

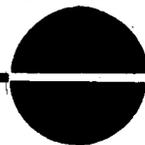


BUFORA

BULLETIN

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British UFO Research Association

JUNE 84

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out the United Kingdom. 2. To
collect and disseminate evidence
and data relating to unidentified
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out the United Kingdom and to
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JUNE, 1984

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Chairman: Arnold West

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NEWS

Council met at the LONDON BUSINESS SCHOOL on Saturday, 4th February, 1984 and heard with regret that Bob Digby was to resign after just 14 months as BUFORA's Chairman. He has been offered a contract by his employer, British Telecom, to work in Saudi Arabia for a year - a post which he took up on March 15th. Arnold West, Vice-Chairman, succeeds him and agreed to hold office, pro tem, and at least until the December, 1984 AGM.

Council thanked Bob for all his work on its behalf. He will still maintain his interest in BUFORA's affairs and hopes to attend meetings when in the UK - which looks as if it might be quite frequently, given his very generous leave allowance! Bob also resigned his seat on Council, a post that will be filled during the year, and as Editor-in-Chief of JTAP. The latter job was advertised in the April issue of that journal.

MEMBERSHIP INCREASE

Christopher Pearson, co-opted as Treasurer in place of Hans Streuli, was introduced to Council and gave a brief resume of the Association's present financial position. He will provide Council with updated figures at regular intervals in order to keep it fully informed on its finances.

Twelve new members were elected, bringing Association membership to just over 300 - a slight, but very welcome improvement, over this time last year.

Publicity officer, Lionel Beer, said that the EASTEL/PRESTEL services were currently listing BUFORA lectures for March, April and May. The 1984 AQUARIAS GUIDE had just been published and contained a free display advertisement for BUFORA. This guide to UFO groups and fringe SF/Forcean organisations, etc., will be on sale in most major UK bookshops and is also available from Lionel.

He had been asked to run a weekly evening course on ufology beginning in June, 1984 for five weeks at the Mayfield Adult Centre, Putney. The viability of such a course was still under discussion since UFOs were not a recognised subject but the establishment of such a course would help to give it greater respectability. Council gave him its full support to go ahead with the scheme. (The course started on 4th June and details were contained in the April issue of JTAP - EDITOR).

Lionel said that he was also updating BUFORA listings in some 20 or so UK directories and also dealing with an item from the MS News Service in Brooklyn, New York, whose interests included astronomy and space.

He reminded Council that meetings of the Raelian Movement were held every second Tuesday in the month, except May, at 6.30-9.30pm at Friends House, Euston Road, London, NW1.

MORE PAPERS WANTED

John Barrett, Director of Publications, said that the printing of the February, 1984 BULLETIN was underway, and that this would be with members on time. He made a plea for more papers and articles for the BULLETIN both from Council members and their contacts and, through this written report, from Association members themselves. The loss of PROBE REPORT, and the increase in BULLETIN pages from 28 to 44 per issue, meant that the reserve of editorial material was being used up very rapidly and replacement material was now urgently required.

Jenny Randles, Director of Investigations, was ill and unable to attend the meeting. Her report to Council was presented by Lionel Beer.

This mainly concerned the press cuttings which are, of course, a useful guide to the amount of ufological activity throughout the UK. A total of 390 cuttings had been received during 1983 compared to 328 during 1982. For October, 1983 there had been 83 cuttings (of which 36 per cent were new cases) 68 in November (46 per cent new cases), 28 in December, (51 per cent new cases) and 22 in January, 1984 (82 per cent new cases). These showed a markedly upward trend, with the three months October-November, 1983 accounting for half of all new cases. The Investigations Department was now analysing the cases and, where appropriate, doing further research.

Council received a written report from Stephen Gamble outlining his proposals on how the Research Department, of which he is Director, might develop further. (Full report in next BULLETIN)

FUTURE PLANS

Council went on to discuss the auditing of the 1983 accounts and the date and timing of the 1984 EGM. It heard from John Spencer that, from enquiries he had made of the Charity Commissioners, there was little prospect of the Association receiving charitable status. This led to a discussion on whether or not the Association should now relinquish its present role as a limited company which was expensive to maintain and offered few benefits.

On a much wider issue Council talked over a possible plan of activities and aims to take it into the late 1980s. It also discussed co-options to Council, the Danish UFO Congress to be held at Mellerup in July, 1984 and BUFORA's proposed membership of ICUR. The possibility of computerising the Association's membership records and/or other material was also aired.

The April, 1984 Council meeting would again look at some of these items and, in particular, the five year plan of campaign, during the course of which - 1987 - ufology would mark its 40th anniversary.

In closing Council again wished Bob Digby the best of luck in his new job.

EVENING MEETING

After a quick drink, and an even quicker snack, Council members were in the lecture theatre at 6.30pm to hear John Mason Assistant Director, Meteor Section, British Astronomical Society, talk on "BRITISH FIREBALL SURVEY: THE FIRST FOUR YEARS."

Arnold West chaired what was, by recent standards, a poorly attended meeting. The members and guests who had made the effort to come along heard a fascinating talk and one very relevant to the study of UFOs for which fireballs could be, and often were, mistaken.

The solar system, said Mr Mason, apart from containing planets, the sun and minor astral bodies was also filled with asteroids, dust and rock fragments - the latter ranging in size from beach shingle to 400 miles in diameter. There were also micro-meteoroids, comets and shooting stars of which fireballs were a larger and much more spectacular relation. A very busy and highly dangerous place our solar system!

A rock fragment, be it pin head, football or double-decker bus size, once dragged into the earth's gravitational pull, burnt up; the pin heads became shooting stars and the larger rocks became fireballs which took from five to 10 seconds to burn and were much more brilliant.

Astronomers used the term "magnitude" to describe the degree of brilliance; magnitude - $3\frac{1}{2}$ approximated roughly to the brightness of Venus, magnitude - $12\frac{1}{2}$ to that of the moon. The speed of fireballs varied - 20,000 mph for the slower variety, 60,000-70,000mph for the remainder. These tremendous speeds often gave the on-looker the impression that the object was hardly moving at all. Spectacular and often very frightening in appearance, they were invaluable in that when they fell to earth they did so as meteorities, which were useful aids in calculating the age and history of the solar system.

Mr Mason went on to look at the data collection techniques.

Photographs were important since they could be analysed to give the orbit of the object around the solar system, its height and trajectory. Special cameras, or even batteries of cameras, could be so arranged that they monitored the sky and recorded the phenomenon. Some would pick up other astral objects also, but the "all sky" camera which was based on a convex mirror and, as its name implies, views all the sky, picked up fireballs only. Climatic conditions in the UK were not always ideal for this sort of viewing, but in certain parts of the USA it was possible to photograph the sky on as many as 320 clear nights a year.

GREAT BALLS OF FIRE

Fireballs were much more common than was generally supposed. One of the magnitude -6 or -7 might be seen every 20 hours; one of -12 (as bright as the Moon) might occur every seven to eight weeks and one of the magnitude -18 (which incidentally would weigh about $3\frac{1}{2}$ tons) might be seen every five to six years. Nevertheless, 99.9 per cent of all fireballs managed to burn themselves up in the atmosphere, and only .1 per cent produced a meteorite.

A fireball emitting a bright but fluctuating light would be higher in the sky than one producing a bright, steady light. When the latter fell to about 20km or less in height it almost invariably produced a meteorite, but, depending on the terrain overflown by the fireball, this was not always recoverable. In parts of the world, such as Antarctica, a fallen meteorite would stand out vividly against the background, but in densely wooded or rocky areas, its retrieval would be impossible. There were two types of meteorite retrieval, one where the position of the fireball's fall was known and the meteorite could be located; the second was where the meteorite was simply found, perhaps long after the fireball had passed by.

Mr Mason discussed the case histories of some of the fireballs seen over the UK, beginning with that in Caernarvonshire, Wales on 21st September, 1949, which had actually caused structural damage to buildings.

December - particularly around Christmas time - was noted for fireball displays. He mentioned that at Barnwell, near Coventry on Christmas Eve 1965. This had split into two, and had also given off a low whistling sound - which, in astronomical terms, placed it into the category of a bolide. A member of the audience said that he had actually seen and heard this particular fireball.

The Bovade fireball (24th April, 1969) had been viewed by scores of witnesses, many at a great distance from the object itself. He explained that a large burning object, high up in the sky, would be more readily detected by those further away from it, whereas low cloud might obscure it from local onlookers. Meteorites, if they fell, did not always do so directly under the flight path of the fireball itself. They could be dispersed for some considerable distance to the right or left.

A brilliant fireball, magnitude -17, had over-flown north-west England (Chester/Sheffield) on 4th April, 1980. This spectacular sighting, which many witnesses in this highly populated region, had identified as an aircraft on fire, attracted wide publicity.

A further sighting later that year, just after 9pm on Christmas Day, had again been witnessed by many thousands of people. It had crossed from France to the West Sussex coast, broken into fragments over Eastbourne and finally extinguished itself above the Thames estuary. It had been visible for much longer than was normal (30-60 seconds) and reports of its flight path, which must have been about a 1000 miles long, had come from San Lazaire in France and Morocco. From Belgium, which was way off the object's course, had come a report of someone picking up samples of titanium from their garden, a metal found almost exclusively in Russia. As a result there had been speculation that what had been seen was not a fireball at all but the burning up on re-entry of the Russian satellite COSMOS 749. The titanium was later analysed and found to be no more than prosaic pvc - the story had been a hoax. It had had the effect, however, of side-tracking the investigation by some three weeks.

(EDITOR'S NOTE: December, 1980 was a very busy time for sky-watchers. December 25th: the fireball; December 27th-29th the Rendlesham Forest sighting plus a meteor in the same area December 29th: the Cash/Landrum encounter in Daynton, Texas. Coincidence?)

The following year there were two further fireball sightings. On 25th May, 1981 one, at low entry (15km) flew over Bournemouth/Cardiff to fall in the Black Mountains region of Dyfed, Wales. This had given off a sonic boom two or three minutes after it passed over Cardiff. The difficult nature of the area (boulders and forests) made any retrieval of the meteorite (which could be as small as a walnut) impossible.

Four months earlier - 13th January, 1981 - at 22.50 a very bright, in excess of magnitude -12 fireball, passed over northern France. There is no astronomical organisation there for collecting evaluating data, and nothing more is known about this object.

HELP WANTED

Mr Mason appealed both for international co-operation in recording the phenomenon, and for people to report what they had seen. People would not report fireballs (in the same way that many would not report UFOs) for fear of ridicule - especially since fireballs, once their oxygen molecules returned to a non-excited state, often gave off a brilliant green light - a colour fatally associated in everyone's mind with "little men."

Mr Mason said that he was always amazed by the number of people who came up to him at lectures to report a sighting undivulged until then.

It was vital, he said, that sightings be recorded within 72 hours of their happening, before the witness's impression faded

or was altered by media reports. The crucial thing was to record what the witness had actually seen, not what he or she had thought they had seen, or been told that they had seen.

THE LOCH NESS MYSTERY

The evening meeting on 3rd March, 1984 had for its speaker Adrian Shine, Chairman of the Loch Ness and Morar Project who posed the question THE LOCH NESS MONSTER. A CASE TO ANSWER. Lionel Beer was in the Chair.

Those among the 50 or so members and guests present who had hoped either for lots of movie footage and/or photographs of "Nessie" or definite corroboration that she (they?) was alive and well and living in Loch Ness left disappointed. Life's mysteries are not that easily resolved! Those who came with less dramatic expectations heard a talk which, whilst certainly not proving the existence of the Loch Ness monster, produced evidence to suggest that an anomaly at least existed in the Loch.

Mr Shine began by examining some of the classic photographs (Gray, Lachlan Stewart, Wilson) taken over the 22 years 1933-1955. In not one instance could it be claimed however that what was shown on the picture was incontrovertibly the monster itself. The lighting, the wave formations, the shadows, the clouds, the foliage (or the lack of some or all of them) cast doubts on the authenticity of the subject depicted, be it humps, wake, flipper, head or neck. Ufologists (particularly those involved in the photographic side of the phenomenon) will have no difficulty in sympathising deeply with the difficulties of photographic interpretation!

Underwater time lapse photography in the 1970s had revealed what might, or might not, be the monster's flipper and a head of gargoyle appearance, but neither were clear enough to act as admissible evidence. Indeed, Mr Shine's slide of the "head" could equally as well have been a piece of misshapen driftwood. The movie film shot by Tim Dinsdale in 1960 of an animate object moving rapidly across the Loch's surface was still considered important, but even it was open to varying interpretations.

That, even after 50 years, so little had been produced from Loch Ness in the way of tangible evidence, caused the Project to move its work to Loch Morar. There the conditions for investigation (Loch Morar has its own history of similar sightings) were very much better, the water is smoother, and clearer and its location nearer to the sea provides an excellent entrance/exit for lake animals. Work there, however, proved no more rewarding. With the continuing lack of progress, said Mr Shine, the Project turned its examination away from that of monsters to that of the environment and looked at the conditions which would need to exist if a monster (or monsters) could survive.

This seems an eminently sensible piece of research to undertake. The team returned to Loch Ness for this study.

Specialised vessels were built containing sonar monitoring equipment, a 24 hour watch was kept on the Loch and investigations undertaken to examine its marine life. Echo soundings revealed an abundant fish population (trout, char, eels, salmon, salmon parr and even pike) to a depth of at least 30m: char had also been taken from the Loch bed at 220m. Plankton and small insects existed in large enough quantities to support the fish themselves, thus establishing a viable food chain.

The Loch, at 750ft deep, provided ample living space, its bed showed there to be plenty of oxygen and the waters were stable with no organic 'fall-out.' Loch Ness did not freeze over, even in the severest winter, but remained at a constant 5.6°C. So, a large marine animal could survive quite happily and this was of prime importance in the establishment of its existence.

But does it in fact exist?

As Mr Shine pointed out there was certainly no scientific evidence to suggest that it did; the photographs and films were highly ambiguous and there were still no authenticated traces (ie. footprints, droppings or even a dead carcass or bones).

However, in the summer of 1982 the Furoro 106A and the Simrad SY sonar devices tracked at much greater depths (down to 122m) than the fish shoals at 30m, large, single target echoes of great strength. Some of the contacts suggested vertical movements, and one, detected in Urquhart Castle basin at 1725 on 16th May, 1982, was tracked for 68 seconds and appeared to have dived from 69 to 114m, a speed of 0.8m/sec.

Any large creature, said Mr Shine, would register itself in just the way that the sonar equipment had indicated. The echoes were clearly not those given off by fish, inanimate objects in the Loch or freak, side-wall returns. The Furoro had picked up 12 contacts and the Simrad 28.

These contacts, he said, were of considerable value in determining what, if anything, inhabited the Loch and work on solving the anomalies was continuing.

There was a case to answer; although the answer itself might not be what people expected, or had anticipated, over the last half century.

Members who would like to know more about the Loch Ness & Morar Project should write to Box 1, Loch Ness Centre, Drumna-drochit, Inverness-shire, Scotland, enclosing a s.a.e.

UNSCIENTIFIC

For my own part I should be delighted, should 'Nessie' exist if she were left in peace, although I know that my view is totally unscientific, and possibly even reactionary.

Exploited, ("Nessie Against the Bomb"?) examined, photographed, probed, publicised and filmed, and with no other prospect than to spend the remainder of her life gawped at in some aquarium would be an intolerable fate for her. Much better that she remain in her watery home, blissfully ignorant of what we would almost certainly do to her in the name of progress should she be so foolhardy as to allow herself to be captured.

Happily, however, I don't think for a moment that she will!

SPRING COUNCIL

The Council meeting on 7th April resulted in a number of raised eyebrows and expressions of stunned disbelief from members confronted by the presence of ex-Chairman Bob Digby. No one was entirely convinced by his explanation that he was simply a hologram projection from Saudi Arabia - where he was supposed to have taken up a new job in mid March - and could, therefore, be totally ignored. The reason for his attendance, Council later learned, was a last minute hitch in his employer's plans. He remains in frustrating limbo, neither fully committed to remaining in the UK nor entirely convinced that he will shortly be leaving for Saudi. Members will be kept posted, of course, on his future movements - or lack of them!

Because of the uncertainty regarding Bob's future, Arnold West will remain as Chairman, and his Vice-Chairman, elected at this Council meeting, will be Stephen Gamble, BUFORA's Director of Research. A further election to Council at this meeting was that of Christopher Pearson, the Association's new Treasurer.

As always Council had an extensive agenda in front of it and promptly got down to its discussions.

The EMG called to pass the 1982-83 accounts was confirmed for the evening of Saturday, 2nd June, 1984. The Association also agreed to accept ICUR's invitation to become one of its group members.

The new Treasurer outlined the Association's present financial position, and explained the decisions taken at an executive sub-committee meeting held in March to streamline the accounting procedure. In particular there will be an even tighter control on expense claims, and those for items such as postage, photocopying and travelling (at least for fairly short distances) would no longer be allowed. Authorisation for allowable claims incurred by the departmental Directors for items needed for the functioning of their department would be more rigidly inspected. If that all sounds rather as if Council members have been indulging in some riotous living on subscription revenue, let me hasten to disillusion you! Mr Pearson was simply extending a policy introduced by Hans Streuli, for keeping a tighter rein on the Association's budget which is, in these hard ufological times, stretched to very near its limits by the demands (modest ones at that!) of the Publications, Research and Investigation departments. That Directors rarely claim out-of-pocket expenses for many items incurred on the Association's behalf, is probably known to most members anyway. - the Treasurer's ruling simply made it official.

INVESTIGATION AND RESEARCH

Jenny Randles' continuing ill-health prevented her from attending the meeting, and John Barrett presented her report to Council. This detailed the few new cases received by her department and dealt with the plans she had made to keep the department working during her operation and convalescence period. Council was very sorry to learn of her illness (which has dogged her since her return from the States last December) and sent her its best wishes for a full and speedy recovery.

Stephen Gamble outlined his research programme, the viability of which depended on funds being available. Its main outlines are published on page 00. In setting up the small, special interest sections to examine different groups of theories regarding the UFO phenomena, and the logistics involved in circulating and reporting back on the cases examined, Stephen said it was imperative that this be done correctly rather than quickly. Choosing the right people to chair the section and form the groups had already started, but work would not be hurried along for the sake of instant (and therefore probably totally misleading) results.

PUBLICATIONS AND PUBLICITY

John Barrett, Director of Publications, said that the April issue of JTAP had gone to the printers, and should be circulated by the end of the month. The Journal would now have 32 editorial pages (see BUFORA BULLETIN, November, 1983) and this issue would contain the first part of two lengthy features: "Solar And Extra-Solar Life - A New Hypothesis" by Ali Abutaha, and "Towards A PSI/UFO Interface" by Manfred Cassirer. A JTAP editorial

meeting to discuss the content of the October publication had been called for 5th May.

He again reminded Council members of the need to supply editorial material for the BULLETIN, and asked for contributions. Lionel Beer, Publicity Officer, reported a total of 25 EASTEL enquiries during February and March, 1984. In order to give extra publicity to BUFORA's monthly lectures he was taking advertising space in TIME OUT, CITY LIMITS and THE GUARDIAN.

He expressed concern that the article published in THE OBSERVER on 4th March, 1984 on UFO reports released by the Ministry of Defence, had appeared without his prior knowledge. He emphasised to all Council members the importance of liaising with him if, and when, they were approached by the press for statements.

OTHER BUSINESS

With the formal presentations over Council turned its attention to the remaining Agenda items. These included the 1984-85 lecture programme (any suggestions from members? What would you like to hear about? What don't you want to hear about?); the possible change in the company's limited status and the amendment to the Articles required to effect this, and the appointment of an official Association historian. Lionel Beer agreed to take on this task.

Council members then gathered up their papers and files and the non-participating South Arabian hologram which had wedged itself at an uncomfortable angle between the wall and window, and made for the lecture theatre and Jeremy Lockyer's talk on UFOs AND RELIGION.

AN IMPOSSIBLE TASK

Despite the much more comfortable surroundings of the new lecture venue attendance has, for some meetings, not been as large as those at Kensington. That for 7th April was the smallest yet. (Council would be very interested to learn from regular attenders their views on the location, and from those who have stopped coming - the reason why. Is it the lectures? The theatre? The cost? The location? The atmosphere? DO LET US KNOW PLEASE. We have a whole new session to plan and your views would be of great value)

Jeremy Lockyer, a local government officer, and a member of the Baha'i faith, spoke with particular reference to the messages given to contactees/abductees. Mr Lockyer has been a member of BUFORA since 1978 and of his religious faith - which is a 19th century offshoot of the Islamic religion - since 1979.

Arnold West was in the Chair.

Baha'i's have their world centre in Israel and among the central tenets of their faith are a belief in life on other planets, the need for world unity and world government, compulsory education and complete sexual equality. He emphasised that the ideas contained in the lecture were his own and not those of the faith itself.

I do not believe that UFOs and religion mix at all well since, in both instances, one is dealing with ephemereals about which each individual holds deep, but profoundly differing views. Certainly everyone in the audience could give his or her own arguments on what constituted a UFO, as, equally, all could define, if asked, the reasons for their religious beliefs, or their lack of them. To marry together these two such illusive themes and try to produce a coherent whole was beyond Mr Lockyer's undoubted capabilities, as it would be beyond those of anyone attempting so impossible a task.

His main premise, that for too long ufologists had looked only at the physical nature of UFOs and had ignored their spiritual significance. But, if one took an opposing view say, that UFOs do not exist, and that religion is meaningless mumbo-jumbo (and there may have been someone in the audience who sincerely held just these beliefs) then the entire scheme of trying to link one with the other, fails. It becomes equally untenable unless one believes that UFOs are of extra-terrestrial origin for earthlights or psychological or cultural beliefs, which might trigger the UFO phenomenon, cannot themselves manifest true spiritual messages either.

Mr Lockyer's arguments rest solely on ETH as being the answer to the phenomenon and not everyone would support that argument. However, it makes an interesting discussion point.

THE BIZARRE

Those who were spiritually aware, he said, were often appalled by the bizarre, often near blasphemous, stories surrounding UFOs. One is claimed to have hovered over the scene of the crucifixion and another, it is claimed, took Christ away at the time of His resurrection. Van Doniken's implication that God might have been an astronaut also clearly offended those who did not dismiss it as so much drivel.

But, said Mr Lockyer, if one listened to the messages from the aliens, it could be argued that what was being said (and done) was part of a scheme to make people aware of something beyond their present world. Science had surrounded man with the infrastructure to make life more pleasant, and man had taken full advantage of all the electronic luxuries. But, in so doing he had lost both his spiritual and moral values. Science and religion should work in harmony, like a tune, each exploring the appropriate part of man's nature - instead they opposed each other and science invariably won.

He touched briefly on one of the most famous contactee/abductee cases - that of Betty Andreasson, and said that in this particular instance it was difficult to know if her experience had been real (i.e. she had actually been abducted by aliens) or if what she claimed had happened resulted from her very deeply held religious beliefs. Her answers to questions under hypnosis could well have been conjured up as a result of the latter. Certainly her report of the eagle/phoenix might have stemmed from just such beliefs, for the phoenix had strong Christian connotations in that it was the symbol of St. John the Evangelist who, in turn, was the author of the Book of Revelations. Alternatively, however, Mrs Andreasson's story might be totally true, and she had been used by the aliens because her religious beliefs enabled her to put over their message in a much more articulate manner.

SPIRITUAL MAN

There was no doubt that spiritually, man wished both for a UFO landing and the arrival of some superior race able to solve the chaos mankind had made of almost everything. This, said Mr Lockyer, was unlikely. There was no need for a landing in Hyde Park and extra-terrestrial intervention, for man, if he explored his spiritual nature, already possessed all he needed to halt the chaos. "Little green men" might receive a welcome from some, but from others they would receive only the hostility and even death which often greeted the new ideas of great spiritual teachers (pace Mohammed and Christ). Life was a journey towards God in which the physical body acted as a repository for man's spiritual experiences. The Baha'i faith believed that the soul lived outside the physical body but was

linked to the spiritual body.

QUESTION TIME

Questions ranged over a wide variety of topics, the disparate nature of all world religions, the actual physical, as opposed to the spiritual side of many UFO sightings and experiences, the link between Marian and UFO sightings, the nature of the physical body and whether, in fact, UFOs were diabolical.

Mr Lockyer said that the differences in religions - their theory and dogma - simply reflected different aspects of the same God, and therefore a religious unity did in fact exist.

The essential teaching of the Baha'i faith was that its members search for their own truth, they were not, as in some religions, given strict theological diktats to follow.

An evening, as I hope I have briefly indicated, of unresolved, fragile arguments with the audience trying to capture the tenuous nature of both UFOs and religious beliefs, without any great success - well, no great success on my part at anyrate!

JB

(A REPORT ON THE MAY COUNCIL MEETING AND LECTURE
WILL BE PUBLISHED IN THE AUGUST ISSUE OF THE
BULLETIN).

STOP PRESS:

Bob Digby finally left for Saudi Arabia on Tuesday May 2nd. On the morning of Saturday, April 28th, he had appeared on TV am, together with Sergeant Tony Dodd of South Yorkshire constabulary who was interviewed by Henry Kelly on a number of UFO sightings in the area.

Mr Kelly asked viewers to write in with details of any sightings which they may have had and, if possible, to accompany these with photographs or film. It is hoped that this TV am slot may develop into something more permanent.

Bob Digby will be back in the UK for a brief holiday towards the end of June.





Time to mull over the proceedings of BUFORA's 3rd International Conference. From left to right: Ali Abu Taha, Robin Lindsey, Chairman Bob Digby and Dr. Hynek

Stanton Friedman who gave a talk entitled FLYING SAUCERS ARE REAL



PHOTO CALL



And, from 21 years ago Lionel Beer and his lady helpers at BUFORA's inaugural meeting in September, 1962.

CYNTHIA HIND, who lives in Zimbabwe, first became interested in ufology in 1968. She was later invited to become a member of MUFON (Mutual UFO Network) and subsequently became a Field Investigator and in 1981 was made International Co-ordinator for Africa.

She has lectured and written extensively on the subject and is considered the leading authority on African UFOs. Her book "UFOs African Encounters" was published in 1982.

In this article Mrs Hind looks at a famous case much nearer home.

THE EVIDENCE

Apart from the initial splurge of publicity which accompanied the 1977 Broadhaven (Dyfed) case, we have heard little since. It is true however that Hilary Evans did point out in an article in "Common Ground" and "Fate" magazine that his investigations, had caused him a great deal of misapprehension as to the truth of the story; BUFORA also had investigators on the spot who came up with different findings and I am surprised that the matter was allowed to rest there.

Mr Evans is undoubtedly a tried, careful and sincere investigator, and his findings were obviously not ones to be tossed aside lightly. His chief criticism, and rightly so, was the "sloppy reporting and uncritical belief" in some of the books written about the case. (1) For instance, I inadvertently booked in at the wrong hotel involved in the case, because it was wrongly labelled on Clive Harold's map.

But there is a great deal of bitterness in Broadhaven about the way the case was handled, since many of the witnesses are shown in a bad light, either as liars or misreported, and the matter has never been thoroughly checked with them. (2)

The Broadhaven case involves many witnesses, the main protagonists being Pauline and Billy Coombs and their five children, 15 children from Broadhaven Primary School; Rosa Grenville and her daughter Francine, and other fringe witnesses.

PAULINE AND BILLY COOMBS

Pauline Coombs' story started when she saw an unidentified light fall into the sea. Later she saw humanoids on Stack Rock (on the outer limits of St. Brides Bay) and finally, she and her husband Billy saw an entity peering in at their upstairs window.

There are several question marks against Pauline's story, more so in the nature of what was reality and what was not.

Her husband, who was not a witness to the actual UFO, was involved with the alleged teleportation of cattle. He has a conviction for theft but this does not make him a less reliable UFO witness.

Ludovic Kennedy in "10 Rillington Place" gives an excellent expose of the fallibility of British justice:

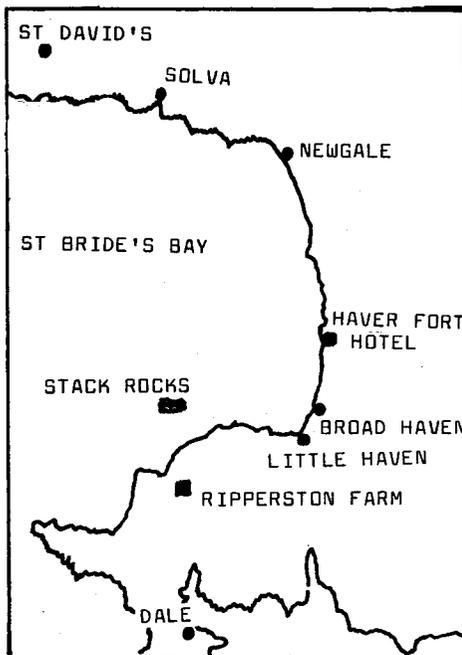
"The Crown has no obligation to give the defence the past criminal record of one of its witnesses when the nature of that record is irrelevant. If this were to become standard practice, many witnesses would refuse to give evidence." (3).

The inference is obvious. Many ordinary, normally law abiding citizens have something hidden in their past.

In "The Uninvited", Billy is reported as a farm manager of Ripperston Farm when in reality he was only a herdsman. But this surely is not a fault of his? Coombs is a poor man with a large, growing family. Was his slip from grace perhaps inspired by his situation. or is he just a thoroughly bad lot?

I whole-heartedly support the investigators who advocate the psychological approach to any witness, for surely it will influence the assessment of his/her character. For instance, is Billy Coombs a congenial liar, or a thief? If the latter does this mean that his word is subject to disbelief?

His main claim to fame was his story about the teleportation of cattle from one place to another. He reported that on several occasions there was evidence of cattle teleportation from Ripperston Farm to an adjoining one, events which I agree were not thoroughly investigated.



On one occasion, he said that he locked the cattle into their shed, and almost immediately after leaving them, received a telephone call from a neighbouring farmer to say that the cattle were milling around in his farm-yard.

Brian and Caroline Klass (the couple living next door to the Coombs') suggested that the cattle had moved across of their own accord. I visited Ripperston Farm although at that time the place appeared deserted and I could obtain no reply from either of the two herdsman's houses. It seemed to me though that the door of the shed could easily have been opened by pressure from a herd, and for that matter, the gate was a rather flimsy affair. None of the farms are very far from one another and whilst the roadway twists and winds narrowly among tall, thick hedgerows, the way over the fields could be quickly traversed by determined cattle. Nevertheless the time factor is of major importance.

How long would it take a herd of cattle to move from Ripperston Farm to Martin Chambers' farm, the next door neighbour? Were there other witnesses, and have these ever been questioned? So far, I have not spoken to Chambers to obtain his opinion. If Billy Coombs is unreliable what does Chambers have to say about it?

A story in one of the books was that one night a taller than two metre figure appeared at the upstairs window of the Coombs' cottage while Pauline and Billy were watching television. Hilary Evans says that villagers told him that this was a hoax - a joke.

The Coombs' maintained that they were visited by a white-suited entity who peered in at their window and that they subsequently called the police. Was this checked with the police, and, if so, what was their comment on the village story that the hoaxers were two Round Table members from Haverfordwest?

As an investigator, I have come across these silly jokers before, so I am not denying that it could have happened. But if they were from the Round Table, why not check it out? and if these people are known, they could certainly have better things to do in the field of service than frightening people!

HAVEN FORT HOTEL/ROSA AND FRANCINE GRENVILLE

Hilary Evans also maintains that Rosa Grenville was the victim of a hoax, but Rosa's reply was: "I can't see how anyone could have played a hoax on me, and anyway, it's the first time I have heard this rumour."

"I own a house about a mile from the hotel and I go there when I am off duty, so nobody would have known that I was staying at the hotel that night."

Rosa is referring to her own initial experience with the UFO. It was the night of 19th April, 1977, dark and cold. She was alone in the hotel since both her husband and daughter Francine were in Swansea for the night. The only guests were four architects who were accommodated at the far end of the hotel.

At about midnight, after the men had gone to bed, Rosa started to lock up. She went towards a fire-door overlooking a field which adjoins the hotel, when she noticed something unusual in the sky; a light rather like a over-large moon. It approached the hotel and as it did so, Rosa could see an object "like an upside-down saucer with a dome." She noticed bright coloured flames shooting out of the dome "like flames from a blow-torch" she said. As she watched, the object sank slowly to the ground about 18 metres away from where she was, and two men emerged from the flames, both clad in one-piece suits. They were humanoid but featureless, and they appeared to bend down and examine the earth. Rosa particularly noted that their arms and legs were very long, they certainly did not look like normal people.

Hurriedly Rosa went to the window and called out: "Hello there, what's going on?" Almost immediately however, realising the strangeness of the situation, she closed the window, feeling shaky and afraid.

She ran down the corridor to the bedroom of one of her guests and knocked at the door. The man did not awaken and Rosa had second thoughts. What a fool she would feel if she woke him up to see something as outlandish as this and then find it was all in her imagination!

She went back to the other end of the hotel and peered through the window again. The field was in darkness and there was nothing there.

Rosa told me: "I hadn't had anything to drink and I wasn't asleep. What I saw was real and I'll never forget it." Rosa could not sleep after her experience, she was too disturbed by what she had seen. At 4 am she got up and made herself some

tea. As it was nearly dawn, she put on her coat and went down to the field to examine it. Where the object had landed there was a circular area about 3½ metres by about 10cms deep which had been badly burnt. In the morning Rosa told her guests the story, but there were smiles all round and jests of "Take more water with it next time." She felt rebuffed and discouraged and decided to forget all about her experience.

Soon after, she discovered that she was not the only one to have seen the UFO. Pauline Coombs had also seen it and so had the children from Broad Haven County Primary School. Mr Evans says in his article: "The daughter of the proprietor of the of the Haven Fort Hotel is reported as seeking to change her bedroom because the windows rattled mysteriously" He was obviously critical of the report, and as it is worded rightly so. People do not change rooms because of "rattling window panes."

But the truth of what happened comes from Francine herself. "Early one morning, I was awakened by a noise that caused my window to shatter in a most violent way. I have never experienced anything like this before or since. Naturally I was startled and afraid."

Frankly, I don't think there was anything mysterious about this, although I can well understand that after what had happened, Francine would be afraid. The shattering was probably caused by one of the jets from the nearby air base, although why it should shatter on this occasion and not on others it is difficult to understand.

A few weeks before the UFO incident Rosa had the roof of her cottage adjoining the hotel, renovated. By then, the hotel had been open for five years and renovations were done by Mr Gurson of Haverfordwest. Shortly after Rosa's first sighting there was a bad storm and water began to seep into the cottage. Rosa again called in Gurson and he arrived almost immediately to look into the matter. When he climbed into the roof he was surprised to find that an area inside was badly burnt, something which, had it been there before, he would have noticed. The scorched area was well away from the cottage chimney; besides, a fire had not been lit in the cottage as it had not been in use. Both the Ministry of Defence official and Mr Randall Pugh (author of "The Dyfed Enigma") agreed that the burn marks were indicative of an intense heat.

UFOs often cause severe burning, even when flames are not seen. In my own investigations (Rosmead case, South Africa, 1972) a UFO landed on a tennis-court, severely damaging the surface and burning the front-side leaves off two trees facing the court.

BROAD HAVEN COUNTY PRIMARY SCHOOL AND THE CHILDREN

When I interviewed Mrs Beth Morgan of Broad Haven County Primary School she told me that on the day in question some of the children had come running into the class-room during the break period to tell her that there was a UFO outside in the grounds of the sewage farm. Mrs Morgan said: "Pull the other leg" and went on with what she was doing. It was only later when the children (10-11 year olds) persisted with the story that she began to take them seriously. Eventually she confronted Mr Llewellyn, the headmaster and he called in six of the children and asked them to draw what they had seen. The drawings were not entirely consistent but then surely if they had been, one could suspect collaboration? (FIGURES 1-3)

DRAWING BY PHILIP REES
AGED 10



FIGURE 1

DRAWING BY SHAUN GARRISON
AGED 11

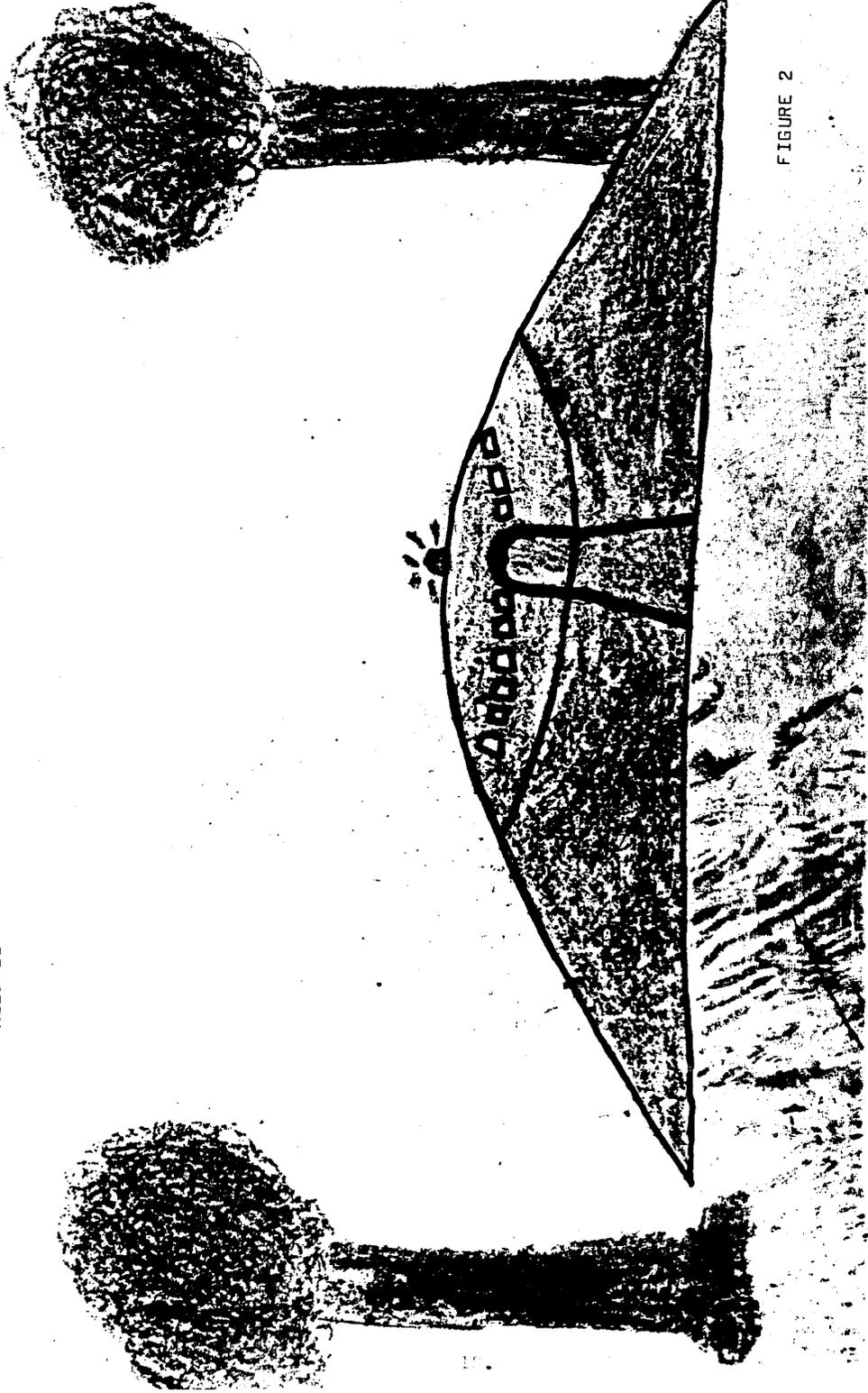


FIGURE 2

DRAWING BY DAVID DAVIES
AGED 11



FIGURE 3

David

However, the story has persisted over the years. Mrs Morgan has wide experience of child psychology and maintains that if it was a hoax or a lie, one of the children involved would have "spilled the beans" by now. The children are widely dispersed and I did not interview any of them, but I have seen the drawings. In his article Mr Evans feels that the children were misled.

"Farther up the valley there is a sewage plant. Some residents had suspected from the first that the children had seen some kind of plant vehicle engaged in some unusual operation."

I noted that when I was in the school with Mrs Morgan the grounds sloped considerably from high up to ground level. Those children on the upper parts of the playground would have seen the legs of the vehicles as they would not have been obscured by the hedge, hence the difference in the viewpoints. Mr Evans felt that they could not see clearly. This is not so; the section where the craft was situated is very clearly viewed from the playground and as the children indicated in their drawings, there are only a couple of trees, widely spaced, in this area.

What did interest me was that the fields are all marked off, and separated by thick hedges and small gates. If there were any plant vehicles engaged in unusual operations, one cannot help but wonder how they arrived there in the first place. I also discovered that the plant is unmanned during the year and examined twice yearly by the area management in June-July and again in December. The actual event occurred in February.

It also appears rather peculiar to me that with the wide publicity the sighting attracted (BBC and daily newspaper coverage) no one came forward from the sewage farm to corroborate this solution.

It is possible that some of the other village children decided to climb on the bandwagon and see entities of their own, but I do maintain that the child witnesses at the school did see something other than plant equipment!

MEN IN BLACK

I am not necessarily a subscriber to the MEN IN BLACK theme which was originated by Gray Barker in America in the early 1960s, but there is no doubt that many contactees and witnesses have been frightened by the appearance of strange people soon after they have seen a UFO. It might be purely coincidental as there are certainly many "strange" people into the UFO scene, but it is not something that can be airily dismissed.

In his report Mr Evans says that: "sinister Men in Black appeared" which gives an entirely erroneous impression of what actually happened. The words never originated at source and were dredged up by one of the reporters. The witnesses themselves had never heard of the expression!

About two months after Rosa's sighting in 1977 she and Francine were sitting down for their lunch-break just after 3 pm when there was a ring at the door and Francine got up to answer. Rosa called out to her: "If it's visitors for tea, we're not serving teas today as I'm far too busy."

The two women had been sitting at a table facing the driveway but did not see anyone drive up.

When Francine opened the door, she was startled. There were two men outside, dressed in dark suits (not black) but the extraordinary thing was that they were mirror-images of one another; obviously, she thought, identical twins. Not only that, but she also noticed immediately the extreme pallor of their skins, the whiteness of it was "like porcelian" she remembered. They had sleek black hair and high foreheads.

The men did not come in but asked to see Rosa. Francine explained that her mother was too busy. "Could they come another time?" they asked, also enquiring whether Rosa was always at the hotel.

Rose could hear the conversation clearly.

"What do you want to see me about?" she called out.

"Something to your benefit", the men said,

"Well, not now," she replied, "I'm far too busy."

The men were not aggressive, nor pushy. They told Francine they were going to Croesgoch, a village near St. Davids, and they would come back again. Needless to say they never returned.

As they were talking, Rosa could see their car through the porch window, although she had not heard it arrive. It was a metallic colour and of unusual shape; she did not recognise the make, but thought nothing particular about it at the time.

When the men left, and feeling that there was something strange about the incident, both Rosa and Francine rushed to the restaurant window to obtain a better view of the car as it passed.

To their surprise, although they waited, there was no sign of the car nor of the men. If one is familiar with the layout of the hotel there is no way (except over the cliff edge!) that the car could have left without passing by the restaurant window.

If they were UFO investigators from nearby Croesgoch, there should be no problem in identifying identical twins in such a small place. On the other hand, they might have been reporters. If so, what newspaper employs two men, identical twins, to do their reporting? I have been to the village of Croesgoch and I intend doing some more checking as to the identity of these strange brothers.

Caroline Klass on Ripperston Farm, was apparently also visited by the men, on this occasion asking for Pauline Coombs. Caroline, however, said that she never saw the second man in the car so could not possibly testify as to their being identical twins.

STACK ROCK

Peter Paget in "The Welsh Triangle" talks about Stack Rock being used as a UFO base. Quite rightly, Hilary Evans finds this a bit far-fetched and I could not agree more. But the words are those of the author, not of the witnesses, something one should bear in mind.

Stack Rock, out in St. Brides Bay, actually belongs to the Haven Fort Hotel, despite its distance from the Bay and the main building of the hotel.

The hotel has quite a history and somewhere beneath its 400 year old stonework, there is a passage which leads down to the beach, now mostly swamped by the sea.

Rosa asked for insurance to cover the stock of liquor held in the hotel's cellar, but the insurers were not prepared to grant this unless the passage was boarded up. Two men, in diving equipment, were sent in from the sea-end to find the passage and find it they did - finishing up inside the Haven Fort Hotel cellar.

About two months after Rosa's sightings, at 11.30 pm, Francine noticed a light in the sky which seemed to her to be the beginning of a thunderstorm. The family were all in the small dining-room next to the restaurant and Rosa got up to have a look. She saw a bright orange moon-shaped object swaying backwards and forwards over Stack Rock. She fetched her binoculars and watched as the object settled onto the Rock. Almost immediately she could see two figures climbing over the now well-illuminated area.

Rosa immediately phoned Pauline Coombs. If one walks from the cottages on Ripperston Farm to the edge of the cliff one comes quite close to Stack Rock, certainly close enough for Pauline Coombs to have seen any figures moving about in the brilliant light that the object emitted. It was clear enough for her to have seen them walk down some steps into sea, so she claims.

Pauline Coombs' story is open to conjecture and I do not necessarily accept it. But I think she is reporting what she saw without speculation as to what it could have been. The speculation is totally Peter Paget's.

While visiting the Grenville's in September, 1981, our conversation attracted the attention of visitors to the bar. One of the men informed me that he had access to a small motor-boat and would take me out to Stack Rock if I wanted to visit it. However, I was a bit wary of the radiation effects, if these should exist, although through the assistance of experts in this field, I have discovered that most of it would have dispersed by then.

In June, 1981, Rosa was approached by the "Cardiff Western Mail" for permission to place two men on a survival course on Stack Rock. She agreed to this, but apparently the men were lifted off before the end of the course due to illness. Rose asked the newspaper to keep her informed about the men and their progress, but she heard nothing further.

The fact that the men were ill has no particular relation to the UFOs allegedly landing there, except that there might have been radiation effects, if indeed the landing was real.

Pauline Coombs reported that she watched the men walk down steps into the sea - surely a strange report if she wanted her story to be believed?

One point to bear in mind is that there is an RAF/USAF base situated not far from Broadhaven, some several miles up the coast to the north called Brawdy. It is well guarded and fenced and access is not easily gained. It is manned by both USAF and RAF personnel.

In "The Uninvited" Billy Coombs reports that he went down to the cliffs to see what Pauline had witnessed falling into the sea. He said that the place was alive with unmarked army trucks, troops in camouflage uniforms and about 50 frogmen. The apparent excuse was that there had been a landslide and they were repairing the coastal road; Coombs thought it all very suspicious in the circumstances.

Is there some highly secret experiment going on at Brawdy? Is it being kept secret from the public? Could this, perhaps, account for many, if not all, of the sightings?

When I visited Rosa Grenville in September, 1982, she told me that for the past several years a Midland aqua-club had been coming down to Broadhaven annually. Some of the men stayed in the hotel and Rosa says that they often pulled her leg about her UFO experience. However, in 1981, two of the men were diving off Stack Rock when one of them, feeling his way along the line of the rock, in the murky water, suddenly received a tremendous electric shock - at least that was his interpretation of it. He was thrown some distance away and felt physically ill. He immediately surfaced and came back to the hotel. We have a record of his name and the name of the club. He no longer laughed at Rosa and her UFO story.

I feel that in investigating UFO cases, one has to be particularly careful not to read something into nothing; not to overdramatise, nor become excited about a small happening that under normal circumstances is of no importance. On the other hand I have often found something staring me in the face which I did not at first recognise. Perhaps if one could easily sift the wheat from the chaff, we would all be nearer a final solution.

In my 14 years of investigations, I have found that no UFO case is solved or proven by one or two investigatory sorties. It is something that one has to continue investigating, continue interviewing witnesses and reviewing. It does not end with the sighting and the first "chat" and it is only the persistent, dedicated investigator who worries over every lead, even those which initially appear insignificant, who is going to come up with the final answer.

Broadhaven is a significant case in British UFO history, and I think it should be followed through with the help of all the experience available.

Only then will we know the answers.

REFERENCES:

- (1) "The Uninvited." Clive Harold
"The Dyfed Enigma." Pugh and Holiday
"The Welsh Triangle." Peter Paget.
- (2) Rosa Grenville wrote to Hilary Evans but did not receive a reply.
- (3) "10 Rillington Place." Ludovic Kennedy.

HILARY EVANS REPLIES: I was very pleased to read Cynthia Hind's *cri de coeur* for further investigation of the West Wales sightings, for I share her conviction that this case deserves more serious investigation than it has hitherto received. My own work was not nearly so comprehensive as I would have liked; Rosa Grenville, for example, was just leaving on a trip when I spoke to her, and I had no opportunity to hear her point of view before my deadline. Even more importantly, I was unable to learn the present whereabouts of the Coombs family, despite all my inquiries. I am sorry to learn that Rosa Grenville wrote to me in vain, for I would very much have liked to have heard from her: unfortunately her letter never reached me, and I had to do the best I could without her testimony except as it had been recorded by other investigators.

But in any case it is those other 'investigators' who are the true villains of the piece. Paget and Harold in particular stand convicted of misleading the public by their uncritical reporting and sensationalist presentation of their witnesses' alleged experiences. I do not question the sincerity of the Broadhaven schoolchildren, but I have no doubt that the efforts made to establish or explain their testimony were wholly inadequate.

The only new information to come my way is that the perpetrators of the "silver suited entity" have been definitely identified as hoaxers, thanks to a reporter for the Daily Mirror. This was to have been published in an article in that paper, but the journalist who interviewed me never sent me copies of the articles if they were published, so I cannot give further information. But, unless the Daily Mirror has itself been hoaxed, it seems that the hoaxing of the Coombs and Grenville families occurred much as my information indicated.

Frankly, neither the passage of time nor anything that I have read since my investigations has made me want to alter my opinion in any way; but that does not mean that my opinions are held dogmatically. Paul Devereux accused me of driving to Wales determined to reach negative conclusions: "sensing the iconoclastic zeal coursing through my veins." I can assure Cynthia that had I found grounds for accepting the statements I had read, I would have been delighted to do so: instead I found not only grounds for doubting many of the accounts, but also positive evidence of fiction, fantasy and falsehood. If further investigation by Cynthia or anyone else should show that I was mistaken, I will be the first to admit it.

HOW YOU CAN HELP BUFORA

Investigators are urgently required in the London and Home Counties area. Members who are interested in contributing to this important work should contact Steve Chetwynd, 23 Albany Road, Old Windsor, Berkshire. It is emphasised that all those appointed must fulfil the minimum criteria laid down by the National Investigations Committee (NIC). Apart from that no previous experience is necessary, just an open minded, objective approach to a complex subject and a sympathetic manner towards the witness who has, invariably, undergone an unnerving event.

Those in other parts of the UK who would like to help with investigatory work are asked to contact BUFORA's Director of Investigations, Miss Jenny Randles, whose address will be found on the inside front cover of this issue of the BULLETIN.

Members can also help the Association in passing on to their local RIC cuttings on UFO reports from their local, regional and free advertising newspapers. BUFORA's newsclipping service covers most of the important regional and national newspapers, weeklies and dailies, but there are, inevitably, some omissions.

This work would greatly assist the investigation teams and make a positive contribution to the better functioning of your Association.

An acquaintance of mine asked me if I had ever seen a flying saucer. "No," I replied, "but I have seen two UFOs in my time." Some of my RAF friends might well say, by way of criticising my standard of aircraft recognition, "Johnnie's always seeing unidentified flying objects!" Well, there it is: UFO means just what it says and after a sighting report is analysed by some competent authority, it may well turn out to have been a meteorological balloon, artificial satellite or some other such thing. Now what did my acquaintance mean when he asked me if I had ever seen a flying saucer? Well, I know what is meant when I refer to a flying saucer: I am talking about a spacecraft operated by a crew of non-terrestrial beings wither remotely or otherwise; this kind of vehicle I have never, to the best of my knowledge, seen.

A fringe science called Ufology has come into existence which, on the face of it, does not add up to much, and there are a great many rogue opportunists who have peddled all sorts of zany ideas so as to make a bit out of it all. If we accept this definition of a flying saucer, we cannot prove that they have ever existed or exist now. Conversely we cannot prove that they do not or never did exist. What we can say is that it is quite likely that flying saucers do exist, in fact it would surprise many if it was proved beyond doubt that there were no such things.

UFO ORGANISATIONS

If one become interested in ufology what can one do about it? My belief is that ufology, thought a fringe science now, is fast becoming respected in many quarters and will become accepted as a serious branch of science as terrestrial space travel develops further. To start with one can find out about the various UFO organisations and endeavour to decide which one exhibits the most responsible attitude to the subject, then join it, attend its meetings and read the current literature. This latter effort will almost certainly mean that the student ufologist will unfortunately read a lot of rubbish, however one learns to become selective. After reading reams of verbiage, the student will need to keep his head so as not to give up in despair. He must think rationally about the subject, then if he decides to pursue his studies, he will find out what vast fields of further study are opened up to him, indeed he may even recognise the fact that he should specialise in one aspect of UFO study alone, he will certainly be brought face to face with his own limitations. The most annoying limitation is probably time, after all one has to earn a living, however it is just as well to be a good reader for reading can help one's understanding. Philosophy, religious thought, astronomy, astronautics, anthropology, biology and history are all subjects which can be read in connection with ufology, one can quite easily pick one subject to study in relation to our relatively new fringe science

In practice one can spend some time very enjoyably sky-watching, although this is best carried out in a well organised manner, one's plots and sightings being sent immediately to the right authority for analysis. Skywatching can become quite a useful pastime as one increases in proficiency.

I suppose the \$64,000 question is how one would react if we were suddenly confronted with a sighting or occurrence which was later proved to have been in some degree a manifestation of extra-terrestrial life.

I was rather surprised by Stuart Campbell's letter in BUFORA Bulletin, February, 1984, attacking my book THE PENNINE UFO MYSTERY (Granada, 1983). It is not the only such massive criticism the book has received from serious ufology circles (notably Peter Rogerson's review in MAGONIA). This naturally perturbs me, especially as I have no personal insight into what is wrong with the book, and cannot, therefore, promise not to be a naughty girl and do it again.

I feel that I should reply to Stuart because I serve on BUFORA's Council and if I am being accused (as I am by Stuart) of doing ufology a disservice, then this should be a cause for an explanation to the membership. Unfortunately, I do not have a clue about what I am supposed either to explain, or apologise, despite Stuart's letter.

Writing is my profession, and has been so since 1978. Being deeply interested in UFOs it is natural that I should wish to write on that subject. However, I have never even contemplated writing a book that I did not think seriously merited publication and everything I have written about UFOs has (at least to my way of thinking) served a specific purpose. If I seriously felt that I am harming ufology then I would leave either writing or ufology. Despite my interest in the latter, economics would dictate that I leave the subject and not my work, because I intend to write about UFOs (less often in the future certainly - but often enough) when the need arises.

This said I still believe my motives are basically honest. I see my role as an intermediary between the UFO community (of which I feel myself a part) and the general public, who are much less acquainted with the complexities and realities of the subject. Stuart accuses me of not sticking to the point and providing too-broadly based books. But then surely this is the situation ufology represents? I have no intention of misrepresenting the truth, as I see it, for the sake of "sticking to the point." Stuart appears to be suggesting that if I were to write a book stating that Pennine UFOs are floating hob-goblins with lamps on their heads, then, provided I stuck to such ideas, the book would do ufology a service. Whereas, by bringing in current thoughts on ufology (e.g. earth-lights, birth trauma hypotheses time loss, atmospheric phenomena) I am not. I believe that these areas are all of potential relevance to the subject and the general reader needs to know this.

DELUDED

I have received dozens of letters from witnesses who have read the book and have said that they are only reporting what they experienced because the book is honest and non-committal. Had it been a "UFOs Are Spaceships" or "UFOs Are Ball Lightning" tome, then it would have led to some reports, but only from those committed to one hypothesis or another. In my view it is honest to say one does not know, and to give the reader a fair glimpse of the confusion. I have learnt enough about writing (in picking up the journalistic style, now regarded as a fault!) to understand that, had I written the book stating that Zigmund Adameki was kidnapped and murdered (which I could have done had I wanted to) then I would have sold lots of copies.

I do not write books to sell lots of copies. I write books to try to reflect what, in my opinion, seems to be going on without committing myself too far. I think any researcher who commits himself at this stage is deluded.

Take for instance the question of time loss and hypnosis. Steuart is apparently proposing, in all seriousness, that it is more objective to ignore the time-loss element in PC Godfrey's story and omit reference to hypnotic regression memory because it is controversial. This, he seems to think, better serves the truth. Whereas, to admit to it, to publish a summary of what was produced under hypnosis, to couple this with a background to the problems of hypnosis and frank admissions about its status, and then add the difficulty that this particular hypnosis testimony mirrors in other similar cases from around the world - suggesting some kind of common link - is less objective. I chose this latter approach because my view diametrically opposes Steuart's. I do not see how it can be more objective to ignore a problem than to include it, alongside a pro-and-con analysis of its problems.

Unless someone can persuade me by reasoned argument that I am in error, I intend to continue adopting such approaches in my analysis of UFO phenomena.

PROGRESSIVE THINKING

As to whether a specific "Pennine" mystery exists, I again beg to differ from Steuart - it is something well-known to every UFO investigator in the north - not an invention on my part. For a decade we have found that significantly more reports come from these relatively unpopulated hill areas of the region, than from the urban conurbations to the west. That is simply fact - nothing more and nothing less. At no point do I suggest that the Pennines are unique. There are a number of similar window areas throughout Britain, and indeed the world. Somebody may one day write a book about the "Essex UFO Mystery" or whatever - and why not? if it is known to be real by those studying the problem and not those denying it from their armchair 200 miles away!

Incidentally the publishers wanted me to call the book "The Pennine Triangle" as a sales aid. I flatly refused. That surely indicates that I had no intention of cobbling together a sensational book.

What was the purpose of the book, Steuart asks? That is simple to answer. It was written after my theoretical "UFO Reality" (although this was published slightly later due to technical reasons). What the Granada book does is put into a practical setting the theory outlined in the other book. It was as much a demonstration to myself, as to anyone, that I was developing my arguments along the right lines; for I do use my books to develop progressive thinking about UFOs.

Steuart's strangest comment is that I discard previous theories and hop about like a robin in a tree. This is totally unfounded. My books have built upon one another in a very concrete sense.

UFOs A British Viewpoint (1979) reached the point where I recognised there were two distinct UFO phenomena (physical UAPs and the more subjective close encounters). It proposed an idea that the close encounters might be physically real "psychic projections." But I do not think, in its raw form, this is really tenable. However, I certainly reserve the right to strongly modify (which is what I have really done) or even reject if need be, any element of any theory if the accumulating evidence suggests that I should do so. To do anything else would be quite unscientific and dishonest.

NO NEAT ANSWERS

UFO Study (1981) my next book, was not theoretical at all. It was written as a guide to would-be investigators, through the graces of my publishers. They knew, and I knew, it would never sell. I had to live from hand-to-mouth for two years to survive on the paltry sums that book brought in. But I wrote it as a contribution to serious ufology, and for no other reason. I wanted to do it.

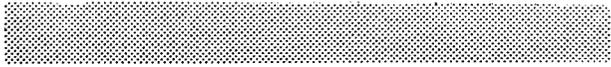
Alien Contacts (1982) tried to develop the close encounter theory. With this (as applied to a specific set of cases) I began to grasp the true importance of repeater witnesses. I also developed the basis for my concept of the "Quasi-Conscious" experience. In other words the close encounter was less a real event created by subjective means than an objective/subjective intermediary which had a visionary role on the "spectrum of reality." It was stimulated into being by a trigger. In this I explored possible internal triggers (e.g. cultural psychic motivating factor). Later I have looked at external triggers.

UFO Reality (1983) considered both UAPs and close encounters. For the former it grasped the significance of isolation and several other physical parameters, that were later searched for in the field example (which the Pennine book represented). For close encounters it defined the "OZ Factor" clue, which helped locate this experience onto my spectrum of reality. Again the Pennine book tried to put this into experimental framework, hence the need to spend some time on the Godfrey abduction.

This shows to me a growing understanding of the UFO reality, which I have tried to share with my readers. But I do not know the full truth, nor do I even know for certain if I am going in the right direction. I must admit this, in order to retain my integrity. My books undoubtedly suffer to an extent because they contain no neat answers, but at present there are no neat answers!

I find incredible Stuart's complaint that I "pad out" my books with references to the work of other researchers. He later bemoans the fact that instead of calling him "Stewart Campbell - local investigator on the case, and author of the BUFORA Report, and proponent of the ball lightning hypothesis" etc., I merely mention his role as investigator, and then his theory, offering a reference to the BUFORA publication (which came out after the book went to press). In other words, on the one hand he says I "pad out" but when it comes to mentioning one of his works (more or less in passing) I do not pad out enough! Something seems curiously amiss here.

For the record, I am a ufologist. Too many hack books rip off the work of ufologists and publish information as if the writer had discovered it for himself. I believe it is my duty to give fair acknowledgement to my fellow ufologists, if I mention their work or their ideas. I intend to go on doing so and will not be put off by silly suggestions that this essential feature of a scientifically orientated book is "padding."



THIS, THE SECOND PART OF A TWO PART PAPER (SEE FEBRUARY, 1984 BULLETIN) DETAILS THE WIDESPREAD UFO ACTIVITY OVER TWO SMALL NORWEGIAN TOWNS - ARENDAL AND HESSDALEN - WHICH IS BASED PARTLY ON THE TALK GIVEN BY JAN FJELLANDER OF UFO NORWAY AT THE BUFORA CONGRESS IN AUGUST, 1983 AND ON EDITED VERSIONS OF "EXCEPTIONAL UFO PICTURES FROM NORWAY" BY ARNE THOMMASSON AND "UFOS IN HESSDALEN, NORWAY" BY LEIF HAVIK BOTH OF UFO NORWAY.

THIS PAPER CONCENTRATES ON THE PHOTOGRAPHIC EVIDENCE. A PROJECT HAS RECENTLY BEEN STARTED TO INVESTIGATE THIS VERY INTERESTING PHENOMENON AND THE GROUP WHO ARE UNDERTAKING THE WORK ARE IN URGENT NEED OF VOLUNTARY HELP AND FINANCIAL AID. FURTHER INFORMATION ABOUT THE PROJECT AND HOW YOU CAN HELP CAN BE OBTAINED FROM:

PROJECT HESSDALEN, c/o LEIF HAVIK, 7490 ROGNES, NORWAY.

TECHNICAL DETAILS

Five films were shot:

A film at Strømmen (1930-20.00hrs)	November 12th, 1982.
B film at (1900-20.00hrs)	November 18th, 1982.
C film at Strømmen	November 21st, 1982.
D film at Strømmen	November 28th, 1982.
E film at Strømmen	December 1st, 1982.

Camera data

Camera: A Minolta XG-2 (slr)
The Lens: A Vivitar 400 mm/5,6 (aperture 5,6 was mostly used). Multi-coated with a UV filter to prevent lens flare.
The Film: Fujichrome 400.
The Tripod: A Slik Master Standard (with "rubbershoes")

All photographs were taken outdoors and not through windows. The slides were enlarged with a slide duplicator and four tele-doublers. The most extreme enlargements went through twice (16x16) and a master series of slides has been prepared consisting of originals and specially selected first class copies.

THE PHOTOGRAPHS

A4 and A5 were the first pictures shot and showed a bright red light blinking and pulsating as it came in from the south and moved northwards. The object moved slowly and silently with a slight tossing motion.

The blinking was irregular with one or two powerful blinks followed by three or four small ones. The blinks also shivered. On the object's underside there was also a small, shivering red light. It seems that this object was the cigar-shaped object seen on November 19th, 1982 (see page 14 BUFORA BULLETIN, February, 1984).

In addition to this object, which moved from left to right, there were two other objects dancing around it. A5 shows an object with four lights in a square, two big lights at one end, two small ones at the other. There was also a small light between the two small front lights. The two photographers were exposed for 10 seconds, thus the four lights in the square must have blinked simultaneously. On A5 one of the blinks starts in the top of the picture and jumps towards the left.

Half way down from the four light blinking object and at the top of Slide A4x2, towards the red light, there is a star. That indicates that the red blinking object really did toss and that the camera remained firmly on its tripod.

The red blinking object is very similar to that shown on Slide D2. D2 also shows a star and the object has again moved and blinked in a certain rhythm and moved at a very sharp angle.

In slide A5x16C a small UFO appears to be emerging from the interior of a much larger craft.

Blinks A, B and C are enlarged twice, 16 and 128 times. A and B are similar in shape, but the colours on B are bluer. C lacks the fifth little light in the front of the object.



When photographing A4 and A5 the camera was aimed at the red blinking object which was very clear and passed overhead at a 30-45° angle at a distance of 2-4km. The small lights were not noticed at that time but they had been seen earlier although in so weak and distant a form that it was not considered worth using film on them.

Slides A6 and A7 were over-exposed and contained nothing of interest. Slide 9 shows a light travelling just above some hill-top pine trees. Slides A10, A11, A12 and A13 all show an aeroplane for purposes of comparison. These show red, green and yellow/white lights blinking firmly and at regular intervals. The planes moved in straight lines taking 10 seconds to do so.

A13x2 and A13x64 again show plane lights and the former shows a UFO light enlarged to A13x64b. A0 also shows a plane. The camera was shaken during the shooting and the shake/curve is sinusoidal and smooth with the moving light in only one plane, whereas the UFOs moved in all the planes.

B FILM

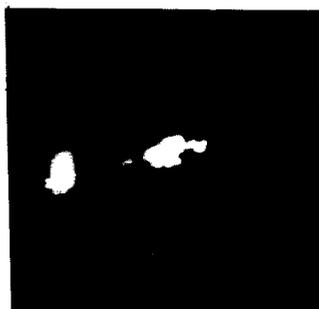
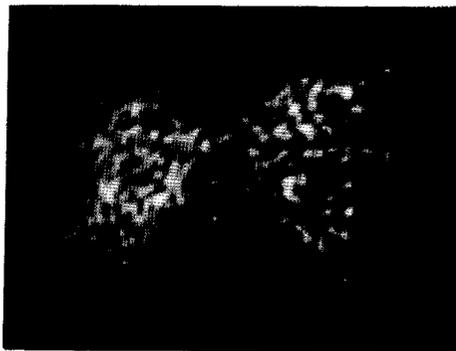
B5 introduced a fantastic series where the four lights in a square could be seen inside a cylinder of light which sometimes totally shaded the UFO inside it, at other times it formed only a weak haze around the UFO.

The cylinder always engulfed the weakest of the blinks on B5, B6 and B9 which indicates that it was more than just a lens flare. There seems to be no flares on the photographs due to multicoating of the lens. A few of the enlarged copies do however have a small lens flare in the centre of the picture due to the strong light used for copying and because the duplicator with its doublers was not multicoated and the split-circle is a sensitive point.

Slide B5 shows four blinks. The first is green with some lighted form in between. The next is a double-blink with the UFO totally shaded by the cylindrical cloud. The third blink

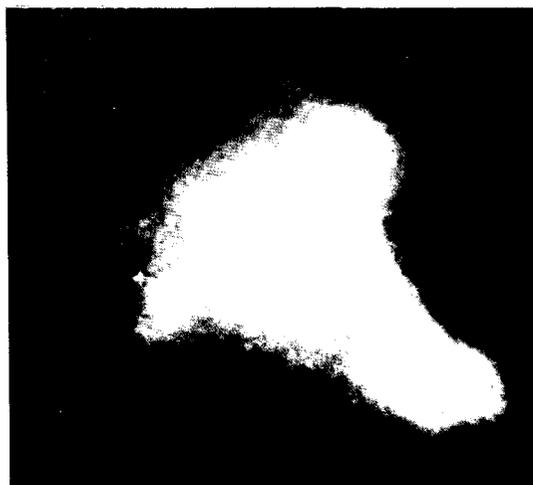
PHOTOGRAPHS FROM FILM B

5b x 16B



B5 x 2

B9 x 8



B9 64

This is an enlargement
of the object shown in
the right hand corner of
the illustration above.

31.

shows the form of the first blink inside the cloud. Blink four shows forms like those in blink three but this time without the cylindrical cloud. 86 and 89 show something similar to 85. 87 and 811 were over-exposed. 812 and 813 show some forms, 815 contains a number of interesting features. 815x64a does not possess a definite form, but it resembles some of the other blinks not included in the photographic series and for that reason it is mentioned here. At the left side of 815x32 there seems to be an object that shows C3 from the underside. The two other lights on the photograph resemble those on x64a and seem to be made up of three blinks placed at a right angle.

Slide 816 has classic potential. A yellow/red, shivering light has travelled swiftly in all three planes and made a number of 90° turns. On each sharp change in course there has been a large blast of light indicating the consumption of a considerable amount of energy. This odd behaviour was seen by many eye-witnesses during November, 1981. No plane, balloon or helicopter could move in this way.

The only way an object could behave like this is if it was driven by electro-magnetic or gravitational power so that each atom is pulled by the same power in order to prevent the object being torn apart. If the moving power of the object can manipulate with the gravitational field it would be able to curve space around it, and would then "fall" through this curved space without stress even if the curved space caused it to fall at a right angle and with high speed.

The object moved in all planes and turned in both curves and sharp angles. Slide A0 shows an aeroplane photographed with camera shake. The curve here is shown as smooth and sinusoidal because the 400mm lens was too heavy to be moved in sharp jumps. The curve which swung in only one plane as the distance to the aeroplane was about the same for the duration of the three second exposure.

C FILM

Slides C1 and C2 show rapid jumps but these are not due to an unstable camera because two clear stars can be seen on each picture although, unfortunately, the stars are outside the enlarged area. The reason for there being a number of stars on the photographs is that the tele-lens covers only a small part of the sky, and the combination of 5-10 seconds exposure on a 400 asa film was only enough to catch the brightest stars. In addition some of the photographs were taken when it was semi-dark.

Slides C1 and C2 appear to show an object with two red and yellow lights, both of which are shivering. C3 shows an oval, domed object with a green ring at the base of the dome placed a little closer to the round end than the flat one. This form can also be seen on A5, 85, 86, 815, 816, C7, C11, C14, C32 and D8. C7 shows the typical half-moon shape of a strong blink. A dome can be seen at the top and a little closer to the rounder side of the form.

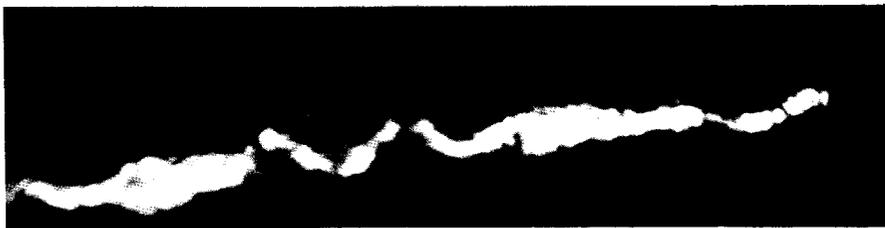
C9 shows small blinks as on C36x64c. C11 shows a shape with a blue dome with a blue brim underneath it and a yellow/green brim above it. The form could be the top of a cylindrical blast of light or it may be light reflecting from the object's surface. C14 appears to show C3 from three slightly different angles.

C18 was strongly over-exposed although it appears to show a large, lit cylinder with a UFO on the right side. C21 shows four blinks, one of which seems to have a typical saucer shape. C24 and C25 show after blink traces, but were under-exposed. C26 and C27 also show similar traces. Here the objects moved up and down a good deal and also moved in right angles. On C28 a number of half-moon shaped blinks appeared in beautiful colours. Here the UFO has either danced or moved directly towards the lens.

The diagram shows the lines along which the object must have moved.



PHOTOGRAPHS FROM FILM C



C2x16



C28x256c

C29 and C30 show a small red light. On C31 it has moved closer and looks like a red cloud with stronger lights inside. On C32 it seems to have moved away again (at least it appears smaller). C36 shows five beautiful blue blinks. Two of them have been enlarged for this series of documentary slides.

D FILM

D1 probably shows a UFO with one light which suddenly becomes three lights in a square. D2 shows an object resembling A4/A5 and possibly C1/C3. It moves rhythmically, tossing and turning at very sharp angles. The enlargement, D2x4 shows a star in the upper right hand corner.

D3/D4 show the same object but it has been under-exposed so that only a short trace of the UFO's movements are seen. D7 is difficult to analyse. D8 shows a series of blinks, one of which appears slightly similar to C3.

E FILM

E1 and E2 also show a series of blinks. Most are quite weak, but one is included in the slide package (E2x128c). The blue light which seems to emerge from the top and bottom of one object may be the same as that seen on C11 and also on other enlargements.

One photograph from Lillestroem, north of Oslo, is included. It is one of some 10 pictures taken some years ago.

Two photographs from Hessdalen are also included - Td1x8 a picture of the cigar-shaped UFO and Td2x32 a photograph which very closely resembles C3.

The conclusion is that one very large cigar-shaped object with huge lights, some yellow/white, some red, visited the area during 1981-82. It was accompanied by three oval objects which were also seen in other places and were estimated at between 7-10 metres long. The form is indicated in C3 and Td2 and other photographs. The under-side structure is shown on slides A5 and B5. Other pictures show details that support this estimate (C26, C36).

A freelance journalist, Arne Wisth from Oslo, took 25 good UFO photographs in Hessdalen with his 1000mm super-telelens. These closely resemble those taken by the UFO NORWAY team and others.

Since the start of the wave, and up to August, 1982, landings with physical traces and close encounters have also been recorded. A number of observations along the south coast of Norway and in Hessdalen have produced new photographs only a few of which have, so far, been investigated in any depth.

The definite form of the UFOs best seen in C3, Td2 and A5 indicate that they could not be a natural phenomenon, but are constructed objects, the way they move further confirms this theory. Who made them and why? Their size indicates that they probably carry a crew.

If another civilisation is visiting Norway why do they show such great interest in the south coast and the sparsely populated mountain valleys? There is little there to spy on and Norwegian military capabilities are not so advanced to be of any great value to a highly advanced entities.

The idea that aliens are visiting selected people or programming certain minds seems unlikely since Hessdalen is thinly populated and they often move through uninhabited valleys.

The possibility is that they are preparing for something in these areas and it will be of interest to see what happens in the coming months. UFO NORWAY has planned a number of

expeditions to photograph the objects and undertake other measurements which will exclude atmospheric phenomena and try to discover the nature of these peculiar lights. UFO SWEDEN will also cooperate in this work.

A 2000mm mirror lens (Celestron-8) has been tried but this failed because of weather and the difficulty in climbing mountain slopes in the loosely packed snow. Measurements of pictures K0 and N22 show that the size of the rectangular UFOs is 5 metres in length, 3 metres in breadth and, including the little dome on the top, 3 metres in height. All figures should be correct within plus or minus 10 per cent, but future pictures will make the figure more certain. Distance to K0 was 6km and to N22 9km. A car lkm away served as a comparison.

THE HESSDALEN PICTURES

The first picture, K0, shows a motionless UFO, with its front tilted, above a small mine. N22 shows two UFOs above a mountain in Rogne. They flew very close together as if linked. Later they separated. The two UFOs, the bigger one in front, were observed by people in the valley some days earlier. L17 shows a UFO resembling C3 (from Arendal). K7 is very much like K0 and is from the same place. J21 is from His island south of Arendal and was photographed in September, 1982. K3 resembles C3.

I1 shows a red dot UFO as it passed above the photographer, he shot it at 1/60 sec. shutter speed, but an object accompanying it moved away during that short period. One of the blinks in the long chain shows the whole object which is 5 metres long. The UFO to the left proves that the camera stood still and shows the exposure time. The UFO has moved approximately 100 times its own length, that means 500 metres on 1/60 sec. Speed is $500 \times 60 = 30,000$ metres per second or $30 \times 60 \times 60 = 103,000$ km/hr.

G10 shows the "Christmas tree" effect which some people in Hessdalen have witnessed. This must be a rather large UFO. F2 shows two blinks. It is necessary to separate them in order to see the right contours.

There are also a number of observations that are very odd and these are mentioned briefly: (1) A huge UFO was seen emerging half way from a wall and then returning; (2) A number of the observers had psychic impressions of Jesus and His angels. They were reluctant to mention these but, eventually, some persons, some Christian, some not, gave impressions that pointed in this direction. One person even claimed to have met Him and received the gift of healing.

(SETS OF THE SLIDES MENTIONED IN THIS ARTICLE ARE ON SALE TO MEMBERS AND UFO RESEARCH ORGANISATIONS. DETAILS FROM LEIF HAVIK OF UFO NORWAY).

From "The Daily Telegraph"
March 14th, 1984.

390 UFO SIGHTINGS

By Our Political Staff

A total of 390 unidentified flying objects were reported to the Defence Ministry last year, compared with 250 the year before, 600 in 1981 and 350 in 1980. Mr John Lee, Defence Under-Secretary for Procurement, said in a written Commons answer yesterday.

What is a trace case? This type of UFO event is usually pointed out as a "close encounter of the second kind" (CE2), in other words where there are durable physical effects on living beings and/or on inanimate matter. Among this wide range of collateral effects, I will take only traces on the ground (and vegetation) and the so-called "fragments" into consideration.

Ted Phillips Jr proposed this definition for trace cases; "...any report involving the observation of an object on or near the ground which has no immediate natural or conventional explanation and thereafter the finding of a physical disturbance on the ground which has no immediate natural or conventional explanation. The high strangeness cases are an extension of this definition in that the case remains totally unidentified in both the object and traces after a complete investigation by competent investigators."

It is a definition that does not involve the witness aspect in the least and makes a precise distinction between "spurious events" and high strangeness reports, indicating - implicitly - for the latter a sufficient equality. On this "quality" however, there are several doubts concerning the indispensable requisites for showing the completeness of the enquiry and the investigator's competence. Many subjective factors are peculiar to such an attribution, especially for what concerns the second characteristic. Moreover, Phillips' definition does not refer to the so-called "isolated trace cases" (markings found without any perception of "UFO phenomena" or similar events) nor to those particular rare events concerning the discovery of "fragments" supposedly belonging to the "objects" perceived by witnesses.

A DEFINITION

In this connection, it is intended to present the author's own definition for "trace cases": "Any event where the discovery of traces on ground (vegetation and other materials) and/or of substances having various nature and constitution has been associated to what is conventionally known as "UFO phenomenon", both (when) its manifestation has been reported or only supposed. The association between the occurrence of the event (perceived or not) and the discovery of traces can be accomplished by witness, investigators, or other persons not connected with the case."

Notice that I have used the term "UFO phenomenon" and not "original stimulus creating a witness experience classified as a ufological one" or a similar expression, in that I wish to point out the fact that most people usually couple to the idea of the trace, the presence of something "alien" in nature that - during its manifestation - is able to interact with the ambient: a "something" unusually envisaged through the vague idea of an entity responsible for all the new and fragmentary notions (forming with other elements, the UFO myth, which strong influence clouds most trace cases) in connection with the apparition of "flying saucers" and "UFOs". Such a definition allows us to consider all those events that have been attributed to this origin by someone (and it does not matter who), therefore permitting us to examine those situations pointed out - often on the basis of a mass of rumours and suppositions as to the causation of its manifestation.

Obviously, in this way, one is able to gather under one heading, a number of events that are vastly different in quality and quantity, but each pointing to the same common denominator - the idea of the "UFO phenomenon" therefore, there is the need to extract that portion of cases that one can decide is able to relate genuinely with the concept of "stimulus causing the witness experience" (in case there is one at objective level; on the other hand, this statement is not intended to push the other kinds of event (rumours, misinterpretations and hoaxes which need a specific indepth processing) into the shade at all).

Generally, one is used to calling these cases "high strangeness reports," but there is another definition of "high strangeness trace cases":

"Any events thoroughly investigated (multiple witness interviews, subsequent investigations on the spot, indepth examination of the trace site, close contact with specialists in doctrines useful for the evaluation of the traces themselves etc.,....) by investigators inquiring into the case within as short a time as possible after its occurrence, and verifying personally the presence of traces. Both witness accounts of the event and physical evidence, must be subjected to a detailed and documented sifting, that takes the greater possible part of conventional causes that are able to have produced the traces and/or the whole witness experience into consideration, and the events must emerge without being able to be explained or to be questioned by the phenomena (and activities) considered by the investigators or other researchers."

RESTRICTION

The most serious restriction of such a definition concerns the investigator's degree of confidence: he/she is hardly ever a professional in this subject, and the subjective elements (linked to beliefs and needs, emotional or not in origin) are difficult to eliminate.

However, a case, that answers this definition, would not necessarily be a genuine report (i.e. actually belonging to the real essence of the UFO phenomenon), but it could be a report having enough of such quality, and therefore capable of being used for the study of what one supposes to be an unknown phenomenon, (let us remember that "unidentified" does not necessarily mean "unknown.")

In most cases, the process of explanation of traces (and, similarly, of witness account) is rarely strictly carried out; generally one limits oneself to consider some obviously banal explanation (the usual two or three) very superficially, passing this survey off as a "careful examination of the possible identifications", a process frequently taking place also among certain "qualified investigators", as I have already mentioned. It is appropriate to take the reports falling within this alternative definition as cases that are acceptable on the basis of their quality and usefulness for a preliminary survey of the whole question - but nothing more.

The error of over-valuing them has often proved to be fatal - let us remember that!

In the last edition of the BULLETIN we looked at the rumours that claimed that some government or individual had created the aerial craft which was seen during the British 1909 "airship" wave. However, the American 1896-97 wave had far more strange accounts of secret inventors. A good guide to these stories is contained in Chapter 4 of THE UNIDENTIFIED by Jerome Clark and Loren Coleman (Warner Books. New York. 1975), where the complexity of these claims is revealed in all their glory.

The 7th December, 1896 issue of the FRESNO SEMI WEEKLY EXPOSITOR, for instance told how an old friend of George Jennings arrived in Fresno, California, covered in dust collected on a long journey. The two friends had a short conversation, and Jennings told the press that "My friend has told me that the airship was made principally of aluminium and that the rising and falling was accomplished by improved aeroplanes, while the motive power was electricity. He says the machine is perfect except for the fact that at times it refuses to steer in a given direction and that it will not stand still in the air."

Another inventor of the airship, a Mr E.H. Benjamin, in association with his uncle employed a San Francisco lawyer, George D. Collins, in order that they might patent their craft. In November, 1896 Collins said that the 150ft long craft was based in Oroville. He said: "It is built on the aeroplane system and has two canvas wings eighteen feet wide and a rudder shaped like a bird's tail. I saw the thing ascend about ninety feet under perfect control." Since Collins claimed that on 17th November the craft had travelled from Oroville to Sacramento, taking 45 minutes to cover this distance of 60 miles, it is not surprising that the inventor felt that he had something that would "revolutionize the world."

On the other hand the OMAHA GLOBE DEMOCRAT of 10th April, 1897, alleged that "The indications are that John D. Preast of this county is the author of the mysterious machine. Preast is a unique character spending his time at his country residence near Omaha in experimenting with airships, constructing models, and studying all the subjects incidental to the theories of applied mechanics along the lines of providing a vessel that will propel itself through the air. He has consumed the past ten years in this way"

An even more intriguing inventor of the American airship was a chap called Wilson. On 19th April at approximately 11pm, two farmers encountered a landed airship which contained four occupants who wanted a supply of water which the farmers gave them. One of these occupants claimed that his name was Wilson. The next day an airship landed outside Uvaldo, Texas, and Sheriff H.W. Baylor had a word with the three occupants of the craft. One of the occupants said he came from Goshen, New York, and was called Wilson. He expressed a wish to meet a Captain Akers, whom he said he had known in 1877 whilst in Fort Worth, unfortunately Baylor had to tell him that Captain Akers had moved. So the airship crew collected some water and flew in the direction of San Angelo. A new dimension was added to this was added to this case when the GALVESTON DAILY NEWS dated 28th April, 1897, published this statement from Captain Akers: "I can say that while living in Fort Worth in '76 and '77 I was

well acquainted with a man by the name of Wilson from New York State and was on very friendly terms with him. He was of a mechanical turn of mind and was then working on aerial navigation and something that would astonish the world. He was a finely educated man, then about 24 years of age, and seemed to have money with which to prosecute his investigations, devoting his whole time to them."

The story of these historical sightings and the mystery surrounding Wilson are weaved into the fictional novel GENESIS by W.A. Harbinson (Corgi, London, 1980). In the novel Wilson was said to have studied at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in the 1890s where aerodynamics was informally taught. Then he went on to obtain a BSc degree in aeronautics at Cornell University, Ithaca, New York. In effect he became an aeronautical genius and he soon began to design and build airships (see pages 450-55) this is confirmed by Wilson who states: "We flew across the length and breadth of America and were never discovered." He knew that "To protect a secret you must give away part of it and turn it into a rumour. We mixed half truths with lies." Wilson was so successful that "By 1904 we had crossed the Pacific, and our lights, which were seen by the Navy, were called natural phenomena. Such descriptions were reassuring" (page 63). But did Wilson visit Britain in 1909 and 1913? Was Wilson the real mastermind? Or were Preast, Jennings and many others the true inventors of a marvellous aerial vehicle?

Send the answer to: Nigel Watson, Westfield Cottage, Crowle Bank, Althorpe, South Humberside, DN17 3HZ.

INVESTIGATOR TRAINING WORKSHOP 2.00-5 15pm
SATURDAY, JULY 7th, 1984 at Tufnell Park Hall, Huddleston
Road, LONDON, N7. THE UFO ANAMNESIS TEST

Joint meeting between BUFORA/ASSAP
(See April, 1984 issue of JTAP for full details)

PROGRAMME:

Introductory talk by Ken Phillips, BUFORA's Training
Officer followed by PROJECT 1

Talk THE UFO ANAMNESIS TEST followed by PROJECT 2.

Conclusions on the Anamnesis Test.

Further details from: Ken Phillips, 13 Falcon Avenue,
Springfield, Milton Keynes MK6 3HG.
(Tel: 0908 678870).

Letters

From: Mrs D. Eakins,
Woodchurch, Kent.

The Adamski/Rodiffer Film

Sir - I was very interested to read in the BULLETIN (September, 1983) the review of "George Adamski: The Untold Story" by Timothy Good and Lou Zinsstag.

The film mentioned in the review was taken by George Adamski and his friend Madeline Rodiffer, whom I met in Montreal in the early summer 1968 or 1969. At that time I was living in Montreal, with my husband and family. I was also a member of the committee of the Montreal UFO Society, which, incidentally, met once a month at the impressive Montreal Planetarium.

Madeline Rodiffer was a guest of the Society for a week during which time she had dinner at my home one evening, with other members of the Committee. During the evening we had a private viewing of the film.

I recall that it showed several classical "Adamski-type" UFOs flying above treetops and following a main highway. It is difficult to remember all the details after 15 or 16 years, but the film was in colour, very clear, and accurate. The trees swayed with the wind and the convection currents from the UFOs. If this film was a fake one would have had to go to extreme trouble and effort to have made it.

A lot of publicity was given by Canadian television, radio and press to the film. When we held a public viewing in the bank auditorium in Place Ville Marie, Montreal, it was completely full and approximately 2000 people had to be turned away!

Madeline Rodiffer gave the impression of being a kind and sincere person, perhaps a little eccentric. She claimed that the US government stole her film to analyse it. She approached the offi-

cial concerned and said that she would have given it to them had they asked. She also emphasised that the film was the only one the US government could not prove was a fake.

Between 1968-69 I met many North American UFO enthusiasts, some of whom were adamant that the US government was secretly involved with, and very concerned by, UFO sightings and incidents.

OBITUARY

LOU ZINSSTAG (1905-1984)

Lou Zinsstag, co-author of "George Adamski - The Untold Story" published in 1982 died in Basle, Switzerland on January 19th, 1984 aged 79.

Her interest in UFOs began in 1954 after reading "Flying Saucers From Outer Space" and three years later she became Adamski's Swiss representative. She held this post until 1964 when disagreement with the controversial Adamski and misgivings about his claims forced them to part company.

"The Untold Story" which she wrote with Timothy Good contains invaluable information about Adamski during their seven year collaboration and all ufologists should be grateful that Miss Zinsstag committed this to paper so shortly before her death. She also had articles published in FSR in 1958 and 1961.

Timothy Good, in paying tribute to his co-author (FSR Vol.29 No.4) mentions Lou's fantastic energy, her love of travel, the arts and animals.

She was related through her mother to the philosopher and psychiatrist Carl Jung and in 1980 wrote about his early life in the Journal of Psychosomatic Dentistry and Medicine.

Her vast collection of UFO books, photographs, articles and newspaper cuttings has been donated at her express wish to Basle University where they will be available to students researching the subject.

Ufology has lost one of its most vital personalities and her many friends and colleagues throughout the world will regret her passing.

DISTRIBUTION AGENT WANTED

The Association is looking for a distribution agent in either the south-eastern (LONDON/BRIGHTON) or south-western (BRISTOL/WESTON-SUPER-MARE/BATH) areas of the country to handle the distribution of BUFORA's two publications, the BULLETIN and JTAP. Duties are to receive the journals from the printers, insert them in envelopes, stick on pre-addressed, adhesive labels and take them to the post office for delivery. Each journal posting would be approximately 300 copies and there would be six postings a year.

Envelopes and labels would, of course, be supplied by the Association, as would payment for the posting itself.

The job would be ideal for a retired member, of BUFORA.

The post would be a voluntary one, and BUFORA could not, at present anyway, offer any payment for services rendered.

Applications to the Chairman: Arnold West, 16 Southway, Burgess Hill, Sussex.

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF WANTED

Bob Digby's departure for Saudi Arabia means that BUFORA's Council is looking for a new Editor-in-Chief for JTAP the BULLETIN's sister publication.

Are you that person?

The applicant should have good journalistic and writing ability, and will be required to help with the preparation and selection of papers for this bi-annual journal.

The post is a voluntary one and there will be no payment for services given. The work, however, is not too onerous or time-consuming and the post should certainly be of interest to anyone wishing to be involved more closely in the scientific and technical study of the UFO phenomena.

Those interested should write to the Chairman: Arnold West, 16 Southway, Burgess Hill, Sussex enclosing a brief cv.

FIREBALL/METEOR SIGHTINGS.

Those wishing to report fireball sightings (see pages 5-6 BUFORA NEWS) should contact Dr. John Mason, British Fireball Survey, 11 Orchard Way, Fontwell, Arundel, West Sussex BN18 0SH.

Dr Mason is a Lecturer at Imperial College, London, a Fellow of the Royal Astronomical Society, a consultant for IAU Commission 22 on Meteors and Interplanetary Matter. He is a Council Member of the British Astronomical Association and Southern Co-ordinator of the British Fireball Survey.

LEY HUNTERS MOOT

The Ley Hunters Moot, with the local magazine EARTHLIGHTS as host will be held in Shrewsbury, Shropshire from Friday, JULY 28th to Sunday, July 30th, 1984. The Shrewsbury Music Hall, a large conference hall has been selected for the venue. It is easily accessible by coach and rail and is located in the Town Square. The Moot will begin on Friday afternoon, July 27th for those able to make it. Cost £18. Saturday-Sunday only, £12 (£8.50 unwaged). Friday to Monday (£25). Saturday-Monday (£17). 10 per cent off all prices if ordering two or more tickets. Details from "Moot 84" PO Box 13, Welshpool, Powys, Wales.

BUFORA PUBLICATIONS

- SPECIAL OFFER

The following publications are offered at a special rate to members. Applications to Robin Lindsey, Librarian, 7 Station Road, Whittlesey, Peterborough, together with your cheque/PD for the appropriate amount(s).

Close Encounter at Livingston.
64pp Large format. £1.85 (incl. p&p)
(previously £3)

UFO Investigation. Standard field investigators handbook. £2.20 (incl. p&p)(previously £3.)

Congress '79. 32pp large format Papers by Edoardo/Knewstab/Hill/Anderson. £1.(incl p&p)

Vehicle Interference Project.
Geoffrey Falla. 102pp. Case reports. (£2 incl p&p)(previously £4)

21st ANNIVERSARY MEMORABILIA

Lionel Beer also has some copies left of the four page leaflet produced to mark BUFORA's 21st anniversary, outlining the Association's history, together with some of the special red lapel badges, overprinted with the Association's logo. Send two 12½p stamps (10p for each extra badge ordered) to Lionel Beer at 15 Freshwater Court, Crawford Street, London, W1N 1NS. For the leaflet send two 10p stamps. For the badge and leaflet send 30p in stamps.

4 assorted BUFORA Bulletin/
journals (£1 incl.p&p)

MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS

The majority of membership renewals fall due on August 31st, a renewal form is included in this issue of the BULLETIN.

As you will see from the form subscriptions will rise from September 1st. However, members who recruit a new member can renew at the old rate of £12.50, as can their new recruit, providing both joining and renewal notices reach the Membership Secretary by September 1st, 1984.

It greatly assists the Association if all members pay promptly. Reminders are expensive to print and post and cost BUFORA precious cash reserves which should be used for publications and research projects. PLEASE PAY PROMPTLY.

BOOK ON RENDLESHAM FOREST UFO

SKYCRASH - A Cosmic Cover Up is the title of a book by Brenda Butler, Dot Street and Jenny Randles, BUFORA's Director of Investigations, to be published by Neville Spearman Ltd., in the early autumn.

This important book will examine all the official evidence and documentation so far available on the Rendlesham Forest UFO incident of December, 1980.

The evening lecture on October 6th, 1984 will look again at the Rendlesham incident and examine the evidence which has come to light since the first lecture on this subject in December, 1984.

Brenda and Dot Street will be the main speakers.

The British UFO Research Association does not hold or express corporate views on UFO phenomena. Contributions reflect only the views of the editor or the authors.

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