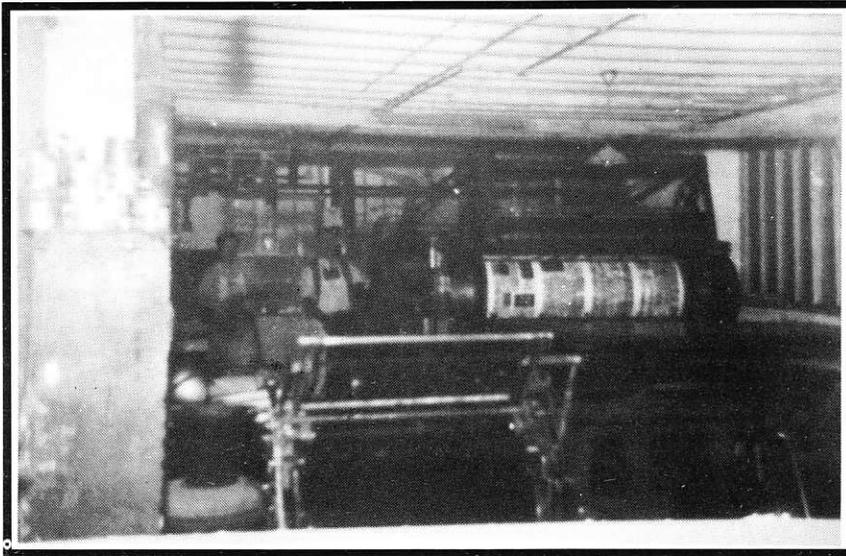

UFO TIMES

Number 17 Spring 1992

ISSN 0958-4846



Warminster wilts

INSIDE

Does Warminster deserve to be the British UFO Mecca? John Spencer reveals the details of the Faulkner photo fake revelations.

Did an RAF Tornado really chase a UFO low over Blackpool Pleasure Beach or was it a flight of fancy? Joseph Dormer, member of the Fylde UFO Investigation Group presents his findings.

And Serena Roney-Dougal concludes her speculative but fascinating paper on the functions of the Pineal Gland.

Plus... News, Investigations Diary, Skywatcher, readers letters and more in your all new UFO Times.

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1. To encourage, promote and conduct unbiased scientific research of unidentified flying object (UFO) phenomena throughout the United Kingdom.
2. To collect and disseminate evidence and data relating to unidentified flying objects (UFOs).
3. To co-ordinate UFO research throughout the United Kingdom and to co-operate with others engaged in such research throughout the world.

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Cover Picture: The Warminster printing press on the day of the publication of the Faulkener Photograph

UFO TIMES EDITORIAL

Warminster – A Ufological Monument About to Fall?

Will there come a time when all the major UFO cases are explained? Is it possible that with a little more objective investigation the sacred cows that ufology hold so dear as positive proof of a UFO reality could be resigned to the IFO dustbin? When a case, which has been a veritable cornerstone to ufology does take a tumble it makes you think long and hard about all the others and take a sceptical view.

In British UFOlore, Warminster in Wiltshire is one such sacred cow. The antics of the Warminster 'Thing' has remained a foundation stone to the subject since its appearance in 1964. Indeed it was these strange occurrences that fired my interest in ufology back in 1976 when I read my first UFO book, the Warminster Mystery by Arthur Shuttlewood. I am sure that many other ufologists in this country were dragged (or pushed) into the subject by the very same means. Even today, Warminster has re-emerged and consolidated its importance by being in the midst of the crop circle enigma.

If a reasonable amount of doubt could be placed on the important events of Warminster then British ufology would have a problem on it hands. A Mecca would no longer

exist and the strong mythology that surrounds the town would be shattered. Many ufologists look upon Warminster as evidence of alien visitation or in the very least evidence of some form of UFO reality. That could all be washed away and of course a building cannot stay standing without strong foundations.

The recent Hooton revelations regarding the famous or infamous Faulkener photograph maybe all that is needed to generate the reasonable doubt required. John Spencer presents a detailed report of his investigation of these allegations in this issue of UT and without stealing John's thunder he presents a rather cut and dried case. Apart from the hoaxed photograph, John has unearthed a further infrastructure of hoaxing and exaggerating cases to tease the sometimes gullible UFO buffs that besieged the town at the time.

With regard to the photograph specifically, the one important area that John was not able to confirm was whether Arthur Shuttlewood himself knew that the photograph was a hoax. This is the heart of the matter. Shuttlewood was the guru of the Warminster mystery. He publicised the events in a string of books and newspaper

articles and was instrumental in putting Warminster on the UFO map. His journalistic style of writing produced persuasive and powerful imagery of what was happening. His knowledge of the hoaxed photograph would cast grave doubt on the contents of his many writings. John points out that Shuttlewood's son knew of the hoax and one can only speculate on how many other members of the Shuttlewood family also knew. Shuttlewood himself is currently in ill health and has not responded to Jonn's questions, we must therefore be patient to pursue this grey area of the story at a later date.

Despite these loose ends, a question mark has certainly appeared over the events of Warminster that was once an immortal enigma.

CHANGES

Since I became editor of BUFORA Bulletin and now UFO Times, I have strived to evolve and improve these publications. UFO Times has now reached another stepping stone with a new and vitalised format. Since 1987 I have not only selected material for inclusion in the magazine but also typeset and designed layouts ready for the printing process. This has always proved to be a time consuming job. Now our printers Newton Mann Ltd have taken over this process and as you can see UT is now better than ever.

The number of pages have been reduced but because of the reduced size of the print the amount of text is equal to approximately 30 pages in the old style. So you are actually getting less paper but more to read! However, the pages of UT will always be open to anyone who wishes to contribute irrespective of viewpoint – reflecting the aims of the Association.

I hope you like these changes and I am always grateful for feedback and suggestions. Happy reading!

Vallee Comes to Britain

Report by Mike Wootten

With the launch of his latest book **Revelations** (Souvenir Press), Jacques Vallee visited Britain and gave two thought provoking presentations to large audiences in London (organised by BUFORA) and Manchester (organised by the IUN and Enigma Publishing), giving a detailed overview of his very latest research.

Vallee focused on his study of South American cases, especially those in Brazil, where many significant cases which have not been contaminated by the media, have been unearthed. Villagers in remote areas of Brazil are, according to Vallee, experiencing close encounters on a regular basis. He underlined the importance of these cases as the percipients are generally unaware of the popular perception of the UFO phenomenon, but are able to relate experiences that strongly correlate to those reported by more sophisticated eyewitnesses. Cases included a villager who fired a gun at an object and heard the 'ping' of the bullet supposedly hitting metal. A UFO that disgorged a piece of aluminium which is currently under analysis and a photograph of an alleged UFO taken by a cartographic survey plane. He also showed some interes-

ting statistical studies which seemed to confirm a 9.00pm observational peak and correlations in duration of sighting which seem to be mirrored around the world.

In conclusion, Vallee intimated to a physical reality, interwoven with a psychical non-reality. He is certainly of the opinion that the UFO experience has no single answer but several.

Vallee will now slip back into the shadows of the UFO world and quietly work on his own and come back in a couple of years with a new book.



YUFOS in 'Secret' BBC Film Scam

Recently, the Yorkshire UFO Society have claimed that the BBC are secretly withholding a film sequence showing a UFO in flight. It was alleged that the film, housed in a deep vault at the BBC Television Centre, had a classification notice stating that it should not be shown under any circumstances.

The mystery surrounding the sequence was easily cleared up by TV producer, John McNish, whose excellent Crop Circle Communicate video is selling in its thousands around the world. He quietly easily gained access to the footage (which had no secrecy notice stamped on it at all), viewed it and took a copy away for possible inclusion in his planned UFO video venture.

John was also kind enough to furnish YUFOS' very own Graham Birdsall with his very own copy. Veteran UFO researcher, Alan Staiths said, 'Yet another YUFOS fantasy bites the dust.'

New Earth Mysteries Group Opens in London

A new Earth Mysteries Group called TEMS (Travel & Earth Mysteries Society) catering for people in South-west London opened in January and incorporates the Surrey and the Middlesex branches of ASSAP and is affiliated to the Surrey Earth Mysteries Group.

TEMS is a social and study group which will have a programme of speakers, social events and site trips. The group will cover a broad band of interests such as ancient sites, crop circles, dowsing, hauntings, UFOs and other strange phenomena.

For a copy of a programme and further information contact Lionel Beer on 081-979 3148.

UFO NEWSLINE

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Busty Bets on 1992 Circles

Crop circle researcher, Busty Taylor has made his predictions for the 1992 circle season in an exclusive interview with UFO Times. He forecasts that the Wessex hotbed for circle formations will die down, with occurrences of circles shifting further north and south with pictograms still making an appearance. Busty was also of the opinion that the crop circle phenomenon will not alter without Doug and Dave on the scene. I wish I was that confident.

Get the Latest T-Shirt



UFO memorabilia specialists, UFORIA, have produced a limited edition T-shirt with a unique design created by Kevin Flannery, a professional artist. All T-shirts are white in colour with a black design with one size fitting all.

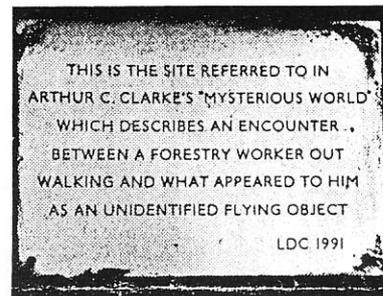
The T-shirts are keenly priced at £5.50

which includes postage and packing (overseas please add £1.50 extra for p&p). All cheques and postal orders should be made payable to:

Philip Mantle, 1 Woodhall Drive, Batley, West Yorkshire, WF17 7SW.

Please allow 28 days for delivery.

Livingston Close Encounter Set in Stone



The classic 1979 Livingston close encounter has been honoured by the Livingston Development Corporation with the erection of a plaque at the Dechmont Law site. The plaque set on a stone plinth was unveiled on January 31st and is possibly the first memorial to a close encounter to be officially erected.

The case, which remains unexplained, involved forestry worker, Bob Taylor who was confronted by a 30ft UFO with two smaller 'mine' shaped objects which attacked him rendering him unconscious and leaving tears to his trousers. Several ground traces were also left in the forest clearing.

A full account of the Livingstone Case can be obtained from 16 Southway, Burgess Hill, Sussex RH15 9ST

American Geologist backs Earthlights Theory

Report by Mike Wootten

'The Earth is much stranger than we give it credit for,' said US Geological Survey geophysicist John S. Derr as he presented his findings at the Seismological Society of America's annual meeting in Santa Fe, New Mexico.

Derr said that his new study suggests many of the remaining 5% of UFO sightings have a natural explanation. Derr's theory was met by skepticism, but wasn't dismissed. Jim Mori, a Geological Survey seismologist in Pasadena, California cautiously said, 'There is not a lot of hard evidence to support it, but I would definitely not rule it out.' There is growing evidence that underground stress generates radio signals before some quakes, and a similar phenomenon may explain reports of quake lights, Mori said. Derr's study 'is interesting and I'm cautiously supportive,' said Kendrick Frazier, editor of the *Skeptical Inquirer* magazine, which frequently debunks UFO reports. 'I think he's possibly got something. I hope additional people analyse the data to see how well it stands up.'

The study found that dozens of UFO sightings in New Mexico during 1951 and 1952 were clustered within 60 miles (100

kilometres) of the epicentres of three quakes that measured 4 to 5 on the Richter scale and happened less than a year after the sightings. Derr believes the UFOs really were earthquake lights - basketball-sized, glowing spheres of electricity that are identical to ball lightning but are generated by crushing of rock or changes in groundwater flow as underground stress accumulates in the months before an earthquake. 'The typical report is an orange ball of light, although some are blue-white and some tend toward greenish,' said Derr, who works in Albuquerque, New Mexico 'They just float along through the air... Some people feel spooked. Some people feel awed.' The study used a computerised list of UFO sightings reported throughout New Mexico during 1951 and 1952. Derr eliminated sightings with obvious explanations such as satellites and planets. He V:F7 also eliminated outlandish reports, such as people

claiming close encounters with aliens or spaceships (which is a pity as he may be missing half the story). That left about 150 reports of UFOs resembling ball lightning. Derr found about 80 of the 150 sightings clustered in time and location around the epicentres of quakes that were centred east of Tucumcari on June 20, 1951, northwest of Carlsbad on May 22, 1952, and near Los Alamos on Aug. 17, 1952. Martha Savage, a research seismologist at the University of Nevada, Reno, said she was skeptical Derr's correlation between UFO sightings and impending earthquakes was anything more than coincidence 'I'm not convinced that the sightings really migrated toward the earthquake locations,' she said.

The fact that there is a growing awareness within the geological community of this phenomenon is vital for further research to continue that will hopefully reap rewards.

Source: Associated Press 14 April 1992.

THE WARMINSTER HOAX

By John Spencer

One of the most frequent questions I am asked when I appear on radio or television shows promoting UFO research is 'What was it that got you into this line of work in the first place?' Although I am sure I always come up with some sort of answer which is in itself true I have never been able to put together the full answer even to my own satisfaction. The factors that get any of us into a life-long commitment for no gain are no doubt very complex.

However, one incident I do remember very clearly. When I was eleven years old part of my morning 'routine' was to read my father's newspaper, The Daily Mirror, before getting out of bed. On Friday, 10th September 1965 the front page of that newspaper contained the legend 'The Thing - First picture centre pages'. (1) I was already interested in UFOs and had read some American books on the subject. I eagerly turned to the centre pages. There, taking up the entire centre pages (with the exception of one advertisement for Tesco shops), was a huge photograph of 'The Thing' - Warminster's own name for flying saucers. It was accompanied by an article by Arthur Shuttlewood.

Arthur Shuttlewood will be well known to readers of UFO literature. In 1967 he published 'The Warminster mystery', his first of many books on the subject of UFOs, and UFOs over Warminster in particular.

He was the guru of what amounted to flying saucer worshippers in Warminster and regularly led parties of 'believers' over the hills around the town on skywatches that were not a tribute to scientific research but were rather an observance of religious awe.

The late 1960's the world saw the birth pangs of what we now call the 'New Age'; many of the devotees at Warminster were - or would become - hippies of the 1960's and 1970's. They were searching for new ways to express the passions that they felt inside them. UFOs, and the influence of Arthur Shuttlewood, gave many people just that new form of expression.

In parallel to this atmosphere there were many scientific attempts to study the UFOs in Warminster. At least, as scientific as was practical or reasonable for the time. Looking back on those attempts they appear extremely amateurish and ineffective but while it is right to point out the errors of research in those days it is fair to acknowledge that this is with the wisdom of hindsight.

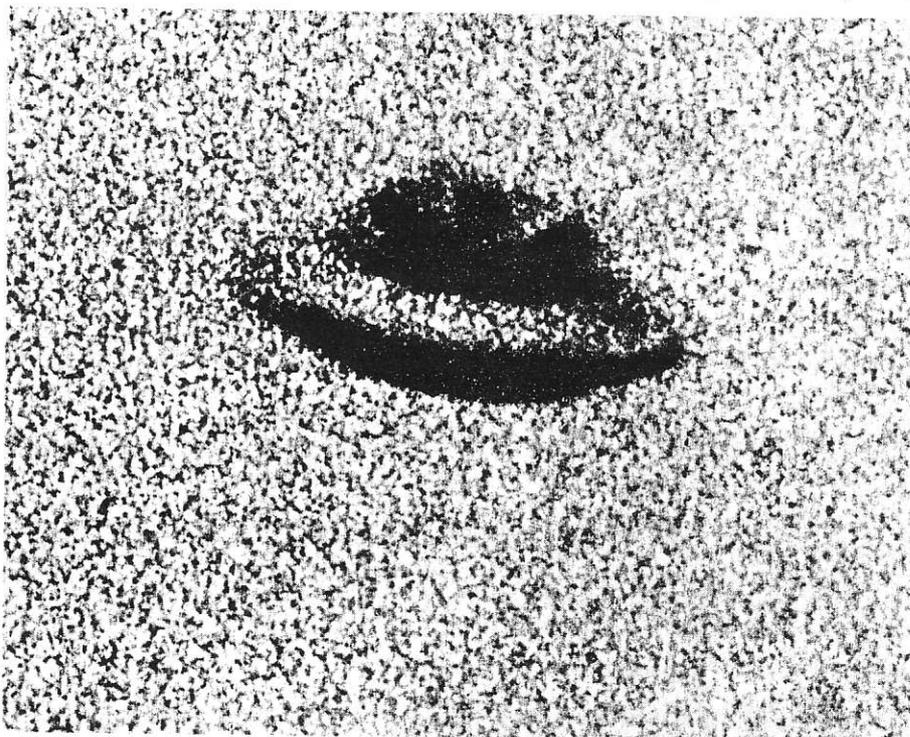
John Cleary-Baker, PhD, a director of BUFORA, was prominent in collecting as many reliable reports as possible from the Warminster area. In 1971 he announced Project Warminster designed to 'investigate current UFO reports at Warminster as they arise. It will also review the best of the reports which have come to light in the area in the past.' Apart from historical research,

the project included on-site observation and analysis. There had been many skywatches and other observation periods at Warminster in the six years previously. Cleary-Baker had compiled files of many of these reports.

into the distance." As soon as the noise stopped and the pressure lifted the car started immediately.

● Entity?

The same newspaper (The Southern Evening Echo Tuesday, 11th January 1966)



The Faulker Photograph

WHAT WAS REPORTED AT WARMINSTER?

Although known for sightings of 'The Thing', Warminster produced a very wide spectrum of UFO reports.

● Car stops.

On Tuesday, 11th January 1966 The Southern Evening Echo (2) reported the case of Major Bill Hill. Major Hill was a commanding officer of the local Territorial Army and suffered a car stop when his engine cut out at 45 miles an hour. His car lights flickered. When he got out to investigate the problem he encountered something he described as 'The Thing'. Saying, "It was fantastic. There was a definite sensation of something pressing downward. Yet the most eerie thing of all was the terrible noise. Then it subsided as though fading

(2) also reported the extraordinary suggestion of Warminster's 'mystery man'. According to the report, on the bitterly cold night of 7th October the mystery man staggered out of Norwich Wood wearing thin trousers and shirt, no shoes or socks or coat. Apparently during three days at Warminster Hospital he refused to give his name or address and discharged himself wearing the same clothes. He refused a coat offered by one of the hospital staff with the words "No thank you, my dear friends, I am well provided for". Very probably he was either an eccentric or somewhat down on his luck at the time, but the focus of attention on UFOs led to many believing he might possibly be more alien in origin. Rather quaintly, his strange origin was apparently based on the belief that "In a Wiltshire village people just don't go around calling each other 'my dear

friends", said one Warminster resident.

- **Object sighted.**

On 28th September 1965 Arthur Shuttlewood saw through the window of his home a huge cigar shaped object gliding over Col-loway Clump near Warminster at quarter to four in the afternoon (3). It had an amber dome and was estimated to be 240 ft long and 365 ft wide. It was only one of many sightings reported in the area, of course, but is of historic interest as it is credited with being the sighting which convinced Mr Shuttlewood that UFOs are of an extraterrestrial origin. The case was evaluated by John Cleary-Baker.

- **Poltergeist-like Warminster sound.**

The 24th and 25th December 1964 represented the first reports of strange phenomena in Warminster (3). On both days just before dawn there were several reports of strange sounds. Knook Army Camp personnel reported "a loud and strange noise like fall of chimney or other mass of masonry. Nothing to account for the sound". A Mr Roger Rump, the Warminster post master, was awakened, together with his wife, by "a terrifying noise resembling the ripping off and dropping off the tiles of the roof, followed by a humming or droning sound." Mrs Marjorie Page was frightened "by a noise like beating of wings, then a sound like gravel being tipped on a road, followed by drone".

- **Animal attacks.**

In mid-April 1964, at 5 Ash Lane between Crockerton and Sutton Veny, Wiltshire, a gamekeeper heard the 'Warminster sound' and watched a flock of wood pigeons flying across his path (3). Several of the birds suddenly fell dead. Examination of the bodies indicated no wounds or signs of injury.

- **Corn 'circles'.**

In the front is piece of Arthur Shuttlewood's 1971 book 'UFOs - key to the New Age' there are two photographs of flattened corn in an area near Cradle Hill in Warminster. These have nothing like the geometry of the circles of the 1980's and 1990's but clearly suggest cereal crop damage that predates the 'official start date' of 1980 (4).

And so it went on. Warminster provided a wide range of distant sightings, close encounters, perceived UFO effects and so on. Add to these Arthur Shuttlewood's belief that he was in contact with extraterrestrials, indeed a belief taken up by many of his followers, and Warminster is seen to have been a microcosm of ufology.

THE MEDIA

As is fairly typical of the media, even to the present day, there was a division between those reporters which latched on to the sensationalist and rather dubious claims of those who wanted to believe the most extraordinary possibilities about Warminster and those who tried to give coverage of attempts at scientific analysis. Predictably, the sensational won out, and the public's

perception of UFOs was coloured then, and probably remains to some extent coloured to the present day, by the way the media treated the subject at Warminster in the late 1960's. It was presented as confirmation of an extraterrestrial origin of UFOs. It suggested a link between the birth of the New Age and alien intervention.

For many people this makes the subject of UFOs untouchable, unscientific or simply outrageous and has unfortunately provided the media with a role model to follow in the years since. Modern ufologists have made in-roads into that image but it has been slow work all too easily set back by the extreme comments by the cultists of the UFO spectrum.

THE 'THING' PHOTOGRAPH

Every phase of ufology has a beginning, most easily seen with the clarity of hindsight. Just as Kenneth Arnold coined the phrase flying saucer and attracted media interest to the subject and Betty and Barney Hill, through John G. Fuller's book 'The Interrupted Journey', began an interest in the subject of alien abductions, so Gordon Faulkner's photograph allegedly taken on the evening of Sunday, 29th August 1965 was what confirmed a long media interest in Warminster as a focus of UFO attention. It was this photograph with which we started this article, it having found its way to the centre pages of The Daily Mirror newspaper.

According to Faulkner, he stepped out of the back door of his home on the evening of Sunday, 29th August and was going to see his mother. He had his camera with him because he was taking it to his sister who wanted to borrow it and suddenly saw 'The Thing' in the sky above him. Faulkner said, "As it flew fast and low over the south of the town I could just make out the unusual shapes. It made no noise. Hurriedly I got my camera free and aimed. The line of flight

was too fast to follow. So I held the camera well in front of it and pressed the trigger as it entered the view finder. I didn't dream I'd get anything on the film at all. It shook me rigid when I saw what came out of it all."

On Monday, 6th January 1992 I received at my office a letter from an Alan Raven of Norwich. It had been addressed to me personally but sent to BUFORA's registered office in Burgess Hill, Sussex and forwarded to me by them. The letter was dated 1st January 1992. Mr Raven is a local Norwich businessman of some substance. It must be said at the outset that his involvement in the subject has offered him no financial gain, that he has not sought publicity from his assistance and indeed that he only sought to put me in contact with Roger Hooton.

According to Mr Raven, Roger Hooton had assisted in creating the Warminster 'Thing' photograph as a practical joke. He offered to facilitate a meeting between myself and Mr Hooton so that I could hear this directly, and question Mr Hooton.

On Friday, 10th January 1992 I accepted an invitation to meet with Roger Hooton and Alan Raven at Alan's house in Norwich. I was accompanied by my wife, Anne, who took photographs during the meeting, as suggested by Alan Raven.

In as much as it is possible to 'prove' that the photograph was a fake I believe that Roger Hooton presented sufficient evidence and argument to make that claim a virtual certainty. Since the full story of the hoax also included deliberate clues which should have been picked up (and clearly were not) there seems little doubt that Hooton was telling me the truth. That statement cannot be made with absolute certainty of course but I will now hold that belief until equally strong contrary evidence comes to the light.

If Gordon Faulkner's photograph was a fake then there are a number of implications for ufology, and particularly the early days of British ufology.



John Spencer (l) and Roger Hooton

According to Roger Hooton the model used to make the photograph no longer exists; as far as he could recall it was made from milk bottle tops, buttons and a cotton reel.

The hoax was apparently devised over drinks in the Weymouth Arms pub and almost certainly created in the first place by one George Knock, an eccentric OAP (as described to me), a well-known local practical joker who was at the time Roger Hooton's landlord. I understand that George Knock has since died and so could not be questioned. Along with George Knock was Roger Hooton and Gordon Faulkner and other members of the staff of the Warminster Journal, the local newspaper. The possible significance of this will become apparent shortly. George Knock was described in one newspaper article as a man 'who puts his hat on with a spanner'. He was 70 in 1965 according to that article.

Apparently one of the reasons for the prank was a joke on the Warminster Journal's owner and editor, Charles Mills. Another reason was a continuing good natured 'conflict' between local people and the army garrison in Warminster.

As Roger Hooton put it to me, making up stories and hoaxes to shout to the army that "the Martians were coming" had been a well-known, even somewhat tired, practical joke by young lads in the area for some time. The original title 'The Thing' was applied to their dirigible balloons which were often seen around Warminster town. Roger Hooton said that when the UFO 'researchers' and believers arrived the local lads couldn't believe their luck: here they had an audience of a group of people who were desperate to be told silly stories. Roger Hooton and his young friends were only too pleased to tell them.

The hoaxers apparently practised for some time, during the mid-afternoon, to get the photograph right. Roger Hooton would throw the little model into the air and Gordon Faulkner would try and photograph it. Because Faulkner's camera was not 'through the lens' the object would always come out slightly off centre as it does in the eventually published photograph. Hooton said that Faulkner never could get it centred properly. One afternoon they were finally set to stage the hoax.

They went to the field opposite Roger's house at 23 Church Street, Warminster. In order to give as many clues as possible as to the fake – none of which were successfully picked up by so called researchers for many years – they firstly ensured that the pictures either side of the hoax photograph were irrelevant and did not bear out the story; yet no one ever asked to see the uncut original negative. When I asked Roger Hooton where they were Roger pointed out to me that in Arthur Shuttlewood's book 'The Warminster mystery' Faulkner states, "The print and negative are yours, free, if they are any use to you", though it is not completely

clear who he is handing over the document to (5).

The whole team then went to the chemists in Warminster to collect the prints and made quite a fuss in the chemists so that anyone going there to check up on them would get a story; they would be remembered. In fact, apparently nobody ever asked the chemists about the prints.

Regarding the time that the photograph was allegedly taken; in order to get an image they had to take it in bright sunlight in the early afternoon. Faulkner claimed that he took the photograph at 8.20 p.m. on Sunday, 29th August. In fact by that time sunset in the area was around half an hour to an hour earlier than that and if the statement had been true then the photograph would have been taken in virtual total darkness. No one apparently challenged Faulkner on this point.

The print of the photograph, together with a short letter from Faulkner, was sent to the editor of the Warminster Journal, Charles Mills, who published it (6). According to Roger Hooton, Mills knew that he was having his leg pulled but took it good naturedly and published the photograph to show he was a good sport and to go along with a popular local joke. It must be added here that when I asked the present administration of the Warminster Journal (in 1992) if this seemed correct they were certain that Charles Mills would not have published the photograph that he knew to be untrue. I did get the impression that they were defending his no doubt genuine editorial honesty rather than considering his possible painful sense of humour as described by Roger Hooton. Hooton, it must be admitted though, only worked for the paper for a few weeks during the summer of 1965.

It is noticeable that the local newspaper made very little of the so called 'first photograph' of this extraordinary object – less than might have been expected if it were believed genuine. The photograph, an enlargement of the photograph and the letter itself are very small and take up less than half of a one column (five to a page) on page 7 of the journal. By the time the story had arrived in the Daily Mirror the same day, thanks to Arthur Shuttlewood, it was a virtual full centre page spread.

In the Daily Mirror, Arthur Shuttlewood is referred to as the editor of the Warminster Journal. According to Roger Hooton, when Shuttlewood arrived back at the journal offices he was taken aside by the actual editor, Charles Mills, and told in no uncertain terms what Mills thought of this misrepresentation. Apparently Shuttlewood 'got away with it' on the grounds that he had after all got a very small circulation newspaper highly publicised in one of the biggest circulation national dailies.

Roger Hooton was able to prove to me his residence in Warminster as he himself had been the subject of a small mystery when a pond had spontaneously appeared in his garden at 23 Church Street, Warminster.

This had been recorded in the local newspapers, which he had retained and indeed handed to me for safe keeping. I also have a photograph of Roger Hooton outside No 23, apparently taken by George Knock, several photographs of the pond in the garden, a photograph taken at the time of the field in which 'The Thing' hoax was created. In addition Roger apparently took a photograph of the printing presses in the Warminster Journal on the day of the hoax itself to show the rather limited facilities available. Hooton wanted me to understand that the Warminster Journal in those days was very much a small local operation – hence the camaraderie between the workers. (Apparently every individual newspaper was hand-cut by shears!)

The important point raised by Roger Hooton was that one of the people working in the Warminster Journal at the time, and likely to have been well aware of the hoax being created, was Arthur Shuttlewood's son. That being the case, Roger Hooton is most interested to know on what basis did Arthur Shuttlewood take the photograph and story to the Daily Mirror? The question is, did he know that it was a fake? Or did he come to find out at some time?

Unfortunately investigation into 'the Shuttlewood connection' with the photograph has reached a dead end so far. Arthur Shuttlewood is apparently in poor health. I have written to him and received a verbal reply on my telephone answering machine from his wife saying that he is not interested in dealing with matters relating to UFOs at the present time. I acknowledged this and sent back only one further letter pointing out that there would undoubtedly be interest in this subject and asking him to consider putting his own position firmly on record. This would avoid the allegation of 'You must draw your own conclusions from silence,' and so on. However, at the same time I acknowledge that if he is unwell it is not proper to put undue pressure on him or his family. They also sent me a message through the present owners of the Warminster Journal that they are not interested in dealing with these enquiries and neither were they interested in my suggestion that I speak to Arthur Shuttlewood's son. The Warminster Journal also seemed to take the view that further enquiries were perhaps of a detrimental nature and have sought not to assist further; I think that this is out of respect for a local figure. They also do not see any significance in this rather old and, as far as they were concerned, insignificant story. I respect their viewpoint and indeed thank them for the help they gave me though I do not intend to relax investigation into what I regard as a significant point in British ufology.

The Warminster photographs were not universally accepted as genuine. In the BU-FORA Journal of winter 1966/67 it was suggested that the odds were 60 to 40 in favour of the authenticity of the Faulkner picture though one person believed that it was 'a snap of a schoolgirl's hat'. Several

other magazines and articles were cautious as to the authenticity of the photograph. Despite this it is still one of the landmark events of Warminster.

We should also recognise that the Warminster photograph was part of a chain that served a valuable purpose. It focused attention on one person, Arthur Shuttlewood, who collected UFO and other paranormal reports from the area. Even if that photograph was a fake it still led to a concentration of presumably genuine claims which were then collected together over a period of time and published in several books. This is a wealth of material for UFO researchers and a valuable contribution to the subject

that cannot be ignored.

What it does show up as significant is that standards of research at the time were so bad that there can be very little reliance on the accuracy of anything other than the first-hand witness testimonies. By going back to these original sources a great deal of modern UFO reports are given a useful historical perspective.

And for my part, I am left with a slight tinge of sadness that the excitement of the eleven year old boy I once was was based on a false premise. However, it hooked me into what I think is an important subject; for that I am grateful.

References:

- (1) Daily Mirror newspaper Friday, 10th September 1965.
- (2) The Southern Evening Echo Tuesday, 11th January 1966.
- (3) Warminster case files compiled by John Cleary-Baker (BUFORA archives).
- (4) UFOs – Key to the New Age by Arthur Shuttlewood published Regency Press 1971.
- (5) The Warminster mystery by Arthur Shuttlewood published Neville Spearman 1967.
- (6) The Warminster Journal Friday, 10th September 1965.

GLOWING OBJECT WITH TORNADO IN PURSUIT

by Joseph Dormer

If a person reports an incident which is so crazy that it could not possibly have happened, then that person must be lying. At least, that is the view of most people. Yet perfectly sane, sensible people continue to report things we know couldn't have happened – yet without a shred of evidence to suggest they are hoaxing, and often plenty to suggest they are not. The Tornado affair is a case in point.

On Wednesday, 6th July '89, taxi driver, Andrew Billing, rang the FUFOIG hotline to report the sighting of a UFO over the sea and Central Promenade at Blackpool. At 11.10 pm the previous evening, Mr. Billing was driving down Grasmere Rd. towards Central Drive, when he noticed, through the open window of his cab, a large, red-orange, brightly-glowing object in the sky over the sea in the south-west. He had barely been watching it for more than a couple of seconds when it 'moved off at fantastic speed, faster than the eye could see' to another part of the sky. Here, it hovered for a further couple of seconds before repeating the manoeuvre, finally disappearing out of sight in the north-west.

Within no more than five seconds after the object went out of sight, an RAF Tornado 'plane, flying very low at 400-500' [somewhat lower than Blackpool Tower, 519'] and very fast, with its wings swept right back, shot across the sky from over the sea in the direction of the UFO, as if in pursuit of it. "It had no lights on at all", said Mr. Billing, "which was unusual because it was dusk, though not completely dark. As it came across, I saw smoke in front of the aircraft and also behind, with a dull flash in the middle." This, the witness believes, could only have been an air-to-air missile being fired at the object.

The witness said he then went immediately to South Shore police station [which was later confirmed] to report what he had seen. The desk sergeant told him they would get in touch with the RAF, but added that they [the RAF] would not tell them any-

thing. Later, we learned from a friend who works as a radio operator for the same firm [REDCABS] that A.B. had also reported back to base immediately after the incident, though he had not mentioned this to us.

As Andrew Billing had not volunteered any information about whether he had heard any sound from the UFO, I questioned him on this.

JD: "Did you hear any sound at all?"

AB: "I've been puzzling over this one. There was no noise from the glowing object... well, you wouldn't expect any, would you? But there was no noise from the Tornado either, which was very odd."

Later, AB recalled that, of course, the car engine would have been running at the time. Nevertheless, he feels that this should have made little difference, and he still should have heard the Tornado.

Absurd

The whole incident seemed absurd. Nevertheless, we wrote to British Aerospace at nearby Warton, where Tornado aircraft are built and test-flown, to ask if there had been any Tornados in the area at the time. They replied that, having checked with their Flight Operations people, they could confirm that they did not have any Tornados in the area at the time.

We also checked with Blackpool Airport to see if anything unusual had been picked up on radar, but were told that unfortunately the radar was not in operation at the time.

Could Andrew Billing have been mistaken about it being a Tornado? I asked him about this during a second telephone conversation. He said quietly that, no, there was really no possibility of his mistaking it for something else. He said, "I come from Hampshire where there is the large Royal Aircraft Establishment and I've had quite a lot to do with these things. In fact, I can tell you what kind of Tornado it was – it was an F.3."

JD: "How sure are you that a missile was launched?"

AB: "Well, I'm pretty sure... I suppose, though, I'd have to say about 50% because, like I say, I didn't actually see the missile, only the smoke at the front and back and an orangey flash at the back – so the after-burners must have been on."

JD: "But how sure are you in your own mind?"

AB: "I'd say about 90%".

In the initial telephone conversation, the witness had estimated the apparent size of the object as being about a quarter the size of the Moon, but later, on a report form we had sent him, he said it was about the size of a two pence coin held at arm's length.

A further discrepancy was with the time. According to Andrew Billing, the incident occurred at 11.10 pm. But lighting-up time that evening was 10.14 pm, and by 11.10 pm it had been dark for some time, and not dusk as the witness suggested.

On the 27th July, we obtained an interview with the witness. Andrew Billing is in his middle thirties, married and has worked

as a taxi driver for many years. He is softly spoken and expresses himself in a quiet, precise and assured way. Any tendency to exaggerate or over-imagine is certainly not apparent. He asked if we had received any other reports of the incident. I told him we had not and neither had the police. This seemed to puzzle and disappoint him. I asked him if he thought that anyone else might have witnessed it. He replied that he didn't know, but shortly after the Tornado had disappeared out of sight he had noticed some people looking up at the sky. Immediately afterwards he had got a job to South Pier where he had seen two people pointing towards the sky. On neither occasion was he in a position to approach them.

I mentioned the discrepancy in estimating the apparent size of the glowing object, between what he had first told us and what he had written on the report form. He said, "It's difficult to judge. I suppose if you said its apparent diameter was about one half the size of the Moon, you might be nearer the mark. In any case, it was some considerable size".

I asked him if he was sure about the time, since by 11.10 pm, it had been dark for some time. "Quite sure", he said. Later, we did discover, to our surprise, that the difference between light conditions near the sea, and even a little inland, was sufficient to account for the discrepancy. Even though inland it had been dark for about an hour, by the sea, there was still a little natural light by 11.10 pm.

Previous sightings

It was during this first meeting with the witness that he told us of three previous sightings of aerial phenomena which he was unable to explain. One of these occurred on New Year's Eve 1978.

"I had just left my cab and was going into my house when I noticed a crowd of people gazing up at the sky. I looked up to see what had caught their attention. I saw a cigar-shaped object with lighted portholes; there was also a light surrounding the object; I could hear no sound. Behind was a smoke trail which was blue with white specks in it. Then the object turned inward and gained height, and as it did so, the smoke trail changed from blue to orange. On the nine o'clock news that evening was a report of UFOs being seen in the North West. What was described was exactly what I had seen. Later, when I spoke to one of the people who had been looking up at the sky and asked him if he had seen it. He said, 'I saw something but I don't know what it was!'"

Interestingly enough, many other people reported seeing a cigar-shaped object over the North West of England that night. What they had in fact seen was one of the Russian 'Cosmos 1068' booster rockets re-entering the atmosphere. And while, naturally enough, many misperceived what they were seeing, they did not wildly do so. All reported cigar-shaped, or cylindrical objects;

no one reported a disc-shaped object for example.

This particular sighting then, at least, was a misidentification – not a hoax. On one further occasion, a sighting by this particular witness was verified. Only a month after the Tornado sighting, Andrew Billing rang me to say that he had once again sighted something unusual, ["you're not going to believe this, but..."]. At 4.30 pm, on 6th August, he had watched two helicopters take off together from Blackpool Airport and chase some unidentified, black objects which were heading out to sea. It was pointed out to him that helicopters do not take off together; nevertheless, he stuck to his story. Later, we found out that what Andrew Billing had seen were some model helicopters controlled by the co-pilots of real helicopters – a rehearsal for a charity event which was going to be staged at Southport. [Which goes to show that just because you can't think of a conventional explanation doesn't mean to say there isn't one]. And they did take off together.

I mention these previous sightings because I think they are of some importance in assessing the credibility of the witness. On both occasions he was describing what he thought he saw.

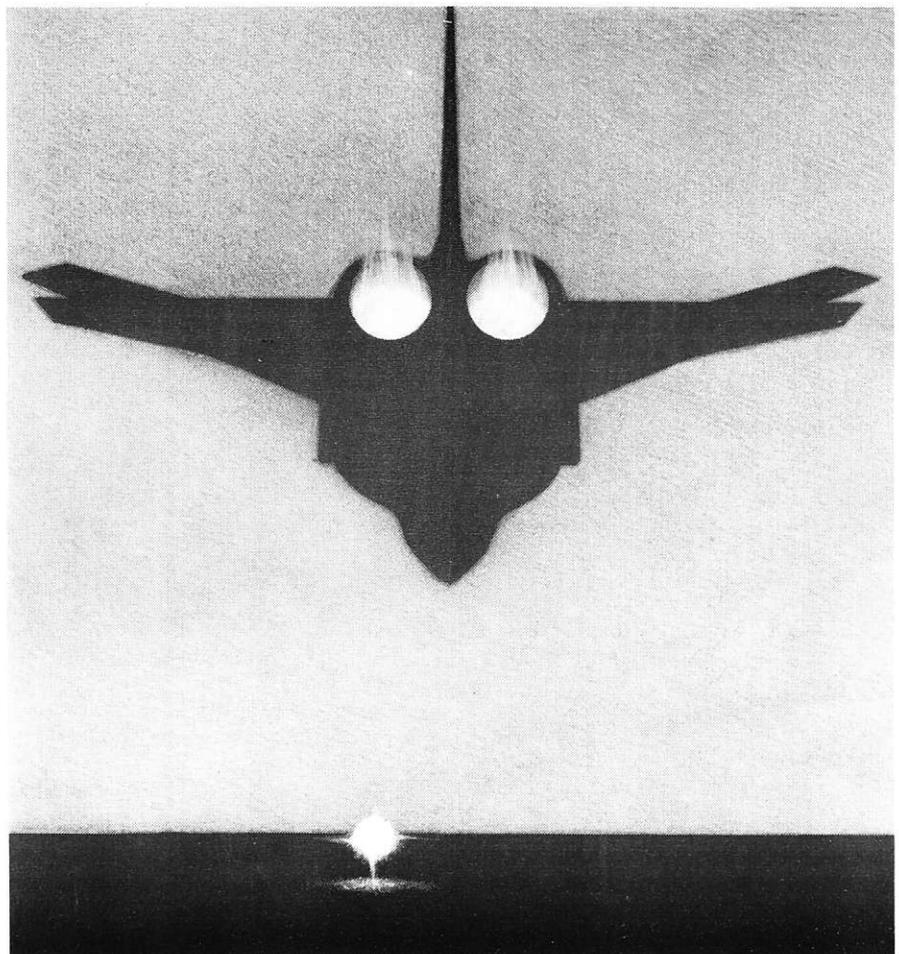
Since this initial interview, I, and other members of FUFOIG have met Andrew Billing on a number of occasions, and feel there is no reason to doubt his sincerity. Jenny Randles, who happened to meet him

at our conference at Blackpool quite by chance, and without knowing who he was, also felt the same way. As she later commented to me, "(While you can never be sure)... he seems typical of the large subset of witnesses who actually fill the central role within ufology, sincerely reporting impossible things without either motivation or evidence of a hoax, but without a scrap of evidence to support the literal reality of the event..." I couldn't agree more. To my mind, there is no good reason to believe that Andrew Billing was lying, and several to suggest that he was telling the truth. Not least among which being that the whole incident was so absurd that one feels that if he had been attempting to perpetrate a hoax, he could surely have invented a more plausible story. It was in fact this absurdity that convinced us of the futility of making extensive enquiries. Nevertheless, one of our members [now with MUFORA] did make further enquiries, including to the MOD, all of which came up blank.

Even the witness himself, on one level, seems to recognise that the incident does not make much sense. His attitude seems to be, "Well, perhaps I wouldn't have believed it myself, but I saw it with my own eyes!"

Conclusion

So what is going on? To most, even to some within ufology who have not yet realised the complexity of the phenomenon, it



is simply a case of either the witness is lying, or there really was a Tornado F3 firing a missile at a UFO over a populated area. Yet there is no justification for believing that either is the case. I would like to suggest, tentatively, an alternative explanation for both this and similar cases.

The clue, I believe, lies in the reported silence of the Tornado. Silence is a frequent characteristic of hallucinations. Now I would like to make it quite clear at this point that I do not regard Andrew Billing as in any way a 'loony'. On the contrary, he seems psychologically perfectly sound. What I am suggesting is that it is possible for sane, ordinary people to hallucinate, perhaps just once in a lifetime. [The UFO experience is far more complex than that, but I believe we are on the right track.] And it is interesting that silence is also a frequent characteristic of the 'ghost' experience, which independent evidence suggests is of an hallucinatory nature ["There was no sound of footsteps as... (the ghost)... walked", reads one report; another describes, "no sound of breath, though it seemed to be breathing very heavily"].

Of course, those who have had UFO experiences will protest that there was nothing hallucinatory about what they saw: "The object was real, solid, metallic..." But ghosts too, contrary to popular belief, seem as real and substantial at the time as anything else in the physical world. It is only later that the subject realises that what he has seen cannot be physically real [because the person seen is found to have died, for instance].

Further, there is evidence [beyond the scope of this article] that in such experiences, the whole of the environment is hallucinated, the real environment being replaced by a substitute one, almost [but not quite] identical to it. In the case under discussion, it is just possible that the people looking up at the sky after the Tornado had disappeared out of sight may have been part of the hallucinated 'substitute' environment.

If the UFO experience is essentially an hallucinatory one, what are we to make of multiple-witness cases of 'high-strangeness'? Can hallucinations be shared? Bizarre as it seems, something of this nature does seem to be happening. In any case, if sane, ordinary people can have hallucinations which they are unable to distinguish from reality, then clearly it is time to rewrite the psychology textbooks.

The Fylde UFO Investigation Group are a very active team of investigators who cover Blackpool and the surrounding area if you are interested in their activities then you can contact them at the following address:

293 Devonshire Road, Blackpool, Lancs, FY2 0TW

Investigations DIARY

NEWSCUTTINGS FOR 1991

The final total for 1991 was 1110 – only 100 down on 1990. This very high level was again due to at least 60% of the total being about crop circles – many with no mention at all of UFOs. This trend has continued into 1992. January produced 65 cuttings – of which 18 were about circles and at least two made no mention of UFOs at all.

ACCREDITED INVESTIGATORS

Continual new requests for provisional status have pushed numbers towards 50 for the first time since I became Director of Investigations. This is the thinking behind the new postal training course which we hope to get off the ground in the Spring/Summer. Already 14 members have applied. I would like to thank them and we hope all will take part. They will be individually notified as soon as we have more details to offer.

NEW R1 FORM

I would like to thank all who worked hard on the redevelopment of this. I believe we now have a first rate new form.

BROADCAST NEWS

Timothy Good has made a few appearances recently to promote the paperback of his controversial book 'Alien Liaison'. He was noted on Radio 1, for example.

Meanwhile on Radio 2 I was cast in the role of sceptic by 'The Jamesons' on 2 March in a 30 minute feature about a man from Brighton who claims to be in contact with an advanced race. He appears to be something of an old fashioned contactee, who first heard the voice when he was a youth many years ago in Sunderland. He was told that whatever he did for the rest of his life did not matter until he was 54, then they would contact him again. In so far as I could gather the witness, Ray Logan, believes he was contacted by this race of super beings when he got off a train in Sussex by impulse and went into a pub where he had a long conversation with a 'man' who could

not be human. In response to my question as to why he felt this I gather it was because the man commented that our race was in a bad way in a phraseology that indicated he could not be a member.

I apologise to Ray Logan if I have not fully followed this but the BBC link line went down and I missed some of what he said. However, this appeared to be the gist of it. I gather that he has a (self published?) book called 'The Universal Mind' in print; although I have not been able to trace any details of it. Can anyone help readers out if they want to find it?

A week later I was called on as a sub by BBC-1's 'People Today' TV show. This was the day before the election was to be announced and they felt an item scheduled was too political (obviously they knew something about Mr Major's plans up front!) Anyhow since they had a copy of my new book 'Looking for the Aliens' (co-authored with Peter Hough and published by Blandford) and as I lived locally and had done the show before they roped me in at the very last minute to talk about aliens. Since neither the producer nor interviewer (ex 'That's Life's' Adrian Mills) had read the book or knew what points we make, Mr Mills might as well have been talking in his famed ridiculous Spanish accent. Still it passed a few amiable minutes of time.

Stay tuned for 1993 as Jonathon Ross has reputedly been wooed from Channel 4 on £10,000 a show to make a 13-week series of hour long programmes for the ITV network about what they term 'aliens and the paranormal'. One ponders the deep and objective research that will be going into that serious venture. Whilst researching a book about spontaneous human combustion over the past couple of years Peter Hough and I were contacted by a noted TV comedian who wanted help to write a comedy script for childrens TV about this disturbing subject. We have had visions ever since of Jeremy Beadle taking rights in our book to produce a new series titled 'You've been flamed'... I just hope that never happens and that this coming 13 week series proves more sober than the choice of presenter might imply. There's nothing wrong with treating the paranormal as show-biz but the networks have long needed serious coverage of these issues. Whether they are going to get it very much remains to be seen.

CASEFILECASEFILECASEFILECASEFILE

- 40-001** **1940** **Alperton, Middlesex** **Ken Phillips**
Bizarre with bells on. A small flying object shaped like a metallic 'wasp' entered a house and flew about. The witness failed to dent it with an axe and the cat was scared out of the house for a week. The witnesses mother said it was a Nazi secret weapon, but the witness (then aged 9) said it was some sort of alien probe. Anamnesis is pending. There are parallels with part of a recent Margaret Fry investigation from the same time period in South Wales when a small metal insect lured a young boy towards a cliff edge.
- 87-029** **July 1987** **Walthamstow, London** **Ken Phillips**
A man and his daughter observed a small irregular mass which was drifting over the garden. It was said to look like battered-in metal with a central ring inset. The witnesses considered the possibility that it was a weather balloon. It does look to be a partially deflated balloon or a bag blowing in wind.
- 89-028** **23 Feb 1989** **Woodville, Leicestershire** **Clive Potter / Kevin Flannery**
A man driving to work saw a white 'star' which has been evaluated as almost certainly being an aircraft on route to Castle Donnington reflecting the rising sun.
- 89-029** **4 July 1989** **Pirbright, Surrey** **Jenny Randles**
A man visiting the shooting range from up north saw an object drift by that was clearly one of the half silvered balloons commonly sold at fairs and fetes in the summer.
- 90-027** **21 December 1990** **Streatham, London** **Ken Phillips**
A new member, who seems well qualified, observed a blue patch of light at 06.30 via a bedroom window (there was thick fog at the time). It then moved away pulsating at 4 Hz frequency and was visible for 10 seconds. I am not convinced, but this may be an aircraft with lights made to look very unusual and spread out via the mist.
- 91-10** **18 February 1991** **Pembroke, Wales** **R1 only**
A child reported a pulsating red patch of cloud moving against the wind. This sounds like aircraft light through low cloud. The witness was only aged eight so the R1 was not followed up.
- 91-03** **23 March 1991** **Chingford, Essex** **R1 only**
A classic blue/green fireball meteor with tail was seen at 22.28 hours.
- 91-11** **6 July 1991** **Sidmouth, Devon** **Doug Cooper**
This is a daylight photographic case. The witness heard a 'jet' noise, went outside but saw nothing. Then the noise faded and he spotted a small white object high in sky. It took 20 minutes to drift across and in that time he got one shot of the UFO with a Practika SLR with 200mm lens. The object looks rather like a balloon upon initial consideration but investigation confirms that the only met balloon launch known that day probably could not be the UFO given wind speeds and directions.
- Please note that the telephone number given for Jenny Randles was incorrect and should not be used.*

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.

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If so, send details of your new address to the Membership Secretary
Suite 1, The Leys, 2c Leyton Road, Harpenden, Hertfordshire, A15 2TL
or dial: 0582 - 763218 between 9am and 5pm Mon to Fri

UFOs, States of Mind and The Pineal Connection

PART II

By Serena Roney-Dougal

Earth Magic

All matter is a complex interweaving of charges and fields; all matter is both electric and magnetic. Electromagnetism [e-m] seems to be the interface between matter and spirit and between body and mind. It is not Chi, nor Mana, but is related to them through the quantum reality of which it is a part and which is purely outside of time and space and energy/matter reality.

Electrostatics is the aspect of electricity that causes lightning or electric sparks. When amber is rubbed, it causes things to be attracted to it, or it gives off sparks. The charge on amber or ebony can be transmitted through the human body. Silicon [sand] is half way between an insulator and a conductor of electricity. Glass is made from silicon and computers from silicon chips. Old crystalline granite stones, such as are found in stone circles, are made of silicon and quartz. They have what are called electric lattices, and so discharge their static electric charge under certain conditions. Thus they are connected with strong electric and magnetic fields, lightning type sparks and cracks and electric effects. Those using crystals are working with this electrostatic energy. It is also found in the piezoelectric effect. If you squeeze a crystal you create an electric spark, as in modern electronic or gas cooker lighters. Ball lightning, will-o-the-wisps and other UFO-related light phenomena seem to be electrostatic.

The body is electric – some people are supersensitive to electricity – thus we experience headaches, fatigue and irritation from pylons. Electricity is an agent of stress affecting our chakras and the whole of our body-mind systems. However, there are also healing properties in magnetism: pulsed magnetism is used in physiotherapy to heal bones and joints. Some consider that the aura is this electric body field surrounding all living matter. One researcher even called it the life or L-field. He monitored trees over a thirty year period and found that the L-field is sensitive to moon cycles and sunspot cycles. Some consider that our electric body alters when we are going down with an illness and that Kirlian photography can record this effect.

The Earth is a giant bar magnet. The solar cycle affects the Earth's magnetism in many ways such as extreme weather, warmer temperatures, length of crop growing season, growth pattern of trees, admission to mental hospitals and political and social change. The most extreme example is that of the

Northern Lights; intense magnetic field storms caused by flares on the sun's surface.

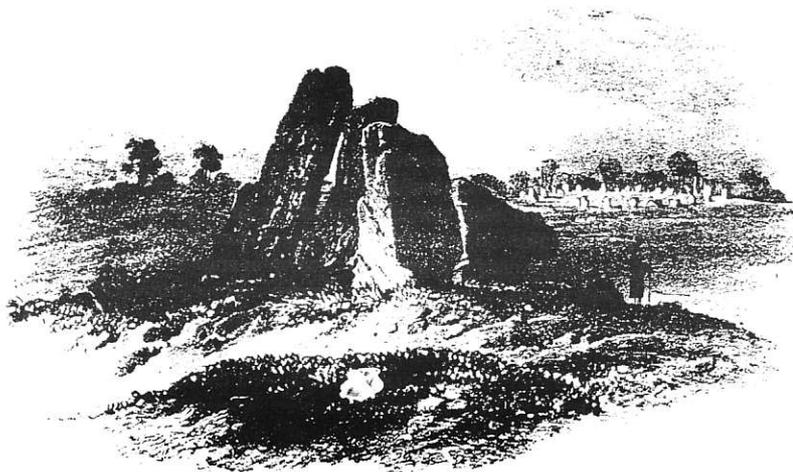
We are exquisitely sensitive to this magnetic field of the Earth [EMF]: it has been found that we do have a magnetic sense of direction, a sixth sense. If we are in a dark underground room and are swivelled in a chair and then asked to point north when we come to rest, we can do so if we "give up and guess" in typical, subliminal mentation fashion. If we are taken blindfold on a twisty turning bus ride and at the end are asked to point to where we have come from, once again we can do so if we let the subconscious take charge and "guess". This sense of direction is our sixth sense and it is linked to our sensitivity to the EMF. It is possible that our direction sense is due to the pineal gland because at puberty our pineal gland calcifies.

In other words, it crystallises, like bone. It has been found that bone, teeth, hair, feathers, horn and fingernails are all piezoelectric: is this the basis behind the magical properties associated with these bodily organs?

Rocks on Earth are magnetised according to the time when they came to the surface and cooled and to the prevailing EMF at that time; there is a suggestion that we are sensitive to these ground changes in magnetic field. As I have already mentioned, through the pineal gland, the EMF affects not only our direction sense but also our circadian rhythm. Hence the 25 hour clock, and the affecting of our emotions through our hormones. We are possibly sensitive to changes as small as one twenty thousandth of the EMF.

The Pineal Gland and the Earth's Magnetic Field

It has been found that our sensitivity to psychic information is affected by changes in the EMF, such that, if it decreases in intensity, there are more reported occurrences of telepathy and clairvoyant-type episodes; certain laboratory studies corroborate this. At times when the EMF increases, such as, during solar storms, then there are more reported occurrences of deathbed apparitions and poltergeists; the more intense



The Rollright Stone

types of psi. These show a peak at 3 am, just when the pineal beta- carboline is thought to be at its peak: when the veils are thinnest and when most people are born and die.

The change in EMF intensity, either up or down, seems to affect the pineal enzymes in a similar way: to increase their activity. There is also what is called a window effect: in other words, only magnetic field changes in the region of the EMF have been found to affect the pineal gland. Also, changes in the horizontal orientation of the field affects the pineal gland. Thus, we are affected by rocks of different ages if they change suddenly, say, at a geological fault line where two rocks of different ages meet, or where there is what is called an intrusion in which a rock of a different age pushes up through a surrounding rock. Houses can enhance or destroy this affect. Concrete houses with electrical wiring are damaging to our sensitivity, hence, hauntings are more frequent in old stone houses in their pre-electric state.

This gives a ready understanding of field dowsing, which can be seen as subliminal sensitivity to changes in the EMF, and of which running water is well known to be detectable at ground level. This sensitivity however is a typical subliminal sense and so only those who are aware at this level will be able to dowse; it is all dependent on the psychological conditions I have mentioned earlier. That is why experimental findings are notoriously unreliable for dowsing, though it has been widely used throughout the ages for detecting water, as well as in archaeology, but more frequently in the search for gas, oil and mineral deposits.

Stresses on geological faults create electric effects through the piezoelectric effect. It has been proposed that earthquake lights could well be related to UFOs. The sudden change in EMF at a geological fault, together with electrostatic effects, interact with our electric-energy body. The brain, with its millions of neurons at quantum sensitivity, together with output of the beta-carboline hallucinogen from the pineal triggered by these electromagnetic changes, affects us so that we are in a state of consciousness which is more susceptible to psychic input and we give form and shape to this electrical earth-energy and see UFOs or fairies according to our belief system and the prevailing collective unconscious of our society.

As Paul Devereux says: "On the one hand the mysteries of the universe can be reflected back to the stunned conscious mind of the witness, while on the other – a far more common occurrence – all that is displayed are elements from the common cultural ethos, usually in the comic strip media imagery that has now become the mental currency for keeping our collective beliefs, fears and dreams alive. If the UFO pageant resembles nothing more than the incoherent ravings of a fevered mind, then that is the true reflection of our current mental situation."

We must take responsibility for our visions and our voices. Just because we channel something verbally or visually does not mean that it is good or right. We can channel or experience garbage far more easily than we can channel wisdom.

Sacred Sites

There is an ancient folklore linking stone circles and other sacred sites with psychic events, Fortean events, UFOs and fairies, etc.. Britain is renowned throughout the world for the quantity of psychic phenomena that occur here. For example, it is reckoned that 1 in 10 people in Britain see a ghost at some point in their lives, and 1 in 5 have an OOB. This is a very psychic country. It is also a heavily geologically-faulted country with every age of rock present at the surface somewhere. There are 286 stone circles: of these 235m are on pre-



Puck The Shape Shifting Hobgoblin

American rock outcrops; 85% circles on 36% land mass [sic]. Every stone circle in England and Wales is within a mile of a surface fault or lies on an associated intrusion.

Paul Devereux recorded all sorts of phenomena at Rollright Circle when members of his Dragon Project operated Gaussmeters, infra-red cameras, ultra-sonic detectors, dowsing and Geiger counters there. They reckon that the stones are condensers holding electrostatic energy, and the suspicion at the moment is that the circles are placed specifically for particular electromagnetic earth-energy using material that interacts specifically to create an e-m effect that is highly psi- conductive.

Associated with the stone circles and other sacred sites are the so-called ley lines which also seem to be places of UFO sightings, hauntings, poltergeists and fairy tales. Perhaps there is some subtle Earth current linked in some way with electromagnetism or electrostatics that is concentrated along

these so-called Dragon lines. Certainly, there are plenty of barrows associated with ley lines and the composition of barrows is that of layers of organic and inorganic materials which reduces ambient e-m fields in a similar manner to modern Faraday chambers, or Reichian orgone chambers. This reduction in e-m fields is linked with psychic awareness and stimulation of the pineal gland. So it really does seem as if there was some sort of neolithic psychic technology.

My tentative speculations at the moment are that the barrows are constructed specifically to affect our state of consciousness so that we become more receptive to telepathy, clairvoyance and the other psychic phenomena shown by Persinger to be linked with a decrease in magnetic field, whilst the stone circles are related to psychic effects linked with an increase in magnetic field; this has yet to be shown experimentally.

The Fairy-Faith Philosophy

There is a legend that the people who built these megalithic monuments are the same as those who populate our myths and legends: the British fair folk, and the more modern Arthurian legends descended from them. It is felt that these legends represent the degraded remnant of the old British animistic religion, now resurging as Wicca, or Paganism, or natural magic, or the spiritual side of the Green movement.

There are four distinct types of fair folk in our legend:-

- The coarse and country fairy, as exemplified by Puck and Robin Goodfellow; every country house had its brownie or sprite.
- White ladies, Banshee, fairy women spirit-guardians of the grander mansions.
- British elves; found in communities mainly by sacred sites.
- Pagan deities – Tuatha de Danaan, Gwyn ap Nyth, Rhiannon, Cerridwen, Herne the Hunter and Pan.

The number of times these different types of beings are reported, and their actual shape described, resembles quite closely that reported in UFO literature.

Fairyland exists as a supernormal state of consciousness into which we may temporarily enter in dreams, trances or various ecstatic conditions, or for an indefinite period at death; it is not only the land of fair folk and of divine immortals, but also the land of the dead. This rebirth, or reincarnation philosophy, was a central aspect of the fairy faith. Ian Stevenson has done some excellent research into children who recall previous lives which gives a good earthing [sic] to this belief system. Fairyland is often associated with barrows, and if you look at the pictures of a round mound with its circle of light and dancing beings, this image is very similar to that often reported for UFOs. It is well known in psychic research that the shape of the perceived image is of prime importance, and what we label this shape tends to be determined by various psycho-

logical factors overlaying the primary perception.

Time to the fair folk is of a different order: one of their days is one of our years – we are to the fair folk as a gnat is to us, since one of our days is as thirty years to a gnat. This suggests that the fair folk are existing in a state closer to the speed of light, remembering that time stands still at this speed. This time/energy aspect has obvious close links to UFO phenomena.

There are several different strands to legends of the fair folk:-

- 1) The elementals, known as Devas, are to be found all over the world wherever there is an animistic religion that recognises the spirit of a place, being or thing.
- 2) The psychic-spiritual aspect, best exemplified by the traditional view of the poltergeist, in which if you had broken faith with the fair folk guardian of your house, then they would torment you. As someone remarked of mediumistic rapping of tables, the phenomena resembled nothing so much as a mischievous, childish prank; which is just what some of the fair folk are considered to be like. This same mischievous, prankish element is also to be found in the modern corn circles. These have been connected with UFOs, which in turn have been connected with certain aspects of legends surrounding the fair folk.
- 3) Memories, myths and legends of the neolithic peoples. There are many strands to this aspect of the legends. The fair folk are said to live in barrows, to dance in circles in the stone circles, to walk along fairy paths which can be linked to ley lines, to control the magnetic currents of the Earth, etc..

The fair folk are particularly said to hate iron, which relates both to electromagnetic sensitivity, and to a pre-iron age culture. They are said to have taught agriculture, spinning, weaving, dying, healing and herbal lore and all other crafts of civilisation.

They are especially a magical people, said to be highly gifted in psychic matters and able to teach humans this art. This relates to the information coming out now concerning sacred sites; their special places. Like all guardians of high philosophy, they are said to have taught the morality and ethics which has come down to us as the various taboos such as the old lore concerning poltergeists mentioned above.

Music and dancing is of their essence: they are certainly unlike the stern Judeo-Christian patriarch God who frowns on fun. In fact, the essence of their magic, their enchantment, is through poetry, rhythm and music. There are loads of stories about people who married members of the fair folk, and about changelings or children of the fair folk. Many of these stories are connected with witchcraft, the so-called old religion also called Wicca or Paganism.

Second sight originally was ascribed to those who conversed with fair folk. It was only later that these contacts came to be referred as psychic abilities in general. "Magic was the supreme science because it raised its adepts out of the ordinary level of humanity to a closer relationship with the gods and creative powers. Nor was it a science to be had for the asking. Neophytes often spent twenty years in severe study and training. Most of the mysteries of antiquity were psychic or mystical in their nature." Vigils often lasting over two weeks were done in troughs in New Grange or other barrows.

The basic essentials of the magical philosophy of the fairy faith is identical with a world-wide animistic religion, such as the aboriginal and the Amerindian, etc..

- 1) There is a spiritual world of causes as the background of the phenomenal world of effects [c.f. Bohm's Implicate Order].
- 2) The material substance composing our bodies is merely a means of expression for life: a conductor for an unknown force which exhibits volition and an individual consciousness – that which we call our soul.
- 3) The soul is an indestructible unit of invisible power possessing consciousness and volition and is able to exist independently of the human body.
- 4) The personality is a temporary combination wholly dependent upon the ego – there is no personal immortality.
- 5) All evolutionary processes, reaching from the lowest to the highest, illustrate a gradual unfolding in the sensuous world of a pre-existing psychical power through an ever-increasing complexity of specialised structures; this complexity being brought about by natural selection. Life is equivalent to psychical power which is equivalent to a reservoir of consciousness. It is the soul monad that survives, which is im-

mortal, which gives unity to each temporary personality and this soul is the bearer of all evolutionary gains made in each temporary personality through which it reflects itself. It is the permanent evolving principle.

- 6) Some races have evolved out of the human plane of existence into the divine plane. Hence the gods are the beings which once were human and the actual race of humans will in time become gods. There exists a need in nature, by virtue of the working of evolutionary laws, for people to strive to reach divinity.
- 7) Magicians are able to produce magical effects because they are able to tune into the soul stuff, and all spirits and fairies are portions of such universally diffused mana, the soul of the world.
- 8) Mysticism is fundamentally the same in all ages and among all people. Modern mysticism, derived mainly from eastern sources, links with the fairy faith handed down from our ancestors because the two occupy a common psychical territory. Ironically, with the new physics, the animistic view of humans is more in harmony with scientific premises than any other.

To me, this faith, this philosophy, is the basis behind the newly evolving paganism in Britain and America. Parapsychology, in giving us the scientific grounding for magic, is confirming this philosophy of spirit, is giving us a science of the spirit, so that we can grow a world-view in tune with our times that will be in harmony with what our planet needs for survival. If the present day UFO phenomena are in some cases linked with this earth magic, then it would be really rather lovely if our collective cultural subconscious could shift to perceive this energy in its older fairy form rather than in the rather mechanical and often horrifically fascist abduction format that we are suffering now.

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SPACE NEWS

Micro Gravity Tests for Discovery

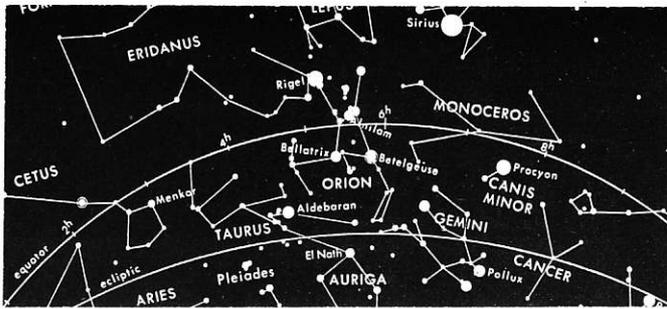
The International Microgravity Laboratory was the payload on board the successful Discovery mission in January.

The IML-1 used the Spacelab pressurised laboratory which was developed in the late 70's by ESA which has already been flown in space five times with Spacelab I, II, D-1 and Astro-1 missions. The project allows astronauts, working in shifts, to perform a variety of experiments in a shirt-sleeved environment for 24 hours a day.

Microgravity or weightlessness is useful to many scientific disciplines, in providing vital research. In an orbiting spacecraft the gravity levels are reduced by a factor of one thousand to a hundred thousand; these conditions are far removed from any that could be reconstructed on the Earth. The virtual absence of gravity can be utilised in many different ways for example in medical research and alternatively for producing alloys and semi-conductor materials with better physical properties. Another area of promising research concerns protein crystals, complex 3-dimensional structures which are almost impossible to grow on Earth. In orbit, high quality crystals can be grown where their internal structures can be determined using standard X-ray diffraction techniques.

Experiments onboard IML-1 were divided into two categories – Life sciences and Material sciences. ESA provided the two facilities described as multi-user facilities – meaning that different experiments were repeatedly performed using the same basic equipment. One is called the Bio-rack, which will carry 17 experiments devoted to small life-forms, cells, plants etc. It was used to scrutinised biological mechanisms at the cellular level and allowed study of radiation effects. The other has been named the Critical Point facility, allowing for the investigation into physical properties at critical points, where liquid and vapour phases co-exist. At the critical point, many physical properties adopt extreme values. For example, in water the critical point where liquid water and steam coexist is at 370°C and 220 bar pressure.

ESA astronaut Ulf Merbold, who flew on Spacelab-1 in 1983, will operate as payload specialist on this IML mission.



SkyWATCHER

Edited by Gary Anthony

While some observers will be keeping an eye out for the first white March Hare to appear, others no doubt will be endeavouring to look at the heavens despite the recent poor weather. In This feature we will have all the regular news on planetary positions, phases of the moon plus Space news will take a look at Ulysses a new generation of solar space probes and IML-1 which was key to the January Shuttle mission.

The Planets

Venus – March. Rising less than an hour before the Sun at magnitude -3.9 and remains very low in the east. The Moon is near on the 2nd.

April. The planet is clinging to the eastern horizon throughout the month and still at magnitude -3.9 .

Mars – March. The red planet is also low in the east before sunrise. Saturn appears close on the 6th/7th and the moon is near on the 1st and 31st.

April. The red planet is inconspicuously low in the east at a dull magnitude of 1.2 for

a bright sky.

Jupiter – March. Is a brilliant object of magnitude -2.5 in the constellation of Leo. The moon is nearby on the 16th/17th.

April. Still a bright object and dominating the evening and morning sky, but setting by 03hrs lat in the month. Moon is near on the 12th/13th.

Saturn – March. Is an early morning object rising some two hours before the sun by the 31st, not well placed for UK observers moon is near on the 2nd and 9th.

April. Jupiter rises by 02 hrs by the 30th. Moon is near on the 26th.

skyDATA

MARCH		1992		APRIL		
4th 13 h		New Moon		3rd 05 h		
12th 05 h		First Quarter		10th 10 h		
18th 18 h		Full Moon		17th 05 h		
26th 02 h		Last Quarter		24th 22 h		
RA	Dec			RA	Dec	
—Eastern Horizon—		Venus		—Eastern Horizon—		
—Eastern Horizon—		Mars		—Eastern Horizon—		
10h > 12h	00° > +20°	Jupiter		10h > 12h	00° > +20°	
20h > 22h	-10° > -20°	Saturn		20h > 22h	-10° > -20°	
Meteor Showers						
Name	Begins	Maximum	Ends	Max ZHR	Radiant	Coordinates
Virginids	Mar 5	Mar 20	Apr 2	8+	190° RA	+00° Dec
Lyrids	Apr 19	Apr 21	Apr 24	10+	272° RA	+32° Dec

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

GREAT BALLS OF FIRE

A brilliant fragmenting fireball was seen to enter the atmosphere over the Bristol and Swansea area on the 10th January 1992, by several competent observers. According to a local policeman the phenomena occurred at approximately 9.58 pm and was described as fiery and fragmenting into about six elongated pieces. The fireball was probably caused by space-debris re-entering, although no agency has yet confirmed this explanation.

ULYSSES UPDATE

On the 8th February 1992, Ulysses, Europe's first solar-polar space probe encountered the massive gravitational field of the giant planet Jupiter, to use a gravitational assist manoeuvre to propel the probe out of the planetary ecliptic and send it back in the direction of the Sun's poles.

The sling shot effect was a success and now Ulysses is heading for the Sun at an incredible escape velocity of 11.4 km/s per second, which means that Ulysses is the fastest man-made object ever.

The regions surrounding the Sun's poles are unexplored territory, we cannot see them clearly because a hot turbulent solar atmosphere interferes and Earth makes a poor vantage point. Ulysses is expected to fly over the southern solar pole region in the summer of 1994, transversing the ecliptic for a northern solar pole fly-by in the following year and giving the first 3-dimensional view of a star, our Sun.

The spacecraft is equipped with nine sophisticated instruments, which are honed to measure charged particles, neutral gas and cosmic dust in the interplanetary medium (planetary ecliptic), as well as changes in the Sun's magnetic field and solar wind. Ulysses will also search for radio emissions, plasma and gravitational waves (if detectable) and X and Gamma ray radiation bursts that occur in extra massive objects such as black holes and at the centre of galaxies in very violent reactions. So the joint European Space Agency (ESA) and NASA Ulysses mission is set to play the role of 'cosmic detective', perhaps opening new windows for science and cosmology if gravitational waves can be detected.

As well as probing the Sun, at Jupiter Ulysses provided a bonus to the mission by measuring the Jovian magnetosphere of Jupiter and surveying regions which were unexplored by the Pioneer and Voyager probes.

All information courtesy of ESA and NASA.

If any investigator requires astronomical information to help with the evaluation of case investigations please write (enclosing an sae) to:

Gary Anthony, BUFORA ARP, 119 Askew Avenue, Hull, North Humberside, HU4 6LT

Readers

Write

Express your views by sending your correspondence to:

**The editor, UFO Times,
Suite 1, The Leys,
2c Leyton Road,
Harpenden, Herts,
AL5 2TL**

Earthlights: An Independent Consensus

Dear Editor,

Just a quick comment on the letter from Paul Devereux in UFO TIMES for September.

I wish to take nothing away from the work that Persinger and Devereux did in defining the geophysical nature of UFOs but readers should not be under the impression that Paul Fuller and I have ignored either man. There is a chapter in 'Crop Circles: A Mystery Solved' which presents in detail the full history of the work they did and puts it into context with other contributors such as Tributsch, who tend to get forgotten. There is not the slightest question of any oversight on our part for credit where it is due.

However, it is equally a bit unfair of Paul Devereux to attempt to suggest that I am a latecomer to the idea. He knows that is not the case. My first book 'UFOs: A British Viewpoint', written in 1978, very clearly shows how some of the UFO data is explainable as novel atmospheric and meteorological processes. It first applies the term UAP (Unidentified Atmospheric Phenomenon). Indeed, some sections of it pre-empt the Meaden vortex; which surprised me when a reader pointed it out recently.

Soon after that (indeed for my third book - 'The Pennine UFO Mystery' - written in 1982 and published in summer 1983) I developed the theory from British Viewpoint into practice by looking at the data base of one active region (the Pennine Hills on the Yorkshire/Lancashire borders). I was then excited by the Persinger work, just published in the USA and to which I was introduced by Ken Phillips. The book shows how again and again clues poured out from real on the spot investigations - ie not arm-chair theorism - that Persinger was on the right lines. It concludes very clearly that even close encounters could be reduced to geophysical stimuli. You cannot deny this

fact, as it is there in black and white and second hand book shops!

Paul Devereux was writing 'Earthlights' at the same time; although we knew nothing of each others work. When it appeared 'Pennine' was written but a few months away from being published. I tacked onto the very last page of the book one paragraph in small print at page proof stage so as to alert readers to the significance of Devereux's just released book. These facts are crucial because they show that both books were entirely independent of one another. Yet they reached such remarkably similar conclusions and this was surely a significant demonstration of the basic validity of the UAP concept. Indeed, in 'Earthlights', Devereux had even bemoaned the lack of data for a predicted Pennine 'window' - the precise one I was at that same moment exposing through years of actual UFO data. This further indicated the strength of the idea.

It was in the context of all this that I got immediately involved in circle research and why from the very start I knew that Meaden was onto something. In no future book did I ever shirk from giving full credit to Persinger and Devereux. You will find such commentary in the likes of 'Science and the UFOs' (1985) and 'Mind Monsters' (1990) - both of which develop the theme into a modern context. 'Mind Monsters', in particular, is a book that few UFOlogists have read and yet it is a crucial expression of my thinking.

Personally, I have been surprised by the number of people who have alleged my theories and viewpoints have changed drastically over the years. It is something I have been vilified for, but I believe that if you read British Viewpoint, Pennine UFO Mystery, UFO Reality, Science and the UFOs, Mind Monsters and Crop Circles in chronological sequence (as they were written) they show a progressive development of the same essential argument for the UFO mystery; which is this:-

(1) There are several different basic UFO phenomena, one of the most important of which is a complex atmospheric process (the UAP) interacting with the human mind via altered states of consciousness.

(2) You can endeavour to explain many of the physical, physiological and psychological factors of the UFO evidence as a consequence of this interaction.

(3) Although things such as earthlights, ball lightning, plasma vortices or other UAP may appear unique – and to some degree could well be – there is at the least a thread connecting them together and they could very well be no more than different expressions of the same force of nature.

As to whether all of UFOlogy is thus explained, I have toyed with the idea and from time to time been almost convinced that it was, but I am far less assured by that brave hope at present than I was a couple of years ago. I do not shut the door on an alien component (see 'Abduction') However, I am satisfied these forces represent a major factor in the puzzling UFO data base which is capable of reducing the true unknowns to what for some would seem to be a frighteningly small residue.

UFOlogists have an in-bred fear of finding the answers and react with hostility against anyone who is striving to come up with viable solutions. Perhaps more people should sit down and think quietly why they respond to our evidence in this way. After all, our purpose as UFOlogists IS to solve the mysteries before us – not to keep them going.

That statement summarises one of the real reasons why UFOlogy has made so little progress in most outsiders eyes. It is rather like a British government backing proportional representation, thus probably guaranteeing it will be elected out of office. It may be right. It may make sense. But it doesn't happen because the executioner's first victim is far too likely to be himself.

There is a sobering lesson there for UFOlogy, even though I do NOT believe UFOlogy has nothing to contribute. If I did I would not have devoted so many years to it.

Jenny Randles, Stockport, Cheshire

Editor's comment

It is clear that although Earthlights and the concept of unexplained atmospheric phenomena are tantalising theories to explain the UFO enigma (and I am speaking as a supporter), much more work has to be done to correlate UFO events with geological activity and atmospheric anomalies. Using and manipulating the growing computer database records that BUFORA and other organisations currently house is in my opinion integral to making concrete links that turn theory into understanding.

UFOIN Files: The IUN Respond

Dear Editor,

I Have been following with interest the past few issues of UFO Times in which the UFOIN files and the Aveyley booklet have been discussed and would like to comment accordingly.

a) Whatever Andy Collin's comments may have been he did initially write to Philip Mantle and tell him he could do what ever he wanted with the case file. Furthermore, I have in my possession a letter from Andt stating he has no objections whatsoever to the case being re-published providing he is named and credited and this has been done.

b) Jenny's history of UFOIN is vastly interesting, but for the purposes of the present discussion rather pointless. Neither I nor any member of the IUN is really interested in the monkey squabble that lead to the UFOIN files ending up in Nottingham or why NUFOS wouldn't hand them over ("my group is bigger than your group" etc). That's dead history, probably interpreted and revised in the way that only ufologists seem to be able to do.

c) I'm pleased Jenny isn't interested in bitterness and recriminations', that will save the IUNs B & I Dept. time and trouble we could better expend elsewhere for more effect. But I'm afraid she's not going to be 'happy', because the files are staying exactly where they are. Jenny claims that the files are at 'somebody's' private house, when she knows full well that they are in my house, currently occupying a filing cabinet next to my desk and beneath a ghettoblaster, why be coy? I don't mind.

d) They are staying where they are for these reasons: i) They were given to the IUN and that's that – when we get bored of them we'll give them to somebody else – certainly not BUFORA. ii) I have seen in the past the state of both the NUFON and BUFORA files, all of which (though this may have changed) were stuffed unceremoniously into cardboard boxes. iii) Additionally the previous practice of having them stored in a 'public' place has led to a great many files being, basically, stolen, and there are great gaps in the sequences. At least in their present location that won't happen (unless I am accused of 'stealing' them by having them – in which case, tough) and they are now all in individual folders and will soon be catalogued. They are accessible to anyone who wishes to see them in surrounding a damn sight more conducive and accessible than some public place that is only open on wet Wednesdays in February between 9.30 and 2.15. Additionally they are being made available to researchers for the cost of photo-copying – a facility no other group offers.

e) Suddenly in one of her final paragraphs Jenny turns into an Ethics Girl. I should coco. Whilst I have always kept out of Jenny's various arguments with and

about witnesses, I am fully aware that there are many people who believe that her ethics in publishing books containing witness details are, shall we say, less than ethical. That's fine by me. Jenny and others must do what they have to do, just as the IUN will do what they have to. And anyway, keen students of ufology know full well that ufologists use the term 'ethics' to support whatever bug-bear they have got at that moment. As far as the IUN are concerned all files marked will have personal details deleted unless the witness has marked otherwise on the R1 or the case has been in the media, in which case it is now public domain.

I will close by saying that the IUN as usual extends its file openness to any researcher and I think that our treatment of the UFOIN files demonstrates this. Files are no use if no-one sees them, becoming like stamps in collection to which only a few have access. Additionally lest the above be misinterpreted by anyone I would like to make it clear that I have the highest regard for Jenny, both as a researcher and a person.

**Andy Roberts
Brighouse, West Yorkshire**

Editor's comment

As I and other have recently stated in the past, the ethical issue of publishing other investigator's work has always been a thorny issue. However, I think you have made your position crystal clear (as always). I was not aware that Andy Collins had basically given you carte blanche to publish his voluminous account of the Aveyley abduction as it stands and thank you for clearing this point up. My only comment on this part of the discussion is that Andy's name was rather hidden on the inside of the booklet and not placed where it should have been – on the front cover. Hopefully this will be corrected in future efforts.

With regards to BUFORA's case files. Yes they have been a mess for many years which was a legacy of past mismanagement, but thankfully now these many thousands of case reports (dating back as far as 1932) are being computer catalogued and binded. This is in stark contrast to the UFOIN files which only amount to approximately 150 – a rather lighter administrative exercise. And I seem to remember your offer of help to reorganise the BUFORA case archive which didn't amount to much. So don't scoff too much!

Finally it does seem that you are managing the UFOIN records much better than NUFOS ever did so keep up the good work.

R1 Comment

Dear Editor

Please allow us to express our gratitude for publishing our article on "Ufology in Ireland" in UFO Times no. 16.

What a surprise to open page 22 and see our article on the pages of BUFORA's very entertaining, informative, educational and

at times, controversial magazine. We plan to send more updates to UT in the future.

Whilst we are in a complementary frame of mind, may we say that the newly revised BUFORA sighting questionnaires are excellent and are a vast improvement on the old ones.

The layout and design of the form certainly bring BUFORA into the 1990's. It also makes it much easier for the investigator to read and evaluate and for the witness to fill in. We also notice that there is one extra question on the new form, whereas there was only 14 on the old one.

The section dealing with "some life and 'inner world' experiences" of the witness is new, but is a necessary addition, we feel as it is very important for the investigator to know if the witness is psychic etc as it can contribute greatly to the case in hand.

We simply can't wait for BUFORA to send us some copies so we have photocopied the one in UFO Times. Although, we have to admit that it will be quite some time before we can use them as we have one small problem. We still have a lot of the old style R and I forms in our files and we think it would be better to use them rather than throw them out.

Finally, Congratulations to Ken Phillips, Alex Keul and Mike Wootten for devising and designing the new questionnaire. They obviously put a lot of thought and hard work into it before revealing it to BUFORA members.

**Pat Delaney and Anne Griffin,
BUFORA Ireland, Dublin.**

Editors comment

Thank you for your words of support. Comments so far from the membership have been of a positive nature with some very constructive criticisms which have been taken on board. The new questionnaire was discussed at length at the last NIC meeting. All were in general agreement that this form be adopted as soon as possible except for a few minor alterations. It is hoped that stocks will be available sometime during the Summer.

Are The fakers Faking?

Dear Editor

As a newcomer to BUFORA, though not a newcomer to UFO investigation, I welcome the opportunity of expressing my views in your excellent journal, UFO Times. Although I do not claim to be an expert I have had certain experiences necessitating the application of a little common sense, ie, being a retired Flying Officer and having served for 30 years as a police officer in Sussex.

With reference to the article 'Corn Fakes' in UFO Times September 1991, I feel compelled to make the following comments:

Of course many crop circles have been fakes, some more obviously than others.

There have always been idiots who think it's funny to impede scientific progress and at the same time causing thousands of pounds worth of damage. However, genuine circles are known to contain a mystery force which have been registered on instruments and picked up by BBC microphones. This being something which fakers cannot produce.

As for the claims of Messrs Bower and Chorley, I find at least one of their explanations utter rubbish! Both on TV and in the local 'Evening Argus' they claimed to be able to move across a field in a straight line by means of a sight affixed to the peak of their baseball caps. Anyone can look at a distant landmark through a sight on their caps, but it certainly does not ensure that they will walk in a dead straight line to that mark. I could zig-zag and still keep everything in line!

For some years, since retiring from the Police, I have been a skipper of a deep sea angling club. If I had put a sight on the bows of the boat and aligned it with my eye and a mark on the shore I could keep it them in line the whole time, but my course to the shore would be more of an arc because of tidal drift. The whole point being that as long as the boat kept pointing towards the mark it wouldn't matter how erratic its course was. Exactly the same point applies to walkers.

I sincerely hope that those two gentlemen are not enjoying a world cruise on money they have been awarded for allegedly solving the mystery. Someone's been pulling someone's leg!

One further comment on crop circles; Dr Terence Meaden's plasma vortex theory cannot be the answer for the following reason. Nobody is disputing the existence of such vortices, they certainly exist. However, it must be obvious that they have existed probably ever since Earth was created, so why have they only decided to manifest themselves in the last few years?

Again I can only call on 'experience' when, in the summer of 1944, I was completing my radio/flying training at RAF Yatesbury, this being only a stone's throw away from the sites of a number of recent circles and pictograms. We flew daily over Wiltshire and its surrounding counties at heights up to about 3000 ft but there were no patterns in crops, in spite of the fact that more crops were being grown in wartime.

Also, I spent many hours relaxing on top of Silbury Hill after roaming the downs at weekends. The only strange thing I remember was that whatever the wind was doing at ground level it was always still and warm on top, even when standing.

Briefly, my own theory is that some other intelligence is creating these genuine patterns to draw our attention to the power within. This could amount to a natural national (or even international) grid system of power which, when harnessed, could mean our dispensing with oil, coal and dangerous nuclear power.

Why are most of these genuine circles found along leys, did I hear someone ask? My theory is that thousands of years ago we had extraterrestrial visitors (who have now returned). Our ancient ancestors, seeing these craft hovering along these lines, possibly replenishing their supplies, regarded them as 'gods' and later built stone circles, tumuli and earthworks on this 'sacred' ground from which to worship these gods. Now we in our present age just connect these structures with lines and call them leys.

Is any official scientific effort being made to look into the possibility of a natural power? Perhaps that is the real reason why Stonehenge has been closed to the public!

**John L. Clarke,
Hove, East Sussex.**

Editor's comment

Since the dust has somewhat settled after the media storm that Doug and Dave whipped up, questions are forming over the validity of their claims. Certainly their techniques (including the sighting apparatus used) have come into question and unfortunately Doug and Dave are lying very low – apparently awaiting the publication of their own book, so it is hard to get clarification from them. Despite this I am still of the opinion that the majority of the more complex circles are hoaxes leaving relatively few simpler genuine circles to research.

Despite your views on the non existence of pre-1980 circles, there is enough evidence to show that circles have appeared in the past. But granted, not to the same levels as we are experiencing at present. However, after careful research by BUFORA it was discovered that new strains of crops were available in the late 1970's that improved the yield per stem which has made the crops rather top heavy, thus making them more prone to wind damage. Whether this has any bearing on the upsurge in circles is unclear, but the coincidence is worth noting.

Your assertion that these circles are the markings made by extraterrestrials has no foundation. If we are dealing with a higher intelligence than our own surely they would communicate with us in a more intelligible form. Even if they tried it in the early 1980' it would seem sensible to assume that they would have realised by now that this circular communication is a little one sided and was not being understood. A new tack would surely have been implemented by now?

Finally, the main reason why Stonehenge was closed to the public was that people were vandalising it and hacking bits off of it to take home. The many hundreds of other stone circles that abound the British countryside are still accessible to the public.

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DIARY

15th-16th Aug

IUN International UFO Conference – Sheffield
Speakers include John Keel, Bill Moore, Jenny Randles and Norman Oliver.
Details from 1 Woodhall Drive, Batley, West Yorkshire, WF17 7SW

5th Sept

BUFORA London Lecture –
Speaker to be announced

BUFORA London lectures are held every first Saturday of the month at: The New Lecture Theatre Complex, 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. Entrance £1.50 members, £3.00 non-members. The new theatre has wheelchair access and facilities for the disabled. All are welcome.

Full lecture programmes are available from:

BUFORA (LP), Suite 1, The Leys, 2c Leyton Road, Harpenden, Hertfordshire, AL5 2TL.

5th Sept

Ley Hunter Moot, Hebden Bridge, West Yorks
Details from: Andy Roberts, 84 Elland Road, Brighouse, West Yorks HD6 2QR
(SAE Please)

19 Sept

BUFORA 30th Anniversary Conference
London Business School
Speakers include: Steuart Campbell, Ralph Noyes, Norman Oliver and Mike Wootten.
Details from BUFORA Central Office.

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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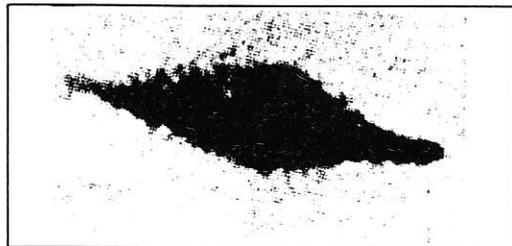
Published bi-monthly

UFOCALL 0898 12 18 86

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