlined above), to theories relating to various secret military devices and experiments. She also puts the case for the Rendlesham event being caused by some kind of genuine "True UFO" manifestation.

The author, while markedly criticising the explanations cited by various "sceptics", and while feeling it is very likely that something significant happened at Rendlesham, suspends judgement as to the actual nature of this incident. Jenny Randles feels that a definitive solution for this case will only be possible when **all** the information pertaining to this case has been released. She feels that the United States government still holds a considerable degree of physical evidence pertaining to the Rendlesham incident, which could markedly transform the status of this case if it were ever released.

Until that day comes we are forced to assess this case with the (often imperfect) data we have to hand.

As with many aspects of Ufology, **you** alone have to decide whether the Rendlesham forest incident is a non-event, or (as the author contends) one of the most important - if not the most important - "true UFO" events to have occurred in the U.K.

Robert Moore.

bufora LECTURE PROGRAMME: 1999.

Until further notice, all BUFORA lectures will be held at **The University Of Westminster**; **35 Marylebone Road, Central London, NW1 5LS** (opposite "Madame Tussauds"). The nearest tube station to the present lecture-venue is Baker Street. Please note that BUFORA is planning to change the location of it's lectures in the near future; details of this new venue will be issued in due course.

PLEASE NOTE THAT ALL THESE LECTURES COMMENCE AT 2:00 PM AND FINISH AT 6:00 PM. PLEASE PHONE MALCOLM ROBINSON ON (0181)- 998-4936 FOR CONFIRMATION.

Sat. 10th April 1999. **Gloria Dixon.**

"BRITISH UFO INVESTIGATIONS".

Gloria Dixon is head of BUFORA's investigations team. Of the many "UFO" reports BUFORA receives each year most can be explained, but there remains a percentage which are seemingly **not** generated by any known prosaic cause. Here, Gloria will present the results of some recent BUFORA case-studies.

Sat. 1st May 1999. **Brian James.**

"HAVE CROP FORMATIONS COME FULL CIRCLE?".

Brian James has researched both UFOs and crop circles for a number of years. He is a member of the **Centre for Crop Circles Studies** and presents some of the current thinking and controversy about this interesting phenomenon.

Saturday 5th June. **Max Burns.**

"THE SHEFFIELD INCIDENT".

In this lecture Max Burns will present his controversial research relating to the so-called 1997 "Sheffield Incident". Malcolm Robinson and other members of Council have decided - in the name of "free speech" - to give Max Burns the opportunity to present his findings to BUFORA's membership, despite protests by other leading members of the association. You have the chance to decide whether the division and resignations this decision has caused within the association was all worth it! Max Burns will present evidence that reportedly vindicates his claims concerning this event . Was a Tornado jet lost whilst pursuing either a prototype military aircraft or a UFO? Or is David Clarke's detailed study of this incident (particulars of which have been published recently in the **BUFORA BULLETIN**) the final word on this occurrence?

bufora LECTURE PROGRAMME: 1999.

JULY 1999: BUFORA BREAK. No lecture.
AUGUST 1999: BUFORA BREAK. No lecture.

Saturday 4th September, 1999. **Lynn Picknett & Clive Prince.**

"THE STARGATE CONSPIRACY".

Author Lynn Picknett and fellow researcher Clive Prince will present a lecture entitled, **"THE STARGATE CONSPIRACY"**. This talk will be based on Lynn's forthcoming book (of the same name). Lynn and Clive will be asking, "What really lies behind the major cults that claim to channel extraterrestrial?" Is there another more "terrestrial", but equally disturbing explanation for such apparent contacts??.

Saturday 2nd October 1999. **Jon Downes.**

"THE RISING OF THE MOON".

Author and TV documentary star Jonathan Downes will be presenting his talk entitled **"THE RISING OF THE MOON; the Devonshire UFO Triangle"**. Jon will be detailing cases from his forthcoming book (of the same name) which concerns - amongst other things - supposed "animal mutilations", sightings of big cats, ghost and poltergeist effects, and a number of other peculiar events that have occurred in East Devon.

Saturday 6th November 1999. **Reg Presely.**

"A PERSONAL PERSPECTIVE".

Reg Presely is the front-man of that famous (and still active) British pop-group ***"The Troggs"***. Over the years Reg has immersed himself deeply in Ufology and the paranormal; an interest which has become a major influence in his life, to which even his music now takes second place! He is deeply fascinated by the crop-circle phenomenon, and was also, controversially, one of the figures who brought the infamous Roswell Alien Autopsy footage to public attention. Reg will be discussing these topics, among many others.

Saturday 4th December 1999. **Andy Roberts.**

"THE BERWYN MOUNTAIN CRASH".

Andy Roberts is a long-standing and accomplished UFO researcher. He was editor of the well-known UFO magazine **"UFO Brigantia"** which folded in the mid-1990's (but which he is planning to re-establish sometime later this year). He is co-author (with BUFORA press officer Dr. David Clarke) of the groundbreaking British UFO book ***"Phantoms Of The Sky"***, and is currently in the process of producing another book (co-authored with David Clarke and Jenny Randles). Andy will be presenting details of the "Berwyn Mountain "UFO" Crash", and will be presenting the findings of his detailed re-investigation of this case. Did a UFO **really** crash in the Welsh Berwyn Mountains in 1973, or does this event have a more prosaic explanation....?