

UFO

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AREA 51

the psychology of dreamland
Terry Hansen delves into the
secret world of Groom Lake

Panic Attacks?

The War of the Worlds mass
panic of 1938 or was it?
John and Anne Spencer
investigates

Investigations Diary

The very latest UFO
cases from around
the UK and beyond...

Research Review

The regular feature that
reviews the work of BUFORA's
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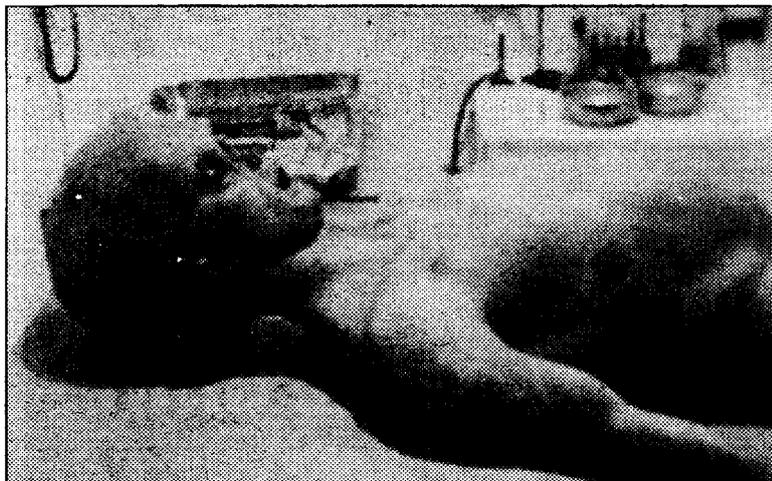
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UFOs: Examining THE EVIDENCE

The 8th International UFO Congress

a BUFORA publication

editors • Ken Phillips & Mike Wooten 16 Wedgewood Walk, London, NW6 1XR
editorial board • Steve Gamble, Philip Mantle, Jenny Randles, John Spencer
assistant editor • Christine Williams

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 1 Woodhall Drive, Batley, W Yorks, WF17 7SW tel 01924 444049

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Newsclipping Archive

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 Kent, CT2 8PY

Director of Investigations

Philip Mantle
 1 Woodhall Drive
 Batley
 West Yorkshire
 WF17 7SW

Director of Research

Stephen Gamble
 (address as Central Office)

Email BUFORA@STAIRWAY.CO.UK

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It is also the policy of UFO Times not to publish the names or addresses of witnesses who are not in the 'public domain'. The personal details of witnesses who have been published in the media will be treated with care by the editorship.

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Aims

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

2. To collect and disseminate evidence and data relating to UFOs.

3. To co-ordinate UFO research throughout the United Kingdom and co-operate with others engaged in such research throughout the world.

membership is open to all who support the aims of the association and whose application is approved by the executive committee.

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Editorial

Roswell or Bust

The world of ufology has been awoken with a jolt by one man and his claims. That man is Ray Santilli and his claim is that he has in his possession the pictorial proof that the 1947 Roswell incident was indeed a crash retrieval of an alien craft.

There are few, if any, researchers who are convinced of his claims, with most following the 'too-good-to-be-true' angle. Others have seen clips of the 16mm footage and are simply not persuaded or impressed with what they have seen. Even veteran Roswell researcher Stanton Friedman has stated that he firmly believes the story to be a hoax.

But, all of these negative conclusions are not based on a full analysis of the evidence. BUFORA has been offered to conduct this analysis by Mr Santilli, from film aging to the historical continuity of the film. BUFORA is still prepared to conduct this research, but unfortunately still awaits the delivery of the film.

The rumour mill is rife of stories relating to the film, Santilli and BUFORA. I want in this editorial to make quite clear BUFORA's position at this time.

I have heard from many quarters that BUFORA is making capital of the film and will eventually get 'ægg on its face' for supporting and promoting Santilli and his claims. At no point has BUFORA officially declared the film to be genuine, but is bold enough to take the 'bull by the horns' and carry out the fundamental investigation instead of casually brushing it aside - based on speculation and inaccurate information. Once BUFORA is given the evidence to analyse, it will make a declaration one way or the other, with complete independence of Santilli and his wishes.

As far as capital gain is concerned. Yes, BUFORA invited Santilli to speak at our imminent congress which is now a sell out. However, it must be strenuously pointed out that any proceeds will not end up in the pockets of individuals, but will be directed to funding research and investigation. Therefore the subject of ufology has gained not lost, irrespective of whether the film is genuine or not.

It is also my opinion that many of the unfounded criticisms raised against BUFORA stem from sour grapes. I am sure that if any other group or individual was placed in the same position as BUFORA, they would be vying for the same gains. Some criticism have come from quarters that have no right to take sudden moral stands and I have to remind them of the old saying æpeople in glass houses should not throw stones.

Some have also said that this whole episode is bad for ufology. I could not disagree more. Researches in this country and abroad have been checking the background facts and sharing their findings. BUFORA has lined up a whole string of photographic specialist to conduct the analysis (this was in place within days of Santilli's emergence). So, in my opinion, this has shown how quickly the UFO research community can react and be ready to deliver results.

I for one will look forward to seeing the results of the analysis and BUFORA's congress success.

Mike Wootten

E-mail:mike.wootten@pandorasbox.org.uk

CONTENTS

Pages 4 & 5

News

Pages 6, 7 & 8

The Psychology of Dreamland

Page 8

Newsbites

Pages 9, 10, 11 & 12

When People Say 'Panic', Why Do They Always Think of Orson Welles?

Page 13

Investigations Diary

Pages 14 & 15

International UFO Congress

Pages 16, 17 & 18

The Roswell Film Footage

Page 19

Statement from Ray Santilli

Page 20

Dateline Australia : A Double Abduction?

Page 21

Strange Nights in the North

Page 23

Advertisement

Page 24

UFONet

Page 25

Research Review

Pages 26, 27 & 28

Readers Write

News

Edited by Mike Wootten

The UFO news at present is dominated by the claims of Ray Santilli and the reels of film footage showing the scene at the crash retrieval in Roswell, New Mexico in July 1947

May 9, 1995

To: UK UFO Researchers and others

Update re Santilli

1. Today I confirmed with the Truman Library that Truman is not listed as being in Dallas..1185 miles by air from Washington, DC, in June 1947, to go with the previous information that he was not there in July-October 1947. Yet Santilli had claimed to me that he had verified that Truman was in Dallas at Autopsy time. I asked if he had checked with the Truman Library , he said YES.

2. I learned that Santilli had told Michael Hessemann that the cameraman was from Cincinnati, OHIO. He had told Philip Mantle it was Cleveland, Ohio, and he told me it was Orlando, Florida.

3. As far as I can tell, Dr Bronk was NOT a Medical Doctor. He was a physicist, physiologist, bio-chemist. He did lots of physiology experiments, but it is difficult to imagine him doing such an important autopsy.

4. I am doing my best to obtain information on the chronology on the use of curled telephone cords. Early versions were cloth covered.

5. So far, only the Italians are thinking positive re the footage. I am working on them. Pinotti is talking about possibly showing some footage at his San Marino Conference May 20, 21. Perhaps there is more trust because of Santilli's Italian name??

6. My London itinerary for may 28-June 5 is enclosed. I hope to do a number of media programmes and interviews.

7. I understand from MUFON Journal Editor, Dennis Stacey, that he will run my challenge and first comments in the next issue.

Do let me know of any articles about the Santilli film festivals, past or future.

Most cordially and gratefully,

(signed)
Stan Friedman

Santilli Claims The Friedman Faxes

Ufology's leading authority on the alleged Roswell Crash Retrieval Case, Stanton Friedman, has challenged Ray Santilli to, "...Put up or shut up".

In a bid to get Ray Santilli to present his evidence openly, Friedman has presented inconsistencies in the information currently available by way of two faxes distributed amongst researchers in the UK. We present them in full.

Curly Wires Crossed

Several researchers have noted that a telephone shown in one of the Santilli scenes has a curled telephone lead that connects the base unit to the hand set which brings into doubt the historical validity of the footage.

According to BT, telephones in the UK did not have curled leads until circa 1959/60. Further checking with the New York Pioneer Museum indicates that the telephone shown in the film.

is not out of context with the alleged date of 1947. Historians at the museum have stated that telephones with a curled lead were available in the United States after World War II. Earlier phones had a cloth covered cable.



Rumours about Rumours

The UFO rumour mill has been doing overtime with the appearance of Ray Santilli and his alleged film of the Roswell crash.

One rumour that has not checked out is that Ray Santilli's company Merlin Communication is Bankrupt. BUFORA have conducted a search through Companies House information and found that none of Santilli's business interests have entered into receivership or voluntary liquidation according to the available data.

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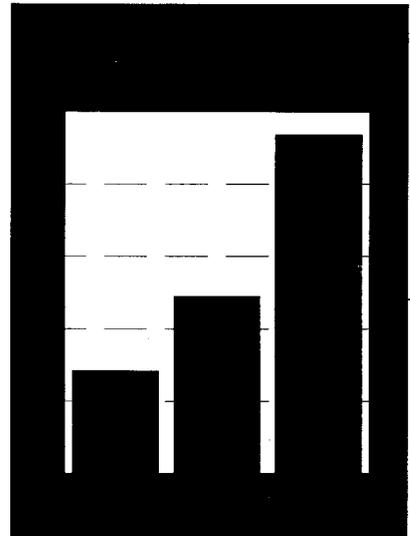
Stan Friedman

Sweden's New High for UFO cases

UFO-Sweden have recorded the largest number of UFO reports in 1994 than any other year since the organisation was formed in 1970.

At their National Report Centre in Uppsala UFO-Sweden have recorded 468 new and retrospective cases for 1994. A large number of this stock pile are still under investigation and evaluation, so a reliable number of 'true UFOs' vs 'IFOs' cannot be given at this point in time.

Reports are received on the Report Centre's 24hr hotline, by UFO-Sweden's 22 local groups and by the organisation's 70 field investigators and contacts throughout the country. Cases are also routinely passed on to UFO-Sweden Arne Gjärdman of the research institute of national Defence.



Source: AFU Newsletter Issue 38

The AFU Newsletter is published quarterly by Archives for UFO Research PO Box 11027, S-600 11Norrköping, Sweden

BUFORA to Release UFO Data

BUFORA is proposing to make available its entire UFO computer database to researchers.

This unilateral step is to encourage wider data exchange between groups and individuals within the UFO community. The data is currently being compiled using Microsoft Access and will contain the entire archive by January 1996. The available archive will contain details like time, date and location, the type of case and other important basic details. Witness related details will exclude names and addresses.

It is planned that the database will be available in many formats from Access to basic text files. This will be a free service, however a small levy may be raised to cover postage.

BUFORA's chairman said, " We hope that this unilateral move with no pre-conditions will encourage greater data exchange amongst UFO groups in this country and abroad." Steve Gamble who is heading up the database project is currently working to widen the scope of the database to house other key data like photographs and full investigator case reports along with the vital basic data. Future plans also include on-line access via Internet.

The Psychology of Dreamland How Secrecy is Destroying Public Faith in Government and Science

by Terry Hansen

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"Out here on the perimeter there are no stars!" Jim Morrison

Topographic maps of Groom Lake, Nevada, available for a modest fee from the United States Geological Survey, show little more than scattered mountain ranges, a dry lake bed, and assorted unimproved roads running this way and that across the parched, high-desert terrain. The Las Vegas Sectional Aeronautical Chart, published by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration for navigation purposes, offers no indication of landing strips or military facilities on or near the lake bed.

These maps are official cartographic lies, part of a coordinated strategy among various federal agencies to deceive people about what the U.S. government is doing out there in its sprawling, top-secret desert test range northwest of Nellis Air Force Base. Yet even the most bungling and ill-equipped spy can get a pretty good look at the clandestine Groom Lake facilities by examining commercially available satellite photos. In sharp contrast to U.S. government maps, the photos reveal an elaborate complex of buildings and what is perhaps the world's longest runway cutting diagonally across the western edge of the dry lake.

This suggests that the government's efforts at cartographic deception may be aimed more at the American public than foreign intelligence agencies. If so, it would not be unprecedented. CIA spy planes such as the U-2 and A-12, designed at the legendary Lockheed Skunk Works, flew for years over the Soviet Union, China and other foreign countries whose air-defense agencies often knew quite well what was going on. It was the American public that was successfully kept in the dark until these operations were exposed or declassified.

Though the Cold War is over, the U.S. military, with the generous assistance of our congressional representatives, continues to work very hard to keep us

ignorant of where many of our tax dollars go. By various estimates, tens of billions of dollars disappear each year into so-called "black projects" whose purposes we are not allowed to know. How this happens has been outlined by Pulitzer Prize-winning reporter Tim Weiner in *Blank Check: The Pentagon's Black Budget* (New York: Warner Books, 1990).

One of the most widely propagated explanations for where much of this money is vanishing is that it's being used to develop and fly stealthy, high-speed aircraft such as the rumored "Aurora" hypersonic spy plane and the TR-3A "Black Manta." (See, for example, the March 1993 *Popular Science*.)

Seldom mentioned in such accounts, however, are far more sensational R&D projects said to employ technology that is quite literally out of this world. Although these bizarre and troublesome reports clearly are difficult for mainstream journalists to get their minds around, the evidence that otherworldly projects are under way in the Nevada desert is at least as good, and often much better, than the evidence for the much-publicized Aurora. Aside from the screaming headlines of sensationalist grocery-store tabloids, though, the subject is carefully avoided by major national newspapers and TV networks. As every astute editor knows, news, to be taken seriously, must be plausible—even if it's wrong.

History has demonstrated, however, that the truth has occasionally been unbelievable. So set aside your heart-felt prejudices and incredulity for the moment, and come along on an epistemological adventure into the tangled and shadowy jungle of officially forbidden knowledge. Here, rational analysis can no longer be considered a reliable guide. This is a realm ruled by the high priests of the intelligence community who simply do not like us poking our noses into their business, even though we're footing the bill for it. They have posted life-threatening signs warning us not to take pic-

tures, much less set foot on their turf, and they've unleashed their wizards of disinformation to confound our investigative progress. Any hopes for certainty must be left behind at the outer boundaries of consensus reality, for we are about to explore the enigma of Dreamland.

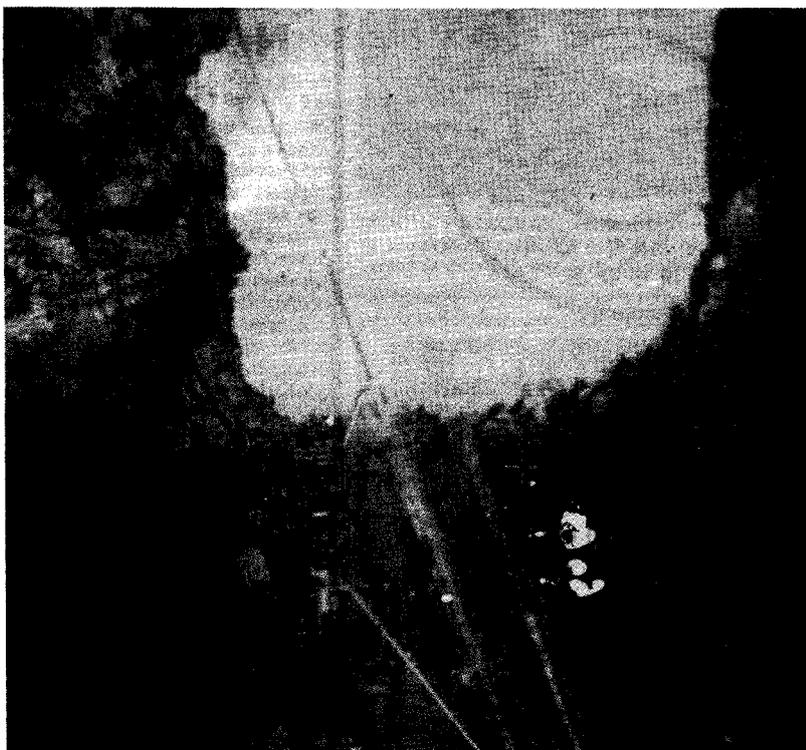
Closing Freedom Ridge

In October of 1993, nearly nine years after the Air Force illegally seized some 89,000 acres of public land surrounding the high-security Groom Lake test-flight facility in Nevada, the Air Force asked the Interior Department to close the last publicly accessible sites from which the base is visible. Included among them were two often-visited areas—White Sides Mountain and Freedom Ridge—that the Air Force had missed in its initial land grab due, apparently, to a surveying error.

As with most of what goes on around Groom Lake, also known as "Area 51" and "Dreamland," the reasons for the Air Force's sudden need for heightened secrecy were never made public. When hauled before a congressional committee to explain its actions in late 1984, an Air Force spokesman would say only that the Air Force did have the authority to take the land but would not reveal the source of that authority or its reason for doing so in open session.

Claims by a maverick, self-described physicist Robert Lazar, first televised by Las Vegas CBS affiliate KLAS in March 1989, that government flight tests of alien spacecraft were taking place at a secret facility south of Groom Lake had attracted swarms of curious observers to the area, including a number of television crews. Clearly this unwanted attention had proven irritating to the Air Force which no doubt wishes to keep secret its stealthy fleet of costly vehicles that have begun to exhibit, in the words of *Aviation Week & Space Technology*, "exotic propulsion and aerodynamic schemes not fully understood at this time."

Possibly the most thorough and well-documented account of the sensational Robert Lazar affair is offered in Timothy Good's recent book, *Alien Contact* (New York: William Morrow and Co., 1993). For dramatic impact, though, it's hard to beat Lazar's own videotaped testimony about what he claims to have witnessed at a secret facility near Papoose dry lake known as S-4. *UFOs: The Best Evidence*, a series of TV reports produced by George Knapp for KLAS, contains the original Lazar interviews and a copy can be



ob(FOIA). These documents, which indicate a large-scale, ongoing interest in UFOs by military-intelligence authorities long after the Air Force closed its Project Blue Book, were first published in 1984 in the book *Clear Intent* by Lawrence Fawcett and Barry J. Greenwood (Englewood Cliffs, N.J.: Prentice-Hall, 1984). The book has since been renamed as *The UFO Coverup*. Although government censors deleted much information prior to releasing the requested documents, a few relevant tidbits managed to sneak through. For example, a 1950 FBI memo from agent Guy Hottel reported that he had been told by an Air Force investigator of three flying saucers that had been recovered in the New Mexico desert, complete with humanoid bodies.

Much of the American public—and nearly all of the American press—seems to have swallowed the Air Force cover story that what had been recovered was merely a weather balloon. Advisers to Soviet dictator Joseph Stalin apparently did not. According to former KLAS-TV news reporter Bryan Gresh, who visited the Soviet Union with George Knapp in March of 1993, Valeriy Burdakov, once a scientist at the Moscow Aviation Institute, said he was told by one of Stalin's top scientific advisers that the Soviet leader had asked for an assessment of the Roswell UFO situation. Stalin was reportedly informed by his advisers that the recovered UFO was real and not

something manufactured in the United States.

Recently, however, the General Accounting Office has begun to investigate certain aspects of the Roswell case at the request of Rep. Steven Schiff (R-N.M.). Schiff says he's been frustrated in his attempts to get more information about the recovery operation from the Defense Department. "Generally, I'm a skeptic about UFOs and alien beings, but there are indications from the runaround that I got that whatever it was, it wasn't a balloon. Apparently, it's another government coverup," he told the *Washington Post* in January of 1994.

Faced with mounting evidence of a deception, the Air Force in September of 1994 finally admitted it had lied to the public about the Roswell events. In place of the weather balloon cover story, however, it quickly introduced a new explanation for the mysterious crash/recovery episode—a secret Project Mogul balloon launched to detect Soviet nuclear-weapons tests.

The new Air Force account was duely reported by William J. Broad of *The New York Times* in a story picked up by many other major daily newspapers around the nation. In an obvious departure from basic standards of responsible journalism, Broad defended the Air Force deception, characterizing it as "a white lie" and dismissed the hundreds of military and civilian witnesses who contra-

dict the Air Force account as "flying-saucer fans and cover-up theorists." Yet, a comparison of the new Air Force story with eyewitness testimony leaves nearly as many unanswered questions as before, as various critics were quick to demonstrate.

Supporting Testimony

Robert Lazar's fantastic story about his experiences reverse-engineering alien gravity-propulsion hardware at S-4 is not without important gaps and inconsistencies, although reporter/producer George Knapp, who has probably spent more time cross-examining him than anyone, says he thinks Lazar may be telling the truth about the essential facts. But even if Lazar turns out to be a sophisticated con artist or government disinformation agent, Knapp, who has spent years chasing this story, says other sources in the Las Vegas area confirm that alien technology is being stored and tested near the Groom Lake area.

"The story about alien technology in Nevada did not begin with Bob Lazar nor does it end with him," Knapp told a Triad UFO-research conference held July 17, 1994, in the Seattle suburb of Bellevue. "Similar information has been floating around in Nevada since before Bob Lazar was even born."

"UFO files bulge with testimony from former military men who say they have seen disks or alien material, or even alien bodies, at various military facilities around the country," Knapp said. "Residents of Lincoln and Nye counties report seeing flying disks and other UFOs in and around these military facilities since the early 1950s."

Knapp went on to recite a long list of mostly named sources, many of whom he says he had spoken with directly, who claimed knowledge of alien materials kept in Nevada. Some of these sources work for companies funded by the U.S. government, so they're not about to go public as Bob Lazar did. Doing so would mean loss of their incomes, jail time, or worse. Knapp said some of his sources said they had been threatened after he had talked with them.

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Newsbites

Liverpool Lecture Plays to Packed House

The BUFORA Liverpool lecture held at the Haigh Conference Centre on 13th May was a complete success.

Approximately 70 people attended and heard details of cases examined by Mark Glover and Anthony Eccles, BUFORA's Liverpool investigators in Liverpool. Mike Wootten presented his viewpoint and theories regarding the UFO Enigma and highlighted the pitfalls of human perception and hypnotic regression techniques.

With this success, BUFORA will now hold regular meetings in Liverpool and Newcastle on a quarterly basis starting in September. It is hoped that these new venues will give a wider access to BUFORA events to those members who cannot attend the London lectures.

Thanks go to Anthony Eccles and Mark Glover who organised the event.

BUFORA to Move Book Library

To improve the availability of BUFORA's extensive book library, plans are in operation to move the location of

the archive from Burgess Hill to the University of London.

The archive will also be merged with the growing ASSAP library at the same location. BUFORA Director, Phil Walton is overseeing the move and is hoping to have the process completed by the Autumn, which will also include re-cataloging the book stock. Once this has been completed, members will be informed of how to borrow books from the new location.

Swiss Army Sees No Security Threat from UFOs.

The ever vigilant Swiss army sees no threat to national security from flying saucers - and that's official.

The defence ministry, which runs the militia army that guards the Alpine country's neutrality, took the unusual step on Tuesday of formally denying media speculation it runs a special unit tracking reported UFOs, or Unidentified Flying Objects. 'The defence ministry has no reason to believe in the existence of UFOs or to assume that they pose a danger to security,' it said in a statement. A ministry spokesman said the statement was issued in hopes of putting an end to repeated queries from media and UFO enthusiasts about rumoured army archives on UFO sightings. 'There have been no UFO landings on the government square here,' the spokesman added.

Source: Reuters 28th Mcrch 1995

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When People Say 'Panic', Why do They Always Think of Orson Wells?

by John and Anne Spencer

One of the current popular beliefs in UFO research is that governments feel the need to suppress their knowledge of extraterrestrials because to reveal what they know would cause mass panic amongst the population. This belief stems from, or at least usually cites in its own support, the 1938 panic in the Eastern States of America around New York following Orson Wells' broadcast of a radio play 'War of the Worlds'.

Everyone 'knows' that when Orson Wells' placed the Martian invaders on the outskirts of New York and heading towards the city, the resultant panic was extreme. Various media stations, radio and newspaper, received hysterical, frightened phone calls; tens of thousands of people were said to have tried to evacuate the city and surrounding rural areas in their cars, jamming the roads. There were even stories of people armed with shotguns in the streets, wide eyed and terrified. Such stories were reported in the tabloid press, and in later years they were to appear in respectable, professional journals. The broadcast has been used by many as an example of irresponsible program-making.

The first analysis of the effects of the broadcast seems to have been H Cantril in 1940 ('The Invasion from Mars', Princeton University Press.) His work seems to be the origin of the most extreme claims.

The newspaper reports of the time certainly support the notion of panic. Headlines and strap lines such as 'It's a massacre' framed details of the hysteria. For example, "The horror caused by radio's 'end of the world' and 'foreign invaders' as some listeners understood it, produced some strange repercussions throughout the country." Messages on the Associated Press wire described 'weeping, hysterical women', and people 'gathering in groups and praying'.

Later, Major Donald Keyhoe in 'Aliens from space' described "tens of thousands fled their homes, setting off a frantic exodus in several eastern states. Many were hurt in traffic accidents, and others collapsed from heart attacks." One recent television biography of Wells referred to reports of rape by Martian in-

vaders being claimed. Even Jung in his analysis of UFOs 'Flying Saucers - a modern myth of things seen in the sky' described "the great panic that broke out in New Jersey, just before the Second World War, when a radio play.... caused a regular stampede with numerous car accidents."

But did the panic ever actually happen?

The answer seems to be: no. A more dispassionate analysis of that night in America suggests a quite different picture. It seems that most people who quote the 'panic stories' are relying on word of mouth, and the study by Cantril; few people seem to have even listened to a recording of the original broadcast.

The Broadcast Itself

Our analysis of the broadcast is based on our own full recording of the original. The timings and other details we refer to are our own analysis from that recording.

It is popularly held that the broadcast was presented 'as if live', negligently failing to 'warn' the public that it was theatrical. While it was true that Wells intended that form of presentation to create drama (see his own comments below) he did not try to disguise the theatrical nature of the performance. The opening of the show - to the strains of the 1st movement of Tchaikovsky's Piano concerto number 1 - clearly states that the show is "Columbia Broadcasting System and its affiliated stations and Orson Wells and the Mercury Theatre On The Air in 'The War of the Worlds' by H. G. Wells". Thirty nine minutes into the broadcast there was an interlude during which the theatrical nature of the production was again stated, and after the fifty six minute presentation Orson Wells re-states that and makes the point that the show was "Mercury Theatre's own radio version of dressing up in a sheet and jumping out of a bush and saying boo." The play was broadcast for Halloween.

Furthermore, listeners of any regularity would have known it was play; it was the seventeenth in a long running weekly series of plays broadcast by the station. Orson Wells always took the lead part as he did in this case; Wells played the

astronomer 'Professor Pearson' who is present throughout the broadcast. Although it is true that Wells acted on radio anonymously - War of the Worlds was the first time he used his own name - his very distinctive voice would have been familiar to listeners, as that of an actor. Wells was a well-known, high profile figure; he was in fact a director of Mercury Theatre.

The Mercury Theatre, created by Wells with John Hausmann, was a high profile operation on the stage. Its first production, a modern-dress version of Julius Caesar was spectacular, and topped immediately afterwards by a production of Macbeth that took New York by storm. Two hundred people were on the stage including imported voodoo drummers from Africa, traffic was stopped for five blocks from the theatre by the crowds, the end of the play was marked by so many curtain calls that they gave up opening the curtains and let the audience come up on stage to thank the cast. Wells described the production as 'The great success in my life'. Neither Wells nor the Mercury Theatre kept a low profile!

However, Wells' grand visions were costing dearly, and may have been the cause of the media manipulation that was the myth of the panic. The Mercury Theatre was in financial trouble and Wells was working all hours without a break to keep it going financially. What he needed was a sensation, and some incredible publicity. He got that. One true statement to arise from the analysis of the broadcast that that "the next morning the name of Orson Wells was headlines all over America".

"The thing that gave me the idea for it was that we had a lot of real radio nuts on as commentators during this period, people who wanted to keep us out of European entanglements ... people believed anything they heard on the radio. I said 'let's do something impossible and make them believe it and then tell them, show them, it's only radio.'" Wells made clear that he got a breakthrough contract with RKO in Hollywood on the back of the publicity, indeed that one that allowed for him to make probably his most memorable work, Citizen Kane.

So Wells needed the publicity, and it seems he had worked out a way to get it. He warned the newspapers ahead of time of the panic that 'might ensue'. And the tabloids took the hint, not for Wells' sake probably; they knew a good story when they were inventing one!

Of the broadcast itself: in fact, of the 56 minutes of broadcast barely 37 minutes could be mistaken as real, and even that only assuming a high gullibility factor unlikely to be present in 'tens of thousands' of listeners.

The section 'presented as live action' could only be barely thought of as such. The 'setting' of the play is a broadcast of 'Raymond Rikello and his orchestra at the Meridian Room of the Park Plaza Hotel in downtown New York'. The orchestra is playing various tunes - one of them 'Stardust'! - while several interruptions are 'news-flashed' into the programme telling of explosions on Mars, then a forthcoming interview with an astronomer and eventually telling of the first landing at 'Grovers Mill, New Jersey, 22 miles from Trenton'. The short extracts of music are too short and too theatrical; no broadcasting company covering a real news item would make so many small, annoying interruptions with so little to say.

Very soon we are introduced to Professor Pearson. Wells makes no attempt to disguise his distinctive voice.

The compression of time is also glaringly obvious. Pearson is speaking 'from Princeton'; after 1 minute 39 seconds he is 'live' at Grovers Mill. The commentator states that he and Pearson 'made the eleven mile journey from Princeton in ten minutes'. There are many such examples of compression that would have 'given the game away' to all but the most gullible including the speed of firefighting, and the time taken to move the dead to hospitals and identify them.

(The compression of time and distance between Earth and Mars is a different matter. Flashes on Mars are tenuously connected to arrivals on Earth though the distance between the planets is stated as 40 million miles. Science fiction of the time, particularly Flash Gordon, made hopping about in space seem like a quick and easy thing to do: trips in space taking just minutes. The film 'Flash Gordon' was released in 1936, in 1938 came 'Flash Gordon's Trip to Mars'. Listeners of the time - twenty years prior to the Space Age - would not have found that part of the story difficult to believe.)

The latter part of the broadcast makes no attempt to disguise the theatrical aspect of the production. Dialogue intermittently flicks between past tense and present tense. Wells compresses days - implicitly months, perhaps even years - into minutes. In one monologue he describes finding a farmhouse with 'mouldy

bread' (suggesting long-term abandonment), then instantly describes the onset of morning, then his following the Martians ("for two days I wander in a vague northerly direction"), then meeting another survivor. Wells, as Pearson, describes his desolate loneliness as a result of the devastation - listeners must have wondered at how quickly he became lonely, three-quarters of an hour ago he was happily chatting 'live on air' from his office in Princeton Observatory! Within just a few more minutes he describes seeing the disabled Martians and tells us how they died, from infection. (A very quick analysis!) Within a few further short breaths he is describing dissected Martian machines in a museum, and the re-born Earth with children playing in the Spring sunshine.

It should also be borne in mind that many listeners would have been familiar with the H G Wells' novel on which the play was based. The descriptions of the Martians and the 'action' follows very closely that original. Apart from the transplanting of the locality from just outside London to just outside New York, there are few material changes. Many people would have recognised it for what it was whether they heard the introduction or not.

The Listeners' Perspective

Of the listeners in the 'panic zone', they had just 37 minutes during which they might - if they had tuned in just after the introduction - believe what they were hearing.

And just what were they hearing?

For the first 13 minutes of that part of the broadcast they were hearing mild speculation about explosions on Mars and then the grounding of a cylinder near Trenton, New Jersey. They were then listening to a live broadcast of people near the cylinder describing what they were seeing. The first probable cause for concern is presumably when the grotesquely described Martians emerge from the cylinder (after 13 minutes) or more likely when the first heat-ray generated deaths are confirmed (after 17 minutes). From that point on they now had just 20 minutes before Orson Wells again makes perfectly clear that they are listening to a theatrical performance.

At this point the radio announces that areas of New Jersey have been placed under Marshall Law, with restricted access. Anyone concerned about what might be happening is unlikely at this point to

turn the radio off and run screaming into the streets. Most people would have stayed by the radio to hear the further developments rather than leave it and head into the streets, cutting off their source of information. And they had no reason to run; the 'strange creatures' were still confined to one small locality apparently under the scrutiny of the military.

22 minutes into that section of the broadcast the military give a comforting description of the limited capabilities of the creatures. Only after that, after virtually 23 minutes of 'live action' is the alarming news presented that the creatures are 'the vanguard of an invading army from Mars'. Although the 'fighting machines' are now visible, they haven't gone anywhere yet; the Martians are still in a confined locality. And in just 14 minutes more Wells will remind listeners that this is a play.

Of those who believed in the reality of what they were hearing they might have kept one ear on the radio and starting preparing some provisions for flight; food, drink, some clothing. A few families might have got their children organised ready for 'evacuation'. During those next few minutes they would hear a broadcast from a government official, and hear of offers of help from around the world.

26 minutes in, and we hear the first indication of Martians on the move - herding the population ahead of them as they move. Between now and 11 minutes time is the period during which some people, convinced they were hearing a reality, might have left their homes to flee the locality. But tens of thousands? Only those in the Eastern States were likely concerned enough - even if they did believe it - to take action at this stage. Of those, many would not have heard the broadcast at all. Of the remainder, many would know it was a play because they listened to one every week. Many would recognise the familiar voice of Orson Wells. Of the remainder that were not regular listeners, and had not tuned in until after the introduction, the majority would not have run wide-eyed into the streets shouting 'The Martians are coming', more likely they would have checked the programme schedules to see what they were listening to and they would have discovered it was a radio play. The majority who listened to it, even without the introduction, would not have been taken in by it anyway - the broadcast is very theatrical and suffers from the objections mentioned above.

Of course there would have been a few uncertain individuals who telephoned local press and media to 'make sure' about what they were hearing. Some of the media's reported hysteria will have come from those calls. Probably a few individuals, cottoning on to the 'gag', would have made 'hysterical' telephone calls for a gag of their own.

Of course there would have been heart attacks and car crashes in the Eastern States that night; there are every night, but were there unusual numbers? Investigation at this late time is difficult, but our enquiries to the hospitals and police departments in the areas have produced nothing to substantiate those claims. The Department of Transportation (then the Department of Traffic) has no specific data suggesting a panic on the scale suggested, but is, thanks to our enquiries, now conducting a check of records of 'spotter cars' that cruise the city checking on congestions caused by hydrant bursts, fires, etc. The New York City Department of Health have replied that they have no data available, but they doubted the claims. Informally one 'old timer' (his description) we spoke to told us he remembered that night and knew well that the panic had been exaggerated. "There might have been a bit heavier traffic on the bridges (that night)" was his only suggestion. A similar comment was made to us by an official of the Department of Transportation. Interestingly he had first confirmed to us in a telephone conversation that there had been considerable panic that night, but when pressed admitted he was going from the media reports only.

A few paranoid individuals may have run into the streets shouting. They would not have encountered 'tens of thousands' of similar hysterical individuals, they would have mostly encountered people going about the normal course of their lives not having heard the broadcast at all. The majority who were listening to the broadcast, knowing it was a play, were presumably still at home listening to it at this time. And those people they met - and the normality they would have encountered - would have slowed them down for the few minutes it would take before Wells told his listeners (for the second time) that it was just a play.

Anyone shouting and screaming in the streets who then took the trouble to explain why to anyone leaning out of their windows to complain at them would eventually have encountered someone who knew the truth, and told them so. There simply wasn't long enough for

shotgun mobs to form, or for tens of thousands to surge through the streets.

As for the probability of such mass panic, there is in any case little likelihood of it even being likely. Studies of mass panic situations that resulted from incidents such as the Kings Cross Fire in which thirty people died when fire broke out in the confines of the Kings Cross Underground station in London in 1987 indicate that the 'typical' image of panic requires very precise conditions. Robert L Hall PhD, in a presentation to the MUFON 1990 International symposium, set out the conditions as follows:

- A sense of urgent threat. Abruptness of appearance, novelty and surprise can all add to the perception of threat.
- Ambiguity about appropriate action. Lack of (or breakdown of) a structured conventional way of dealing with the threat.
- Partial entrapment and interdependence. It appears possible to escape from the threat, but chances of escape are limited and depend both on the person's own actions and the actions of others present. If escape is easy, panic does not occur.
- Limited communication with the collectivity. If there is no communication among those in the 'situation, they are unaware of one another's behaviour and cannot influence one another. If there is perfect communication, they are unlikely to exaggerate the danger and behave in a way that increases the danger to themselves and others.

All of these conditions simply did not arise during the broadcast. When we spoke with Robert Hall he confirmed that it was his belief that the panic not only did not arise, but probably could not have arisen in the conditions that night.

The question of the aliens being regarded as a serious threat is uncertain. In the modern day there would be ambiguity caused by the presentations of 'bad' aliens ('Invaders from Mars') and 'good' aliens ('ET'), and in any case the many tabloid presentations of alien abductions are regarded by the majority of the public as unbelievable, or laughable. Hall himself points out that those who study the subject seriously find little to be regarded as 'urgent threat' in the perceived actions of extra-terrestrials.

The context in the 1930s would be different, but probably even less likely to create a sense of urgent threat. The strongest influence on people's perception of aliens, particularly in America, was prob-

ably the magazines such as 'Astounding Science Fiction' which had started in the 1920s and which blossomed through the 1930s. In these stories the 'good guys' - Earthmen! - usually won in the end. In fact this media for "science fiction was entering a small 'boom' as the 1930s approached their end" to quote Isaac Asimov who had just started writing for these magazines at that time. The editor of 'Astounding Science Fiction' in 1938 was John Wood Campbell Jr, and Asimov has always emphasised that he always liked his stories to emphasise the qualities of humans that made them superior over aliens. In short, the image of aliens was that we lost a few battles, but we always won the war. Little reason then to assume people would regard these aliens as an urgent, serious threat.

The Social Perspective

The broadcast was made in October 1938. It was time of concern over the tensions that were shortly to generate World War Two. Fear of invasion was probably high. In March 1938 German troops had marched into Austria in defiance of the Treaty of Versailles. In August Germany mobilised its armed forces, and British Prime Minister Chamberlain visited Hitler for crisis talks. At the end of September Chamberlain produced the 'piece of paper' that was to mean 'peace in our time'. The Sudetenland was ceded to Hitler on October 1st. The world was changing, and many saw the forthcoming war as inevitable. America was not yet involved, but many realised that they soon would be. Such a social climate might have made fear of invasion all the more tense, Cantril's study certainly seems to think so.

But the key social factors are more likely to revolve around the radio itself. Radio was still very much the active media of the people in America in 1938, they were used to it. Of the listeners who walked in during the broadcast and were unaware that it was a theatre production, why should they panic? People today walking into a room where a television is showing a realistic film do not usually assume it to be documentary.

Cantril's Study

A study of the ensuing panic was undertaken. This confirmed the reality of the panic, and it is the source document for the belief in the panic that has existed for the past 57 years. But Robert Hall points out that Cantril's sample was a flawed one. He points out that it was based on the newsmedia coverage of the time, this

was greatly exaggerated. Those questioned in the study are thought to have been a biased selected sample - taken from the media - and a sample of those who reacted most strongly to the broadcast. If only a few individuals reacted adversely it is likely that Cantril included all of them and extrapolated from there.

Hall suggests that "the best interpretation appears to be that news media at the time and many persons interpreting the events later greatly exaggerated the amount of wild, panicky behavior that occurred".

The Only Real 'Panic'

Local to the site given by Wells on the radio there was, obviously, a little more concern, but whether it justifies the term 'panic' is doubtful. We spoke to several local police forces in the area of Grovers Mill, Trenton and Cranbury (our thanks to Lt Maxwell of Cranbury P D). Although most people 'knew' of the panic is was by reputation rather than documented report. None of those authorities, including the Museum related to the Trenton Police Department (our thanks to Joyce Allen), had any documentation which supported the rumours of panic (though it must be said that many records would have been destroyed by now). There had, it was thought, probably been some 'frightened' calls to the local police departments checking out what they had heard on the radio.

In the area immediately around Grovers Mill anyone not hearing the start of the broadcast might have reacted more swiftly - when the alleged Martians were in their 'projectile' for example. However, anyone 'panicking into the streets' would undoubtedly have met many people who had heard the start of the broadcast and knew it was a play because there is evidence of numbers of young people looking for a Halloween laugh heading for Grovers Mill to see if Mercury Theatre had laid anything on.

Dr Gerald Miller, now in his nineties, remembers the 'Martian invasion' well as he had seven years before set up his local practice and from which he had only in recent years retired. He supports the belief in panic, but recalled as many people moving **into** the area as out of it. This ties in with the many descriptions we received of the gay atmosphere of a 'night out'. He recalled a local 'old timer', George Dock - over 90 years old then - who the papers photographed in front of Grovers Mill having given him an old

musket; they captioned the picture 'George - waiting for the Martians'. The party-like atmosphere sounds - curiously enough - like that described at the English sandpit in the original novel just before the Martians began their attack.

Dr Miller had not been in the town that night, and had no first hand sight of any panic. He believed there was some panicking from his talk with 'five or six' locals the following day. Some were embarrassed by their concerns of the night before. Dr Miller pointed out though that in those days the roads were dirt tracks, if there were traffic 'jams' on those roads, it would not have taken many cars to cause them, particularly since numbers of 'sightseers' were moving in opposite direction to the few who were 'panicking'.

It is probably the extreme reactions of a few people in this area that Cantril extrapolated from. Those who have commented on the panic since have relied on that extrapolation - and many have shifted the scene into the bigger towns and cities, including New York, where panic was almost certainly not evident at all.

It might also be borne in mind that the local area is very jealous of what is now a significant tourist attraction. It was suggested to us that we would get no thanks locally for diminishing any belief in the panic. In fact just a few years ago a metal image of Orson Wells reading his script into a microphone was set up in the area.

Comparisons

There have been no sufficiently comparable events to the 'War of the Worlds' broadcast that would allow for direct comparison. However, near-situations have offered some insight into audience reaction and media response.

The nearest situation similar was probably the 25th February 1942 Californian 'hysteria' that Japanese armies were invading the mainland of the United States. The attack on Pearl Harbour less than three months before had shocked the Americans and brought them directly into the War. They were a nation whose mainland borders had never been (and never have been) directly challenged. On the night in question lights were seen in the sky, searchlights started trying to locate planes overhead, and a few anti-aircraft stations fired at the phantom lights (ensuring them a place in UFO history). However, the 'attack' was not real, the product of misinterpretation.

There was some public excitement. Evidence suggests that the media exaggerated public reaction for the sake of making the story dramatic. The claimed hordes of people taking to their cars or the hills cannot be substantiated any more than the reaction to Wells' broadcast.

Hall compares the situation with the Swedish Barseback panic. A Swedish radio company broadcast a fictitious news programme suggesting a nuclear accident. Almost immediately there were reports in the media of panic throughout southern Sweden. However, investigation showed that there was no evidence of any such response; 'panic' consisted of phone calls to the police, the media and the fire services. A small number of people took 'panic' type responses to the program, but that consisted only of shutting windows, phoning members of the family, and so on.

As Hall suggests, "if there was any panic, it was a panic of the news media, rushing to beat their competitors and to report the attention-grabbing story".

Summary

The evidence is that even if deluded, people do not act in the way the news coverage suggested. There must have been people who believed the broadcast they were hearing and personally panicked, but it is unlikely it would have become a mass-panic. The hysteria reported in the media was probably hype, with little or no substance. The analysis that suggested substance was probably flawed, and based on a few local hysterical people and traffic congestion caused as much by a fun night out as it was people in fear. The broadcast itself - which many people comment on but few seem to have listened to - is unlikely to have fooled many people, certainly not the numbers needed to justify expressions like 'mass panic'.

And the most popular example of triggering mass panic is nothing more than a myth, and a 'tribute' to the power of the media to influence belief over the long term.

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(An abridged version of this article appears in 'The Encyclopedia of the World's Greatest Unsolved Mysteries' by John and Anne Spencer, to be published by Headline Publishing in Autumn 1995.)

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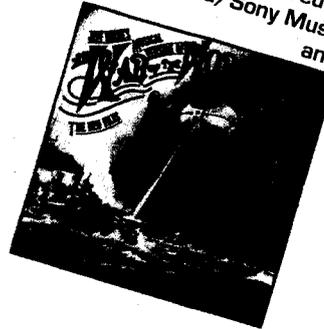
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Congress News

After twelve months of careful planning, we are now on the final road to opening the best ever UFO conference the UK has seen. **UFOs: Examining the Evidence, the 8th BUFORA International UFO Congress, will present a wide range of topics, speakers and events over the weekend of 19th and 20th August.**

Three months before the congress opening every ticket was sold. Due to this sell out success, it has been necessary to reserve an overflow auditorium in the Pennine Theatre complex and televise the congress live to accommodate a further 300 delegates.

Along with an impressive line-up of 13 international key note speakers

and the exclusive launch of Jeff Wayne's digitally remixed version of his classic album *War of the Worlds*, BUFORA has attracted a selection of high calibre companies to exhibit and sell their UFO related products. From UFO books and magazines to videos, slides and computer software.

The Speakers

The film that allegedly depicts the crash retrieval of an alien craft at Corona and the subsequent autopsies of the dead crew has proved to be the most controversial photographic/film evidence since Gulf Breeze. We can confirm that Ray Santilli will speak at the congress and will show excerpts from the film stock that have never been shown in public before.

Jeff Wayne, famed for his classic album, *War of the Worlds* will discuss the work of HG Wells and the importance of the book that

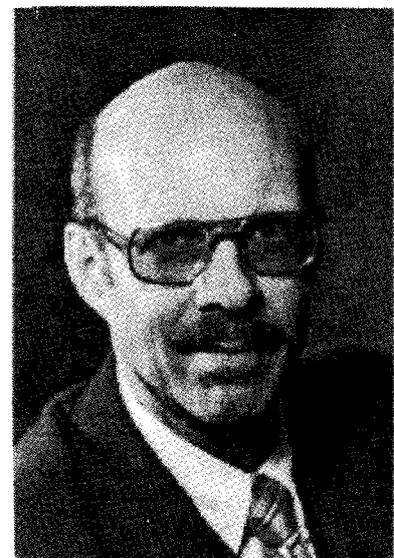
inspired the cutting of his celebrated album. Congress delegates will have the chance to be the first to purchase the new digitally remixed CD version of *War of the Worlds* in advance of its worldwide release. Jeff will be on hand to sign copies of the CD.

A UFO encounter can be a traumatic experience that can leave the witness with physical and mental scars for life. Dr Leo Sprinkle Ph.D., Counseling Psychologist and ufologist for many years unearths the paradox between Physical and Psychological UFO evidence and looks behind the eyes of the UFO experimenter.

From Italy, Maurizio Verga discusses the need to properly document UFO cases through the

Saturday 19th August 1995

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|------------------|--|
| 9.45 - 10.00 am | Opening Address by our Guest of Honour, Walt Andrus , International Director of the Mutual UFO Network. |
| 10.00 - 11.00 am | Malcolm Robinson (Scotland) : Scottish Ufology, "What's Going On". |
| 11.00 - 12.00 pm | Maurizio Verga (Italy): The Evidence Through Management of UFO-Related Data: The Italian Example. |
| 12.00 - 1.00 pm | <i>Lunch.</i> |
| 1.00 - 2.00 pm | Per Andersen (Denmark) : Double Moons - And Other Recent Phenomena Over Denmark. |
| 2.00 - 3.00 pm | Dr Sergey Chernouss (Russia): Examining The Evidence of the UFO/IFO "Petrozavodsk Phenomenon" and Similar Events in Northern Russia By The Network of Optical All Sky Camera. |
| 3.00 - 3.30 pm | <i>Break.</i> |
| 3.30 - 4.30 pm | Dr Leo Sprinkle (USA): UFOs; Examining The Evidence and Evaluating The Experience. |
| 4.30 - 5.30 pm | Ray Santilli (UK): The Roswell Film. |



use of computer technology and presents the Italian example. The question of whether the face on Mars is an artificial structure or a natural fluke is hotly debated. This controversial subject will be

The 8th BUFORA International UFO Congress

highlighted by geophysicist Dr Helmut Lammer Ph.D. Dr Lammer's presentation will focus on whether Mars could have once sustained intelligent life that may have built the face and many other intriguing structures that have been discovered.

'Double Moons', Boomerangs photographed over Copenhagen, cattle mutilations and car stops. With the large increase in UFO reports in Scandinavian countries, Per Andersen presents a compilation of these recent cases.

On 27th December 1980, US Air Force personnel witnessed 'unexplained lights' in Rendlesham



Forest. The subsequent investigation and evaluation shows that much more than lights were seen on that night and has proved to be one of the most impressive UFO cases in the UK. US researcher Peter Robbins will give an American perspective of this important case.

Malcolm Robinson will present an overview of UFO cases in Scotland. Focusing on the much publicised Bonnybridge sightings.

The cover-up of UFO related material by governments around the world is. However, Vicente-Juan Ballester Olmos will uncover the declassified archives of the Spanish Air Force.

A regular patron of BUFORA's conferences is Cynthia Hind. Being one of the few UFO researchers in the continent of Africa, Cynthia will

give a full update of the very latest UFO reports from the region.

We are pleased to welcome the first Russian delegation to present papers at a UK UFO conference. Dr Sergey Chemouss and Dr Yulii Platov will both demonstrate the high degree of UFO activity in Russia from sources such as the Academy of Science in Russian and the photographic evidence gathered by a network of all sky camera located in northern Russia.

The International Director of the Mutual UFO Network, Walt Andrus, who is no stranger to BUFORA conferences, will conduct the opening and closing ceremonies of the Congress.



The Venue

The Pennine Theatre complex is a new purpose built conference and exhibition centre, with full air-conditioning, full on-site catering and wheelchair access. Along with the two comfortable auditoriums, we have selected a number of companies who will exhibit a wide range of products and services. These include.

Spacelink Books, Fortean Times, Nexus Magazine, Labyrinth Video,

The Cerealologist, Specialist Knowledge Services, DSA, Simon Moore & BUFORA

Each company will offer special Congress discounts. BUFORA has produced a full Congress proceedings which will be on sale at the conference.

BUFORA has made every effort to bring you the biggest and best UFO Conference to be staged in the UK.

Sunday 20th August, 1995.

- | | |
|------------------|---|
| 9.45 - 10.45 am | Cynthia Hind (Zimbabwe): Recent UFO Sightings in Africa. |
| 10.45 - 11.45 am | Jeff Wayne (UK): War of the Worlds. |
| 11.45 - 1.00 pm | Lunch. |
| 1.00 - 2.00 pm | Dr Helmut Lammer (Austria): Atmospheric Evolution on Mars and the Consequence for the Cydonian Hypothesis. |
| 2.00 - 3.00 pm | Peter Robbins (USA): The Bentwaters-Woodbridge Incidents: An American Perspective. |
| 3.00 - 3.30 pm | Break. |
| 3.30 - 4.30 pm | Dr Yulii Platov (Russia): The Results of Research of the Physical Nature of Anomalous Phenomena Received by The Academy of Sciences in Russia. |
| 4.30 - 5.30 pm | Vicente-Juan Ballester Olmos (Spain): Declassification of the UFO Archives of The Spanish Air Force. |
| 5.30 - 5.45 pm | Closing Address by our Guest of Honour, Walt Andrus , International Director of the Mutual UFO Network. |

Close

Investigations Diary Special Report

Edited by Philip Mantle

The Roswell Film Footage

Much has already been written about the UFO crash at Roswell in July of 1947, so I won't go over old ground. More recently a great deal has also been written about the Roswell film footage currently in possession of Mr. Ray Santilli, Managing Director of The Merlin Group in London. To verify my involvement with Ray Santilli and the film in question I would like to take this opportunity to put the facts straight.

Making Contact with Ray Santilli

I was first contacted by Ray Santilli almost two years ago when he discussed with me the possibility of putting together a UFO documentary video. For those that don't know, The Merlin Group has put together a number of video's on a whole host of different subjects or issued overseas video's under license here in the UK. They have never made a UFO documentary. They have also issued music tapes and commissioned books. For a variety of reasons the planned documentary with Merlin never came off, but it was during this time that Ray Santilli told me the story of the Roswell film footage and how he obtained it.

The Story Begins

Santilli claimed that at some point previously (I do not know the date) he had flown to the USA to research a documentary on the late Elvis Presley. In order to do this he had traced a veteran cameraman who was one of if not the first person ever to film Elvis live on stage. Santilli purchased some archive film of Elvis from the man in question and returned to his hotel happy with the film he had obtained. Before flying back to England he was telephoned at his hotel by the cameraman in question who asked him to go and see him before he left as he had something even more interesting to show him. Santilli agreed but this time it was not film of Elvis but of the UFO crash at Roswell in 1947. Santilli eventually agreed to purchase the film for cash, the exact some on money involved I do not know. Having purchased the film he returned with it to England.

After being told this story both on the telephone by Ray Santilli and in London in person, when I first met him, I simply asked him to show it to me. Unless he did, it would remain nothing more than another fanciful story.

Informing Others

I told Santilli's version of the story about this film to one or two of my trusted colleagues in the UK, one of whom is John Spencer, now BUFORA's Chairman. I also took the opportunity to brief Walter Andrus, International Director of MUFON when he was a speaker at BUFORA's conference in Bristol in 1993. Both John and Walt asked me to keep them informed. I also contacted various Roswell researchers whose response was luke warm to say the least.

Santilli on several occasions made appointments for me to view the film in London none of which ever materialised. Reasons for this were given, many of which sounded quite reasonable. But I was left with no choice but to assume that Santilli's story was nothing more than just that, a story.

The Roswell Footage: A First Look

Over the next year or so, I had infrequent contact with Santilli either on the telephone or fax machine none of which resulted in me seeing any of the film. In early 1994 I was about to set to work on writing a review of the Roswell movie which stars Kyle Machlaclan and Martin Sheen. In the process of doing this I picked up the phone and called Santilli completely out of the blue. I asked him once again if he still claimed to have this film from Roswell to which he replied "yes, but you don't believe me Philip". Once again I repeated my request to see the film and again we discussed the possibility of a screening of it at Santilli's office in London. After a variety of more phone calls and fax messages my wife Sue and I eventually

went to Ray Santilli's office in London on Friday March 17th, 1995.

At this meeting with Santilli, he once again told us the story of how he obtained the film footage but he did not show us any film in his office. Instead I was given a copy of a segment of film which Santilli called the "on-site examination footage" to take away and view at my leisure.

I have viewed this section of film over and over again and although it is quite poor quality a number of things can be seen. The sequence is filmed inside a construction that could be either a tent or a shed of some kind. The camera remains in a fixed position in a 'corner' of the room. At the far side of the room are two men in white coats in front of which is a 'table' of some kind on which lies a figure (presumably one of the dead aliens). This figure is partially covered by a light coloured sheet of some kind although its head, arms and legs are visible. In the foreground is a person dressed in dark clothing with his back to the camera. The inside of this place is illuminated by what look like gas or oil lamps, or even electric lights.

The two men in white coats appear to be taking 'tissue samples' of some kind whilst the person in dark clothing simply seems to walk about doing nothing in particular. The figure or alien on the table does not appear to be short nor particular tall either. Not much detail can be made out because of the poor quality of the film but its large dark eyes can be seen without too much difficulty. The film is black and white and there is no sound recording to accompany it.

An Invitation to BUFORA's conference

Intriguing though this segment was it really did not serve to do anything other than to arouse my interest even more. Whilst in Ray Santilli's office I asked him if he would speak at BUFORA's conference in Sheffield on August 19 & 20 and show the film and to my surprise he agreed to do so. Just a few days after his confirmation as a speaker at a conference that was already organised, I was telephoned by a friend of mine by the name of David Clarke. David is a former BUFORA council member and is now a journalist with the Sheffield Star newspaper. David was writing a small article on a young man in Sheffield who was just starting his involvement with UFO investigations and he asked me for a few quotes about the conference so that he

could give it a plug for me. I told David all about the speakers and the Ray Santilli Roswell film which he ran in the Sheffield Star. A few days later I was contacted by Whites Press Agency in Sheffield who asked me if the article in the Sheffield Star concerning the conference was correct. I confirmed that it was and they asked me a few more questions before thanking me for my time. The next thing I knew I was receiving telephone calls from TV, Radio and newspapers from around the world all wanting to know about the Roswell film, Ray Santilli and of course the conference. I told them what I could, but by and large I passed then onto Mr. Santilli himself. This exposure was somewhat premature but at least it brought international attention on the film in question.

The First Autopsy

Eager to see more of the film another appointment was made with Ray Santilli for April 28th. Again my wife Sue and I visited Ray at his office in London to view another segment of film. This time we were shown one of the autopsies. Unlike the previous film this was very clear. Again it was in black and white with no sound track. The alien is laid on a slab inside what looks like a morgue or should I say hospital. The walls are all white etc. The alien is humanoid almost human looking with a enlarged abdomen, two arms two legs, but it has six digits on each of its hands and feet. There is no hair visible anywhere, the head is slightly enlarged but it has a nose, mouth, ears (these are lower on the head than a human) and two 'dark eyes. female genitals are also visible.

The autopsy begins with the 'dark eyes' being removed. This is in fact a kind of a dark covering over the eyes itself. Once removed the eyeballs are visible underneath although they are rolled up into the head.

The alien's body is cut open and various organs are removed and placed in various receptacles. A kind of a 'crystal' or 'mineral' about the size of a marble is also removed from the chest cavity. The head is cut open and the skull sawn open to gain access to the brain.

The people conducting the autopsy are completely covered in protection suits of some kind and unfortunately the faces of these individuals are not visible. This autopsy is conducted by two people who appear at times to be also writing down the process as they go along. Behind the head of the alien is a gap then a wall with

a window in. Through this window another person can be observed apparently wearing surgical clothing, cap, gown, mask etc. Unlike the first piece of film apart from a white coat the people were not wearing a surgical mask. As I am not qualified to comment on the procedure used in the autopsy nor the instruments used I will refrain from doing so. Nor will I comment on whether certain other objects in the room such as a telephone and a clock were available in 1947.

The Second Autopsy

On May 5th, 1995, my wife Sue and I along with over 200 others were invited to attend another screening of more of the film at the Museum of London. We did attend as did Kent Jeffrey from the USA, Roberto Pinotti from Italy, Michael Hessemann from Germany along with Reg Presley and Colin Andrews to name but a few. Also in attendance were representatives from a variety of TV companies from around the world.

After a short reception we were shown into the viewing theatre in which another of the autopsies was shown. This time the alien had a damaged leg unlike the previous autopsy where the creature was fully in tact. The procedure was pretty much the same as before but by no means exactly the same. Again I will not comment on the medical procedures used nor artifacts in the autopsy room as I am not qualified to do so.

Afterwards opinions seemed to be mixed, but many people including myself were a little disappointed that more of the film was not shown. However, I had now in total viewed something like 40 minutes worth of film which was becoming more interesting each time I saw more of it.

An Offer of Analysis

In between times on behalf of BUFORA on April 20, 1995, I personally put a two page proposal to Ray Santilli to outline how we would like to conduct the analysis of the film in question. Copies of this document were also sent to John Spencer (BUFORA Chairman) and Walter Andrus (MUFON International Director) along with Ray Santilli of course. Basically it outlined that we would like a copy of all of the film in question, a copy of any and all documentation connected to it, the serial numbers from all canisters of film, plus one whole canister of the actual film itself.

Two companies in England has agreed to undertake the analysis of the film Kodak

is one the other is Hasan Shah Films. I also requested access to the original cameraman who had taken the film. Ray Santilli has agreed in principle to our proposals but they have yet to be put into practice.

The Rumors

A great many rumors have circulated and are still circulating about this film. Some of these I can not verify or deny but others I can. The first concerns Reg Presley. Reg is the lead singer with the sixties pop group The Troggs and he is well known in the UK for his interest in UFO's and crop circles. One of the rumors is that Reg is a financial backer of Ray Santilli and that his only involvement in this matter is for publicity purposes. I have spoken with Reg about these rumors and he denies them all stating that he has no financial stake in the film and he certainly does not require any publicity. His motives are purely out of interest in the UFO subject. Another rumor is that the film in question was offered to UFO researcher Jacques Vallee in Brazil some years ago. I wrote to Jacques to question this rumor and in a letter to me dated 1 May 1995 he states " The rumor you heard about me, Brazil and the alleged Roswell film is just that, a rumor. I have never made any such statement. I have been told that the rumor was being spread by someone named Dan Smith, but I don't know whether he invented it, or was simply repeating it."

Another version of this same rumor is that the film was offered to the American TV show 'Unsolved Mysteries' who automatically confirmed that it was a South American 'B' movie of some kind. On May 5th, 1995 I spoke with the Unsolved Mysteries show in the USA who have once again denied this rumor. Other rumors that I personally am involved with the hoaxing of this film in order to gain publicity for BUFORA's conference and/or the Roswell movie are just as ridiculous as any of the others I have heard. I dare say that there are many more rumors circulating that have not yet come to my attention.

More recent rumors circulating on the Internet have come from Graham Birdsall editor of Quest International's UFO magazine. Birdsall just about gets everything wrong. For example he states that I released details of the film footage to the Press Association. Wrong, I released details to David Clarke as outlined above. He also goes on to say that I never informed any UFO researchers from

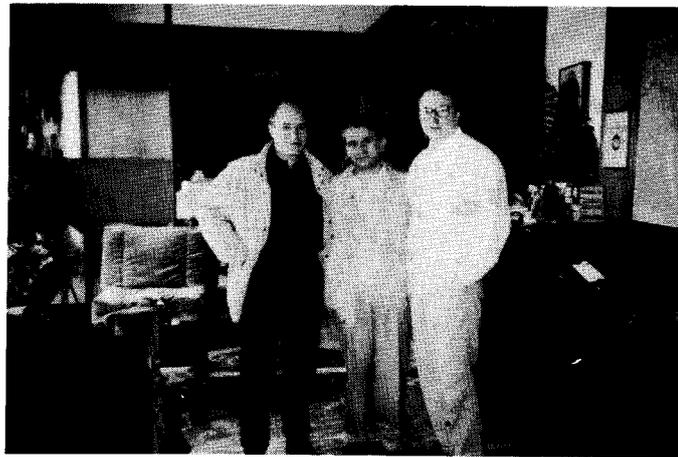
around the world about the film. Again wrong.

In 1993 I informed my colleagues at BUFORA including Jenny Randles and John Spencer plus I also informed Walter Andrus, MUFON's International Director. Added to this I also sent details in 1994 to Roswell researcher and author Kevin Randle plus USA researchers Don Ecker and Vicki Cooper. Colleagues at UFO Norway were also informed. Birdsall, in his Internet 'facts' even quotes the wrong code number on the original Roswell 16mm film. He describes it as 'KODA with a black solid triangle and a black solid circle'. It is in fact 'KODA with a black solid triangle and a black solid square'. Birdsall also goes on about zoom lenses being used in the autopsy sequence shown in London. Having viewed the film myself only once I am unable to remember any such.

Please be aware at this point that Birdsall has not viewed any of the film. Birdsall also goes on to state that Ray Santilli's company is in receivership and that myself and/or BUFORA have promoted the film footage as genuine. For his and everyone else's information Ray Santilli's company is not in receivership and at no time have I or anyone else at BUFORA promoted the film footage as genuine. There has been some misleading press statements attributed to me but if people wish to believe these that is up to them. A longer reply to Birdsall from myself has been posted on the Internet.

The San Marino Conference

In between all of this the first stills from the footage were shown by myself with the permission of Ray Santilli at a UFO conference on May 19 & 20 held in the Republic of San Marino. Sponsored by the San Marino government and organised by the Italian group Centro Ufologico



Philip Mantle with the organisers of the San Marino Conference. Left: Maurizio Baita. Middle: Roberto Pinotti.

Nazionale (CUN). Seven stills were used from the second autopsy sequence. The showing of these stills was restricted to members of the CUN and representatives of the San Marino government. I have also been asked to speak about this film in France, Germany and Brazil. invitations which I will probably accept, time and work allowing.

In my opinion BUFORA and myself have approached this whole issue in an unbiased manner and have treated all parties concerned correctly and professionally. We have put to Ray Santilli a sound and reasonable plan to undertake the analysis of the film and if he agrees to cooperate then we may well begin to get to the bottom of the matter. We have attempted to follow up any rumors that could at least be feasible but to date (29.5.95) none of them have yet stood up to scrutiny.

We will of course continue to do this and offer our full cooperation to Ray Santilli and any serious professionals or researchers who can offer sensible ideas on how to further analyse the Roswell film footage.

For the record I would like to state here and now that I do have any opinions one way or the other regarding this film footage. I trust that Ray Santilli will eventually cooperate with BUFORA and allow the film to be analysed and then and only then will we truly start to get to the bottom of things. Until such a time I remain firmly on the fence and I do not know if the film is genuine or fake.

BUFORA Council

Members of the Bufora Council and the Witness Support Group had the opportunity to view one of the autopsy segments on Saturday June 3rd at a meeting in London. The viewing of this film was arranged by myself in cooperation with Ray Santilli. This was the first opportunity for others at BUFORA to view the film and a number of very positive ideas were put forward with regards to its analysis which we hope to action in the future.

Investigator of the Year

As mentioned in the last UFO TIMES the NIC had directed me to choose BUFORA's investigator of the year for 1994/95.

This was not any easy task as we have so many excellent contributions during 1994/95 with some first class case investigations being received. After great deliberation I finally decided that the recipient of the award will go to Gloria Dixon. Gloria has coordinated UFO investigations in the North East and currently holds the position of RIC for the area as well as Deputy Director of Investigations. In 1995 she was also elected to the Bufora Council. Her case reports are many and varied and some of which have appeared in UFO TIMES. Gloria will be



Philip Mantle with Boris Smurinov (Russia) at the San Marino Conference

Statement from Ray Santilli

This is the first public statement posted on the Internet by Ray Santilli, the owner of the Roswell Film on 3rd June. This is reproduced verbatim.

presented with her award at this years International UFO Congress in Sheffield.

A great deal of nonsense has been written since news of our footage first came to light.

In fact I am amazed and disappointed that so-called UFO investigators, researchers and "scholars" can trade so openly in misinformation, gossip and rumour. Especially when correct information is so easily acquired.

It would be impossible to go into detail here, however some general issues:-

THE QUESTION OF AUTHENTICITY:-

When we were first made aware of the footage there was an obvious need to establish its authenticity. Of course we had the benefit of knowing and dealing directly with the cameraman however we went to great lengths to satisfy ourselves that this story was genuine (we only had to satisfy ourselves not the world).

We had sight of, not only the cameraman's many old photo albums which clearly proved his story (life story) but his enrolment and discharge documents, his diary and a wealth of other material all of which was easy to check. In addition the footage itself contained film stock code which we were able to confirm as 1947. (solid square next to a solid triangle on selected frames).

All in all we were, and still are, totally convinced that the cameraman is genuine as is his story. We had all we required in terms of proof to warrant the financial investment in acquiring the footage.

Although a risk, especially as it was a fundamental condition of the transaction that we gave an absolute guarantee the identity of the cameraman would remain confidential we were happy to proceed.

WHY WON'T WE SPILL THE BEANS AND GIVE THE WORLD CHAPTER & VERSE ON THE

CAMERAMAN?????????

From the cameraman's point of view there were, and still are, a number of major considerations:-

1. The welfare of his family (especially grandchildren)
2. His sworn oath to his country
3. The ownership of the material
4. The IRS

I think we can all appreciate his concerns...

WE MUST BE IN IT FOR THE MONEY!!!!!!

Once we had acquired the footage our plan was very simple, we would shoot a documentary and eventually release the footage in a controlled manner.

There was never any question of us wanting to sell the footage on, and indeed we still even now not approached any third party whatsoever in an attempt to sell the footage.

Make no mistake we could have sold this film 50 times over from the incredible offers we have received. There isn't a week that passes without an offer coming in (even Stanton made an offer of \$100,000 on behalf of an associate of his).

Of course we want to earn money out of it, we are a commercial company but we will do it in our own way. It is not a case of take the money and run..

THE PRESS

Unfortunately a leak occurred, and without a single photograph or statement from me the press ran riot.

In order to alleviate the pressure we came up with what we felt would be a good idea. A screening NOT A PRESS CONFERENCE OR AUCTION just a screening.

We timed it May 5th to coincide with the V.E. Day celebrations, this along with the fact that we still refused to release any materials to the press, meant that the story would die a natural death until we

were ready. As far as the press was concerned the plan worked.

WHY WE WON'T WORK WITH THE WORLD OF UFOLOGY?????????

I learnt very quickly that the world of UFOLOGY is akin to a major international corporation with the same infighting and internal politics that go along with it.

Rightly or wrongly I will not throw the very valuable footage we have into that arena. I prefer to work with independent advisors and experts in their own field. People and organisations that are neutral have no declared interest in UFO'S.

THE PHONE, THE CLOCK AND THE CREATURES ??????

There have been a great deal written about this however for the record:

THE PHONE.....around 1945

THE CLOCK.....around from 1936 approx

THE CREATURES....all female

THE FUTURE?????

I don't know.....

It changes each day.. I fully appreciate that footage such as this should only come about after years of research and investigation. The fact that we stumble across it, have no real interest in UFO's...I accept it is hard to swallow.

Fact is stranger than fiction....

Best regards,

Ray Santilli

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Dateline Australia : A Double Abduction?

By Keith Basterfield & Peter Jones UFORA

Recently we had an opportunity to re-interview, both with and without the use of hypnosis, a South Australian couple who recounted a fascinating event when I first interviewed them back in May 20, 1991.

One Saturday in July 1989, a married couple, Julian and Lydia, together with their two children, drove home to Adelaide from their other property in the south-east of South Australia. The weather was stormy, windy with rain. They took the Inland route as opposed to the coastal route.

'Julian had the impression, that they were being "watched" during the trip, a feeling he had experienced before when he used to live in Tennant Creek in the Northern Territory.

They travelled most of the afternoon and arrived home about 7 p.m. After watching a movie, Lydia went to bed first about 11 p.m. Julian followed about 11.30 p.m.

It was a stormy night and fairly windy outside the house. Julian recalls feeling restless as he lay in bed. There was a metallic sound outside their window. Then all of a sudden he heard a low pitched humming noise. He put it down to a train, as there is a train line near the house. Lydia lying in bed could recall hearing the wind. She felt Julian's presence in bed next to her. She also heard metallic noises - as if someone were trying to break into their car.

Julian then heard a high pitched noise, like a cricket. It seemed to come from just outside their bedroom window.

Bedroom Visit

Lydia recalls someone coming into the room, and standing in their bedroom doorway. The figure was described as short and skinny looking; fragile. Its head was oval in shape and bigger in proportion to ours. Tear drop eyes were big and black. It had no hair, no ears, no apparent nose and a slit mouth with no lips. It was grey in colour, with an associated green/white light.

She felt the entity was curious and wanted to investigate. The being communicated with her telepathically and told her not to be afraid. She felt it wanted to look at their bodies. She knew Julian was still in

bed, with, she thinks, his eyes open. She then drifted off to sleep.

At this stage Julian thought Lydia was asleep but then he thought she said: Julian, don't worry, everything will be all right. Just do as they say, and there'll be no problems. Do as they say. Julian couldn't work out what she meant. All of a sudden he found himself paralysed. He was wide awake, but couldn't move a muscle. The humming noise became more intense. There were also scraping noises like metal. He didn't know what to think. He



couldn't move. Their cat was going wild-running around the house wild.

Next Julian found himself drifting, on the move, floating from his bed. He was floated face up, feet first. The high pitched noise ceased at this point. He saw lights in the house - down the pitch black hallway. He noticed there was a being inside the house. This being was taller than Julian. It had a normal shaped head. Julian was looking at it from the back. The body build was stocky. There was a white/green glow around the body, inside of which was black.

Something told Julian that the being had an interest in his son. Julian then saw his son in the arms of the being. Julian tried to struggle as he became alarmed. He did not know what to do.

His next recollection was of finding himself in a dark 'room' or 'space'. He was paralysed, cold, and was lying on a flat, cold, black hard table. There were no sounds in the space and no sensations

apart from his paralysis. He thinks there were odours but cannot recall them.

Three entities were present. One on either side of his head and one behind his head. He was lying on his back. The aliens were staring at him, just stooping and looking at him. All three were concentrating on looking directly into Julian's eyes. The three were identical in appearance.

They seemed 125cm tall. Their heads were pumpkin shaped, with curved 'wrap-around' teardrop, deep black eyes. There were no whites or iris' present. There was no visible hair on their heads. The nose was small. A very small mouth was noted. The body was of a grey/white colour. Julian thought they were wearing clothes the same colour as their skin. He noted no body joints or muscles.

The entities were interested in Julian's head. He had the impression that the aliens held no malice towards him. Next thing he recalls is floating back to bed and falling asleep.

Disoriented

Next morning both Lydia and Julian felt strange. Julian said he felt giddy and disoriented as if he had been on a long flight. He later checked his body but found nothing unusual - no scars etc. He felt his energy at a normal level, but he felt his sleep had been broken.

Lydia said she felt like she had been in a trance.

Julian explained what he had experienced to Lydia. He asked her how she was feeling and she replied that she felt the night had been interrupted by something. She had some vague impressions of activity happening down the hallway, down by the children's bedrooms. She felt she had been taken somewhere because she had some memory of being on a table lying flat with people looking at her. She felt in some way she had been experimented on, then drifted back to bed. She did not experience any paralysis and cannot recall Julian having left the bed.

After the experience Julian was very disturbed as to what had happened. They both now regard themselves as healers, and concerned about where the world is heading. However, they are now at peace with themselves over the incident.

UFO Research Australia PO Box 2435
Cairns QLD 4870, Australia

STRANGE NIGHTS IN THE NORTH

Tyne Valley UFO Photograph

by Gloria Dixon

Date: 21st August 1994 **Place:** Bellingham, Northumberland

Peter Nelson had retired to bed on Sunday, 21st August, when his alarm system went off. It was 11.35 pm and Peter got out of bed and checked the house and garden. There appeared to be no problem with intruders, and when checking the garden he looked up at the night sky and noticed a bright object travelling in an easterly direction and moving quite slowly. He went into the rear garden to have a closer look as it came over the Tyne Valley, and could see a glowing outline of what he described as a coppery dome shape. It moved slowly along the valley towards the river Tyne, then changed direction and headed North. Peter describes his sighting in the following way.

'I could hardly believe what I was looking at. As it came closer I could feel the air pulsating and was aware of ozone in the air. The hairs on my arms started to bristle. As I watched the object I remembered there was some film left in my camera, so I went into the house to get the camera and shouted for my daughter Mary-Anne to come and see the object. I took five photographs of it. The bright light on the bottom of the disc slowly got brighter and it accelerated at great speed to the north.'

Peter's observation time was approximately twelve minutes and he describes the object as being larger than the full

moon. He heard no sound, and states that it was a clear, dry and mild night with no cloud cover. This object was also observed by five other people west of Ovington at about 11.30 pm on the same night.

The Hexam Courant and Evening Chronicle carried articles about this sighting and Phil Mantle called me to tell me that photographs had been taken by Peter Nelson. I contacted Peter and he very kindly came to see me bringing the negatives with him and the camera he had used. He left the negatives with me for examination. The photograph of the UFO shows a coppery dome shaped object with a light emanating from underneath, and the moon clearly visible. The object seen by the other witnesses is described by them as an orangey yellow colour in two parts hovering above the trees, a few miles west of Ovington. This sighting was at 11.30pm, and several of the witnesses said they had never seen anything like it before.

Visit from the Military

Peter was visited in September by two military officials, who claimed to be from RAF Prestwick. They briefly showed Peter some identification and asked many questions pertaining to the object he observed. They also asked for the negatives. However, I had the negatives at that time and so Peter gave them a copy of the photograph of the UFO. They were interested to know about the

sound, movement and height of the object and the approximate distance from which Peter had observed it. The men spent over an hour with him and then went down to the golf course nearby, where they used binoculars and appeared to be looking around. Peter has since told me that both he and his daughter felt that their conversation was being taped.

Otterburn Army Range is in close proximity to Peter's home and he and his daughter are used to seeing military activity around the area on a regular basis. Apparently there is going to be a large military base there in the future and there has been a great deal of objection to this from residents in the area.

This photograph will be forwarded to a photographic analysis consultant and I will give you an update on this when I receive his evaluation.

Analysis of Peter Nelson's Photographs by Dave Newton

Peter Nelson took the photographs with a simple Hanimex 35mm camera loaded with 'Klick' 200 ASA colour print film. The camera has two fixed lenses, a wide angle lens of focal length approximately 70mm.

The most impressive of the photographs is 35A, the UFO photograph. This shot shows the full moon, and to the right of it patches of red and orange light with a 'jet' of yellow-white light squirting out underneath. Luckily the moon is in the shot, so we have an object of known size and brightness against which we can measure the UFO. Unfortunately, the moon is slightly blurred, so the image of the UFO is also distorted. The image on the film could represent the body of the UFO (assuming it was a solid flying machine, which the eyewitness testimony does point to). More likely though, given the dark conditions and the short exposure time, frame 35A shows the hot, glowing gas being emitted from a jet or rocket engine.

The preceding photograph, 34A, also shows two puzzling red lights. These lights look similar to sodium street lamps, but their colour is a deep red rather than the sodium lamp yellow. Thus there is a strong possibility that these lights are the image of lamps carried by the UFO.

It is impossible to determine at the present time exactly what manner of aircraft Peter Nelson has captured on film. Hopefully the analysis of the film will reveal more information.



Stanton's Stand Softens

The latest fax circulated by Stanton Friedman seems to have a softer approach to the claims of ray Santilli.

More Research on Purported Roswell Film Footage
June 8, 1995

1. I finally was able to talk to an A.T & T. expert on phone cords and other telephone accessories. Jack Langstaff is Director: Manufacturing and Sourcing, for Accessory Products. [telephone number]. He told me today that the patent for the curled phone cord was awarded to Western Electric, at the time the manufacturing arm of A.T. & T., in 1936. They started manufacturing such items (hard wired, not modular) in 1937. So no problem with the wall phone in the autopsy scenes.

2. I once again spoke with the Truman Library about Truman's travels in June, 1947. When I met Ray in London on June 1, he said something about connecting a supposed trip by Truman to Dallas with his trip to Ottawa. Obviously Ottawa is directly north of Washington, DC, while Dallas is over 1100 miles West of DC. I first copied all the pages of the 1947 NY Times Index entries on president Truman (12 pages) and also a few pages from the 1947 readers Guide to periodical Literature with an objective of getting as much information as possible as to where he was on which dates. Then I checked with dennis Bilger at the truman library in Independence, Missouri, and called him back today. Truman did indeed go to Ottawa on a very public trip, meeting with canadian Prime Minister McKenzie King, addressing paliment etc. He went by train on the Baltimore and Ohio railroad even stopping in Buffalo on the way back.

He had visited Independence, Missouri, where his mother was in poor health, the week prior to the Ottawa trip (noted June 7,8,9). He also attended the reunion in the Kansas City area of his World War One military group and gave a speech there. Again the visit was quite public. he went back to DC on the Presidential Plane (June 10). After returning from Ottawa by train (June 11,12,13,14), he signed a peace treaty (June 15) with Hungary; he gave a speech at Princetown University in new Jersey (June 18). There doesn't seem to be any opportunity fro using either the Missouri or Ontario trips as a cover for a trip to Dallas. Obviously , this doesn't prove that some totally secret trip wasn't made. However, there seems to be no open written indication that President Truman was anywhere near Texas or New Mexico June-October 1947. There were no high performance jets then.

3. In the Internet Posting on June 3, Mr Santilli noted that I had made him an offer of \$100,000. for the use of the fottage on behalf of an associate. Unfortunately, he doesn't mention that he was faxed the offer on April 17, and that it was contingent on my finding the fottage genuine and being able to interview the cameraman. He had never responded to the offer. Since it also included Royalties on the video which my contact was going to make and sell, his net profit whould have been far more than \$100.k

signed
STF

Competition

The 6th of June saw the launch of a set of postage stamps to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the publication of H.G.Wells 'The Time Machine'. This groundbreaking novel began a new trend in writing and modern thinking, and gave its author a legitimate claim to the title 'Father of Sci-Fi'.

He was certainly the first person to develop the idea of mechanical travel through time. Some of his original and scientific ideas have become reality in the last century-including the dropping of the atomic bomb, which Wells lived to see before his death in 1945.

Royal Mail's Science Fiction stamps have been designed by Siobhan Keaney and feature graphic representations of Well's most famous novels:

25p The Time Machine.

30p The First Men in the Moon.

35p The War of the Worlds.

41p Things to Come.

The stamps will be available from June 6th. We have been provided with 20 presentation packs from Paragon Communications Ltd. The first 20 correct answers to the following questions will each receive a presentation pack of these stamps.

Questions:

1. Which planet did the invaders in War of the Worlds come from ?
2. Which American actor's radio narration of War of the Worlds proved so realistic that many who heard it 'fled to the hills' ?

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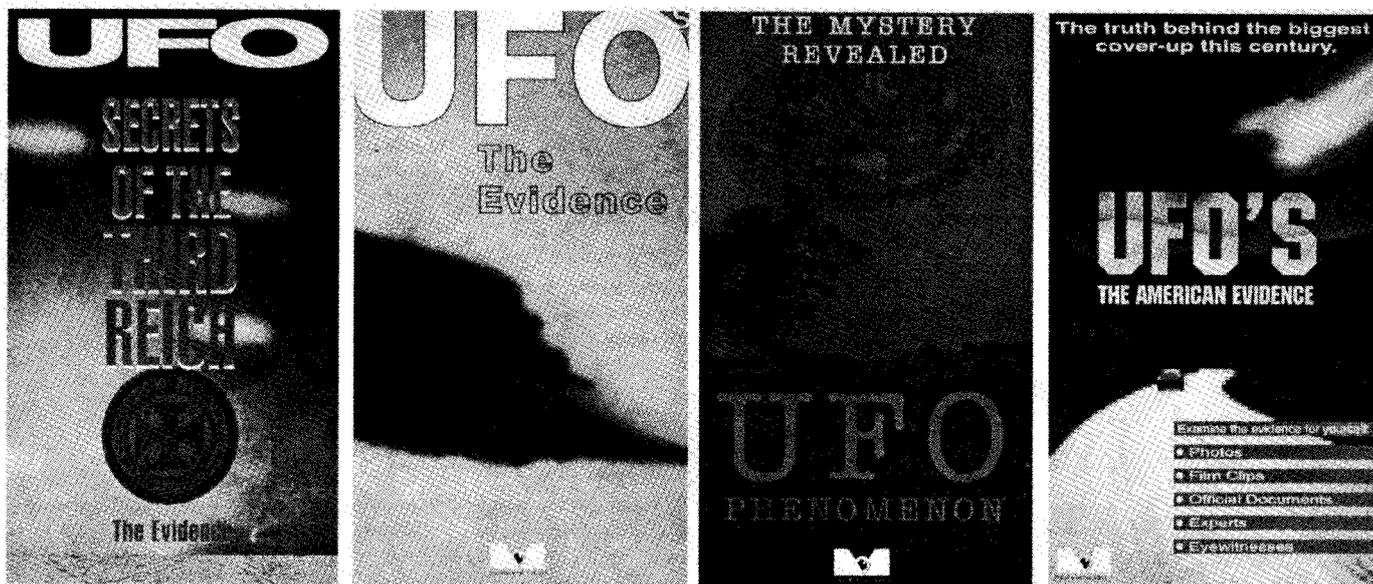
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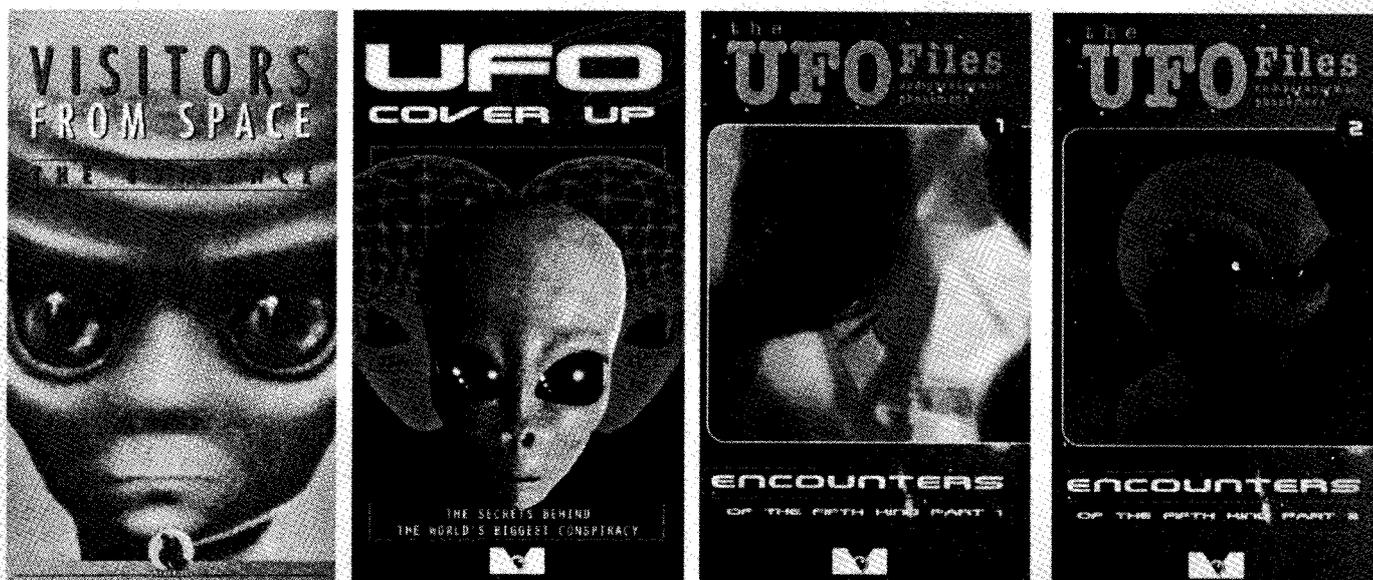
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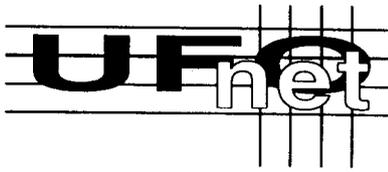
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Competition closing date 30th September 1995. Competition open to BUFORA members only. Winner being the first correct entry randomly drawn.



In this all new regular UT feature, I will give you a flavour of the thousands of reports, discussions and comments relating to UFOs on the Internet every month, particularly Usenet.

Up to 50 million people around the World have access to the Internet and many will also have access to newsgroups on Usenet, and the various UFO groups are some of the more lively of the anarchic collection of some 12,000 different groups on Usenet. Many reports may not contain enough details to satisfy an experienced investigator and many here have been reduced in size for space reasons.

The month of May kicked off in a typically weird way, with some postings on the main UFO newsgroup - alt.alienvisitors - suggesting that the Oklahoma bombing was intended to destroy crucial federal files on UFOs, or that Timothy McVeigh was under the influence of an alien cranial implant, or the CIA had simply brainwashed him into it. You get your shares of bizarre conspiracy theories on Usenet and this nears the worst you can get. That is one of the attractions of the Internet, and one of the curses because so much time is spent weeding out the liberal amounts of rubbish in between the more factual information.

There has also been many postings concerning Ray Santilli's alleged Roswell footage, one of the flavours of the past few months. At first there was jubilation that "the final proof" may be close to hand, but this steadily developed into a consensus that the film is a hoax, as more details and reports from screenings of the film started to filter through. Comments have focused on the telephone cord and wall clock seen in one of the "autopsy" reels, with claims that they seem to be too modern for 1947. However, reported research on this, particularly with AT&T in the states and the BT Museum in London seems to have clarified that the coiled cords as seen in the film had been available since 1939.

In early June Ray Santilli himself started posting in the Encounters forum on CompuServe, an on-line service which is not technically part of the Internet. His few short messages and a statement insisting that the film is genuine have added nothing more to the debate and answered none of the questions that need answering. In his posts Santilli said that he would soon be giving more details to back up his claim. At the time

of writing we wait with interest to see what these might be.

Two groups - alt.paranet.ufo and alt.ufo.reports - are good sources of new sightings and give an indication of what is going on around the planet. Australia in particular seems to have experienced a big increase in sightings recently, such as this newspaper report dated 30 April which was posted in alt.paranet.ufo: "A MYSTERIOUS egg-shaped, bright orange light has been seen in the sky over Brisbane and Canberra only days after similar sightings over Adelaide and Melbourne. UFO hotline operator Ross Dowe last night said up to 12 people called the UFO Hotline, which monitors reports of unidentified flying objects, to report the new sightings. He said three callers reported seeing an egg-shaped object with a gold and orange-yellow hue in the area of Karana Downs, west of Brisbane, just after 9pm on Friday. "This was similar to the ones reported in Adelaide, it was high up and He said the egg-shaped light came from the north, travelled across the sky, then disappeared suddenly and became a series of dots."

An orange light also buzzed the state of Oregon on 3 June: "The news here reported a very bright light bigger than the moon that travelled over the state last night. However, the reports only state that it happened and that many people saw it. It was called a "fireball" in the media. But no one has even guessed as to what it was."

Another orange light report, this time in Holland was posted on 3 June: "A couple of weeks ago, my sister and her friend (now husband) saw a UFO too. The sighting occurred when they were driving from Alkmaar back to Amsterdam. It started at 23.05 and lasted more than 5 minutes. They saw something which was bright orange. It looked like the sun was going down again. Suddenly the light halted and became a little more flat. There was some kind of half-sphere on top. Then we lost it out of sight. Many minutes later it reappeared again for a few moments and finally disappeared."

He continues: "My sister is not active or interested in the UFO cover-up movement, nor is her husband. She's the person from which I wouldn't expect this experiences at all. Also, while I'm following this group for many months now, I've only last month seen an UFO myself. I saw it together with a very down-to-earth skeptical scientist friend of mine...(nothing spectacular however. Just some strange light in the sky. I would have dismissed it as a satellite, but the strange thing about it was, that it moved to the sky from west to east in a single straight line, at relatively high speed (Satellite?), didn't blink (as f-16's and helicopters would do?) and at some point, it halted, came down, became many times brighter and suddenly disappeared completely. Because we saw stars

around it, it couldn't have gotten behind a cloud. It certainly was not a falling star (have you ever seen a falling star last for 1-2 minutes?)."

"Skyquakes" in parts of the US which appear to be associated with UFO sightings have been the subject of frequent discussion, such as the following excerpt from an eyewitness report posted on Usenet: "I swear this craft just appeared over my head. This was at about 10:00 a.m. on a bright, sunny day. There was one of those skyquakes, then in a minute or two after that, (I was outside) the atmosphere seemed to get "heavy" like it was pushing down on me, and it got warm. I have dogs and they were growling and when I looked up, suddenly this craft was over my head, fairly close too. I felt it there before I actually saw it. I did not see it, or hear it approach except for noticing the change in the atmosphere, suddenly it was just there, as if becoming visible for the first time. It appeared to be gunmetal gray, almost black, but not quite. I'd say the shape was - triangular, a regular triangle. It was exactly like the craft - well, no, but very close to the craft in the second episode of the X-Files."

Reports of black triangular craft are commonly reported, as demonstrated here, possibly, in part of an anonymous report from a pilot posted on alt.paranet.ufo: "Hmmm...I do want to tell my story, but since the raven is still flying, I have to leave out some of the details. Basically, we nearly flew into a big, black triangle (square? we were at one corner and it was too big to see the full length so it could have been a triangle, or a square, or some other shape) that was hanging out in the middle of a cumulonimbus cloud. Since most of our aircraft, including the one we were in, do not react too well to thunderstorms, we thought it was unusual that this thing maintained perfect stability while we were being batted all over the sky. "

The pilot continues: "We must have been in a strong electro-magnetic atmosphere because our instruments failed and we lost power and our skin kinda "bristled" while we hung there at about a positive 60 degree pitch, about 20 degrees of roll, and about 30 degrees left relative yaw." Interestingly, he points out: "Six chronometers that were synchronized to the 1/100th second before the flight, showed a variance of twelve minutes after the flight."

There you go. It's impossible to give an accurate picture of the myriad of views, and some may argue that those reported here are not the most important. Judge for yourself, get on the Internet! BUFORA's e-mail address is: bufora@stairway.co.uk.

Cheers! :->Neil Doyle,
e-mail: neil@station1.demon.co.uk

Research Review

by Steve Gamble

Those people who were able to attend the lecture I gave at the University of Westminster in October will know that I was very keen that we should study repeat events. Soon after I became active in Ufology, Dr. Hynek appeared on a TV programme about UFOs. In this he said, if I might paraphrase "Science looks for patterns. In UFO phenomena there are no patterns, so they are difficult for scientists to study". It is my belief that repeat events will give the best opportunity of finding the patterns so necessary for scientific study. By repeat events I mean three different classes of report. Firstly I mean where the same area has a relatively high number of UFO events over a defined period of time.

Examples of this might be the events around the Warminster area in the late 1960s or the wave of reports from Dyfed in 1977/78. John Spencer's recent research concerning the Faulkner photograph from Warminster (see UFO TIMES 31, pages 3-5) provides additional information on some of these events. The second class of reports would be where the same witness or a group of witnesses experience a number of UFO events over time. There is the possibility that some people might experience UFOs because they are effected by some form of environmental factor, as proposed by various people such as Persinger and Budden or they might experience UFOs because they are in some other way sensitive to whatever causes UFO phenomena. The third class of UFO report which should be studied in depth are where the same kind of event is repeated. For example, I know of several cases where a driver has been travelling along a route they knew well, they were expecting to turn off of the main road, but suddenly found themselves a number of miles along the main road beyond their expected turn.

Projects

Ken Phillips has been continuing his work on Witness Based studies. Roger Chinery has been continuing his work in photographic analysis, recently completing work on a case from Scotland involving more than 15 photographs. I have been assisting Roger by looking at some material and have also been doing further work on computer based image analysis. The work on photoanalysis is spread amongst a very small number of people,

all of whom have other jobs within the Association. The number of people in this section will be increased, I am in the process of approaching people who have expressed an interest. We are in discussion with a former photographic coordinator for BUFORA in the hope that he can act as a Consultant.

Recently Nabil Shaban has joined the Research team. He is heading up the Pilots Project. This is a project to produce a catalogue of reports made by pilots and associated ground crew. The line of thought is that, since UFOs are aerial phenomena, these people will be experienced in observing things in the sky so may be better qualified to produce good quality reports. Reports by pilots continue to be made, as I write this at the end of January early reports are coming in of a triangular object seen by the crew of a plane near Manchester a few days ago. It is intended at the end of the project to produce a report, possibly similar to the Vehicle Interference Report previously produced by the Research Department. The Vehicle Interference Report has been out of print for several years, but is still widely quoted. Consideration is being given to reprinting the Report, perhaps with revisions.

Work is continuing on the BOLIDE Project. This project was originally started by Hilary Evans and is to form a catalogue of reports of strange balls of light. More recently, Robert Moore has done considerable work on this project and produced a preliminary report for UFO TIMES some time ago. This has not yet appeared and would now need updating, therefore it has been decided that the BOLIDE material should be written up as a small booklet, probably for publication this summer. One of our other studies has identified an area where there appear to be regular reports of strange Balls of Light. This is being further investigated and the data will be included in the BOLIDE report. Suitable reports for inclusion in BOLIDE are still coming in with two reports from the middle of December, one from Northamptonshire and one from the West Country, of very similar objects seen less than 24 hours apart. These are being investigated by Sue Pollock of NUFORC with my assistance (interference?).

Since the resignation of Paul Fuller from the Research Committee we have not had

anybody specifically assigned to look at Crop Circles. It is my belief that we should be keeping an eye on this area and I will be looking to recruit somebody to fill this position. I am also investigating the possibility of undertaking some joint studies of some aspects of Crop Circles with outside bodies. Paul was also our statistical adviser, I am currently in discussion with another member with statistical training in the hope I can recruit him to the Research Department.

I have been keeping an interest in the areas of Case Indexing and Statistics, although my recent work load have prevented much progress. The indexing has taken considerably longer than originally anticipated, due in part to a number of the initial offers of help not materialising when called upon. To a certain extent, because reports have to be read and the data extracted for the computer indexing form, each case receives a evaluation. The work I have been able to do has highlighted some reports which could have been significant, but which have been inadequately investigated. It may be possible to reopen work on some of these and supplement our existing information. The preliminary evaluation also highlights cases which might be of use to our other studies. Since Ken Phillips, in his editorial to UFO TIMES 32, has raised concern over the location of BUFORA's case reports I will discuss this subject more fully in a future Research Update.

There are a number of new projects which I am trying to get underway. Ralph Noyes has suggested to me that there should be cooperation between the SPR and BUFORA in research. One area he has suggested which might be fruitful is in a comparison between UFO and psychic/spirit entities. There appears to be a wide range of literature in this area already, but I am investigating what we could do. Recently there has been interest in the connections between Electro-magnetic Interference and UFO Reports. This in part has been due to the work of Albert Budden (who presented his ideas to the June 1994 London Lecture and in previous issues of UFO TIMES), but also work by a number of other researchers. Work is underway to form a multi-discipline panel, under the direction of Phillip Walton, to study all aspects of the suggested links. I am also starting a study into the area of cover-ups in general and reports of Men in Black will be studied as part of this group.

Crash Retrievals

Last year there were reports that a flying saucer had crashed in northern England, but these rumours soon fizzled out. On 13th January 1995 researcher Reg Presley announced on the BBC1 TV programme "Good Morning" that film appearing to show the recovery of the Roswell crashed flying saucer had come to light. Since that date Ray Santilli approached BUFORA with the film for us to complete a full analysis. I cannot say if this film is authentic or not, but it should be studied if we get the opportunity. These events re-awakened my interest in crash retrieval reports. One of the theories advanced to explain UFO reports which remain unidentified after investigation is that there are some form of advanced technology, possibly extra-terrestrial. If any of the alleged crash retrievals can be substantiated, it would go a long way to support such a theory. I will be establishing a group to look at reports of alleged crash retrievals.

After careful investigation between 35 and 40 % of UFO reports can be reasonably explained with varying degrees of certainty as being aircraft. If some way could be found of eliminating reports of aircraft the amount of 'noise' in the UFO data would be reduced drastically. Aircraft are mainly a 20th Century phenomenon, although there are airships towards the end of the 19th Century and balloons before that. I will be initiating a study looking for historic UFO reports in the hope that this data will be aircraft free. Reports on these and further projects will appear in future editions of UFO TIMES as they start up and results come in.

Readers Write

Express your views by sending your correspondence to:
The Editor, *UFO Times*
BM BUFORA, London, WC1N 3XX
E-mail: mike.woofen@pandorasbox.org.uk

Mantle Responds to Oakensen

Dear Editor,

In reply to the letter from Elsie Oakensen I would just like to make the following comments. It is indeed correct that some years ago I did indeed interview Mrs Oakensen for a planned book. More recently my colleague Carl Nagaitis interviewed Elsie for a planned video documentary which unfortunately never came to pass.

Since my first meeting with Elsie she accepted my invitation to speak at one of BUFORA's Conferences and at a college course I was tutoring in Wakefield. Both events generated some publicity. Elsie has also appeared in numerous periodicals and on TV.

My book *Without Consent* (published by Ringpull Press Ltd) and which was co-authored by my colleague Carl Nagaitis was published in September 1994. According to Elsie there are a number of discrepancies in the book. Just recently I offered Elsie the opportunity to correct the alleged discrepancies for the paperback which she has refused.

If the discrepancies that Elsie has outlined are indeed in the book I would add that in my opinion they would not still detract from the overall presentation of her account. In my opinion, Elsie is made to look like an intelligent and sober person in the book who happens across the UFO phenomenon whilst driving home from work. Added to this she had little or no prior interest in the subject whatsoever. Anyone who has read the book will easily see in what a positive light both Elsie, other witnesses, and the whole subject of abductions, are shown in.

What Elsie thinks and I know are two different matters and I have requested that she reads the book again so she can see in what a positive way we dealt with herself and the entire subject matter. The

offer of altering the alleged is still open to her as well.

Both Elsie and our readers should be aware that as far as I am aware she is the only witness featured in the book that has complained of alleged discrepancies. Others have responded in quite the opposite way. Elsie goes on about exploitation of the witness by the media. This is something that is out of my hands as no matter how much I might like to, I have no control over the media.

During my time with BUFORA I have treated witnesses sympathetically, and in confidence and with understanding despite what Elsie might think. In my book the whole subject matter is treated in this manner and I broke no confidences despite pressure from the media to do so.

But I would just like to add that my writing projects and my work at BUFORA are two separate issues and do not conflict in any way.

All I can say is that my offer to Elsie is still open and if she is representative of the type of people involved in the Witness Support Group then I shall seriously have to consider whether or not I recommend witnesses to them in the future. As far as I am concerned this matter is now closed and I do not wish to comment on it further.

Philip Mantle,
Batley

Eds Comment: The researcher/witness relationship is not always a happy one. But the Author/Witness relationship is always doomed to failure. This is usually because UFO witnesses are rarely involved with the production of the book. Authors tend to take the story and run, straight to their publishers. In my opinion there is no excuse for facts being inaccurate or misquoted, especially when the author is a researcher as well. However, it is a rare offer to allow corrections to be made by a witness for the future republication of a book. So Elsie take the offer, it's the best you will get.

UT Editor Denounced by 'Angry Magonia Reader'

Sir,

How I revelled in your discomfiture when you found yourself at the last AGM being denounced as a literary charlatan by BUFORA's Council - and not before time either! - and I applaud the Chairman's endorsement of this view in his Letter to the BUFORA Membership.

Quite frankly, your absurd articles on, for example, The Secret World Order, are beneath contempt. You, above all people, should know that armaments manufacturers and international bankers would never, under any circumstances, create wars in order to make vast profits for themselves. Can't you see that these men act in our best interests and always put our welfare at the top of their agendas? And, above all, they would never issue disinformation about UFOs as a cover for their classified operations; the latter also being carried out so that we might enjoy a peaceful and secure life on this Earth.

I would also wish to add that your preoccupation with extra-sensory phenomena is both false and a danger to the public. You have simply been taken in by this monstrous lie and used it to undermine society's institutions for your own nefarious objectives. "Universal connectedness" indeed! Whatever next: have us believe that your precious witnesses are being prepared for the "otherworld" to come? I just wish someone would connect you and your witness cronies to this "otherworld" and leave us other poor blighters disconnected from you forever!

Let me make myself quite clear Sir: you will go down in ufological history as the only man who successfully sliced BUFORA's membership in half as a direct result of your quackery and paranoia and, with the aid of your false god, Anti-Science, set back ufological research by 30 years!

As I stated in an earlier letter to your magazine, you should be thoroughly denounced as the rotter you are, then publicly horsewhipped in front of the witnesses you so fetishily adore.

For the last time, Sir: in the name of God, go!

Angry Magonia Reader
Tunbridge Wells.

Ed's comment: well, Angry of Tunbridge Wells, you've really got me banged to rights here and I can't offer any further resistance. I would, therefore, refer you to my editorial in this issue in which I state that I quit my editorship unconditionally and unconnectedly.

Another Witness Expresses Disapproval of Albert Budden's Book

Dear Editor,

A word about Albert Budden and his book Allergies and Aliens.

Has anyone ever checked his 'facts' or research methods? Someone drew my attention to - to my amazement - to myself being used as a statistic (see page 23: "Miss L. C., Denning Rd., Hampstead, London, N.W.... 400 m UHF. P.")

What he is saying about me is completely false: I have never experienced 'hallucinatory formed figures', and never claimed to, and the address is not within 400 m of a transmitter. He even got my initial wrong.

If this is an indication of quality of his research base, his 'work' is useless.

When I contacted him about the use of my name (permission for which was never sought), I was abused for objecting to being used as "only a statistic", as if I were being egotistical, and when I asked how he arrived at his conclusion, or information, he claimed that someone else had told it to him, but refused to name his 'source'. Later, after I demanded he not use my name ever again, he wrote to me claiming the reference was not to me after all, to which I replied that if he expected anyone to believe [this] he was even pottier than I thought.

I find this all so astonishingly dishonest that I feel your readers ought to know of it.

Yours sincerely,

Regina Cullen.

Ed's comment: I have seen revolutionary hypotheses about the UFO question come and go by the dozen and not one has adequately and universally described the UFO experience. Only time will tell whether or not Albert has struck the right formula, but somehow or another the UFO stimulus - whatever it is - has a habit of changing the rules of the game without warning and we all end up having to look for yet another, more comprehensive, hypothesis to describe the new characteristics suddenly presented to us. It's not only ufology that is beset by these sort of problems. For example, the same difficulties of universal modelling are to be found in cosmology and sub-atomic physics: the more we find out, the less we know, with no end in sight to the continuous problems that beset us. The smart thing to do, Regina, is to be aware that science is just like any other religion: it has a set of beliefs and dogma, but it hasn't a clue as to where it is going.

And Jonathon Dillon Asks Where BUFORA is Going

Dear Ken,

Does BUFORA still exist???

I haven't heard anything from Central Office, or received any issues of UT - Nov/Dec '94, or Jan/Feb '95?? What the hell's going on mate? Someone needs a good throttling - see to it please!

See Ya,

J. Dillon.

Ed's comment: problems with the running of BUFORA, Jon? You know very well I couldn't possibly comment over something like that! I advise, therefore, that you to read the Chairman's 'Letter to the BUFORA Membership' for an answer to your anxiety. Oh, I'm sorry, I forgot, that was a supplement to UT34, and you're not receiving your UTs, are you?

Mrs Heaton Lays it on the Line

Dear Editor,

I can't help but smile and say, "hear, hear," to your heartfelt cry, 'Know thyself and know the other buggers who are screwing up your life.'

It is not an uncommon occurrence or feeling in some of us in the UFO movement - or out of it! - that some insidious, invisible prowler is around and upsetting things, accidentally on purpose! In fact, I don't know about you, Mr. Editor, but some of us, during a long and turbulent life, actually become inured to this feeling, so that however well or eagerly you set out to do the right thing, you are aware of, due to a sneaking opposition, it won't turn out so.

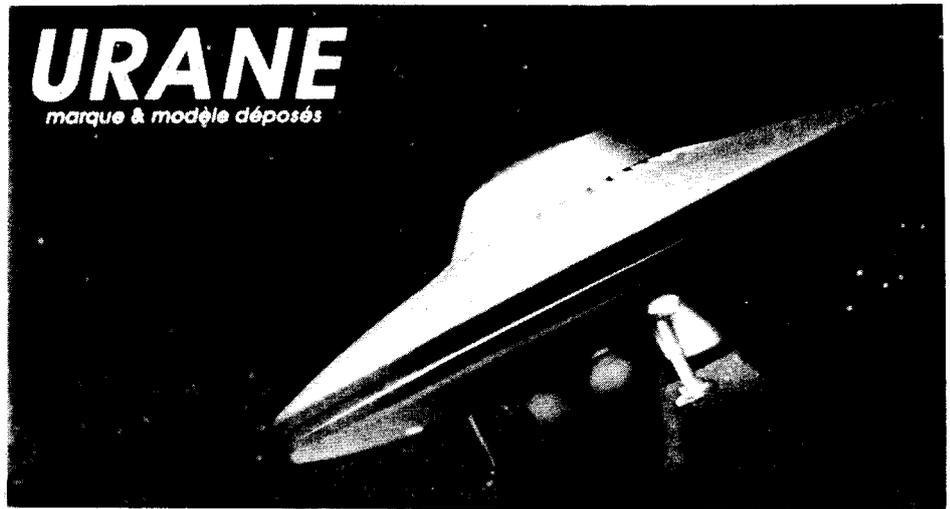
I can't offer much help except to say that my answer is to take up the challenge and show the "other buggers" where you intend to go. If they don't tire of it, hopefully they'll run out of ideas!

Mr. Dennis Harper certainly shows us a very apt scenario to this: that we are constantly under some kind of Cosmic Review, and I think it is time for us to show some initiative about where WE want to go.

If they are so good at spying on us and using their notorious ESP, we maybe can reply in a likewise vein. Just see how they take Frankenstein's revolt!!

E. Heaton.

Ed's comment: quite so, Mrs. Heaton - I wish you every success.



Looking for that something a little different? Something that would highlight your involvement in ufology? Something that is bold but not too over-the-top? A conversation piece perhaps?

URANE is a UFO model with quite a difference. 1/87 scale it is 25 centimetres in diameter and weighs 700 grams. This light-grey UFO model comes complete with retractable landing legs and under-carriage. Added to this is a printed circuit lighting effect which gives a multi-illuminating effect via rotating lights around the UFO and projected lights from the underside. The whole model is mounted on a plastic moulded base with a chrome steel stand.

The cost of this quite superb UFO model is £50 including p&p and it is available from:

URANE, 2 Rue Neuve, BP 29, 30210 Remoulins, France. Payment by Eurocheque or International Money Order. Please allow 14 days for delivery.

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