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by STEUART CAMPBELL

AN UNEXPLAINED OBJECT EXHIBITING STRANGE LIGHTS WAS SEEN BY ABOUT 20 PEOPLE (INCLUDING FOUR POLICE OFFICERS) OVER DUMFRIES IN SOUTHERN SCOTLAND IN THE EARLY HOURS OF 1980 AUG 30. ALTHOUGH AN OFFICIAL EXPLANATION WAS OFFERED THIS IS SHOWN TO BE INADEQUATE. THE INCIDENT RECEIVED WIDESPREAD PUBLICITY THROUGHOUT BRITAIN

Introduction

Investigation of this notorious incident proved difficult for BUFORA, who had no investigator in South Scotland. I made some initial enquiries by telephone. Fortunately BUFORA member and chemistry teacher Tom Straiton (then living at Barrhead, near Glasgow) offered to go. He was assisted by another BUFORA member Doctor Alan Robertson of Newton Mearns. In fact Tom made two visits. We are grateful to him for his investigation and quote below from his report. We also acknowledge assistance given by Frank Ryan, Dumfries reporter for the "Daily Record."

The Sightings

'Graham Brockie (17) was walking home along Dunlop Road in the town's Lochside housing scheme (FIGURE 1) at around 1 am on the morning of Saturday 30th August, when he noticed a cluster of 4-5 lights which seemed to be in the sky and moving slowly in an apparent northerly direction over a range of low hills to the west (FIGURE 2). The lights later became stationary in the vicinity of Riddings Hill (1). On arriving home shortly afterwards, Brockie 'phoned the police.

'PC James Smith (30) and WPC Pamela Brown (2) were directed to Dunlop Road in a patrol car. PC Smith later stated that the lights were clearly visible as they approached Lochside. By the time they arrived about 15 people from the neighbouring flats and houses had assembled to watch the object(s). Some people were reported to be in a state of alarm. Ten minutes later, (Police) Sergeant Bill McDavid (39) and PC Kerr Henry (18) arrived at the scene in another car.'

In their sighting reports, both Sergeant McDavid and PC Smith indicate that the object(s) were sighted to the north east of Lochside, although Mr McDavid has since told me that when he arrived the object(s) were towards the north. Furthermore he states that the lights were moving towards the west.

'In order to obtain a closer look at the object(s) Sergeant McDavid and PC Henry decided to drive to nearby Terregles village, where they observed the lights for a further 3-4 minutes at an estimated distance of $1\frac{1}{2}$ - $2\frac{1}{2}$ km. The time was now around 1.30am. From here they proceeded along a minor road in the direction of Riddings Hill, hoping to obtain a better vantage point on the nearby A75 trunk road.

'At this stage Sergeant McDavid reported that the object(s) appeared to be stationary, hovering over the forested area on Riddings Hill, above the British Telecom's micro-wave radio relay station.(3) PC Henry was reported to have become very apprehensive by this time. In his written report Sergeant McDavid states that they approached to within about 450m of the object(s). As it approaches Riddings Hill, the road turns left and enters an inclined valley with woods on either side and the Telecom tower gradually recedes from view. At some point along this section of road, the police officers lost sight of the object(s).' The road

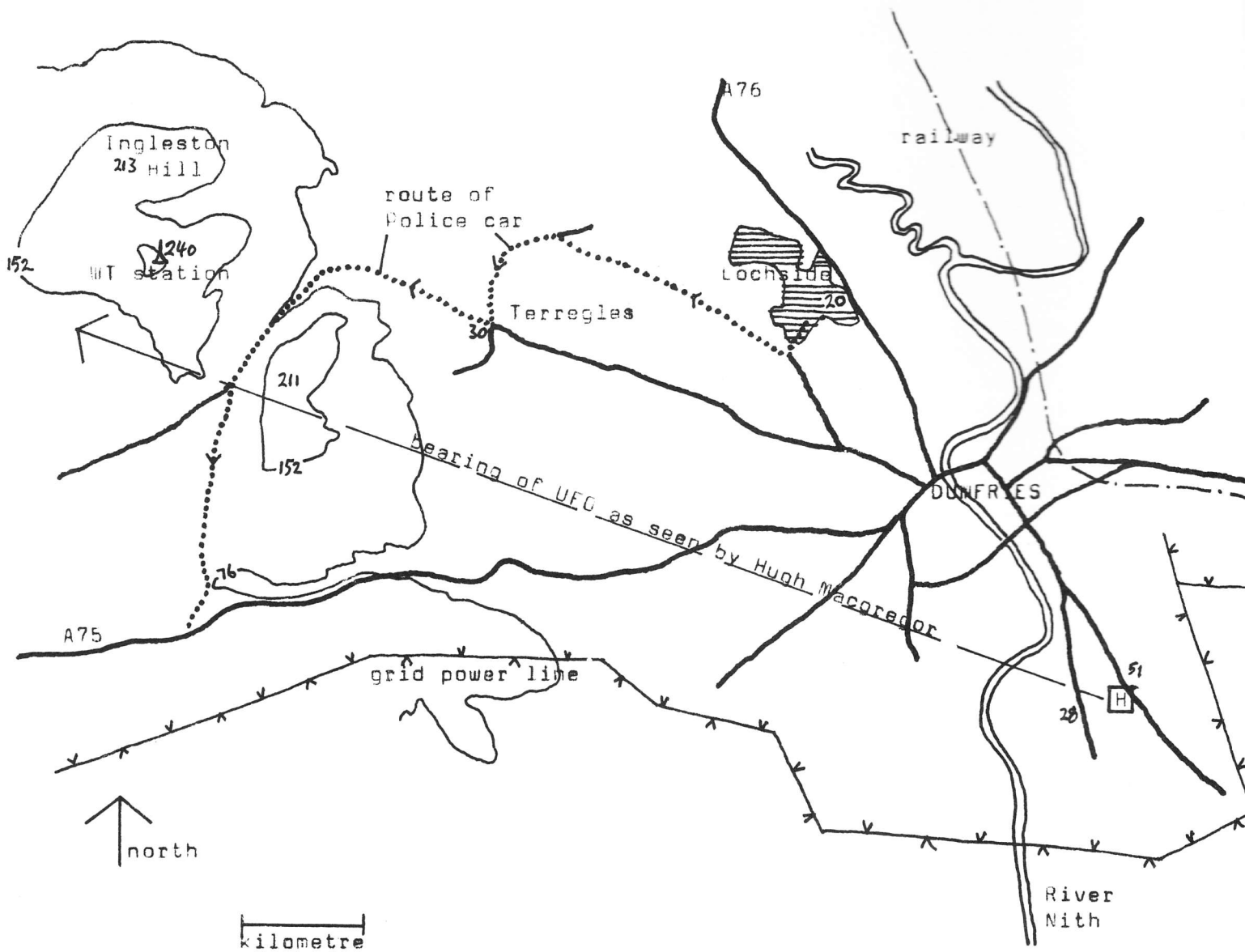


FIGURE 1

Plan of the location of the sighting around Dumfries. Scale 1:50000. Heights are in metres above mean sea level.

approaches to within 1050m of the telecommunications station.

'Meanwhile PC Smith and WPC Brown had been called to Dumfries Royal Infirmary (hospital) on other police business. At the hospital, which is situated about 3km from Lochside on the other side of Dumfries, they joined about six hospital staff to observe the same aerial lights in the approximate direction of Riddings Hill. The lights were still visible here after being lost by Sergeant McDavid and PC Henry. At approximately 2 am the lights vanished from view at the hospital, having remained visible at different locations for roughly one hour.

claims that the object remained visible for about 20 minutes, but when interviewed separately on a later occasion Amber Brockie claimed that the sighting only lasted about 30 seconds. The police were recalled, but the object was said to have vanished just as they were ascending the stairs to the flat. Amber's brother George (13) was despatched to the school to investigate, but noticed nothing unusual. The police suggested to the witnesses that they were probably just observing reflections from car headlights on the nearby A76 trunk road.'

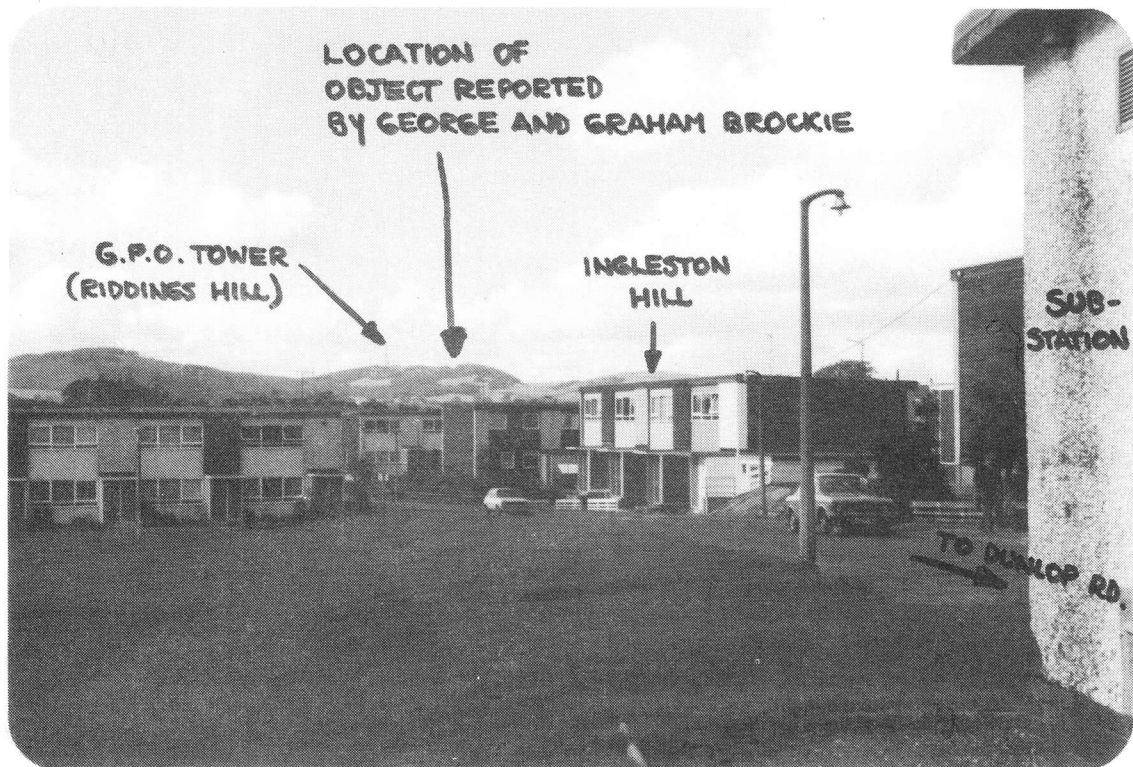


FIGURE 2. The view from Lochside towards the west.
(Photograph by Tom Straiton)

'A possibly related event occurred later that night when Mary Blyth (22) and her friend Amber Brockie (21) claimed to have seen another object from the Blyth's flat in Dunlop Road, This incident reputedly occurred between 2 and 2.30 am ... (the object) appeared to be hovering over the roof of Lochside Primary School, about 0.4km away. The object apparently hovered near the front-top of the school, then above it and finally appeared to drop behind the building. Mary

Description of the Objects.

'The descriptions provided by the various witnesses seem to be fairly consistent, with the large size of the lights being the most remarkable feature. There would appear to have been some dispute regarding the colour of the lights and also regarding their motion. PC Smith provided a sketch of the object(s) (or at least a sketch of the lights - FIGURE 4. He described

five very sharply defined white lights which were steady and not at all diffuse. The lights did not appear to radiate outwards but rather resembled looking into an illuminated railway carriage at night. Fe estimated the (angular) size of each light to be that of a golf ball held at arm's length.

resembling an airship with four or five partitions (compartments?) illuminated by white lights.

'Hugh Macgregor (55), a porter at Dumfries Royal Infirmary who viewed the object(s) from the hospital, described four lights of an oblong nature ('like port-holes') white at the top and orange at the bottom. Fe described each light as having the (angular) dimensions of a twopence piece held at arm's length.

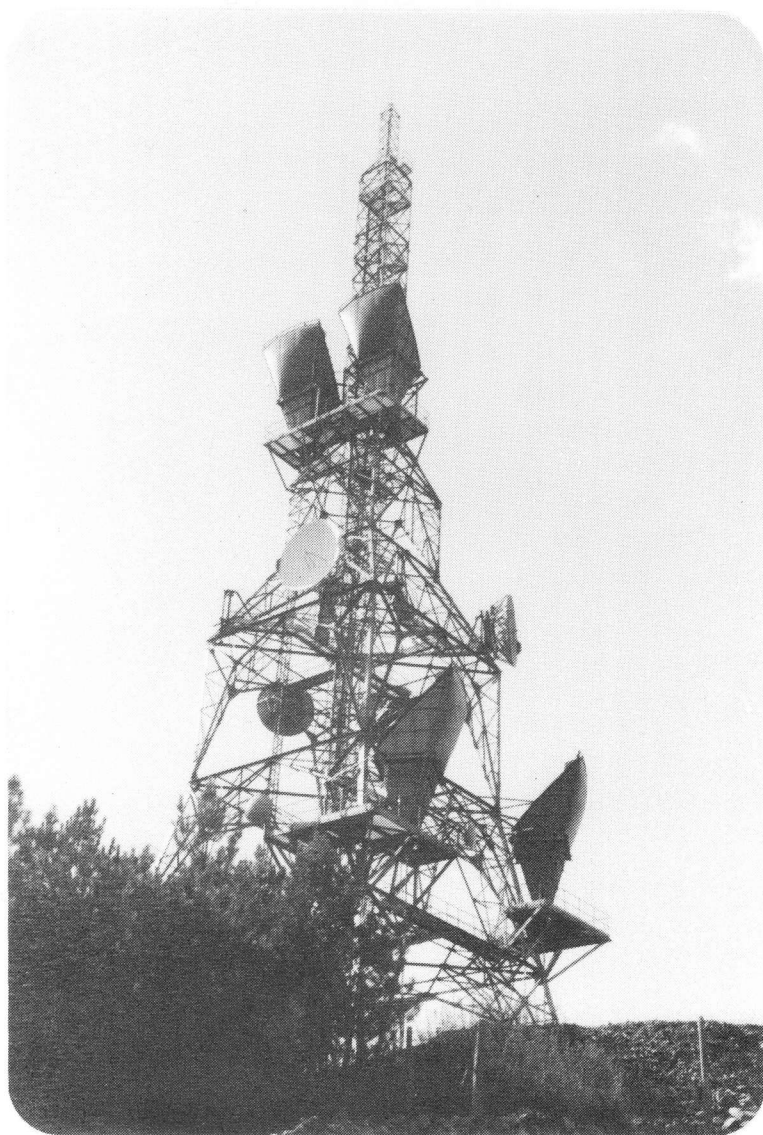


FIGURE 3. The tower at the Riddings Hill communications station (Photograph by Tom Straiton)

'Sergeant McDavid described a very large object (much larger than the (angular) size of a tennis ball at arm's length), with no distinct outline due to the darkness, but

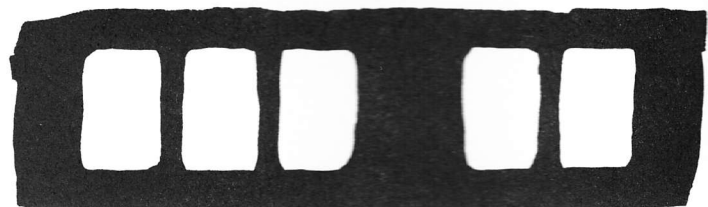


FIGURE 4

PC Smith's drawing of the UFO's lights

The object seen by Amber Brockie and Mary Blyth was described as '...egg-like or elliptical and illuminated by red and white or red and yellow lights. Blyth recalls that the lights were situated around the perimeter of the object, FIGURE 5 while according

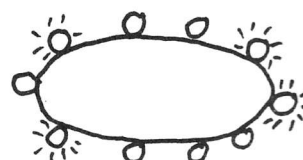


FIGURE 5

Tom Straiton's sketch of the object described by Mary Blyth to Amber Brockie the lights were arranged in rows and flashed on and off. FIGURE 6 No one reported any sound from the object(s).



FIGURE 6

Tom Straiton's sketch of the object described by Amber Brockie.

Weather Conditions

During Friday 29 August, a trough of low pressure crossed northern Britain, and was followed by a cyclone (depression). At the time of the sightings, the sky was overcast with low cloud and mist, with moderate to strong winds and rain. It was warm (temperature about 12-15°C).

Electromagnetic Effects

PC Smith reported that, during the sighting, police personal receivers malfunctioned, but added that this was not uncommon. Mary Blyth stated that her transistor radio failed during the sighting. Reports of interference with TV reception in the area appear to be unfounded.

Publicity

The event achieved considerable notoriety and was networked to the news agencies early enough on 30 August for reports to appear in the Saturday morning newspapers. There was so much interest that the Dumfries police held a press conference on the afternoon of 30 August. This led to more reports in the Sunday (31 Aug) newspapers, among which the "Sunday Mail" carried the fullest account, and those of Monday (Sep.01). Apart from the original report, an official explanation (see below) was given much publicity. In all, reports were carried by 47 differ-

ent newspapers in the UK, based in 37 different cities or towns. The incident received far wider publicity than that of the Livingston incident in November, 1979.

Explanations?

'On Sunday, 31 August, the police received a report from British Telecom engineers stating that work had been going on at the Riddings Hill station between 11 pm and 3 am (2300-0300 GMT) on the night of the incident and that this presented a likely explanation of the events. This was revealed in the press on Monday 1 September and public interest in Dumfries gradually abated.' It was suggested that what the witnesses saw was the light from the windows of a building associated with the communications station. FIGURE 7.

'It is claimed by a few of the witnesses in Lochside that British Telecom turned on its lights at the Riddings Hill station on the following Tuesday or Wednesday (possibly in an attempt to substantiate their explanation), but BT were not prepared to confirm or deny this. No lights were apparently visible on the tower itself and any similarity to the lights seen on 29/30 August was hotly repudiated by the Blythes and Brockies.'

The BT explanation was (at first) accepted by Sergeant McDavid, but not by PC Smith, who took bearings the following day. He estimated that the object was located about one km to the north of the tower, over Ingleston Hill (height 213m). According to press reports, the police remained convinced that the later Blyth/Brockie report was caused by car lights.

Aircraft

Press reports indicated that an aircraft had been sent from Prestwick Airport (80km to the NW) to investigate the UFO. Straiton's enquiries produced a statement from NATS at Prestwick that the matter was not even reported to them. Certainly there were no reports of hearing an aircraft over Dumfries, and an aircraft above the cloud would have seen nothing below it. It would have been too dangerous to

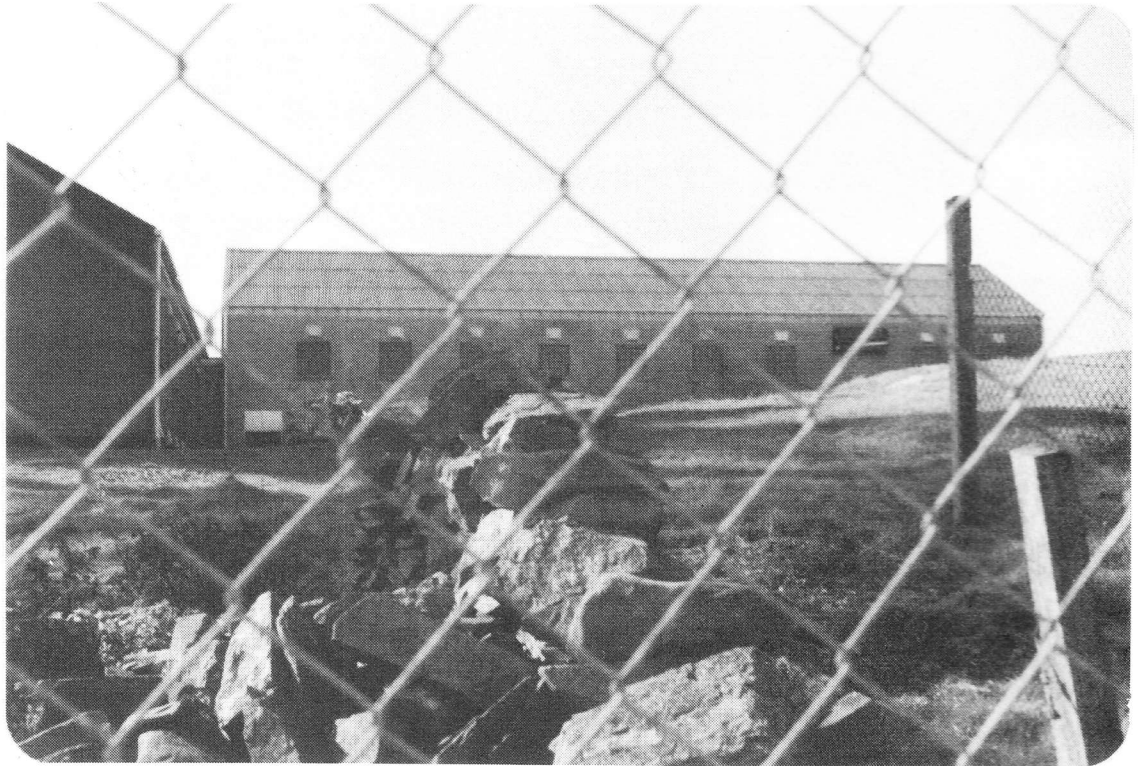


FIGURE 7. The building at Riddings Fill station which the STB claim was (internally) illuminated at the time of the sightings. (Photograph by Tom Straiton)

fly below the cloud. There is no airport in south Scotland.

Conclusions

The press (and perhaps the public) eagerly accepted the BT explanation without, apparently, asking themselves why the residents of Dumfries should be puzzled by the appearance of a lighted building which, presumably, had been lit at night before. Why, on this occasion, should the building have been reported as a UFO? Similarly, one may ask why car headlights should have caused such unusual reflections?

There are many arguments against the BT explanation. Several witnesses including Mr McDavid, are sure that the lights were moving, and both police officers report first seeing the lights to the north, nowhere near the communications station. The reports seem to indicate that the UFO approached from the south, to the west of Dumfries and headed over towards the north. Then it turned westward to settle eventually either near Riddings Fill or Ingleston Fill.

Then there is a great disparity between the reported size of the lights and the size of the windows of the BT building. The windows are about 1.5m square, subtending an angle of about 0.017° (when viewed from Lochside) or 0.009° (when viewed from the hospital). According to PC Smith, the lights subtended an angle of about 3.4° , while Sergeant McDavid's estimate is about 6° (although this may have been from a position much closer than he has stated). Fugh Macgregor's estimate is about 2.1° . The size of lights is usually exaggerated, but surely not by two orders of magnitude! Bright lights are particularly liable to be thought larger than they really are, but such brightness is hardly compatible with that to be expected from the windows of a lighted room. As Straiton

points out '....any light emitted from the windows of the station buildings could appear as little more than "pin-pricks" of light, as seen even from Lochside.' Tom Straiton was unable to find out what kind of lighting was in use by BT at the station.

There is a similar grave discrepancy between the UFO's angle of elevation and that of the BT station.

Clearly the BT explanation is inadequate; it utterly fails to explain the sighting. However, no other explanation has been produced, and the object remains unidentified.

References

- (1) "Riddingshill" is actually the name of a farm lower down, and the hill above it is See Morris Hill (240 m OOD).
- (2) From the Dumfries headquarters of Dumfries and Galloway Constabulary.
- (3) The mast of a communications (WT) station operated by British Telecom. FIGURE 3.

C O R R E S P O N D E N C E

Sir - An Institute of Ufology? Professional ufologists? Manifestos? Codes of Conduct? I sincerely hope not! Anyone would think that there is a new science of UFOs. And what are UFOs anyway? Dr. Fynek does not define the term, but leaves us with the impression that they are real anomalous phenomena or objects, possibly of alien origin, having no connections with any know objects or phenomena. He begs the question of whether or not UFOs exist and what they are. He should know better than anyone that only UFO reports exist and that these reports can be explained in very many different ways. One man's spacecraft is another man's ball lightning!

Ufology today is not what chemistry was when it was alchemy; it is like a phenomenon that was once explained superstitiously before it was explained scientifically. Lightning was thought

to be a weapon hurled by Jupiter, and if anyone took a special interest it was pagan priests, (For many people ufology is a religion). Today there is no Institute of Fulguology! Nor is there a special science of lightning. The phenomenon is just a natural phenomenon known to science (and meteorologists in particular) and an electrical phenomenon known to physics. New branches of science have to grow from existing branches.

All UFO reports can be explained by science (via one branch or another) and if there is a residual core of reports that describe a real anomalous phenomenon it is likely to be explained by physics. As yet there is no evidence that UFOs are objects. We do not need (nor can we have) a science of ufology; we need a more scientific attitude on the part of those interested in the subject and the interest of more competent scientists. It is unfortunate that so far the qualified scientists who have interested themselves in UFOs have been less than objective in their approach.

STEUART
CAMPBELL

Edinburgh,
Scotland

Sir - Steuart Campbell's researches into Ball Lightning are of interest; and no doubt some of our cases are of BL or related natural phenomenon. However he does presume in labelling events BL with little forethought. JTAP has been caught by this factor.

In Vol 2 pp 75 he labels as BL (unhesitatingly!) an event from Innerleithen, Scotland, 1981 July 30, 22.45 BST. There is little doubt that this was certainly not BL but the entry of space debris, probably a bright fireball meteor. The incident is well established within scientific records and the investigation department has evidence to this effect.

Individual reports of the phenomenon were made from as far south as Kent. David Clarke has provided a report on several Yorkshire sightings. Mark Brown

(continued on page 96).

by JENNY RANGLES

THIS PAPER, FIRST GIVEN AT THE 1982 BUFORA NATIONAL CONFERENCE IN EDINBURGH EXPLORES THE BASIS OF AN IDEALISED UFO INVESTIGATION NETWORK. IT CONSIDERS THE SITUATION FROM THE POINT OF VIEW OF BRITAIN BUT MAKES OBSERVATIONS WHICH ARE RELEVANT GLOBALLY. IT STARTS WITH THE CONSIDERATION OF THE REQUIREMENTS FOR GOOD INVESTIGATION IN A SUBJECT AS COMPLEX AS UFOLOGY. FROM HERE IT MOVES TO AN ASSESSMENT OF THE "RAW MATERIAL" WITH WHICH WE MUST BUILD OUR SYSTEM - THE INVESTIGATORS. IT EXAMINES PAST ATTEMPTS IN BRITAIN TO OVERCOME THE INNATE PROBLEMS OF ORGANISING INVESTIGATION. IN THE PROCESS, SPECIFIC PROPOSALS ARE MADE FOR EFFECTIVE NEW STRUCTURES WITHIN UFOLOGY AND GROUND RULES SET FOR THE DECADE AHEAD.

Investigating An Anomaly

Insight may be gained into many problems connected with the investigation of UFOs by attempting 'mind exercises'. One of these would be to place ourselves in the position of a caveman struggling to understand the appearance in the sky of a rainbow.

Without science or tenable theories, he could not hope to comprehend the true nature of the anomaly. He would be left to confront the numerous "hypotheses" brought to bear by fellow cavemen, such as the "mountain god."

However the caveman could investigate the phenomenon; preserving data for future researchers, in a better position to comprehend. He could talk to witnesses of the aerial anomaly; compare their individual accounts for consistency; possibly look for common denominators between facets of these accounts. The investigator of an anomaly must recognise his limits.

The Influence of Mental Set

Investigators and witnesses both face difficulties because of this psychological process (commonly known as "Mental Set"). Individuals tend to interpret what they see in terms of what they expect and want to see. Because an anomaly in the sky is regarded in cultural terms as a UFO (with the world-view connotations which this

involves), even familiar phenomena seen under slightly ambiguous circumstances will be interpreted in a UFO context by a witness..

An investigator who is unaware of this problem can also fall victim to it. He may seek only those explanations which fit the interpretation of the phenomenon which he defines. If, for example, a witness observes two stellar objects (lights) but, because of 'Mental Set' connects them into a structured shape, an investigator who searches for explanations in terms of this structured shape only will fail to explain the phenomenon. The solution will be found only if the investigator looks for answers in terms of the true nature of the original stimulus (the lights). This takes considerable training to appreciate.

Investigators must adopt 'Lateral Thinking' in attempts to solve cases.

The Importance of IFOs

At least 90 per cent of all UFO investigations have a natural explanation. This is a fact that is so obvious that it is often overlooked. Investigators tend to realise that it is so but then continue, in practice, as if they did not!

In every UFO case, it is essential to think in terms of:

'What normal thing could this possibly be?' rather than, as is customary, 'Gee Wow! A UFO now what can I find out about it?' The solution of a case is a triumph, not a failure, even if at times considerable diplomacy is called for when explaining to a witness that one has identified their 'UFO.'

A thorough acquaintance with the techniques suggested in my book "UFO Study" and the absolutely mandatory study of the UFO/IFO problem highlighted by Fendry is his "UFO Handbook" are strongly advised. It is crucial that investigators stop looking for mysteries and start looking for answers.

The Building Blocks Of A Network

Should an investigation network be populated by scientists? In my opinion, no. Because scientists, whilst good at science, are not necessarily good at ufology. Science tends to be specialised. Ufology is multi-disciplined. Whilst we need open-minded, inquisitive scientists working with the data and providing feedback to the investigation team, the investigation itself requires multi-disciplined individuals who may or may not be scientists.

In truth we have enthusiastic, untrained individuals ... some of whom want thrills and fame, and some want their beliefs confirmed. A few seriously want to learn the truth.

There is little we can do about those who do not care. All we can do is to set ourselves standards and hope that the rest strive to emulate us. I suspect that it might be useful to adopt a new name for serious UFO investigators. Something that indicates the flavour of serious minded investigators searching for truth, taking us away from the popular image which the word 'ufologist' conjures up.

I also believe that there is a need for an international standard within UFO investigation; perhaps an International Council akin to PICUR but specialising in investigation. In this way, an internationally recognised minimum criterion could be adopted for

for the data collectors as well as the data researchers. At least this would show that we cared about doing what we do, to the best of our abilities. I would call for BUFORA and the Center for UFO studies to pioneer this initiative.

The Present Situation-in Britain

Until the creation of an International Council, if it should come about, we must do more to set our own house in order.

Serious ufologists in Britain are found in three modes:

- (a) the loners - individuals who do not wish to be attached to the bureaucracy of any group. UFOIN, a free and easy style network discussed below, attracted some. But, in the main, we can only set standards and hope that they will want to aspire to them.
- (b) local groups - serious groups come in many styles. Most are membership social clubs, but with potentially good investigators at the helm. Others have selective membership and exist principally, or exclusively, to investigate cases to the best of their ability in their locale. These are few in number but produce a great deal of excellent work.

Some groups try to combine the best of both worlds but few succeed;

- (c) national groups - only BUFORA and CONTACT are usually considered serious forces so far as investigation goes. CONTACT sets an examination for would-be investigators but does less casework than BUFORA and is rather secretive body.

The BUFORA Position

In the past, BUFORA has had to rely upon a situation where anyone willing could do investigation. Principally, this was because there were too few members and too many cases. No effective liaison

was ever established with local groups which made the problems more acute, and overloading the BUFORA research department. In consequence, most reports (and most local group reports also) are of a very poor standard, quite unacceptable on the basis of scientific data.

The Need For Co-operation

All the different groups have, in the past, worked in isolation and, often, in competition. This has numerous attendant difficulties. In one case, a witness was contacted by at least 10 different UFO societies, asking to investigate his story. Clearly, this is not going to help our public relations. Situations have shown that co-operation has distinct value. Investigators with specialist knowledge and abilities from different groups can, if working together and called into an investigation when appropriate, add substantially to the data extracted from that case.

Now is the time to create a National Federation of UFO Groups. This could set itself standards and principles to adopt in situations such as this. It could create a national register of specialist knowledge and abilities, group contacts, equipment etc, enabling the maximum use of resources and potential in the investigation of all case reports.

Past Attempts To Overcome The Problems

Pilot attempts have been made since 1974 from which we can learn a great deal in the new initiative that we now must forge. In 1974 several groups in the North of England came together to form NUFON (Northern UFO Network). This still functions.

NUFON succeeded because it did not set itself too high an aiming point. It chiefly operates as a communication centre and focal point. It produces a monthly newsletter which enables the groups to in contact with each other. It has adopted a central HQ, co-ordinated by the Nottingham-based group, NUFOIS. This stores all the group's files centrally, 1500 of them, and makes them available to everyone. In this way, each group has access to a larger pool of resources and, whilst maintaining autonomy and

individual identity, feels part of a larger system. It has not proved practical to extend this system to more authoritarian principles. An attempt in the South to operate a similar network, but with more formal agreement, failed to convince some groups to give up their own little empires.

Scotland has formed Scottish UFO Network on a similar basis to NUFON.

NUFON is a success, in terms of the modest limits it has set itself. But many individuals within NUFON groups were aware by 1977, that there were things it could do that nobody else was doing. From this came the origin of UFOIN (The UFO Investigators' Network).

UFOIN set itself up as a team of investigators without formal structures. Every member was of equal status. It has no committee, no finance, no meetings and no inactive members. It functioned as a team of like-minded investigators (on a national basis) setting itself standards and adopting minimum criteria. The UFOIN standard format for reports was agreed and published in 1979 and about 100 reports to this format have been housed on a separate file at Nottingham, on the same open access facility.

Most UFOIN members are also members of other groups, 60 per cent being members of BUFORA. The team was necessarily small, never more than 40, because of the standards expected. In view of this, the decision was taken to investigate only high strangeness cases. This reduced the typical case load to around 30 per cent per year and overcame the problems inherent within a BUFORA type system.

Whilst UFOIN still exists, it recognises that if BUFORA pioneers a new initiative and lives up to the standards it hopes to achieve, UFOIN would be superfluous. UFOIN members have no desire for this and the feeling is that they would be willing to merge with BUFORA if this were in the interests of British ufology.

Where Do We Go From Here?

As I take on the role of BUFORA Director of Investigations, I have clear intentions of where we must go. BUFORA Council had already recognised this need and I inherited some excellent improvements.

The old BUFORA system of Regional Investigation Co-ordinators (RICs), controlling batches of investigators of varying quality, is to be replaced by a new team of "Accredited Investigators" (AIs). AIs will be elected by a National Investigation Committee, of eight or nine representatives, each covering an area of the UK. AI status will be conferred only on proof of that individual's ability (in terms of minimum investigational standards). The status will be conferred for a limited period only, individuals being subject to renewal.

This National Investigations Committee will not be a closed shop. I intend to invite local groups to be represented, to encourage closer liaison between BUFORA and these groups. Ultimately, I envisage the BUFORA team of Accredited Investigators representing the elite of investigational ufology to which all might hope to aspire. It is in our own hands to set these standards.

In return for setting this level of work, AIs are to receive financial support in the form of reduced BUFORA membership subscriptions, and other discounts. This means

that the balance will be the correct way round. Inactive members of BUFORA will be subsidising a nationwide team.

The proof that co-operation can work is visible in the form of the Code of Practice. This concept was first mooted by Geoff Bird of the Southern group PROBE and myself, on behalf of the NUFON groups. This was at an historic meeting of northern and southern local groups held in Birmingham in February, 1981. This was the herald of greater co-operation. Following it, a series of meetings were held. BUFORA became actively involved at this early stage. The result was a legally vetted Code which, like the medical Hippocratic Oath serves to regulate the behaviour of investigators in dealings with witnesses and the public. All BUFORA AIs and, we hope, most ufologists will sign this code. It is to be administered by a new body, comprising BUFORA, NUFON, UFOIN and several local groups. Could this be the forerunner of a British Federation?

An ideal investigation network is a team of skilled and dedicated people working in co-operation. It is a mobilisation of nationwide manpower, resources and special skills, coupled to the local knowledge and contacts of individual constituents.

This is the network which we in Britain, must achieve.

Editor's Note:

Since this Paper was given a number of the proposals put forward by Miss Randles have been implemented.

Copies of the Code of Practice may be obtained from BUFORA's Director of Publications.

by STEUART CAMPBELL

Photographs of Ball Lightning are rare, in fact there is no photograph that is universally accepted as authentic. However, those who write about BL often include a copy of a photograph taken in 1961 at Castleford in Yorkshire by designer Roy Jennings (FIGURE 1). This is often taken as the definitive photograph of BL; it is claimed that the BL flew across the field of view (pulsing as it went) and exploded near a lamp standard.

Jennings was attempting to photograph lightning flashes during a storm (between 0200 and 0400 on September 03) and was lying on his bed with the camera held against the window during the time exposure. He was not looking at the scene he photographed and so could not have seen BL if it had appeared. No-one else reported seeing BL at the time. The anomalous trace was discovered only after development of the film, and Jennings was told that he had captured a 'thunderbolt.'

Investigation has shown that, contrary to Jennings' belief, the sodium street lamps were illuminated at the time, and the point of maximum light coincides exactly with the position of the luminaire of one street lamp FIGURE 2. The colour of the trace (the original negative is colour diapositive) is consistent with that of a sodium vapour discharge lamp, and the pulsed nature of the trace is consistent with the result obtained by swinging a camera rapidly in front of such a lamp while the camera is open. In Britain these lamps pulse 100 times per second, and it is quite easy to capture individual pulses by this method. Moreover, the shape and direction of the trace are consistent with the movements which Jennings had to make after the time exposure. Examination of the diapositive shows that the bright image is a horizontal bar (consist-

ent with it being a luminaire) and the pulses of the trace exhibit the same horizontally.

These facts point to the conclusion that, after making a time exposure, Jennings swung himself into an upright position, and in so doing moved the camera through a course that threw the image of the lamp across the scene previously recorded. It must also be concluded that either he was a little slow in releasing the shutter control, or the shutter itself did not close rapidly enough to prevent the accidental capture of the lamp's light. The other sources of illumination in the scene were too low in brightness to record a detectable trace. It is noted that, unlike the fixed light sources, the pulsed trace is not reflected in the wet roadway; this indicates that it was a trace from the lamp and not a flying object.

This is an adequate and simple explanation for the photograph and there is no cause to believe that the picture shows Ball Lightning. A full account of the investigation has been published.(1)

References

- (1) CAMPBELL, Stuart (sic): "How Not To Photograph Ball Lightning." The British Journal of Photography 81/43, (23 Oct. 81) pp 1096-7/1105.

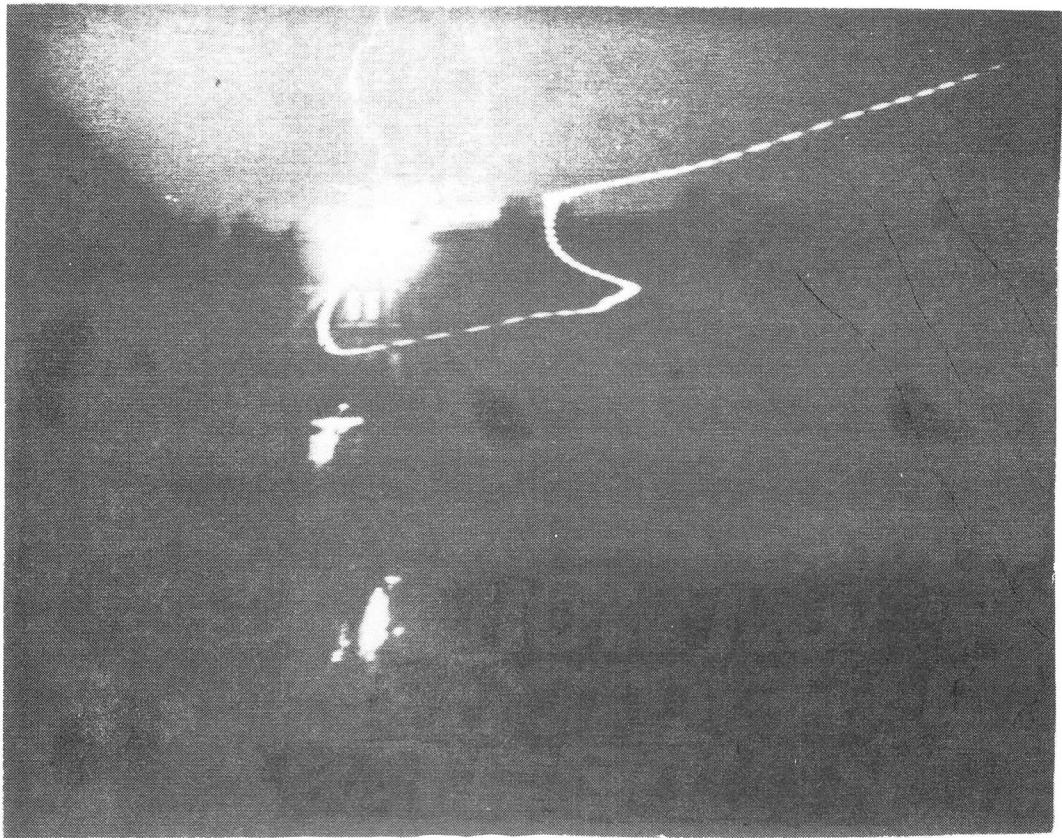


FIGURE 1. Monochromatic copy of Roy Jennings' photograph. The lowest light is a reflection of the street lamp and the light in a telephone kiosk (visible between the reflection and the street lamp).

FIGURE 2

The scene in 1980. Since 1961, the telephone kiosk has been removed, and a bungalow has been built on the vacant corner lot. Also a new lamp standard has been erected in front of the bungalow. The lamp responsible for the pulsed trace can just be seen over the roof of the bungalow in front of the chimney stack of one of the houses in Pontefract Road. (Photograph by Steuart Campbell)



WHAT KIND OF PEOPLE JOIN A UFO GROUP?

(Results of Ufology in Britain Questionnaire (first analysis))

by SHIRLEY McIVER

BEING THE STATISTICAL RESULTS OF THE SURVEY DESCRIBED BY THE WRITER IN THE JOURNAL OF TRANSIENT AERIAL PHENOMENA VOL.2 No.4 - JANUARY, 1983.

SEX

Males = 175 (80.3½) Females = 43 (19.7%)

AGE

Under 20 = 22 (10.1%) 21 - 30 = 64 (29.4%) 31-40 = 54 (24.8%)
41 - 50 = 29 (13.3%) 51 - 60 = 28 (12.8%) 61 + = 17 (7.8%)

(No response = 4)

MARITAL STATUS

Single = 94 (43.1%) Married = 105 (48.2%) Sep/div. = 14 (6.4%)
Widowed = 1 (0.5%)

(No response = 4)

BIRTH POSITION

Oldest = 76 Youngest = 65 Only = 42 Other = 28 (No response = 7)

LENGTH OF INTEREST IN UFOs

Under a year = 3 (1.4%)
1 - 5 years = 34 (15.6%)
5 -15 years = 85 (39%)
Over 15 years = 96 (44%)

HOW DID YOU BECOME INTERESTED IN UFOs?

Book 77 (35.3%)
Person 18 (8.3%)
Personal event (sighting) 42 (19.3%)
Impersonal event (e.g. newspaper article/TV programme) 46 (21.1%)
Combination of factors specified 14 (6.4%)
General interest only spec 8 (3.7%)
Other 7 (3.2%)
Don't know 5 (2.3%)
No response 1

WHICH ORGANISATIONS DO YOU BELONG TO?

BUFORA 206 (94.5%)
CONTACT UK 15 (6.9%)
UFOIN 16 (7.3%)
A local UFO Group 24 (11%)
Other 18 (8.3%)

WHAT ARE YOUR MAIN ACTIVITIES CONNECTED WITH UFOs?

	<u>1st</u>	<u>2nd</u>	<u>3rd</u>
Attending local meetings	14 (6.4%)	22 (10.1%)	18 (8.3%)
Skywatching	44 (20.2%)	25 (11.5%)	11 (5.%)
Interviewing UFO witnesses	25 (11.5%)	22 (10.1%)	13 (6.%)
Research	38 (17.4%)	22 (10.1%)	15 (6.9%)
Writing articles for UFO magazines	5 (2.3%)	6 (2.8%)	12 (5.5%)
Reading UFO literature	108 (49.5%)	40 (18.3%)	28 (12.8%)
Other	16 (7.3%)	10 (4.6%)	4 (1.8%)

WHAT DO YOU CONSIDER TO BE THE MOST IMPORTANT ASPECT OF UFOLOGY?

	<u>1st</u>	<u>2nd</u>	<u>3rd</u>
Collecting data and formulating hypotheses	57 (26.1%)	47 (21.6%)	22 (10.1%)
Getting the research procedure correct	57 (26.1%)	42 (19.3%)	13 (6%)
Working out the right theory of what UFOs are from the existing data	36 (16.5%)	34 (15.6%)	40 (18.3%)
Making the government release information about its knowledge of UFOs	39 (17.9%)	27 (12.4%)	19 (8.7%)
Making contact with any extra-terrestrials who might be visiting us	29 (13.3%)	15 (6.9%)	14 (6.4%)
Transmitting the messages obtained by contactees	1 (0.5%)	6 (2.8%)	8 (3.7%)
Other	15 (6.9%)	6 (2.8%)	3 (1.4%)

MOST LIKELY THEORY OF WHAT ANY UFOs MIGHT BE

	<u>1st</u>	<u>2nd</u>	<u>3rd</u>
Physical ETs travelling in vehicles	96 (44%)	15 (6.9%)	8 (3.7%)
Spiritual Beings	12 (5.5%)	20 (9.2%)	10 (4.6%)
As yet unknown natural phenomena	42 (19.3%)	39 (17.9%)	25 (11.5%)
Secret weapons	3 (1.4%)	7 (3.2%)	11 (5%)
Misperceptions of known objects	19 (8.7%)	22 (10.1%)	9 (4.1%)
Psychic events	26 (11.9%)	29 (13.3%)	21 (9.6%)
Evil entities	2 (0.9%)	3 (1.4%)	2 (0.9%)
No idea	17 (7.8%)	1 (0.5%)	2 (0.9%)
Other	15 (6.9%)	12 (5.5%)	2 (0.9%)

SPECIAL INTERESTS

Space research	=	130 (59.6%)
Astronomy	=	94 (43.1%)
Science Fiction	=	69 (31.7%)
Psychic Research	=	108 (49.5%)
Fortean Phenomena	=	67 (30.7%)
Ecology	=	46 (21.1%)
Meditation	=	34 (15.6%)
Occult Philosophy	=	52 (23.9%)
Fantasy R.P.G.	=	6 (2.8%)
Martial Arts	=	14 (6.4%)

HOW MANY BOOKS DO YOU READ A WEEK?

None = 27 (12.4%)
Part of a Book = 17 (7.8%)
One or two = 140 (64.2%)
Three or more = 28 (12.8%)

STATEMENTS

The major governments of the world are in contact with extra-terrestrials and are withholding this information from the general public

S.A. = 27 (12.4%) A = 23 (10.6%) N.S. = 57 (26.1%)
D. = 60 (27.5%) S.D. = 44 (20.2%)

Cattle mutilations are associated with UFOs

S.A. = 20 (9.2%) A. = 47 (21.6%) N.S. = 105 (48.2%)
D. = 33 (15.1%) S.D. = 11 (5%)

Some of those interested in UFOs have been visited by Men In Black

S.A. = 32 (14.7%) A = 87 (39.9%) N.S. = 70 (32.1%)
D. = 18 (8.3%) S.D. = 11 (5.6%)

There are Aliens walking amongst us

S.A. = 41 (18.8%) A. = 41 (18.8%) N.S. = 84 (38.5%)
D. = 34 (15.6%) S.D. = 18 (8.3%)

Homo Sapiens was created by the genetic engineering of extra-terrestrials who visited Earth millions of years ago.

S.A. = 30 (13.8%) A. = 38 (17.4%) N.S. = 86 (39.4%)
D. = 38 (17.4%) S.D. = 24 (11%)

Man once inhabited a lost continent called Atlantis and at that time, he had knowledge and powers that he does not possess now.

S.A. = 33 (15.1%) A. = 52 (23.9%) N.S. = 68 (31.2%)
D. = 41 (18.8%) S.D. = 24 (11%)

When man finally solves the UFO mystery it will cause a revolution in his current understanding of the world

S.A. = 93 (42.7%) A. = 61 (28%) N.S. = 32 (14.7%)
D. = 25 (11.5%) S.D. = 6 (2.8%)

Each human being is travelling on a path of spiritual evolution which will end in union with God

S.A. = 50 (22.9%) A. = 39 (17.9%) N.S. = 69 (31.7%)
D. = 26 (11.9%) S.D. = 32 (14.7%)

S.A. = Strongly Agree. A = Agree N.S. = Not Sure
D. = Disagree S.D. = Strongly Disagree.

DO YOU THINK THAT SCIENCE WILL EVENTUALLY SOLVES ALL OF LIFE'S MYSTERIES?

Will eventually solve all = 37 (17%)
Will never explain it all = 155 (71.1%)
Don't know = 26 (11.9%)

DO YOU BELIEVE IN A GOD?

Yes	=	133 (61%)
No	=	37 (17%)
Sometimes	=	31 (14.2%)
Don't know	=	13 (6%)

WHAT KIND OF GOD?

Personal	=	56 (25.7%)
Impersonal	=	97 (44.5%)
Gods	=	10 (4.6%)

DO YOU BELIEVE IN THE DEVIL?

Yes	=	60 (27.5%)
No	=	91 (41.7%)
Sometimes	=	34 (15.6%)
Don't know	=	27 (12.4%)

DO YOU BELIEVE IN ANY OF THE FOLLOWING?

	<u>YES</u>	<u>NO</u>	<u>DON'T KNOW</u>	<u>NR</u>
Life after death	149(68.3%)	24 (11%)	35 (16.1%)	10 (4.6%)
Hell	30(13.8%)	98 (45%)	39 (17.9%)	51 (23.4%)
Heaven	48(22%)	76 (34.9%)	46 (21.1%)	48 (22%)
Reincarnation	98(45%)	41 (18.8%)	57 (26.1%)	22 (10.1%)

DO YOU CONSIDER JESUS CHRIST TO BE ANY OF THE FOLLOWING?

	<u>YES</u>	<u>NO</u>	<u>DON'T KNOW</u>	<u>NR</u>
The Son of God	68 (31.2%)	52 (23.9%)	45(20.6%)	53 (24.3%)
A spiritually evolved human being				

DO YOU CONSIDER THAT YOU BELONG TO A RELIGION?

None	=	87 (39.9%)
Church of England	=	78 (35.8%)
Roman Catholic	=	6 (2.8%)
Christian Denomination	=	16 (7.3%)
Other Christian	=	6 (2.8%)
Eastern	=	6 (2.8%)
Witchcraft/Pagan	=	2 (0.9%)
Other	=	14 (6.4%)
No Response	=	3

HOW OFTEN DO YOU ATTEND RELIGIOUS MEETINGS?

Never	=	127 (58.3%)
Once a week or more	=	14 (6.4%)
Between once a week and once a month	=	17 (17.8%)
Occasionally	=	58 (26.6%)
No Response	=	2

DO YOU SUPPORT A POLITICAL PARTY?

None	=	107 (49.1%)
Conservative	=	43 (19.7%)
Liberal	=	19 (8.7%)
Labour	=	24 (11%)
Other	=	20 (9.2%)
No Response	=	5

HAVE YOU EVER SEEN WHAT YOU CONSIDER TO BE A UFO?

Never	=	83	(38.1%)
Once	=	58	(26.6%)
Two or three times	=	53	(24.3%)
More than three times	=	22	(10.1%)

WHAT TYPE OF UFO EXPERIENCE DID YOU HAVE?

Light in the sky	=	105	(48.2%)
Close Encounter	=	14	(6.4%)
Contact with aliens	=	1	(0.5%)
More than one type	=	10	(4.6%)
Don't know	=	1	(0.5%)
No Response	=	0	

HAVE YOU EVER HAD WHAT YOU CONSIDER TO BE A PSYCHIC EXPERIENCE?

None	=	90	(41.3%)
One type	=	68	(31.2%)
Two types	=	28	(12.8%)
Three types	=	20	(9.2%)
Four types	=	7	(3.2%)
Five types	=	0	
No Response	=	5	

EMPLOYMENT STATEMENT

Full time job	=	145	(66.5%)
Unemployed	=	15	(6.9%)
Retired	=	13	(6.0%)
Housewife	=	13	(6.0%)
Full time education	=	16	(7.3%)
Part-time job	=	9	(4.1%)
Other	=	6	(2.8%)
No Response	=	1	

SOCIO-ECONOMIC CLASS (from occupation) (see J-TAP January, 1983 for categories)

One	=	12	(5.5%)
Two	=	25	(11.5%)
Three	=	74	(33.9%)
Four	=	38	(17.4%)
Five	=	9	(4.1%)
Six	=	4	(1.8%)

EDUCATION

(a) Secondary School

Secondary modern	=	74	(33.9%)
Grammar	=	58	(26.6%)
Technical	=	14	(6.4%)
Public	=	15	(6.9%)
Comprehensive	=	27	(12.4%)
Other	=	17	(7.8%)
No Response	=	12	

(b) Age full-time education ceased

14 and under	=	16	(7.3%)
15	=	43	(19.7%)
16	=	53	(24.2%)
17	=	28	(12.8%)
18	=	43	(19.7%)
Still receiving full time education	=	17	(7.8%)
No response	=	2	

(c) Kind of further education

None	=	61	(28%)
Commercial	=	15	(6.9%)
Technical	=	41	(18.8%)
Teacher training	=	4	(1.8%)
University	=	40	(18.3%)
Polytechnic	=	24	(11%)
Other	=	19	(8.7%)
No Response	=	14	

(d) Qualifications

None	=	95	(43.6%)
Degree (Science)	=	14	(6.4%)
Degree (Other)	=	15	(6.9%)
Professional qualifications	=	62	(28.4%)
Examinations to be taken	=	16	(7.3%)
No Response	=	16	

and Graham Fall have compiled a superb dossier of 30 reports, including a physical trace event (proven to be unrelated after excellent assistance from Leicester University). One of our Manchester investigative team clearly saw the bolide too.

Clearly Steuart Campbell was unaware of these data. However, perhaps it will stop him from automatically ascribing any event which might superficially resemble BL to that phenomenon

JENNY
RANGLES

Wallasey
Wirral.

United Kingdom
3rd International
UFO CONGRESS
27-28-29 August 1983

BUFORA's Third International Congress will be held at the Lorch Foundation, Lane End, High Wycombe, Buckinghamshire from Saturday, August 27th to Monday, August 29th, 1983.

Speakers will include: Dr, J. Allen Hynek, Dr. Hartley Rutledge, Per Anderson, Peter Warrington, Stanton T. Friedman, Paul Norman, Bertil Kuhlemann, Alec Keul, Hilary Evans, Paul Devereux, Jenny Randles and Ali Abu Taban.

Booking forms and further details can be obtained from John Shaw, Congress Secretary, 5 Vardens Road, London, SW11 1RQ.

The Congress will be attended by leading ufologists from the UK and overseas and the occasion promises to be one of very great interest with the presentation of some first-class papers and the opportunity for members to meet old friends again and make new ones.

HAVE YOU BOOKED YET?

Aims and scope of the Journal

Research and investigation into unidentified flying object (UFO) phenomena has progressed from the early days of wild speculation into an area where scientific analysis and evaluation methods can be applied to a number of specified areas.

It is realised that ufological research is subject to a great deal of speculative comment, much of which lies on the boundaries of current scientific thought. Many existing scientific institutions accept limited discussion of UFOs and related phenomena where it has some bearing on their discipline. The Journal of Transient Aerial Phenomena (Journal TAP) offers a forum for scientists and researchers to present ideas for further discussion, results of investigations and analysis of statistics and other pertinent information.

Journal TAP aims to meet a wide range of discussion by incorporating an approach with breadth of scope, clear and topical comment conducted with scientific rigour. It intends to offer a truly international forum enabling researchers throughout the world to publish results in an authoritative publication which should serve to further knowledge of the cosmos and benefit mankind in so doing.

Notes for contributors

The Editorial Board will be pleased to receive contributions from all parts of the world. Manuscripts, preferably in English, should be submitted in the first instance, to the Editor-in-chief, 40 Jones Drove, Whittlesey, Peterborough, PE7 1UE, United Kingdom.

Manuscripts should be typed double-spaced on one side of A4 size paper with wide margins and submitted in duplicate. While no maximum length of contributions is prescribed, authors are encouraged to write concisely.

The author's name should be typed on the line below the title. The affiliation (if any) and address should follow on the next line. The body of the manuscript should be preceded by an abstract of around 100 words giving the main conclusions drawn.

All mathematical symbols may be either hand-written or typewritten, but no ambiguities should arise.

Illustrations should be restricted to the minimum necessary. They should accompany the script and should be included in manuscript pages. Line drawings should include all relevant details and should be drawn in black ink on plain white drawing paper. Good photoprints are acceptable but blueprints or dyeline prints cannot be used. Drawings and diagrams should allow for a 20 per cent reduction. Lettering should be clear, open, and sufficiently large to permit the necessary reduction of size for publication. Photographs should be sent as glossy prints, preferably full or half plate size. Captions to any submitted photograph or illustration should be appended and clearly marked.

In the interests of economy and to reduce errors, tables will, where possible, be reproduced by photo-offset using the author's typed manuscript. Tables should therefore be submitted in a form suitable for direct reproduction. Page size used should be A4 and width of table should be either 10.5 cm or 22 cm. Large or long tables should be typed on continuing sheets but identifying numbers should be placed on the upper right-hand corner of each sheet of tabular material.

Reference to published literature should be quoted in the text in brackets and grouped together at the end of the paper in numerical order. A separate sheet of paper should be used. Double spacing must be used throughout. Journal TAP references should be arranged thus :

- (1) Jacques Vallee: 1965. *Anatomy of a Phenomenon*, vii, Henry Regnery, Chicago.
- (2) David Haisell: 1980. Working Party Report, *Journal TAP* 1/2, pp36-40

With the exception of dates which should be presented in the astronomical convention viz : 1977 August 06, no rigid rules concerning notation or abbreviation need be observed by authors, but each paper should be self-consistent as to symbols and units, which should all be properly defined. Times however should be presented in astronomical form using the 24 hour clock and Universal Time (UT) where possible. If local time is used, this should be specified viz 19h 15 GMT.

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