

# UFO

# times

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## Creature Culprits

Who's behind the Roswell alien footage? George Wingfield speculates

## The Fehrenbach Photo

The German Hoax  
MUFON Couldn't Solve

## 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 Research Department

## Strieber's back in Town

Andy Roberts reviews his latest book

*plus*

## Cosford

an enduring mystery

and all the latest news

# Boeing Near Miss with a UFO

## *The Full CAA Report*

a BUFORA publication



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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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1. To encourage, promote and conduct unbiased scientific research of unidentified flying object (UFO) phenomena throughout the United Kingdom. 2. To collect and disseminate evidence and data relating to 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. Member Societies include the UK's oldest group, BFSB, 3 Orchard Road, Coal Pit Heath, Bristol, Avon BS17 2PB. Associate groups include the Northamptonshire UFO Research Centre and Skyscan.



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# Editorial

Its not often we have guest editorials, but I am pleased to present this one from Andy Roberts, who has recently re-entered ufology and re-joined BUFORA in the process. *Mike*

## Business As Usual

*UFO Times*, after the editorial vicissitudes of recent months now has some more help. Some of you, ahem, 'older' readers may remember me from the Independent UFO Network and also as the erstwhile editor of *UFO Brigantia*, the ufological answer to *Private Eye*. After a three year absence from the subject, during which I've been writing books and running a small record company, the UFO bug finally got the better of me, and I just couldn't stay away.

UT editor Mike Wootten kindly enquired if I'd like to get involved - and here I am! I was quite honoured to be asked, as I have had my differences with BUFORA in the past. But hey, we're all a little older now and ufology needs all the help it can get, as on my return I found it still beset with the same internal political problems, the same dogmatic, entrenched thought processes and the same lack of will to change from being a fringe hobby into a worthwhile area of study. Why do I still think this? Well, let's go through the dome-shaped window...

Recently, I've been doing some consultancy work for a TV production company who are filming a major four-part UFO documentary series. It will be screened worldwide in late autumn this year on Sky's Discovery channel, and possibly later on Channel 4. It's been a fascinating experience. These people are true professionals with a genuine interest in the subject. But, to cut a long story short, they have really gone to town on this series. They have spoken to anyone who is anyone in the subject and delved deeply into the primal mystery of ufology. Between them they have probably done more ufological investigation in a year than most ufologists do in a lifetime, and more accurate work too, as they are well-informed, unbiased and approach the subject with an open mind and journalistic attitude - attributes lacking in most ufologists.

Many of the major cases - and some lesser known ones - of the past forty years have been delved into, with as many ufologists and original witnesses as possible spoken to about their experiences, views and theories. They've been to the USA for weeks on end; Norway, Russia and so on. Few ufological stones have been left unturned. Although the hundreds of hours of filming will eventually be cut down to a mere four, the distillation of their work will be the best encapsulation of the subject yet seen on the small screen.

One of their main criticisms of ufology is that many cases they have looked into have not been investigated correctly. The researcher on the series, after obtaining initial information from (supposedly trustworthy) UFO books and magazines, has followed up cases to find that the initial 'investigators' - enthusiasts would be a better word - often completely botched the case. They failed to find witnesses who could have been easily located, ignoring them altogether or, when they did have a perfectly good witness, altering the 'facts' to fit their belief system. Doing everything in fact that people always criticise ufology for and which is used as ammunition against ufology by the debunkers.

Forty - nine years from Arnold's historic sighting and ufologists still can't investigate properly.

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The pages of UFO Times are open to anyone wishing to present a paper for consideration by the editorial board. Submissions can be typed or supplied on 3.5" floppy disc (MS-DOS) or 3" Amstrad format and sent to the editor at the above address.

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# News

edited by Mike Wootten

## Clinton on Roswell

With Roswell seemingly climbing the political agenda in the US, President Clinton said that, "as far as I know, an alien spacecraft did not crash in Roswell, N.M., in 1947... If the United States Air Force did recover alien bodies, they didn't tell me about it either, and I want to know."

Laurance Rockefeller wants to tell him. The 85-year-old philanthropist has funded a 150-page study of "the Roswell Incident." This month, he's due to send it to White House Science adviser John Gibbons, as well as every U.S. congressman and senator.

"The Best Available Evidence" features testimony from former military officials and astronauts that contradicts Air Force denials of an alien landing, says Michael Luckman, director of the New York Center for UFO Research.

Last summer, Rockefeller reportedly tried to get Hillary Clinton aboard the UFO issue when the President was vacationing in Wyoming.



Clinton, non-committal

## Students Say Yes to Alien Visitation

report by Stanton Friedman

**The highlight of my October trip to the UK was certainly the Oxford University Union Society Debate on 25th October 1995.**

Formally dressed students ran the show (sponsored by *Encounters* magazine) in the packed old auditorium where debates have been conducted for more than 170 years.

The resolution before the house was clear and unequivocal: "This House believes that intelligent alien life has visited the planet Earth."

There were some very clever and humorous talks by students who knew absolutely nothing about the subject! My colleague Harry Harris, from Manchester, dealt with various abduction cases using audio tapes. I used a number of slides focusing on factual data, large scale scientific studies, daytime photos, Roswell, etc.; not easy in 20 minutes.



Anchor for the negative team was Peter Brookesmith, who used quotes from various contactees and tabloid publications, but seemed totally unfamiliar with the evidence I had just presented.

From the audience of 680, only members of the Society are allowed to vote. The official tally, released one week later, was:-

**Yes 207 No 140**

Thus 60% of the members agreed with the proposition!

## UFO Claims by Pilots Sightings Over North East China

**The pilots of four aircraft reported UFO sightings over North East China.**

The captain of an internal flight to Beijing on 4th December 1995, radioed that he could see, "a white oval object travelling at about 550mph." He later reported that it, "turned green and followed the aeroplane's flight path."

Within minutes, the captain of another airliner reported seeing the same thing, and two others spotted red or yellow UFOs.

Source: Sunday Mail, 31st December 1995

## Flying Saucer Detected Glowing in Sky over South Korean City

**A doughnut-shaped 'flying saucer' glowed for an hour over a provincial city park, attracting a crowd of awed onlookers and cameramen, said news reports.**

The strange object emitted a wave of luminous red light from its centre and moved slowly and soundlessly over a hilly park in the southern city of Taegu, Yonhap news agency said.

Yonhap added that television and radio stations were swamped with telephone calls by witnesses who claimed it was an unidentified flying object.

An air force surveillance team in the city also saw the glowing saucer through binoculars but failed to detect it on a radar screen, it said.

Many people in the city were reported to have photographed the saucer.

Source: Agence France Presse, 31st December 1995

## Investigator Training Course Relunched

**The popular BUFORA investigator correspondence course, written and originally started by Jenny Randles has been relaunched.**

D of I Philip Mantle, will run the courses along with Gloria Dixon.

For more information, contact Philip at:-  
1 Woodhall Road, Batley, West Yorks, WF17 7SW.

## Shuttle Near Miss with UFO?

The Space Shuttle Endeavor narrowly avoided a collision with a gigantic UFO during its 12-day mission (STS-69) in September 1995 and a top-secret NASA audio tape proves it!

That's the word from author William Kliner, who claims to have obtained a copy of the tape from highly placed NASA sources and flatly calls the incident "the most dramatic close encounter in history." In the 23-second tape, which was recorded off one of several secret radio frequencies that NASA reserves for classified conversations with space shuttle astronauts, Commander David Walker is heard to say:

"Bogey at 3 o'clock . . . God . . . what is

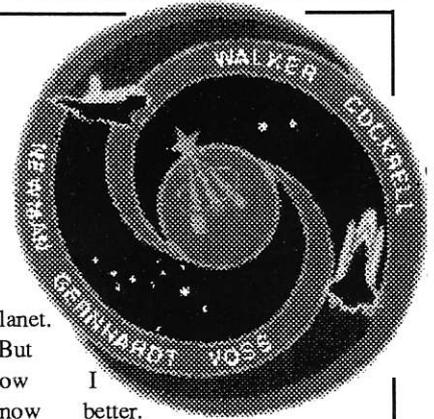


it? My God - it's coming right at us . . .".NASA: What's there? Walker: THERE'S NO WAY! Oh God! Get back. MOVE!" NASA: Endeavor! Endeavor! What . . . explain . . .Walker: What the . . . where are we? Where is it? Where . . . it's gone...IT'S GONE. Not (unintelligible) . . . UFO. Spacecraft . . . huge . . . intelligent . . . OVER THERE! NASA: Endeavor. Switch . . . NOW!

The tape ends abruptly with what would appear to be a NASA order for Walker to change radio frequency. And while nobody other than Walker, his crew and a handful of NASA officials knows exactly what happened next, the Endeavor returned to Earth safely on 18th September, indicating that the close encounter ended without further incident.

"This is dazzling proof that UFOs not only exist, they are piloted by extraterrestrials who are interested in our technology and possibly even mankind's ventures into space," declared Kliner,

who has published hundreds of articles on America's space program over the past 25 years. "Until now, I didn't believe in the existence of UFOs and I certainly didn't believe that extraterrestrials were visiting our



planet.

"But now I know better.

Space aliens actually observed our shuttle astronauts as they orbited Earth - and NASA's own tape proves it."

NASA spokesmen declined to comment on the author's report pending the outcome of what one official called "an investigation into the source of unauthorized information that might or might not have basis in fact." And the crew aren't talking either.

But Kliner's sources say the Endeavor and crew did, in fact, avert an in-orbit collision with "a massive, walnut-shaped spacecraft of unknown origin." "From what I understand, the spacecraft was the size of a small city and glowed bright green as it approached the shuttle."

"As far as I know," he continued, "there was no contact between the UFO and the shuttle. If there was contact, my sources are unaware of it."

## Top UFO Book for 1995 - A Very American View. The Albright Awards

At the plainly American, Albright Award Ceremonies, the most prestigious of all gongs was given for the "UFO Book of the Year".

Dr. Heinrich Gustav Von Frugelblitz, Trustee of the Albright Institute of the Advanced Studies of Extraterrestrial Contact bestowed the top honour to C.D.B. Bryan for his outstanding work titled, *Close Encounter of the Fourth Kind - Alien Abduction, UFOs, and the Conference at M.I.T.*

This major and very impressive tome is the general overview of the proceedings of the unprecedented, invitation-only, abduction study conference on the campus of Massachusetts Institute of Technology in Cambridge, held in the summer of 1992.

At almost 500 pages., *Close Encounter* is monumental in its own right and recently received a largely favorable review in the New York Times Book Review. Ufologists... will... hail it as the first serious treatment of the abduction and phenomenon by a 'major' outside writer.

One of the top five alien-human abduction books for 1995 included *A Common Sense Approach to UFOs* by Betty Hill (ISBN# 0-9648243-0-2) and *Breakthrough: The Next Step* by Whitley Strieber (ISBN# 0-06-017653-9)

Other awards included:

The "Best Crop-Circle Book" award went to Michael Hesse-mann for *The Cosmic Connection: Worldwide Crop Formations and ET Contacts*.

Paperback-Specific Subject: *UFO Crashes - A History Of UFO Crashes* by Kevin D. Randle. Topics include: Roswell; San Augustin (New Mexico); Kingman, Arizona (May 1953); Ubatuba, Brazil (Sept. 1957); Las Vegas, Nevada (April 1962); and Kecksburg, PA (December 1965). Also, MJ-12, the Twin-ing letter and Project Moon Dust.

Paperback-Specific Subject: *Underground Bases - Underground Bases and Tunnels* by Richard Sauder, Ph.D.

The Worst Debunking Book was awarded to our very own Steuart Campbell for his *The UFO Mystery Solved*. The Judges described it as laughable.

# CAA say BA Boeing Near Miss is 'Unresolved'

*Special Report Compiled by Mike Wootten*

**In what is viewed as an honest and open report, the Civil Aviation Authority's Joint Air Proximity Section has stated that the close shave between a Boeing 737 and a 'wedge shaped' object on 6th January 1995 remains unresolved.**

After extensive investigation, the Group concludes, "...in the absence of any firm evidence which could identify or explain this object, it was not possible to assess either the cause or the risk to any of the normal criteria applicable to airmiss reports."

However, what appears to be more significant is the report's references to UFO activity. It declared, "To speculate about extra-terrestrial activity, fascinating though it may be, is not within the Group's remit and must be left to those whose interest lies in that field." The Group's members also commended the pilots (captain Roger Wills and first officer Mark Stuart) for coming forward with their report and the 'enlightened attitude' of British Airways for supporting the pilot's accounts. The report also hoped that other aircrews in the future would follow the pilots' example and report unusual sightings of a similar nature.

Never have we seen such an open admission from the UK establishment that the existence of the UFO phenomenon is worthy of serious consideration.

In a final twist, an independant witness has now come forward, claiming that he saw a similar object hovering near Manchester Airport some two hours before the near miss occurred.

**What follows is the full unabridged Joint Air Proximity Section report which is reproduced here with the kind permission of the Civil Aviation Authority.**

## COMMERCIAL AIR TRANSPORT AIRMISS REPORTS (JANUARY-APRIL 1995)

### Airmiss report No. 2/95

<b>Date/Time:</b>	061848 Jan	Night
<b>Position:</b>	N5318 W0200 (8NM SE Manchester Apt)	
<b>Airspace:</b>	MTMA	<b>Class:</b> A
<b>Type:</b>	<b>Reporting Aircraft</b> B737	<b>Reporting Aircraft</b> Untraced
<b>Operator:</b>	CAT	
<b>Alt/FL:</b>	4000ft ↓ (QNH 1027 mb)	
<b>Weather:</b>	VMC CLAC	
<b>Visibility:</b>	10Km+	

initially focused on the glare shield in front of him, was diverted to something in his peripheral vision. He looked up in time to see a dark object pass down the right hand side of the ac at high speed; it was wedge-shaped with what could have been a black stripe down the side. he estimated the object's size as somewhere between that of a light ac and a Jetstream, though he emphasised that this was pure speculation. it made no attempt to deviate from its course and no sound was heard or wake felt. He felt certain that what he saw was a solid object - not a bird, balloon or kite.

**MANCHESTER ATC** reports that the B737 was being radar vectored from Dayne to the ILS for RW 24 when the pilot reported a lighted object passing close by above and in the opposite direction. There was no known traffic in the vicinity at the time and no radar contacts were seen.

### PART A: SUMMARY OF INFORMATION TO JAS

**THE B737 PILOT** reports that he was over the Pennines, about 8 or 9 NM SE of Manchester Airport, at 4000ft, while being radar vectored by Manchester radar on 119.4. He was flying at 180-210 kt on a N heading and squaking 5734 with Mode C selected. Although it was dark, visibility was over 10km with a fairly strong NW wind (340/30). While flying just above

the tops of some rugged Cu both he and the first officer saw a lighted (see JAS notes) object fly down the RH side of the ac at a high speed from the opposite direction. He was able to track the object through the RH windscreen and side window, having it in sight for a total of about 2 seconds. There was no apparent sound or wake. The first officer instinctively 'ducked' as it went by.

The first officer reports that his attention,

**JAS Note (1):** Telephone conversations subsequently took place with both the captain and his first officer. The captain remained convinced that the object was itself lit. Although he could not determine a definite pattern, he described it as having a number of small white lights, rather like a Christmas tree. He confirmed the high speed of the object, and though unable to estimate the distance, said he felt it was very close.

Following the incident, the captain and first officer independently drew what they had seen, both agreed about the shape but differing in their opinions about the lighting aspects. The first officer felt that the object was illuminated by their landing lights, which at that stage were switched on. He was unable to assess the distance, other than to say that he involuntarily 'ducked', so it must have appeared to him to have been very close. He was entirely convinced, as was the captain, that they had seen a solid object and not a Met phenomenon, balloon or any other craft with which they were familiar, or a Stealth ac, which he [the captain] had himself had seen and which he feels he would have recognised.

**JAS Note (2):** Despite exhaustive investigations, the reported object remains untraced. A reply of the Ciec radar shows a number of secondary contacts, including the subject B737, being radar sequenced in the Manchester TMA and zone. The B737 tracks over two almost stationary primary contacts just N of Leek on a NW heading while descending through FL 70-60. On entering the Manchester TMA, passing FL 50, it is vectored right onto about 040 deg, and continues to descend on a NE track along the E boundary of the Manchester TMA to within 0.75NM of the Daventry CTA, where the base of CAS is FL 45. At this point, passing 3600 Mode C, the ac is turned onto a L base for RW 24 as part of a busy sequence of inbound ac. At no time during the downwind leg is any other radar contact seen in the vicinity. An extract from the RT recording on 119.4, which shows that the B737 was given decent clearance to 4000 ft at 1845:30, follows:

From:

**B737 (1848)** - 'c/s we just had something go down the RHS just above us very fast.'

**Manchester** - 'Well, there's nothing seen on radar. Was it er an ac?'

**B737** - 'Well, it had lights, it went down the starboard side very quick.'

**Manchester** - 'And above you?'

**B737** - 'er, just slightly above us, year.'

**Manchester** - 'Keep an eye out for something, er, I can't see anything at all at the moment so, er, must have, er, been very fast or gone down very quickly after it passed you I think.'

**B737** - 'OK. Well, there you go!'

The possibility that the object might have been a hang glider, paraglider or microlight was investigated, but all the

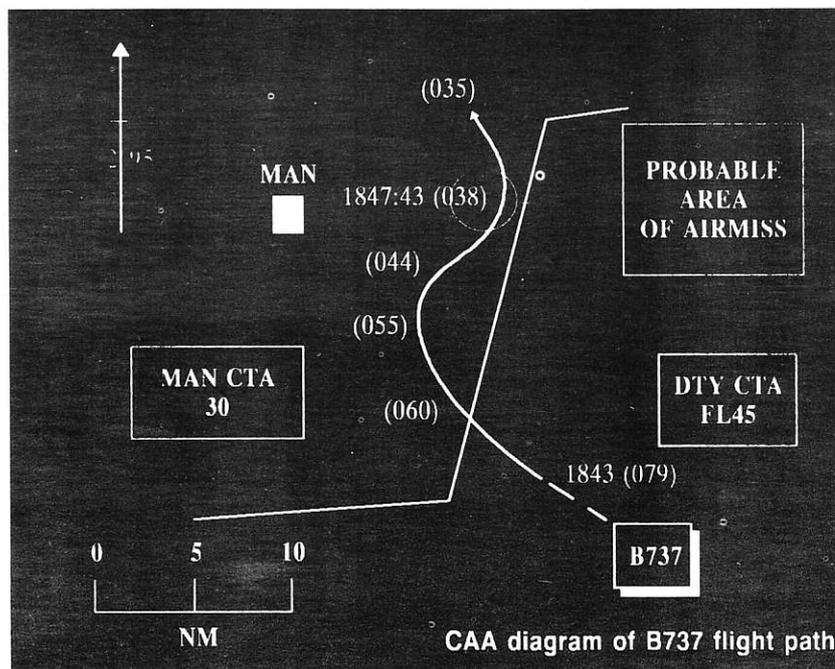
operating authorities, without exception, agreed that this was an extremely unlikely explanation, for various reasons, but mainly because none of these activities takes place at night. In addition, there are obvious hazards of flying in the dark, from high ground (the peaks in this area along the Pennine ridge range from 1600 to over 2000 ft), string winds, and because these aircraft are unlit. JAS also explored the possibility of military activity, but could find no evidence in support of this from any official source. In any case, it seems most unlikely that such a flight would have been conducted in CAS and so close to a busy international airport. Because of the B737's proximity to the uncontrolled airspace to the E of Manchester, during the downwind leg, which covers the airmis period, the possibility of unknown military or civil activity in the adjacent FIR cannot be completely discounted. However, the likelihood of such activity escaping detection is remote, as the area is well served by several radars and any movements at the levels in question would almost certainly have generated a radar response.

**PART B: SUMMARY OF THE WORKING GROUP'S DISCUSSIONS**

Information available to the Working Group included reports from the pilot of the B737, transcripts of the relevant RT frequencies, a video recording, and reports from the air traffic controllers involved.

The Group were anxious to emphasise

that this report, submitted by two responsible airline pilots, was considered seriously and they wished to commend the pilots for their courage in submitting it, and their company, whose enlightened attitude made it possible. Reports such as these are often the object of derision, but the Group hopes that this example will encourage pilots who experience unusual sightings to report them without fear of ridicule. It was quickly realised by all members that, because of its unusual nature, they could only theorise on the possibilities once normal avenues of investigation had been explored. There is no doubt that the pilots both saw an object and that it was of sufficient significance to prompt an airmis report. Unfortunately, the nature and identity of this object remains unknown. To speculate about extra-terrestrial activity, fascinating though it may be, is not within the Group's remit and must be left to those whose interest lies in that field. It is probably true to say, however, that almost all unusual sightings can be attributed to a wide range of well known natural phenomena. There are, of course, a few which defy explanation and thus fuel the imagination of those who are convinced that there is 'something going on' out there. Usually activity of this kind is accompanied by a rash of ground sightings in the same geographic area; in this case, as far as is known, there were no other reports and therefore the incident has to be viewed in isolation, with no other witnesses. The resources normally available when investigating airmisses are pilots' reports, corroborated by radar and RT recordings. Often these will



provide all the clues necessary, but in this case there is no 'reported pilot', and radar recordings do not show any unknown contacts. The lack of a radar contact is not necessarily unusual if weather suppressors are in use on radar, particularly if the object generates a poor radar response. In these conditions the radar an interpret a non-transponding (primary) contact as weather and therefore disregards it. Enquiries into military activity did not reveal any ac in the area at the time, and it was considered inconceivable that such activity would take place so close to a busy airport without some sort of prior notification. Members put forward other suggestions, such as large model aircraft or commercially operated remotely controlled craft, such as those which are used for survey or photographic work. Considering the prevailing conditions - darkness, high ground, strong NW wind and the proximity of a major international airport - the Group felt that this kind of activity, together with the hang glider/microlight theory, could not be regarded as a realistic possibility. As was pointed out by one member, however, the extreme actions of a foolhardy individual cannot be entirely ruled out and there remains, therefore, the possibility that someone, perhaps in a microlight ac (which most accurately fits the shape described ), had defied the conditions and got airborne. Further talks with the microlight experts on this idea highlighted the extreme improbability; the strong wind, terrain and darkness would have rendered such a flight almost suicidal.

Having debated the various hypotheses at length the Group concluded that, in the absence of any firm evidence which could identify or explain this object, it was not possible to assess either the cause or the risk to any of the normal criteria applicable to airmiss reports. The incident therefore remains unresolved.

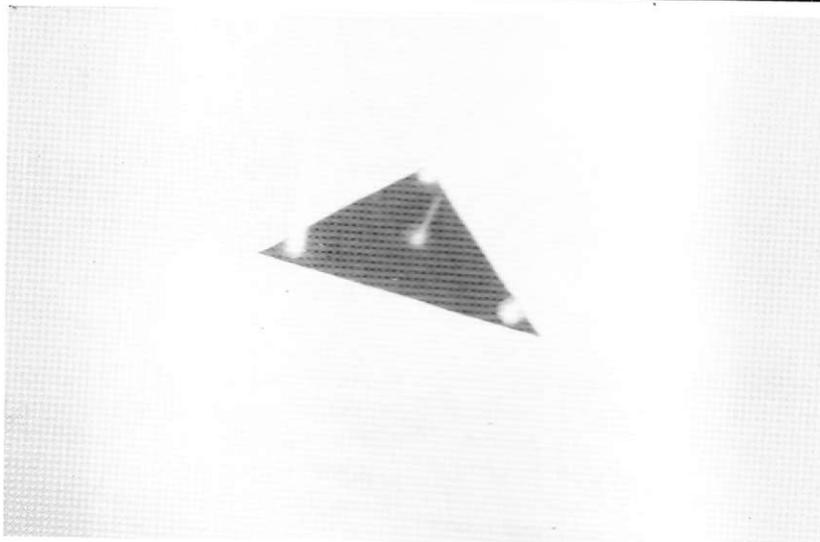
**PART C: ASSESSMENT OF RISK AND CAUSE**

**Degree of Risk:** Unassessable

**Cause:** Unassessable

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**James Easton has conducted in-depth research of the many reports of triangular-shaped craft during recent years**

**Tri-Craft Won't Go Away**

*James Easton*

**Hovering, slow moving, low altitude, brilliantly lit, triangular shaped...**

How often have we heard this description in recent times?

The two most striking aspects of such reports is their consistency and that the object's behaviour defies a rational explanation as a covert, advanced aviation development. Not that such covert, advanced technology is an impossibility, it's simply that there is no precedent for making its existence so blatantly obvious.

On 26th September, 1993, in Bakewell, there were reports of a 'massive', slow moving, triangular object, which flew low overhead and was, "lit up like a huge fairground." One witness reportedly commented that the triangular object was, "lit up like a Christmas tree" (the CAA report confirms that when the Boeing 737 pilot was asked for his description of the 'unknown' triangular object, he described it as having a, "number of small white lights, rather like a Christmas tree").

On September 27th, 1994, there was a report from Ossett of a triangular object, which moved across the sky at an, "incredible speed" to stop alarmingly over the witnesses car. It was suddenly joined

by another and both hovered silently only a hundred feet or so above, before moving off.

On December 3rd 1994, whilst driving home through Sutton, a witness reported a triangular object which hovered only some 200 feet above the ground for 3-4 minutes, then moved approximately half a mile northwards, stopped, hovered for another 2 minutes, moved southward for approximately half a mile, hovered for a further minute, spun around 180 degrees, then shone a beam of light downwards before continuing in the same direction.

There are many similar reports - Ray and Cathay Procek's encounter near Bonnybridge when they witnessed 2 triangular objects hovering silently above a viaduct, Andy Swan's encounter with a triangular shaped object in the same area, which came towards him so low that he thought it was about to land on the road - that they seemingly make a nonsense of the 'black project' explanation.

The fact remains, there is substantive, consistent evidence that something tangible is being observed.

And it's not Venus this time.

# Should Alien DORA really be Alien HILDA?

## A Personal Analysis of the Roswell Footage

*George Wingfield*

**During the last few months the Santilli alien autopsy saga has rapidly declined into farce. Nevertheless, there still seems to be an enormous appetite for it, especially out there in Cyberspace: the subject provides an unceasing source of fascination; although few now dare to hope that we are dealing with a real alien, and it seems that what we are left with is simply an overblown whodunit.**

It is now 10 months since the first public screening of the alien autopsy footage. At the time I bestowed the name "DORA" on the wretched alien: this stands for Dubious Origin Roswell Alien. (It was also appropriate since my erstwhile mother-in-law was called DORA and many had the distinct impression that she was an alien.) Now, however, I believe that the name "HILDA" is more appropriate and, if you will bear with me, I will attempt to explain why.

I have been pressed several times to reveal what I really think about the footage and whether I consider it genuine or not. Until now I have avoided that question in the hopes of obtaining access to further footage, inside information and perhaps even contact with the mysterious 'cameraman'. That was obviously not to be.

What I do believe is that the whole production is a scam and most probably one that was conceived in 1993 and carried out during the year 1994.

If I am not mistaken, there were several people involved in this project, which was devised and executed in London. Most likely the footage was shot on video and there never was any 'original 16mm' cine film. I suggest that the U.S. telephone and clock in the 'autopsy room' were carefully chosen by the perpetrators to match the supposed 1947 scenario. Likewise, the surgical instruments were selected as the correct sort for that era. Despite much that has been suggested to

the contrary by many people, including medical men, the alien corpse is most likely a special effects dummy.

### Reasons to be Doubtful 1,2,3

What reasons are there for thinking that the footage is bogus? Primarily, there is the fact that Mr. Santilli has told us things which are demonstrably untrue. He has changed his story again and again and, more recently, he has been caught out (on French TV) in a gross falsehood as regards his original story of how he supposedly obtained the footage. I don't intend to enumerate all the discrepancies in the story - which is now falling apart at the seams - but a few instances will illustrate this.

1) We were told that President Truman could be clearly seen in the footage. Quoting Colin Andrews in his newsletter (March 1995), he says: "I asked Santilli what was the most impressive thing he had seen on the film. What had convinced him that it was authentic? "I had no doubts", he said, "when I saw President Truman." No film of Truman has ever been produced and nor will it be.

2) Reg Presley and Philip Mantle were told separately that the footage showed the debris site in the desert, the crashed disk and a crane used to recover it, as well as many military personnel. None of this was ever produced.

3) In the same newsletter as (1) above, Santilli is reported as saying that "the prestigious Royal Society in London had agreed to assist with their high-tech computer enhancement facility." Bob Shell was told that Rank in London had carried out the processing needed to copy the original 16 mm film. Santilli also said that the processing was done in the US. Checks indicate that none of these claims are true.

4) On French Television's Jacques Pradel show on the TF-1 network on October 23rd, Santilli was confronted with the fact

that the early Elvis footage, which he claimed he purchased from the mysterious 'cameraman' in Cleveland had in fact been bought from one Bill Randle. Randle had helped promote concerts in Ohio including one in 1955 where Elvis shared the billing with Bill Haley and Pat Boone. However the cameraman who shot the actual footage, which Randle sold to Santilli (accompanied at that time by Gary Shoefield), was a certain Jack Barnett who had died in 1957. Santilli was obviously highly embarrassed by this revelation but sought to maintain there was another cameraman, called Jack Barrett, who had also sold him Elvis footage in Cleveland at this time and subsequently sold him the 'Roswell footage'. Others on the Jacques Pradel show shook their heads in disbelief at this hasty attempt to shore up an obviously false story.

5) Santilli maintains that at the time of his purchase of the Elvis footage, completed after a long negotiation process on July 4th 1993, he had never heard of the Roswell incident. There is every indication that as a result of pre-release information about the Roswell movie in 1993, he knew only too well about the story of the recovery of alien bodies at Roswell in 1947.

6) Then there is the unbelievable 'cameraman's story' to which volumes of objections could be written. The search for the 'cameraman' has become something of a wild goose chase and numerous dead-ends give the strong impression that the cameraman is a fictitious composite character based on the long-since dead Jack Barnett (see 4) and plenty of invention. Some of the obscure military detail in the cameraman's story, such as the reference to "Tooey" (General Spaatz), may well have been provided by someone with a connection to the US Intelligence establishment (such as Jim Schnabel, to whom we shall refer later).

7) Despite numerous requests for pieces of original film to test by various interested parties, like Bob Shell and FOX, Santilli has only ever sent 16 mm leaders or small snippets of film for testing, which have no definite connection with the autopsy sequence. As one would expect, these pieces of film all come from 1947 or roughly that era, as either the edge markings or inspection indicates; he would hardly send such pieces of film if they were NOT about 1947! Pressed for a whole section of film on which there are

images of the supposed alien, there have only been excuses, such as that he no longer has control of the original film. The frames showing a lighted doorway, supposedly that of the autopsy room, could easily be taken from any 16 mm film of that era, such as footage of early rock stars. (The fact that some of the film strips received are mutilated, with one edge missing, may show that it's even quite tough to find a passable bit of film, such as the lighted doorway, which is exactly 1947!)

**The Culprits?**

We could continue with all sorts of other discrepancies and objections but most of these have been covered already in literature and on the Internet. A more telling instance occurred during a conversation which I had with Santilli on May 17th 1995, which is reported here verbatim:-

GW: One very, very final point. There was a group of circle hoaxers, Robert Irving & Co., who were at the meeting [i.e. the May 5th screening in the Museum of London]... um... are they friends of yours ?

RS: I've never heard of them. Who are they?

GW: Never heard of Robert Irving, John Lundberg and, and er, Rod Dickinson?

RS: Never heard of them, never heard of them ... got no idea who they are.

GW: They are hoaxers; they're prominent hoaxers who hoax UFOs, hoax crop circles and all that sort of ...

RS: They were at our screening?

GW: They were at your screening, yes...

RS: I've got no idea who they are. Once again, no relationship with them. They've not even contacted me.

GW: Oh... OK.

RS: OK?

I now have evidence that Ray Santilli knew both Lundberg and Dickinson, and had done for some time. Note the use of the word "relationship" in his denial: not a word that I ever used to him but one that is extremely relevant, especially in view of certain revelations which have occurred since then.

**The Black Project**

In July 1995 an anonymous fax was received by someone who had taken great interest in the Santilli footage. It was sent by a person who worked for a major UK film distributor and who expressed concern that their revelations in the fax could cost them their job. In fact the name of the sender is known to the recipient of the fax but cannot, for obvious reasons, be disclosed.

The fax said that the Roswell film footage

was a hoax conceived by Ray Santilli, Gary Shoefield and two others (one of whom was said to be an Englishman called "Jack Barnett" or "Jack Barrett" - names that have also been attributed to the alleged cameraman) associated with that particular film company in July 1993. The inspiration for this hoax was, of course, the forthcoming release of the Roswell movie, starring Kyle MacLachlan and Martin Sheen, which was to be released in the US in 1994 and in Britain in 1995.

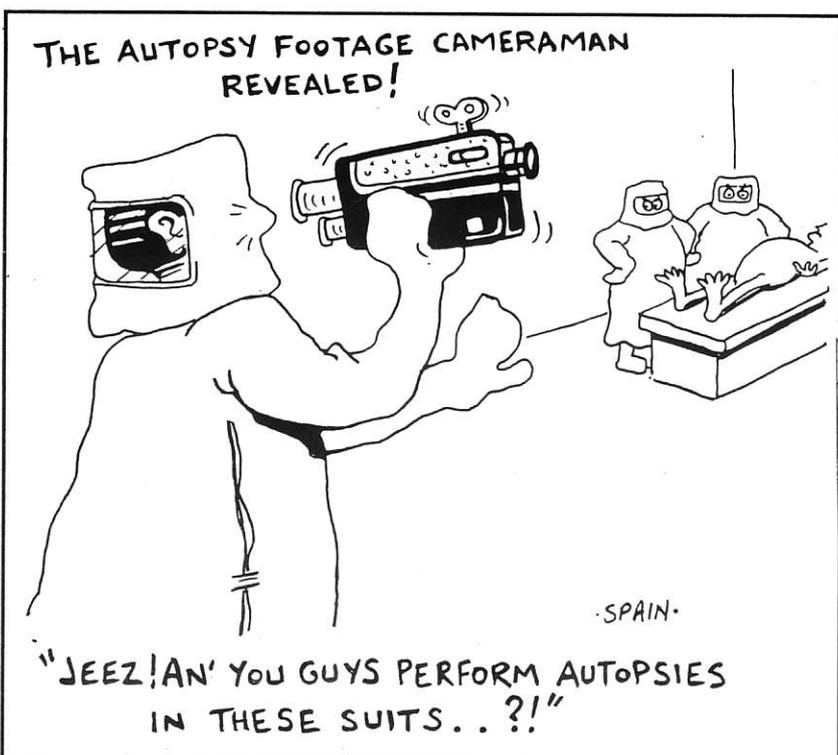
The plan was known as the 'Black Project' and it was apparently considered to be a, "guaranteed money making project". Success would depend on producing a realistic alien corpse that would be the subject of an autopsy. For this purpose, I understand, according to the fax, two accomplished London model makers - special effects artists - were engaged. Although not named in the fax, there can be little doubt that the two referred to are John Lundberg and Rod Dickinson, both of whom live in London and are experienced in making foam latex dummies and puppets for TV and theatre, as well as making medical prosthetics.

The fax itself could, of course, be a hoax; but it did not seem that way. A copy of it was passed to the Serious Fraud Office in Scotland Yard, in case fraud was involved. However, fraud is only committed where deception is directly used to relieve people of their money and it seems that the police found no grounds at the time for any specific charges. Nevertheless, the aforementioned film company sent a stiff solicitor's letter to the original recipient of the fax threatening legal action if any accusation was made against them or their name was made public in this connection.

**Special effects**

To the surprise of some, Irving, Lundberg and Dickinson were present at the May 5th screening in the Museum of London and sat together taking a great interest in the proceedings. They were not seen to approach Santilli, though almost everyone else present tried hard to speak with him in order to find out more about the footage. This trio were far more interested in observing other peoples' reactions and, indeed, recorded some impressions on tape, including an interview with Philip Mantle.

Since that time Lundberg has written an



article on the affair in the Fortean Times and, together with Dickinson, written a more recent article for UFO Magazine. These articles fairly present the case that there is nothing in the Santilli footage that could not be rendered using contemporary special effects. They go into some detail to prove that the alien in the autopsy could well have been made of foam latex, describe how a scalpel cut on such a dummy can be made to dribble fake blood, and how several aspects of the footage show that it could easily have been produced on a modest budget.

In writing such sceptical articles dismissing the film footage, which are undoubtedly sincere, the two have attempted to place themselves beyond suspicion, so long as their association with Santilli is not known. This tactic has associated their names with well known detractors of the film such as Kent Jeffrey, Stanton Friedman, Jenny Randles, Graham Bird-sall and Maurice Chittenden. Consequently, who could ever believe for a moment that, perhaps, they were the chief perpetrators of the hoax?

### The Background

This possibility simply does not become evident until one examines the background of Irving, Lundberg and Dickinson as hoaxers. From 1992 onwards Robert Irving has been a leading crop circle hoaxer and has in that time produced many complex designs in the cropfields of southern England. He has been closely associated in this enterprise with Jim Schnabel, a former employee of the CIA, who once worked for the DDI (Deputy Director of Intelligence) at CIA headquarters in Virginia. Whether or not Schnabel's stay in England from around 1989/90 until 1993, ostensibly to pursue a Ph.D. course at Oxford University and later at Bath, had any connection with his previous line of business is a moot point.

Schnabel and Irving claimed that their circlefaking activities were aimed at finding out who had been producing the circles and pictograms in Wiltshire from 1988 onwards; many of these have never been explained. In fact their chief delight seemed to be in deceiving crop circle and UFO groups researching the phenomenon and which were often engaged in watching the fields and the skies at night.

Besides making many different crop formations, this pair next took up launching hoax UFOs in the form of

light-carrying or luminous-painted balloons in the area of Alton Barnes (Wilts)' in order to fool the CSETI group and others who had organised such watches in 1992 and 1993.

During 1992-1993, Irving and Schnabel met up with John Lundberg and Rod Dickinson both of whom had also taken up circlefaking. A network of circlefakers evolved and the various teams often met to plan and co-ordinate their activities. These culminated in 1994 in some highly elaborate designs; the most dramatic of which were made by Lundberg and Dickinson, occasionally assisted by Irving. An article by myself in the Winter 1994/5 issue of *The Cerealogist* titled, "O, what a tangled web we weave..." exposed their activities and identified them as the creators of several well known formations such as the Froxfield Flower (August 4 1994), the Spider's Web at Avebury (August 10-11 1994) and the large 1994 Scorpion designs; though of course none of them admit to authorship of these circles or any other particular formation.

Although Lundberg and Dickinson described themselves as circlemakers or "crop artists", their circlefaking activities were none the less illegal and involved considerable deception. Their compulsion to fake circles and UFOs was best illustrated in an exhibition which they put on with some help from Jim Schnabel at the Independent Art Space in London in February- March 1994. This included pictures of many of their crop circle formations and also faked UFOs - "four anomalous photographs of disk like objects" produced by Rod Dickinson. But their theme of 'the paranormal as art', and the unspoken ideal of creating icons for the true believer, ran even to the inclusion in the exhibition catalogue of two brief items on cattle mutilations.

One, by John Lundberg and Bill Ellis, was titled "Altered Steaks" and the other was an extract from Linda Howe's "An Alien Harvest", reproduced as a project for IAS by John Lundberg. (I do not suggest in any way that either has ever hoaxed cattle mutilations!) Also in the exhibition were 7 ft by 7 ft oil paintings of the alien head from the cover of Whitley Strieber's book "Communion".

### Alien HILDA

The logical progression from here was, obviously, to create an alien. Not just a

model or a statue of an alien, but one that would be widely accepted as the real thing. Certainly a model - a special effects dummy - was required to do this but it must be filmed in such a way that people would believe that it was genuine. I suggest that is exactly what was done.

For anyone who still doubts that it is possible to create a convincing special effects dummy of this sort, see UT38 and the article by Trey Stokes of The Truly Dangerous Company.

To make your alien, first find two skilled special effects artists, such as Messrs. Lundberg and Dickinson. Then you will need a cameraman. Maybe commercial photographer Robert Irving, who is quite handy with a video camera, will do ..?

Next, follow the instructions (such as those given by the Truly Dangerous Company). After much hard work and a lot of video filming, you will eventually have your alien autopsy footage. The alien is, of course, called HILDA, which, in case you hadn't guessed, stands for Hoaxed Irving-Lundberg-Dickinson Alien.

In this scenario - the 'Roswell Film Footage' scam - the motivation was there, the mentality was there, the timing was right, and the perpetrators were exactly those who you would have expected to do this, if only you had known the background information. However, as with all those hoaxed crop circles that I claimed they had made, one should anticipate nothing but denials from these gentlemen.

**Editorial note:** This is a timely reminder to readers that views expressed in the magazine are not necessarily those of the editors or BUFORA.

Ray Santilli was asked to comment. This is what he had to say, "If anyone was ever guilty of pure fiction its George Wingfield. I'm just sorry he spent so much time on it."

In discussions with BUFORA chairman, John Spencer, John Lundberg strenuously denied that he was involved with fabricating the Roswell autopsy footage.

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# Investigations Diary

*Edited by Philip Mantle*

**As the amount of sightings reported to BUFORA increases, the Association's volunteer investigators seem to have responded to the challenge. BUFORA now has more than 200 investigators throughout the UK, with more joining us every month.**

Changes in the way our investigators reached full Accredited Investigator (AI) status were made last year at a National Investigators Committee (NIC) meeting. All new provisional investigators now have to complete the postal training course and then submit a completed case report. The postal training course is now up and running again after problems in 1995, and is being administered by Deputy Director of Investigations, Gloria Dixon, and myself. All those interested in the course should send a cheque/po order for £5.00 to me at my home address, and I will enrol you in the course.

All new investigators now joining BUFORA are now provided with our National Investigations Committee Guide (NIC Guide). This booklet, originally put together by Jenny Randles, is a first-class introduction to UFO investigations and is a useful guide on how to prepare a completed case report. Anyone who would like a free copy of the NIC Guide can obtain one simply by sending me an A4 SAE. Please allow a week or two for delivery depending on how many requests we have for the guide.

Not only do we receive UFO reports from around the UK but also from overseas as well. What follows is a small selection of some of the cases received by BUFORA and investigated accordingly where possible.

**Date: 26th April 1978.**  
**Location: Niagara Falls, Canada.**  
**Witnesses: Mr Bruce M.**  
**Investigator: BUFORA**

At around dusk on April 26th, 1978, Bruce M was on holiday in Canada with three of his friends. Whilst driving along

the road that runs along Welland river between Niagara Falls and the village of Chippawa, David, one of the party of four said, "What's that light?" Bruce initially commented that it might be a bright star or planet, but it seemed to be flashing. Bill, another of the party, noticed that the light seemed to be approaching them. So Bruce, the driver at the time, stopped the car and all four got out to take a better look.

As the light slowly approached, the four friends realised that it was making no sound. As it got closer, they could now make out that it was shaped like a 'typical saucer' tipped forward at a slight angle. Around its edge were white and red lights and the upper section seemed to have a window of some kind. The object came so low that a light on its underside illuminated the ground.

Bruce estimated that this slow moving, noiseless object, was perhaps 50 ft in diameter and was some 100-120 ft above the ground, as it slowly crossed the road in front of them.

Bruce watched the object move slowly away and all of them eventually lost sight of it as it headed over Niagara river towards the hydroelectric power plant. Bruce and his colleagues are in no doubt that they observed something most unusual that night in 1978, and have only now decided to go on the record and report their observation.

Because of the age of the report, 1978, it is almost impossible to conduct any kind of investigation, but this report serves to emphasise that BUFORA do not only receive reports from the UK.

**Date: 2nd January 1995.**  
**Location: Newferry, Wirral.**  
**Witness: Mr. C.R.**  
**Investigator: Anthony Eccles.**

At 6.35 am on 2nd January, 1995, Mr C.R. was standing in the doorway of his house, looking out over his garden and the clear sky above him. His attention was drawn

to what he at first thought was a satellite in orbit. The 'object' appeared faint and then grew very bright, only to fade again. After 3-4 seconds the object grew bright again and then faded. The witness observed another light that he believed to be a satellite coming from behind the first object. This second object remained on a steady course. Yet, the first object changed course as it passed the constellation of Ursa Major, all the while continuing to glow brightly, until eventually it faded and went out of sight.

Going inside for a while the witness went outside again a few minutes later and believes he observed the same object again low in the sky.

Although, BUFORA investigator Anthony Eccles, was unable to find a definite explanation for this sighting, he is pretty confident that it was the result of an astronomical body of some kind. He recommends that the case should be closed.

**Date: 9th August 1995.**  
**Location: Dundee, Scotland.**  
**Witness: William M.**  
**Investigator: Graham Beedie.**

The witness states that at around 11.00 pm on 9th August 1995, whilst walking his dog on the north side of Logie Street in Dundee, he happened to look upwards and to the south for no apparent reason and saw what he describes as, "A cone of white light." This appeared to be emitted, "...from a very bright silver/metallic object." The witness further states that, "The cone of light was pointing downwards and to the east. As I watched, the light, still keeping it's cone shape, was slowly drawn into the object. Just as the last of the light was drawn into the object, it changed colour, the object not the light. It changed from it's silvery/metallic to red."

The witness went on to relate that the object now started to move (it had previously been stationary) in a northerly direction. "It moved slowly northwards in the direction of myself, and then suddenly its colour was now pinkish. It continued to move slowly northwards in my direction passing behind a streetlight. By this time it was smaller and less pink, but was still visible through the glare of the streetlight."

He added that he was momentarily distracted by his dog. When he looked back at the object it looked like, "A small star with a hint of pink" and was still moving

northwards. Distracted again by a passer-by, the witness looked again but the object was gone.

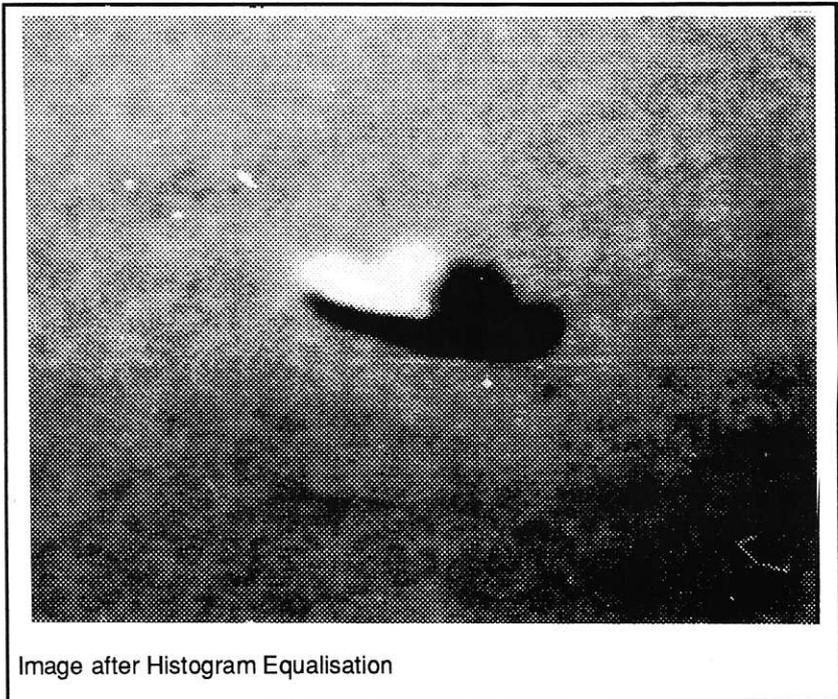
Graham, like Anthony Eccles in the previous report, went to great lengths to try and identify the object observed by the witness. He contacted everyone from local and military airports, meteorological offices, the MOD, Police and astronomical bodies. Graham's extensive report is a fine example to any UFO investigator.

After much deliberation Graham's evaluation is: Unidentified Aerial/Atmospheric Phenomenon. Going on to say that the case should remain 'open' as the case remains liable to change should any further evidence come to light.

**Date: 19th September 1995.**  
**Location: Kilsyth, Melbourne, Australia.**  
**Witness: Mr Ray and Ralph K.**  
**Investigator: Philip Mantle.**

Mr Ray K. and his son Ralph, claims to have taken two UFO photographs in their back garden on 19th September 1995, between 1 and 1.30 pm.

According to Ray, during the excitement of photographing this object, neither he nor his son Ralph took any notice of how far away or how large the object was.



They did not take much notice of its speed either. Each time the 'object' was photographed it appeared to be moving to the witnesses right.

Almost immediately after each photo was taken, the object seemed to momentarily hover, then dip and move to the left. The object moved behind trees and was lost from view. Each time this happened the two witnesses rushed to the side of their house to see where the object had gone

but could see no sign of it.

The subsequent photo's were examined by Nick Burton B.Sc. (Hons), an image processing expert in Nottingham.

In Nick's preliminary examination of these photographs he has not reached any definite conclusions, however he does have some interesting comments to make.

- Shows likely noise caused by dust spots, artefacts of chemical processing and scanning. Please ignore these.

- Shows an area of possible motion blur at the right-hand bottom corner of the 'object'.

- Also shows two possible dark areas on top right-side of the 'object', these can also be seen on the actual photograph after close examination.

As yet no definite conclusion has been drawn with regard to these two photographs and it is hoped that Nick Burton will find time amongst his busy work schedule to look at them further.

This case, like many others that we are now receiving from overseas, further emphasises BUFORA's growing international reputation.

Many other case reports have been received of late but space simply does not allow publications. I would just like to thank all of BUFORA's investigators for their continued hard work.



Enhanced close up of the object captured on film with imperfections removed.



The Fehrenbach photo copied by GEP

# The Fehrenbach-Case

## How Two Pupils Bluffed MUFON

by Gerald Mosbleck, GEP e.V.

### Introduction

**On the 24th October 1994, German television was presenting a UFO documentary at peak viewing time called "UFOs - They Really Exist". Regarding the investigations and activities of the German section of MUFON.**

During the documentary, a graduate engineer named Rolf-Dieter Klein was mentioned frequently. Klein conducts Computer analysis of UFO photos on behalf of MUFON. According to his opinion, he is able to uncover any kind of forgeries by means of large-scaled analysis of the photos. In addition to Rolf-Dieter Klein, the German UFO-researcher Illobrand von Ludwiger, who is also famous in America, was asked to give his consideration as regards the subject.

### The UFO Encounters

One day, after the above-mentioned TV-documentary, two pupils coming from the little German town Fehrenbach had an exiting encounter with a flying object. At about 7am, one of the boys saw an unknown object, woke up his friend, who dressed quickly, and ran with his camera out of the house. They managed to take 7 Polaroid-photos of the object which was flying crazily. After that, the

object disappeared in a north-easterly direction. Allegedly, it was formed like a discus, which was 2.5 m high and had an 8 m diameter. The bottom should have been brown coloured with a blue cupola

that had black braces. During its fast and jerky flight, a clear grumbling sound could be heard and the witnesses could also see a shining light on one part of the object.

### The Media

After being told the story by the boys, the grandfather took the photos to the local press the next day. On 2nd November the newspaper "Freies Wort" (Liberal Word) wrote about this sensation for the first time. This is how the two members of the German MUFON-section got involved with the event. The pupils had been interviewed locally and the photos had been sent to Mr. von Ludwiger and Mr. Klein in order to be analysed. After large-scaled computer analysis the UFO researchers from Munich came to the result that "...there are no hints that the appearance of the object does not correspond to the boy's description." They add four detailed statements of arguments. The argument dealing with the valuation of the blurred edge is rather interesting because it excludes very clearly that the witness has thrown a model in the air.

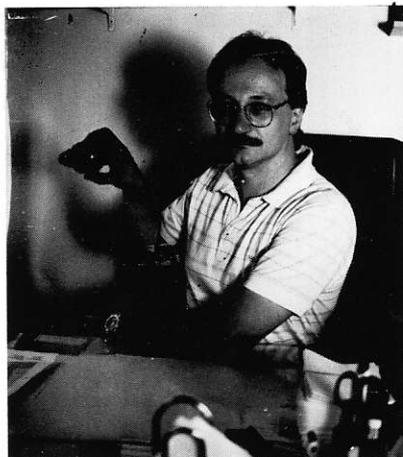
With this, the media rushed at the case, "German's best specialists examined the



Brigit Mosbleck show how the boys have taken the photos

photos: true!" Rolf-Dieter Klein started to put his computer analysis on the market. He wrote some articles and sent them to different newspapers, he was invited to talk at the private broadcasting station n-tv about the event and the UFO-subject in general and he prepared some presentations for the MUFON conference in the USA, as well as for the D.U. conference in Germany.

### GEP Starts to Investigate



H.W. Peiniger presents the model

The GEP Lüdenscheid also started to investigate the event by means of the newspaper articles. The main investigator Hans-Werner Peiniger started the routine course of action. Soon it became clear that the MUFON representatives warned the witnesses of co-operating with the GEP! Despite the grandfather, who meanwhile, became manager of the whole event, remained cooperative. GEP obtained the original photos and started the examinations. First of all the photos were examined optically. Due to the experience of the investigators, the hypothesis, based on several hints, was being built up that the corresponding object could be a UFO model that had been hung up by the witnesses. But computer analyses did not show any threads that are caused by the bad liquidation of the Polaroid-photos. In the following weeks, H.-W. Peiniger looked for a corresponding toy model. In his mind, the boys were inspired by the TV documentary the day before. They bought a model as there was no time to create a model of their own.

Finally, he found in a rubbish bin of a toy shop, a model that was apparently similar to the one being photographed in Fehrenbach. He bought the model and I tried to create, by means of a NIKON and of a high solvable film, some comparable photos of the object. In order to hang it up

I used a very thin and transparent thread that cannot be seen on the developed photos in spite of using this high quality photo equipment. Even the computer is not able to reveal the thread although it was present when taking the photos. This was a very important hint for us.

It is again the computer (the photos of Fehrenbach and our photos are scanned with the help of a 1200 dpi true-color-scanner and a graphics program) which reveals that the object on both photos are corresponding to each other. The relief-presentation of the objects being copied side-by-side on one sheet shows the same external form, as well as the same light distribution. On one photo, one can see the same light point as on the original photos.

### Solution

H.-W. Peiniger called one of the boys and confronted him with these results. After hesitating a bit in the beginning and trying to point out the the MUFON conclusions, he finally admitted that he had taken a photo of his friend's toy model. For this the boys had thrown the model at different distances in the air and each photo was a success! But they did not dare to admit that they played a trick due to the excitement caused by the press and the analysis of the MUFON specialists. So GEP concludes the Fehrenbach case with the result: solved.

### Conclusions

GEP consider this case to be a very good example of bad computer analysis. So-called UFO-researchers with no experience, like Rolf-Dieter Klein, whose analysis was totally wrong. As well as

pure theorists like the physicist, Illobrand von Ludwiger, who harm UFO-research with a lack of experience and common sense. It is not only MUFON that seems now to be ridiculed, but also the serious UFO groups that become tarred with the same brush.

If even the scientific MUFON-CES can be easily bluffed by pupils, how reliable are those groups who have not so many scientists? But GEP has proved that serious investigations that take every possibility into consideration can be successful. More details concerning this case can be found in the anniversary edition (100!) of the UFO research journal.

### Something about GEP e.V.

For more than 20 years, GEP have investigated UFO cases in Germany. It is the second state UFO organisation and every two months publishes the journal "Journal for UFO-Research". Modern computers, measuring equipment of different kinds and a huge archive are available. They have good contacts with the German army, governmental authorities, police and air traffic control, as well as internal and external UFO-organisations. Hans W. Peiniger and Gerald Mosbleck have much experience (more than 20 years). They face the phenomenon frankly but also critically. GEP points out very clearly that they are neither a complete Debunker nor one of these non-critical UFO sects.

**GEP can be contacted at: Luisenstr, 4, D-58511 Ludenscheid, Germany.**

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translated by Katja Rotemund



The model in comparison to the hand

# Research Review

## The Warminster Initiative

*Steve Gamble - Director of Research*

**One of the projects the BUFORA Research team are starting work on is the Warminster Project. BUFORA has run studies in the past which have looked at the Warminster area, so why another Warminster project?**

As I have stated previously (Gamble, 1988) it is important to study repeated phenomena. These repeated phenomena may take the form of a witness who has repeat experiences or similar experiences, which occur to different witnesses at different times or locations where there are many reports during a period of time. The Warminster area fits into this last category. From the mid-1960s onward there have been many reports from the area around Warminster in Wiltshire. These have been widely discussed elsewhere (for example see Chapman [1969]; Paget [1980]; Rogers [1994] or Shuttlewood [1967]), so will not be discussed in detail here.

Nigel Stephenson (1966) states, "Investigations at Warminster showed that the whole thing had been greatly exaggerated. Even so, there have been more interesting reports in the area of Warminster and Westbury than in other towns of similar population, though this might be accounted for by the excessive publicity to the Warminster 'Thing' and the inhabitants' knowledge of the great interest in it taken by the local paper's news editor, resulting in so many witnesses, as well as hoaxers, coming forward." I think Nigel's words are as true today as they were in 1966, there are a lot of reports from Warminster, some exaggerated, some hoaxes, but also many interesting reports.

The main events at Warminster started on Christmas eve 1964. These started with a number of incidents of rattling roof tiles and other aerial noises. Recently Robert Bull, researching reports from Cam-

bridgeshire, has come across a similar report from a similar time period, and I have found another case from the Norfolk area. A wide spectrum of UFOs were reported from Warminster during the rest of the 1960s and throughout the 1970s.

Some of the reports from the area are the result of military exercises which are conducted around Warminster. For example, Ken Phillips investigated a report from the 2nd August 1984 of strange multicoloured lights seen hanging in the sky at around 11 pm. These were traced to most probably being due to parachute flares connected with an exercise.

### The 'Thing' on Film

Perhaps the most famous of all the reports



from the Warminster area is the photograph taken by Gordon Faulkner in 1965 of the so-called 'Warminster Thing'. Faulkner said he was leaving the back door of his house at 8:30 pm on 29th August 1965 to visit his mother's house. He had a camera, which he was to give to his sister, with him and was able to take a single picture of the object. This picture was originally published in the local "Warminster Journal" in 1965, was published a few days later in the "Daily Mirror" and subsequently has been widely published in the UFOlogical literature, for example see Spencer (1992) or Rogers (1994).

Stephenson (1966) informs us that, "The well-publicised photograph of a domed

circular object in the daytime is the only report of this type of object over Warminster, but the rumour that it was a schoolgirl's hat has not been verified." This was also a theory subscribed to by Norman Oliver in his 1992 lecture mentioned below. So it can be seen that doubts have been expressed about Faulkner's photo from early days.

Early in 1992 a gentleman called Roger Hooton came forward and said that he had been involved in faking the photograph (Spencer, 1992). Hooton had moved to Australia a couple of years after the photograph had been taken, but was surprised to find that it was still doing the rounds when he returned to the UK some 25 years later. Hooton said he had contacted John Spencer so he could put the record straight.

In 1994 (Spencer, 1994) John Spencer managed to track down Gordon Faulkner and arranged an interview. Faulkner maintained that he had not faked the photograph and furthermore he did not know Hooton. So the story became even more curious! Over the past year I have been in contact with Stephen Dewey who has recently published the results of his findings on the Faulkner photograph (Dewey, 1995). Dewey tells us that the photograph was faked by Faulkner with help from Bill Newton. He specifically points out that in the story he was told by his informant no mention is made of the involvement of Hooton. In August 1995 Dewey spoke to Faulkner who again denied it was a hoax.

So, once more doubt is focussed on the Faulkner photograph. But there are very many more reports from the Warminster area which should not be overshadowed by the truth, or otherwise of Gordon Faulkner's picture. As Norman Oliver said in his lecture at the BUFORA 30th Anniversary Conference in September 1992, "A lot of nonsense has been talked about Warminster, an awful lot of nonsense has been reported from there, but one of the biggest pieces of nonsense is that one faked photograph disproves the whole thing."

The Warminster project will clearly have overlaps with other parts of the BUFORA Research programme. Some of the reports previously collected have aspects which are similar to poltergeist phe-

nomena. There are also reports of vehicle interference and of strange Ball-Of-Light (BOL) UFOs. If we can establish teams to undertake sky observation, then the Warminster area could be a prime target. In the early 1970s the Bedford UFO Society (later renamed the Extra-Terrestrial Society) maintained an instrumented observation station near Warminster. BUFORA is working on establishing instrumented observation stations. Given the number of reports in the past from the Warminster area, this might be a productive place to establish such an in-

strumented station.

Yet again I have completely blown the word limit the editor gave me, so I better leave things there. If you feel you can contribute to this, or any other, BUFORA project please contact me.

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# Exposed!

## Fortean Times Photo is a Hoax

report by Alan Staiths



**Readers of Fortean Times no. 84 will have been intrigued by the article on pages 24-27 detailing UFO sightings in the Pordeone area of north-east Italy. They will have been even more intrigued by the article's lead photograph, which showed either what seemed to be a gen-u-ine UFO at most, or an advanced spy plane at the very least, shamelessly displaying itself to anyone who chanced past the perimeter fence.**

There it was, seductively peeping out of a hanger; discoid, domed and damn strange. The author of the excellent article, Rob Irving, detailed how locals in the area had been plagued by UFOs and stories were rife of alien craft lurking in hangers and subterranean depths on the Avino Air Force Base, which is really two adjacent bases operated by the USAF

and the Italian Air Force. The story was a good piece of UFO journalism, the photo a real corker, and there it lay pregnant in the belly of the X-Files generation, gestating into a rumour which was definitely much more than the sum of its parts.

Those of us who noted the photo's caption 'This picture has been enhanced by computer' knew there was more to it though. That 'more' was subsequently revealed on the on-line service Fortean Digest, where Fortean Times editor Bob Rickard revealed all saying, "The storm of speculation over Robert Irving's photo has taken us at FT by surprise. When he submitted it with his article Irving told us clearly it was a joke photo, and we used it as a jokey illustration to the article, especially as some of his informants speculated wildly about UFOs in hangers. We thought the joke would be apparent to everyone - but it hasn't happened that way. It was created in

Photoshop using the image of a Lazar "sports model" type UFO as depicted on the Testors model kit box."

Bob goes on to say that he doesn't believe Irving was trying to hoax readers in any way, and I think he's right. But it proves an important point though. A story with its roots in the 'facts' of UFO buffs can, with the subtle addition of a little 'spin' in the form of a doctored photo, turn into something far more meaningful. Many readers will have connected belief-to-text-to-photo and in their minds' own 'photo-shop' have created their very own UFO in a military hanger. Voila and hallelujah! Spread the word! They're here at last!

Yet again UFO mythology is shown to be easily manipulatable and clear proof that you can fool most of the people most of the time. A picture may well paint a thousand words but it's the beliefs and prejudices of the viewer which eventually decides what was seen. Well done Mr. Irving, you may ascend to the top of the class and a plastic goldfish will be on its way to you shortly.

Despite the 'explanation' the story now 'lives' and I'll bet that there are quite a few ufologists who will refuse to acknowledge that the photo was not quite as it seemed. Perhaps it's disinformation, perhaps Irving is in the pay of the USAF, the greys, MJ 12 and every other acronymic UFO organisation in the world. Perhaps he's really working for the Discordians and just having fun. As Lou Reed perceptively says, "Don't believe half of what you see and none of what you hear."

**Editor's Comment: Finally, the esteemed FT editorship have come clean to their readers and explained how the picture was doctored. However, if FT want to reduce itself to the levels of its rivals then this kind of 'prank' will certainly lead it that way - MW**

Nick Redfern is perhaps the UK's leading researcher into Government involvement with UFO cases. This is slow, often tedious, work, but that is invaluable if ufologists are to unearth the nuggets of information which can help demonstrate a case was mundane after all, or to provide the necessary bait to continue the search for further documentation.

Nick will be writing a regular bi-monthly column for UFO Times on all aspects of his research, making UFO Times up to the minute with Government information released under the 'thirty year' rule.

# Cosford

## An Enduring Mystery

Nicholas Redfern

In 1995, the Royal Air Force facility at Cosford, near Wolverhampton, was probably known for its huge museum which was home to an impressive collection of vintage military and civil aircraft. More than thirty years ago, however, Cosford became briefly famous for an entirely different reason.

At around 11.30 pm on the evening of December 10th 1963, a dome-shaped UFO touched down on the base, bathed the surrounding area in a beam of green light, and was seen at close quarters by at least two RAF apprentices. At least, that has been the accepted story for the last three decades.

In accordance with the British Government's 'thirty year ruling' the Ministry of Defence's eighty page file on the case has recently been declassified and is now available for inspection at the Public Record Office. Its contents make for interesting reading.

Rumours that something extraordinary had occurred at the base surfaced almost immediately, but it was not until early January 1964 that matters escalated. On January 9, Wilfred Daniels, a UFO investigator from Stafford, had the opportunity to speak with Reverend B.G. Henry, the Chaplain at RAF Cosford, and duly put to him a number of questions relative to the alleged close encounter.

We cannot be sure what was actually said during the course of their brief conversa-

tion (both men recalled their 'chat' in markedly different ways), but a controversy was created which raged for months.

### Jobs Worth

In an April 13 1964 letter to Waverney Girvan, editor of *Flying Saucer Review* magazine, Wilfred Daniels reported: "Flight Lieutenant Henry said that publication of his name would cause him trouble; that it was 'more than his job

was worth' to arrange a meeting between me and the two RAF apprentices; that he really ought not to be talking to me about it at all; that security had dropped right down on the whole thing."

For his part, Reverend Henry's recollection were somewhat opposed to those of Daniels. A letter from Flying Officer R.A. Roberts at Cosford, to the Air Ministry at Whitehall, stated that Flight Lieutenant Henry, "categorically denies all statements attributed to him." Flying Officer Roberts further added that the chaplain was, "seriously considering taking legal action."

To his credit, Waverney Girvan resolved to get to the bottom of the mystery, and fired off a barrage of letters to both Cosford and the Air Ministry. As Girvan pointed out to the staff at Cosford, several contradictory explanations had been offered by the authorities to explain the encounter: 'Nothing at all', 'two drunk apprentices', 'a hoax', and, somewhat amusingly, 'a British Railways steam train' were the various theories mooted by the Air Ministry in its attempts to squelch interest in the case.

### Contradictions

Smelling a rat, Girvan gave the incident pride of place in the next issue of *Flying Saucer Review*, and wrote a lengthy article on the case in the *Kensington News* and



*West London Times*. Commenting on the Government's 'self-contradictory explanations', Girvan said: "What is it that the Air Ministry is trying so desperately to hide?"

Preferring to keep its head down, the Air Ministry fumed behind closed doors. Of particular concern to the Air Ministry, the media persisted in promoting the case: "...the *Express and Star* of Wolverhampton, in spite of seeking the Station's views, reported the boys' claim...." grumbled the Ministry in an internal memorandum of March 12th 1964.

By May of that same year, the controversy had begun to die down and normality returned to RAF Cosford. The pro-UFO factions continued to champion the case, while the Air Ministry was more than happy to play the matter down.

So, what exactly did happen on that long gone winter's evening in December 1963? On the plus side, Waverney Girvan was a much-respected individual, well-known for his diligent researches. In addition, Wilfred Daniels had served in the military at the level of Captain - an equally credible source. Moreover, it is a proven fact that the Air Ministry did offer a variety of contradictory explanations in its attempt to dismiss the case.

On the other hand, the negative aspects of the case have to be addressed. Flight Lieutenant Henry was adamant that he had been misquoted by Wilfred Daniels; the possibility of him taking legal action was discussed in interdepartmental memos. Furthermore, a hand-written note, which originated with the Air Ministry, stated that with respect to the two apprentices who reported seeing the UFO: "I believe the two boys in question wanted to get out of the service - and we should not have been sorry to see them go."

However, if nothing untoward occurred, why did the Air Ministry feel the need to offer a variety of ever-changing explanations as it sought to diffuse both public and media interest in the event?

In the final analysis, whatever truth lies behind the alleged 1963 UFO encounter at RAF Cosford, of only one thing we can be truly certain: with the release of the Government's eighty page file on the incident, the decades-old controversy looks certain to resurface.

### Editorial - Continued from page 3

Obviously it's easy for a team of people with large amounts of time and money to go into cases, especially the more 'exotic' ones overseas, than it is for amateur ufologists working on a budget. Well, maybe. But the underlying principle behind their criticisms is that it is far, far better for a person or group to spend a long period of time on just one case, picking away at its flesh until either a resolution is reached or that case can genuinely be taken no further, than it is to hop from one case to another, leaving a trail of part completed investigations masquerading as the 'truth', just waiting for the real professionals in the investigation business to have a laugh at. And we wonder why no-one takes us too seriously.

It doesn't matter whether or not an in-depth case study concludes that what was seen or experienced was a kite, a bird, contact with wtAbo gbXgy from Zeta Reticulli or a passenger 'plane coming into Manchester Airport. The result is largely immaterial. What does matter is the depth to which the investigation is taken and the insights it gives into the subject as a whole. Then, and only then, can ufology move on. So, whilst ufologists often complain about their treatment on TV, here we have a case of TV people complaining about ufologists' treatment of the UFO subject! Think about it and don't ever be caught out doing shoddy research or investigation again, otherwise why bother with the subject at all? It's not a game. The bottom line is that we are dealing with fundamental ontological matters and if you don't - or can't - appreciate that then you are just wasting your time.

That's the sermon for this issue. In a future issue I'll be telling you why the X Files is one of the worst things ever to happen to the study of anomalous phenomena. Bet you can't wait!

Andy

## Newsbite

### Police Find Space Rocket



**Two policemen sent to investigate reports of a UFO landing at Kirkheaton were amazed to find a space rocket nestling into the hillside.**

The police area control room received calls that the UFO was seen near Kirkheaton in a field above the Zeneca plant.

Two patrolling officers from Moldgreen went to the spot and saw an astronaut scrabbling up the hillside.

One of the officers said "We went where ordinary mortals fear to tread, and discovered it was a film crew shooting a music video.

"Apparently the producer wanted a northern town with a rugged background."

The 12 ft rocket had been hired from Elstree Studios and the astronaut's outfit - a replica of the one worn by Russian space pioneer Yuri Gagarin - was on loan from Madame Tussaud's.

The London-based film director was not available for comment - he was out on location.

## The Proceedings of the 8th BUFORA International UFO Congress

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*"The incredible is at the foundation of contact, and strangeness cannot and must not be edited out in the interests of believability. The whole thing is completely unbelievable from beginning to end, anyway, so why waste time trying to make it credible? It's not and it never will be."*

Whitley Strieber

## When the Going gets Weird - the Weird get Going

### A Review of *Breakthrough* by Whitley Strieber

by Andy Roberts

**If you believe in the old dictum, 's\*\*t happens' and that, as a ufologist, weird s\*\*t happens, then consider poor old Whitley Strieber. Whitley has had more WSH to him than probably anyone else in the subject, ever.**

Strieber has thrown the cat well and truly among the pigeons. Unlike the majority of people with a strange tale to tell, his accounts of meetings with the 'visitors' (as he calls them) cannot be ignored any longer, by either the UFO establishment or the debunkers. Why? Because Strieber can get books published and an awful lot of people are reading them. Reading them and coming back with their own accounts that, for whatever reason, mirror his and reflect the fact that something very strange is definitely going on. Not for Whitley the simplistic aliens who travel light years in their saucers to probe our womenfolk and tamper with men's bottoms before zooming back to Zeta Reticulli for some well-earned rest.

Now, if you think those ideas of the ETH myth as espoused by Hopkins, Jacobs and company are bizarre then Whitley is leagues ahead. I can't stress enough just how strange I found this book, yet at the same time, just how much it all resonated with me. A sign of the truth or just a well-told yarn?

Of course, over the years, Whitley has had many criticisms levelled against him. Being a mega-bestselling author of horror/fantasy novels hasn't helped his case really. It has even - whisper it - been suggested that he's made the whole thing up, taking his book plot imaginings and projecting them onto the real world. Nevertheless, if that's the case then how do we explain all the people who have had 'visitor' experiences out at Whitley's cabin, or the events that he says took place and were later corroborated by other people. Is he lying, stretching the truth or,

as he insists, is the truth stretching him? Have these experiences actually happened to Whitley in the way he says they have? If that's the case then we have some hard thinking to do.

Strieber claims that the visitors must be real because, "more and more people are having the contact experience". Maybe so, but that in no way either illuminates



what the contact experience is, or gives it any validity in the world of material things which we all inhabit. Thousands of people have believed in witches, elves, fairies, goblins, etc. over the centuries but their reality status is still as tenuous as that of the visitors. Indeed, the 'visitors', unless further proof is forthcoming are the future century's fairies, goblins, elves, etc.

Strieber would say that these other forms of contact are the visitors appearing in other guises throughout the ages and re-

lates the modern visitor experiences to almost all forms of 'contact'; gods, goddesses - the lot. "As knowledge grows, we are loosing the superstitions that have surrounded and obscured the presence of the visitors, perhaps from time immemorial. "We are beginning to see that something real lies behind the old myths and gods - a strange 'otherness' that is beginning to respond. It must never be forgotten that contact was not initiated by the visitors. It was initiated by the growing richness of the human mind." I can't argue with that. People are becoming more open to all kinds of otherworldly experiences and it may well be that gods, goblins and greys all share the same source of origin. However, the natures of all those experiences so far seems to be firmly human and planetary based. And can everything alluded to by Strieber be from the same source, and how do we tell the difference.

There is a certain hint of creative imagination about the tales Strieber relates and also a certain element of the shamanic in his approach to 'contact'. He conjures vividly the 'power' to be felt in nature, the numinosity of certain places:

places where 'contact' of some sort has taken place over many centuries. But, to extrapolate these intensely personal experiences, to claim that they have a 'touchy-feely' realness, is to have taken a very big step indeed; because it is to have had the 'visitor' experience, and we can't share that with him. It's a bit of a Zen koan really; we read his words, we formulate what 'contact' actually maybe in our own minds, but until we ourselves have the 'breakthrough' we are just grappling with constructs of mind and language. What to do? Accept completely and gullibly? Or reject out of hand as just not possible?. Sensibly we shouldn't do either. Strieber's thoughts on the visitor experience are useful because, if nothing else, they make you question reality. And that's no bad thing at all.

Whitley has much to say about the government and the 'visitors'. Put simply, he states the usual party line that the US government are and have been aware of the visitors for a considerable time. However, they are fundamentally scared of letting go of any 'control' they exert over us and the beliefs we hold about their powers. Consequently the aliens are, "Simply bypassing our official institutions ... what the government or any other authority does or does not do at this point

is not important." A strange and telling statement. At least it takes from the equation the tedium that we will only know the truth when the government lets us. Good thing. But, it further obfuscates getting to the bottom of whatever may be going on because we have to listen to and are presumably just expected to believe witnesses. Remember the drivel that was witness-led investigation? What we should be doing is taking a middle way and, as the esteemed Ralph Noyes said in a recent issue of *Fortean Times*, "avoid the epistemological trap of discussing the 'reality' or 'unreality' of the experience" and instead, "minutely examining the phenomenology." Can we do this?

What Strieber calls proof in the book is highly dubious. A typical tale is as follows. Strange creatures take Whitley and friends in an even stranger craft, he visits friends in this way who, it later turns out, 'remember' him being there in a dream. That's proof? The whole book is weirder than Mulder's wildest, wetest, fantasies and would make Scully swivel in her slacks. We don't even have a letter in our alphabet to name the type of files Whitley has access to. And just when you feel that he's taking things too far, he neatly pulls the rug from beneath your indignance by saying things like, "Obviously this is going to make me yet another kind of fool when it is published." Is that genuine, or is it just clever literary technique to keep the reader off balance; luring you ever further, deeper into the magical forest that Strieber charts so well?

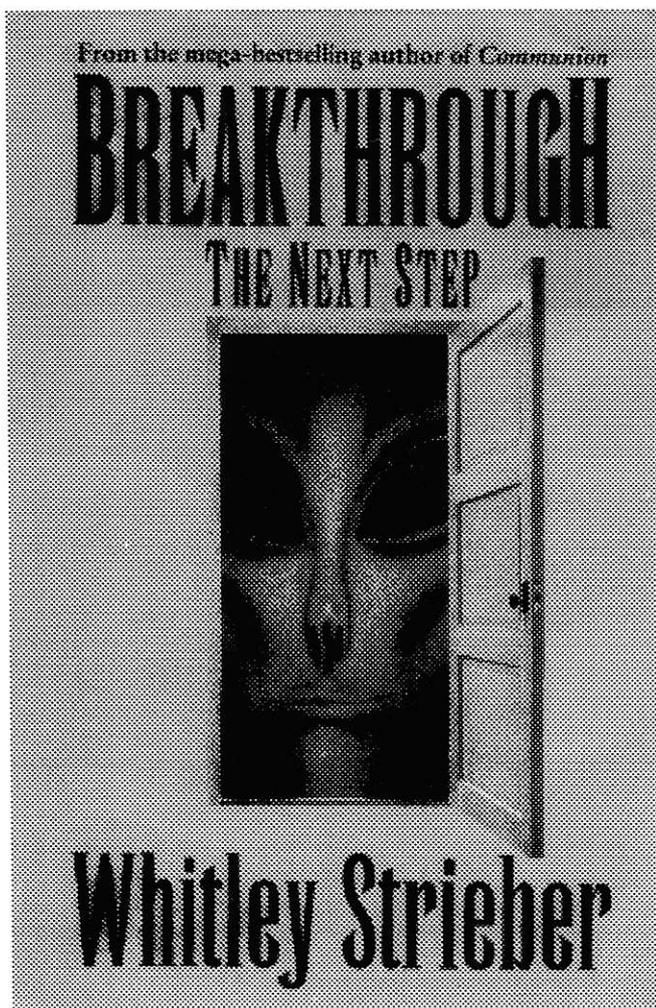
The caveats are many though. There's just too much to take in, too many assumptions and acceptances of material we know is highly dubious, if not downright fraudulent. And if we hark back to his previous books then it is hard to see how anything he says can be taken at face value. For instance, in his book *Majestic*, allegedly "based on fact", Strieber used the UFO case recounted in David Langford's excellent book *An Account Of A Meeting With Denizens Of Another World*

1871. That book is a hoax from start to finish and Langford has been at pains to point that out in many places. How many other sources has Strieber used which have no validity?

I'm just asking, don't mean nuthin' by it.

Reading through *Breakthrough* and casting back to *Transformation* and

imaginal realm where these things are true, are shared and have relevance? Some form of collective unconscious perhaps? But would that account for the visitor experiences of others at his cabin? Let's face it, to be cruel we could say that if you're invited to stay at a remote cabin owned by the world famous Whitley Strieber, then something is surely going to happen, isn't it? I'd risk it!



*Breakthrough* is not going to go down well in the ufological community at all. Believers will find it's not to their taste. Sceptics will find it too ridiculous to comment on and the debunkers will just shrug and tear it and Whitley - apart. So, what's new? It will however find a huge constituency among the 'new age' end of the ufological spectrum: the people who are the new 50's contactees, who believe that the 'visitor' experience can enrich their lives and ultimately save the human race from its a maze of endless folly. His experiences, whether we like it or not, are a spiritual thang, and at five-to-the-millennium this brand of cosmic self-help sells at a huge profit indeed.

Strieber's take on the 'horror' abduction tales as promulgated by Jacobs et al., is interesting. Using the experiences of physicist, Paul Bennewitz, (who went a bit loopy after being fed info on the 'grey conspiracy'

*Communion*, I'm confused. From what is written, the evidence presented and the melange of claims and events that are drawn into Whitley's net, in my opinion there is nothing to suggest that any of these experiences are taking place in the world that we all inhabit. However, Whitley, his close friends and the 99,648 people who wrote to him after his first two books, have obviously got some form of shared-reality-thing going. But the accounts are sufficiently bizarre, disjointed and fragmentary, with such huge emotional, personal and cultural content that they remind me of free associative psychoanalytical material; for instance, the same sort of material that alleged ritual satanic abuse survivors come out with. Perhaps Whitley has accessed some

by ufologist extraordinary Bill Moore, who in turn claims he was only helping the government to ingratiate himself in the hope of receiving 'genuine' information) and his own contacts with alleged government sources, Whitley claims these accounts are just disinformation. The reason being that the government want people to believe all the nonsense about greys and military working together, about violent and sexual abductions, and so on, for the simple reason they want to be seen to be in control. Strieber rightly claims that the visitor experience is far weirder and a lot less narrow than the UFO establishment would have it, and by implication that their cover-up is as sinister as that of the government. Interesting thought and speculation... but still no

hard, fast physical proof that one whit of what Whitley is on about is actually happening. When confronted with any of the labyrinthine arguments about government involvement in the UFO mythos, I am always mindful of the 1952 CIA memo from agency director Walter Smith which states, "...the problems connected with unidentified flying objects appear to have implications for psychological warfare as well as for intelligence and operations... I suggest that we discuss at an early board meeting the possible offensive or defensive utilisation of these phenomena for psychological warfare purposes." And his arguments for the UFO cover-up of UFO information work equally well as arguments for the so-called federal hypothesis, which the CIA memo seems to implicate. Draw your own conclusions.

From a British ufological point of view, Whitley is going to have to do better. A lot better. His idea of 'proof' is just our idea of gullibility. Bottom line is that we want movie footage of the visitors (stuff with a verifiable pedigree, stuff that checks out), pieces of their craft, alien artefacts, etc. Even then we want to question that reality because we've been fooled before, so many times before, and have seen where gullibility leads. We want hard, definite, indisputable proof, not the intangible say so of a fantasy novelist and his friends.

I read *Breakthrough* twice - the first time in hysterics, hardly able to wait until I could write something sarcastic about it. Then I read a couple of pieces on him in the U.S. UFO press and understood the book a little more. Asked what the visitors really are by ufologist Michael Miley, Strieber retorts, "No way to tell. They are what the force of evolution looks like to a conscious mind." Wow, I read that and just mentally stopped, mullied it over for hours and hours, and then it began to make more sense. What it all boils down to then is that the 'visitors' and all such encounters, contacts, call them what you will, throughout history have been a driving, motivating force in our evolution as a species. I love that idea enormously, it makes sense for me; surely evolution of a species includes their 'spiritual' and mental evolution too alongside the purely biological? But I still can't get my head round the 'reality status' of the visitors and the events Strieber mentions which seem to be in real time and real space. Back to Ralph Noyes' suggestions. Maybe I'm not ready, not evolved enough

for the understanding. Maybe it's all a pile of 'do-do doo-doo', *a là* the much loved Carlos Castaneda books. It works on the same level. Even with a determinedly foratean approach *Breakthrough* is a challenge.

I also came across an excellent piece by Patrick Huyghe in *Omni* magazine (Winter '95) which outlined a book by abductee Katharina Wilson, which also mirrors Strieber's experiences. Huyghe comments that "I've learned that many aspects of the so-called abduction phenomenon just don't make it into print. Instead most investigators inevitably process the stories, moulding the accounts to fit the theories they favour or the patterns they expect to find." Books such as this and *Breakthrough* will be written off as complete rubbish by the debunkers, and that just illustrates the belief fascism that is rife among UFO investigators. These things might not be - but not just because we don't want them to.

Picking *Breakthrough* up again I get to the chapter about the infamous 'face' on Mars. Although Strieber makes some cogent points about how NASA and co. may have intentionally stifled information about it and other aspects of the space program. I still don't see the relevance of this piece of cosmic simulacra, there just isn't anything fascinating about it at all; given all the possible ways land features can form, there is just no earthly reason why one shouldn't end up looking like a human face (and not that much like one either). It's in areas like this that Strieber falls down. His seeming acceptance of Roswell is another one; can we really believe anything Jesse Marcel ever said following recent revelations about his truthfulness in other areas? I think not. And why should something that is a 'force of evolution' have craft that crash anyway? But then a slip of gullibility such as this is quickly balanced by his allegations of harassment by various agencies, which it seems have been corroborated by many other people including private investigators. Why is that happening to him? He's obviously touched a nerve somewhere. Throughout this rollercoaster of a book I vacillated backwards and forwards between sympathy for his ideas and experience, and utter disbelief and disdain.

But all this aside, and whether we like it or not, people are experiencing - or believing they experience - these things, and

whilst perceptive ufologists such as Keel and Randles have tried to include this diversity of experience, for the most part investigators and researchers in the UFO community have simply ignored, dismissed and ridiculed. Wrong. Rather than dismiss them we should see that they present a huge challenge to both our objectivity as researchers and to our beliefs as human beings. Whatever is at the root of it all, it represents and encourages another way of looking at things and at the very least - but for me, most importantly - they show the, "sheer unspeakable strangeness of being here at all", as the poet, Robin Williamson, would have it.

My severe misgivings and criticisms notwithstanding, I hope that Strieber is correct in at least some of what he says. I hope, and I suspect deep down you do too, that it's all true and that the visitors do exist in the way he says they do. The world would be a far more interesting place. Even if you discount any hard reality at all consider this: at the heart of *Breakthrough* Strieber is ultimately interested in freedom, the freedom for individuals to have and to report and express baffling experiences without ridicule; the freedom for people not be harassed by government agencies and for the freedom for us all to know what is going on in government departments. Mock *Breakthrough* if you will, but don't mock what Strieber has to say about those things, they are very important.

I definitely recommend *Breakthrough* if you can find a copy. It is indicative of where a certain strand of ufology is heading, a strand which neatly side-steps logic because, well, because just as the visitors are, "beyond time" I suspect they are beyond logic as well.

*Breakthrough* is published by Harper Collins. At the moment it is only available on import from certain branches of Waterstones, Compendium Books (Camden Town) and specialist UFO booksellers - Spacelink Books.

### Notice to Members

Apologies to some members who have either received membership renewal notices prematurely or received them late. This was due to an administrative error.

All membership renewals will be sent separately from the magazine mailing, at the appropriate time.

Arnold West

## Newsbite

# The New Santilli Film: A Secret Preview

*a special news report from Geoff Fulstone*

In a bizarre twist to the controversy raging over the 'Santilli Roswell Film', ufologist Geoff Fulstone was contacted by persons anonymous, met in a busy London street and taken, blindfold, to a secret location. The reason? To be shown the sequel to the now famous Roswell Autopsy film.

After being locked in a room he was told to remove his blindfold, a video was switched on and this is what he saw:

It's a surprise. Essentially like a poorly made schools educational film, the new Santilli video (NSV for convenience) seems as though it's a stop-gap, a pot boiler to keep the masses drooling until the next 'real' film is made -er, carefully restored from the original 1947 footage.

Saul, our guide for the programme, flips us between various experts and tries to elicit from them statements that the film is indeed real. Of course, it's a real film - it's what's on it that's not!

Having been told that, "we will prove the film is not a special effect", various sfxt boys, including the team who made *Jurassic Park*, discuss the pros and cons. The upshot is that yes, it could be faked but no, it wouldn't be easy and yes they'd be proud to have done it. But we knew that already.

Ian West, Head of Forensic Pathology at Guys Hospital persists in his refusal to give in to Saul's attempts to get him to validate the film. He's just not convinced, wary of the crass semantic tricks based on the premise, 'if', that Saul uses to such poor effect. If West had seen the rest of the film he would be even less convinced. Next up are two Austrian 'psychics' who believe they have contacted the soul of the dead ufonaut! Yes, it's that bad. I won't tell you what they said because it's so funny you deserve to wait for the official release.

More attempts at 'official' validation come when Saul trots off to the London School Of Classical Studies to interview an archaeologist as to what the glyphs on the I beam from the 'tent footage' mean. Excitement mounts as the archaeologist concedes they could be Greek symbols and that they could stand for the word 'freedom' and that yes Saul, it's just possible that this may be the name of their

spaceship. A spaceship called 'Freedom' eh? Evocative or what.

More experts follow, BUFORA's Philip Mantle chips in with some non-committal statements, but is outshone by Clifford Stone, who reckons he was shown an autopsy of an alien in '69 and this is the same thing. Stone implicates the surgeon at the autopsy to be MJ12s Detlev Bronk and so subtly adds another layer to an already obfuscated artefact.

That's the bones of it as I can remember. It finished, I was re-blindfolded and driven back to the spot I was picked up from. I never knew who, what or why. Another kink in the film's odd history. Who is behind it? Why should they blow the whistle on it before it is officially released? Who knows.

On reflection, and having researched what is known about the original film, I conclude that the NSV is just a tease for the next one. It's clever. Santilli himself never makes any claims for the veracity of the film, perhaps because even he doesn't know about it. But the crucial thing is that nothing, absolutely nothing, is revealed that elevates the film above that of a clever hoax by people who know a little - a little more, this time - about the UFO subject.

There is a definite air of something funny - funny strange that is - about the film. Whether the version I was exposed to is the version that will hit the streets and screens remains to be seen. Any later inclusions or exclusions will be significant. What is lacking, but never seems very far away, is the bearded figure of Jeremy Beadle, lumbering onto the set and saying "But what you, the members of the public, don't know about this film is..." It may yet happen.

## Readers Write

Make your ufological opinions heard, write to:

**UFO Times, BM BUFORA,  
London, WC1N 3XX**  
or via Email  
**mwootten@dial.pipex.com**

### Obituary: David Medina

Dear Mike,

I write to inform BUFORA that my long time friend and fellow ufologist, David Medina, died on Sunday, 28th January, as a result of a stroke. He had lain in hospital in Dagenham for nearly two months and seemed to be making a recovery.

David, as you know, made a valuable contribution to ufology with his carefully researched book, *Elohim's Nursery*, published by Regency Press (1981). He had previously published an excellent booklet his own expense called *God's Weapon*. Both can still be bought from his wife, given a time to recover.

He had been happily married to Preema for two years and had a private practice in alternative medical treatments. This after a long spell of bad luck and unemployment. His first wife died of cancer.

David investigated cases with Bruce Cathie in New Zealand. In the early years of the BUFORA Kensington Library meetings, we used to meet and go to the lectures together. We also corresponded when he was in Spain and Gibraltar. I saw them last in October and had been sending him cards and letters in hospital to cheer him up.

I am sad at his loss as he was not yet 63. I expect before long, all of us older ones will be dying off.

#### Margaret Fry

Contact International/WFIU  
Llangernyw, Denbighshire

*Editorial Comment: If anyone wishes to send their condolences, address them to Mrs Preema Medina, 452 Porter's Avenue, Dagenham, Essex RM8 2EE.*

# Diary

## BUFORA National UFO Lectures

### London

University of Westminster, 35 Marylebone Road, London, NW1. Admission: £1.50 members £3.50 non-members. Meetings start at 6.30 pm, nearest tube Baker Street. Telephone 01444 236738 for further details.

1st June

### BUFORA Annual General Meeting followed by 'UFO Question Time'

A debate and questions with a line-up of leading ufologists.

### Newcastle

Nixon Hall, Ellison Place, University of Northumbria at Newcastle, Newcastle-upon-Tyne. Admission: members £1.50, non-members £2.50 (concession £2.00). Meetings start 2 pm. 10 minute walk from Newcastle Central Station and main bus station. Contact Gloria Dixon - 0191-236 8375 for further information.

Due to Malcolm Robinson retiring from ufology, the 18th May Newcastle lecture has been cancelled. However, BUFORA is fully supporting the Journeys and Encounters Conference to be held in June.

### Liverpool

Haigh Conference Centre, Maryland Street, Liverpool. Admission: members £1.50, non-members £2.50 (concession £2.00) 10 minute walk from principle train stations with parking nearby. Contact Anthony Eccles on 0151-486 6087 for further information.

18th May

TBA

John Spencer

16th November

TBA

Philip Mantle

### Other Events

22nd June

**Journeys and Encounters** - Exploring Human and Non-Human Contacts  
Venue: Nixon Hall, Ellison Place, Newcastle. Speakers include Hilary Evans, Kevin McClure and Philip Mantle. Tickets £8.00 and £6.00 concession. Contact Helen Price on tel 0191-222 6525 for more information

20th-21st July

**The Supernormal Research Conference '96 Roswell Update**  
Venue: The Power House, Llanderyn, Cardiff. Speakers include Nick Pope, Colin Andrews and John Holman. Tickets £10.00 per day, £15.00 for full weekend. Contact Kerry Blower on tel/fax 01633 874983 for further details

Advertise your event here for **Free**. Contact Mike Wootten on 01352-732473

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