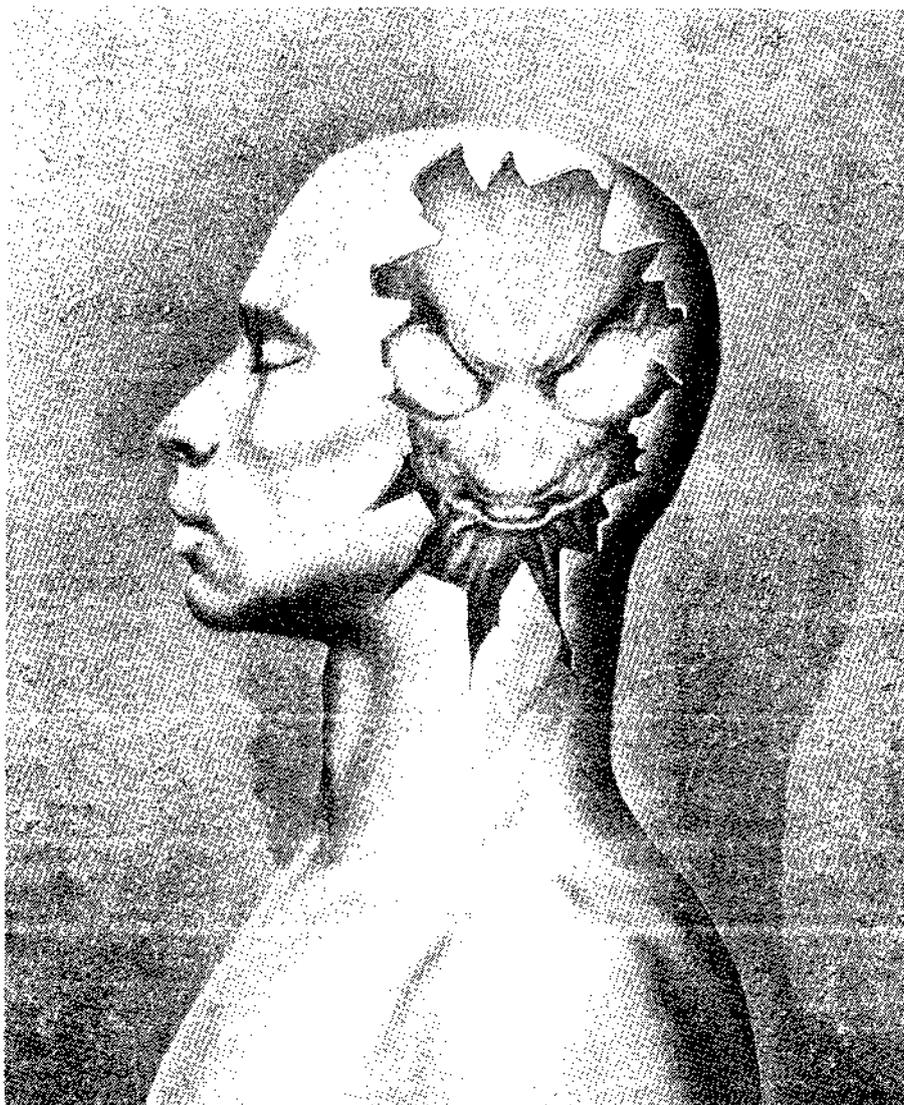

UFO TIMES

Number 6 March 1990

ISSN 0958-4846



ABDUCTIONS ALTERNATIVES

INSIDE

John Spencer continues his controversial retrospective of the abduction scenario by searching through the roots of ufology to find some answers.

UFO wave in Belgium - Manfred Cassirer reports the latest news.

On August 4th of 1988, a glowing object damaged a hedgerow and surrounding trees in the leicestershire countryside. Clive Potter presents a full case history of this strange encounter

Plus.....
Skywatcher,
Investigations
Diary, News,
Reviews and more.

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1. To encourage, promote and conduct unbiased scientific research of unidentified flying object (UFO) phenomena throughout the United Kingdom.
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Contents

4. **Editorial**
6. **Witness Driven Investigation part 2**
John Spencer
12. **Close Encounters in Benelux**
Manfred Cassirer
13. **Investigations Diary**
Edited by Jenny Randles
16. **Reviews**
19. **UFO Times Questionnaire Draw**
Your chance to win three great prizes
21. **UFO Damages Hedgerow**
Case History by Clive Potter
25. **Skywatcher**
Edited by Gary Anthony

Front cover illustration from John Spencer's latest book - Perspectives (Macdonald).

Editorial

WITHOUT PREJUDICE

Ufology in Britain has recently taken a new course. Gone it seems, were the days when groups and individuals could express their opinions and theories freely, which one would expect living in a free society. Today one has to choose ones words very carefully, hold back on criticism, or even the clever quips and sarcasm that has always been present in this subject.

Why such a change? Who is revoking free thought and the right to express it?

It appears to me that it is those who are so sure that they have 'got it right' that they are simply not prepared to listen to other differing views and are prepared to go to extreme lengths to stop a third party from hearing those views too. To accomplish this they flex the mussels of the seemingly uncontrollable libel laws of this land. Such is the nature of these laws that one can manipulate and set into motion a libel case, causing an innocent party considerable expense and suffering despite there being no foundation to the charges made.

Popular are the threats of legal action, which seem to occur on a weekly basis. Since I have been editor of this magazine and its predecessor, I have been threatened with legal action no less than four times (three times since the launch of UFO Times). I have recently noticed that Flying Saucer Review state on their front cover that the articles presented are published without prejudice, making the magazine's content inadmissible evidence in any future court hearing. It is my opinion that this entire state of affairs is intolerable, a sign of immaturity and makes me wonder why I didn't take up stamp collecting or some other innocuous pastime instead. Some may also ask why I didn't!

I have watched with great interest, the developing story of the alleged crashed saucer in South Africa. This

'Roswell of the Kalahari' is reported to have occurred on the 7th May 1989, when a S.A. navel frigate reported radar contact with a UFO which was then chased by two Mirage fighters. One fighter accomplished radar/visual contact and was ordered to fire an experimental 'Thor 2 Laser cannon' it had on board by lucky chance. The pilot scored a direct hit, forcing the UFO to crash land, 80 miles from the South African Border in Botswana.

A crash/retrieval team was immediately sent in (of course there's always one on stand-by) who discovered that the grey, 4ft occupants were still alive. The object was of course removed and finally dispatched to Wright Patterson Air Base (probably to Hanger 19, as Hanger 18 is presumably occupied).

Well what a story. can it possibly be true. Well, I was fortunate to have a chance to speak to the IUN's Allen Staiths while he was in London recently. Apparently he was the first British ufologist to here the story back in June 1989. It is his considered opinion that the story is a hoax. I'm not surprised in the least. A full report of this case will appear in the next UFO Times.

In the endeavour of giving you a magazine that you look forward to receiving, we have produced a questionnaire for you to complete and return, to let us know what your likes and dislikes are. All the returned forms will be entered into a free prize draw, where some great prizes can be won. Closing date is 5th May 1990 and the editor's decision is final.



WITNESS DRIVEN INVESTIGATION

— Part 2 —

by John Spencer

John continues his radical look at the abduction experience.

Let me first suggest that I think all current, widely held theories about what lies behind abductions are wrong, in particular the rather bizarre and unlikely idea that aliens are engaged on a somewhat tacky study of genetic bloodlines, of creating hybrid human/aliens, of artificial insemination and even rape, and so on.

Let me again suggest that the reason for this is that all these stories arise from one source, the Betty and Barney Hill abduction; they are copies of the original, and the original was a nightmare, not a reality.

Strong words which seem to suggest that I believe the truth of abductions is psychological. But I don't believe that.

Clouding the Reality

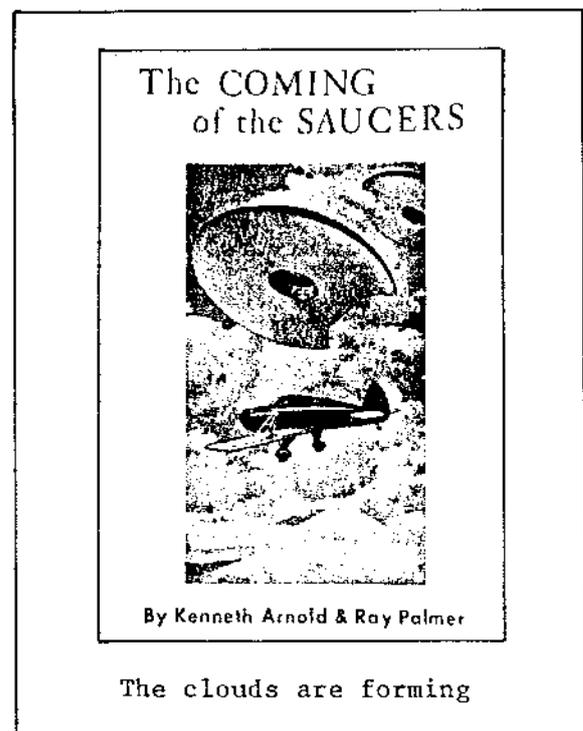
Let us digress for a moment and look at some of the extraordinary coincidences in the development of UFO mythology; which is not to say that UFOs are a myth, but that the reality is being clouded by the myths - tabloid press generated for the most part but aided by improper investigation over the years.

First coincidence - the origin of the term flying saucer revealed a mistake that showed the power of media suggestion. Kenneth Arnold used the phrase 'like a saucer would if you skipped it across the water' to describe the flight MOVEMENTS of the objects he saw at Mount Ranier, their movements, not their shape I would stress. But the press used the expression to describe saucer-SHAPES, and immediately afterwards we get repeated descriptions of saucer-SHAPES. Even to this day it is the commonest form of description received, though it is often not

appreciated that Arnold described his objects as boomerang-shaped.

Second coincidence - within 24 hours of the Arnold sighting, though Arnold had claimed no such thing, the press speculated on an extra-terrestrial answer. This was confirmed 'for certain' at Roswell one month later when the Army recovered a crashed saucer and alien occupants - so we are led to believe.

Third coincidence - if you could have dead pilots you would expect live ones, and sure enough Adamski soon reported meeting with them.



Fourth coincidence - after the early 1950 'nice contactee' claims of Adamski and others, science fiction generated an image of aliens that was malign and UFO stories seemed to pick up this theme; aliens became just that bit more sinister until the present day image of them is very sinister indeed to read David Jacob's appraisal of Post Abduction Effects. Bear in mind that the Hills reported their abduction in the early 1960s following a decade of now classical alien invasion films.

Fifth coincidence - the aliens described by Betty and Barney Hill were distinctly alien rather than human, alien eyes and body shape for example; and subsequent aliens have been similar enough, but they have in fact have got more alien as time passes. For example the Hill's aliens had whites to their otherwise alien eyes; recent similar aliens have no whites, just the black wrap-around eyes that perhaps the cover of Whitley Strieber's book 'Communion' made most famous. Who needed the aliens to get more alien? - not they themselves surely, and perhaps not the witnesses.

Lastly, of course, Betty's dreams - which the doctor believed to be no more than that - confirmed as true by the claims of other cases, many of which show exactly the same characteristics.

The question is....Are we in this field of research the possessors of such extraordinary insight that we can always guess - and correctly guess - the truth based on very little evidence and not only that but then be lucky enough to have it confirmed so soon afterwards? I have to suggest that we are not, and that the answer to this convenience lies elsewhere.

- I suggest that abduction events - of some kind - are real. While they do have deep psychological effects and meaning they need not be wholly psychological, they may have their origins in the very physical, very real world.

- I suggest that witnesses are experiencing something and they turn to UFO investigators to help them find out what it is; and that it where it goes wrong, because the investigators have a

model in their mind of what an abduction is, based on the original material and on subsequent material that was once based on the original and they are influencing the witnesses' recall very severely, mostly unwittingly on their part, but they are distorting what witnesses are recalling using techniques that have the unfortunate side effect of impressing a new 'truth' into the minds of the witnesses. Particularly regression hypnosis.

- I suggest that the use of this technique is unreliable, and possibly dangerous. Hypnotic recall is not a guarantee of truth, it cannot sort fantasy from reality, even less so when the user is searching for a truth he wants to find. and some investigators don't even use medically qualified practitioners to do this work, though even that would no more guarantee the truth. Experiments by very prominent and qualified people in this field - such as Martin Orme - show that you can implant a fantasy easily, that you can reinforce that fantasy by constant recall, until even the subject cannot be convinced of its non-truth.

- I suggest that current abduction research is therefore the pursuit of a mythology, ignoring the witnesses own claims for the most part, even overriding them and worse, altering their memories.

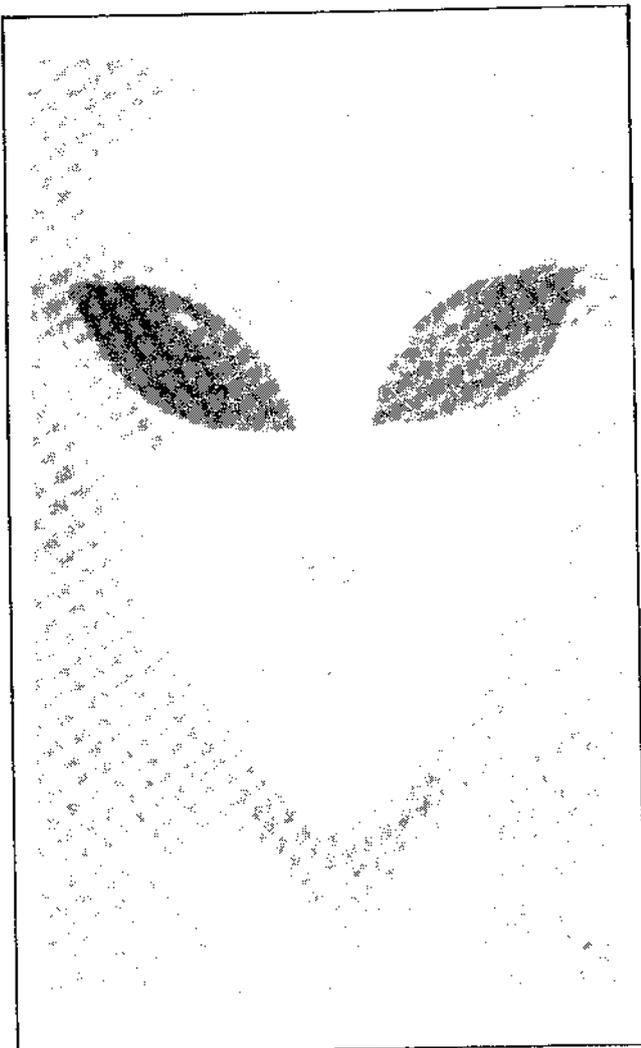
We must remember that the Hill hypnosis sessions were not undertaken to study UFOs. They were undertaken for a medical purpose to relieve the Hills of stresses they felt were burdening them. As such, the Hill case is one of the few, perhaps the only case in the States, where the 'research' has not been undertaken with a view to understanding UFOs or abductions, and not undertaken by UFO investigators, with or without medical help.

I would like us to consider three interesting recent cases which show how UFO abduction research has developed. All are from Budd Hopkins in the United States, though I must stress that this arises only from the fact that his cases are among the most thoroughly documented, making them most valuable for study. I should stress that I have

no doubts about Hopkins' sincerity in his quest to help witnesses and seek the truth, though I personally disagree with his conclusions, and the techniques of research used.

In one case Hopkins worked with a witness who had a fear of spiders. Hopkins was able to show that this stemmed from a childhood incident when the boy was in bed and saw a spider's web, with spiders, right next to him on the window. Hopkins used regression hypnosis to reveal that in fact the spider's web and the spiders were in fact an alien face peering at the boy. Freed from his arachnophobia, the boy is now the possessor of a life-long history of abductions. Now we know that arachnophobia exists and is in fact one of the commonest phobias, why did this arachnophobia have to be an alien abduction?

The second case was of a woman who hated ants; she felt compelled to smash up their nests and destroy them.



Regression hypnosis revealed that she likened the colour of the ants eggs to the skin of the aliens that had abducted her; this was the 'real' cause of her fears.

Thirdly, the key case of the book Missing Time, that of Steven Kilburn, where he went to Hopkins with a fear of a lonely stretch of road, and regression hypnosis revealed that he had been abducted on that stretch of road.

Questionable Cases

Questions must arise from these cases, particularly when we note that in no case was the start of the event the memory of a UFO sighting, or in fact anything to do with UFOs. Questions like why - with so many types of aliens reported - does Hopkins always reveal the same type?

Questions like why given the nature of the material to work from an abduction is always revealed; why do abduction researchers always uncover abductions, why do past-life (reincarnation) investigators always uncover past lives, why do ghost-hunters always find ghosts; all are using regression hypnosis, why do they not occasionally uncover material from other fields. Given that reincarnation is true, if it is, then we must all - without exception - have had past lives; why does this not come through except when called for. If Steven Kilburn had gone to a researcher of past lives would he have discovered that he had once been killed on that stretch of road he feared.

Surely this shows the nature of regression hypnosis is far from objective. And surely we must fear just how subjective it is.

Another type of inconsistency should be noted at this time; the claims of some abductionists are very similar and do not greatly contradict each other. The same is true of - say - research into government cover up and conspiracy, and of - say - crash retrievals. But when we put the whole phenomenon together then these individual segments almost mock each other:

- The claims of the contactees against

those of the abductees would seem to be in direct opposition, for example.

- The claims of crash retrievals which suggest a very physical control - or lack of control - over the alien craft contradict recall during abduction research where aliens can move the UFO, themselves and even their human victims through solid walls and rocks.

- The ability to 'switch off' certain people while they abduct others is never used to recover the craft and bodies of lost comrades. Yet according to Leonard Stringfield they do try to recover them sometimes, one such incident turning into something like the gun-fight at the OK Corral. But why not use the switching off technique? From the descriptions we receive we seem to be dealing with the same aliens in most cases.

- As Jacques Vallee pointed out, why do they abduct people at all if all they want is genetic material? They can get that from research laboratories without all the fuss they go through.

There is an argument that we cannot be expected to understand alien logic; but there is a fallacy in that argument - particularly in the States - because the claims they are making are in fact that we DO understand alien logic and it is in fact very similar to our own; for example they seem to tag us in just the way that we would tag a protected species. Indeed their whole modus operandi is exactly what we might do on an alien planet. In fact I agree that we probably cannot understand alien logic, if any is involved in this subject, but then we must face the fact that we probably don't understand abductions either, that what we think we understand is our ideas, not 'theirs'.

All these components of the UFO phenomenon add up to one thing; we are not understanding the truth yet. And I believe it is because of the methods we are using.

Also, if we have a case revealed by one researcher in, say the United States, and a similar case arises in the depths of the South American jungles, how can the second case have been

influenced by the first, particularly if the percipient of the second is from a tribal culture, perhaps even unable to read. This has always been the strength of the claims for the reality of the subject; but the answer is simple.

The investigator is the conduit through which the information of one case can be transmitted to the investigation of a second case, the investigator unwittingly aims his research at his own predetermined goal, and the witness is often led to believe truths about himself that frankly are not truths. In this way, all cases affect all others.

When we consider UFO investigations we must remember that even when the witnesses are from very different cultural backgrounds, investigators are not - they are a fairly homogeneous group; basically all white, middle class people from the so-called First World. All have similar belief systems and the UFO story is being channelled through that one cultural background. Cynthia Hind tells the story (related to the London Congress) of 'clifford' who saw silver suited beings and believed them to be the spirits of his ancestors. Picking up on the silver suits Cynthia recognised facets of the UFO phenomenon, and suggests that in fact he saw aliens. I have no argument with the claims of Clifford, or of the investigation by Cynthia. But my point would be that if 'UFO investigation' was conducted the world over by rural black Africans then would rural black investigators be suggesting to Whitley Strieber and Kathy Davis that they, too, had been visited by their ancestors. And who is to say who would be right?

I must stress again that I am not arguing that there is no physical reality to abductions, I am arguing that we are masking that reality behind our own prejudices, because of the framework we operate in.

So where is all this leading to?

The answer is that I am suggesting we consider the need for witness driven investigations rather than investigator driven investigations. We should regard our present style of questioning

witnesses as a failed experiment. The method currently adopted of grilling the witness as if he or she were a suspect rather than a witness, or even a victim, is simply not helping us to get to the truth. It may work when we are taking a report of a daylight disc or a light-in-the-sky, though there is some doubt about it's effectiveness even then given the nature of 'leading questions' but it is certainly not working in the case of these highly emotional, traumatic and personal events. Furthermore it is not serving the best interests of the witness.

Whatever lies behind the abduction phenomenon, and there may well be some sort of physical reality, it is clear that the important component of it for our detailed understanding is the effect on the witness, generally the emotional and psychological impact; what is important is the reaction of the witness to the event, and I feel certain that we will discover as we adopt this new approach that what is important to an understanding of these cases will be for us to really understand what the witness believes the significance to be.

The approach therefore is to adopt a passive role, letting the witness lead the investigation, and resisting the urge to put in our own 'expertise'.

What will be the outcome of such an approach?

Well, at first it will seem like a step backwards because we have to abandon our present, and hopelessly wrong beliefs. And we shall replace them with a great deal of uncertainty at first because in reality we have not actually accumulated much useful data. I suggest a quote for that, and one I used in my closing chapter of 'Phenomenon', from Francis Bacon in the 16th century in his work, 'Advancement of Learning'.

"If a man will begin with certainties, he shall end in doubts, but if he will be content to begin with doubts, he shall end in certainties."

What will happen I believe, as we adopt this approach, is that we will get less coherent, less understandable stories.

We shall get more conflicting stories until we have learnt to comprehend their meanings.

And so it should be; because if the phenomenon is a psychological one then we should not expect consistency - people aren't all of the same mind. And if the subject relates to an alien, or extraterrestrial, intervention, then in fact I agree with the argument that we cannot expect to understand alien logic, so we should not expect consistency in our understanding then either.

In fact, we can only expect consistency when we - the investigators - are drawing up the story lines. And unfortunately that is what we are presently doing.

An Alternative

I hope I have presented some evidence to suggest where we may be going wrong. Although it is early days yet I think I should offer at least some glimpse of why I believe my alternative suggestion is correct. I have many examples in my own recent work of where cases which exhibit similar basic details to well known, classic cases have taken quite different turns when using this type of approach. Time is limiting, but I will cite from two such cases.

The first is a repeater witness of a number of sightings, daylight discs and nightlights, some that are clearly closer encounters rather than distant sightings. The pseudonym we adopted was 'Marianne'. Although I spoke to her recently, in her mid-twenties, the sightings occurred when she was around 12 years old. The sightings did not inspire her to become involved in the subject of UFOs; yet her reflections on her sightings have not changed over the years; she holds them to have been designed specifically for her, and that the reason for them was to 'wake her up' to the Earth, the needs of the Earth, and indeed at this present time she is a prominent ecologist, involved in work to protect perhaps the most vital resources on the planet. By the time of the last sighting she felt that she understood the 'message' meant for her; she felt the meaning was clear to her, and the

sightings stopped and have never recurred.

Her description of the closest sighting is clearly in the same league as the descriptions of thousands of other daylight discs; it appeared to be metallic, flying as a structured vehicle. Now the question is this; is the importance of the sighting the description of the discs or the effect on Marianne? In the past we have concentrated on the former, precisely logging the flight-path and the size and the colour, and so on because this seemed to be relevant. Perhaps it doesn't matter what size the UFO was, or where it was going, or whether it was there at all in the objective sense. And the fact that Marianne has been inspired to work in the field of ecological study we might well regard as having no relevance to the UFO, there seems to be no reason to link the two, after all. But there is a reason! Marianne is the reason! She believes that the two are linked, cause and effect, and who are we to say she is wrong and we are right? Until we know for certain what the UFO phenomenon is we cannot ignore data like that, and we have been doing so to our detriment. To be fair, we have to a greater degree overcome this lack in the study of lights and discs sightings; but we have not done so in the case of the more personal, abduction, reports.

We cannot guarantee that the information we receive will actually be - in the end - what is important; but what we can guarantee is that it will be what is important to the witness rather than to the investigator, and it seems that that may be the data we will need in the end.

My second case is similar; it concerns a man called Anders, in Sweden, and for most valuable assistance with this case I am indebted to Bertil Kuhlemann. It is a most interesting and complex case, at least worthy of a presentation all it's own twice as long as this, so I can only give a few points again. Firstly, there is enough evidence to suggest that the event is similar to all these other cases we have discussed; an apparently physical craft and an abduction. In fact in this case we even have an independent witness to part of the event from a

nearby but remote location. (Anders was hauled aboard the craft in a cone of light and that light was independently reported, though Anders was not seen. Having been to both sites - where Anders was and where the witness was - it is clear to me that Anders would not have been seen, though he may well have been there.)

Regression

There were two brief regression sessions before Anders himself called them off, realising they were not what he wanted. For the past ten years the investigation has been conducted by a researcher quite outside the UFO field and there has been little or no questioning of the witness about the UFO or the entities, quite simply because the witness has not suggested that this is important TO HIM. What has been done is some very exotic research - at the witness' instigation; into energy lines in the Earth that can be used to link people, almost telepathically; into psychic aspects of crystallography; into dousing not just for water, but energy fields; into biorhythms, and much more. The same question must be asked; is this material - which seems to have nothing to do with UFOs as such - relevant or irrelevant to the subject. And the answer is we don't know, but we must remember that we are in no position to judge; we must take our lead from Anders, and let him be the judge until we have learned - for certain - enough to know better. And I feel sure that we don't know better yet.



Tantalising Dreams

So again, let me stress the point of my presentation: that we have conducted investigations badly because we have, possibly unwittingly, led the witnesses along a path we thought was relevant but which seems not to have been, injecting in them a recall based on other cases from all over the world details of which we were well aware of - even though they were not - and details based in the first instance on the tantalising dreams of Betty Hill. We must be ready now to put the witness in the driving seat, to listen - properly and with open ears, not open mouths - to what the witnesses are saying before we shall get closer to the real and objective truth that lies behind the subject.

I shall close, with tongue firmly in cheek, on one last quote - called communication - which I found on the wall of an office dealing with public relations. I feel sure that if witnesses as a group could address abduction investigators as a group they might have this to say to us:

"I know you believe you understand what you think I said, but I'm not sure if you realise that what you heard is not what I meant."

I must stress, as I stressed to the

London Congress after the formal close of my presentation, that I have ignored the work of investigators who seem to have personal and ulterior motives and whose work appears to be unreasonably prejudiced. The investigators and groups that I have cited - for example Budd Hopkins, Cynthia Hind and MUFON as an organisation, are all examples of many UFO investigators in England, Europe and America who seem to me to be doing diligent and excellent work within the current framework of UFO research - it is that framework rather than those people and organisations that I am critical of, and I feel sure that if we could establish a new framework which would lead to a more truthful understanding then these same people and organisations would be better placed to continue that good work. It is too easy, and quite wrong, to snipe at people purely on the results of their work; they have to have the right tools, UFO researchers must look to producing those proper tools.

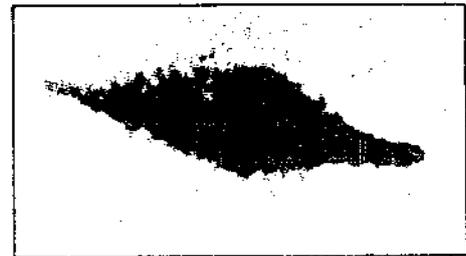
The above article, and the original presentation, is extracted from a detailed review of the Hill case, and of abductions generally, which form the basis of John Spencer's forthcoming book 'Perspectives' which was published in the United Kingdom in January 1990.

Want to challenge John Spencer's hypothesis? Then send your critiques to the editor NOW for inclusion in the next issue of **UFO Times**.

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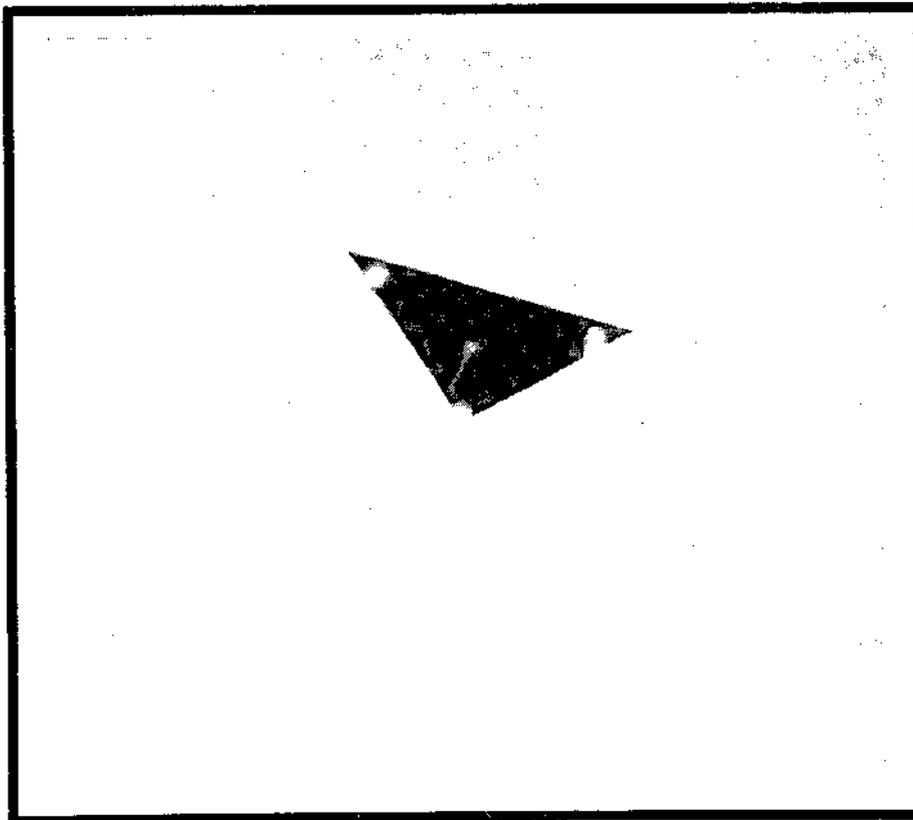
■ JUST DIAL AND LISTEN ■

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From Germany, the country where the only 'UFOs' are hot air balloons launched by bored teenage pranksters, and where abductions are still unknown, comes an extended report from the prestigious daily "Die Welt" (11th December 1989).

CLOSE ENCOUNTERS IN BENELUX

The Disk in the sky was flying at a height of 300-400 metres and had a triangular shape. At its corners, strong searchlights turned earthwards. In the middle an orange-red strobe-light was blinking. It moved almost noiselessly through the evening air. There was only a quiet hum like an electric motor - according to the Belgian Gendarmes who had observed the UFO less than two weeks previously at Eupen. They had followed it in their patrol cars for several kilometres.



Ever since, East Belgium (the German speaking part of the kingdom) has been gripped by a veritable UFO-fever. There are non-stop reports of strange celestial observations. A Eupen woman was so blinded at night by a beam of light from above when she got into

her car that she drove off panic-stricken. At a distance of a few kilometres at Baelen, a man found himself suddenly bathed in a bright light on his way to fetch fire-wood at the back of his house. Over 150 citizens have reported sightings of flying objects along the German and Dutch frontiers to investigators sent to Eupen.

Many witnesses kept their peace for several days fearing to be denounced as 'kooks', but the researchers have "no doubt" as to their credibility. The accounts are consistent: the flying objects appear mostly in the dark. At one time they moved with fantastic speed, at other times they were suspended in the air and illuminated the ground below with their searchlights. There have also been confirmed radar lock-ins.

Speculation is rife. An officer has explained that the anomalous radar echoes were due to temperature inversions (this is, of course, one of the oldest stand-bys of the sceptic, MC). This explanation fails to account for the lights. The newscaster of a Belgian Radio station gave this advice, "Don't forget your camera if you want to be believed."

Translation by Manfred Cassirer.

Investigations DIARY

The Regular UFO report
update of cases
investigated by the NIC
and local groups from
around the British Isles
Edited by Jenny Randles

Director of Investigations Report February 1990

The year 1989 produced 885 press cuttings, exactly equalling the total for 1988. This huge sum was very largely due to the summer hysteria over crop circles and the month of October which provoked a new record high thanks to the enormous media interest in the Voronezh case.

It is to be hoped that 1990 will see some settling down, but plans to use the cuttings to recoup some of the costs should be implemented.

A summary of new cases added to the files is as follows:-

75-306 Inv: Philip Mantle & IUN CE IV West Yorkshire

Young woman claims repeated sightings of UFOs since 1975 and nocturnal abduction episodes with sexual overtones. Consciously recalled and investigated in great detail. No conclusions reached. Ongoing.

76-474 Inv: Malcolm Robinson & SPI LITS Scotland

A series of reports beginning in 1976 of assorted LITS, mostly well investigated and with conventional explanations.

76-475 Inv: Ron West LITS Southend, Essex

Some red lights flashed across sky. R1 form only. Inconclusive.

78-445 Inv: Ernie Still & NUFORC LITS Kettering, Northants

Greenish blue light seen from two locations around 7 am on 29 February 1978. Believed to be planet venus through haze.

79-283 Inv: Reg Burton Disc Burbage, Leicestershire

On 8 November 1979 woman and three children in car saw white disc following them. Behaved like astronomical body but not positively explained.

8173 Inv: Ken Phillips LITS Hillarod, Denmark

Woman, son and grandsons saw U shaped formation of lights in sky, Left it after ten minutes still present. Could be anything - eg astronomical.

8428 Inv: Ken Phillips LITS Malia, Crete

Various LITS seen on holiday. May be part of NATO exercise on at time.

8521 Inv: Ernie Still/Ray Shaw Diamond Higham Ferrers, Northants

Truck driver saw strange object at 01. 30 hrs in January 1985. Diamond that glowed with coloured patches. Some similarity with other 'silent vulcan' cases from area.

Speculation about Stealth aircraft activity. Very like sighting at Brierfield, Lancs, same month (see UFO World '86).

8619 **Inv: Gordon Millington** **Disc & beams** **Woking, Surrey**

Teenage boys saw object like 'War of Worlds' fighting machine on legs at place where HG Wells set story! Might be aircraft activity.

8620 **Inv: Robert Moore** **White spheres** **Musbury, Devon**

Hazy spheres performing manoevers. Investigator speculates that this was an atmospheric mirage effect.

8726 **Inv: Philip Taylor** **CE III** **Crawley, W. Sussex**

British Gulf Breeze! Witness contacted BUFORA after seeing JR on television but had already reported to police, RAF, MoD, Aetherius Society, SKYSCAN, Patrick Moore, Michael Bentine, Tim Good, local MP and Uncle Tom Cobley. Has enormous file of correspondance and album full of photos. From 7 December 1987 (when saw star like light, called police, who got bored when it never moved and so left) to early 1988 (when she saw a moon shape with robots controlling it) she extensively reported UFOs and filmed them, including on video. Investigator was satisfied that nothing unconventional is on any of the film or video and that witness has acted sincerely but misperceived many LITS and aircraft. Witness disputes this conclusion.

8819 **Inv: Clive Potter** **LITS** **Staffordshire**

Series of sightings on night of 16 May 1988 which prompted Stafford MP to ask questions of MoD and get told they were aircraft going into Birmingham. BUFORA suggested military aircraft despite extraordinary lack of help from witnesses and RAF VC-10s known to be in area. Excellent report on this case which concludes aircraft were involved. Local paper, reviewing Tim Good's book (which mentions the cases) accuses BUFORA of being as guilty as the MoD of covering it up and failing to find answers!

8820 **Inv: Eric Morris** **LITS** **Nantwich, Cheshire**

On 13 September 1988 LITS that were almost certainly aircraft.

8822 **Inv: Gordon Millington** **Oval object** **Ewhurst, Surrey**

Two witnesses on 5 November 1988 saw object that left 'strange atmosphere' and Oz Factor effects such as silence effect on local wildlife.

8902 **Inv: Ashley Jones/Clive Potter** **LITS** **Tamworth, Staffs**

Series of lights seen by witness at 21. 00 on 10 March 1989 at same time as investigator also saw something similar nearby! Not dissimilar to aircraft.

8903 **Inv: Ernie Still & NUFORC** **LITS** **Daventry, Northants**

Row of fast moving white lights at 01. 30 on 23 March 1989. Probably aircraft.

8904 **Inv: Ernie Still & NUFORC** **Unknown** **Moulton, Northants**

25 March 1989 Case abandoned due to lack of cooperation. Few details known.

8905 **Inv: Ernie Still & NUFORC** **Yellow LITS** **Corby, Northants**

LITS moving slowly over rooftop on 8 April 1989. Probably aircraft.

8906 Inv: Ken Phillips Sphere West London

Glittering sphere seen in daylight on 20 June 1989. Probably balloon.

8907 Inv: David Taylor LITS Herefordshire

Police reports and MoD data on green LITS seen 20 June 1989. Meteors?

8908 Inv: Joe Dormer & June Reynolds NUFON Blackpool, Lancs

Taxi driver saw orange glow move out to sea on 5 July 1989 chased by Tornado jet that seemed to fire missile at it.

8909 Inv: Ken Philips Cone Rainham, Essex

Fast moving cone shape seen on 12 July 1989. Perhaps aircraft or meteor.

8910 Inv: Ken Phillips & Phillip Mantle Chiswick, London

August 1989 events involving photograph of UFO buzzing aircraft. After extensive effort the case fizzled out as highly dubious. The Sunday Sport involved somewhere in the story. Around time of Godalming 'laser show' and many of supposedly confirmatory tales to local press were of this event.

8911 Inv: Ken Phillips Silver LITS Kensington, London

Early morning of 7 August 1989 - LITS - explained as aircraft

8912 Inv: Derek Pearce LITS Lymm, Cheshire

New investigator followed up case of witnesses who saw LITS from car on M6 at 01. 12 on 13 August 1989. Unfamiliar with area. JR enquiries locally show this was almost certainly holiday jet aircraft at Manchester Airport - which is just off motorway at this point.

8913 Inv: Gordon Millington CE 1 Cheam, Surrey

Two witnesses saw object in daylight on 3 September 1989 with pulsing green/blue light. Some evidence it was large helicopter.

The NIC and the UFO Times editorial board invite any investigator or group to submit material for inclusion in **Investigations Diary**. Full acknowledgement will be given to contributors. All submissions should be sent to the Diary's editor, Jenny Randles, 37 Heathbank Close, Stockport, Cheshire, SK3 0UP.

Unfortunately, Dave Clarke, previous editor of Investigations diary has decided to retire from ufology. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Dave for all his help with this feature and contributing some fine papers for publication. The research work that he has carried out has been productive and unique, something that is lacking in the subject generally at present. **Mike Wootten**

REVIEWS

To Catch a Flying Star, A scientific Theory of UFOs, by John Ackerman, Foreword by Walter H. Andrus, 150pp Illustrated. Univelt Inc Publishers. \$15.00 (price to individual members of UFO or space societies \$9.95) plus \$3.00 postage and packing.

There have been several impressive attempts over the years to produce the 'blueprints' of a flying saucer and this book by John Ackerman must rate as one of the best of an already impressive list.

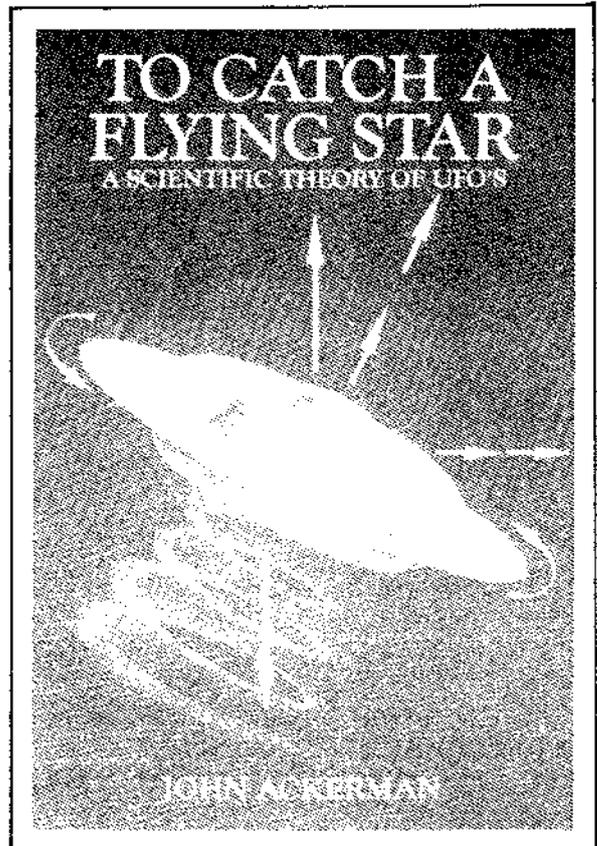
The book is of course highly scientific, with most of the detail passing over my head - and I suspect many readers' heads - and for that reason it would be useful to see it reviewed by Mr Ackerman's peers. However, this does not detract the reader from the book as it very sensibly ties together the scientific theory with reported UFO observations and even some aspects of what could loosely be called the 'mythology of UFOs'.

Two questions came to mind with regard to Mr Ackerman's arguments:

1. Mr Ackerman argues that we may be discussing the technologies of a civilisation perhaps 100,000 years in advance of our own and reminds us that our own sophisticated technology has only evolved over the last 200 years. In a later part of the book he then suggests that we have observed different shapes of flying saucers and that these may represent advances and modifications in their craft as time progresses. I think the analogy is akin to exposing a Neanderthal man to the automobile age and expecting him to spot the difference between a 1970 model and a 1975 model vehicle and I doubt that would be possible. (However, there are differences observed and that does need to be explained somehow! - so we would not be right to reject out of hand Mr Ackerman's suggestion).

2. Mr Ackerman's theories very neatly tie up the activities of flying saucers on the basis of our present day understanding of technology with reasonable latitude for advances that we have not ourselves yet made. Again I have some doubts about the logic of this in that I do not feel we would be in a position to even comment on the technology of a civilisation a hundred thousand years more advanced than our own, any more than our suggested Neanderthal man could combine his own knowledge of his own world with even the most keen observation of our own world and come up with a reasonable working model of a microwave oven, automobile, etc.

But I am the first to admit that these amount to nitpicking and in any case do not detract



from the very worthwhile effort of an attempt to understand this puzzling enigma of UFOs. I am also delighted to find that such an elaborate effort has been made by a physicist/engineer. It is very important that all attempts by all persuasions are made to understand this phenomenon so that eventually the truth can be understood by an amalgam of those efforts. There is a great deal of effort, particularly in Europe, to understanding the sociological, mythological and psychological aspects of the subject - indeed I am one of those who concentrates his efforts mostly on these areas - and we must never lose sight of the fact that there are certain hard physical aspects to the subject which need to be addressed to those qualified to do so.

In summary then, I believe this is a well written and well approached book which should be on the bookshelves of - and read by - all serious ufologists.

To Catch a Flying Star is available from Univelt, Inc. Publishers, PO Box 28130, San Diego, California 921128, USA.

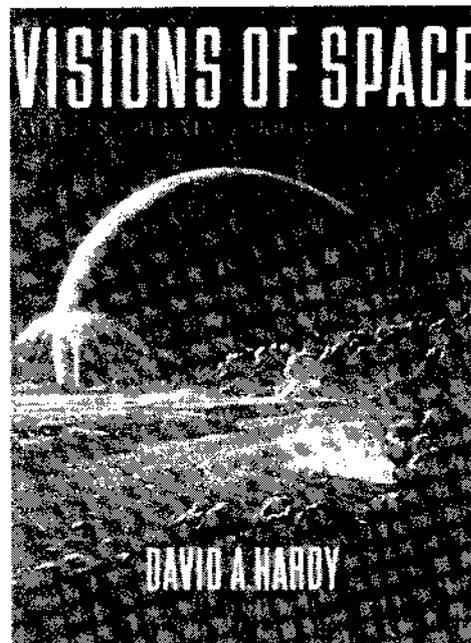
Review by John L. Spencer

International UFO Seminar - Lecturer, Stanton T. Friedman, Sheffield Central Library, 28th October 1989.

Hearing Stanton Friedman present a paper at a past BUFORA international congress some years ago, I was keen to hear some more from him when I heard he was coming over to the UK. Friedman was scheduled to present his paper at two key events, one in Sheffield and one in Manchester. I attended the former and was not disappointed. To say that Stanton is a subscriber to the ET hypothesis would be an understatement, but his style, enthusiasm and thoroughness elevates him above the hogwash that is trotted out by some ETH'ers.

He started his presentation by giving a general overview of the subject and lead the audience through such topics as, the publicly available Blue Book Special Report 14 (and asks, "where are reports 1 through to 13?"), the latest on MJ12 and the Hill Case.

However, I do not totally follow Friedman in all that he says; evidence from other countries shows the UFO phenomenon to be of a different brand to the type that he presents. But I would admit that he is probably one of the only ufo researchers that prompts me to look at non ET hypotheses and think again.



Visions of Space: Artists Journey Through the Cosmos, by David A. Hardy, Foreword by Arthur C. Clarke. 176 pp c. 200 colour illustrations. Paper Tiger. £16.95.

This compendium analyses the development of Space Art from the 19th Century to the present day. Space probes, shuttles, lunar bases, colonies on Mars, exotic alien landscapes, Black Holes, galaxies and nebulae: all are here, depicted as accurately as photographs that could never be taken. This impressive and Beautifully visual survey also includes the "New Wave" of impressionistic, abstract, surrealist artists within this highly specialised field of art.

'Visions of Space' is a luxuriant book filled with a wealth of talent and technically accurate imagination that presents this particular artistry as its very best.

Review by Mike Wooten.

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Continued from last page.

To conclude, Friedman gave a thought provoking and entertaining lecture and the packed auditorium showed their appreciation. (a audio recording of his lecture is available from Robin Lindsey, see address below.

Review by Mike Wootten

~~~~ QUOTE OF THE MONTH ~~~~

'For 70 years the Russian people we told what to think. Now they can think for themselves, and so they have crazy ideas'

James Oberg on the rash of Russian UFO sightings.

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**Alternate States of Consciousness, by Hilary Evans, 256pp paperback, Aquarian Press. £6.99**

Although of no direct relevance to ufology, the phenomenon covered by this book are often encountered in high strangeness UFO reports. The phenomena in question is that of the altered state of consciousness (or A.S.C.). Multiple personalities, hypnosis, meditation waking dreams, flashes of insight, sleepwalking and abnormal lapses of memory (and more) are covered. From a ufological angle, the case histories of the latter should be especially noted. These show instances of "missing time" occurring under quite mundane circumstances. Those who make claims about "mysterious" nature of such a mental state could help themselves by becoming aware of these occurrences! Indeed, taking all the phenomenon depicted in this book as a whole, it is all too clear that the brain does possess the ability (or at least the potential) to fabricate 'abduction' experiences.

Alternate States of Consciousness also covers the various ways that such states are induced, with their positive and negative effects. The more "paranormal" forms of A.S.C. - spirit contacts, O.O.B.E.s and possession, are detailed



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in a frank, no-nonsense scientific manner. Indeed, this is the tone of the book in general which the reviewer found quite refreshing (and which is still, an all too uncommon approach of books of this genre).

The book proposes that A.S.C.s involve the interplay of "ourselves", normally locked deep in an individual's psyche. It explains the apparent manifestation of "paranormal" entities and other-selves as a form of 'role-playing' - the phenomena in question being an "agent of transition", whose purpose is to rectify inner conflicts.

Alternate States of Consciousness should be on the shelves of all serious UFO-workers. Whether the potential of its contents will be digested, and realised remains to be seen.

**Review by Robert Moore.**

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# WIN ONE OF THREE GREAT PRIZES IN OUR UFO TIMES QUESTIONNAIRE DRAW



Just complete and return the following questionnaire to the address at the bottom of this page by the **5th May 1990** and you could win one of these great prizes:

- 1: One free membership to BUFORA (commencing September 1990)
- 2: A signed copy of John Spencer's latest book 'Perspectives'
- 3: BUFORA's own pioneering; 'UFO Lexicon'

1. Out of the following magazines, which ones do you read and what priority of reading would you give each one (score 1 - 10 with 1 being the highest priority)

|               |                          |                      |                          |
|---------------|--------------------------|----------------------|--------------------------|
| UFO Times     | <input type="checkbox"/> | Caveat Emptor        | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Magonia       | <input type="checkbox"/> | Flying Saucer Review | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| MUFON Journal | <input type="checkbox"/> | Int UFO Reporter     | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| UFO Brigantia | <input type="checkbox"/> | Ovni Presence        | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Quest (YUFOS) | <input type="checkbox"/> | _____                | <input type="checkbox"/> |

2. Which parts of UFO Times do you prefer (score 1 - 10 with 1 being the highest preference)

|                      |                          |                         |                          |
|----------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------|--------------------------|
| Brief reports        | <input type="checkbox"/> | Research articles       | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Letters              | <input type="checkbox"/> | Editorials              | <input type="checkbox"/> |
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3. What would you like to see more of and/or less of in UFO Times in the future?

4. If you have any further comments or suggestions please write them below (or use a separate sheet of paper).

5. Would you be interested in subscribing to a new regular British UFO newclipping publication costing between £5.00 to £6.00 per year? yes or no

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**And no one sending critical comment will be omitted from the Draw!!**



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1st Annual International UFO Conference  
Sheffield Library Theatre

**July 14th & 15th 1990**

The IUN are pleased to present the **only** international UFO conference of 1990 held in the UK. Entitled **Phantoms of the Sky - Ufology Into the 90's**, the conference is a two day event giving the latest in ufological research - with a particular slant on where the subject has been and where it is headed in the last decade of the 20th century.

**Preliminary outline of speakers:-**

- 14th July : Budd Hopkins (USA)  
1-6pm Peter Hough (UK)  
Dave Clarke & Andy Roberts (UK)
- 15th July : John Keel (USA)  
10am-6pm Jenny Randles (UK)  
Paul Devereux (UK)  
Budd Hopkins (USA)  
Perry Petrakis (France)

Tickets priced £4.00 Saturday £5.00 Sunday, Special Two day ticket £8.00. **But for BUFORA members only, a special two day concessionary rate of £7.00 (paid in advance) is on offer (please enclose your membership number with remittance).** Demand is expected to be high so book now! Please make you cheques payable to 'Martin Dagless' and send to:

'Phantoms', 84 Elland Rd,  
Brighouse, West Yorkshire, HD6 2QR

**ASSOCIATION D'ÉTUDE SUR LES SOUCOUPES VOLANTES**

■ The fourth european **Rencontres de Lyon** UFO congress is scheduled and will, ounce again, be held in the city of Lyon - France on Saturday 28th, Sunday 29th and Monday 30th April 1990. The congress, which hosted over the past few years researchers from over ten countries (including USA and Canada), is open (prior to full subscription) to anyone wishing to debate seriously about unidentified aerial phenomena. The congress vocation is to be a crossroad between ufologists, media, the public and scientists. In the ufological field, the proceedings have published contributions from Willy Smith, Budd Hopkins, Antonio Huneucus, Pierre Lagrange, Paolo Toselli, François Bourbeau, Jean Sider, Claude Maugé, etc... Scientific or technological contributions have been submitted by Dominique Deyres (radar operator), Patrick Chassagneux (meteorologist), Jean-Bruno Renard (sociologist), Jean-Claude Ribes (astronomer - observatory director), etc... Researchers such as William Moore and Jacques and Janine Vallée have attended the congress. If you wish to attend the 1990 session, please contact as soon as possible AESV : P.O. Box 324 - 13611 Aix Cédex 1 - France. Phone (16) 42.27.26.18. - Telex : 410 777F SOSVNI - Minitel.

# UFO DAMAGES HEDGEROW

## — LEICESTERSHIRE CE2 —

by Clive Potter  
BUFORA, LUFOIC, IUN

Physical traces attributed to a 'UFO landing' are notoriously few and far between and so it was with great interest that this particular case was received and investigated on behalf of BUFORA.

### The Event

The two witnesses, a Mr RM and a Mrs GM, were travelling home together after attending a Gingerbread meeting in nearby Cannock on the 4th August 1988. Between midnight and twelve-thirty, the two witnesses were just about to turn right onto the bridge that would take them from the A513 to Little Hayward when Mrs GM noticed a large luminous cloud on her side of the road (passenger's). The cloud was pulsating with red light and shaped like a saucer. It was estimated at about 30 feet in diameter and the edges of the cloud touched the ground. Mr RM then looked up as he noticed the quietness inside the car and saw a large circular object within a diffused mist, 30m feet in the air. Mr GM watched it as it moved roughly NW across the road and over the nearby River Trent, disappearing, re-appearing and finally departing out of sight. The estimate of the duration of the observation by the witnesses was one minute, although it was the investigators opinion that 15-30 seconds was more likely. No time lapse, electro-mechanical or medical effects were noted when questioned later by the investigators.

The following day both witnesses were again travelling along the A513 when they both noticed a damaged section of hedge that was present at the spot where they chanced upon the glowing cloud. The damage had not been noticed on a previous occasion and both witnesses

were of the opinion that the object had caused the damage.

This prompted Mr RM and Mrs GM to contact the local Staffordshire Newsletter, who took up the story (but unfortunately misreported that the hedge had been burnt which was not the case).

### Site Location



The site of the incident lies near a minor crossroads on the A513, between Rugeley and approximately 1½ miles from the witness' home in Little Hayward.

### The Investigation Begins

When Mr Flannery and myself investigated the site we found that the damage to the hedge was still very apparent, consisting not of a charred area as the newspaper reported but a crushed, dying section of hedging, of approximately 3.5 metres with several sections also showing signs of

uprooting. Broken branches littered the damaged section of the hedge and many of the leaves there had begun to wither.

University kindly consented to analyse the samples and her studies demonstrated that no scorching or heating had

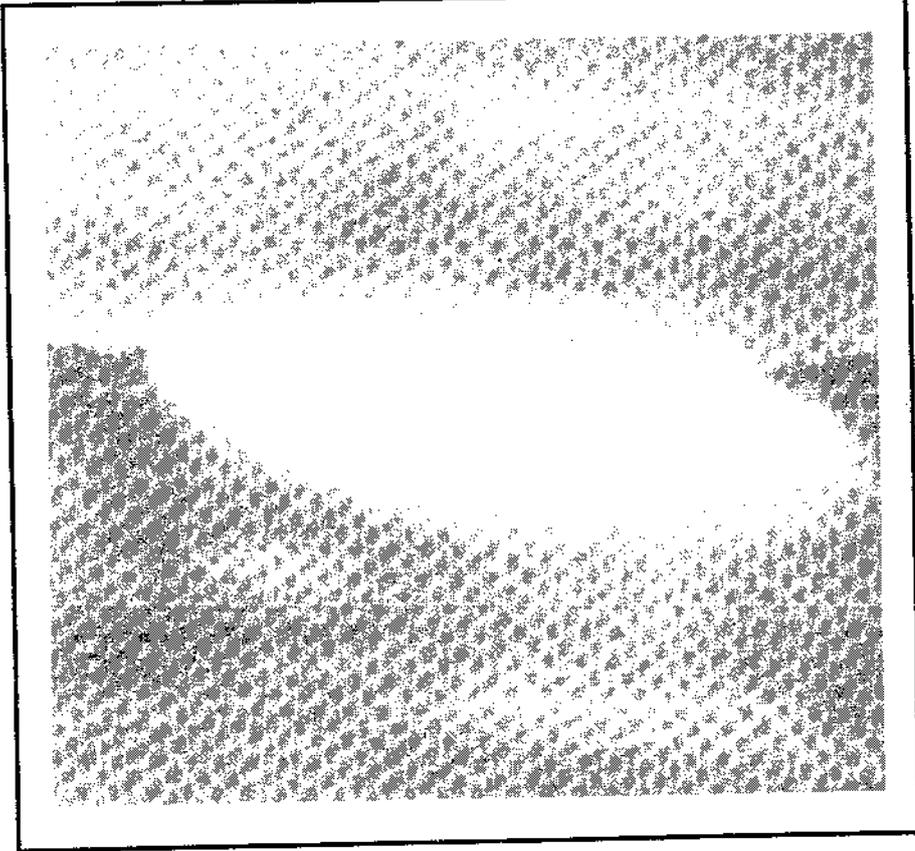
occurred. No foreign particles were noted in the microscopic examination of the material and only revealed the effects of excessive dehydration caused by the desiccation of the plant tissue as a result of being deprived of sustenance from the roots. The presence of algae and fungal organisms also indicated lack of heating which would have resulted in killing such matter.

### Earthlights Connection

It was the investigator's provisional opinion that the luminous cloud was some form of electrical discharge effect, similar to the balls-of-light phenomena

reported in particular areas and which are considered to have geological origins. Indeed, in support of this idea, it was found by an examination of OS and geological maps supplied by David Clarke, that the area was highly conductive to the production of electrical ionisation phenomena as postulated by the earthlights hypothesis.

The actual sighting location was at the boundary between the sandstone escarpment of Cannock Chase to the South and the shales to the North, with the River Trent at the boundary (a short distance in fact to the North of the road). Also, there are numerous faults in the area, one running parallel to the A513 only 1km away and two further faults laying at right angles to the A513 at approximately  $\frac{3}{4}$ km to the West. Another clue lay in the place name of "Hell Hole" less than 1km away inside Cannock Chase Park. Such a forteen place name, traditionally associated with the occurrence of supernatural phenomena (either as fairies, apparitions or UFOs), lends credence to the possibility



Parts of the section had also been pushed into the adjoining (pasture) field. Some branches had bark striped from them, in the form of 'scuff marks'. No skid marks belonging to the vehicle were found at the scene and no damage was apparent on the actual verge. However, an old car number plate was found at the scene of the incident but we declined the suggestion that this had belonged to the UFO! No damage was discovered on the field-side of the hedge, but a tree on the opposite side of the field was later found to have had several branches broken off, with one branches being twisted around and pointing in the opposite side of the road. This tree would have been in the approximate direction of the initial movement of the object.

We took several samples from the site, including soil, leaves and bark, as well as several control samples from the surrounding area. A compass bearing determined that the object had entered the hedge at a bearing of 243° (SWW).

Dr Michel Clare of Sheffield

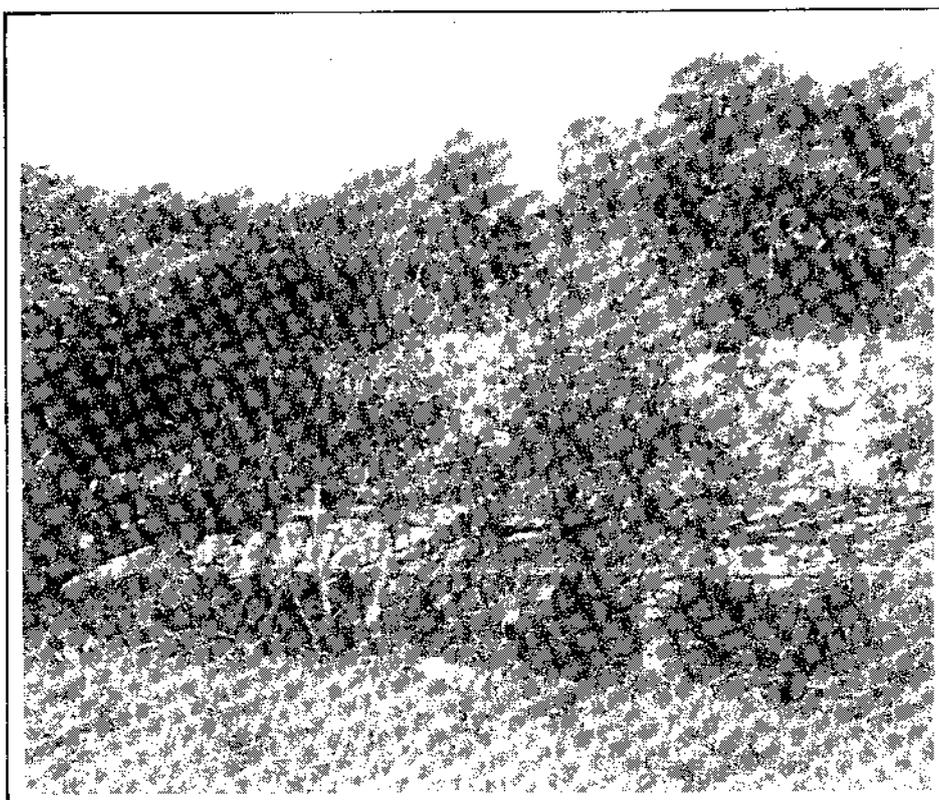
that the immediate area is prone to strange, probably ball-of-light, phenomena. The luminosity encountered could therefore be suggested as emanating from the immediate area of the faults where build-up of pressure within the rocks could result in the discharge of ionising radiation, visible as glowing balls or columns of light. However, the damage to the hedge was a variance with this possibility as the actual physical processes of earthlight generation and properties are not yet fully understood. It could be mooted that the earthlight, through some physical process, created a vortex of turbulent air currents that damaged the hedge.

It was therefore considered that a possible vortex origin of the phenomenon reported should be correlated with the evidence present. A vortex in the immediate area is a distinct possibility and would explain the damage to the hedge adequately. Such "descending vortices", now being studied by Dr Terence Meaden, who heads the Storm and Tornado Research Organisation, have been associated with the mystery corn circle rings that appear annually in the summer. It was therefore postulated that a descending vortex, instead of creating a circle in a cornfield, could in this case have descended upon a road verge and hedge, damaging and partially uprooting it. Certainly the wind direction at the time in question was conducive to formation of a descending vortex as it would have passed over the Cannock Chase escarpment (1km to the SW) which would be a suitable topographic barrier that could create eddies in the prevailing wind patterns.

It is also known that the high rates of spin within the contra-rotating sets of vortices can produce static build-up. Such vortices have been known to cause

burns to humans and vegetation on contact. It is also conceivable that the rate of spin within a vortex could cause charge separation to occur, so that a descending vortex could literally glow in the dark. This mechanism would be more than adequate to account for the glowing red light that appeared to pulsate as seen by the witnesses. In fact, the orange-red colour would be produced by the breaking up of hydrogen and only when there is sufficient moisture in the atmosphere.

Thus, to the witnesses at night, the weakening and eventual extinction of the vortex may be interpreted as the recession and disappearance of the object. The fact that the vortex was visible would be due to the fact that the lower atmosphere on the night in question was saturated with moisture (as weather records confirm), the reduced air pressure within the column would make water vapour present condense out, thereby accounting for the cloud-like object as reported by the witnesses. The



actual height of the UFO - or column as visible - would be dependant upon the depth of saturated air. Also taking into account the presence of the nearby River Trent, then a pool of saturated air would have been sufficient to create a column that was visible.

Dr Terence Meaden was consulted about the vortex phenomena and he was able to send a regional representative of TORRO (Storm and Tornado Research Organisation). David Reynolds took a look at the site. He stated that it was quite possible for a descending vortex to create the damage as well as to account for the object seen.



### Conclusion

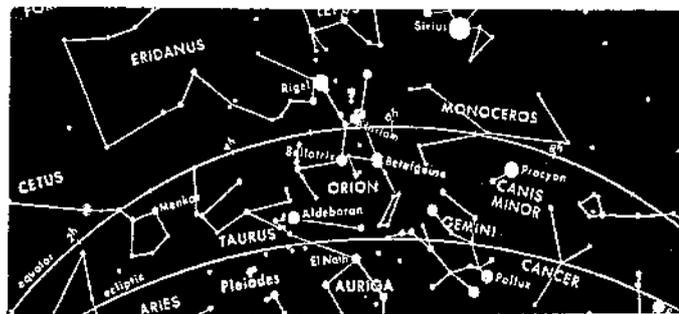
In summary, a luminous red cloud was observed by two witnesses that was later found to have been associated with some damage to a hedge. The object was surrounded by a gaseous cloud and visible for seconds only. It is strongly indicated that the damage to the hedge was associated with the light seen, and that conditions present on the date in question was adequate for a vortex to form with Southwesterly winds and a night with dew forming for condensation to occur. Vortex breakdown could therefore be responsible for the damage to the hedge, and possibly the nearby tree, whilst condensation of moisture for the visible cloud and static discharge for the red glow.

We have therefore, first rate evidence that actual physical traces were in this

instance associated with a UFO event. In this case, investigation and consultation has produced a viable theory to account for the UFO seen and therefore resulting in this event being classified as a probable IFO. nevertheless, it has produced strong evidence indeed for the vortex hypothesis and for the theory that atmospheric luminosities: Unidentified Atmospheric Phenomena (UAP) do indeed exist and hereby a mechanism has been generated to help explain their nature and origins.

Some consideration should also be given to the possibility of a relationship between the local geology and the topography and meteorology. That is, can tectonic disturbances and ionising radiation from such faulted areas create micro-climates that are conducive to formation of localised vortex development? Undoubtedly, further research is necessary before such relationships can be clearly invoked. Is it possible however, that an electric wind or charged particles be sprayed into the atmosphere, thereby creating under the right conditions, a vortex to develop? As Devereux has shown in his seminal research, there are links between UFOs, sacred sites, geology and folklore and abnormal weather.

Finally, it is the investigator's considered opinion that a certain proportion of UFO reports can possibly be attributed to descending vortices when conditions exist to make them visible. Certainly, glowing or pulsating lights at night maybe vortices in action, whether or not a buzzing or screaming sound is heard. Even certain daylight sightings should not be left out of this possibility as saturation points may be reached within the atmosphere in daylight to create droplet clouds, or spheres. If the vortex touches the the ground, debris may be picked up to create a dirty cloud or spheres. Similarly, electrical discharge effects from the revolving vortex may be sufficient to create electrical effects, physiological effects on humans, and dare I say, psychological/psychic effects should such a vortex discharge to a human resulting in shock/trauma and possible creation of a hallucination involving an abduction scenario?



# Skywatcher

Edited by Gary Anthony

## Introduction

We're back to our regular features with this edition of Skywatcher, The Planets, Skydata and Space News. Hipparcos - European Shuttle Astronaut - A new tracking station and the Hubble Space Telescope - all current news items packed into this issue's 'Space News.'

## The Planets

**VENUS** - March. The planet rises about (max.) before the Sun during March, visible low in the south-east. On March 30th Venus reaches its greatest western elongation (46°) at magnitude -4.4. The moon is two degrees to the south on the 23rd.

April. The planet remains low in the east, rising less than 2 hours before the Sun this month. Moon in the area on the 22nd.

**MARS** - March. The planet is presently moving slowly eastward through Capricorn in morning twilight, rising less than two hours before the Sun all of this month. Mars is brightening to magnitude 1.0 and the moon can be viewed near the 'red planet' on the 22nd/23rd.

April. This month the planet is low in the east before sunrise. The moon passes to the north on the 20th/21st.

**JUPITER** - March. Jupiter moves slowly eastwards in Gemini; on the 31st it will set by 02 hours. The moon passes to the

# skydata

| <u>MARCH</u> |      | <u>1990</u>   |      | <u>APRIL</u> |  |
|--------------|------|---------------|------|--------------|--|
| 4th          | 02 h | First Quarter | 2nd  | 01 h         |  |
| 11th         | 11 h | Full Moon     | 10th | 03 h         |  |
| 19th         | 15 h | Last Quarter  | 18th | 07 h         |  |
| 26th         | 20 h | New Moon      | 25th | 04 h         |  |

| RA                       | Dec | RA      | Dec                      |
|--------------------------|-----|---------|--------------------------|
| -----South East-----     |     | Venus   | -----East-----           |
| -----East-----           |     | Mars    | -----East-----           |
| 06h > 08h    +10° > +30° |     | Jupiter | 06h > 08h    +10° > +30° |
| 18h > 20h    -15° > -30° |     | Saturn  | 18h > 20h    -15° > -30° |

| Meteor Showers |        |         |        |         |                     |          |
|----------------|--------|---------|--------|---------|---------------------|----------|
| Name           | Begins | Maximum | Ends   | Max ZHR | Radiant Coordinates |          |
| Virginids      |        | Mar 20  |        | 5       | 190° RA             | 00° Dec  |
| Lyrids         | APR 19 | APR 22  | APR 24 | 10      | 272° RA             | +32° Dec |

Note: All co-ordinates refer to the 'equatorial system'.

north on the 4th/5th.

April. The planet continues its eastward motion through Gemini. On the 30th, Jupiter will set a few minutes after midnight. The moon is to the north on the 1st and again on the 29th.

**SATURN** - March. Saturn can now be seen against a dark sky and will rise before 03 hours by the end of the month. The planet is at magnitude 0.6 and the moon can be viewed to the south on the 21st.

April. Later in the month, Saturn will rise just after 01 hours. The moon passes 2° to the south on the 18th.

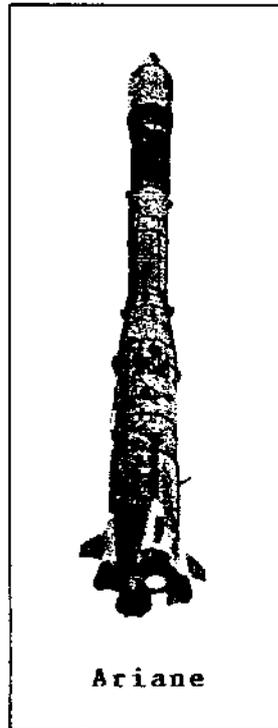
## SPACE NEWS

Hipparcos, the first astrometry mission to be conducted from space was launched reasonably successfully from Kourou on August 9th 1989 on board an Ariane 4 rocket into an elliptical geostationary transfer orbit. The Apogee Booster Motor (ABM) failed, in that it would not ignite. As the ABM was non-operational, the spacecraft could not transfer into a nominal geostationary orbit as intended. However, a revised mission for Hipparcos was initiated on September 4th 1989 and the spacecraft data is providing some encouraging results, although Hipparcos may have a shorter operational life than expected. A preliminary report into the spacecraft's failure was completed in November last year, by ESA scientists. A final report will be released this year after an extensive test programme.

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Ariane

On November 27th, last year, ESA Director General - professor Reimar Lust, signed an agreement with the U.K. Minister, William Waldergrave at the Foreign and Commonwealth Office in London. The agreement was for the installation and usage of an Ariane down range telemetry reception station, on Ascension Island in the South Atlantic Ocean. The operational qualification of the ESA station is foreseen in April, this year, with the

tracking of the Ariane V37 launch. This station will represent an integral part of ESA's Ariane infrastructure and an essential link for ground support in the monitoring of Ariane launch vehicles.

Dr Ulf Merbold, a European astronaut has been named to fly as 'payload specialist' on the first International Microgravity Mission (IML-1) aboard Space Shuttle Columbia, currently for launch in December, IML-1 is the first of a series of microgravity investigations using the European developed 'Spacelab' module.

Last but not least. The Hubble Space Telescope (HST) will finally be launched at the end of March, after a delay in schedule from last years launch date. HST will be the first telescope in space and is expected to make many new discoveries, aiding us to gain a better understanding of the universe (see UT 4).

All information courtesy of ESA and NASA.

If any investigator requires astronomical information to help with the evaluation of case investigations please write to:

Gary Anthony, BUFORA ARP, 141 Newington Street, Hull, North Humberside, HU3 5LF.



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# National Investigations Committee

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## List of Full and Provisional Accredited Investigators

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You can support your local investigators by sending them local press cuttings or passing on sightings that you hear of in your area. If you would like to get involved in any greater depth with investigations then write to the Director of Investigations for further information (address on page 2).

# DIARY

- 3rd March BUFORA London Lecture **A.G.M.** followed by **The Corn Circles**  
Speaker George Wingfield
- 7th April BUFORA London Lecture **R.A.F. St Mawgan Case**  
Speaker Eric Morris
- 21st April **BUFORA Regional Lecture: Bradford.**  
Central Library. Full programme to be announced.  
Details from Philip Mantle, 1 Woodhall Drive, Batley,  
West Yorkshire, WF17 7SW.
- 5th May BUFORA London Lecture **Psychic Animals**  
Speaker Dennis Bardens

BUFORA lectures are held every first Saturday of the month at the London Business School, Sussex Place, Outer Circle, Regents Park, London, NW1. The LBS is only a five minute walk from Baker Street tube. Lectures start at 6.30pm. **All are welcome.** Full lecture programmes are available from BUFORA (LP), 16 Southway, Burgess Hill, Sussex, RH15 9ST.

If you have an event that you wish to publicise on this page **free of charge** then write to the editorial address (page 2) with your request, three months in advance.

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