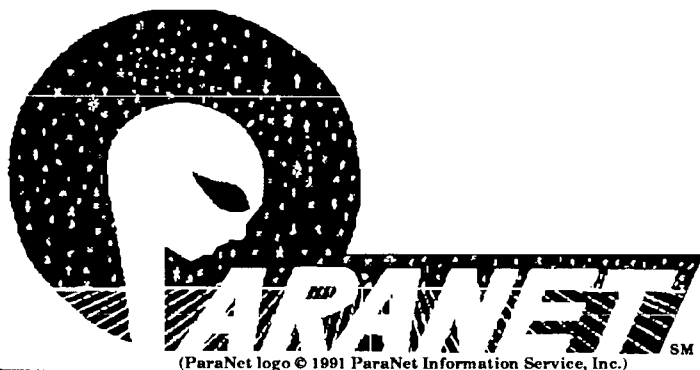


CONTINUUM

*The official publication of ParaNetSM Information Service
(a division of the NovaStar Group, Inc.) and MICAP, Inc.*

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**Volume II
Number 1**

\$4.95

Winter 1992



From the Director's Desk ...

Welcome to the second issue of **CONTINUUM**, the official magazine of ParaNet and MICAP.

Conventional wisdom in the publishing industry says that anybody can put out the *first* issue of a new magazine; it's the *second* one that kills you. This issue of **CONTINUUM** hasn't quite killed us—but it is late, due in part to the holidays and this winter's seemingly endless series of flu epidemics. Nevertheless, we think it's an exciting issue, and we hope you'll agree that it's been worth the wait. We received many encouraging and supportive comments about our first issue, and many of you confirmed your interest by subscribing. We thank you for that vote of confidence; and we hope that as time goes by, we will be able to reward your trust by continuing to improve the quality of **CONTINUUM** with each successive issue.

As part of that effort, we have decided to change our publication schedule to make it a bit more realistic. You may have already noticed that this issue is dated "First Quarter, 1992". As that implies, our intention now is to publish **CONTINUUM** quarterly instead of bimonthly. We believe that this new schedule will not only be easier for us to maintain amid the pressures of our other responsibilities, but also allow us to keep the quality as high as possible. (After all, if the respectable folks who put out the *Skeptical Inquirer* can get away with only four issues a year, why can't we?) On the other hand, rest assured that those of you who have already subscribed will get all six issues that you are entitled to; you can consider the extra half year a reward for signing up early.

Now that 1991 is behind us, we are looking forward to discovering what 1992 has in store for Ufology. Many are saying that *this* is the year when a major revelation will be forthcoming to blow the lid off the cover-up at last—if there really is one. (Of course, we've been hearing that same song for the last couple of decades, but hope springs eternal ...) As one of the articles in this issue describes, MICAP recently hosted a series of lectures in the Denver area by Budd Hopkins, a leading researcher into the UFO abduction phenomenon. Budd provided a great deal of interesting information during his stay here, and he has promised a major and startling revelation at the New Mexico MUFON Symposium this summer. All we are allowed to say for now is that it concerns a multiple-witness abduction case. As Budd stated, "It represents one of my most important cases to date." Watch for it.

Also on the abduction front, the J. Allen Hynek Center for UFO Studies has recently released a 90-minute video entitled *Contact UFO: Alien Abductions*. It features T. Eddie Bullard, John Carpenter, Jerome Clark, George Eberhart, Betty Hill, Budd Hopkins, John Mack, Mark Rodeghier, Michael Swords, and Walter Webb. This is a top-notch video production, one that you won't want to miss. Ordering information is contained in the advertising section at the end of this issue of **CONTINUUM**. We highly recommend it.

In this issue of **CONTINUUM** ...

- We bring you up to date on the continuing controversy surrounding the Belgian UFO flap;
- Jim Speiser, past Director of ParaNet, presents some intriguing observations about the changing appearance of UFOs over the years;
- Barry Taff, a Los Angeles screenwriter and parapsychology researcher, discusses poltergeist phenomena and describes some of his own experiences in that eerie arena;
- Keith Basterfield gives us another update on the state of Australian Ufology;
- Kevin Randle takes issue with a point raised in our review of his latest book, *UFO Crash at Roswell*;
- a new feature called "Random Walk" makes its first appearance;

and, of course, our regular features "MICAP News" and "Sources and Resources".

The next issue of **CONTINUUM** will include part two of James R. Black's series on "The Fatima Enigma", as well as the next installment of Barry Taff's poltergeist series. Also coming in future issues: a report on an Illinois close-encounter case in which the witness received a late-night "sunburn"; a discussion of Jacques Vallee's recently completed UFO trilogy; and some surprises that we can't even hint at yet.

It looks like it's going to be a very interesting year ...

— Michael Corbin, Director of ParaNet and MICAP

CONTINUUM Vol. 2, No. 1. Whole number: 2. **CONTINUUM** is published quarterly by ParaNet Information Service and MICAP (the Multinational Investigations Cooperative on Aerial Phenomena). Publisher: Michael Corbin. Editorial Director: James R. Black. Basic subscription is \$18 per year in the U.S., \$28 foreign. Back issues are \$6.95 each; add \$3 per copy for foreign shipment. All payments must be in U.S. funds. Correspondence about **CONTINUUM**, ParaNet, or MICAP should be sent by U.S. mail to Michael Corbin, P.O. Box 172, Wheat Ridge, Colorado 80034-0172, by FidoNet mail to Michael.Corbin@p0.f428.n104.z1, or by Internet mail to Michael.Corbin@paranet.org. Telephone: (303) 431-8796 voice, (303) 431-8797 ParaNet Alpha BBS. Statements of fact and opinion in articles and advertising are the responsibility of the respective authors and vendors, and are not necessarily endorsed or verified by **CONTINUUM**, ParaNet, or MICAP. "ParaNet" and the ParaNet logo are service marks of ParaNet Information Service. Except as otherwise noted, all contents © Copyright 1992 by **CONTINUUM** and ParaNet Information Service, a division of the NovaStar Group, Inc., or by the individual authors. All Rights Reserved.

The Second Wave: A New Hypothesis

by Jim Speiser, past Director of ParaNet

One of the things that has bothered me from the beginning of the present UFO era is ... well, the beginning. The famed Arnold sighting of June 1947 is a paradox that flies in the face of "flying saucers". As anyone with even a cursory knowledge of UFO history can tell you, Kenneth Arnold did *not* see flying saucers. He saw flying crescents¹—or, as one artist depicted them, flying boomerangs. The label "flying saucer" arose from Arnold's description of the objects' flight characteristics as similar to the way a "saucer skipped across water".² The name got picked up in the press and stuck. Soon everyone was seeing and photographing saucer-shaped objects, and the concept of crescent-shaped UFOs was all but lost to history—despite the fact that crescents were the true genesis of the phenomenon.

This turn of events has prompted me on more than one occasion to wonder if perhaps the whole "flying saucer" fad was just that—a fad, and no more. It seemed that the whole phenomenon was built on a house of cards. But today we are faced with what seems to be an almost wholly different phenomenon, the flying boomerangs or triangles. The difference is not so much in the shape—though that's a dramatic enough difference—as in the way the phenomenon has presented itself.

Flying saucers were typically sighted in sparsely populated areas, both day and night, by lone individuals or small, isolated groups of people. These triangles, on the other hand, seem to be much less circumspect about where they appear and by whom they are seen. Triangle waves are typically accompanied by hundreds and even thousands of sighting reports. They have appeared over populated areas with almost reckless abandon, seemingly without regard for security or cover.

Most disturbing, this dramatic change in their modus operandi has been accompanied by almost total apathy on the part of the world's population. Very few Westerners are aware of the Belgium wave, for example, despite the admissions by that country's government. Even within UFO circles, few have ever heard of the Morenci, Arizona sighting of 1981, wherein several dozen high school students and teachers witnessed a flying triangle that had been reported only two nights earlier over a nearby copper smelter.³ I would even say that the majority of people in this country have never heard of the Hudson Valley

case, although it is perhaps the best documented and most persistent UFO wave in history.⁴

To summarize, it would appear that the "pilots" of the triangles have achieved "air supremacy" as defined by General Schwarzkopf—i.e., they operate in our skies without challenge, and seemingly without great notice.

I submit that this is by design.

Consider the following scenario, a sort of "thought experiment" which I hope will clarify what I suspect may have been happening over the past forty-odd years, and perhaps beyond.

The year is 1947. An agency to whom we shall refer only as "the Ufonauts"—with as much hypothesis-neutrality as I can muster, for as we shall see, this scenario is not alien-dependent—has for several years (decades? centuries?) been making infrequent incursions into our airspace for unspecified purposes. In isolated instances, notice is taken; but no sighting has yet received wide publicity. This is all according to plan.

Then in June of that pivotal year, a breach occurs. An Idaho businessman named Kenneth Arnold reports his sighting of *crescent-shaped* objects to the press, and the chase is on. The world becomes UFO-aware. A dangerous situation has presented itself to the Ufonauts, one which threatens the heretofore surreptitious nature of their operations.

But with the breach also comes a fortuitous happenstance that might hold the solution to the entire problem. What happens next is best illustrated in the form of a hypothetical conversation between two Ufonauts, whom I shall call the Commander and the Lieutenant.

Lieutenant: Sir, the public has become aware of us.

Commander: Yes, I know. This is not good. However, they have only anecdotal evidence of our presence. As long as we are careful not to leave any physical evidence behind, I predict that their scientists will scoff at any "outlandish" pronouncements. Still, the next phase of our mission may be jeopardized, as it involves larger ships and low-level flights. If only we could maintain invisibility during such operations ...

L: There may be a way, sir: a form of invisibility known as "hiding in plain sight".

C: Eh?

L: The press may have given us an out. They mistakenly described our vehicles as "saucers". Perhaps if we flooded their information channels with more such reports, in such a way that they are easily debunked by their scientists, we could

¹ Kevin D. Randle, *The UFO Casebook* (New York: Warner Books, 1989), p. 5.

² Edward J. Ruppelt, *The Report on Unidentified Flying Objects* (New York: Ace Books, 1956), p. 27.

³ Richard Hall, *Uninvited Guests* (Aurora, 1988).

⁴ J. Allen Hynek, Philip J. Imbrogno, and Bob Pratt, *Night Siege: The Hudson Valley UFO Sightings* (New York: Ballantine, 1987).

provide ourselves with a cover, thereby allowing our true operations to continue unabated.

C: Excellent. Prepare to make it so. If it's saucers they want, saucers they'll get!

And so the saucers, and *not* the crescents/boomerangs/arrowheads/triangles, became the focus of world-wide attention.

The plan worked beyond the Ufonauts' wildest dreams. Not only did the public report thousands of "genuine" saucer-shaped objects (which may have been mere remote-controlled drones or even holograms); hoaxers also got into the act and photographed garbage-can tops, peanut-butter-jar lids, and whatever else betrayed an even minimally saucer-shaped silhouette, which of course played right into the hands of the Ufonauts. Other shapes were displayed for good measure, including cigars, teardrops, eggs, and diamonds. Best of all (from the Ufonauts' point of view), scientists and debunkers had a field day ridiculing all of these reports, and consigning the reporters to the lunatic fringe.

All of this has paved the way for a second UFO phenomenon (or third, if you count the airship wave of the last century—which I don't). This second wave is characterized by the large, low-flying, triangular craft we hear about today: Belgium,¹ Hudson Valley, Fyffe, Wytheville, Texarkana², Morenci, Puerto Rico³—and now, if the latest reports are to be taken as credible, eastern Pennsylvania. All were sites of major waves of triangles, and all were within the past ten years—most within the past three. Yet the world's media is, for the most part, silent. No hurried press conferences in Washington, no Air Force investigations, no screaming headlines, only a few mentions on tabloid TV. And all the while, Joe Sixpack sleeps soundly, comfortable in the knowledge that there is nothing new under the sun, that the UFOs have all but gone away. Meanwhile, the triangles perform their silent, nocturnal maneuvers, completing their inscrutable task unhindered.

I present this scenario not because I think it's right—it probably isn't—but because I think that, right or wrong, our attention should now be squarely focused on these triangles. They have boldly challenged us like no other wave of UFOs—and in so doing, have presented us with perhaps our greatest opportunity to unravel this mystery. Right or wrong, alien or earthbound, I think that in them we may find the secret at last.

¹ Auguste Meessen, "The Belgian Sightings", *International UFO Reporter*, May/June 1991, pp. 4-11,22,24.

² *Little River News*, Ashdown, Little River County, Arkansas, Vol. 90 No. 11-13, 4-18 February 1988.

³ Vicki Cooper, "Close Encounters in Puerto Rico", *UFO*, July/August 1991, pp. 31-33.

From the Oz Bureau ...

Notes on Recent Australian Research

by Keith Basterfield, Research Officer
UFO Research Australia

A New Australian UFO Book— With a Difference!

UFO Research in Australia and New Zealand, compiled by Vlad and Pony Godic, is one of Australia's first digital books—i.e., a book published on computer disk. Released in November 1991, the 5.25-inch disk contains over 90,000 words in more than 800 pages, covering over 300 topics. The book has full search and print facilities, and is suitable for an IBM personal computer or compatible.

Authors include: Keith Basterfield, Russell Boundy, Holly Goriss, Bill Chalker, Bryan Dickeson, Vladimir Godic, Paul Jackson, Joan Johnston, Joan Knapman, Mark Moravec, Moira McGhee, David Reneke and Keith Roberts.

The material was drawn from the pages of the *UFO Research Australia Newsletter*, which is edited by Vladimir Godic, and was ably collated and re-edited by Pony Godic. The disk is supported by a 41-entry, 12-page supplement with diagrams and color pictures, and represents a unique source of knowledge about Australian and New Zealand UFO reports.

Copies may be obtained from:

Dynamo House Pty Ltd
P.O. Box 110
Richmond
Victoria 3121
AUSTRALIA

(Telephone: 03 427 0955; FAX: 03 429 8036)

Crop Circle Research

Unlike our counterparts in the United Kingdom, the U.S.A. and Canada, we have to report that precisely zero reports of crop circles were made to the UFORA network in 1991. When you consider that Australia is one of the major grain producers of the world, this lack of circles must mean something ... but what?

Government Documents

One of UFORA's aims is to make as widely available as possible any information about the UFO phenomenon which comes our way. In pursuit of that goal we have published a number of government RAAF documents which we obtained via Australia's Federal Freedom of Information Act and the 30-year rule of the Archives Act. Here, then, you can read for yourself what the Australian government knew about UFOs from the earliest era of official interest in the phenomenon. (Regretfully, as all the operating

expenses for UFORA come from our own pockets we must, of necessity, charge full costs for copies of this material.)

1. RAAF UFO sightings reports, 1984-1989. 108 pages. \$20.00.
2. RAAF policy file, July 1953-1959. 110 pages. \$20.00.
3. RAAF UFO sightings files, 1954-1959. 264 pages. \$35.00.
4. RAAF UFO sightings, 1960 (98 pages) plus UFO policy file, 1959-1960 (51 pages). Total 149 pages. \$19.00.

Australian Catalogs

One of our ongoing projects for many years has been compiling catalogs of Australian UFO sightings in order to stimulate research into various aspects of the UFO phenomenon. We have recently completed an update of five of our catalogs, bringing the case content up to the year 1990:

- A1. A Report on Observations of UFOs from Aircraft Crew Members in Australia. 7 pages. \$2.75.
- A2. A Review of Australian UFO-Related Entity Reports. 14 pages. \$4.20.
- A3. A Catalog of the More Interesting Australian Close Encounters. 37 pages. \$9.00.
- A4. A Preliminary Catalog of Australian Vehicle Interface Cases. 21 pages. \$5.80.
- A5. A Preliminary Catalog of Australian and New Zealand "Abduction and Potential Abduction" Cases. 13 pages. \$4.20.

Mundrabilla Report

We still have copies available of our report on the Mundrabilla-Nullarbor Incident of January 20, 1968. This was the case in which a West Australian family reported encountering in the early morning hours a UFO which lifted their car off the ground before dropping it back to earth again. Worldwide media attention focused on this event; however, only UFORA's investigation team interviewed all the relevant witnesses, examined the car, and were privy to the results of all physical-evidence testing. This document presents all the details gathered by UFORA. 130 pages. \$17.30.

For More Information

Orders for all material (except as otherwise stated above) should be sent to:

UFO Research Australia
P.O. Box 2435
Cairns
Queensland 4870
AUSTRALIA

Make checks payable in Australia funds to "UFO Research Australia". Prices include packaging and surface-mail postage.

Protesting Too Much A Parable for Compulsive Debunkers

Suppose you know you do not own a dog—know it as a fact and feel it in every fibre of your being. Suppose now a neighbor tells you that your dog has killed his chickens. "Impossible!" you say, "I do not own a dog." But in the next breath you ask for his evidence.

He brings it in from all quarters. It is voluminous and in many tongues. You read it all and take notes. You prove that some of the manuscripts are not genuine, that others have no bearing on the subject, that still others bear evidence of having been written by persons of unsound minds. You ask to be confronted by witnesses. They come in troops, and you spend days in examining their credentials.

You point out to your accuser the thousand possibilities of error. You show that the idea that a dog has killed chickens is a not uncommon form of hysteria. You call in physicians, veterinary surgeons, and ornithologists. You try to prove that the chickens died a natural death, that they were bitten by some wild animal, that they were bitten by the dog of the neighbor who lives across the street.

Would you really be surprised if a third person—drawn by the noise but not carried away by the heat of the discussion, and not lost in the increasing complexity of its succeeding phases—would you be at all surprised if he were to say: "But, after all, you say you do not own a dog; and if you can prove that, why continue?"

[Adapted from C.M. Francis, "Miracles", *The New Republic*, 18 January 1919, p. 348.]



Poltergeist Agents (Part One of Three)

by Barry E. Taff

Poltergeist activity has been a recognized component of the UFO scene for many years. In the following article Barry Taff, a Los Angeles screenwriter and parapsychology researcher, describes his own experiences with apparent poltergeist phenomena. While ParaNet has not investigated the cases recounted below and therefore cannot vouch for them scientifically, we believe they demonstrate the kind of anecdotal data with which scientific investigation of social and psychological phenomena must often begin.

They don't report to a station chief in some foreign country or take part in covert operations to further hidden government agendas. They don't work for anyone special, or further anyone's aims except perhaps nature's and their own. In fact, these unique agents are never compensated for their abilities, over which they have absolutely no control. Quantitatively, they probably outnumber all government agents by at least an order of magnitude.

They are poltergeist agents (PGAs), also referred to as psychokinetic agents (PKAs); and they are known for creating pandemonium and mayhem (albeit unconsciously) by unleashing psychokinetic storms, or "Recurrent Spontaneous Psychokinesis" (RSPK), around themselves, their environments, and unsuspecting strangers. Their seemingly inexplicable manifestations cannot be instrumented or directly measured; but they produce results which even today, after 109 years of formal psychic research, still leave investigators scratching their collective heads in pursuit of a logical answer.

Although it is generally believed that the majority of PGAs are youngsters in the transition to pubescence and/or adolescence, there is an ample body of evidence strongly suggesting that whatever mechanism is at work here can persist within an individual well into adulthood. While the chronological age of a PGA may increase, their internal physiology as related to endocrine/hormonal functions may lag behind or remain in stasis.

Describing the generic personality of a "typical" PGA is anything but difficult. It was most concisely defined by the late D. Scott Rogo as an emotionally volatile, depressed, anxiety-ridden individual with excessive amounts of pent-up hostilities and deep, unresolved emotional conflicts. Or, to use a phrase coined by a pointy-eared television character of the late 1960s, a PGA's emotional makeup might be succinctly characterized as "a mass of conflicting impulses".

The probability of any one individual meeting a true PGA is astronomically small. Even most parapsychologists rarely encounter such people or have the opportunity to directly experience them and their concomitant phenomena. But over the last twenty-three years I've had the fortune (or perhaps the misfortune, depending on one's perspective) to personally meet and get closely acquainted with six

PGA's: one man and five women. In this series of three articles I will describe each of the six cases in some detail, and then conclude with some further observations about the nature of PGA phenomena.

Case #1: Jim

I met Jim in late 1971 while I was working as a research associate at UCLA's former parapsychology laboratory located in the Neuropsychiatric Institute (NPI). When he first visited our research facility, Jim was a 27-year-old ex-police officer who was wounded in the line of duty, forcing an early retirement from the force. A husky, handsome individual who looked more like an actor than a cop, Jim was a man all wound up with nowhere to go. In his hyper-accelerated voice, Jim frequently spoke of intense outbursts of RSPK since childhood, everything from noises in the walls of his apartment to furniture moving around. He also reported common experiences with telepathy, clairvoyance, and precognition, which is what initially got him involved with our lab.

The first incident I witnessed occurred in the fall of 1972, when a well-known producer/director visited the lab in the company of the writer of his current production. The writer took out an ancient ankheg he had brought back from their location-scouting trip to Iraq earlier that year. As he held it before the lab staff for closer inspection, Jim reached forward to touch it. The jewel-encrusted artifact powerfully exploded, sending fragments flying in all directions and the producer and his writer running from the lab, never to return. As their upcoming film dealt with exactly this type of paranormal phenomena, I'll never quite understand their reaction.

Another incident took place when Jim and I had to make a stop at my apartment one afternoon in order to pick up some papers. While Jim was waiting for me to gather up my material, some coins came flying at us from my bedroom—although neither of us had entered that area of the flat, nor did I have a large quantity of pennies stored anywhere. The pennies were moving relatively slowly and were seemingly directed at Jim. He did little more than smile excitedly in response.

The last and perhaps most blatant episode of RSPK I observed around Jim took place many months later at an International House of Pancakes restaurant in Santa Monica where we were having lunch one afternoon. A shapely blonde waitress came to take our order, and it was obvious that Jim was very attracted to her. When she returned with our food, he attempted to engage her in conversation. Seeing that she was not responsive to his advances, Jim simply smiled and casually told her to look at the massive chandelier overhead.

Wondering what Jim could possibly be referring to, both the waitress and I looked up. As we watched, the large wooden, metal, and glass chandelier, which was hanging absolutely steady, suddenly began to turn of its own volition and slowly rotate counterclockwise. I immediately took notice of the numerous other chandeliers in the dining room, all of which were stationary. There was no wind and the earth was not moving. The waitress stood transfixed as the fixture

twisted around its tether and cord as if turned by some giant, unseen hand. As it wound to the end of its turn, the waitress looked back at Jim, who had a childish grin on his face. "Did you like that?" he asked. Needless to say, the waitress didn't hang around long enough to answer. This was the last RSPK incident which occurred around Jim when I was present, although he continued to display many other paranormal gifts during the course of his work in our psi development group.

Over time, Jim found it hard to get or keep any type of employment. He also became obsessed with the need to know why he was always having such unusual experiences, while others around him were not. This compulsive behavior greatly intensified over time, to the point where Jim lost interest in most everyday events and retreated into a reclusive lifestyle, eventually adopting a born-again Christian philosophy. He moved out of L.A. in 1975 and hasn't been heard from since.

Case #2: Sandra

My next encounter with a PGA began through a referral from a psychiatrist on staff at the NPI. One of his therapy patients had a close friend who was reportedly barraged with a myriad of paranormal experiences and wanted to speak with someone working in the field.

I first contacted Sandra in the spring of 1972. At that time she was 28 years old and living in an apartment in West Hollywood. When we spoke, she too sounded like an old 45-rpm record turned up to 78, and she was excited about finally talking with a real parapsychologist.

Prior to meeting with Sandra for the first time, I interviewed her ex-boyfriend Don. A successful Hollywood screenwriter, he was uncomfortable discussing his experiences with Sandra for a number of reasons—the foremost of which was that he was an ardent skeptic and had always believed that all psychic phenomena were the result of some type of psychopathology. After assuring him that I just wanted to hear his stories and that I wasn't going to judge him in any way, he opened up to me. Initially, he talked about events that were easily explained as simple GESP. It didn't really get interesting until he reached the mind-over-matter part of his story.

Don spoke of strange knockings and poundings from the walls of first Sandra's and then his apartment. This only happened when she was present. He'd occasionally put objects down in specific locations, only to discover shortly thereafter that they had somehow moved under their own power, or were nowhere to be found. This was followed by various appliances turning themselves on and off, doors and windows opening and closing on their own—but only when Sandra was around. He thought he was going to lose his mind.

The straw that finally broke the camel's back had occurred just two months before our interview when he and Sandra were in bed at her apartment, something Don didn't relish. As they were relaxing

after making love, the bed started shaking as if a strong quake had hit, although nothing else in the room was affected. After the bed's motion finally ceased, a rocking chair several feet away began to move back and forth, and an apparitional image of an old woman appeared on it. Don's heart almost came out of his chest, and he became paralyzed with fear; Sandra, however, just lay there, watching the spectacle before them. Don finally bolted from the bed, ran from the room, and eventually found his way in the darkness to the living room where he grabbed a Bible and began praying for his life. (The fact that he was Jewish made this reaction particularly fascinating.)

This experience was more than sufficient cause for Don to end his relationship with Sandra. He hinted that there was yet another experience they shared that would make the one he already told me pale in comparison, but he was too embarrassed to give me the details.

When I finally met with Sandra for the first time, I was certainly prepared for anything, based on what Don had told me. It was obvious upon first talking with her that she was a walking bundle of exposed nerve fibers. She talked a mile a minute and had that same frenetic manner of body language and eye movements that I had seen in other RSPK subjects. Physically, she was quite striking, in the mold of Brooke Adams but with lighter hair; her eyes seemed the size of silver dollars. But although she possessed an incredible figure, her sense of self-esteem was so poor that she was almost unaware of her outward appearance. She immediately and openly talked of unintentionally frightening away several boyfriends in a row. She believed that she was literally haunted, although her childhood displays of RSPK indicated quite the contrary.

During our second interview, while having lunch at the same restaurant where Jim somehow caused the chandelier to turn, Sandra unconsciously put on a little performance of her own. I had been asking her about her past, which was teeming with childhood episodes of exploding chinaware, emptying garbage cans, pounding walls, and flying objects; and as my questions became more personal, Sandra began to demonstrate acute anxiety and psychically lashed out. The coffee cup in front of her suddenly started dancing around in its saucer, spilling liquid from its sides. Then we both watched in utter silence as the spoon lying on the side of the saucer rose up to a near vertical position and was propelled upwards across the expansive dining room in a ballistic trajectory. Sandra's only comment was, "See, I am haunted!" Meanwhile, a large number of people eating in the restaurant were looking in our direction and wondering what the fuss was all about. As this was the same location where Jim had his experience, I actually gave some thought to the possibility that perhaps it was the building itself which was affected rather than its occupants. Jokingly, I even considered the food as a possible source, given its ambivalent quality.

On another occasion while we were driving to meet some of my friends, the doors of my car began opening and closing by themselves against the wind at 65 mph. A Saturday afternoon on the Santa Monica Freeway

will never be quite the same for me, or for any other person who watched my car behave in direct violation of everything we believe we know about reality. I don't know what concerned me more at the time—my initial shock and almost losing control of my car, or the other drivers' reactions.

While the next incident was not one that I directly experienced, the story was told to me independently by both Sandra and Don, and made it quite clear why their relationship ended so abruptly. As this particular event involved intimate aspects of their love life, Don was at first hesitant to even discuss it. Sandra, on the other hand, willingly volunteered it.

Their combined story, which converged at virtually every point, began one evening while lying in bed facing each other. As casual foreplay began with Don and Sandra locked in growing passion, a blinding sheet of blue-white electricity formed between their cuddled bodies. There was a sudden, loud snap of electrical discharge as the otherwise darkened room was brilliantly illuminated by the purple-white glow of lightning. Instantly, a powerful force violently threw Sandra and Don's bodies apart, each landing on opposite sides of the bed. This was accompanied by what sounded like a loud clap of thunder.

They both lay unconscious on the floor for what they later estimated as several minutes. Don regained consciousness first; and although still somewhat dazed, he went to Sandra's aid. But as he reached out to touch her senseless form, his outstretched hand pulled a spark off her that measured between two and three feet long. The streamer crackled fiercely, and Don was stunned by it. Considering that it takes approximately ten thousand volts to bridge an air gap of a third of an inch, this would roughly translate to as much as a million volts! High-voltage electrostatic build-up and discharge is a well-known phenomenon; but static voltages that high without an external source far exceed any conventional explanation. Lending even more validity to their incredible story was testimony from other tenants in Sandra's apartment building. Many of them heard what sounded like a loud thunderous explosion which shook the entire building at the approximate time this event occurred. So much for privacy—but thank God for low-amperage static.

Sandra and Jim met on several occasions; but their huge, fragile egos prevented them from even developing a casual friendship, as they were always competing with each other at every level. As with Jim, Sandra also displayed strong GESP abilities throughout her life and in our psi development groups. This fact, however, did not diminish the intensity of her reaction to such psychokinetic displays: a mixture of fear and anxiety. Even though Sandra was very much aware of that this type of phenomenon was commonplace in her past, she was reluctant to accept the notion that she was a PGA. Apparently, continued, prolonged exposure did not serve to reduce her level of apprehension. However, over time she became preoccupied with her uniqueness and developed an attitude wherein she became a legend in her own mind with messianic qualities. She eventually gave up the

belief of being haunted and accepted her role in the RSPK events.

Before she got married for the third time and moved to New York in 1978, Sandra's personality became so fragmented that it was very difficult even communicating with her over the phone, let alone in person. This made her cooperation in any form of continued research impossible.

(Continued next issue ...)

Random Walk

From time to time we encounter items which deserve wider distribution but don't lend themselves to a full-blown article. Instead of just passing them by, we thought it would be appropriate to collect them and pass them on to you. Because these items are usually encountered by chance in the course of our other work, we've decided to call this column "Random Walk".

R_w First it was *Aviation Week & Space Technology*. Now even *Popular Mechanics* is getting in on the act. The cover of the December 1991 issue displays an artist's rendition of a "tactical reconnaissance aircraft" which looks very much like the "black-triangle" type of UFO recently reported in many parts of the world. The associated article by Gregory T. Pope describes a variety of reported "black-budget" aircraft which are supposedly either under development or actually deployed, some of them in the recent Gulf War. Much of the article will be old news to readers of *Aviation Week*, but if nothing else it's worth checking out just for the pictures.

R_w *NASA Tech Briefs* is a monthly magazine dedicated to making government-funded technology more easily available to the private sector. While not exactly light reading, it occasionally carries stories with subtle Ufological implications. For example, the January 1992 issue has a brief article on a design for an "oblique-flying-wing supersonic transport airplane". The proposed aircraft, which is based on a 1957 design abandoned due to "then-insoluble problems of stability and control", would carry more than 450 people (or an equivalent amount of cargo) and travel overland at supersonic speeds without generating a sonic boom. Similarly, the February 1991 issue described a process for making large "suction panels" for the attainment of laminar flow control, which it says "has significant potential for reducing drag and increasing fuel efficiency". Ufologists have long suspected that some kind of laminar flow control could also be useful in reducing or eliminating sonic booms. A knowledge of such government-sponsored high-tech research can go a long way toward answering debunkers' often-posed

objection that UFOs can't be real because "anything moving that fast in the atmosphere would have to cause a sonic boom."

RW And speaking of debunkers, a year-old article in *Science News* probably didn't set well with some of them. "True Believers" by Bruce Bower in the 5 January 1991 issue suggests that "the thinking person may favor gullibility over skepticism". Bower writes that recent research tends to vindicate a long-rejected argument advanced by philosopher Baruch Spinoza: that the human mind must at least *tentatively* accept a claim as true in order to truly understand it—even if it is immediately recognized as false and rejected. If correct, this finding could explain a lot about the hardcore debunker's maddening inability (which often looks like a deliberate refusal) to understand the other side's position.

RW The *International UFO Reporter*, the bimonthly publication of the Center for UFO Studies, continues its ongoing coverage of the Roswell crash with "The Search for the Archaeologists" by Thomas J. Carey in its November/December 1991 issue. Carey has managed to track down the mysterious "Dr. Buskirk" whom alleged Roswell witness Gerald Anderson placed at site of a saucer crash in 1947. It turns out that Buskirk was Anderson's high-school anthropology teacher. Mandatory reading for Roswell junkies.

RW As always, *UFO* magazine continues its regular coverage of government disinformation schemes, Mars mysteries, abduction phenomena, New Age nonsense, and—of course—crop circles. A good broad-spectrum view of popular Ufology, along with some quality investigative reporting. (See the inside front cover of this issue of *CONTINUUM* for subscription information.)

RW And speaking of crop circles, the Winter 1992 issue of the *Skeptical Inquirer* includes "The Crop Circle Phenomenon: An Investigative Report", a typical CSICOP sneer job by Joe Nickell and John F. Fischer. While the authors are to be commended for their eclectic references and broad familiarity with the various theories and factions, the arrogant tone and unnecessary personal attacks make it unpleasant reading to anyone whose mind isn't already made up.

RW On the other hand, "Euclid's Crop Circles" in the 1 February 1992 *Science News* is a delight to read. Based on recent work by Gerald Hawkins of Stonehenge fame, the article describes the discovery of five previously unknown geometric theorems underlying the layout of the English circles. While attributing the circles themselves to hoaxers, Hawkins declares that the circles' authors "had to know a tremendous lot of old-fashioned geometry" and suggests that "one has to admire this sort of mind" regardless of how or why the circles were actually executed.

RW The February 1992 issue of *Fate* is now on the stands. It contains an article by Jerome Clark about the legendary George Hunt Williamson from his early days up to the present time. Clark makes a strong connection between Williamson and the "Cooperists" (those who blindly follow Bill Cooper) in pursuit of wild government-conspiracy theories. Another article of note is Anita Evangelista's "Hypnotism and Mind Control".

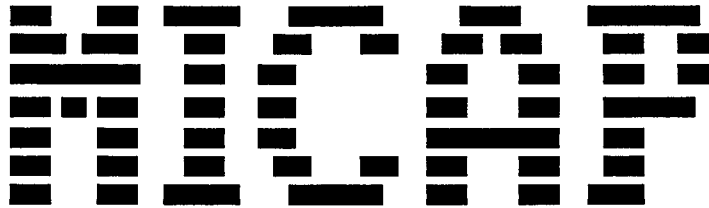
RW On a different front, try to get hold of a copy of the June 1991 issue of *Professional Psychology: Research and Practice*, published by the American Psychological Association. The article to look for is "UFO Abductees and Contactees: Psychopathology or Fantasy Proneness?" by Robert Bartholomew, Keith Basterfield, and George Howard, which starts on page 215. This ground-breaking paper reports on the evaluation of 152 abductee/contactee cases for symptoms of Fantasy Prone Personality, including hypnotic susceptibility, psychic ability, healing, out-of-body experiences, automatic writing, religious visions, and apparitional experiences. This one is going to be cited and argued over for a very long time.

RW The August 1991 edition of *Atlantic* contained a surprisingly good piece on the abduction phenomenon. Written by James S. Gordon and entitled "The UFO Experience", the article is based on the author's observations at the 1991 Rocky Mountain Conference on UFO Investigation in Laramie, Wyoming. The presence of this kind of detailed and reasonably accurate UFO-related material in a mainstream magazine like *Atlantic* indicates just how far Ufology has come in recent years.

RW And finally: According to the January 1992 issue of *Details* magazine, the campaign platform of declared presidential candidate Kip Lee of Redding, California, includes a demand for the liberation of four extra-terrestrial entities which he claims are currently imprisoned by the U.S. government. What can we possibly say to that but, "No comment."

"Fortunately for the world, many a sound conclusion is reached from inadequate or even totally irrelevant premises; otherwise it is to be feared that for most men the chances of arriving at the truth would be infinitesimal."

— Sir James G. Frazer



MICAP News is published by CONTINUUM as a service to the Multinational Investigations Cooperative on Aerial Phenomena.

Growing by Leaps and Bounds

MICAP is almost a year old now, and our achievements have far outdistanced our goals for the first year.

The organization's core group, which is currently centered in the Denver area, will be expanded to cover the entire nation in the months ahead. Thus far, we have commitments for State Director from the following persons:

Jim Speiser (Arizona)
Don Ecker (California)
Don Newman (Oregon)
Paul Faeder (Pennsylvania)

plus several others which are still being finalized. This is a very nice response considering that we have not yet formally opened up our operation beyond Colorado.

MICAP holds its monthly meetings on the fourth Thursday of every month at the Village Inn Pancake House, 890 South Colorado Boulevard in Denver, at 7:00 PM. Those on the MICAP mailing list will receive a postcard giving the details of each month's meetings, including guest speakers. Please consider joining MICAP. Your support is needed, and it provides a very good way for you to keep abreast of what is going on in the UFO community.

Linda Howe Lecture Coming Up Soon

In conjunction with ParaNet Information Service, MICAP will play host to journalist Linda Moulton Howe for a series of lectures on February 26th and 28th in Boulder and Denver. Linda is the author of the video production *A Strange Harvest*, detailing the mysteries of cattle mutilation, and a subsequent book, *An Alien Harvest*, expanding on the original video. She also produced a Fox Network television special which aired in November of last year. Linda will discuss her ongoing investigations into cattle mutilations and UFOs. Contact MICAP for further information.

New MICAP Projects Announced

We will soon announce the availability of the MICAP BBS Network. Mike Keithly of Denver will act as the System Operator (SysOp) of the Administration site. The MICAP BBS Network has arranged a cooperative effort with ParaNet Information Service to use the ParaNet backbone to distribute its conferences. Some

of these conferences will feature a general discussion to be circulated throughout the FidoNet network, as well as a variety of conferences especially for MICAP members, including an investigation and research network. Host sites will also become available around the country and internationally to tie the whole network together. Further information can be obtained by contacting MICAP at 303-431-8796.

Also in the planning stage is an exciting new undertaking which we are calling the MYCROFT Project. MYCROFT will focus on scenario analysis in an attempt to create models that can be used to deal with various aspects of UFO phenomena. The working group is still being formed at this time, under the direction of Doug Morrow, MICAP's Director of Special Projects. Details will follow in a subsequent issue of CONTINUUM.

MICAP Sponsors Stanton Friedman Lecture

"Flying Saucers Are Real!" That was the title of the Stan Friedman lecture hosted by MICAP on October 27th and 28th in Denver, Colorado. The response was very good, as was the information that Stan presented about his years as a UFO researcher. Stan is a nuclear physicist with a strong belief that Earth is being visited by extraterrestrials. During his presentation, Stan introduced a new witness to the ongoing Roswell, New Mexico crash of 1947, investigation, Gerald Anderson. He showed slides of the desert taken around the Plains of San Agustin where Anderson, as a five-year-old boy, was witness to a second crash concurrent with the original crash around Corona, New Mexico, and made famous by two books published on the subject by William L. Moore and another by Randle and Schmitt. As the reader may know, Stan was the one who first located the now-famous Jesse Marcel, an Air Force Major who had direct involvement in the crash-retrieval project.

Stan has now given over 600 UFO lectures and is without doubt one of the world's leading UFO researchers today. We will soon be making videotapes of his MICAP lecture available to the public. Contact MICAP for more information.





Budd Hopkins Lectures on UFO Abduction Phenomenon



Probably one of the most frightening and bizarre aspects of the UFO phenomenon, next to the alleged mutilation of cattle by UFO occupants, is the reported abduction of human beings by aliens. Outrageous as it may sound, the aliens are reported to come into a victim's bedroom, float them out of the house into a space ship, and then perform a clinical examination, often removing ova samples from women and sperm from men. Reports also indicate some type of genetic experimentation and human-alien hybridization that make Nazi medical experiments look like sandbox frivolity. Bedroom abductions are just one type of report; people have also described being taken from their automobiles and from remote outdoor locations, at times in front of other witnesses who appear to have been "switched off" by some unknown mechanism.

Recently, MICAP sponsored a series of lectures in Denver, Colorado, by Budd Hopkins, a New York artist and abduction researcher. Entitled "UFO Abductions: Latest Cases, Best Evidence", the lectures were nearly sold out as people from all over Colorado poured in to hear about this troubling mystery. Hopkins claimed that the scale and implications of abduction activity are staggering. He feels that there may be tens of thousands, and perhaps even millions who have experienced this strangest of encounters.

The "standard" abduction scenario was relatively unknown until recently, although there was a landmark case in 1961. In that incident, Betty and Barney Hill were returning from a vacation in Canada to their home in New Hampshire late one evening. While driving on a lonely mountain road, they observed what first looked like a moving star. Then they noticed that the light was pacing them, after which it came very close and seemed to land in a wooded area about fifty feet from their car. Barney, stopping the car to get a better look, left Betty and the car on the roadway and walked into the woods to see where the object had gone. There he came upon a large circular object hovering above the trees, and he observed strange beings looking at him through a window. At this point he put binoculars to his eyes for a better look and began to feel like the occupants were communicating with him, telling him not to be afraid and that someone would be down to get him. Terror-stricken, Barney screamed, ran back to the car, and drove away at a high rate of speed, shouting that he and Betty were going to be captured. Shortly after this, Betty and Barney heard a series of beeping sounds; the next thing they remembered was arriving home several hours later than they should have.

It was at this point that other details of the experience began surfacing, causing Barney severe anxiety and a number of resulting health problems, including insomnia, ulcers, and high blood pressure. Although both Betty and Barney knew that something strange had happened that night on the highway, a full recollection would not come out until 1963 while they were under the care of a psychiatrist, Dr. Benjamin Simon. Dr. Simon suggested that the Hills undergo hypnosis to determine what might be causing

Barney's anxiety. Under hypnosis, what came out would prove to be extremely profound and unprecedented: a strange tale of being diverted to a dirt road, removed from their car by alien creatures, and taken aboard a space ship. During the abduction experience, Betty reported being examined by a "doctor-type" entity and having a needle inserted through her navel to "test for pregnancy". While waiting for the aliens to complete their examination of Barney, Betty was shown a three-dimensional star map which the aliens leader used to demonstrate where they were from. This map showed detail of stars, with heavy lines indicating regular expeditions and dotted lines indicating exploration. Betty was also shown the location of our own sun on this map. Under hypnosis she was able to reproduce the map; and much to the surprise of some astronomers, the map conformed very closely to several stars which are suspected to have Earth-like planets. Although there is no concrete way to prove that Betty and Barney Hill were really abducted by alien beings, Dr. Simon was left with the feeling that the Hills were telling the truth as they knew it.

The idea of alien contact has been around for a long time. In the late forties and fifties, the UFO community was plagued with contactees such as George Adamski and Truman Bethurum, who claimed that attractive Venusian women were taking them on rides around the solar system. Although they represented a significant force at the fringes of UFO lore, their stories were largely dismissed by serious investigators as the ravings of kooks and crackpots. But the abductees were a different breed. Their reports were indicative of something much more troubling than just joy-riding around the solar system. For example, one of the very earliest abduction reports to hit the books was the case of Antonio Villa-Boas, which allegedly took place in Brazil in 1957. Villa-Boas reported being taken aboard a UFO and forced to have sexual relations with a woman who appeared to be only part human. Over the last thirty years, abduction reports have become much more numerous; and later abductees have reported frightening scientific examinations and painful medical procedures. Although there is no hard evidence to support these bizarre stories, many abductees do sport physical scars and marks on their bodies, often as if someone had taken a tissue sample with a small ice-cream scoop.

According to Hopkins, there is no real pattern to the selection of abduction victims, although it is generally found that adult abductees have been having the experience since early childhood. He related a story of a four-year-old girl who had been abducted while her mother had been "switched off" in the kitchen. She first saw the aliens coming through the yard. In a panic, she ran and hid, only to be found and removed from the house. As she was screaming for her mother's help, the little girl saw her mother standing in the kitchen frozen in position, holding a cup and a towel.

Another aspect of the abduction phenomenon is the alleged insertion of an implanted device through the nostril or ear. No one knows what the implant devices are, although it is suspected that they are some type of tracking and monitoring device used by the aliens to observe and subsequently locate their victims for later abduction. Many of the abductees report that they are told that they will be found no matter where they are. Although implants are a common feature of abduction, no one has been able to document their physical existence. Hopkins claims that three recovered implants are currently under study by major medical facilities on the east coast, but so far no information about them has become public knowledge.

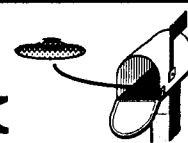
The most bizarre feature of alien abductions is the reported impregnation of female victims and the subsequent removal of the fetus several months later in what is known as "missing fetus syndrome." Many of these victims are allegedly abducted again and presented with a tiny human/alien baby which they are asked to hold in what is suspected to be a mother/child bonding process. The babies are often said to be very small and to look sickly, with large eyes, very pale skin, and thin, sparse hair.

Those who claim to have undergone an abduction experience often display the symptoms of Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (popularly known as "shell shock"), which is typically seen in war veterans or victims of sexual abuse. The lives of PTSD victims can be severely disrupted, and a transformation may take place which leaves them forever changed and sometimes devastated. Consequently, Hopkins takes a dim view of those who allege that we are dealing with benevolent space brothers; however, he stops short of saying that we are all in serious trouble at the hands of malevolent space creatures. Rather he compares "them" to a group of scientists in the jungles of Africa, who capture and tranquilize wild animals, tag them for future observation, and then return them to their natural habitat to go about their business under the watchful eye of their captors.

What are the implications of this whole scenario? Are aliens, or some other non-human intelligence, actually kidnapping people and performing bizarre experiments on them? Hopkins is looking to bring some attention to the phenomenon by soliciting the assistance of John Mack, a Harvard professor of psychology. According to Hopkins, Mack was very reticent about getting involved at first; but after examining Hopkins' case files he now believes that something very strange is indeed going on. Mack is said to be writing a research paper to be presented to his peers. This could turn out to be the first successful attempt to get mainstream science involved in the abduction phenomenon.

Following Hopkins' visit, MICAP has launched an abduction support group in the Denver area to assist possible abduction victims and to study the phenomenon in cooperation with Hopkins. We hope to take an independent look at the phenomenon and perhaps to achieve a new vantage point on this bizarre and troubling mystery.

CONTINUUM Mail Box



We encourage letters to the editor, whether about issues raised in **CONTINUUM** or on other subjects related to Ufology and the paranormal. If you would like your comments to be included in the next issue of **CONTINUUM**, write to:

Continuum Editor
P.O. Box 172
Wheat Ridge
Colorado 80034-0172

All submissions become the property of **CONTINUUM**, and may be edited for conciseness, clarity, or grammar, unless you tell us otherwise.

The award for "first letter to the editor" goes to Kevin Randle, co-author with Don Schmitt of the groundbreaking book *UFO Crash at Roswell* (Avon Books, 1991):

November 20, 1991

To the Editor:

First I want to thank you for the kind review of our book in **CONTINUUM**. [See "Book Review: *UFO Crash at Roswell*", **CONTINUUM**, Vol. 1, No. 1, p. 12.]

There is one point with which I disagree, and that concerns [Brigadier General] Arthur Exon and MJ-12. Exon's testimony seems to rule out rather than endorse MJ-12. Although he talks of an oversight committee, it is obvious that it is not MJ-12. He names several members, men he knew were on the committee and whose names do not appear on the MJ-12 document. Although he called them the Unholy Thirteen, we have identified fourteen members of the committee. There is some overlap with MJ-12, but not enough to be significant. Based on Exon's testimony, corroboration received from two other sources, and the mistakes made on the MJ-12 document (dating format, incorrect ranks, etc.), we (Don Schmitt and I) do not believe that MJ-12 is real. Exon's testimony should not add fuel to the controversy surrounding MJ-12, it should bury it once and for all.

Congratulations on **CONTINUUM**. And good luck with it in the future. If there is anyway that I can help, please let me know.

Sincerely yours,

Kevin D. Randle

Belgium UFO Update

by James R. Black
ParaNet Director of Investigations

By now just about everyone with even a passing interest in Ufology has heard of the "Belgium Triangle" flap of 1989-90. It apparently began on 7 November 1989 when two gendarmes observed a huge, silent, brightly lit aircraft near Esneux, a small town south of Liege, Belgium. Then came the night of 29 November 1989, when dozens of witnesses observed a huge black triangle in the skies between Liege and Eupen. The press quickly dismissed the stories as simple misidentification of military aircraft; but the Belgian government took the matter quite seriously, declaring that "all hypotheses involving the presence of military aircraft in our air space are definitely to be ruled out."¹

Between December 1989 and February 1990, the phenomenon seemed to expand its range, with sightings near Aix-la-Chapelle and Koblenz, Germany, as well as further appearances at Eupen.² Then came the climactic incidents of the night of March 30-31, 1990.

The Belgian Air Force had become sufficiently concerned at the events in its skies to place fighters on alert in case the mysterious objects reappeared. On the night of March 30, gendarmes in Brussels, the Belgian capital, reported anomalous lights over the outskirts of the city. These reports were confirmed both visually and by radar, and two F-16 fighters were scrambled around midnight. For the next hour the two jets played tag with the UFO, which responded to the jets' presence with astonishing maneuvers including speeds which would have destroyed any conventional aircraft and accelerations which would be fatal to any human pilot.³

In the aftermath, the Belgian government took unprecedented steps to investigate the mystery. To the surprise of just about everyone, the Belgian Minister of Defense authorized the Air Force to cooperate with SOBEPS (Société Belge d'Étude des Phénomènes Spatiaux, the Belgian Society for the Study of Space Phenomena)—the first time any western government has given a civilian UFO organization an official role in its investigations. A detailed official report on the Brussels incident (given below in its entirety) was made by Colonel De Brouwer of the Belgian Air Force on 11 July 1990.⁴ It firmly ruled out balloons, ultralight aircraft, remotely piloted vehicles, conventional or stealth aircraft, laser projections, and mirages, concluding: "The Belgian Air

Force was unable to identify either the nature or the origin of the phenomena."

In another unprecedented move, De Brouwer also allowed the radar tapes of the encounters to be examined by Professor Auguste Meessen of the Catholic University at Louvain, who has worked with the SOBEPS investigation from the beginning. Professor Jean-Pierre Petit, director of research at France's National Center for Scientific Research (CNRS), and Marie-Thérèse de Brosse, a reporter for *Paris Match* magazine. Meessen, in particular, conducted a painstaking and in-depth analysis of the radar images, with results that varied from prosaic to "astonishing".

On 6 November 1990, exactly one year after the first sightings in Belgium, the flap returned in full force and expanded to cover most of the countries of western Europe. Air traffic controllers in Paris saw the Triangle but could not locate it on radar; others reported balls of light, clouds of smoke, and other bizarre phenomena not only in France and Belgium but also Germany, Switzerland, and Italy.⁵ Somewhat later there were incidents over Spain as well.⁶

Since then, there seems to have been more action in the media than in the skies. Videotapes of the mystery objects were shown on the American television program *Hard Copy*, with commentary by ParaNet's Don Ecker and *UFO* magazine's Vicki Cooper.⁷ Discussion was fast and furious on ParaNet and the other computer nets. Articles appeared in the *Wall Street Journal*,⁸ the *International UFO Reporter*, *UFO Universe*, *Science & Vie*, and elsewhere. Both *Aviation Week*⁹ and *Popular Mechanics*¹⁰ came out with articles on black-budget aircraft which look and act astonishingly like some of the vehicles described by European witnesses. Professor Petit published a book entitled *Investigating UFOs*. And most recently SOBEPS has collected both pictures and analysis in its publication of *The UFO Wave over Belgium*.

Not surprisingly, the "Belgian Triangle" affair has polarized the scientific community in Europe. Prof. Meessen, for example, while emphasizing that he is "not advocating a specific hypothesis", has concluded that "what thousands of witnesses have seen for many years throughout the world deserves serious study." Prof. Petit has gone much further, declaring flatly that an earthly origin for the Belgian UFOs can now be

¹ Antonio Huneus, "Breaking Down the Wall of UFO Silence", *UFO Universe*, June/July 1991.

² Auguste Meessen, "The Belgian Sightings", *International UFO Reporter*, May/June 1991.

³ Marie-Therese De Brosse, "A UFO on the Radar of an F-16", *Paris Match*, 5 July 1990.

⁴ W. De Brouwer, "Summary Report on Observations 30-31 March 1990", Belgian Ministry of Defense, 11 July 1990.

⁵ "Mystery Objects in the Night Set Off UFO Scare in Europe", Reuters dispatch from Paris, France, 6 November 1990.

⁶ *Hard Copy*, 22 January 1991.

⁷ *Hard Copy*, 24 October 1990.

⁸ Tom Walker, "Belgium Scientists Seriously Pursue a Triangular UFO", *Wall Street Journal*, 10 October 1990.

⁹ "Multiple Sightings of Secret Aircraft Hint at New Propulsion, Airframe Designs", *Aviation Week & Space Technology*, 1 October 1990.

¹⁰ Gregory T. Pope, "America's New Secret Aircraft", *Popular Mechanics*, December 1991.

"totally excluded".¹ On the other hand, others have dismissed the entire phenomenon as wishful thinking, scientific incompetence, mass hysteria, wholesale lying, and even a government-sponsored hoax. Response to the SOBEPS book has been particularly harsh; on 22 November 1991, a statement condemning the book was released by seven scientists of the Astrophysical Institute at the University of Liege for distribution via ParaNet (see below).

And so the controversy continues. Is the Belgium Triangle destined to lead to yet another interminable wrangle between believers and debunkers? Or will it go down in history as the turning point in the quest for a definitive answer to the UFO enigma? Only time will tell. Stay tuned.

Summary Report: Observations of 30-31 March 90

by Colonel W. De Brouwer
Chief of Operations
Belgian Air Force

11 July 1990

Background

1. Starting early December 1989, the Belgian Air Force (BAF) has been contacted on several occasions by eyewitnesses who observed strange phenomena in Belgian air space. On some occasions they described the phenomenon as a triangle-shaped platform, up to 200 feet wide, with three downward-beaming projectors, hovering at ± 100 meters above the ground and making only a very light humming noise. Some witnesses saw the object departing at very high speed after a very fast acceleration. All observations were made in the evening or during the night.

2. The radar stations which had been alerted by eyewitnesses could not definitely determine a correlation between the visual observations and their detection on radar. On two occasions the BAF scrambled two F-16 fighters during the evening hours.

a. On the first occasion the F-16 arrived ± 1 hour after the visual detection. Nothing was observed.

b. On the second occasion, pilots could identify a laser-beam projector on the ground. After investigation it appeared, however, that the description of the observations totally differed from previously described phenomena.

3. Consequently the Belgian Air Force, anxious to identify the origin of the phenomena, authorized F-16 scrambles if the following conditions were met:

a. Visual observation from the ground confirmed by the local police.

b. Detection on radar

Events

4. On 30 March 1990 at 23:00 hours, the Master Controller (MC) of the Air Defense radar station at Glons received a phone call from a person who claimed to be observing three independent blinking lights in the sky, changing colors, with a much higher intensity than the lights of the stars, and forming a triangle. Meteorological conditions were clear sky, no clouds, light wind, and a minor temperature inversion at 3000 feet.

5. The MC in turn notified the police at Wavre, who confirmed the sighting at $\pm 23:30$ hours. Meanwhile, the MC had identified a radar contact at about 8 nautical miles north of the ground observers. The contact moved slowly to the west at a speed of ± 25 knots and an altitude of 10,000 feet.

6. The ground observers reported three additional light spots which moved gradually, with irregular speeds, toward the first set of lights, and forming a second triangle.

7. At 23:50 a second radar station, situated at ± 100 NM from the first, confirmed an identical contact at the same place as the radar contact by Glons.

8. At 00:05 hours, two F-16s were scrambled from Beauchevain Air Base and guided toward the radar contacts. A total of nine interception attempts were made. On six occasions the pilots could establish a lock-on with their air-interception radar. Lock-on distances varied between 5 and 8 NM. On all occasions the targets varied speed and altitude very quickly, and break-locks occurred after 10 to 60 seconds. Speeds varied between 150 and 1010 knots. On three occasions both F-16s registered simultaneous lock-ons with the same parameters. The two F-16s were flying ± 2 NM apart. No visual contact could be established by either of the F-16 pilots.

9. The F-16s flew three times through the observation field of the ground observers. On the third passage the ground observers noticed a change in the behavior of the light spots: The most luminous started to blink very intensively, while the other disappeared. Subsequently, the most luminous spot started to dim gradually.

10. Meanwhile the head of the police at Wavre had alerted four other police stations in the area. All four, separated ± 10 NM from each other, confirmed the visual observations.

11. The F-16 aircraft landed at 01:10 hours. The last visual observation was recorded at $\pm 01:30$ hours.

Conclusions

12. The Belgian Air Force was unable to identify either the nature or the origin of the phenomena.

¹ Marie-Therese De Brosses, "Why I Think They Come From Space", *Paris Match*, 9 August 1990.

However, it had sufficient information to exclude following possibilities:

- a. Balloons: Impossible due to the highly variable speeds (confirmed visually and by radar).
- b. Ultra-light aircraft: Same as for balloons.
- c. Remotely piloted vehicles: Impossible due to hovering characteristics.
- d. Aircraft (including stealth): Same as for RPV. No noise.
- e. Laser projections or mirages: Unlikely due to lack of projection surface (no clouds). Light spots have been observed from different locations. Light spots moved over a distance of more than 15 NM. Form of inlighted part of spots has been observed with binoculars. Laser projections or mirages can not be detected by radar.

Report on the SOBEPS Book about Belgian UFOS

by J. Demaret, N. Grevesse, A. Lausberg, J. Manfroid, A. Noels, J. Surdej, and J. P. Swings
Institute of Astrophysics, University of Liege

The following statement is presented as part of our coverage of the continuing scientific debate over the Belgian UFO situation. Statements of fact and opinion are the responsibility of the authors, and are neither endorsed nor verified by ParaNet or CONTINUUM.

SOBEPS, a Belgian association of UFO buffs, has compiled and published a series of accounts of UFO sightings in the Liege area. The title is *The UFO Wave over Belgium* (in French), and it is now a top-selling book here. The preface is by the French CNRS scientist [Jean-Pierre] Petit, well-known for the fact that his scientific inspiration is due to aliens (coming from planet UMMO, 15 light years from us, as you should know). Coincidentally, Dr. Petit and others are publishing at the same time books on the UMMITs.

The Belgian scientific community and specially the astronomers have followed the development of this UFO story since its beginning two years ago. The first events were reported at a time when many astronomers were busy observing several comets, among other things. Moreover, Western Europe was blessed with nice weather, so that the night sky was particularly well examined by many expert observers. A very impressive Venus hung for several months in the evening sky. There was also a rather intense activity at the local airport, with frequent AWACS patrols. And, as usual, lots of aircraft crossed the Liege area, with, at any time, a minimum of three or four to be seen.

As always during the eastern elongations of Venus (sensibly more than for the morning elongations, like the current one), we received many calls from people excited by strange lights crossing the evening sky.

When more information was asked, it almost invariably turned out to be Venus, although the moon and halos were sometimes implied. We were also asked to examine several video tapes received by the national TV station. Again, Venus was almost always the culprit. These tapes were, as a rule, affected by very bad images, the automatic focusing being fooled by surrounding objects, or by trying to catch a point source at infinity. Nice effects were obtained with extra-focal images of the aperture stop, pulsating disks, etc. We were often surprised by the descriptions given by the people who took the videos: they cited distances of 30 or 50 meters, they spoke of hanging globes moving rapidly, following their cars, etc., though their recordings showed much more benign events. Invariably, all those people were looking at the sky for the first time. This raises some doubts on the validity of occasional witnesses.

Some of these accounts, as well as others, were relayed by the media. Video tapes of aircraft at night, showing only their lights were visible. The snowball effect rapidly developed. Witnesses appeared reporting triangles in the sky, while frustrated astronomers, albeit logging many more hours of observations (with sophisticated equipment), continued to see satellites, meteorites, aircraft (at times as triangles of light spots). Apparently SOBEPS accepts the fact that Belgian UFOs adopted the international conventions for the lights on their flying craft. That three lights could form a triangle seemed to have impressed SOBEPS analysts. Meanwhile the public became "ripe" for a "serious" brainstorming by SOBEPS. Several observing campaigns were set up with many UFOs being caught. The [Belgian] Air Force was somehow involved, with air fighters ready to take off on short notice. One fighter caught, during a few seconds, spurious echoes with supersonic velocities. Certainly some atmospheric or electronic disturbance, but this was interpreted by SOBEPS as the ultimate proof of alien visitors. (When a police radar clocked a road signal above the speed limit some years ago, nobody thought of that interpretation.) Nothing was seen visually, which means that, though UFOs can be invisible, they do not have the certainly much simpler stealth technology. Again, during those campaigns, expert amateur and professional astronomers saw no UFOs at all.

All these accounts are compiled in the biased SOBEPS book. A typical example of the scientific philosophy of SOBEPS can be found in a UFO sighting during the February 1990 lunar eclipse. Hundreds of people were in the field, observing the sky; and they saw the moon, but also planets, stars, satellites, and aircraft. But from inside the bathroom of a nearby house, one person glimpsed some fast-moving light close to the moon. She got another brief glimpse from another window. This witness was retained in the SOBEPS compilation. The poor folks who had perfect observing conditions, who knew something about the sky, and who saw a plane instead of a UFO, are not given consideration.

The photographic and video material included in the report is very poor. After picking out aircraft and astronomical objects, only out-of-focus, blurred images remain. Some of them certainly are fabricated. Most

awful of all is the grotesque cover picture. One of the strangest aspects is that, in spite of thousands of witnesses, no clear, crisp image has been produced. Any other so widespread phenomenon would have resulted in hundreds of nice photographs and kilometers of indisputable video material.

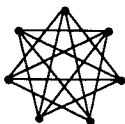
The release of the SOBEPS report was greeted by full-page articles in newspapers, with provocative titles stating that alien visitors are among us, and that this is now a scientifically accepted fact. The national TV network danced to the same tune.

We made public our concerns on the issue, and a note was quickly released to the press by ten scientists from various institutions. This note found some positive echoes in the media. Our intent was to disprove the alleged implication of the scientists in this affair. (Only two or three scientists are involved in the SOBEPS activities.) We have looked at the SOBEPS report, and we found that it is in no way a scientific work. It does not bring the tiniest bit of evidence in favor of alien visitors. Discovering evidence of extraterrestrial life would be a tremendous feat in the history of mankind, but SOBEPS-like works do nothing toward such a discovery. On the contrary, there is some risk to bring bad publicity to serious projects like SETI. A conclusion that might be drawn by some is that the Belgian UFO wave is just a well-orchestrated commercial affair, with deliberate exploitation of human credulity.

Our general opinion is that the SOBEPS report totally lacks scientific objectivity.

N.B. An excellent, in-depth, exhaustive coverage of the UFO phenomenon had been published in early 1990 by Marc Hallet—"Historical and Scientific Analysis of the UFO Phenomenon"—but in a limited number of copies. The small impact of this serious, scientific work, compared to the giant waves generated by SOBEPS and other farcical compilations, is frustrating.

PARANET Postings



The Belgium flap has provoked a great deal of discussion on ParaNet, some of which is reproduced below. Postings have been edited for grammar, style, and conciseness, but content has not been changed.

From: Don Ecker
Dated: 25 October 1990
Re: Hard Copy on Belgium

Hard Copy interviewed Vicki Cooper (co-publisher of UFO Magazine) and myself on 24 October 1990. They wished to get our reactions on the Belgium footage,

which has never been observed in the United States. During the course of the viewing, I observed the witnesses that were interviewed, and although they were speaking French the producer had furnished us with a transcript in English. The witnesses were, to a person, highly disturbed by what they had witnessed, and none believed that what was seen was of a terrestrial nature. We were able to watch the entire tape that Hard Copy had been furnished, and the photos and video tape were amazing. During one segment, a close-up of one of the night-time objects was projected; and in slow motion, I was able to see what appeared to be a series of "spokes" or "struts" that appeared to connect the lights. It was most unusual to say the least. The photo of the "disk" was the one object that I felt demonstrated the "highest strangest" of all the objects. I genuinely felt unease while watching that.

Prior to this segment, I felt there was a great possibility that these objects could have been U.S. experimental craft, along the lines of Tony Gonsalves' B-2 Bomber hypotheses; but after watching the clips, not to mention what these objects were capable of doing (such as making approximately 40-G dives, and outrunning the Belgium F-16 fighter aircraft) I am not quite as sure. High strangeness, indeed!

From: Michael Corbin
Date: 26 Oct 1990
Re: Hard Copy on Belgium

Just watched the UFO story from Belgium on Hard Copy. I must say that I was very impressed with the quality of the report and the way that it was handled by the producers of Hard Copy.

This case seems to have all the affirmative signs of authenticity. It has several eyewitnesses with correlated radar trackings, and it contains a high level of strangeness considering the data already collected on it, including several films of the object made with a daylight film containing fairly clear pictures of the object hovering.

So far, the information that has been released is that it has been observed traveling at speeds as low as 15 miles per hour, with sudden acceleration up to twice the speed of sound, approximately 1500 mph. The g-force has been placed at 40 during some of its accelerations—many times more than a human being could withstand. It has also been observed emitting a reddish glow. It appears that there may be two different types of objects involved—the daylight film clearly shows a round object which appears to have a hole in the center, or at least an impression of some sort, and what appears to be two notches in its circumference. During slow motion of the video, it appears that the notch in the bottom is moving around the object while the one at the top remains still. It is not possible to determine if we are looking at the bottom of the object or the side of it. The other reports detail a triangular-shaped aircraft that has three lights with "a bunch of yellow stars" (according to one eyewitness who got a real close-up look at the object as it flew over her house).

The Belgian military and government are so concerned about this matter that they are launching a formal investigation. The military has dispatched American-made F-16s to chase the object; the pilots have reported making contact with it, but are unable to keep up with it. It has been recorded on radar to display remarkable maneuvers that are beyond normal explanation.

From: Bill Chalker
Date: 9 Nov 1990
Re: New Developments in Belgium

I've just started corresponding with Patrick Ferryn of SOBEPS, who is looking after their photographic analyses. He indicates they have received about an equal number of videos and stills (approximately 25 of each), of which only three are really interesting. One of the photos, a color slide, is, according to Patrick,

particularly remarkable, showing very clearly a big dark triangular mass with three bright lights and a red flash in the middle, with the blue dark sky beyond. It's too early to conclude and we are making extensive studies on it with the assistance of a very specialised service of the army. Till now the document seems genuine. But ... wait and see.

Also on radio here in Australia was an interview piece regarding UFO activity all over Europe on 6-7 November. A famous French yachtsman and a journalist were off the French coast and were apparently amongst the first to see it. It moved in a northeast direction, and was under observation for about a minute. Reports came in from Britain, Germany, Italy, and Belgium, many describing a big, luminous diamond-shaped object. Witnesses included a pilot travelling from Brussels to Frankfurt. Thousands saw it as it moved across France. People in the Control Tower at ATC Paris saw the triangular object, but it was not confirmed on their radar. One report told of a man claiming that a giant triangular object was at the end of his garden, the size of 200 aeroplanes. That's pretty big—he must have a big garden!

Explanations abound, with one German observatory suggesting it was an exploding meteor. Anybody else hear any of this?

Date: 19 December 1990
From: Clark Matthews
Re: Hard Copy Update on Belgium

Astonishing multiple videos and interviews of the Belgian flying-wing UFO on Hard Copy tonight, along with an interview with Vicki Cooper and ParaNet's own Don Ecker! Way to go!

The weight of the evidence, and the amount of evidence—including senior Belgian & NATO military personnel, the Belgian gendarmerie, and citizen witnesses—was practically overwhelming. So were the

six separate videos of the things (there are two, a wing and a disc, and they display a lovely orange glow whenever they accelerate or maneuver rapidly).

There was also a concluding interview with Dr. Jesse Marcel, Jr., and a commentary on the U.S. government's alleged possession of the Roswell craft and the government's ongoing deception/lies about it. The Hard Copy commentary contrasted the U.S. attitude with the obviously forthcoming Belgians. Bravo!

From: Jim Speiser
Date: 27 Nov 1991, 5 Dec 91
Re: Liege Astrophysics Institute Report
on SOBEPS Book

This is amazing. I think some skepticism of the skeptics is called for. For one thing, it was my understanding that the "spurious" radar signals were seen on three different radar scopes, including ground- and air-based. I also understand that the latest generation of radar can filter out anomalous propagation.

Furthermore, this case does not fit the pattern of spurious sightings of Venus or aircraft. Usually such sightings are isolated, and not part of a wave. I find it hard to believe that so many thousands of people misinterpreted conventional aircraft as low-flying triangular platforms with bright white lights.

If this report had limited itself to criticizing SOBEPS' treatment of the affair, I could accept it. But this case does not live or die by the (rather limited) involvement of SOBEPS. They were hardly even mentioned when the wave first began. Nonetheless, the report extrapolates from the miscues of SOBEPS to damning the whole incident.

Offhand I would say it's typical knee-jerk debunking. The article doesn't address the photographs I've seen, and it addresses the radar traces in such a general, detached manner that I'm sure it's a case of someone who didn't really do the research and is filtering his observations through his total disbelief in UFOs.

Naturally, my mind is open to further, more comprehensive debunkings, but I don't think it would be proper at this time to lower the ParaNet rating of this case until something more definitive is forthcoming.

On the other hand, I'm glad to see that this report appeared here first!

From: John Hicks
Date: 30 Nov 1991
Re: Liege Astrophysics Institute Report
on SOBEPS Book

I believe that people who live in areas of high-density air traffic become very familiar with aircraft lights and can easily pick out anything out of the ordinary. I suppose a bright Venus could account for some, but geez ... most?

From: Keith Basterfield
Date: 31 Jan 1992
Re: Secret U.S. Aircraft and Belgium

The US magazine *Popular Mechanics* in its December 1991 issue covers ground previously discussed in the U.S. journal *Aviation Week & Space Technology* in late 1990. Mostly nocturnal observations have been made of several apparent advanced secret U.S. aircraft.

Type 1: Several different triangular aircraft in the 60- to 160- foot wingspan area. Possibly one of these is the Northrop TR-3A, 42 feet long, 60- to 65- foot wingspan. Another is said to have a 150-foot wingspan and is reported to be able to turn 90 degrees on its wingtip.

Type 2: High speed/high altitude, pulsing-engine-noise plane. Seen as a high-altitude light associated with this noise. Aircraft produces sausage-link smoke/vapor trail.

Type 3: Black, silent boomerang shape, 600 to 800 feet across. Random pattern of white lights on black underside. Maneuvers at 20 km/hr, stopping, rotating, and hovering vertically.

Regarding Type 3, take a look again at the Belgian reports:

- a. Mostly nocturnal sightings.
- b. Dark, triangular shapes.
- c. Large in size, cited as "huge", "massive."
- d. Objects hover. "When it began moving it usually moved very slowly, slower than an aircraft."
- e. When objects turn, they turn slowly through 90 or 180 degrees.

Interesting correlation? However, it sounds crazy to suggest that the USAF is testing advanced aircraft over Belgium. Or is it? Stealth fighters were based in the UK after 1983, some eight years before public release. Jenny Randles refers to some UK UFO cases being stealth. All comments I've seen about the possibility of secret aircraft being the cause of the Belgium flap have referred to current stealth planes, not these advanced Type 3's.



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