BUFORA

JOURNAL

Volume 3 No. 9 Winter 1972/3

Published by The British U.F.O. Research Association

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AIMS :

1. To encourage and promote unbiased scientific investigation and research into Unidentified Flying Object phenomena.
2. To collect and disseminate evidence and data relating to Unidentified Flying Objects.
3. To co-ordinate UFO Research on a nation-wide scale and co-operate with persons and organisations engaged upon similar research in all parts of the world.

MEMBERSHIP : The annual subscription is £2·40, $6 U.S.A. and Canada. Membership is open to all persons supporting the aims of the Association and whose application is approved by the Executive Committee. Application/Information Forms are obtainable from any Officer.

JOURNAL : Published Quarterly and available to Members only, or by exchange. Publications should be sent direct to the Editor.
Telephone: Winchester (S.T.D. Code 0962) 2691

THE BRITISH UNIDENTIFIED FLYING OBJECT RESEARCH ASSOCIATION

Founded 1964

(Incorporating the London U.F.O. Research Organisation, founded 1959 and the British U.F.O. Association, founded 1962).

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EDITORIAL

There is a persistent demand in some quarters within the Association that this " Journal " should become a sort of UFO-oriented version of, " The New Scientist." I do not know what the future editorial policy will be, but I hope it will not take the form of a yelping pursuit of respectability within the bosom of the Scientific Establishment. So far as UFO-research is concerned, Dr. Hynek has damned the prevailing attitude within the Establishment in his recent book, more outspokenly than I have ever done. As my Editorial swan-song I cannot do better, perhaps, than produce my comments on this issue in the " Journal " of Autumn 1970.

" BUFORA JOURNAL " is the official organ of the British UFO Research Association, which is engaged upon the scientific investigation of UFO phenomena. It would be out of line with Association policy for the " Journal " to include articles of a content obviously non-scientific. The problem—and it is one which has occasioned this Editor a number of headaches—is to decide whether or not a given article is " scientific " within the true meaning of the term.

Clearly, " Scientific " is a label which cannot be affixed to such notions as that of a flat Earth, for which no viable arguments can be advanced, or to obsolete theological concepts which have long ceased to command the respect of the vast majority of men. It is equally clear, however, that the current views of the scientific Establishment cannot be held sacrosanct. UFO-research, in particular, is finding itself hampered at present by the dogmatic asseverations of certain scientists.

In this connection it is well to bear in mind the words of the biologist Dr. Alfred Russell Wallace, Darwin's great co-worker in the formulation of the theory of Organic Evolution and therefore a man whose opinions on the subject cannot lightly be disregarded:

> " The whole history of Science shows that whenever scientific men have denied the facts of other scientific investigators on a *priori* grounds of absurdity or improbability, the deniers have always been wrong."

I command the passage to the attention of a certain section of my readership, mostly youthful, which seems to believe that the scientific theories of this day and age comprise the stuff of Ultimate Truth.

My adomonition is timely in that UFO-research seems to be drifting towards an alliance with Psychical Research, which latter is itself a subject anathema to the knowalls of the contemporary scientific Establishment. Yet, as the physicist Dr. Raynor Johnson writes:

> " It is . . . a matter of the most profound and far-reaching implications to be able now to claim that telepathy, clairvoyance and precognition are indubitable hard facts; that the evidence for them is as well-founded and reliable as for the basic facts of physics and chemistry."

As Editor of " BUFORA JOURNAL " I am conscious of my responsibility to present the facts, ALL the facts, of UFO investigation to my readers. I am not prepared to soft-pedal on certain aspects of the subject because to do otherwise may bring down upon my head the wrath of the followers of the prevailing materialistic school of thought on matters scientific.

If, for example, certain types of UFO phenomenia are associated with poltergeist manifestations, I am not willing to omit all mention of the fact from these pages in deference to the prejudices of those who like to believe that poltergeist manifestations can never happen. I am not inclined to disregard or disparage the attempts of certain of my colleagues to establish telepathic *rapport* with UFO entities, when, for all I know or can prove to the contrary, telepathy may be as valid a tool of investigation in this field as any other.

Scientific *method*, of course, must be applied in every stage of our researches. Scientific *dogma* ought to be discarded from the outset.

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FIELD STUDY OF UFOs

One of the main aims of the UFO researcher is to collect as much accurate and valid information as is reasonably possible, during the field study of unidentified flying objects. Apart from a camera loaded with high speed film plus various electronic detectors, some means of optically tracking moving objects is a necessity. For this purpose a fast moving theodolite can be extremely useful.

Naturally, normal surveyors theodolites are not really suitable as they require slow and precise adjustment, making them rather clumsy in operation. However, an adapted version is easy to construct by mounting a pair of binoculars on a sturdy tripod. Particular care is necessary when selecting suitable binoculars. They should ideally be of the 7x50 variety, since they will obviously be used at night and this type gives a very bright image together with a good field of view. Also take care to choose a pair which has *wheel* focus adjustment, as most tripod clamps are designed for this variety, (incidentally, suitable clamps are available from Dixons under the name of bino-clamps.)

Similar care should be exercised when selecting a tripod. It should be of sturdy construction of course, but should also extend to a height of at least five feet six inches, to allow for comfort when tilting the binoculars to high elevation angles. Nearly all good makes have a rigid centre column racking mechanism. Also, the panning assembly should be marked in degrees fairly accurately. In actual fact, the author has found the Dixon's 850 type ideally suited to this application.

We have discussed the general requirements for binoculars and tripods, but there are some important additions for us to consider. Firstly, a good quality compass must be mounted securely to the tripod, bearing in mind that the latter should contain no significant amounts of ferrous material. Secondly, the points of the compass should be marked on the periphery of the panning assembly in conjuction with the already inscribed degrees. Only eitht points need be considered—the four cardinal points plus four bisecting directions S.E. plus N.W., etc. Letraset is ideal for this purpose. The 850 tripod does not have any elevation angles inscribed, but lends itself to the easy addition of a small disc calibrated from a protracter, to the tilt assembly.

Next, a circular spirit level should be mounted parellel to the sight plane of the binoculars when the elevation is at zero. (Most Hi-Fi shops sell this type of level for around 40p, under the brand names of Cotton or Metrosound). The reason for this addition of course, is to obtain a true horizon.

Most of us have probably experienced the annoying problem of trying to locate an object through binoculars after initially spotting with the naked eye, particularly so when viewing star fields. To overcome this difficulty, a " spotter " telescope is mounted on the framework supporting the glasses *i.e.* the focus control column. Although this sounds elaborate, it mearly means making up a tube of aluminium etc., with internal diameter and length calculated to give the same field of view as the binoculars. Once the length has been deduced one quarter to three eigths of an inch should be subtracted, to allow for the fact that the eyeball will be approximately this distance from the end of the tube, when sighting up. For 7x50 glasses, the dimensions will be about $\frac{5}{8}$x5 inches, assuming 7 degrees field. If your binoculras quote a field of so many feet at 1000 yards, then this will have to be converted into degrees, before calculating.

A simple method of mounting the spotter 'scope is to bolt it onto a piece of aluminium sheet about $2\frac{1}{2}$ x 4 inches, to which are attached two suitably sized Terry clips that can be slipped over the central focus column. Spacers may have to be used between clips and plate to allow the latter to lightly rest on the top of the binoculars when they are opened to their normal extent. They should also be used between plate and 'scope to keep it clear of the eyepieces.

In order to read off direction and elevation angles in the dark, a small penlight " flexitorch " should be clipped to the pan/tilt handle. Lastly, since it has been the experience of the author and other Ufologists that objects have responded to torch flashes by changes in direction, speed, luminosity, etc., a small spotlight could be added to the instrument advantageously. The reflector housing and swivel bearing from a motorist's lantern may be bolted to the plate holding the telescope. It should naturally be aligned along the vertical and horizontal planes of the binoculars line-of-sight, and may be operated by a switch actuated by the camera shutter release cables housed in the pan/tilt handle of the 850 tripod. The bulb should preferably be of the pre-focus type and rated at 6 volts 3 watts (0·5 amps), the battery being an Eveready SP 996 6 volts lantern type.

Operation.

When arriving on site, the tripod should be orientated to magnetic North (or true North) with the panning mechanism set to North as marked by Letraset.

True North may be found on clear nights by sighting the binoculars on Polaris, the North star. Next, the telescopic legs of the tripod are adjusted to give zero reading on the spirit level in all directions, so as to give a true horizon.

That completes the setting up procedure; all that remains is to lock onto the object being evaluated by firstly spotting with the naked eye, then through the telescope sight, and lastly in the binoculars field of view. For accurate measurment of angles, both in elevation and bearing, the object must be kept centrally in view. With a little practice, an error of only one or two degrees is easily accomplished, providing the whole assembly is precisely aligned in the first instance. The small flexitorch can be swung round on the pan/tilt handle without altering the setting's in order to read off the required angles.

It will be appreciated that this instrument is capable of giving a very stable image, even in windy conditions, and the accuracy is such that it can be used for realistic artifical satellite data evaluation (no pun intended!), and modest surveying.

Althrough the aforegoing looks a little formidable, the actual construction is relatively simple and the result is an extremely useful optical instrument that will eliminate guesswork thereby furthering the research into Unidentified Flying Objects.

PETER A. THURGOOD
1/9/72.

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ESP & THE UFOS

I have more than once been taken to task by young and would-be " scientific " UFO-researchers for suggesting that manifestations of a psychic nature may, on occasion, play a part in UFO visitations.

The following, extracted with grateful acknowledgments from, " Psychic News," 23 Great Queen Street, London, WC2B 5BB, issue of February 3rd, 1973, may give the critics cause to reflect:

Scientists have proved the sceptical Dr. Chris Evans wrong on ESP, as he revealed last week.

Repeatedly this experimental psychologist has said that unless parapsychology achieved some breakthrough with " concrete evidence," the scientists interest " may simply dwindle away."

Last week Evans reported in " New Scientist " on its questionnaire, printed in November, designed to learn how scientists regard this " controversial and problematic field."

" Analysis of the result has thrown up a surprising picture," said Evans.

" The most remarkable single fact was the size of the response, which would be large in terms of a mass circulation newspaper . . ."

Over 1,500 completed forms were returned. On January 5th, with 1,416 replies, they called a halt to the analysis.

The first conculsion, said Evans, was that parapsychology is clearly counted as " being exceedingly interesting and relevant by a very large number of today's working scientists."

A solid 350 stated ESP was an " established fact," with a further 590 declaring it " A likely possibility."

This revealed " remarkably " that 70 per cent of readers responding accept ESP. " There are few people who will deny parapsychologists the right to crow fairly joyously over these figures," said Evans.

Of those who stated ESP was established, 40 per cent came to this conclusion after reading about the subject.

The majority, 51 per cent, based their convictions on personal experience. This was either a convincing experiment they had conducted, or a " striking telepathic experience."

" A massive 88 per cent "—1,252 out of 1,416—said investigating ESP was " a legitimate scientific undertaking."

Evans concluded, " The stated opinions of nearly 1,500 readers, the majority of whom are working scientists and technologists on a topic as controversial as parapsychology cannot be lightly dismissed.

" Clearly a large number of serious scientists consider it to be a highly interesting and potentially immensely significant branch of science."

They also appeared to be sharply critical of the slow progress being made.

On radio last week Evans outlined results of the BBC telepathy experiment. It repeated one done in New York in the late 1940's by psychologist Dr. G. Schmeider.

She believed people's attitude to ESP was vital. After allowing for the chance element, she found " sheep " (believers) scored with a success which precluded guesswork. " Goat " scores fell below what could be expected by the law of averages.

Evans repeated this experiment, to enable more people to take part. Over 6000 listeners tried to receive by telepathy the five different symbols on 25 cards.

Subjects could expect to score five right by chance. The average of the 4,414 " sheep " was 4·8, as it was surprisingly for " goats." This, said Evans, conflicted with Schmeidler.

Discussing the " New Scientist " poll, Evans said he had wrongly thought scientists had " swung away from the occult." The results suggested they were " slightly edging towards it."

The origin of life on this planet most likely began from electrical energy fields. An experiment performed in 1953 by Dr. Harold C. Urey and Dr. Stanley L. Miller at the University of Chicago showed that when the atmosphere of primordial earth was duplicated (containing the four elements of life—carbon, nitrogen, oxygen and hydrogen) and then penetrated repeatedly by electrical charges (simulating lightning) that amino acids, the basis of all organic life, were formed. Thus inorganic elements were changed to organic matter. In amino-acid molecules, these life elements are so well matched in their electrical charges that they are most stable, and could have survived the chemical chaos of elemental times.

Electrical properties found in the inorganic universe are identical to those in organic matter . . . bringing us to the " electro-dynamic theory of life " as conceived by Dr. Harold S. Burr (e. K. Hunt, Prof. of Anatomy, Yale University) and Dr. F. S. C. Northrop (Sterling Prof. of Philosophy and Law, Yale). In preceeding years, researchers found that organisms change in strength and polarity in response to internal (biologic) and external (cosmologic) events. Tests by Dr. Leonard J. Ravitz at Yale and Dr. Frank A. Brown, Jr., of Northwestern University, have proven that lunar changes do indeed affect living organisms. The Yale charts showed that the patterns of voltage-changes in trees parallel those of human subjects, sometimes there being an actual mirror image. Augmented voltmeter reading have detected unrest among psychiatric patients as being greatest during the full moon phase.

Vincent H. Gaddis, who made an intensive study of electro-magnetic phenomena in MYSTERIOUS FIRES AND LIGHTS, commented: " The electro-dynamic theory of life suggests a universal electric field affecting living matter, while, in turn, all life exerts its own influence upon the field while still responding to it. Each individual is thus related to all life, to the earth's magnetic field, and through it to the changes in the electrical fields of the moon and sun. We are part of the universal whole, influenced by the ceaseless ebb and flow of the universe." And he goes on to cite cases of luminous, electric or magnetic anomalies that have been discovered in both men and animals:

Russian Scientists claimed to have photographed auras and micro-emanations; there is the phenomenon of luminous excretions in humans, of human magnets, lightning rods, and torches (spontaneous combustion) and of actual fire breathers; a number of Roman Catholic saints were said to have radiated intense heat and exhibited luminous characteristics; Tibetan lamas are said to radiate enough heat as to melt the snow around them (' tumo '); and yogis or lamas have been known to superphysically produce fire.

Poltergeist disturbances are of interest to us here. Mayne R. Coe, Jr., in an article for FATE, July 1959, gave convincing evidence that psychokinesis (PK), the ability to move an object with mental concentration, is a bioelectrical phenomenon. He studied methods of how the yogis attain their " kundalini " (or occult energy) which, when aroused, can perform PK feats. By relaxing his muscles, Coe

found that an electric current would pass from him and (through exhausting experimentations) achieved the ability to move a relatively heavy box (note—ATP, or adenosine triphosphate, the key source of energy in biological systems, can convert chemical energy into mechanical energy, and is responsible for muscular contractions; in the case of luminescence in certain animal or plant species it converts chemical energy into light). According to the ELECTRICAL EXPERIMENTER, June 1920, 34 convicts at Clinton Prison, Dannemora, New York, were stricken with botulinus poisoning and began to show signs of electromagnetic abnormalities (*e.g.* affecting a compass). Coe believes the poison, affecting the muscle cells, caused 500,000 volts of low amperage and cited cases of botulinus poisoning in which the victims reportedly glowed in the dark.

Similarly, Chorea has produced inexplicable rappings. The late psychoanalyst Nandor Fodor in the PSYCHIATRIC QUARTERLY, April 1948, outlined a number of such cases. In a room where two soldiers were suffering from chorea in the Station Hospital, Guernsey, was the scene of strange knockings over a period of 10 days. One of the soldiers had an attack of " muscular rheumatism " when the sounds were first heard.

Now poltergeist disturbances involve the moving of household objects, strange rappings and fires . . . oftentimes centering around adolescents. It has been suggested that these are projections of the subconscious mind which is trying to release guilts and desires.

During the winter of 1904-1905, according to Gaddis, a remarkable outbreak of phenomena—from haunted houses to poltergeists and weird fires—were reported throughout Great Britain. In Wales there was a great religious revival in which glowing clouds and balls of light appeared overhead above the singing crowds. " Wales in the grip of supernatural forces," headlined the LIVERPOOL ECHO of January 18th, 1905. Spreading into England and Scotland, this religious fanaticism reached mass hysteria . . . people went into religious ecstasy, bands roamed the streets sometimes breaking into police stations to convert officers, " holy dancers " appeared in London, revivalists rioted against Catholics in Liverpool, and cases of spontaneous human combustion were reported.

Nuclear bomb explosions are accompanied by a phenomenon known as electromagnetic pulse (EMP) which can cause widespread black-outs and in humans a deep hypnosis, religious fanaticism or even a depressive state that will lead to suicide.

According to Gordon W. Allport in his THE INDIVIDUAL AND HIS RELIGION, a large number of disturbed people, especially schizophrenics and depressed patients, become obsessed with religion. Mystics and reformers of the churches suffered marked instability as St. Ingatius, Luther, St. Theresea, Fox and Wesley.

UFO appearances have been associated with diverse E-M phenomena from heat blasts and blackouts to radiation effects and luminousity. Luminous angelic beings have emerged from UFOs (reminding one of the light associated with goodness, spirit and worship). Homes near landing sites become plagued by insidious poltergeist invaders. UFO witnesses have often reported headaches, increased I.Q., ESP powers, insanity, religious inspiration, etc. A housewife from Ithaca, N.Y.,

(according to science writer and saucer skeptic Lloyd Mallan in SCIENCE AND MECHANICS, July 1968) was forced off the road at night by a glowing object from which a chorus of voices rang out saying that an acquaintance would be killed at a future time and place. Her son, in the back seat, had lapsed into a hypnotic trance during this time.

According to Dr. D. J. Lewis, of the Allen Memorial Institute, Montreal, Canada, schizophrenics have reported seeing " little men " that strikingly parallel with the UFO occupant variety. In a few cases actual contactee-type experiences, with revelations from space, have resulted.

We can venture into other aspects of the paranormal, *e.g.* ball lightning, weird lightning strikes (and electrical storms in progress during the appearance of apparitions as ghosts or sea monsters), " spook lights " strange lights that have appeared during seances (and during eruptions of poltergeist activity), etc.

Concerning ESP, it is now certain that it is related to E-M radiation. And too this energy may come from the subconscious mind. The late J. W. Dunne, a scientist who designed Britain's first military airplane, expounded on revolutionary ideas along this line, conceiving of different levels of awareness at which events appear with greater or less dependence on the ordinary time sequence. For instance, " observer 1," the waking consciousness, perceives only a chronological flow in which memories are in the past and the future is blocked from view. Now " observer 2," able to function in dreams when the more limited consciousness is asleep, commands a view of a wider " field of representation," a four-dimensional one in which future as well as past events can be perceived. Theoretically an " observer 3 " would see a still wider field, and so on in a series ad infinitum, *i.e.* until final reality is known.

Dunne based his ideas on experiments in clairovoyance and by recording dreams of himself and others then watching for elements therein to occur afterwards.

His theories also upheld more or less a super-consciousness (or a close approximation to God): " It discloses the existence of a superlative general observer, the fount of all that self-consciousness, intention, and intervention which underlies mere mechanical thinking."

Noted American psychologist and philosopher William James (1842-1910), brother of novelist Henry James, invoked the hypothesis of a connection between an individual's mind and what he termed a " universal mind." From this all-prevading consciousness man drew his entire thought composition and support. This theory that the individual mind is but a mere fragment of a universal mind is common in such diverse religions as Hinduism and Christian Science; but perhaps to some extent present in nearly every form of worship.

There is of course Hegel's " Spirit " or " Absolute Mind." Ralph Waldo Emerson's " Over-Soul " or other metaphysical entities. The Buddhists have their " Absolute " with which they obtain union through the " mystic experience."

And LSD users usually report a " oneness " with the universe (to use a word familiar to both Eastern and Western metaphysics). Recent investigations have shown a strong relationship between chemical disorders in the brain leading to insanity and of the properties of hallucinogenic drugs. During an LSD " trip," a user may become like a simple schizophrenic, confused, uncertain, temporarily loosing his personal identity or ego. Time also will seem to stop or, as in marijuana, be enhanced.

In schizophrenia (simple hebrephrenic and paranoid) time and space are distorted. The victim's walking mood almost disintegrates, he is completly apathetic to the outside, hears voices and sees illusions, and may actually believe he is the incarnation of God (or does he discover the God within himself?).

According to Brad Steiger and Warren Smith in their book SATAN'S ASSASINS, Dr. Raymond Silvera, one of the leaders of a group in South America studying Brazilian spiritism has expressed belief that psychotics are victims of disembodied " spirits " of deceased people. These " parasites " were also probably responsible for medieval demon " possession." Silvera theorized that they are of electromagnetic energy which held together the protoplasmic energy that existed in the body prior to death. The survival of the soul after death fits admirably within Einstein's classic equation $E=mc^2$, that our bodies may undergo cellular disintegration but energy cannot be destroyed.

Occultists, hippies and UFO occupants have all used the term " we are one." The " space people " hint in their contacts that they are not individual entities but of a greater whole.

The most primitive form of worship has been of living things (*e.g.* trees) or inaminate objects. The American Indians thought a Power showed itself through all living things, heavenly bodies and man, being both good and evil in nature. Ancient sacrifices were given because since everything in the world belonged to the central life force, there was nothing they could give it except part of themselves. Ancient Civilizations as Mesopotamia, Egypt, Greece, etc., later conceived of gods . . . gods of war, of harvest, of the hunt. Then after the fall of the Roman empire and the beginning of feudalism in the Old World, monothesim (or Christianity) took hold. But medieval legendary still had tales of fairies, elves and spirits inhabiting trees, pictures, caves, and so forth. The East, which put emphasis on the unity of everything rather than the individual's relation to a God (hence " mysterious Far East "). had its " elements:" salamanders, or spirits of fire; undines, or spirits of water; sylphs, or spirits of air; and gnomes, or spirits of earth. Today this belief is more unified and " elements " may refer to any sort of spirit.

In summarizing the case for an energized power that is the underlying essence of the ordered, material universe holds great weight. Perhaps soon the myth of " ultraterrestrial " factions or extraterrestrial visitants will be discarded.

DENNIS STAMEY

THE UFO VISION

Part 2

(*N.B.*—Readers are asked to note that there was an error in the text of Part 1 in the last issue. Eric's account in paragraph should have been stated as James's account. Apologies for any puzzlement caused as a result).

1. Part 2 in this issue completes the transcription of the percipients' descriptions, and like part 1, concerns the ascertinable facts of this strange and bewildering event. Part 3 will contain a brief analysis of the facts and a summary of the firm and tentative conclusions which can be drawn from both the experience itself and any relevant environment and local considerations.

2. **ERIC'S ACCOUNT** (Refer to plan on page 32 of the last issue)

Unedited Transcript of taped statement made on 16th September, 1970 by Eric Ardern

This account relates to unusual experiences which Eric and his brother James had in the early hours of the morning of Monday, 16th January, 1967, at their home.

" I went to bed about 11.00 (Sunday, 15th January) and had written my diary, lay back in bed, put off the light which is by the side of the bed and then opened the curtains—drew the curtains across—I could see the plain—Cheshire—the lights down there, and then lay back on the bed. Next thing I know I'm held firmly on the bed unable to move in any way whatsoever. I then become conscious of a noise and almost immediately a light. I perceived a light—I had my eyes shut of course at the time—which grew in intensity. After this a voice. After this a voice started to speak. At this particular point my eyes were open and I did perceive a sort of light but nothing in the room which I was in was visible. The light seemed to sort of " eat," seemed to envelope everything and the voice started to talk quite positively. The things that I remember or a thing which I remember was a remark which it made—" You are the chosen ones." Those particular words were the most indelibly imprinted on my mind. There was quite a number of other things which were remarked upon—reasons—but I can't clearly define these so I think they're best left out.

After the voice had spoken, the light seemed to vanish very quickly. The last thing I heard was the noise. Not long after the sort of feeling of being held was released I then jumped out of bed and ran to the door—well, yes—ran I'd say, to the door, opened it and as I opened it my father came out of the bedroom opposite. He said, " Have you heard the buzzing noise?" I said " Yes," and then for no apparent reason I went back to bed, he went back to bed and that was it and nothing else was said until the following morning when I went down for breakfast.

James, who was in the other room, after I had mentioned my experience said he had experienced something similar, in fact almost identical. " My father corroborated this by saying that he'd also heard the noise and that's about it."

3. MRS. ARDERN'S ACCOUNT

(Interview—10th October, 1970)

I am the mother of Eric and James. During the early hours of the morning in question (16th January, 1967) I was awoken by my husband Ernest who asked me if I could hear a noise. My husband did not seem to be alarmed. The bedroom was very dark even though the window was closed and the curtains were drawn open. We never did close the bedroom curtains at night.

The noise, which I now could hear was a very unusual and constant one which did not seem to change in volume. It was high pitched. It was certainly not an aeroplane as I have heard them passing overhead frequently. I did not think anything of the noise at the time but my husband got out of our bed and looked out of the window to try and discover where it was coming from as he said that he thought it was unusual. I then also got out of bed and joined my husband at the window. We could not see anything unusual from the window and still could not identify the sound. At first the noise appeared to be stationary—seemed to be all around us and then gradually the noise appeared to move away to the back of the house towards the ridge.

I then heard a movement and thought it was Eric moving about. My husband left the window and went to the door which was already partly open. We do not shut the door to allow Eric to call in to see how his father is. My husband put his head out of the door and had a short conversation with Eric, whom I presume had put his head round his own bedroom door. Eric sounded excited—he is very excitable—but I could not hear what was said. I was now only interested in getting back to bed and going to sleep again which I then did. Soon after I got into bed my husband joined me and I very quickly fell asleep. As far as I can remember I heard and saw nothing else. I also cannot remember hearing or seeing James.

At approximately 7.00 a.m. the same morning, my husband and I were downstairs and I was having breakfast. Nobody else was up at that time. I cannot remember whether James or Eric came down first but I do remember that each came down separately and gave their own separate accounts of their experiences. As far as I know, neither had spoken to each other between their actual experience and the time of giving their own accounts when they came down to breakfast. They both told their stories in a very matter of fact way. I thought they were telling a yarn and having one on, but the stories were exactly the same. My husband said they must have dreamt it all.

Mrs. Ardern then spoke about her husband and sons Eric and James:—

HUSBAND ERNEST

My husband died in April, 1968 after a long illness. He was a miner but towards the end of his life he suffered, amongst other things, from heart trouble. Although he used to be under sedation he was always very alert, intelligent and a good talker. He was a light sleeper who always had long vivid dreams. It was his custom to recount his dreams to the family the following mornings. Sometimes it would take more than one hour to recount them. He had been doing this for thirty

or forty years. He would often consciously attempt and succeed to continue dreams which he had the previous night. Some of his dreams used to come true. He seemed also to have a very good memory.

He was a courageous man. He used to read the Bible regularly and deep down he was a believer in Christianity.

For many years he used to keep a daily diary in which he recorded family activities and visitors to the house.

ERIC

Eric is very artistic and more emotional than James. He is more like me than James. He has an excitable nature. Like his father, he has kept a daily diary for several years. There has been no particular change in his personality since the experience, and he has not talked about it much since then. The experience does not seem to have had any noticable effect upon him.

JAMES

James is not as emotional as Eric. I have not noticed any particular change in his personality since the experience, which does not seem to have had any noticeable effect upon him.

R.S.

THE NEWCHAPEL OBSERVATORY

The Potteries, Stoke-on-Trent, is not the ideal locality for pursuing astronomical observations. In fact, the seeing conditions and atmospheric transparency suffer badly from the constant out-pouring of industrial and domestic smoke, street lighting and other interference which compete favourably with the Blackpool illuminations. It was as a result of these adverse conditions that the concept of Newchapel Observatory was born.

In the winter of 1963-64, four members of the Stoke-on-Trent Astronomical Society, including the writer and his brother, got together and decided to begin a joint project which would involve the construction of an observatory building to house a large reflecting telescope. It was thought that the sighting of the instrument should be as far away as possible from the poor skies of the Potteries, but near enough for easy commuting. All of us had had a certain amount of experience in building our own individual telescopes and observatories, and we felt that since it was a joint venture, a more ambitious project was within our capabilities and decided on an 18 inch Newtonian reflector.

The next step was to design the building and telescope. After many evenings discussing proposals for the layout, the present plan was adopted. Basically the observatory consists of a 14 foot diameter dome at the southern end to house the 18 inch Newtonian, a central rest room-library-meeting room, and a 20 foot diameter circular wall to be used in a future project as yet undecided. Initially, we had agreed on a cradle type mounting for the 18 inch reflector, but this idea was eventually replaced by a less cumbersome design using an extremely stout fork.

The projected observatory was to be financed and built solely by the four of us, who would each contribute equally towards the cost and work involved. An advertisment in the local press for a plot of land to rent, brought half a dozen replies within a week. Some of the sites were immediately unsuitable due to distance or poor conditions. The Newchapel area was chosen as a comprise. On the edge of the Potteries, although the seeing is not perfect, it was a vast improvement on that experienced at home, and the distance of seven miles was practicable for travelling. The site itself is a small grassed-over spoil heap, the result of small scale local coal and iron stone workings. The elevated position gave an unrestricted view, particularly to the East and South, ideal for astronomical observing. To the West were the houses of the High Street, Newchapel, and in the North stood the millstone grit outcrop of Mow Cop marking the Staffordshire-Cheshire border.

The owner of the land, a school teacher, was more than interested in our project, and agreed to rent us a sizable plot for 50p per week. In April 1964, application was made to the local council for planning permission to build an observatory at Newchapel. One month later the plans were returned approved, and after fencing off the area, we began digging the foundations.

None of us had any professional experience in the building trade, but this was compensated by great enthusiasm. At the beginning our only " equipment " was a spade, two shovels, a bucket and a tin bath used to excavate the site. However,

this state of affairs improved as we progressed. All our spare time was spent in the construction work including the whole of the week-ends and most evenings in the summer months. The writer acted as treasurer for the group and was responsible for purchasing the necessary materials as these were needed. Our financial contributions amounted to just £4 per week and often we had to wait until funds had accumulated in order to buy the next material requirements. But we managed somehow.

We had decided to build the walls of locally quarried stone, and were to eventually use 35 tons to complete the observatory. The undressed millstone grit gives the building an effective appearance with its varying shapes, sizes and shades. The walls grew quickly and by the spring of 1965 the corrugated asbestos roof of the central area had been finished, complete with the skylights and guttering. Timber for the roof beams and the doors and frames were obtained from demolition yards, which we visited regularly. At the same time we were in the process of installing an electricity supply which had to be brought across open ground on three poles from an old air raid shelter some two hundred yards away.

Various second hand bearings, some steel shaft and a three foot diameter pulley wheel were purchased to begin construction of the reflector. Owing to our financial limitations parts for the instrument had to be found for as little as possible, and we were fortunate that my brother had free access to some useful scrap metal.

The telescope design was based on Porter's folly, a scrap metal and concrete structure which was thought to be the ultimate in sturdiness. It was cheap to build, extremely rigid and of simple construction. This suited our pockets admirably. The most expensive item was the optics. Quotations for the 18 inch primary and flat varied from three hundred pounds to four hundred pounds, and without experience in mirror making, we did not contemplate grinding our own. Luckily, through a friend at the Chesterfield Astronomical Society, we contacted an elderly and experienced amateur mirror maker from Southampton. He had a spare 18 inch mirror, and a price of £200 was agreed, with £25 deposit to secure the optics. The primary itself is 18 inch in diameter, 3 inches thick and is a F6.8. paraboloid with a focal length of 10′ plus. Made from a low expansion glass it wieghs 70lbs. The flat measures $5\frac{1}{2}$ x $3\frac{3}{4}$. It was not until October 1966 that we were able to visit Southampton with the balance, and bring the prize to Newchapel.

By this time the telescope was all but completed. Our greatest asset with this work was the investment in a 70 amp welding unit. Stem pipe and scrap steel angle were welded to produce the open frame of the " tube." Fibre glass proved invaluable in making the mirror cell. Besides the cheapness this material is strong and light, and one can produce any desired shape using a (wooden) mould. The equatorial mount comprises a reinforced concrete fork topped by two 3 inch bearings, and is moulded into the face of the spoked 3′ diameter pulley wheel which acts as the north polar axis bearing. This rotates at an angle o. 53 degrees on two rollers made from the offcuts from a 6 inch steel shaft. A 3 inch diameter shaft forms the centre of the polar axis terminating in a thrust bearing at the base of the mount. For added sturdiness this axis is surrounded by a concrete cone. The total moving parts weigh about a ton.

The telescope is housed in a 14′ diameter dome made from bent steel angle ribs covered with sheets of hardboard. The dome rotates on six 8 inch diameter grooved pulley wheels which we found quite sufficient for easy movemnet. The original dome door panels, fastened with bolts, have been replaced recently by two sliding doors far more convenient for observing. The observing floor built of demolition wood, is situated 7½′ above ground level. The compact fork mounted instrument revolves in a central hole in the floor making unnecessary the need for long observing steps. In fact, we find the 18 inch much easier to use than a small refractor.

The central room which we call the library-office-rest room has facilities for storing equipment and records, and can be used as a dark room. The Stoke-on-Trent Astronomical Society have held a number of meetings at Newchapel, and over the years we have entertained astronomical societies and other groups from as far afield as Epsom.

Visual observations with the 18 inch reflector have been concerned mainly with the Moon and planets. The recent development of a synchronous driving system should facilitate photographic and photometric observations. Apart from using the main instrument, the writer and his brother are particularly interested in visual and photographic meteor studies. The Observatory has a small collection of meteorites. Certain meteor radar observations have been made in conjunction with Sheffield University using equipment working at 36 mhz.

Our work has not been without its disasters or lighter moments. In 1966 gale force winds in November lifted the dome completly from the Observatory, and we spent the whole of the weekend repairing the damage and returning it to the rails. On the lighter side there was the time when we were fencing off the plot of land. Seeing our activities the local farm boy was convinced we were setting up in competition, and a lady resident was afraid the wire was electrified. Some of the other locals insisted the building would be a government establishment and expected to see us in bowler hats with brief cases and rolled umbrellas.

It is now seven years since the project began, and the telescope has been operational for half this time. A number of improvements and additions can be made and we may never really " complete " the Observatory. The cost to date is in the region of £700 including the price of the optics, for which we have a fine building and a much envied instrument. Obviously finance was an essential factor, but all of us feel that our achievements were due largely to the persistent enthusiasm that was uppermost in our minds, especially during those early years when Newchapel Observatory was more of a dream than a reality.

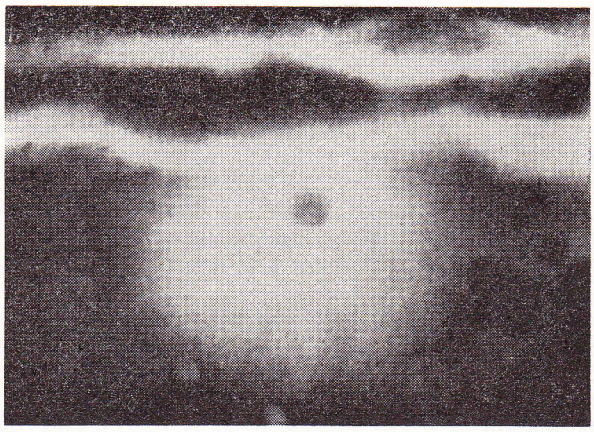
A. R. PACE, F.R.A.S.

" A GUIDE TO U.F.O. PHENOMENA."

The first of a series of BUFORA information booklets is available at 42p (inc. P.P.) from A. West, 49 Mill Road, Burgess Hill, Sussex.

To encourage wide distribution of this very useful booklet special rates as below:
1 copy 42p. 3 copies 84p (save 42p). 5 copies 126p (save 84p).

All post paid.



FATIMA — PORTUGAL *Taken by Alfredo de Fendrica on 13th October*, 1917.

UFO or MIRACLE?

Relative to Sir Gilbert Inglefield's lecture[1] on the ' FATIMA ' phenomena, I am indebted to Mr. Andrew Tomas, former Editor of the Australian Flying Saucer review, for supplying me with the above photograph of the ' appearance ' taken by Alfredo de Fendrica on 13th Octoner, 1917 at Fatima, Portugal; also for the following details, most of which were published in the AFSR many years ago . . . .

About noon a bright disc, taken by many for the sun, appeared in zenith in a blue patch of sky on a rainy day at Fatima, Portugal on October 13th, 1917. It could not have been the sun because the eyewitnesses looked at it without being dazzled. Neither was the photographic negative destroyed by the disc's light.

The globe made abrupt movements, casting beams in a fantastic array of colour on the ground. After three or four minutes the disc stopped and then again resumed its movements. Then a third 'dance in the sky,' and the disc began to plunge upon the crowd in a zig-zag manner causing immense panic. Waves of heat came from the globe of such intensity that wet clothes got dry. After this the ' sun ' stopped short of its fall and climbed back to the place in the sky where it had first appeared.

Dr. Almeida Garrete, Professor at the University of Coimbra, wrote: " . . . the radiant ' sun ' had pierced the thick curtain of clouds which held it veiled. I myself tried to look straight at it and saw it looking like a well defined disc, bright but not blinding. I heard people around comparing it to a dull silver plate."

Alphonso Lopes Vieira, the poet, watched the phenomenon from Sao Pedro de Muel, 30 miles from the village of Fatima. " I was surprised and charmed by a spectacle in the sky, truly astounding, for me entirely unheard of, which I witnessed from this balcony," said Vieira.

The presence of heat and light rays emitted by the object discards the idea of a ' supernatural ' phenomenon, used later by the Church[2].

However, the display of a fall of roses watched by hundreds of peasants was unique, as it broke all concepts of perspective and dimensions. The falling roses were becoming smaller rather than bigger as they descended upon the crowd, against all laws of perspective, and they were disappearing before reaching the heads of the watching people.

Greenwich and Pic du Midi in the Pyrenees swore that the sun was in its proper place on that day and did not take any voyage in space. The fact that the Fatima object was clearly observed 30 miles away can give a clue to its size.

It is understood that a motion picture was taken of the Fatima object showing its manoeuvres and was shown in Paris as a documentary film between the years 1917 to 1920 or so. When the ' Miracle of Fatima ' was adopted and used by the Catholic Church, the film disappeared and its existance kept a close secret ever since.

E. A. I. MACKAY

[1]On 7th April, 1973 at Kensington Central Library to members of BUFORA.

[2]Le Prodige inoui de Fatima—by Rev. Fr. V. Montes de Oca, C.S.Sp.

ASSOCIATION NEWS

It augurs well for 1973 that another large UFO organisation sees fit to approach BUFORA with a view to further collaboration. The Chairman of CONTACT, the Hon. Brinsley Le Poer Trench, recently approached BUFORA's Chairman, Roger Stanway, with the suggestion that CONTACT and BUFORA co-operate more closely in the future. We have always maintained a friendly relationship with CONTACT but an expansion of this nature, having regard to CONTACT's present international scope, could develop into a most interesting world-wide link-up.

Another Group with whom BUFORA is in friendly and co-operative contact is Interstellar Research, who have rapidly acquired a sound reputation in the field of technological research. We are also on equally helpful terms with APRO, the U.S. Group, and are hoping to expand our mutually advantageous contacts to the European Federation of UFO societies. It is unfortunate that more groups and societies in the United Kingdom do not exhibit such a spirit of friendly participation and agree to differ on minor details in an amicable manner, otherwise sceptics and shut-minds will never be convinced that Ufologists are not just a collection of petty cultists arguing over irrelevancies. If we wish to preserve the image of sensible down-to-earth researchers, we must present a united front, at least.

At the Committee Meeting in December it was decided that some effort must be made to encourage members to participate more in the research activities of BUFORA which will otherwise soon degenerate into a mere entertainments organisation. To this end Mr. Charles Lockwood has been appointed Projects Officer (as reported in the Autumn Journal) and it is hoped that members will show their enthusiasm for genuine research by contacting Mr. Lockwood. It is also planned to appoint a Liaison Officer, who will link up members with similar aptitudes and interests. A further announcement regarding this position will be made shortly.

You may have noticed that BUFORA has been making an effort to advertise in widely diverse magazines and journals and so far there has been an encouraging response from the scientific sector. Unfortunately we are not in a financial position to advertise as often as we would like—donations specifically for this purpose are always most welcome!

Whilst reflecting on articles in the Autumn Journal, my mind wandered to the various way-out theories put forward from time to time, in particular the classic " we are being controlled by aliens." I remembered an item I had seen by Robert Chapman, entitled: " Could animals one day have jobs in our factories?" Mr. Chapman explained how a new animal training system called Behavioural Engineering Technique (BET for short) could be used to teach almost any species of mammal, bird or fish to do any task of which it was physically capable. BET involves coaxing animals to catch on by persuading them to respond to buzzer signals and food rewards. But to me the significant point was that the animals " never catch a glimpse of their trainers, who watch from behind a one-way mirror."

Gradually, as weeks pass, the animals realise what they are supposed to do and eventually appear to enjoy their tasks. I do not seriously believe that any aliens are manipulating us (mankind is always making excuses for its own shortcomings) but at the same time there is a rather nasty feeling that it could be done " without a glimpse of our trainers." The only comforting thought is that we are already manipulated so much by our own masters—politicians, financiers, etc.—that any hopeful aliens would hardly get a look-in. Unless, of course, *our* masters are likewise being manipulated . . .

A number of people have pointed out the similarity between the experiences of astronauts and UFO contactees—they either seem to end up with nervous breakdowns or go all philosophical! In many instances there appears to have been an expansion of consciousness—an out-of-this-world experience literally or indirectly—which some can take and some can't. It was astronaut Ed Mitchell who made history by conducting a private experiment in telepathy from the moon. At predetermined times he concentrated on certain geometric shapes while four ESP experts back in Chicago tried to " tune in." The results were said to be " staggering." Since then he has set up an ESP research company and is claiming extraordinary results, especially in telekinesis. He is also editing a book on ESP and psychic phenomena. Colonel James Irwin also seems to have gone in for space age religion and the possibilities of expanding consciousness. Buzz Alldrin is now living in seclusion and is writing a book on his space travel experiences. We are told the astronauts were handpicked for their maturity, intelligence, balanced personalities and physical fitness—representing the finest type of earth man. So surely their opinions are worth considering? Of the UFO contactees, some have fallen by the wayside but others still hold to their stories. Are we to disregard them completely? It is a perplexing question which may never be solved.

BETTY WOOD

———o———

For use of Skywatchers, a caravan has been sited at Warminster. The caravan is a four berth Eccles Bounty.

Cutlery, crockery, four blankets and cushions are provided. Provision of bed linen, towels etc. are the responsibility of the user.

The caravan is sited at the Woodcock Caravan Estate, Woodcock Road, Warminster.

For bookings and further information apply:—

Mrs. M. CAREY,
61 Corton,
Nr. Warminster, Wilts. S.A.E. please

or for information only:—

Mr. A. WEST,
49 Mill Road,
Burgess Hill, Sussex.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

31 Limpsfield Avenue,
Thornton Heath,
Surrey,
CR4 6BG.
28.12.72.

The Editor, BUFORA Journal,
3 Devenish Road, Weeke,
Nr. Winchester, Hants.

Dear Sir,

Having read the BUFORA Journal Vol. 3 No. 8, I am pleased to see that a long overdue reorganisation of the society is now under way, and I would like to offer some ideas for consideration. These are as follows:—

1. A central core of members covering as wide a field of science as is practical, whose sole job would be to evaluate the most interesting cases of UFO sightings.

2. More attention paid to those researchers who require advice or assistance during investigations. I feel particularly strongly on this point as I have submitted several reports all of which required replies and to date not only have the reports not been acknowledged but I have received no further advice. As a result there may be duplication of effort in chasing up leads in cases, perhaps more members would give up time to help with the paper work involved in this matter.

3. In order that more meetings may be held maybe members could offer to hold these localy in their houses where numbers permit. This would also avoid the costs of hiring a hall etc., as well as catering for the remote areas where there would be too few members to warrant the hire of a hall for the evening. I believe this would bring more ideas out as there would be more discussion of various items.

4. On the point of advertising the society and its meetings would it not be possible to utilise the notice boards of places such as libraries and churches where there is only a nominal charge for space used.

5. Under the present reorganisation perhaps it would be advisable to hold a special meeting to discuss solely the methods of research and investigation with special regard to what action may be taken by those in areas where no sightings occur or where there are more researchers than is really necessary.

6. A special journal available by subscription only to cover the most interesting cases. The journal would also cover technical articles associated with UFO's. I feel a reasonable magazine could be produced for about 30-40p a very small sum in this day and age.

I hope that these ideas may be useful or at least provoke further thought on the various aspects raised.

Yours faithfully,

A. TREAYS.

14 Grey Ladies Gardens,
Wat Tyler Road,
Blackheath,
London SE10 8AU.
Tel : 01-691 1109
6th February, 1973.

Dear Sir,

I would like to make the following report of an incident which occurred this morning.

At 5.05 a.m. this morning I was walking my dog on Blackheath. It was still dark and the sky was clear except for a few high cloud patches to the north. My attention was attracted by a bright white light, slightly larger than any star in the sky, travelling slowly from west to east. Blackheath is quite high and you can see for a long way over South London. The light was over the Lewisham area.

After watching it moving for about two minutes I noticed that it stopped abruptly. The light then turned to an amber colour and grew quickly to a size approximatly $\frac{3}{4}$ that of the moon and remained still in the sky for a few minutes and every few seconds it " flashed " from the large light back to the original size and then back again.

Next the light divided into 2 small yellow lights, larger than any stars but they seemed to be " attached " *i.e.* **OO**. The pair of lights moved slowly off going back along the path the light had originally come. After about a minute the lights " turned off " and I saw them no more. I do not consider the lights were connected with any aircraft as they moved too slowly and made no sound and aircraft do not hover! I'm not sure of the height but it was around 2000ft. I would guess.

I hope this report is of value.

Yours sincerely,
ANNE TICKNER. (Mrs.)

" BUFORA receives regular requests to provide speakers from various groups and societies and the current list of members who are able and willing to give occasional talks in their own areas is rather limited in numbers. If there are any other members willing to help in this direction their names and addresses (and phone numbers if possible) would be gratefully received by:—

Miss P. M. A. KENNEDY,
30 Vermont Road,
Upper Norwood, London SE19 3SR."

NEWS FROM THE CHAIRMAN

At last BUFORA is in a position to concentrate its efforts on improving and rationalising its methods of investigations and research following the completion of the reorganisation of the Association's administration and finances during the past year. I hope that members will be impressed and encouraged by the following recent developments, which I summarise below.

DR. ALLEN HYNEK'S VISIT TO LONDON.

Several Committee members had the privilege and pleasure of meeting Dr. Hynek at a reception held by the international publishers Abelard-Schuman on the 25th October to launch the publication in this country of Dr. Hynek's eagerly awaited book—" THE UFO EXPERIENCE." Needless to say the book is a must for all ufologists and one which can be recommended without hesitation to scientists and laymen alike. Every member can help to ensure its wide distribution by asking local libraries to place a copy on their bookshelves. It was perhaps a pity that Dr. Hynek's visit was so short and hectically crowded with press interviews that there was no opportunity to arrange a special BUFORA lecture meeting at which members could listen and talk with him. Nevertheless, I did manage to spend several productive and informative hours with this distinguished scientist and he expressed his delight that BUFORA was increasingly using scientific methodology and was in the process of instigating specialist research projects. He has often advised that specialisation is the key to effective UFO investigation and research. I am sure we all admire his courage in writing frankly and forcefully upon such a controversial subject and wish his endeavours every possible success for we all have a vested interest in the book being read by as many people as possible.

UFO RESEARCH.

Congratulations to Mr. Charles Lockwood of Nottingham on his appointment as Research Projects Officer and who will be working in close association with the Research Director, Mr. Anthony Pace. Mr. Lockwood would like to hear as soon as possible from any member who would like to help in any way with research projects.

Correspondence should be addressed to Mr. Lockwood at the Research Headquarters, Newchapel Observatory.

In case any misunderstanding may have arisen as a result of the Editorial in the last issue, it should of course be remembered that the personal views of the Editor are expressed in the Editorial and that BUFORA accepts as one of its working hypotheses the possibility that UFO events may represent contact with an advanced technology, probably of extra-terrestrial origin. Although, at present, this is no more than a hypothesis, no decision has yet been made to abandon it as such. I hope members will welcome the return of the Research Bulletin and help to make it a worthy complement to the JOURNAL.

ADVERTISING IS PAYING OFF.

BUFORA has now introduced an annual advertising campaign following the remarkable success of the test run in October, November and December, 1972.

BUFORA has adopted a policy of advertising regularly in selective publications with the twin objectives of increasing both the membership and the general awareness of the Association's existence amongst the press and public. We have placed a half page advert in FATE magazine, which has also kindly offered to print notices of our lecture meetings in each month's edition free of charge. Adverts have also appeared in " PRIVATE EYE," to catch the attention of many of its readers who are journalists. Most successful of all were the four small insertions in the personal column of THE NEW SCIENTIST which, up until Christmas, had produced 90 replies from readers, a considerable number of whom are currently involved in university research work or are employed in high-technology industries. Let us hope that many of these interested enquirers join BUFORA, and more importantly, that BUFORA can hold their interest and provide sufficient research and investigative work to utilise their talents and skills.

The only set back to our campaign has been the regretable refusal of the British Astronomical Association to allow any adverts connected with UFO's to appear in their excellent JOURNAL, which reaches almost 6000 readers every two months. This is particularly disappointing as BUFORA could well do with the help, advice and support of not only the B.A.A. itself but of its many experienced and knowledgeable members, a number of whom could have had a UFO experience themselves.

EXHIBITING BUFORA AND UFOs.

On Saturday, 6th January, 1973, Patrick Moore, the well known amateur astronomer, author and TV personality, officially opened a large and impressive Astronomical and UFO Exhibition at the Hanley Museum in North Staffordshire. The exhibition, entitled " Space, the Final Frontier "—has been staged by the Stoke-on-Trent Astonomical Society under the guidance of Mr. Michael Pace, the brother of BUFORA's Research Director, and who is not only Secretary of the Stoke Society but a BUFORA member as well. The exhibition lasted for six weeks and literally thousands of people who came to see moon dust, space suits, a scale model of both a lunar command module and a space shuttle vehicle. The local press and radio gave the exhibition constant coverage and BUFORA received a large amount of publicity and new members who were no doubt influenced by the existence of a local branch. Although BUFORA does have some exhibition material there is still a vital need for a smart portable UFO exhibition which represents not only aspects of the UFO phenomenon but also BUFORA and its work. It is hoped to form a working party to design and construct something suitable. If any member is willing to help and has had experience of this type of publicity, please could he or she contact the Hon. Secretary, Miss Betty Wood. The Stoke Astronomical Society is to be congratulated on their open-mindedness and thanked for allowing the subject of UFOs and BUFORA to receive such welcome publicity.

FLYING SAUCER REVIEW AND CONTACT INTERNATIONAL.

It is important that BUFORA continues to build a close and co-operative relationship with other serious UFO organisations both in this country and abroad and BUFORA's officers welcome the increasing opportunities that are being created for mutual discussion particularly with Charles Bowen and his Editorial Board of FLIYNG SAUCER REVIEW, and the Hon. Brinsley Le Poer Trench, Chairman of CONTACT INTERNATIONAL and his fellow officers. The experienced and talented students of Ufology are very thinly dispersed and therefore we all rely on the help and constructive support which we can lend each other in our various ways.

In conclusion, may I thank you on behalf of your Committee for your continued support and take this opportunity to remind you that the Research Headquarters' Foundation Fund continues to grow and is still open to receive donations of either cash or equipment.

———o———

1973 NORTHERN REGIONAL CONFERENCE
PRELIMINARY NOTICE

The 1973 Northern Regional Conference is to be held during the afternoon of Saturday, 12th May, 1973, at the Wakefield Albany Inn (Exit 40 on M.1 Motorway). Further information will be forthcoming shortly.

———o———

The British UFO Research Association does not hold or express corporate views on UFO phenomena. The Editor and his contributors are solely responsible for views advanced over their names in this " Journal."

Articles and items for inclusion in the " Journal " must be sent direct to the Editor and not to other BUFORA officers. Requests for permission to reproduce material from the " Journal " should also be addressed to the Editor.

UFOLOG
(Sightings Supplement)

UFO sighting-reports intended for inclusion in UFOLOG should be sent direct to the compiler, as follows:—

MRS. K. SMITH,
" Ringlemere," Colwell Road,
Colwell Bay, Isle of Wight.

A large percentage of all UFO reports relate to misidentified man-made artifacts or natural phenomena. " Journal " readers must decide for themselves whether or not a given sighting ought to be assigned a conventional explanation or retained in the " Unknown " category.

To assist them in reaching a decision, each report bears a number, i.e. 3/5/4, which implies Volume 3, Number 5, Report 4. Reports appearing in a given issue of the " Journal " will be thus identified in future issues, when a verdict on each report will be delivered in the light of subsequent enquiries by BUFORA investigators.

Only Major sightings can be evaluted fully. Minor sightings will, when possible, be subjected to appraisal.

It has been decided to confine the contents of UFOLOG to sightings reported within the compass of the British Isles, since investigation of foreign reports ought to devolve upon UFO societies operating in the countries concerned.

J. C-B.

Ref. : 3/9/1. *Time* : 2130 hrs.
Date : 8th October, 1972. *Location* : Nr. Bedford.

A strange object was seen by Mr. and Mrs. W. Brown, while they were travelling by car from Northampton to Bedford at about 2130 hrs. on the 8th of October, 1972.

This object was observed for half an hour as they travelled south on the A824 and they claimed that it remained stationary in the sky during the whole of that period, at an angle of approximately 45°. It was described as the size of a football at arms length (this could well be an over-estimation due to a misunderstanding of the apparent size of objects at arms length (K.S.),) and triangular in shape with flashing lights outlining the triangle. The lights were white, the brightness of stars of magnitude 2, and three on each side of the triangle flashing in a clockwise direction. From the base line of the triangle hung three more lights appearing to project vertically downwards from beneath the object. The witnesses could not say if these lights flashed in relation to the others. And there appeared to be no solid object supporting these lights as there was with the triangle above.

Mrs. Brown was the first to see the object through the windscreen of the car and she pointed it out to her husband. At first he failed to see anything, but after stopping the car they were able to sit and watch it together.

They eventually continued their journey, losing sight of the object in the glare of Bedford lights.

Ref. : 3/9/2. *Time* : 1845 hrs.
Date : 20th October, 1972. *Location* : Wallington, Surrey.

On the 20th October, 1972, at about 1845 hrs., Mr. John Hedger noticed six bright, white lights in the sky. They made up a formation which was roughly hexagonal and they were individually recognisable as discs, not points of light.

They were in view for about three minutes, during which time they did not appear to move or to change colour, neither did the intensity of their light vary. Mr. Hedger said that the total formation was the size of the Moon.

After this time cloud which had been moving towards the objects finally obscured them. The cloud coverage was about 6/8 and witness did not see the lights again.

Ref. : 3/9/3. *Time* : Night time.
Date : Not given. *Location* : Oldham, Lancs.

A report from the " Oldham Evening Chronicle." October 20th, 1972.

Works policeman John Byrne just couldn't believe his eyes. Hovering 300ft. above the works was a massive disc-shaped object which sent a pang of fear through him. And as he stood watching, the object turned sharply on its side and shot off into the sky.

Now sketches of the object John saw hovering above Ferranti's Cairo Mill, Waterhead, will be studied by experts at Jodrell Bank tracking station in Cheshire.

Meanwhile the identity of the object, described by John as about 100 feet accoss and topped by a massive bell-shaped dome, remains a mystery. John Byrne (43) a married man, of Sunfield Way, Lees, saw the object just before midnight on a recent routine patrol of his works' check points. He said, " I just had been to the clocking point in the bicycle shed in the works yard. It was a clear sky and the weather was good. The thing that attracted my attention was a humming sound, like a generator in an enclosed room. It was quite loud and I looked round but couldn't see anything. I looked up and that's when I saw this massive great object like a huge disc. It looked to have a kind of window at the front and was giving off a blue flourescent-type light but there was no beam. It was about 250 to 300 feet above and hovering."

He continued, " It turned on its edge and I saw it was bell-shaped and it was giving off a bluey-white light from the dome. It turned very sharply on its edge, hovered like that for a minute, and sent straight up into the sky until it was only a blob of light. Then it vanished."

John ran to tell his colleague what he had seen and then rang Oldham police. He said, " I have heard of flying saucers but thought they were figments of the imagination. But this terrified me."

Mr. Alan Politt, works manager at the Cairo, said: " We don't really know what it was. It's certainly nothing we are making. I only wish Ferranti could make something like this."

Ref. : 3/9/4. *Time* : from early evening for 4 hrs.
Date : Not given. *Location* : Beoley, near Redditch.

A report in the " Sunday Mercury " of November 12th, 1972.

Police were last night investigating reports of an unidentified flying object sighting over a lonely stretch of Midland countryside.

The sighting was reported at Beoley, near Redditch, when a housewife and a young farmworker claimed to have seen three lights hovering about 600ft. in the air over a belt of woodland for a period of four hours.

Police from Henley-in-Arden visited the scene twice, and a spokesman said: " Two of our officers also saw these lights. They are still investigating the matter."

Last night, the farmworker, 15-year-old Keith Harris, of Ullenhall Lane, Beoley, said that he went to see the lights from the home of Mrs. Rita Tallis, who lives half-a-mile further up the lane, when she telephoned him. " I saw three lights—apparently from three separate vehicles—hovering backwards and forwards about 600 feet up half-a-mile from the back of Mrs. Tallis's house," said Keith. They " were like radiating lights and kept changing colour from red to white and back again. They kept hovering backwards and forwards—disappearing over the horizon and reappearing again. Sometimes they were travelling very quickly and at other times quite slowly. We were watching them from the back garden and there was absolutely no sound from them."

Keith said that the lights were most active early in the evening, but they kept flying over the area for more than four hours. He said, " I am certain they were not planes otherwise we would have heard the noise from the engines."

Ref. : 3/9/5. *Time* : 1805 hrs.
Date : 8th November, 1972. *Location* : Cholderton,

A letter in the ' Salisbury Journal ' of 16th November, 1972.

As I drove down the A303 on my way to Cornwall last Wednesday evening, I saw what appeared to be a very bright star in the sky. I was about five minutes' drive past the junction of the A338 (near Childerton) when the light appeared.

It was on the right of the road and about 500 yards away when I first saw it, hovering about 400 feet up. There were two red lights in the sky which seemed to be encircling the " star " and moving very quickly. As I watched, the light came nearer and slowly sank to the ground where it passed from view. The whole area was lit up by its brilliance. It seemed to have a trail above it, possibly smoke. The time of this sighting was about 6.5 p.m.

I would be interested to hear from anyone as to what I saw, particularly the two red lights. They were too low and close together to be aircraft. One was directly opposite the other with the white light in the middle. When the object touched down out of my sight the two red lights departed skywards and vanished.

There was no engine noise from the direction of the lights.

CLIVE C. WEST,
Bude, Cornwall.

Ref. : 3/9/6. *Time* : 1815 hrs.
Date : 12th December, 1972. *Location* : Basildon.

Mr. T. W. Norris—a 48-year-old government officer, was standing outside his garage at 1815 hours, on Friday, December 15th, 1972. It was a cold evening, but the sky was clear and bright. After standing for about half a minute, Mr. Norris turned slightly and was surprised to see three large, very bright, orange objects suspended in the sky almost overhead. He watched for about 10 to 12 seconds while they moved away from him at very high speed.

There was no noise at all and he described tham as arrowhead or boomerang-shaped, having sharply defined leading edges but blurred trailing edges. Compared to the stars, he said, the objects were 50 times larger, and they moved a in V-formation, the centre object leading. They were last seen at about 25° above the horizon where they faded out.

UFOLOG APPRAISALS

Ref. : 3/8/1: Some of the description in this sighting is hard to follow. If the time was 2030 hrs. BST, then the objects causing the sighting, which were apparently at high elevation, would probably be reflecting the setting sun. Perhaps the culprit was a distorted weather balloon which burst under observation?

Ref. : 3/8/2.: An extremely interesting report. One might be tempted to invoke a Ball-lightning explanation—the weather conditions might also support this conclusion. On the other hand, although various sounds have been reported in connection with lightning ball events (hissing, humming, explosions, etc.), the intensity in this case is certainly most puzzling, unless the witnesses both had ultra-sensitive hearing. Obviously a complete report would give a sounder basis for evaluation.

Ref. : 3/8/3: 27.10.71—Suggest a high flying jet reflecting the rising sun. The two cylinder-shaped objects are reminiscent of an aircraft—the wing " breaking " the reflecting fuselage into two parts.

Ref. : 3/8/3: 19.12.71—If the same bright light did in fact remain stationary for 8 minutes. Then without any further information, it is difficult to account for any known object of phenomena which could behave in this way.

Ref. : 3/8/4: At face value this report has certain characteristics similar to those of the much publicised UFO filmed by the A.T.V. film crew on location at Enstone, Banbury, on 26th October, 1972.

Ref. : 3/8/5: Could this " Zepelin "-shaped object have been a daylight bolide? Residual " smoke " or a smoke trail is very characteristic of this phenomenon during the Day. A number of questions require to be answered here before we can be sure of anything.

Freak whirlwinds of this strength and duration, though not too commonly observed, have been reported on previous occasions in this country. Probably a meterological phenomenon.

Ref.: 3/8/6: Nothing in this report to rule out a manoeuvring aircraft.

Ref. : 3/8/7: Not a particularly exciting report. The most likely explanation is an aircraft or a number of these.

A. R. PACE.

JOURNAL EDITOR
SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT

RETIREMENT

After eight successful and memorable years as Editor of the BUFORA JOURNAL, John Cleary-Baker has decided to retire as Editor after serving the Association with unstinting loyalty and conscientiousness throughout the whole of this time, and his resignation was formally accepted by your Committee at its recent meeting on the 3rd February, 1973. We are all immensely grateful to John for all that he has done for the Association throughout his time as Editor and your Committee is delighted that he has agreed to accept the position of BUFORA's official historian, a position which he is eminently suited and qualified to fill. A tribute will be appearing in a forthcoming issue of the JOURNAL. John has kindly agreed to remain as Editor until 31st March in order to ensure continuity and the successful publication of the Spring issue.

APPOINTMENT

One of the main reasons for your Editor's resignation is the heavy burden which is cast upon the shoulders of someone who has the task of producing a regular publication single handed as so much depends on the support of others. Therefore, your Committee will be considering the merits of establishing a small Editorial Board in order to spread the responsibility and work load. Therefore, your Committee would like to hear from members who would like to be considered for appointment to the Board and who would be jointly responsible for the publication of the JOURNAL. We should be particularly interested to hear from any member who has a scientific or technical background.

Applications should be in writing and addressed to the Hon. Secretary, Miss Betty Wood, to reach her no later than 31st March, 1973. As a guideline, applications should contain the following information:—

> Age; occupation; hobbies; length of time of UFO interest and active involvement; willingness to type and correspond regularly; summary of the tasks and improvements which you would undertake and effect as Editor or member of an Editorial Board and how you propose to implement them. Copies of examples of articles which you have written on UFO or non-UFO subjects should also accompany your application.

Needless to say, your Committee would be pleased to hear from any member who would be interested, and Betty Wood will be happy to supply any further information which may be required.

ROGER H. STANWAY
Chairman, BUFORA
9.2.73.

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