

UFO TIMES

THE JOURNAL OF THE BRITISH UFO RESEARCH ASSOCIATION

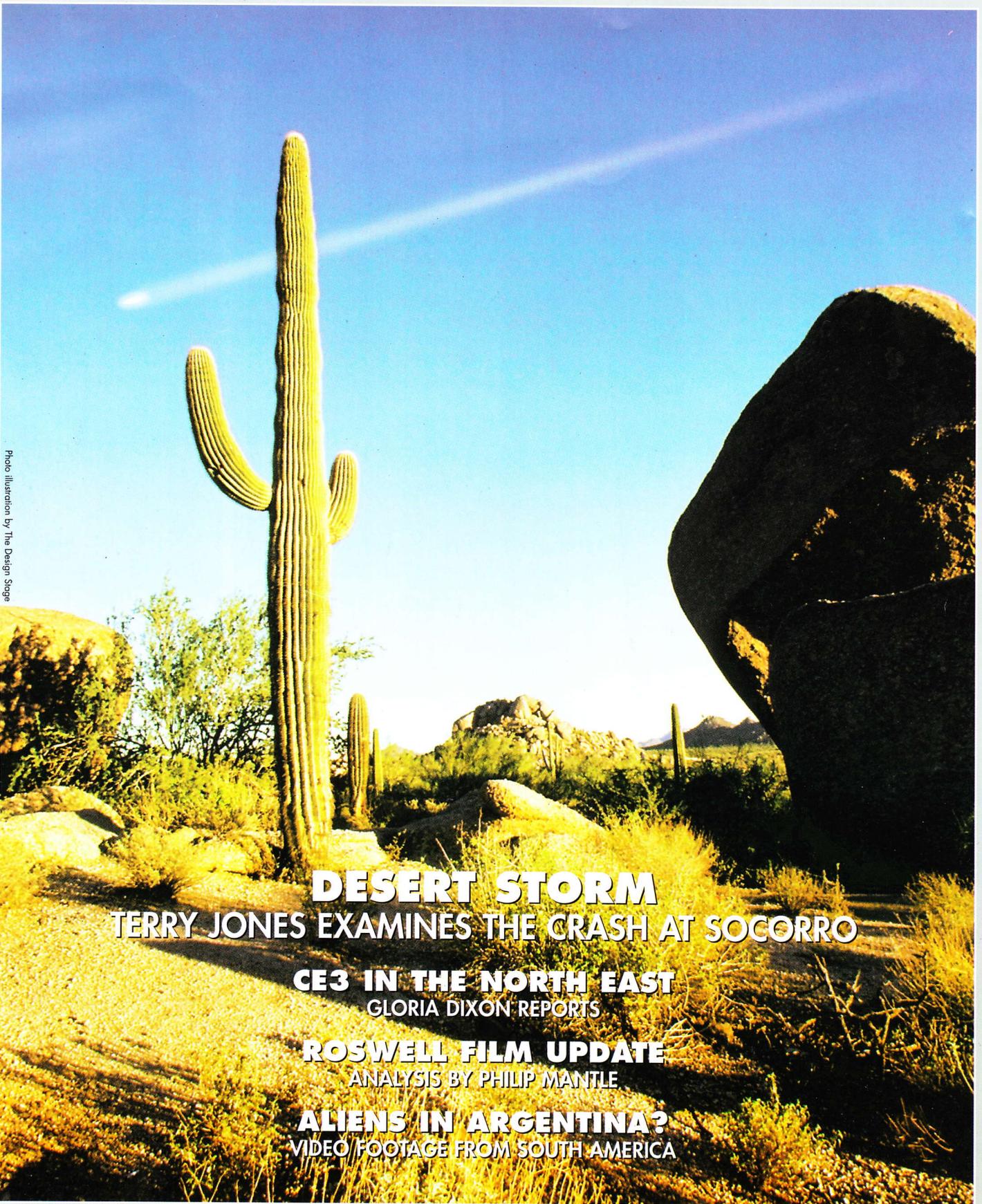


Photo illustration by The Design Stage

DESERT STORM
TERRY JONES EXAMINES THE CRASH AT SOCORRO

CE3 IN THE NORTH EAST
GLORIA DIXON REPORTS

ROSWELL FILM UPDATE
ANALYSIS BY PHILIP MANTLE

ALIENS IN ARGENTINA?
VIDEO FOOTAGE FROM SOUTH AMERICA



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Founded 1964.

Registered office: 16 Southway, Burgess Hill Sussex, RH15 9ST.

Registered in London 01234924.

Incorporating the London UFO Research Association (founded 1959) and the British UFO Association (founded 1962).

WITNESS CONFIDENTIALITY

The British UFO Research Association realises the importance of treating cases submitted to the Association by witnesses as confidential. In the light of this, the BUFORA Code of Practice has been devised and employed throughout the Association to guarantee the utmost care is taken when dealing with witness personal details and case report material.

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.

AIMS & MEMBERSHIP

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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ROLE MODELS

Once again BUFORA was able to present another excellent conference. But, 'A Day of Abductions' held in Sheffield on 20th April, was to me, more enjoyable and more in keeping with what BUFORA should be about than our Congress last year.

Why would I say that? Well, for a start, we didn't have the hype centred around Ray Santilli and that damn film, and secondly, I felt a sense that we presented a balanced view of what was really happening with the abduction experience. The audience were not force-fed a diet of sensationalist and speculative clap-trap just to get bums on seats, but rather a line-up of speakers that probably left a fair number of the audience with more questions than answers.

Being my first time to speak at a major conference, I was intrigued at the audience response to my critical approach to the subject and my scornful reflection of abduction researchers and their techniques.

I found that hardened believers of nuts and bolts alien visitations desperately want to keep that belief alive. One questioner stated that we must be visited by aliens because witnesses medical records go missing when they move from one GP to another. Ah? What does that prove? Yep, absolutely nothing.

My main thrust was that we should step back from the hype of the X-Files and look at the evidence in the cold light of day. Not many seem to want to do that. The majority seem happy to believe everything they hear or read without question. Remember the saying, "the bigger the lie, the more people will believe." Many a dictator has succeeded using that one.

Of course, we live in a free society and you can believe anything you want. However, what concerns me is not UFO buff belief systems, but what pet theories are being dumped on close encounter witnesses, including abductees.

This concern is well founded. BUFORA has learned that a British researcher is quite happily telling witnesses with missing time that the greys will be back to get them and that they will be back for the children. If this is not bad enough, he then elucidates on his theories on alien genetic engineering and hybrid babies right there in the witnesses home, not 48 hours after the event.

Eventually this 'team of investigators' got chucked out and now BUFORA has been left to pick up the pieces.

This is nothing short of gross misconduct.

I fear that this is not an isolated incident. Groups are springing up all over the country and advertising for witnesses to come forward with their abduction stories, with the further claim that they have counsellors and therapists on hand to help. What therapists and what counsellors?

In the past when all we really investigated were things seen in the skies, there was no real need to be trained in the social sciences. But today, we are faced with cases with greating complexity and strangeness. There is now a real and desperate need for investigation techniques to be sharpened up. The time has come for us to stop playing Scully and Mulder and approach the subject with renewed objectivity and, more importantly, empathy and respect for the witnesses who come to us for answers and, in many cases, support.

BUFORA proves itself time and again in this area on two simple points. 1) We have operated a strict Code of Practice which was instigated by Jenny Randles and the investigation team over 10 years ago. 2) The Association continues it's 10 year ban on the use of hypnotic regression techniques.

Along with these two vital elements we also train and actively support our investigators, which is no mean feat when we have over 200 of them across the UK.

However, the sad thing is that the Code of Practice was originally intended not just for BUFORA investigators, but for ALL UK investigators. It was hoped that other groups and organisations would sign up to the code. But few did.

But can UFO investigation in this country be regulated wholesale? I think it can and should. What regulations do other groups impose on their investigators? I would like to know. Are the 'new breed' of groups (springing up from the popularity of the subject) thinking about how they approach and deal with witnesses and are the more established organisations doing the same?

We all have to be clear on our roles and responsibilities are when dealing with the public and, more specifically, our interaction with the witness. What do you think?

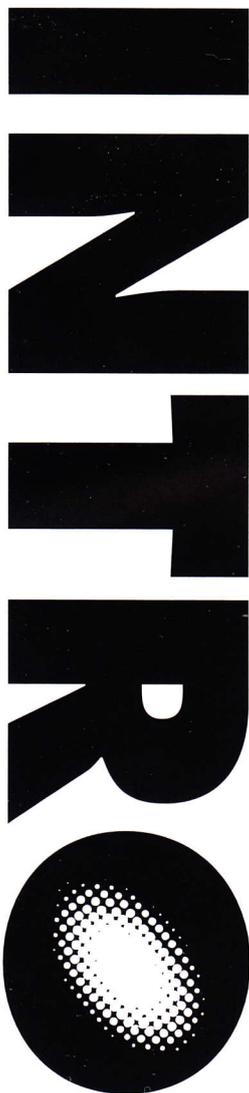
MIKE WOOTTEN

WE WANT YOUR COPY!

The pages of *UFO Times* are open to anyone wishing to present a paper for consideration by the editorial board. Submissions can be clearly typed or supplied on 3.5" floppy disc (MS-DOS) or 3" Amstrad format and sent to the editor at the above address. Copy sent by e.mail is warmly welcomed and sent to mwootten@dial.pipex.com.

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UFO NEWS

EDITED BY MIKE WOOTTEN

ALIEN HIGHWAY

UFO fever marches on relentlessly in the Land Of The Free. Nevada's Route 375 has been officially re-named The Extraterrestrial Highway and there will be four signs denoting this fact. Area 51, which is nearby has long been a Mecca for ETH'ers, convinced that the strange aerial lights, which apparently seem to be common in the region, are either ET craft or military craft retro-fitted with captured alien technology.

Tom Tait from Nevada's tourist commission was quoted as saying, "They're going to be both horizontal and vertical so extraterrestrials can see them as they land." Whether he said this with a straight face has not been reported and it would be perhaps churlish to suggest that they may just be secret USAF craft built as part of the 'black' projects. If it's not a very early April Fools joke or a cynical ploy to attract tourists to what is otherwise a featureless desert, it is testament to the place that the ETH has assumed in contemporary American culture.

SOURCE: LOS ANGELES TIMES



RUMOURS

It's amazing how rumours spread like wildfire within ufology.

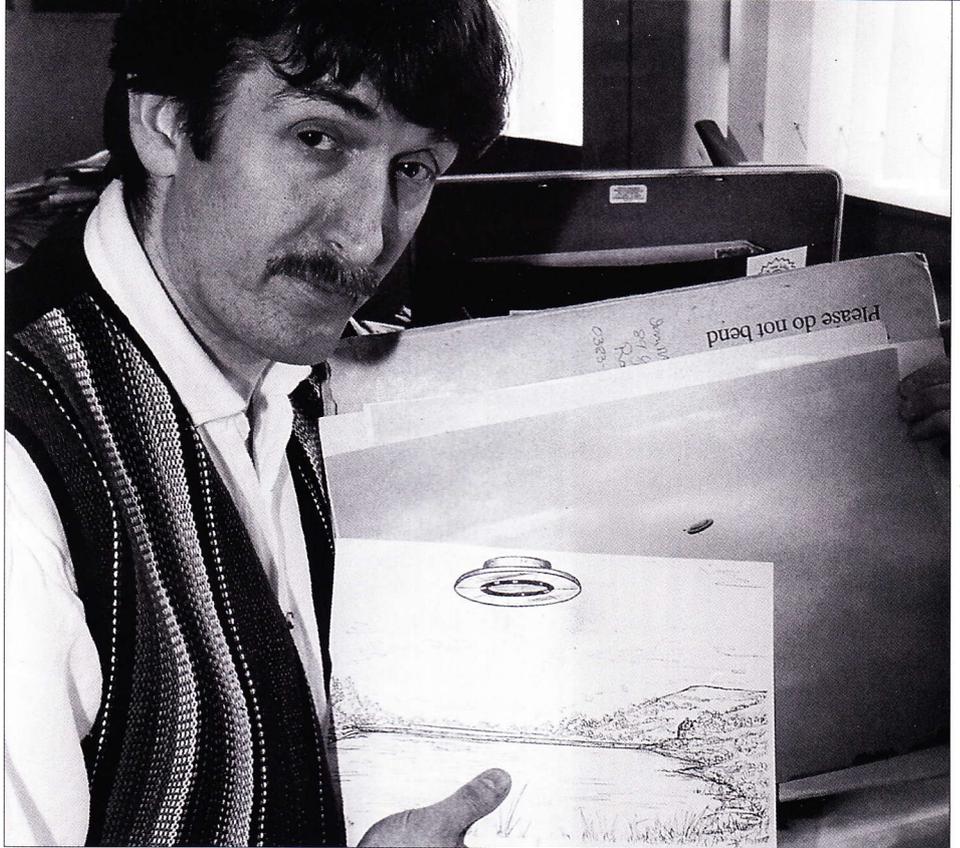
Abductee, Linda Jones phoned Phil Mantle, organiser of the BUFORA Abduction Conference, to say she would be late to speak at the sell-out event. By lunch time, a story was circulating that Harry 'Agent to the Abductees' Harris had blocked Linda's appearance at the event due to 'contractual problems'.

Well, before anyone could say 'vexatious litigant', the rumour was quashed and Linda turned up bright eyed and bushy tailed, and in time to miss the whole event thanks to the excellent service provided by British Rail.

30000 HAVE ENCOUNTERS

Paragon Publishing released its latest ABC sales figures for *Encounters* magazine and after only seven issues are now selling close on 30,000 copies per month, which is still 30,000 short of the staggering circulation of *Fortean Times*.

In the weird word wars, *FT* is now the fastest growing magazine in the UK. Well done *FT*!



MALCOLM ROBINSON RETIRES FROM UFOLOGY

BUFORA's Scottish Regional Investigations Co-ordinator, Malcolm Robinson, has decided to withdraw from the UFO subject to spend more time with his family.

Malcolm was a very active ufologist. He ran Strange Phenomena Investigations along with its magazine *Enigmas*. He also spoke at public meetings on many occasions.

Recently, Malcolm got heavily involved with the long running Bonnybridge case and, like many of us, found himself so committed to the UFO

subject that he spent as many hours on ufology as his full time paid job.

The tragedy in Dunblane was enough for Malcolm to realise that he was neglecting his young family and it was time for him to change his lifestyle.

Everyone in BUFORA would like to wish Malcolm well and state that we all respect his decision. It is a reminder to us all that no matter how important UFO research may seem to be, there are other things much more important.

US ABDUCTION RESEARCH IN A LATHER

Readers familiar with the 'American' way of ufology will know that it is full to the ginnels with people a-hypnotising and a-regressing like crazy (I choose my words carefully here), not to mention the cod-psychology cottage industry, which has sprung up to service the 'needs' of the thousands of alleged abductees who are coming out of the woodwork. Several prominent ufologists have already been castigated for their methods and approach in recent years and this has now come to a head in a rather unfortunate incident.

Dr Richard Boylan, noted US ufologist and abduction researcher was, in 'real life', a psychologist, clinical social worker and marriage, family and child counsellor. I say 'was' because on August 4th last year Boylan had his licences for practising the foregoing revoked, after being found guilty of gross negligence. The story is typically messy in the way that only a ufological drama can be. Boylan's gross negligence involved his alleged 'inappropriate relationship' with abductees he was investigating and the report from which this is taken (*UFO Magazine* vol.10.no.5) goes on to allude to instances of, ahem, 'massage therapy' and 'nude hot-tubbing'.

Of course Boylan protests his innocence and cites 'political enemies'. But you would, wouldn't you? So, next time you're off interviewing be sure and pack that portable hot-tub and a nice smelling oil!

Seriously though, this does demonstrate what BUFORA has been saying all along and which is enshrined in its Code Of Practice for investigators. Psychological techniques for dealing with 'abductees' are potentially dangerous.

Whatever has happened to experiencers of the abduction phenomena, and whether or not you think something unusual, even alien has, we should have their mental health and safety foremost in our minds. 'Abductees' are often confused and vulnerable, easy prey to someone with credentials and a belief in the ETH. What is actually at stake are people's emotions and their mental equilibrium. Being qualified does not excuse researchers from censure either and, whether qualified or not, a case such as Boylan has been involved in could cost any ufologist their job, their professional status and ultimately perhaps their freedom if it came to a complaint in a court of law. Let's be careful out there! When it comes to American ufology kids, Just Say No!

BUFORA ON-LINE GOES FROM STRENGTH TO STRENGTH

Two major and unique developments have put BUFORA's World Wide Web service at the forefront of Internet technology.

MEMBERS ONLY ON-LINE

In May, the password protected Members Only area came on-line. It currently houses a growing number of reports and notices relating to the Association like summaries of Council meetings and research and investigation reports. As an added service to members hooked up to the Internet, a private message board which works like a Usenet group is now fully operational.

Messageboard works in 'real time' so you can 'relay chat' each other (for non-techies this means you can have a discussion on the



messageboard between two, or more, people over the Internet at the same time).

To get your User IDs and password, e.mail Mike Wootten (mwootten@dial.pipex.com) with your Name, Address and Membership Number and he will issue you with your access codes by return.

BUFORA DOWNLOADS DATABASE ONTO THE INTERNET

Unique to the World Wide Web is the open access of BUFORA's case report database.

In a major research investment, BUFORA has enlisted the help of a team of consultants to develop a fully interactive search engine that will return the result of a user's search to the screen and deliver a packet of data to the user's PC.

The first 1500 records of the Association's 21 field database has been installed and is currently available to anyone who wishes to download data – there are no restrictions on use. This fulfils the pledge made by BUFORA Chairman, John Spencer, who stated that BUFORA's case archive would be open to all researchers.

The case report database was one of the first computerised databases to be launched in the UK back in 1983. The archive includes details

such as time, date and location, type of report (using the Randles classification system) and other details such as colour, shape and other characteristics relevant to each case.

The archive complies with the regulations of the Data Protection Act by not including any witness specific data except for the standard three character code used by BUFORA to identify the number of witnesses and their socio-economic background.

Mike Wootten who spearheaded this development with Steve Gamble said, "I hope that this research tool will be used and utilised my all. I also hope it will encourage others to open their case archives and share data with the wider UFO community."

BUFORA On-Line
<http://www.citadel.co.uk/citadel/eclipse/futura/bufora/bufora.htm>

PENNINE WINDOW OPENS AGAIN!

The Peak District and in particular the Longdendale Valley which runs into the heart of the Dark Peak, has long been the centre of anomalous aerial activity as well as numerous other instances of strange phenomena.

It is a classic window area with cases of fortan phenomena recorded down over the centuries. Over the past year there has once again been an upsurge in sightings of strange balls of light. In this instance several witnesses have seen them

but the strangest case concerns that of a woman and her daughter driving back over the

Pennines to Glossop and being host to five balls of light which danced around the interior of their car for the duration of the trip down the valley. Andy Roberts and Dave Clarke have interviewed all the witnesses in this and the other cases and will present an updated account of the Longdendale window area in a future issue of *UFO Times*.

MYSTERY TRIANGLE FILMED

The mysterious flying 'triangle' which has plagued the UK, and specifically the midlands and the north-west for many years has, allegedly, been finally captured on film. A member of the Morecambe UFO Group was fortunate enough to have videoed the 'triangle' after group members were alerted by several members of the public.

The object was filmed flying over Torrisholme, a Morecambe satellite village, seemingly headed toward Heysham nuclear power station. It was filmed for several minutes before it vanished into cloud. Allegedly the size of three Hercules transport 'planes and totally soundless, the 'triangle' has caused somewhat of a sensation in the area. The video was first publicly shown at

the Morecambe groups annual conference on the 18th February. However, despite initial hopes the actual film is somewhat disappointing. A light *can* be seen but to the casual viewer it is so marred by camera shake, lack of focus and objects against which to judge it that any sensible analysis is impossible.

Whilst speculation is rife that it is part of a secret British 'black' project, to this jaded ufologist it looks more like a helicopter, possibly following power lines, possibly flying to off-shore installations. Investigation and analysis is in its early days though – who knows what it could really be – and should any developments take place which indicate that it is a genuine anomalous flying object, we'll let you know.

NEW PLANETS DISCOVERED

Intelligent Life Now 1000:1 On

AMERICAN astronomers, having found four planets beyond our solar system, believe they will soon detect radio signals from alien civilisations.

"I believe the odds on there being advanced civilisations in our Milky Way galaxy are a thousand to one on," said Professor Paul Horowitz, of Harvard University. His team operates an 84ft radio telescope near Boston that continually searches the sky for artificial signals. Every day we pick up radio 'noise' from space that is equal to 22 trillion bytes of data, equivalent in information content to 50 million novels," he told the annual meeting of the American Association for the Advancement of Science.

So far there have been many false alarms where likely signals have failed to repeat themselves.

Another astronomer, Prof. Frank Drake, said: "The real signal, when it is found, will be unmistakable. I strongly believe that we shall find one before the year 2000."

Other scientists warn that it could be dangerous to advertise our own presence on Earth by transmitting signals.

Prof. Robert Rood, of Harvard, said: "The civilisation that blurts out its existence on interstellar beacons at the first opportunity may be like some early hominid descending from the trees and calling 'Here, kitty' to a sabre-toothed tiger."

The Search for Extraterrestrial Intelligence programme is being carried out privately by Prof. Horowitz's team and another in Australia.

SOURCE: **SUNDAY TELEGRAPH**

SHUTTLE - A CORRECTION

Apologies to all our readers regarding the news item included in *UFO Times* 40 (March/April pp. 5). It has been brought to my attention that the Shuttle Near Miss story that we featured in that issue is a complete hoax. The story emanated from the *US Weekly World News* and then started to leak onto the Internet. It was from this route that we picked up the story. Usually, we are very careful about sources. But on this occasion one slipped through the net.

MIKE WOOTTEN

INDEPENDENCE DAY IT'S COMING

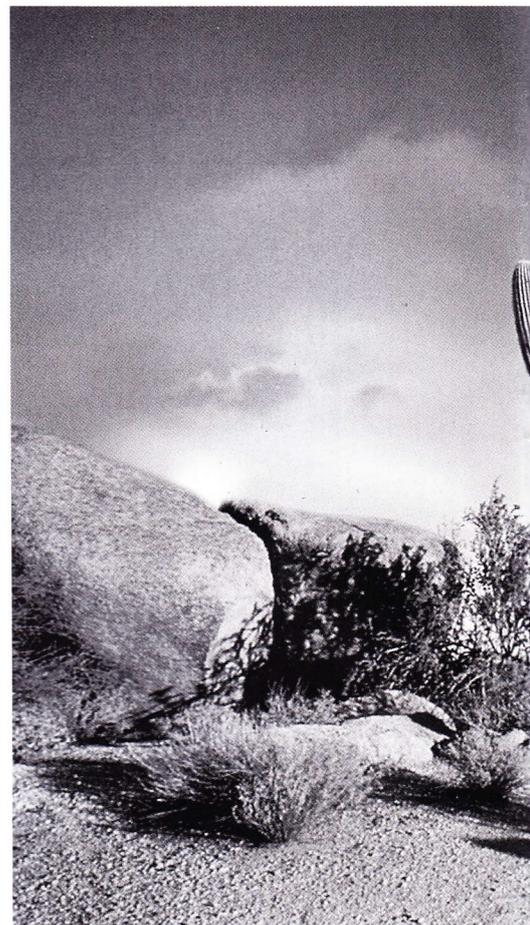
For those who want to make the UK launch of the film a special occasion and you live in the Northwest, then the Apollo Tatton Cinema in Gatley is the place for you. Not only will they be featuring *Independence Day*, but three other UFO films will be on show along with guest speakers including Jenny Randles and Peter Hough. BUFORA will also be there to support the event. The programme kicks off at 12 noon.

So mark Sunday, 11th August 1996 in your diaries and contact the box office on 0161-491 0711. Apollo Tatton Cinema, Gatley Road, Gatley, Cheshire SK8 4AB. You are advised to book in advance to avoid disappointment.

UFO CRASH AT SOCORRO

BY TERRY JONES

The search for the truth often brings strange and sometimes surprising results, none more so than the area of UFO crash retrievals. Since Lt. Col. Jesse Marcel broke his silence in 1978, a lot of time and effort has gone into establishing that, despite the best efforts of both the US Air Force and an ex-CIA operative to the contrary, there was indeed a crash 35 miles northwest of Roswell on the night of July 4th 1947.



Roswell is considered by many to be the only bona fide crash case in the past 48 years. This appears to have been upheld with the recent discovery of film footage purportedly showing autopsies carried out on two dead aliens, allegedly from the Roswell crash. The present owner of the film, documentary producer Ray Santilli, has now publicised how he acquired the film from Jack Barnett (pseudonym) a retired military cameraman in the United States. Questions have been raised as to how Jack has maintained possession of such historic footage. Now, with the release of Jack's statement to Ray and Philip Mantle many of these questions can now be answered and the confusion surrounding the film be clarified.

Jack's own words in his statement have set the scene for what can only be described as a disastrous first contact between ourselves and a non-terrestrial intelligence, with humanity emerging as the real bad guys. Jack's statement makes it abundantly clear that the film does not come from Roswell, but from a crash a few miles south west of Socorro, on or around June 1st 1947. The implications of this statement could overshadow Roswell in importance.

As researchers we need to rise above the noise and begin an objective investigation into the whole affair, from an analysis of the film and the cameraman's claims, to tracking down the people involved in the recovery operation.

THE SEQUENCE OF EVENTS

Here I must rely on Jack's statement as to the correct sequence of events. However, we are fortunate (as in the Roswell case) to have a first hand witness with a written record of his involvement. While the June 1st date is given in his statement the rest of the dates are, at best, speculative.

SUNDAY JUNE 1ST 1947

On his return from St. Louis, Missouri, Jack is asked by McDonald (his C.O.) to report to Major General Clements McMullan for a special assignment. McMullan orders Jack to go to a crash site southwest of Socorro urgently and

film everything in sight – he was to have access to all areas. A few minutes later he received another call from general Tooeey saying was the crash of a Russian spy plane and reconfirmed Jack's orders.

SUNDAY PM JUNE 1ST/MONDAY AM JUNE 2ND 1947

Flying out of Andrews Air Field with 16 other officers and personnel they arrive at Wright Field and collect more men and equipment. From there they fly on to White Sands in a C54 transport. Upon arrival, Jack and the rest of the personnel are transported by road to the cordoned off site. It was obvious that this was no spy plane because lying on its back with heat still radiating from the ground around it, was a large disc-shaped craft. The commander on site (1) hands over to the S.A.C. medical team who

are waiting for George Kenney to arrive (2) (As fire was a significant risk it was decided to wait for the heat to subside before moving in. The situation was made all the worse by the screams of the 'freak creatures' (Jack's words), lying by the craft. Each had an oblong box which they kept hold of in both arms, close to their chests. They just lay there crying, clutching those boxes. Jack's tent was set up and he began filming straight away, first the craft, then the site and debris.

MONDAY JUNE 2ND 1947 0600 HOURS

Around this time it was deemed safe to move in. The 'freaks' were still crying and as the team approached they screamed even louder. Still clutching their boxes, one was 'got loose' by striking the head of one of the 'freaks' with a rifle butt. The three 'freaks' were dragged away and secured with rope and tape, the fourth one was already dead (this is no doubt the one in the 'tent' footage). The medical team were reluctant to go near the 'freaks' but as some were injured

they had little choice. Once the creatures were collected (destination unknown) the priority was to gather all debris that could easily be removed as there was still a risk of fire. The debris was taken to tent stations, logged, tagged and loaded onto trucks. (Some of the debris appears on film along with one of the three aliens' boxes, one of which is in a damaged state.)

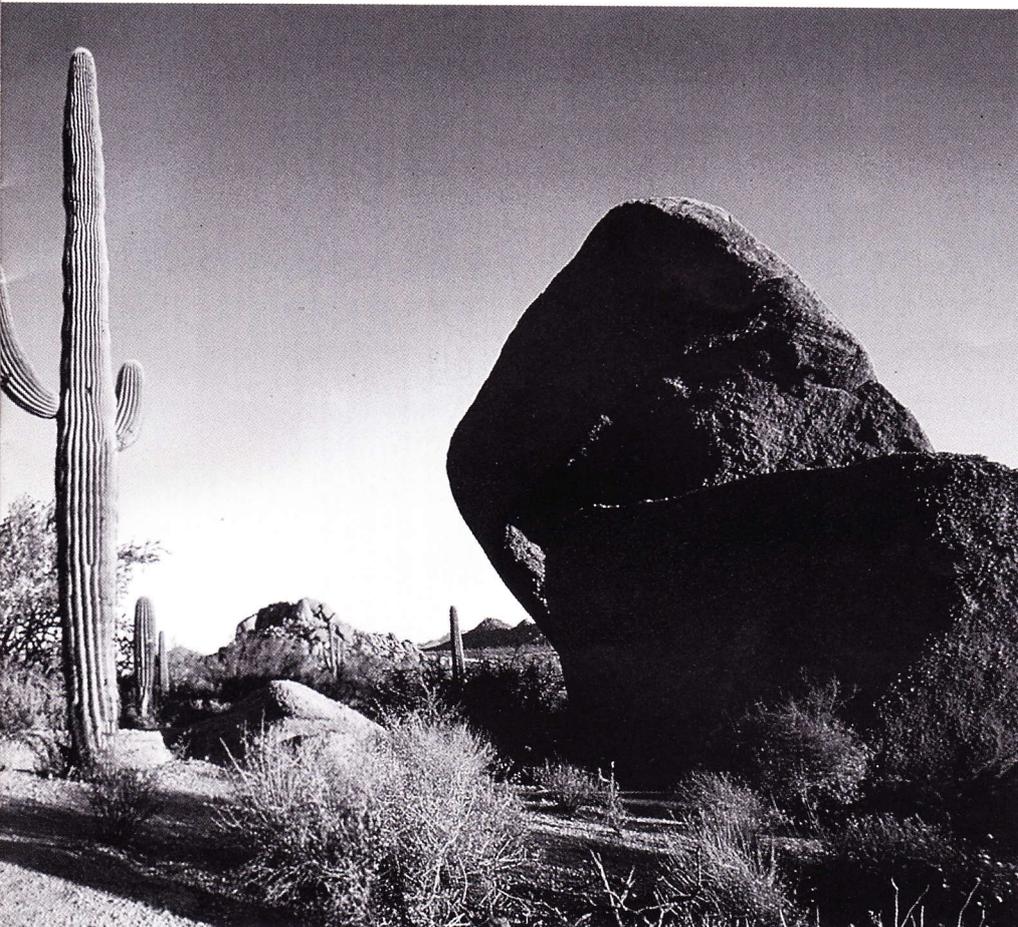


Photo illustration by The Design Stage

THURSDAY JUNE 5TH 1947

After three days a team from Washington came down and decide to move the craft. The atmosphere inside it was described as being very heavy and impossible to stay in for more than a

few seconds without feeling very sick. The craft is loaded onto a flatbed truck for analysis at Wright Field.

CIRCA TUESDAY 1ST JULY 1947

Jack is told to report to Fort Worth for the filming of two autopsies. Discovering that the creatures may be a medical threat Jack is required to wear protective clothing like the doctors. This caused Jack problems with the loading, handling and focusing of the camera. Against orders Jack removes his suit during the filming of one autopsy.

Also on this date another UFO is tracked on radar across New Mexico for three days. On July 4th at 11.30pm the UFO crashes 35 miles

northwest of Roswell, after first hitting the ground on the Foster ranch, leaving debris in its wake. After filming, Jack had several hundred reels. He separated the problem reels which would require special attention in processing, to deal with later. The first batch was sent through to Washington and he processed the remainder later. Jack called Washington to collect the remaining reels, but no-one ever came, despite numerous calls, so in the end he just gave up and kept the footage.

MAY 1949

Jack is asked to film the third autopsy. As was noted in my opening paragraphs, this crash was one that was completely covered up by the military and by all accounts a tight security lid put on it. No word got out about this crash, unlike the crash at Roswell. Or did it? In 1978 when Jesse Marcel gave interviews to Bob Pratt and others he made comments which at the time suggested a second

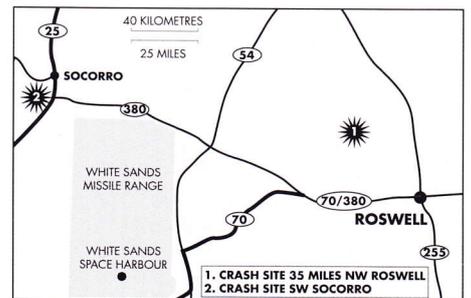
crash site, possibly connected with the wreckage on the Foster ranch, found by Mac Brazel. He had this to say: "I heard about that [the crash near Socorro] but I could not verify such an occurrence from my own experience. Of course if another military group had become involved with a larger piece of wreckage there would be no reason for me to be informed about it." (3)

The situation was made all the worse by the screams of the 'freak creatures' (Jack's words), lying by the craft. Each had an oblong box which they kept hold of in both arms, close to their chests. They just lay there crying, clutching those boxes. Jack's tent was set up and he began filming straight away, first the craft, then the site and debris.

In another interview with Marcel he said this about a second crash site, "It was something that must have exploded above the ground and fell. And I learned later that farther west, towards Carrizozo, they found something like that too. That, I don't know anything about. It was the same period of time, sixty to eighty miles west of there." (4) Marcel's interviews, given nearly 18 years ago, appear to confirm this other crash, distinctive from the crash at Roswell on July 4th. Jesse's testimony precluded him from the June 1st crash, so how did he know about it? To answer that we have to look at what happened to him in the months after the Roswell incident. In October 1947, without reason and over the objections of Col. William Blanchard, Marcel was transferred to Washington D.C. and assigned to a Special Weapons programme.

Two months later he was promoted to Lt. Colonel. Now, according to Jack's testimony, the 16-strong team came in from Washington, so it is not beyond reason that one or other of the officers involved in the June 2nd recovery remembered who Marcel was and mentioned the other crash to him.

So, what Marcel's statement does is corroborate Jack's testimony about the other crash site. Researchers trying to prove back then that an object did crash, just thought Marcel had got the directions wrong when the actual Roswell crash site was located 35 miles northwest of town. One name that came up in Jack's testimony was Major General Clements McMullan. His involvement in the Roswell crash is now well-documented. It seems he was also involved in the June 1st crash. Just how involved McMullan was we aren't sure without further research, but it would appear that he was co-ordinating things from Washington, requesting the assignment of personnel to the recovery operation, which would have made him a key figure in both the Socorro and late the Roswell crashes.



AT THE CRASH SITE

Attempting to verify Jack's story, noted German researcher, Michael Hesseman followed Jack's precise direction, which took him to the dry river bed, the scene of the crash 48 years ago. Jack stated that the heat from the object vitrified the area around it and was subsequently scraped clean. Footage of the site today does indeed show a marked difference between the rest of the dry river bed and where the craft allegedly rested. It is interesting to note that today, the dry river bed does not appear on any Geodetic Survey maps of the New Mexico area.

THE SHAPE OF THE CRAFT

Jack described the craft as disc-shaped and laying on its back. he went onto say that much of the wreckage came from the exterior struts that supported a smaller disc on the craft's under side, which had snapped off when the disc flipped over. One could speculate that the craft was one which had a double cupola, in other words 'Saturn shaped'.

THE WRECKAGE

These short sequences of film show a uniformed person holding up some of the 'I' beam material, revealing symbols on the inner edges. On tables you can see other pieces of debris and 'I' beam material bundled and tagged. The uniformed man holds up the oblong boxes the aliens were so reluctant to let go of. Each box is about two feet long with two sets of indented arcs above each digit hand impression. All the indented areas contain raised studs. As to what these boxes are and what purpose they serve is unknown, but the aliens would not let go of them. One interesting feature of the 'I' beam material is a rib which runs its length. Considering that they were supporting a small disc slung under the main craft, it is feasible that the smaller disc could be raised up and lowered down from the main body of the craft, making the 'I' beams some sort of runner.

THE CREATURES

The autopsy footage shows beings that are about five feet tall with large heads and large eyes. They are humanoid in development with six digits to each of the extremities. The specimens in the autopsy footage appeared to be female, but without secondary sexual characteristics (breasts, pubic hair). The right thigh on one spaceman has a deep tissue injury right down to the knee and the left thigh is badly swollen, suggesting that the limb is broken. The skin tone is either white or a pale grey. The eyes are larger than a human's and are covered by a black membrane, which when cut away, reveals, two eyes similar to ours.

The stomach areas are distended, making the creatures look fat, but this is most likely due to tissue degradation. The tent footage showing a creature on a table reveals that they are of slim build (judging by the way the cloth lies over the body) with a deep chest cavity. They obviously have some sort of vocal chord arrangement as they were heard screaming at the crash site. Due to the camera having a fixed focus lens, one of the autopsies is blurred in close up, but from both films it is plain to see that their internal arrangement is radically different to ours. For example the aliens do not have a rib cage like ours, rather a plate-like arrangement to cover their internal organs.

THE AFTERMATH

In the wake of this crash the lid came down almost air tight on this incident near Socorro and with good reason. Here the military acted with nothing but cold brutality toward the crash survivors. Beating one of them around the head to obtain a piece of equipment they were holding and then bound and gagged with rope and tape, dragged off to a fate unknown. What a welcome to planet Earth! Jack attests to the fact that three of the four crew survived. Almost a month later he films two autopsies, one of which was in all probability that of the dead crew member. In May of 1949 he is asked to film a third autopsy, suggesting that one of the aliens survived up until then. The question that has to be asked is, what happened to the other two bodies?

QUESTIONS RAISED

Why is this footage called the Roswell film, when clearly this crash had nothing to do with the Roswell incident? The answer to that one is easy, here we have a situation that has been completely covered up; no-one knew anything about this

UFO CRASH AT SOCORRO

NOTES

1. The commander on site could have been Lt. Col. Harold R. Turner, the officer in charge at White Sands.
2. At this time George Kenney was the head of Strategic Air Command, McMullan was his deputy.
3. **The Roswell Incident** by Charles Berlitz and William Moore. Granada Books 1980. Page 72.
4. **Roswell UFO Crash Update** by Kevin Randle. Global Communications 1995. Page 47.

crash, but a lot had been known about the Roswell crash due to its attendant publicity over the past few decades. The confusion has arisen from this, and Jack's statement calling White Sands Roswell. Were any personnel from Roswell involved in this recovery? According to Jack, no-one from Roswell AAF was involved in the June 2nd recovery, by all accounts this was handled by the unit at White Sands. Jack was ordered to go to White Sands by McMullan and from there on to the crash site, southwest of Socorro, where the site had already been cordoned off. It makes sense of the fact that according to testimony given to Randle and Schmitt, a team from White Sands was also involved in the July 5th recovery operation outside Roswell.

If the film is genuine and of such importance, why didn't Washington collect the last reels of film after Jack had called them many times? If my reconstruction of events are correct then Washington were not only tied up with the Army Air Force splitting into two groups but also in early July, tied up with a second UFO crash, this time thirty-five miles northwest of Roswell. No doubt with all the running around being done by the people in Washington, dealing with the Roswell crash, and then the press release a few days later, it seems Jack was simply lost in the machinery. As to the film itself, independent analyst Bob Shell confirms that the film base is acetate propionate, used for the Kodak Super XX safety film in 1947, and the grain is also consistent with the '47 film base. The 1927 film base was cellulose nitrate and the Kodak Super XX safety film was not available in 1967. So, based on his analysis, the film is of 1947 stock, consistent with the geometric codes used by Kodak.

How do we know that the bodies on the autopsy table were not human? Also the autopsies seem to have been done over a short period of time. Surely it would take days to do a full autopsy? The second autopsy film has been shown to Home Office pathologist Dr. C.M. Milroy, whose comments suggest that the body on the table is not human. He is of the opinion that the autopsy was not done by a pathologist, but by a surgeon (allegedly Detlev W. Bronk).

One explanation for the apparent speed of the autopsies is a notice on the wall by the 'phone

which reads 'Danger maximum exposure time two hours'. Remember, they were considered to be a medical threat, so any contact with a potential source of unknown contamination would have to be restricted for the sake of those involved. There are conflicting accounts as to what is on the canisters of film and what is currently in the public domain. How can this be, given Ray's early statements as to their contents? When Ray purchased the film most of it was unseen and some was later found to have been unprocessed, so not having actually seen most of it he went on what Jack told him. Sadly some of the film, due to its short shelf life, after exposure has degraded, so no viable image could be retrieved once processed. Consequently some of the most important footage has been lost.

CONCLUSION

Without a doubt this case is set to run for a long time. The usual claims will be paraded out, a hoax perpetrated to discredit Roswell (a pointless one as Roswell had proved itself long before the film surfaced) or final proof of alien visitation and its cover up. As researchers we need to rise above the noise and begin an objective investigation into the whole affair, from an analysis of the film and the cameraman's claims, to tracking down the people involved in the recovery operation. At this time one thing we can be sure of if this case pans out, is that secrets can be kept.

Sceptics and some ufologists claim no secret of this magnitude can be kept and go on to quote Watergate. What is usually forgotten is that Woodward and Bernstein were tipped off by an inside source. Had this not been the case the American political scene would be radically different because of it. Ufology has had its fair share of whistle blowers over the years. How strange sounding the information they impart is will always determine how many people are willing to listen: too strange and they are viewed with suspicion; within the realm of possibility (depending on ones own parameters) and they will be listened to with interest. In the field of UFOs we tread a fine line. 'The truth is out there', as they say. But only if we are willing to pursue it with an open mind.

POSTSCRIPT

An interesting possibility has arisen from Jack's statement in that if he could identify other people who were cameramen for the Army Air Force's intelligence operations he might be able to provide a lead to the actual Roswell cameraman. Base Provost Marshall Major Edwin Easley, who was at the Roswell crash site, had this to say of the cameramen: "One was a tech sergeant and the other a master sergeant. They were real pros who knew their business. They came out with warrant Officer Robert Thomas. They took stills and they took movies of the area." (1) According to testimony given to Randle and Schmitt, the two photographers came in from Washington on the flight carrying the special nine man team. Although they were not part of it they were given full access to the crash site so they could record everything before it was moved.

The *modus operandi* here was the same one used in the June 2nd recovery operation and since McMullan was running the show here as well, it's possible that people from Jack's group were assigned to photograph and film the Roswell crash site. So it may only be a matter of time before we can locate the men and add their most important testimony to the Roswell case.

ADVENTURES IN THE SCAM TRADE

SANTILLI'S CONTROVERSIAL AUTOPSY MOVIE

BY ANDY ROBERTS

Terry Jones' article on the alleged Socorro crash/retrieval is typical of the wild and unfounded speculation which such rumours have generated, leading to a widespread belief that these crashes did in fact take place.

Despite whatever anyone thinks, feels or believes about the pros and cons of crashed saucers, we should bear in mind that, as yet, there is no concrete evidence available which proves that even one – let alone the many which are claimed – has ever taken place. Equally there is no proof that UFO crash/retrievals have not taken place. It has to be said though that all the major claims of the c/r proponents have come to nothing so far, and if we use that as an indicator for the 'reality level' of crashed saucers things look pretty grim. But hey, if it gives you something to believe in that's fine by me.

Terry's apparent belief in the hogwash we have been fed about the 'Autopsy' film reveals a singular lack of knowledge about current developments in the case and you dear reader may by now be jaded with the whole sordid affair, barely able to stomach another word about it. The ultimate antidote is now at hand, courtesy of Kent Jeffrey. Read on... and weep!

Jeffrey is coordinator of the International Roswell Initiative, a serious grassroots organisation based in the USA and dedicated to the commendable goal of getting to the truth behind the 1947 Roswell incident. Obviously they have been drawn into this case and, indeed, Jeffrey was one of the first people to see the autopsy footage (and leggage!) at the London screening in the spring of 1995. Since then he and his colleagues have worked the mine of claim and counter claim which has been opened by the film and have finally come up with a concise but brilliant piece of work on the subject. Having seen a great deal of tripe banded about in the name of research regarding this farrago I am extremely pleased that it is actually a group of American researchers who have come up with the goods.

The report is entitled Santilli's Controversial Autopsy Movie and opens with the memorable quote "To paraphrase Sir Winston Churchill, never in the history of human deception have so many been fooled so much by so few". And then we're off. Rather than slavishly list all the points the report makes it may be better to use it as tool, applying it to one or two of the claims Terry Jones makes in his article. That way you will see both the efficacy of the report and also how it can be applied, like a surgeon's knife, to much of the deadwood produced in the way of speculation about the case.

CLAIM 1

TERRY CLAIMS THE CAMERAMAN WAS SUMMONED AND FLOWN OUT TO A CRASH SITE TO FILM ALL HE COULD. HE ARRIVES AND WITNESSES THE MILITARY APPROACHING THE SITE FOR THE FIRST TIME, CREATURES SCREAMING IN FEAR AND ALL THAT SORT OF THING.

Kent Jeffrey points out that the distance the cameraman would have to travel was approx. 1600 miles and would have taken him a minimum of ten to twelve hours from the call to get there. Presumably the crash had taken

place a while before. So, as Jeffrey says, the idea that the military would wait 10 hours just for a cameraman to arrive is preposterous. The SCAM report has much more to say about this aspect of the cameraman's claim.

CLAIM 2

TERRY CLAIMS THE FILM IS OF 1947 STOCK.

What the heck, a great many people believe that. Jeffrey provides the facts. No-one, repeat no-one, has ever seen the actual autopsy film. All showings have been done from video copies, not from the original. A piece of film which Santilli did provide had a 1947 edge code – but there is not one shred of evidence to state that this came from the actual autopsy film. Kodak have issued an open invitation to Santilli for him to spare 2/24ths of a second's worth of the genuine film for them to analyse. That would prove once and for all the actual date of the film – and obviously if it was 1947 would boost tenfold the film's credibility, marketability and profitability. To date, Santilli has not done this.

We could go on, but this would spoil the fun of you reading it yourself in conjunction with the 'believer' material of your choice! Other topics touched on are the crashed saucer 'debris' and hieroglyphs, the autopsy techniques themselves, the history and differences of the film between its early showings and its 'official release', what the special effects people really said about the film, the 'collector' who allegedly bought the original much, much more about the cameraman and military camera practices and procedures, and the suggestion that one researcher discovered that Santilli had contacted *The Mail On Sunday* some four years earlier, claiming to have information on the Dead Sea Scrolls and the Shroud Of Turin! It goes on in a similar vein, carefully and factually dissecting the erroneous claims and falsifications surrounding the issue, illuminating the pitfalls and problems in a quite remarkable way.

Finally, if you are still in any doubt they make the best offer yet to validate the film and cameraman. One of the many genuine WWII military cameramen they have been in touch with says if he can just speak with 'Jack Barnett' for fifteen minutes and provide him with some basic military information he can verify or falsify his claim. He promises to keep

the identity of the man a secret, thus allaying anyone's fears of public exposure. What's the betting, pilgrims, that this offer, like all the others, is never taken up by the distasteful people involved in this hoax.

The net is slowly, but surely, tightening around those responsible for perpetrating this hoax. You will be surprised at who ends up thrashing about for air on the deck of the good ship *The Sceptic*, when it is all over. If it wasn't so sad it would be laughable (we'll laugh anyway, it's good for the soul). Sad because by the media and public's uncritical acceptance of whatever they are fed someone or some people have made a pretty penny out of this film and sown more false trails than all the hoaxes in the past forty nine years of ufological history. Laughable for the same reasons. Kent Jeffrey, whatever his own personal beliefs, has done an excellent job in sifting the evidence, the statements and the contradictions in this whole affair and has come down very strongly on the side of reason, reason backed by fact and correct intellectual rigour, proving that the film was – must have been – a hoax.

In my opinion, BUFORA had the wool pulled over their eyes about the film and were railroaded into showing it, unresearched and uncriticised at their 1995 conference. You are a BUFORA member and if you have any interest whatsoever in either this case specifically, crash retrievals in general, or how easily both the public and ufologists can be taken in – aided and abetted by a cynical media eager for sensation and hype-then you owe it to yourself to read this report.

Copies of the SCAM report can be obtained for £2.00 inc. p&p, from Andy Roberts, 84 Elland Road, Brighouse, West Yorkshire, HD6 2QR

The International Roswell Initiative can be contacted at, 3105 Gables Drive, Atlanta, GA 30319, USA Tel: 404 240 0655; e-mail RoswellDec@aol.com

THE MEXICAN EUFORIA

BY HECTOR ESCOBAR SOTOMAYOR

This paper, by Hector Escobar, contains the results of his research regarding the supposed UFO seen during the Mexican eclipse of 11th July 1991 and related information. The author is a member of the Mexican skeptical movement. He studied clinical psychology at Universidad Nacional Autonoma de Mexico and a master degree at Fundacion Mexicana de Psicoanalisis. Presently, he is studying a master degree in philosophy at the National University. He can be contacted via e-mail hescobar@datasys.com.mx

THE ECLIPSE

On the 11th July, 1991, the Mexican Republic was central to the observation of a wonderful natural phenomena, a total solar eclipse that lasted many minutes. Everybody watched this once in a lifetime wonder. Mexican TV companies such as Televisa and Imevision devoted a whole team to the eclipse. People began to watch the skies again and of course, started to see strange things.

Many people had taken photographs of the eclipse, and in many of them they could see a light that could be a UFO. The UFO was invisible to the naked eye, but it appeared in photographs. There were hundreds of photos, all the same, the sun, the eclipse, the diamond ring, and a diffuse luminous object. Probes of extraterrestrial technology?

Then appeared Jaime Maussan, a TV reporter, coordinator of the Mexican version of the American program *60 minutes*. The Mexican version, *60 Minutos* was at that time condemned to the last hours of Sunday and almost nobody used to watch it. As a part of his journalistic work, Maussan had worked on the production of a special programme to be sold in video format devoted to the eclipse, *El sexto sol* (The Sixth Sun).

A long time before, Maussan had included in *60 Minutos* two features devoted to the Swiss contactee Billy Meier, in which Maussan "demonstrated" that Meier was in contact with extraterrestrials from the Pleiades. It was confirmed by the American ufologist Wendelle Stevens and the 'scientists', James Hurtak and Jim Dileto. Meier's story didn't have any influence in Mexico. Many years before, UFO interested people had read in *Contactos Extraterrestres* magazine a paper by Von Keviczky devoted to the hoax of Meier. Mexican ufologist, Pedro Ferriz, had also shown Meier's movies and had pointed to the hoax.

Soon the object appeared on videos. At this time, Canun's programme was at national level and it lasted almost all night, from 23:00 to 5.00, or 6:00 a.m. (it depended on how interesting were the topics).

The first programme devoted to UFOs lasted from 23:00 to 7:00 a.m. the next day. Between

the participants (12 persons) there were believers, skeptics (as myself), and some contactees. The topics were much variegated: the grave of Palenque, Nazca, The "UFO" crashed in Puebla in 1977, etc. and the '148 kinds of extraterrestrials beings that actually live in Earth and his secret bases'. A believer, Luis Ramirez, showed a map of these bases in the United States (Weren't they secret?).

The atmosphere was too hostile for objective researchers who were just trying to indicate that ufology requires a rational base, not just speculation.

When I saw one of eclipse photographs for the first time, I thought the 'object' was possibly a reflection in the system of lenses within the cameras themselves. This explains the supposed invisibility of the UFO. The shape and other characteristics of the object, just a small and luminous spot, were very similar to many UFO photos that were just reflections. Among the public, some people said they were professional photographers and added that, "cameras don't produce reflections." (sic).

After this programme, there was another one in which 'skeptics' were not invited, this one broke all records; it started at 23:00 pm and finished at 9:00 a.m. the next day. During this program, Jaime Maussan showed, for the first time on TV, some videos taken by amateurs that were filming the eclipse. All these videos showed, was a bright point of light beneath the sun. According to Maussan it was an extraterrestrial ship.

THE MADNESS

The videos were showed just once, as Maussan said, "Hundreds of persons have called me by phone to tell me they have similar UFO videos: the sun, the eclipse and beneath the sun a little point of light." An indeterminate number of videos of the supposed UFO were taken. Six of these were filmed from Mexico City, another one was taken from the city of Puebla (150 km. east of Mexico city), we don't know where the others were filmed.

In a few days, Maussan organized a group of UFO watchers that he called 'Los Vigilantes' (The Watchmen), mainly adolescents, and some adults, that waited on their roofs for the UFO's



to come and then film them. The success of "Los Vigilantes" was tremendous. In a follow-up TV programme, Maussan said, "I have hundreds of UFO videos from all over the country. These "hundreds" of videos included "... only real extraterrestrial ships, not one of them was a mistake or a misinterpretation."

It seemed that Mexico was being invaded by Pleiadians and Reticulians. Maussan would launch a commercial series of 12 videos related to UFOs. The first one of these was *Luces en el cielo* (Lights in the Sky) and included mainly the UFO of the eclipse. The second one was the Spanish version of Billy Meier's story and his contact with Semjase, the woman from the Pleiades. Maussan promised more videos. The third one was devoted to crop circles, *Evidencia innegable* - Real Evidence and the fourth one devoted to the contact of Amaury Rivera, *Puerto Rico, punto de contacto* - Puerto Rico, contact place.

However, "the main card", as he called it, was a mysterious contactee with an ecological message to humanity. Maussan said this case, "... was more astounding than Billy Meier's or George Adamski's". "Of course", said Maussan, "all my interest is in informing the public, not making money."

Out of interest, the first commercial video by Maussan, sold 15,000 copies, each one had a commercial price of 95 pesos (US \$30.00). Work it out for yourself!

The UFO atmosphere in Mexico was ripe. In a few months there were reports of UFO landings in many parts of the country such as Tula, Hidalgo, Poza Rica and Veracruz. There was a UFO wave in Atlixco, Puebla, in which

hundreds of people spent all night waiting to see the UFO (always the same hour). The UFO was a bright yellow light with two smaller lights at its sides, one green and the other red. A similarity to the lights of an aeroplane or just a coincidence?

The euphoria was tremendous. UFO books, magazines, videos, etc. There were lectures organised: along came James Hurtak to tell us about the end of the world, the face on Mars, and The Keys of Henoc. All this among prayers and a religious atmosphere. Jorge Marti also came from Puerto Rico to tell us the story of Amaury Ribera. Wendelle Stevens came to tell us about Billy Meier and the UFO analysis of Jim Diletozzo.

BACK ON THE GROUND

What happened about the eclipse UFO? As I mentioned before, during the eclipse a UFO was supposedly filmed on video. It is just visible as a far away small point of light.

As we can see, there are two different elements for analysis.

a) The photography of the 'invisible UFO'; b) The videos that show a luminous point beneath the sun.

Regarding the first element, the photo of the invisible UFO. A great number of photographers – almost every one that took a photo of the eclipse – also captured the UFO. In fact, what would have been difficult would be not getting a UFO in the shot. When one photographs a light source, it's inevitable that the lenses in the camera (especially in low price cameras) produce a reflection within the camera, which appears in the photo. This effect is known as lens flare and is very common when we photograph a landscape with the sun in front of us (as was the case of the eclipse). In this case, the UFO becomes brighter as the eclipse is almost complete, and all that is visible is the 'diamond ring'. Subsequently, a computerized analysis completed by the team of Perspectivas Ufologicas, showed that the UFO was a plane object with no relief. Not a material object but a reflection on a surface of the lenses.

But, what about videos? In this case it's necessary to make certain pertinent points before we embark on an explanation. A video image, is not the same as a photographic one. Photographs are composed by light hitting a light-sensitive emulsion. In this case it's possible to amplify it and to get more information about the objects captured. In contrast, a video image is composed of units of digital information (pixels) that are subsequently 're-assembled' to make the image. Videos are not direct images as photographs or films (analogue images) but digitized images. If you try to enlarge a video image, all you see are larger pixels, not more detail.

So, what did people film on July 11, 1991? What was that bright object beneath the sun, that looked like a star and never moved, until it disappeared when the eclipse finished? Before we answer these questions just some other comments that will help us to understand better what happened:

1) The eclipse was filmed by professional cameramen from Televisa, Imevision, Canal 11, and many others at University TV. Why didn't anybody else see a UFO?

2) Just as Maussan recognises, the object must have been at a very high altitude, because it was filmed from both Mexico City and the city of Puebla (150 km away). All this indicates to us that the UFO must have been a very big object and be very high in the sky.

3) Why Jaime Maussan, who interviews scientists in his other programmes devoted to ecology, the ozone hole, and similar topics, never interviewed any professional astronomer who could explain what the UFO was? All he does is to show the opinions of his team of alchemists, "exotechnics", witches, parapsychologists, and contactees.

The eclipse UFO has a much more rational explanation. The description of the UFO, and what we can see in the videos corresponds closely to the characteristics that would show a planet or a star. Even a witness says in the video in Spanish that what he filmed was a planet, not an extraterrestrial ship. Is the UFO just a planet? To verify this hypothesis it was necessary to know the position of the planets and stars that could be misinterpreted as an UFO. With that aim the team of Perspectivas Ufologicas bought a computer program called EZC COSMOS, which, among other things, can show us the position of stars and planets in any time and in any place. We did it for Mexico City at 13:10 of July 11, 1991.

The results show that on that day, at that hour and in that position in the sky (beneath the sun) there was a planet that was extremely bright, in fact it was the third most brilliant after the sun and the moon. The answer: Venus.

At that time Venus had an apparent magnitude of -4.46 (which is extremely bright) and an angular apparent diameter of 34.26". Its azimuth was 93° 35' 14" and its altitude respect to horizon was 43° 59' 54". It had a phase of 31.016" (if we would have seen it with the help of a telescope it would have looked like a half moon). Venus appeared on the horizon at 10.11 a.m., had its transit at 16:29, and disappeared below the horizon at 22:46 p.m.

If we would need more data to affirm that the UFO was really Venus, there is more evidence to support this interpretation.

1) A witness (Ricardo Arreguin) identified it as Venus. No other witness declared to have seen bright planets or stars near the sun.

2) The time the observation lasted. Venus becomes more and more brilliant as the darkness increased due to the eclipse, and disappeared as the light increased again as the eclipse finished.

3) None of the witnesses declared that the UFO moved, but Maussan says it has a rotary movement. This is an effect produced by the movements of the camera that only can be seen in amplification. Of course, people tell Maussan what he wants to hear. For many believers, Venus is behind the UFO!

THE CLIMAX

The fact that Venus was confused with an extraterrestrial ship, produced a chain reaction. UFOs appeared everywhere. As usual, the most common example referred to misinterpretations with different objects as aircraft, balloons, satellites, etc. that the 'Vigilantes' thought, were spaceships from Pleiades or Zeta Reticuli. The climax of videos came soon. Maussan assures he

has many hundreds of videos – "just real ones". In any case, it is very strange that he always shows no more than 10 different ones.

Within this video collection, Maussan claims to have footage of a military airplane as it follows a UFO. The day 16th September, 1991 (Mexican independence). He has always 'forgotten' to show the sequence in which the UFO is being chased by the plane, and all we can see is a series of six planes making acrobatic movements and, far away, a metallic object that could easily be a balloon.

Anyone who sees these videos will note that in most cases that the objects are just balloons and planes. We know that a hoaxer sent a UFO video to Maussan in which he used a balloon and Maussan has said many times that the video is a probe from an extraterrestrial ship. By the end of 1993, in the last UFO programme before the Nino Canun Show was suspended, Maussan finally presented his 'mysterious contactee'; Carlos Diaz, a professional photographer who lives in Tepoztlan, Morelos.

He claims he is in contact with extraterrestrials that are very concerned for our ecology. As proof, he presented a series of photographs in which you can see an 'extraterrestrial ship' Not many stories have received as much attention as Diaz's. Of course this was due to a great publicity campaign, keeping the witness anonymous for more than a year. As a test of the authenticity of Diaz's story, Maussan presents the analysis made by the, "... scientist and consultant of NASA, Jim Diletozzo." This analysis indicate that the UFOs are living beings made of "cellular plasma". The team of Perspectivas Ufologicas already knew Carlos Diaz who, 13 years ago, tried to sell some of his photographs to Hector Chavarria, in that time director of Contactos Extraterrestres.

At that time, Chavarria didn't buy the photos. As it seems, Diaz already got a new buyer. At this moment, we haven't been able to interview Diaz in order to obtain more information because he and Maussan have refused. Recently we knew that Diaz appeared in Spain during a UFO conference. He and Giorgio Bongiovanni, (Fratellanza Cosmica) tried to convince a more rational public about the reality of their words with little success.

EPILOGUE

The UFO wave that affected Mexico permitted the renaissance of ufology and public interest in flying saucers. UFO devotees profited a great deal with magazines, books and videos. Some contactees have come back organizing sectarian groups that wait for the end of the world. Others wait to be evacuated in to space ships from Ashtar Command. We have no abduction reports as yet, but as time passes, they will appear.

On the other side, skeptical ufologists have had the opportunity of studying UFO euphoria as never before, which offers a very interesting sociological phenomena promoted by TV and mass media. All this has permitted us to produce a small magazine: *Perspectivas Ufologicas*, in order to show the rational appraisal to UFO phenomena, almost unknown in Mexican ufology.

A STRANGE ENCOUNTER FROM THE NORTH EAST

BY GLORIA DIXON

Diana Logan's sister contacted BUFORA on the 4th January and I contacted her that evening, when she described to me the events of the morning of 2nd January 1995. Diana told me that she had observed what she could only describe as a goblin-type creature on the grass verge of the A690, on her way to work.

BACKGROUND

She contacted the Durham police, who felt she needed to speak to a wildlife expert! However Diana was adamant that she did not observe an animal, but some kind of life form she did not understand. The police eventually put someone on the phone, who after listening to the events she had experienced, put her in touch with BUFORA.

Dave Newton and I visited Diana Logan at her home near Crook in Co. Durham on Saturday, 7th January 1995. Her family were present during our discussion and they were, her husband, daughter and sister. Diana is 39 years of age and we found her to be a very down to earth lady, with no particular interest in UFO and other related phenomena. Diana's husband, however, has always been interested in unusual phenomena, and likes to watch programmes covering this subject. Diana's sister, has had some experiences that appear to be of a paranormal nature, and Diana's daughter is 17 years old and appeared to be curious about what her mother had seen. They all supported Diana's experience, in that they confirmed that 'if that is what she said she saw, then that is exactly what she saw, as she is not prone to fantasy'. They are puzzled that she did not tell any of them about this encounter until the following evening, which they stated in the interview is very contradictory to the open nature of her character normally.

THE EVENT

Diana and her sister took us with them in the car Diana was driving on the morning of 2nd January 1995, to the area of the A690, where she claims to have observed this small creature. We pulled alongside the part of the road where she had made the observation. There is a grass verge with a slight incline, which then levels out to a fence lining the area beyond of fields and countryside. This is how Diana observed this creature walking towards her on the grass verge and then walking sideways up the incline of the grass verge towards the fence at the top. Certainly looking out of her passenger window and pulling alongside, she would have been very close to it. Diana describes the events of that morning in the following way.

'Well, I got up as usual to go to work, and I always check the time because I start work at half seven [am], and I left the house at five past seven, and it would be approximately at ten past seven, I was proceeding along the A690 towards

WITNESS:

DIANA LOGAN (PSEUDONYM)

PLACE:

A690, NR. BRANCEPETH VILLAGE, CO. DURHAM

DATE:

2ND JANUARY 1995

Durham, where I work. Brancepeth Castle is on the right hand side, and just past the castle on the left hand side the road tends to get wider... it's not a duel carriageway, but it's a quicker road then through the village [Brancepeth Village]. Through the front windscreen of my car, I saw this small object moving in a puppet-like action. I slowed right down alongside it and looked out of the left hand passenger window, and saw what appeared to be a little man walking... about less than table height... two foot something, I would estimate it at. As I slowed alongside it, I was quite amazed and tried to take it all in, and I was amused as well. At first I thought someone was playing a trick with a remote control. It was quite dark but, I could see it from the front windscreen, and I slowed right down alongside it. I caught it in my lights. The dashboard and everything lit up in the car on the inside. I could see it from the side view as well, when I pulled alongside it. I would estimate it to be about two yards away or something like that. I slowed right down to observe it... virtually to a standstill, so I was in first gear, and I watched in amazement as it was walking. I was more amused with its puppet-like movement, and I took particular notice of the detail of its head, and the shape of its body. The head was not pointed at the top, but fairly oval, and the chin was like slightly pointed and I could see, like an almond shaped eye. It was like a side view, as it was walking, and I sort of just looked at it, but it didn't look at me. I was alongside it, and it was to my side, and it sort of kept on walking, but I could see like an almond shaped eye at the side of its head.'

At this point I interjected to ask Diana exactly what she meant by an almond shaped eye. She explained this as follows.

'My daughters' eyes are sort of almond shaped, but bigger and more distinct than hers... quite a bit more distinct. I didn't see any other features on this character, just mainly this eye and its movement. I was watching its movement, its action and how it walked, and I was sort of amused with it.'

I asked her why she was amused rather than shocked or frightened. She tried to explain this.

'No, it was bloody unbelievable... you don't see anything like this! It was yellow in colour, not bright yellow, it was like a mid yellow, and it wasn't like a shiny finish... mustardy, and dull... and it was quite slim in build, but I would think it would probably be in proportion with its body, because with it being so small, it wasn't like thick set, it was slimly built. That's all I can really remember about it. It didn't have any feet or hands that I noticed, and it was walking with a sort of puppet-like action. It was like its arms were coming up and it was sort of doing this. (Diana went on to show us the walking movement of this creature, which looked very similar to a puppet on strings, with the arms and

legs moving up and down) that sort of movement, but not as quick as that, a slower movement. Like I say I pulled alongside and watched it, and it didn't look at me, it just kept walking to the side, and I watched it for a while until it walked on a bit further, then I started to pull away with the car. As I pulled away, I got a few yards and I stopped the car, and I was going to put it into reverse gear. I looked in my mirror and there were no cars or anything behind me and then I decided better of it and I thought no, I'll carry on and I'll go to work.'

We asked Diana why, after what she had seen she wasn't more curious to maybe get out of her car. She says.

'I don't know, I can't explain that. The only thing I could think was that it was a leprechaun. My perception of this little man, was a leprechaun, and it was a real live one, and it was a little man, and that's all there was to it.'

We then asked her whether it was possible that she was observing a child. She replied...

'The police asked me that when I spoke to them... are you sure it wasn't a small child. It was because of the proportion of it and the build, and because I've worked with children and I've seen all types of children, from babies up to young adults, and nothing was in that proportion at all. It didn't even resemble a child. It was of slim proportions, two foot something, and it was like a little leprechaun man.'

When asked to explain why she felt she was observing a man. Diana explained in the following way

'That was my perception of it. You know like you see a diving suit type of thing and it looked all in one like that. You could see the shape of it... its arms and legs and the movement, but it looked all like the same colour. I don't know, I just referred to it as a man.'

We then asked Diana, whether she noticed the colour of its face.

'It was all the same, except for the distinction of the almond shaped eye, which looked darker, it just looked like black, dark compared to the rest

When asked how she felt about what she saw, Diana responded,

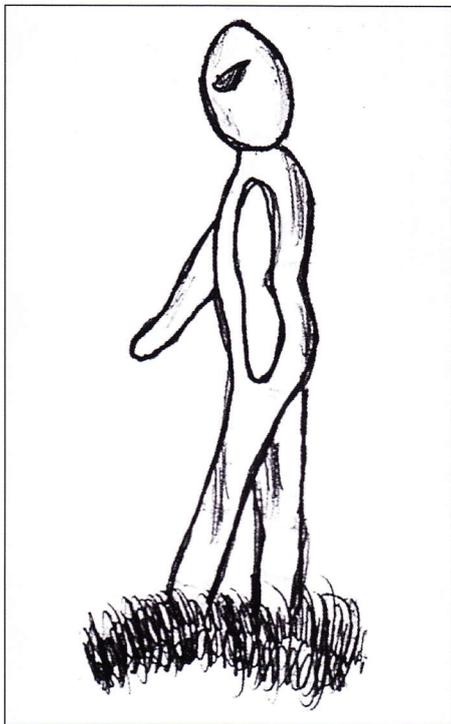
'To tell you truth I haven't thought that much more about it, since the family... they're like curious, and they keep asking, but I'm not interested to even bother about it now. I don't want other people to know about it and I wouldn't talk to other people or anything.'

We were most interested to know why Diana, after having seen something so strange, did not think much more about it until the following evening, and she told us that she couldn't understand that herself and explains...

'Well, I'm not really into fantasy and unbelievable things. I generally just read true stories and things, and it was too unbelievable.'

CONCLUSIONS

I have spoken with Diana several times by phone, as well as speaking with her at her home near Crook. She is absolutely adamant that she



saw the creature she describes as a 'leprechaun', and frankly, I can see no reason at all for her to be inventing a story of this nature. She does not want any publicity at all, and does not wish her name to be used in any documentation of this encounter. In addition Diana has no interest in UFO and other related phenomena and the impression she gave both Dave Newton and myself, was that she was an extremely pragmatic lady. She certainly gave no indication at all of being fantasy prone or capable of hoaxing a story such as this.

I have to say that I find it puzzling and also intriguing that Diana did not tell anyone about the strange creature she had seen until the evening of the following day. The combination of this, and the fact she drove away from observing this creature, and continued her journey to work, stopping for petrol at a garage, seems to be extremely significant. Diana stressed how unusual it was that she never mentioned this to her family or anyone, until the following day, especially something as bizarre as this. I contacted the Durham Police about this sighting, which was a difficult one to say the very least! According to their computer there were no other reports of a sighting of this nature, but they did promise they would get in touch should there be anything like this reported to them in the future. I have also spoken of this sighting on a regional news programme and documented it in a local newspaper. Unfortunately, this has not brought forth any further information from anyone else.

I believe this area has had some unusual sightings of strange creatures, and one that comes to mind would be the Fencehouses incident in 1976 when two women walking near their homes there saw a small oval object and two small beings with large round eyes and white hair. I believe this was investigated by Jenny Randles and has been documented in a several of her books. Of course the Ilkley Moor entity is significant in relation to this case if indeed there is no hoax involved, and possibly the Redcar case of George and Amanda Phillips, where they also observed small childlike creatures in a 'dream' type experience

SANTILLI FILM UP-DATE

BY PHILIP MANTLE, DIRECTOR OF INVESTIGATIONS

In late 1995 I was handed a few frames of film by Ray Santilli, allegedly from the original film stock. My colleague John Spencer (BUFORA Chairman), in conjunction with Hasan Shah films in London, contacted Kodak UK to see if it would be possible analyse the few frames given.

Peter Milson, Kodak's Marketing Planning Manager (Motion Picture & Television Imaging) had this to say in a letter to John Spencer dated 26 January, 1996.

"... As you may be aware determining the precise age of a film is almost impossible. The best we at Kodak can do is to give an indication of the age based on 2 or 3 tests:

1. Free Acid and pH.

As a piece of film ages then the Acetate base will try to revert to one of its original components, namely Acetic Acid.

Measurements can be done to calculate the Free Acid levels and pH, which give an indication of age, but of course this data does vary as a function of film storage in terms of humidity, temperature and storage medium.

We would require approx. 6 inches of film for each of the tests.

2. Perforation Shrinkage.

Also as the film ages there is a tendency for the distance between the perforations to shrink. Again this shrinkage is dependent upon time, temperature and humidity.

We would require approx. 15 feet for this experiment. This is because we need to measure the shrinkage over several feet to get a good average figure.

So the bottom line is that we would require approx. 16 feet to do all the tests. I hope this is satisfactory, but if you have any questions or concerns, please call me..."

A copy of this letter from Kodak was sent to Bob Shell for comment. Bob wrote to Peter Milson at Kodak UK and seems to disagree with his conclusions.

"Dear Mr. Milson,

Mr. Philip Mantle of BUFORA has kindly sent me a copy of your letter of 26th January to John Spencer.

As you may know, I am the principal photographic investigator working on this project, and have been working with Tony Amato (Kodak) in Rochester to try to arrange for testing to determine age. I have also consulted with a number of film experts with museums and other organisations, and have accumulated quite a bit of information on film dating.

On your first test, your comments indicate no awareness of the change in film base in 1957 from Cellulose Acetate Propionate to Triacetate. A simple test can determine if film is on old Propionate base, and therefore made prior to 1957. It requires only a very small piece of film to make this test. If the film tests out as pre-1957 and has a triangle and square edge code, then it most certainly is either 1927 or 1947 film.

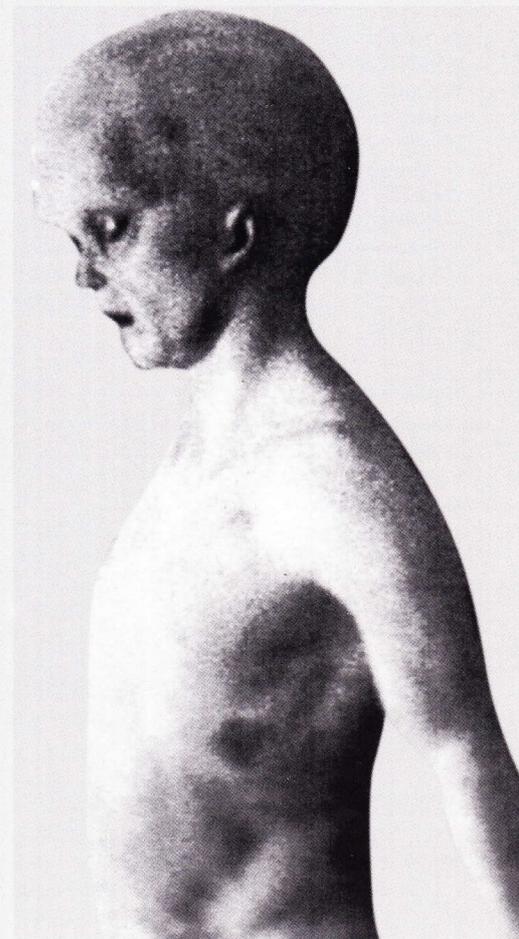
Your letter also indicates no awareness of the change in perforating machinery in 1959-60. I am assured that a 60 frame strip is sufficient to make this test, and has already been done on other film samples for me by Kodak in Denver and established that those other samples were from 1945. Again, if a section of film tests out as being perforated prior to the 1959-60 change, is on the propionate base, and has the appropriate edge markings, it would be from 1927 or 1947. Since no one has seriously suggested that this film was shot in 1927, this would place it conclusively as 1947.

I can assure you that it is highly unlikely that the owners of the film will agree to part with the 16 feet you requested of this priceless film. I am sat present negotiating for the 60 frame strip requested by Kodak USA, and hope to be able to provide it to them in the very near future.

I respectfully disagree with your blanket statement that determining the precise age of the film is almost impossible.

Bob Shell."

As yet, the exact age of Ray Santilli's film has yet to be satisfactorily determined. Should Bob Shell or anyone else for that matter offer any further information on the Santilli film, we will endeavour to bring the news to you via *UFO Times*.



RESEARCH UPDATE – CRASHED SAUCERS

BY STEVE GAMBLE, DIRECTOR OF RESEARCH

BUFORA now has a wide ranging and more active research programme extending over many aspects of UFO and related phenomena. In past issues of UFO Times we have looked at some of the different aspects of this research programme. In this Research Update I want to concentrate mainly on one of the more glamorous areas of research, the investigation of alleged crashed flying saucers. However, before I move to the main topic, just a quick reminder that offers of help with any of the projects discussed in this and other editions of Research Update, particularly the Warminster Initiative and skywatch co-ordination, would be most welcome.

The subject of alleged Crashed Flying Saucers is one that has run for a long time and is likely to run for a long time more. It is my personal belief that in the whole subject of UFOs we are dealing with, not one, but multiple phenomena. There are the strange distant light phenomena, which may turn out after detailed study to be some form of natural phenomenon. Then there are the abduction reports.

Clearly something is going on here, showing many effects which are normally associated with other aspects of the paranormal, but I believe that we have not got to the bottom of these cases yet.

The alleged crashed flying saucer reports fill a strange middle ground where they might be evidence of some physical phenomenon. When I first became interested in UFOs many years ago the reports of alleged Flying Saucer capture were amongst the first material that I read. All the reports I heard about appeared to be many years old. There was little in the way of confirmed evidence and I soon left this material behind me. Over the past couple of years my interest in reports of crashed flying saucers was reawakened by three events. Firstly there were reports of a crashed disk recovered from the Kalahari Desert in 1989 which extensively did the rounds of UFO journals. Around the same time I received anonymously through the post copies of photographs and documents allegedly relating to a crash at Carp, Ontario, Canada, in 1991. Both these incidents have been investigated by a number of researchers, and are thought to be most probably hoaxes. The third incident was the rumour of a crashed saucer somewhere in northern England. This rumour just seems to have died.

SUMS

The crashed saucer reports should be put in context. There are around 100 alleged crash retrievals from around the world, including those already identified as probable hoaxes. (Of course, there may well be other incidents which would be classed as crash retrievals but are currently undiscovered.) About five per cent of the UK population believe they have seen a UFO. If we scale this up and take the whole world population as being 5000 million people, there should be around 250 million people world-wide who at one time or another have seen something they would consider a UFO. Although many reports only have a single witness, there are also many multiple witness reports. Lets say, for the purposes of argument, that the average number of witnesses for each case is 2.5 (it makes the maths easier!). That means that there should be 100 million UFO cases, however only 10% of

cases ever get reported, so that comes down to there should be 10 million reports world wide. Of course, my estimates may be out by a factor of 10, so if we work on a figure of 1 million reports it can be seen that alleged crash reports represent at best something like one in ten thousand UFO reports!

Whilst we are putting things in perspective it would also be worth stating that the Roswell incident is but one of these 100 reports and that Ray Santilli's (and the other) films are but one of the many aspects to the Roswell case. Apart from following up Ray Santilli's and the other alleged Roswell films, there have been a number of lines of investigation that the BUFORA Research team have been following up. Nabil Shaban has been following up possible UK-based witnesses to alleged saucer crashes.

In a recent book (The UFO Phenomena – Headline Books, 1995) Edward Ashpole, in a chapter primarily about the Roswell incident, asks "One can admire the persistence of the investigators, but one would want to know how many of the 160 persons interviewed were scientists who had worked on the recovered saucer and alien bodies?" He also supplies the reply, "The answer to that question is apparently none." The published books on the Roswell incident mention a nurse who told the local mortician, Glenn Dennis, about the bodies recovered along with the wreckage. She had apparently been involved in an examination of one of the bodies, so is, perhaps, the nearest there was to a 'scientific' witness. But good news is usually balanced by bad news.

Glenn Dennis was told that the nurse was killed a few weeks later in an air crash during a training exercise in England. This appears to be something which the investigators have been unable to confirm.

The BUFORA Research team have been working on trying to confirm that such a crash did indeed take place. Various members of the team, particularly Matthew Williams, Philip Taylor and Neil Doyle, have been checking old newspaper records for crashes of US military planes during the period July 1947 to June 1948. Most of these records consist of only a couple of lines. However, there seem to be around 200 plane crashes in 1947/48, so they were hardly rare events that required extensive news coverage. Arnold West, who was employed in the air transport industry, was able to tell us that the current system in the UK for recording and extensively investigating every air incident did not come into being until between 1950 and 1952. This could explain the poor state of records for the period of interest.

WRECKAGE

In the book, The Roswell Incident (Charles Berlitz and William Moore, Granada Publishing, 1980), mention is made that Lieutenant Colonel Payne Jennings, who took command of the Roswell base when the base commander suddenly went on leave the day after the wreckage was found at Brazel's farm, was killed in an air crash on route to England soon after the event. It is tempting to link this crash with the one involving the nurse, but as we have seen above there were many crashes at the time, so this may be a red herring. Berlitz and Moore also state that Jesse Marcel was due to be on the same flight as Jennings but was pulled off at the last moment by the base commander. It might have just been lucky for Marcel, but if I subscribed to conspiracy and cover-up theories, it could also look, with the nurse, Jennings and Marcel out of the way, as if somebody was trying to clean up.

We have been following up enquiries relating to the alleged Roswell films. Matthew Williams is following up on a lead to a company that will produce custom film emulsions to a customer's supplied formula and another company that can produce small runs of film. We have also been looking at ways to artificially age film, i.e. to make new film appear as if it had been produced many years ago. There is also some suggestion that film similar to Kodak XX movie film was produced in eastern Europe until very recently. Given that the Morgana people have already shown that an acceptable dummy can be produced (see UFO Times 37, or copy on BUFORA On-Line) and we now may have a means of producing 'genuine' 1947 Kodak film; if you had sufficient time and money you could reproduce all the Roswell footage.

This is all useful background research and in no way is offered as evidence that any of the Roswell films are faked. There is little evidence, either for or against, any of the films being faked or genuine or anything else. It has to be remembered that at the time I write this, the researchers have not had the opportunity to interview the photographer who took any of the films or anybody else who can provide any history of the films before Ray Santilli became aware of the first of the material in 1993. At this point in time the researchers have, apart from a couple of frames of film probably from a reel leader, only had video transfers to work from.

BURNOUT

Some people have pointed out that when cine film is transferred to video there is often a loss of contrast. The video transfers from the Roswell films seem to have enhanced contrast

with frequent 'burn-out' in the bright areas, the opposite of what might be expected. However, the statement Ray Santilli has, which he says is from one of the alleged photographers, states that the film he (the photographer) retained needed to be push processed. The labels from some of the film cans that people have seen recommend push-processing by up to two stops. Push processing is a way of processing underexposed film to make it act as if it were higher speed film and thereby produce an acceptable image where normal processing would produce either a very poor image or no image at all. The downside to this is that a very high contrast and very grainy image is produced. The film can labels appear to say that it should be push processed by two stops, which implies that the film received only one quarter of the light it would need to produce a normal image. On this point, there is consistency between the statement of the photographer and what appears in the video.

Yet again I have run out of space. Crashed Saucers will no doubt be a subject I will return to in the future. Do not run away with the idea that either Crashed Saucers or the alleged Roswell films are the only aspects to the BUFORA Research programme. A list of current projects is maintained at the BUFORA ON-LINE web site and runs to about 20 projects. Offers of help are always welcome. In signing off, I will remind readers that the next two Research Meetings will be held at the University of Westminster, 35 Marylebone Road, London, N.W.1., on Saturday 5th October 1996 and Saturday 4th January 1997. If you wish to attend, please contact me. By the time you read this, we hope to have notes of the recent research meetings available in the Members area of BUFORA On-Line, where they will be archived.

ACTION IN CLACTON

Triangular objects reported over resort

REPORT BY ROS REYNOLDS

May Day saw the first of several reports where witnesses are claiming to have seen triangular shaped objects around the Clacton-on-Sea area. A Plough Corner resident saw the 'craft' at about 10.50. As he turned the corner and drove down the road, the object followed and continued following him to Holland-o-Sea. It then disappeared or went out of sight.

Around the dates of May 5th and May 14th, numerous sightings of triangular shaped objects were seen by many people around the Clacton area. These coincided with sightings of similar objects in the Derby area on or around the same dates. At the moment, I know of five independent sightings via the local newspaper, all who have described the same object. In the meantime I have come across at least three other people who have seen it and had several further phone calls with leads of another dozen or so people who have seen something around Clacton on those dates.

Once we have more details, a fuller report will appear in these pages. If anyone has any further information in connection with the Derby sightings please contact Ros Reynolds e.mail: ros@petbeds.demon.co.uk

DATELINE: ARGENTINA UFO CAPTURED ON VIDEO

NEWS REPORT BY ANDY ROBERTS

South America has yet again been the focus for a dramatic UFO sighting which has been caught on video. The Argentinean State news agency Telam reported that on Thursday 5 October 1995, a local cable TV employee managed to shoot 15 minutes of "high quality video footage."

Cameraman Gerardo Ferrero was alerted to the UFO by a neighbour and immediately set his camera up to film the UFO which he estimated was approximately 2-3 miles south east of his position. The UFO pulsed "violet, green and red as it turned on its axis" according to Ferrero and after bringing it into close focus via his telephoto lens he reported that he was able to see "small windows in its circumference as it spun and moved up and down." Throughout the filming, which only ended when Ferrero ran out of film, he had considerable difficulty keeping the object in focus. Subsequent digital enhancement seemed to indicate that whatever he had captured on film "had the form of a plate or saucer", which "changed from place to place as though it was spinning."

FOOTPRINTS

The same news report also gave sketchy details of how the Argentinean air force were analysing the film, their interest strengthened by earlier reports, from July of the same year, of a UFO – said to be similar to the one Ferrero filmed – seen to touch down on the flight path of Bariloche airport.

The witness to this event, one Nestor Etcharte, claimed to have discovered "three foot deep circular footprints" where the event took place and accordingly summoned Air Force investigators who managed to retrieve samples of a "gelatine like substance" from the immediate area. Witness Etcharte alleges that this substance – a perennial finding at the site of many UFO events – solidified within hours into a substance as hard as rock which cannot be cut or analysed.

This UFO incident was also witnessed by passengers and crew of an airliner and ground crew at the airport, which lies some 1260 miles to the southwest of Buenos Aires, reported watching the UFO pacing the aircraft which had to abort its landing to avoid colliding with the UFO. The Air Force are continuing with their investigation into both cases and have already proclaimed Ferrero's video as "unexplained." A hint of government conspiracy creeps into the news report when it finally claims that the Argentinean government has attempted to discourage any reporting of the Bariloche sighting due to the fact that a political summit was to be held in Bariloche in mid October with Latin American heads of state, Spain's King Juan Carlos and the president of Portugal due to attend.

Rather than take this news report at face value, we need to look at the problems and possibilities. As yet no one in the UK has seen the film so we can only comment on the report,

and the report, whilst appearing exciting could have several explanations.

Consider: looking at this as a serious ufologist, with only the data in the news report at hand, what would immediately spring to mind as an explanation? Well, anything which appears to be stationary for any length of time, which is hard to focus on through lenses and which jumps and pulses with colour seems to indicate it is a star or planet seen low on the horizon.

Unfortunately, we have only the basic facts to go on so this must remain supposition for the moment pending more facts on the case and a report from a ufologist who has seen the video. Similarly the connection between the alleged UFO and the 'jelly like substance' and the 'footprints' is extremely tenuous as it stands at the moment.

If the samples genuinely were unable to be analysed or cut we should await an official geologists report on the specifics of the case before jumping to any conclusions.

ALERT

The news report, taken by BUFORA from an on-line news service went on to detail what seems to be an on-going 'flap' in the neighbouring country of Chile. A plethora of sightings in the vicinity of Chile's capital city Santiago reportedly led the country's armed forces to issue a security alert. Officialdom is taking the UFO sightings seriously following a spate of sightings from Rancagua, seventy miles south of Santiago where thousands of people reported seeing UFOs in the night sky. The local daily newspaper, La Cuarta received an official security alert from the FACH 2nd Brigade's Aerial Operations HQ and reporters from the paper went on to interview witnesses to the UFOs who described what they had seen as being "large shining objects, mostly red on top and perhaps 10 feet in diameter, with an elongated oval shape and tail from which multi-coloured sparks flew as the objects moved away." This paucity of reliable and comprehensive information gives us little to go on again but most UFO events which have 'thousands' of witnesses invariably have a mundane and prosaic explanation.

South America has played host to some remarkable and singular UFO events over the past fifty years, yet none of the promise offered by the news reports or the investigators ever seems to come to fruition. Will these events occupy the same status or will they become a 'classic' ground traces, sightings and video evidence which enlarge our perception of the UFO phenomenon? *UFO Times* will be monitoring the case closely and will bring you an update in the next issue.

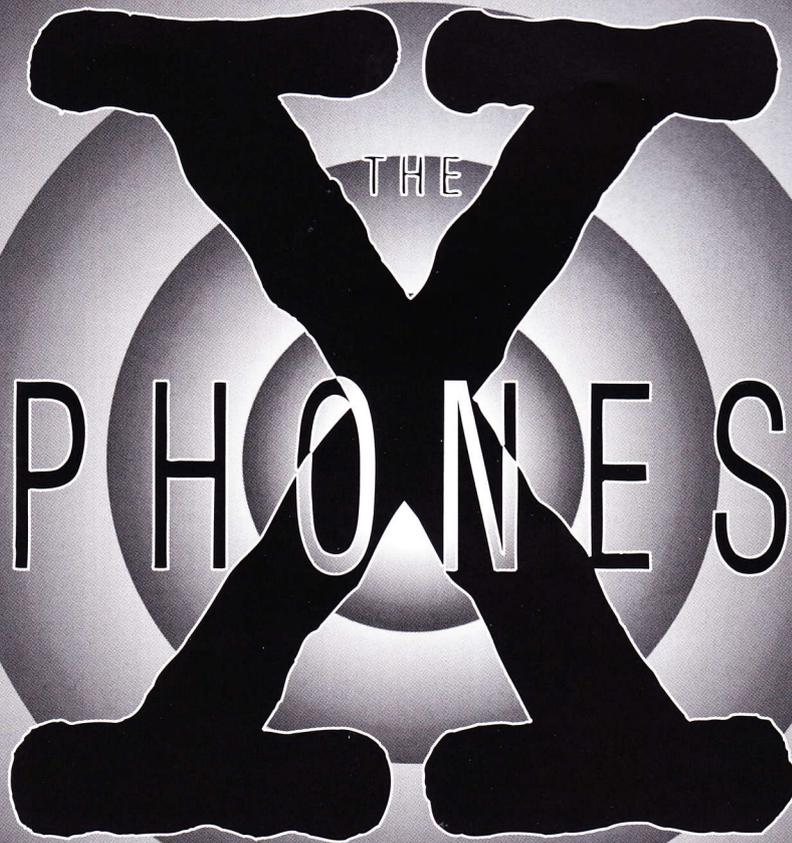
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QUEST INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE – NEWCASTLE

A REVIEW BY DAVE NEWTON

There are some days where every minute is well spent. The 6th April was not one of them. It has been a couple of years since I last went to a Quest conference in the Civic Centre and I can remember the last time their roadshow came into town. It was over the top, but fairly good fun. This time, it was still over the top, but I left feeling very unhappy with Quest International.

The first speaker of the day was Graham Birdsall, the editor of UFO Magazine. He gave an overview of UFO history for the benefit of the novices in the audience: he went over Kenneth Arnold, Project Blue Book, the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA), Britain's own Defence Secretariat 8, Air Staff 2a and Defence Intelligence 55, etc., with the emphasis on the Government Cover-Up. He very nicely said a very special hello to all of the military and intelligence personnel he thinks turn up to these conferences (ah, but did they pay for tickets like everyone else?).

Graham also covered the Aurora and Stealth aircraft, Area 51, underground tunnels and bases, the censorship of FOIA documents and Captain Zaghehetti's aerial near miss in April 1991.

After a one hour lunch break he introduced the well spoken Sri Lankan guest, Ananda Sirisena who spoke about the Face and Monuments on Mars. I didn't find any of it at all convincing. With so many craters, shattered rocks and eroded features on the surface of the desert planet, inevitably you will find some things that look like a face and a pyramid or two.

Pick any Viking photograph and discover faces, pyramids and geometrical patterns to your heart's desire. As for the "city centre" complex, I think I will continue to go to the Metro Centre instead. The one on Mars looks decidedly closed.

THE PLACE:

CIVIC CENTRE, SATURDAY 6TH APRIL 1996

THE SPEAKERS:

GRAHAM BIRDSALL, ANANDA SIRISENA AND TONY DODD

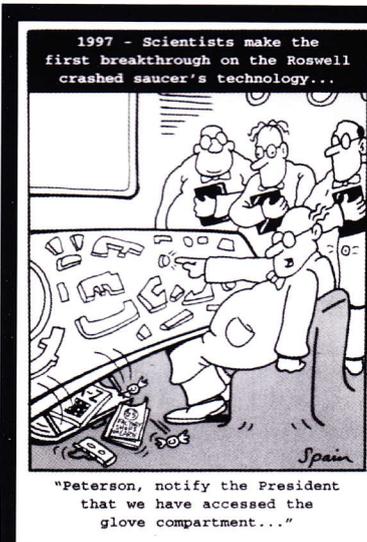
These first two talks paled in comparison to the presentation given by Tony Dodd. It was a triumph of rumour and hearsay over solid evidence, which I found astonishing coming from a former policeman. He gave no names, and only the most general outlines of dates and places. He talked of huge numbers of animal mutilations, carcasses with holes in their heads and the brain and spinal column removed; of a Scottish village where sheep were mutilated in such numbers that the villagers were terrified of a vampire, which made the front page of the local newspaper (the village not identified, or the newspaper, or the date – why not?); of large numbers of seals being found in the Orkneys with their heads surgically removed; and even a human mutilation from Brazil! Again, all of the details given were exceedingly vague, but at least he backed up this one with some very gruesome slides.

Tony talked about "greys" abducting humans, mostly women, for cold and cruel medical experiments; he spoke of "scoop marks" and inserts made through the navel; and implants up the noses and in the feet of the abductees. He claimed that surgeons in the US had removed some of these implants, and that they were identical in all the abductees. So then: Who were these surgeons? Who were the abductees? Can we see these implants? No. Slides of them? No. Any evidence at all that they exist? No. Any solid evidence that abductions physically take place at all? Don't be silly.

We were also treated to rumours of missing Stealth ships (no evidence to back it up, such as lists of missing crewmen, naval press releases, etc.), alien USOs mining radioactive minerals from the ocean floor, and tales of governments working in cahoots with the little grey chaps. Plus, Tony is still getting mileage out of the death threats from alleged CIA operatives, and the Kalahari UFO crash that virtually all ufologists are now agreed never happened. Undeterred, Tony now claims to have spoken to the South African woman who autopsied the dead alien. Watch out Tony, she might try selling you the video footage of it next. (The other alien, supposedly still alive, was shipped to Wright Patterson AFB in the United States. Why on Earth would the South Africans do that? The whole story smells verse and has more holes in it than a Swiss cheese). Tony Dodd is a Believer. So were the other two speakers, but in Tony's case it is obvious that he has elevated the study of UFOs into a religion. No evidence required – only faith. To distill the afternoon into its three main messages, this is what we get:

1. The aliens are going to kill and mutilate poor pets;
2. Then they will abduct you, and stick things up your nose; and
3. The government will make sure you can't do anything to stop it.

Twaddle. But it was just the sort of thing the other believers in the audience wanted to hear. This is the kind of ufology that allows the media and the critics to brand all ufologists as gullible fools and nutcases. For the young and the open minded in the audience it would be scary twaddle. So remember kids, just like the bogeyman, there is no evidence for any of this, either. Pleasant dreams.

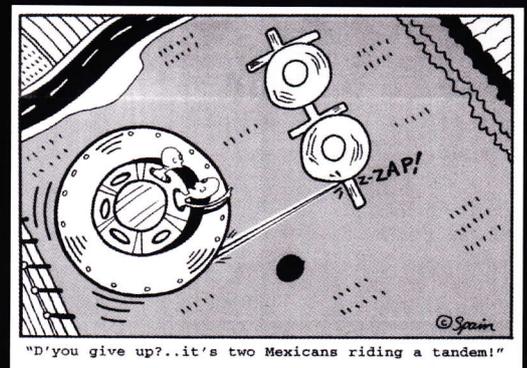


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CONFIDENTIAL

GALAXY UFO SIGHTING

I thought your readers may wish to hear of the following episode concerning UFOs, details of a sighting several years ago by an associate of mine. The eyewitness, who shall remain anonymous due to his presence on some Defence committees and the sensitive nature of the subject, is an ex-RAF Pilot of about 28 years service; 14 years of which as a Training Instructor.

However in '69 whilst on secondment to the USAF (which included a spell flying in Vietnam) my informant told me he witnessed a UFO whilst flying a Galaxy Transporter over the Saudi city of Mula Idris, on the way back to a German base. His plane was at an altitude of 37,000ft, speed 500mph, but the UFO was seen at 75,000ft for a few minutes. It was, he told me, "... like something out of Dan Dare." It was semi-spherical, between 30-50ft in circumference, and appeared like 2 saucers (inverted) joined together. A major feature of the sighting were the

colours red, green and yellow briefly around the Disc. The Galaxy has a 'ceiling' of 50,000ft.

In Germany, at the Debriefing session, concentration was on the phenomena of the Disc's colours. It is still unknown why the USAF were so interested in the colours.

Obviously, as a vastly experienced pilot, I asked if he'd heard of sightings by other pilots. He replied in the affirmative. It seems that, "... single seater jet jockeys have seen much more" due to their access to higher altitudes. But RAF pilots have to be 'absolutely certain' of what they have seen as the 'ridicule factor' is strong. I was still surprised to hear of this encounter - the MOD as I'm sure you know, enforces 30 years, silence on sensitive defence issues. But, as some of your researchers know, Government Defence Agencies know a great deal about the UFO presence in our skies.

NICHOLAS CROSSLAND SHEFFIELD

PLAYING THE PERCENTAGES

I am receiving your always very interesting magazine, number 39, January/February 1996. I read, a good article on pages 11-13, written by Rob Bull about the IFO percentages.

On Page 11, you quote SOS OVNI (France, P. Petrakis). SOS OVNI, is not however, a UFO research association, but rather a man (P. Petrakis), with some friends, who managed successively two reviews:

1- OVNI-PrÉsence, then in 1990: 2- Phenomena.

Up to the mid-1980s, OVNI-PrÉsence conducted a few investigations about some so-called UFO sightings and published some of them in its pages. But, after a curious change was noted in the behaviour of its staff. It was le "socio-psychology" era, and all researches stopped. All the pages of the review then were devoted to harsh critics to ufology "nuts and bolts" fans in a general manner, and explanations of diverse UFO-sightings or other kind of ancient and new so-called strange events, in particular, in rather rationalistic terms.

Today, it seems that OVNI-PrÉsence has disappeared from the French UFO field. The rumour claims that another review will appear soon devoted to denunciation of false sciences... wait and see.

The other review, Phenomena, don't publish UFO-reports and inquiries relative to CE 1, CE 2, CE 3, CE 4, etc... because P. Petrakis is not interested with this kind of information. More, there is not the least field-investigator among the three or four writers working for this review. Most articles are written by P. Petrakis and two partners only, rarely more! And these articles are generally written with a very ambiguous state of mind, that is the least I can say.

OK, in France, we are in a country of Freedom, and P. Petrakis is allowed to publish what he wants. But, the problem is this one: what credit do you give to somebody who doesn't conduct field investigations, but claims that 98% of reports are IFOs? I am very curious to know your answer.

More seriously, I bring your attention the fact that GEPAN, an official group of scientific research devoted to UFO-sightings, a Department of the CNES (Centre National d'Études Spatiales) the French NASA, published in 1979, statistics upon 678 so-called UFO-reports obtained with the French Gendarmerie (Military Police department of the Defence Ministry). In other words, these reports were furnished by professional investigators, and not UFO investigators or newsclippings! More, these statistics were released for five years: 1974 up to 1978. The results appear below:

Analysis of reports from the Gendarmerie 678 reports 1974/1978

| CLASS | DEFINITION | Number | % |
|-------|--------------------------|--------|-----|
| A | Identified | 23 | 3.3 |
| B | Probable Identified | 153 | 22 |
| C | Insufficient Information | 239 | 35 |
| D | Non-Identified | 255 | 38 |
| | TOTAL | 678 | |

In these official statistics, IFOs represent 3.3%! Yes, 3.3%, but you can add also the 22% of the category B: the reports which were "probably identified", what mean: 25.3% of IFOs only! Please note that UFOs represent 38%.

CLASSES A AND B RESULT BREAKDOWN

| | |
|-------------------|----|
| AIRCRAFT | 30 |
| BALLOON | 25 |
| RE-ENTRIES | 20 |
| PLANET | 18 |
| MOON | 10 |
| BOLIDE | 9 |
| HELICOPTER | 8 |
| SATELITE | 6 |
| ROCKET | 5 |
| STAR | 4 |
| SUN | 4 |
| CLOUD | 3 |
| HOT AIR BALLOON | 2 |
| FIRE | 2 |
| TRAINING AIRCRAFT | 2 |
| ELECTRICAL | 2 |
| FIRECRACKER | 1 |
| ICE BLOCK | 1 |
| HOAX | 1 |

I think that the British honest researchers interested with the UFO mystery than would be very interested with OFFICIAL STATISTICS, rather to read the so-called 98% of IFOs alleged by somebody who don't conduct field-investigations about this subject.

Please note that I am not a UFO-buff, and besides I think that UFO sightings are not the result of an extraterrestrial intelligence.

JEAN SIDER FRANCE

PS: Address of CNES (SEPPA) 18 avenue Edouard Belin, 31400, Toulouse, France. Head of SEPPA (ex-GEPAN): Mr. Jean-Jacques Velasco.

Editors comment: Thanks Jean for your extremely interesting material.

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BM BUFORA, London,
WC1N 3XX
You can e.mail us at
mwootten@dial.pipex.com

ROSWELL FOOTAGE

I have not been fortunate enough, as yet, to see the entire Santilli Roswell autopsy footage currently available for public consumption but I have seen the various excerpts in the Channel 4 documentary on the subject of the Roswell incident and much of the discussion that followed the release of the film.

Whilst the dating of telephone cords and the techniques employed by the special effects industry are hotly debated, in all the discussions about the reality of the events depicted in the film that I have seen, no-one has asked if this film can really represent what it was intended to be.

Assuming the various events at Roswell did actually occur and autopsies were carried out on alien corpses, why would they have been filmed? The answer must surely have been to provide the best possible record of the autopsies for further scientific study and particularly anything which the pathologists could not preserve. (It is presumed that the autopsies were carried out hurriedly due to the deterioration of the corpses.)

I realise that military intelligence has often been stated to be a contradiction in terms and that, in the heat of the moment and the panic over secrecy, it could be argued that no-one would have considered the need for a clear and detailed film record. But I still find it extremely difficult to believe that the very best military cameramen and equipment would not have been rushed in to record these momentous events, even if it meant some delay and even if it meant a risk of compromising secrecy.

Even fairly run-of-the-mill documentary film taken by the US military in the 1940s which I have seen, albeit on television, is more often than not of good quality, often in colour and often with sound. On that basis, what could we reasonably expect for Roswell?

The Roswell photographic record would, by necessity, be of the highest quality possible at that time. Several cameras would have been employed in positions affording the maximum detail and also guarding against the failure of any one camera losing the priceless images forever.

For every motion film camera there was probably a stills camera as well. At least some of the film would be in colour, possibly even with a sound track to record the pathologists' comments and observations. What it would not have been is something tantamount to a bad home video where the filming technique and general poor quality of image would provide anything but a detailed record of events and conveniently help to disguise the fact that what was being filmed was not real.

On a different subject, I see there has been some debate about the need to improve the collection of sighting data. Recently, a work colleague of mine claimed to have seen a strange pattern of lights in the sky one night by RAF Scampton near Lincoln. Their description suggested it was not a conventional aircraft.

Regrettably, they would not report it to BUFORA by phone and would not spare the time to discuss it in detail or produce a written account. However, they did say that they would probably have been prepared to complete a suitable questionnaire had it been available.

Perhaps it would be a good idea for a sighting questionnaire, prompting responses in key areas, to be distributed through UFO Times and photocopied for handing to any UFO witnesses BUFORA members may encounter? It might be quite a useful tool.

Yours faithfully,
JONATHAN BRYANT LINCOLN

IT'S THOSE MIRAGES AGAIN

The account in Without Consent (p. 18) is the first I have seen which gives details which enable me to look for an astronomical explanation. In view of Elsie Oakensen's letter in UT35, there must be doubt that these details are correct. However, until corrected, I have to assume that Elsie was travelling from work in Daventry to home in Church Stowe and that she turned onto the A5 en route. Therefore, when she saw the strange object, she was looking roughly south-east or SSE.

In that case, the object she saw could have been a mirage of a first magnitude star. Fomalhaut was setting in the SSE and at 17.30hrs for example) was on a bearing of 161° at an altitude of only 60°. Such a mirage can have been caused by a temperature inversion.

STUART CAMPBELL explicit@cix.compulink.co.uk

Editor's comment: This explanation is as bad as saying it was the Zeta Reticulan's! You fall head first into the same trap as believers – explaining an unknown with another unknown. Where was the temperature inversion? Were the weather conditions right? You say it, "... can have been," but that's not good enough.

I've said before that your mirage theory is a good concept and I'm sure that we could explain some cases using your hypothesis, but not all.

WHEN THE GOING GETS WEIRD

Interesting review (UT40 Mar/Apr, pp. 20), in some ways. Like reading something from the past. In any case, I write for people who have already had the experience, for the most part, not for those who are curious about it.

In this sense, the proof advanced was not intended to satisfy the gent in the armchair, but to reassure the silent, frightened witness that, whatever the origin of the experience may be, it is larger than his own mind, and his encounters are not a sign that he is mad, at least not as an individual.

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27TH JULY NEWCASTLE CONFERENCE

JENNY RANGLES PLUS GUESTS

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University of Northumbria at Newcastle, Newcastle-upon-Tyne.

Admission: members £1.50, non-members £4.00 (concession £2.50).

Meetings start 2 pm. 10 minute walk from

Newcastle Central Station and main bus station.

Contact Gloria Dixon - 0191-236 8375 for further information.

7TH SEPTEMBER LONDON CONFERENCE

UFO'S - A PERSONAL VIEW LYNN PICKNETT

Former editor of The Unexplained, radio and television celebrity will update us on her views of the subject.

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.

30TH NOVEMBER LIVERPOOL CONFERENCE

INVESTIGATIONS INTO THE ABDUCTION PHENOMENA

PHILIP MANTLE & GLORIA DIXON

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.

OTHER EVENTS

20TH - 21ST JULY

THE SUPERNORMAL RESEARCH CONFERENCE '96

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.

10th - 11th AUGUST

4TH ANNUAL NORTHAMPTON UFO CONFERENCE

Lings Upper School, Billingbrook Road, Lings Northampton.

Speakers include:

Lionel Beer, Tony Eccles, John Spencer and Mathew Williams.

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