

BUFORA BULLETIN

British UFO Research Association



UFOs – Worthy of Scientific Study?

No: 4

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EDITORIAL

Steve Gamble

In my Editorial in Bulletin Number 2 I said that I was taking the helm of the magazine temporarily to keep things moving. The plan was that I would edit for three issues which would give the Council chance to approach people to take over the editorship on a more permanent basis. Well this is the third of my issues, so it is about time to hang up my keyboard.

I am pleased to be able to inform you that Robert Moore has accepted the Council's offer and will be taking over as Editor. His first edition (Bulletin 5) should be produced in September. I know that Robert has been actively seeking material and also has started building his publications team. I wish them well.

The X-files, the 50th Anniversaries of the Kenneth Arnold report and the Roswell incident combined with other factors lead to massive interest in the UFO and paranormal fields over the past couple of years. The media jumped on the bandwagon and turned the hype up to full. The sudden bursting of this bubble eliminated a number of high street paranormal magazines and did severe damage to a number of organisations. Fortunately BUFORA survives, but we have had to cut our cloth to match the new realities.

Over the past couple of years all serious reporting of UFO material seemed to go out the window. Serious researchers and investigators were widely portrayed in the press as the UK's answer to Mulder and Sculley. Any explanations of events or requests for help the UFOlogists tried to put across became submerged in a sea of X-files puns. Hopefully that is all behind us and the serious viewpoint will start to get across once more.

To say that the last year has been traumatic might be considered by some to be an understatement. The events have left BUFORA a smaller, leaner organisation but that in itself may not be a bad thing. We are now at a crossroads. Currently BUFORA falls between two stools.

On the one hand we have a number of activities which address the popular end of the market, whilst on the other hand we try to apply scientific

methods and principles. As a result we end up neither a 'popular' club nor a proper scientific society. Our current situation gives us the ideal opportunity to choose one route or the other.

My personal preference would be for BUFORA to follow the route towards being a scientific society. The recent publication of the Sturrock report in which a group of academics say there is some merit in proper scientific study of UFO reports is a welcome boost in this direction.

In closing I have to mention the unfortunate recent deaths of two long term friends of the Association.

The first I must mention is the death of the President of BUFORA, Major Sir Patrick Wall. Before failing health prevented him Sir Patrick took an active part in the Association. Not only did he take a keen interest in the subject, he was also keen to meet and listen to the people. An obituary to Sir Patrick follows this editorial.

The second I must mention is that of Ralph Noyes. Ralph was a man of many interests which lead to him being widely known and widely liked. Before retirement he had been a senior civil servant with the Ministry of Defence. In retirement he investigated and wrote about UFOs, Crop Circles and just about every other aspect of the Paranormal, he was Secretary of the Society for Psychical Research and for several years a consultant to the BUFORA Council. A fuller tribute to Ralph will appear in our next issue.

BUFORA WEB SITE

The BUFORA web site is now up and running again on its new server. Work is now starting on updating and redesigning the material.

It can be accessed at :

www.bufora.org.uk

MAJOR SIR PATRICK WALL MC VRD RM (Rtd) FIJ

Major Sir Patrick Wall, for many years the devoted President of BUFORA and a man with a long-standing interest in UFOs, has died at the age of 81.

He was born in 1916, and commissioned into the Royal Marines in 1935. During World War Two he served on several ships and was wounded in 1945 in the British Army on the Rhine. In that year he was awarded the Military Cross. He was greatly praised for his courage: his report stating: "An outstanding character whose industry and devotion to duty are beyond praise".

He entered politics in the early 1950s and served as Parliamentary Private Secretary to the then Minister of Agriculture from 1955 to 1957, then as PPS to the Chancellor of the Exchequer until 1958. He was an active Conservative politician, once Chairman of the Monday Club, and an active Roman Catholic; his daughter was married in the first Roman Catholic service in the Crypt at Westminster since the Reformation. He was knighted in 1981.

Until 1987 he was an active member of the Commons where his perception was thought to be shrewd. In 1983 he predicted that the successor to the soviet leader, Andropov, "might have to choose between disintegration of the Soviet empire and aggression". His thoughts held sway; he was a consultant to NATO for many years. He was also the author of many books on military and security matters.

During thirty years in the House he often promoted the cause of ufology asking many questions relating to their perceived defence significance. In 1989 he became the President of BUFORA and in the early years regularly attended both the AGM and conferences, often asking probing questions of overseas delegates about ufology in their countries. In later years of failing health, when he was confined to a nursing home in the south of England, he still maintained an interest in the UFO material sent to him.

John Spencer

WHAT'S ON?

NORTHAMPTON UFO GROUP SUMMER SEMINAR The Great UFO Debate – Sat 15th August 1998

This year instead of holding a conventional conference NUFORC will be organising a day where a number of topics about UFOs will be debated. The day will be split into a number of separate sessions. Each discussion will be lead by a panel made up of UFO witnesses and UFOlogists.

Topics for discussion include :

1. We shouldn't believe what witnesses tell us
2. Abductions have nothing to do with UFOs
3. Modern technology is so advanced that modern reports are not worth investigating
4. If UFOs are physical where is the evidence
5. UFOs are extraterrestrial
6. UFOs are messengers of a forthcoming catastrophe

For Further details send a large SAE to :

NUFORC, 38 Portland Road, Rushden, Northamptonshire, NN10 0DJ

MARA UFO and PARANORMAL CONFERENCE

MARA will be hosting the Merseyside UFO and Paranormal Conference this year, with a number of guest speakers presenting lectures on a variety of subjects.

This will be held on Saturday 31st October. Venue, speakers and times to be announced shortly.

For further details contact:

MARA, 52 Hawthorne Avenue, Halewood, Liverpool, L26 9XD

THE STURROCK REPORT

Between September 29th and October 4th 1997 a scientific workshop was held in New York to consider Physical Evidence Related to UFO Reports.

The workshop was organised by the Society for Scientific Exploration and was sponsored by the LSR Fund, chaired by Laurance S Rockefeller. The workshop was chaired by Dr Peter A. Sturrock, Professor of Applied Physics at Stanford University.

During the workshop evidence about UFO cases was presented to Sturrock and a scientific review panel by seven leading UFOlogists including Dr Richard Haines and Dr Jacques Vallee. Sturrock and the review panel held further sessions after the workshop to consider the evidence and produce their report, which has just been published.

The publication of the report was widely carried by the media. It has been hailed as the first scientific examination of UFO evidence since the Condon Report in the 1960s. The Condon Report, widely condemned by UFOlogists as a whitewash, concluded that UFOs were not worthy of further scientific study. (What is not widely known is that for a short time Dr Edward Condon, leader of the earlier study, was a member of BUFORA.)

The main conclusions were:

A few reported incidents may have involved rare but significant phenomena such as electrical activity, but there was no convincing evidence pointing to unknown physical process or to the involvement of extraterrestrial intelligence.

The panel concluded that it would be valuable to carefully evaluate UFO reports since, whenever there are unexplained observations, there is the possibility that scientists will learn something new by studying these observations.

This report and reaction to it will be looked at in more details in future editions of the Bulletin.

The Wilmslow UFO - New Revelations

Nick Redfern

Nick Redfern is one of the UK's leading document researchers. Besides speaking at the BUFORA conference in August 1997, Nick has authored a book entitled "A Covert Agenda" published by Simon & Shuster in which he reveals just what the British government do or might know and what their involvement is in the subject of UFOs. The following article concerns a UFO report that tells us much more about our government than about the nature of the UFO phenomenon.

"I was checking property at the rear of a large block of shops when I heard a high-pitched whine. I turned round and saw a greenish-grey glow in the sky about 100 yards from me and 35 feet in the air. I was very scared and for a few seconds I was rooted to the spot. I just couldn't believe my eyes. The object was the length of a bus, about 30 feet long and 20 feet wide. It was elliptical and gave out a greenish-grey glow. It appeared motionless and there was no impression of rotation. The object remained stationary for about five seconds then without any change in the whine it started moving at a very fast rate in an east-south-east direction. It disappeared from view very quickly. I have always been sceptical about flying saucers and life in outer space, but there is no other explanation. I checked with Jodrell Bank and Manchester Airport to see if they could explain it, but they couldn't. So I sat down and wrote my report."

Those were the words of twenty-eight year old Police Constable Colin Perks who in the early hours of 7th January 1966, was confronted by an unidentified flying object whilst patrolling the village of Wilmslow, Cheshire. Despite the fact that P.C. Perks' encounter had occurred at the beginning of 1966, the case remained curiously out of the hands of the Press until early March of that same year. Inevitably the newspapers had a field day. BEG TO REPORT SIR, ONE FLYING SAUCER, reported the Daily Mirror, whilst the Sun stated: I OBSERVED ONE FLYING SAUCER ON MY BEAT. "I must admit I was surprised," said Constable Perks' superior Superintendent Hugh Kenworthy. "But I know P.C. Perks is a reliable, mature officer and a trained observer, so I sent the report off to the Chief Constable of Cheshire."

At a public level, that much was known conclusively. In January 1997, however, this decades-old UFO encounter took on a new significance when I located at the Public Records Office at Kew the original copy of the Ministry of Defence's investigation into P.C. Perks' sighting, which had literally been declassified only days earlier. Its contents made for illuminating reading, to say the least.

First, the file in question (which was almost twenty pages in length) had been classified at restricted level and had attracted the keen interest of the Ministry of Defence's Defence Intelligence Staff (DIS). Second, and more important, the released MOD papers showed that at the time of its occurrence that media had latched onto only a small fraction of the complete story. I dug into the aged and fading papers...

The first entry within the file was a two page report filed by P.C. Perks on official Cheshire Constabulary headed note paper on 7th January 1966. Broadly speaking, this account tallied with that related above and given to the Press some eight weeks after the event; however the complete file contained much more.

I was also able to locate a one-page document (stamped Confidential) from Manchester Airport to the Ministry of Defence which outlined P.C. Perks' encounter. This of course agreed with P.C. Perks' statement that he had indeed spoken with Manchester to see if they could offer an explanation. I was most intrigued to see that on receipt of the report from Manchester Airport the MOD circulated copies to no less than three departments:

S4F (the earlier "version" of the office in which Nick Pope worked); the Air Force Operations Room; and a little-known (and highly covert) body within the Defence Intelligence Staff known as DI61.

Most interesting was the fact that whilst S4F and the Air Force Operations Room received one copy each of the report from Manchester Airport, no less than four copies were channelled through to the Defence Intelligence Staff.

Meanwhile, on 8 January 1966, Superintendent Kenworthy forwarded to the Chief Constable of Cheshire Constabulary the original copy of P.C. Perks' two page report. From there it was sent to the Ministry of Aviation, who in turn passed it on to the Ministry of Defence; specifically DI61. On

1st February 1966, DI61 swung into action. Considering the Ministry of Defence's current assertions that the UFO issue is one of little consequence, I was struck by the fact that one the morning of 1st February a representative of DI61 travelled from Whitehall to Wilmslow specifically to interview P.C. Perks in an attempt to ascertain what it was he saw! More fascinating: the unknown DI61 "agent" accompanied P.C. Perks to the area where the UFO was seen, and made an "on-site" inspection of the immediate vicinity, noting that on the morning after the sighting "some glass like substance was found on the adjacent car park".

Whilst DI61 concluded that this was not, in all probability, related directly to P.C. Perks' UFO encounter, I could not fail to notice the overwhelming thoroughness of the entire operation. And, as DI61's papers showed, the division had gone out of its way to determine if anything unusual had been tracked on radar at the time of the sighting. And what of the conclusions of DI61?

"On the evidence available to Tech Int (Air) it is not possible to arrive at any concrete conclusion," wrote Flight Lieutenant M.J.P.H. Mercer of DI61 in a confidential report of 18th February 1966. He continued: "This is always likely to be the case with such 'one man' sightings. If it were possible for a scientific investigation team to be present at the instant of sighting, these 'unknown' phenomena would probably be quite easily explained. On the information available it would be unwise if DI61 speculated on possible explanations. However, any further reports of sightings in this area would be welcomed, particularly from responsible people like Constable Perks." Essentially, that was the file. However, having reviewed fully its contents, I am now able to make a number of significant observations:

First, the very fact that the investigation into P.C. Perks encounter was undertaken by the highly-covert DI61 makes a mockery of the MOD's publicly asserted claims that S4F Air was the chief MOD body responsible for investigating UFO encounters in the 1960s.

Secondly, DI61's interview with Perks, and their entire on site investigation of the area in which the UFO was seen, has deep implications for yet another aspect of the UFO mystery – that of the "Men In Black".

For years the UFO community has been filled with bizarre (and until now)

unverifiable tales of dark-suited individuals travelling about the U.K., flashing Ministry of Defence I.D. cards and warning UFO witnesses to keep silent about what they have seen. Whilst many such accounts have been discounted, I submit that with the information above surrounding DI61 now in hand, we need to look at some of these same Men in Black reports in a new light.

I am unable to state firmly as to whether or not DI61 requested P.C. Perks' silence; however, I can state with confidence that until I located a copy of the official file at the Public Records Office, DI61's involvement in the Wilmslow event had remained a matter of official secrecy for more than three decades. The Men in Black/DI61 controversy has only just begun....

Authors Note: Public Records Office file number: Air 2 1 17983. Crown Copyright exists.

POSTAL TRAINING COURSE

The Postal Training Course (PTC) is compulsory for members requesting to become an investigator for BUFORA. All enquiries pertaining to the Postal Training Course should be addressed to

David Pointon,

**5 Chapel Street, Mount Pleasant, Mow Cop, Stoke-on-Trent, Staffs.,
ST7 4NP (No personal visits),**

Phone (01782) 522620,

email: spibufora@aol.com

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UFOCall

0891 121886

BT Premium Rate call charges apply (currently 50p per minute)

SWIRLING RINGS IN EAST ANGLIA

Robert Bull

The first of these cases was first brought to my attention via an email sent originally to Steve Gamble on 4 May, 1996. I followed this up with an email reply to the reporting witness, followed by the posting of sighting questionnaires. Just prior to sending off the questionnaires I received another case passed on to me by Gloria Dixon. The features of this second case were so similar to those of the first that I was lead almost immediately to the 'solution' of both cases.

SIGHTING 1 - 3 MARCH 1996

The witness, Eleanor Green (pseudonym), was the passenger in a car driven by her fiancée, travelling northwards on the A11 in the vicinity of Newmarket, Suffolk, at around 7.00 p.m. They were returning home to Norfolk after a weekend on the South Coast.

A gibbous moon hung over the flat, frost-encrusted fens which seemed to sparkle like a thousand diamonds, reminding Eleanor of the time a few weeks ago when her boyfriend had taken her hand and placed on her finger a (*get on with it - Ed.*). Suddenly she noticed a circular array of hazy white lights, which she described as looking like 'a lit gas ring on a cooker'.

The ring began 'rotating like a roundabout, quite fast', followed by further turning, spinning and tilting movements. The array moved to the right of her line of sight until it was only visible out of the drivers window, then it 'suddenly accelerated ahead of us' until it was once again visible out of the windscreen. The array stayed in this position as the car travelled another 2 or 3 miles, then dropped back until it was only visible out of the rear window, eventually becoming too distant to see.

Miss Green adds that 'There seemed to be no bulk or object that the lights were fixed to - they just seemed to "be there" '. Her fiancée speculated that the sight was caused by 'a light being directed into the sky from the ground - but there was no beam of light going up to it'.

SIGHTING 2 - 28 APRIL 1996

Three friends were travelling home after a weekend in Sheffield watching the World Snooker Championships, driving west along the A14 near Newmarket in a car driven by Mr Malcolm Marshall (pseudonym), at about 2.00 a.m. Malcolm had just taken a wrong turning onto the A11 southbound.

Malcolm cursed viciously, as Jimmy White must have done when he missed that easy brown which had handed the championship to Hendry. A gibbous moon hung over (*you've done this already - Ed.*). Malcolm and his passengers suddenly noticed a 'glowing swirling cloud-like object' alongside the car, possibly 500 feet away and the same distance up. Their perception was that the object 'stayed with them' as they travelled along.

The object slowly transformed into a 'dish-like shape with segments that rotated slowly. Occasionally the direction of rotation would reverse.' So as to get back onto the right road, Malcolm turned round at the first roundabout he came to and drove back along the A11 northbound. The object 'followed them back' for several minutes before disappearing.

One of his passengers had a camera and took a photograph of the object. (The camera in question was of the simple 'point and shoot' type. Obviously a long exposure would be necessary for a night-time shot and so, unsurprisingly, the picture didn't come out.)

CONCLUSIONS

The fact that both sets of witnesses were in the same area when they saw the object, and the fact that the descriptions provided of the object tally closely suggests that both were seeing the same thing. (The sketches provided by the witnesses are also similar.)

I was already thinking in terms of **laser lights**, and this 'similarity factor' seemed to seal it. But where was the projection coming from? Newmarket seemed to be in the right direction and the right distance away.

I remember reading in the *Cambridge Evening News* around Christmas 1995 that 'The White House' night-club in Newmarket was advertising its presence with a laser light show which, according to the *Evening News*, had

resulted in a lot of UFO reports being made (to them). I telephoned 'The White House' and spoke to the manager. He said that yes, they had had a light show, but the local council had withdrawn permission for them to operate it at around the end of January 1996 - so my witnesses couldn't have seen it. He then started to complain that 'that other place across the road' had started to operate one - without council permission, he thought.

The 'other place' was 'DeNiros' night-club, which I then telephoned. The manager confirmed that he was running a 'Sky Tracker' laser light device. Having described to him what the witnesses were reporting he said 'yes, that sounds just like it' and, interestingly, that he had 'had calls from other UFO people' (?). The dates and times of operation of the also fitted the dates and times of the sightings.

So, '**laser light show**' was my firm conclusion on this one.

NOTES TO INVESTIGATORS ABOUT LASER LIGHTS

The growing use of laser light show devices at rock concerts, fireworks displays etc has been the bane of the investigator's life in recent years. I picked up most of what I know about such devices during my investigation of the above two cases, and I thought it might be useful, especially to new investigators, if I were to pass this on.

I started by trying an Internet 'post', asking the following questions about laser light equipment:

1. How far can they project their light pattern?
2. From how far away would the pattern be visible?
3. Would the laser beams be visible (would it depend on atmospheric conditions)?
4. Would it be possible for the beams to reflect off a cloud, back down to the ground, then back up to another cloud?
5. Are these things operated manually, or do they project automatically according to a pre-programmed pattern?
6. Does the operator of a LLS need the permission of 'the authorities' (e.g. the CAA [in the UK], the local air base, the local police) to use one?

I received several replies (all from the USA, none from the UK!), a summary of which would be as follows:

Question 1: 'Half a kilometre or so.'

I found this a bit hard to believe, I thought it would be much further than this. I have seen one newspaper report which quotes a range of 'six miles' for a laser of the 'light show' type, which seems more like it. My witnesses were about 4 miles from the source of the light. Hazy conditions, see Question 3, reduce the range.

Question 2: 'A long way; several kilometres.'

Strange that they give me these statistics in kilometres - I though the USA was the last bastion of Imperial measurement!

Question 3: 'No, the beams would not normally be visible, only in a smoky, dusty or damp atmosphere.'

So, there we have it. The weather conditions for my witnesses were dry and clear.

Question 4: 'No, the beams just dissipate'

I had wondered if this might be a way of achieving long ranges, but it seems not. Note though that the beams must reflect of something (e.g. clouds, or buildings) to produce an image.

Question 5: 'Automatically; a computer must be used.'

This is what I thought, and it probably torpedoes witnesses' assertions that 'it was following me'. (Allan Hendry in The UFO Handbook quotes cases of witnesses being sure that Venus was following them.) See 'Technical Data' below for more on the computer control aspect.

Question 6: 'Yes.'

The operator in my case said that the 'local council' (at town, not county, level) must be consulted. See 'Who to ask' below.

Technical Data

I am indebted to Jon Baker of the University of Central Florida for the following.

Generally, the laser most involved with Laser Shows is the Argon (Ar) gas laser. It offers the most bang for the buck, so to speak. It is the familiar aqua-blue beam of most shows. This aqua-blue is actually a combination of a few different wavelengths of light, those being a few different violet blues, green, and a yellow. In laser shows, a prism is often used to separate the primary beam into these individual colours. The use of these colours from there is [left to] the imagination of the user.

The Helium-Neon (HeNe) laser is also implemented. It is a red beam laser that is generally of lower power than the Argon. UPC code scanners in grocery store check-outs use HeNes. Those powers are generally around 1 milliwatt, which is a Class I laser. The powerful Argon lasers used in shows can be typically 8 watts, which is well into the Class IV range.

To create patterns, a computer MUST be used. The beam is 'scanned' onto a surface using mirror set-ups called 'GALVOS'. The galvo is actually a small type of motor, with a small mirror attached to the shaft. There are two of these units placed at right angles to each other, the beam comes into the top mirror from the side, gets reflected down an inch or so to the other mirror, and [is] then reflected out to the 'screen' or projection area. Each mirror unit is one axis. For example, the top mirror is the x-axis, and doesn't rotate, but 'wobbles' back and forth according to the program. The bottom mirror is the y-axis, doing the same thing as the x-axis, but [is] independently controlled by the program. (In terms of the axis, the x-axis is a horizontal sweep of the beam, and the y-axis is a vertical sweep of the beam.) By carefully co-ordinating and timing the oscillations of these mirrors, circles, lines, animated figures, words, etc can be projected.

About the beam being visible, under normal conditions it is invisible. Only Hollywood and the movies have visible laser beams. What causes a beam to be visible is called Colloidal Dispersion, where fine particulate matter such as fog, smoke, dust, etc. act as a medium for the beam to reflect off of. In a dry, dust-free environment any laser beam will be invisible. This phenomenon is also witnessed when shining a laser beam through transparent materials such as a block of Lucite, where the actual beam can be seen.

An excellent description, I think you'll agree. Jon kindly adds that if anyone has any questions, they are free to email him at

Who to ask

If your 'local knowledge' doesn't immediately lead you to a suspect laser light show, the following are possible sources of help.

- Night-clubs - and the local councils who must give them permission to operate.
- Organisers of Christmas and November 5th displays - usually the local council, often with sponsorship from local industry.
- The police. Permission need not be sought from the police to operate a laser light show unless this impacts on other things such as traffic, public order etc. They may well know of other shows (beyond the one you immediately suspect) in the area, though.
- The National Air Traffic Services (NATS). The letter I received from NATS was headed:

Control Tower Building,
Stanstead Airport (London)
Stanstead
Essex CM24 1RD

I suspect, though, that other major airports have NATS offices.

- The Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) at

Aeronautical Information Service
Control Tower Building
London Heathrow Airport
Hounslow
Middlesex TW6 1JJ

I'm sure the above list is not exhaustive and I'd be very surprised if there's not something in this article that's not inaccurate, out of date, or just plain wrong. If anyone has anything to add about any aspect of laser lights then

please let the Editor or the Director of Investigations know, so we can all be the wiser.

I could not have written this without my 'sources'. I'd like to acknowledge the help of Jay Waller, Georgia, USA, 'Mark', USA, Jon Baker, University of Central Florida, USA, Inspector T. Knights, Cambridgeshire Constabulary, Mr A.J. Flagg, National Air Traffic Services, the manager of 'DeNiros' in Newmarket and of course the principal witnesses, 'Eleanor' and 'Malcolm'.

I'd like to finish with this quote:

'From what I saw, I think it would be possible that anyone seeing lasers being shot up into the sky and reflecting off clouds could mistake them for UFOs or about any unusual phenomenon.' - *Jay Waller, Georgia, USA.*

BUFORA PUBLICATIONS

It has come to our attention that a few members may not have received all recent magazine issues, listed hereunder:

UFO Times	Number 45	Issued October 1997
BUFORA Bulletin	Number 1 (newsletter)	Issued January 1998
BUFORA Bulletin	Number 2	Issued April/May 1998
BUFORA Bulletin	Number 3	Issued June/July 1998

If you are missing copies please write to

BUFORA (M), 16 Southway, Burgess Hill, Sussex, RH15 9ST.

UFO Newsfile has reached issue 69. If you are missing copies please write to:

BUFORA (NF), 16 Southway, Burgess Hill, Sussex, RH15 9ST.

Copies of the reports on the BOLIDE Project and the Men-In-Black study are also available for £4-50 including postage from:

BUFORA (Pubs), 16 Southway, Burgess Hill, Sussex, RH15 9ST.

TIME LOSS IN SOWERBY BRIDGE – A CASE HISTORY

PAUL ASCOUGH

The following case underlines how complex high strangeness close encounters can be. The witnesses involved are normal down to earth individuals who have had an experience that has certainly gone beyond the boundaries of what they understand to be 'normality'. I have visited MR and Mrs. I on five occasions, plus a number of telephone conversations. Not included within this case history are several reports of LITS and some possible psychic phenomena. I have tried to stick to the main events so that we don't cloud the issue. On the 15th July 1995 four adults were attending a barbecue in Sowerby Bridge. The main meal was eaten before 19.30hrs. It was a sunny warm evening. They all went in to watch the lottery draw on television, then went back out to sit in the garden and have quiet drink, listening to music. After 2000hrs, glasses of drinks began to disappear. This was commented on, and a strange atmosphere was noticed by all.

At 2140 hours it was now beginning to get dark. Mr. I glanced at the time on the wall clock in the kitchen. suddenly, he noticed a grey shape with flashing lights a few hundred yards away at an approximate height of 100 feet. Next, he remembers it being above him, a black door with vapour across it opened, and then a beam of light shot out towards him.

Mrs I remembers being sat on the bench in the garden and the object was just above her head, she says it felt as low as the ceiling and noticed lights; white, green red and blue. They were all rotating. She does not remember how long she was looking at it, but next it moved away between the trees and started going down the valley. Mr. I saw it next to the trees, 3 lights on top, in a triangle shape and 4 lights on the bottom. He states the top was going in the opposite direction to the bottom, two forces pushing together. He then watched it drop down behind some trees 200-300 yards away it moved up, turned and shot a beam of light out towards a house, then moved up and disappeared, reappearing lower down the valley moving at an angle. Mr. I remembers that was when a 'big moon' came up and it went towards it. They all have very confused memories of what had just happened, yet all remember quite clearly that it was now suddenly dark. Because of this Mr. I looked to check the time, he was amazed to see it was

now 2250hrs. They had just lost 70 minutes!

After they went in, Mrs I and Mrs C. fell asleep on the floor in the lounge and Mr. I was violently sick in the bathroom. There was total silence throughout except on the one occasion when Mr. I heard a slight whirring sound.

The following week all four met again to discuss the events of the previous Saturday night and see if they could make some sense of what had happened.

When Mr. and Mrs I set off for home all four adults noticed two sort of 'children', all in black, in the park just outside the front of the house. Mr. I said 'They just appeared out of the tree'. Those little men, you don't really see things like that' Mr. I said she didn't like it, she was scared of them, her legs felt heavy, it was midnight and they were dressed as children in black. 'It was just like a child's silhouette, everything was black and they had no faces' Mr. I said 'They never said anything, they didn't even talk to each other. This was midnight, who would let their children out at that time?'

When they got home there was a very strong smell in the house. Mrs. I said,....'The whole house stank of it. If you could stick your head in a candy floss machine, it was sweeter than that! It was really weird, something I've never smelt before, it was making me feel sick. And he couldn't smell it, I was getting so annoyed so I opened the doors and windows, it lasted half an hour.' Mr. I said 'It was driving her mad and I couldn't smell anything, it was really strange'.

INVESTIGATION

This case has many facets which are open to question. When Mr. I first saw the UFO over the trees for the first time, did he tell the others? Mr. I cannot remember. Why was he violently sick afterwards? He was the only one in the group to suffer this way and it could be argued that it was something he ate. But why was he the only one? Mr. I himself has said it wasn't the food or the small amount of alcohol, though he realises the implications. Mrs. I and Mrs. C fell asleep afterwards. Mrs. I was actually on the floor, why? Because they were tired? After all it was getting late. Mrs. I always managed to go to bed, was this time any different? She states 'I hardly had anything to drink' Why did glasses disappear, could she have been that

drunk? Apparently not, this began to happen quite early on during that evening and this odd occurrence was mentioned to all who were present.

How can we account for the fact that all are totally confused about their recollections within that missing seventy minutes, yet recall what happened before and after clearly. Why does everyone remember it suddenly becoming dark? Who were the mysterious children in black? Why did the children affect them so much, if indeed they were children. Why did they appear to be totally in black including their faces? Mrs. I couldn't understand why she was afraid of them and why didn't she ask them what they were doing?

As they arrived home, Mr. I thought everything was normal, yet Mrs. I was clearly irritated by the sickly sweet smell. Why couldn't Mr. I smell anything at all. It was strong enough for Mrs. I to open the windows and doors and it still took 30 minutes to disperse!

Local papers did not report anything unusual, neither did the Police who had nothing logged. Military sources from the RAF and MOD also reported nothing out of the ordinary. To use Mrs. I's own words. How can we possibly be the only people to see anything?

There are obviously many more questions which could be asked and questions to which I do not readily have an answer. This case appears to become more complicated the deeper you look and instead of retrieving answers, you find still more questions, mysteries and unidentified phenomena. Even with my knowledge on the subject I would have found it difficult to include so much in one story, and a story so vividly told by two people, who totally believe whatever it is they have experienced.

My first impression, which has lasted to date, is that both Mr. and Mrs. I are honest and truthful. Their story has not changed. They are both sincere and do not wish to profit or make any money from this incident. Quite the opposite, they merely seek an honest explanation of what happened and why it happened to them. They do not wish their involvement in this incident made public.

Having carried out this investigation, I believe they are telling the truth as far as they understand it. There is no normal explanation for their confused memories. Mr. I describes his own memories of that night as ..'imagining them recorded on video tape, cut into lengths of a few seconds long, throw

most of the segments away and splice the remainder together in the wrong order'. A very graphic description. I do not believe conventional aircraft or hallucinatory experiences play any part in this incident, but by the same token the ETH cannot be proven either. Mr. and Mrs. I do not suffer from epilepsy and neither of them had an out of body or near death experiences. For the couple concerned whatever happened was real, it was frightening, neither one have experienced anything like it before, and neither want to experience anything like it again.

SKYWATCHING

Bulletin Number 2 (pages 9 and 10) carried an article setting out how skywatching formed part of BUFORA's Proactive Research programme. This article is a short reminder about a couple up coming dates for skywatches. This is an activity in which all members in different parts of the country can be involved.

The Proactive research initiative is being co-ordinated by Philip Walton. As well as co-ordinating the skywatches Philip is working on instrumented detection of UFOs on behalf of BUFORA. The watches normally take place starting early Saturday evening and continue through to Sunday morning. People may take part in as many watches as they wish. It is not necessary for everybody to be there for the whole period of the watch. Indeed in event of poor weather conditions it may be necessary to cancel or cut short a particular watch.

The recently published Sturrock Report, a study by a group of scientists primarily of the physical evidence for UFOs, placed great emphasis on the need to be able to put groups of observers backed up by instrumented stations into the field in periods or locations of high UFO activity. This is an objective that BUFORA has been working towards for some time.

Some people feel that we should concentrate all our efforts on studying the Close Encounter Experience type of report. These are certainly the most sensational of the reports, but they make up but a few percent of the total incoming material. Close Encounter Experiences are certainly not the sort

of thing that generally has been reported in previous skywatch exercises. We should use a wide range of techniques to study the whole spectrum of reports. Otherwise we might become as blinkered in our view of the world as some of our critics.

It is best for people just starting out at skywatching to join one of the existing groups who will be going out rather than try to organise a group of their own. National skywatches are planned for the following dates in the next few months:

19th to 20th September 1998

19th to 20th December 1998

Please contact the skywatch co-ordinator, Philip Walton, at least two weeks before the date you wish to take part, or if you wish to organise your own local site. Philip will be able to inform you of the nearest groups to you who will be going out on any particular watch and will be able to give you advice. His contact details are:

Email: Skywatch@assap.org

Phone: 0181 313 1556

If you contact Philip please remember to include your full postal address and phone number and if you have one your email address. Apart from the National watches local groups may also be arranging additional watches in your area.

All watches are organised by local groups and individuals as a voluntary effort. Watches are generally held in open areas with good views of the sky. This means that shelter and other facilities are often minimal or non-existent and may involve standing or walking across muddy or rough ground in the dark. Local organisers will be able to advise you of the conditions at their site. BUFORA, its officers and local organisers cannot be held responsible for any loss or injury to any party taking part in these events. The right is reserved to cancel, alter the length or change the date or venue of any watch either nationally or at a local site. Whilst it is hoped this will not be necessary, efforts will be made to inform people who have pre-registered their interest as far in advance as possible. In certain circumstances, especially adverse weather, it may not be possible to make a decision until the day.

public record. However both had mentioned the same studio as being involved. Since that time several members of the research team have been involved in trying to track down and interview 'witnesses' with varying degrees of success.

Early in June Philip Mantle informed a number of people and subsequently posted to some internet UFO news services that he had been approached independently by somebody who said he had information about faking some of the Tent Footage. On the 18th June 1998 Philip Mantle posted the following message from Ray Santilli to UFO Updates:

"Philip Mantle has informed me that he has secured an interview from someone claiming to have information regarding the "Tent Footage".

As a great deal has been made of the so called "Tent Footage" I would like to clarify the situation and place the following on record:

The Tent Footage was the first film material I collected from the cameraman, it was in the form of 16mm film and in very poor condition. I brought it back to England and asked a studio facility in Buckinghamshire to retrieve whatever image they could from it. A few weeks after delivery the Studio presented me with the film which has become known as the "Tent Footage" I was told that this was all that could be retrieved from the film.

I had informed the cameraman by telephone that we were able to retrieve some image and indeed showed the film to Philip Mantle and other interested parties.

I returned to the States later to collect the main film and showed the "Tent Footage" on VHS to the cameraman. At this point he stated that he DID NOT remember either the image being portrayed or the style in which it had been filmed. I was concerned but collected the remaining film (which was in far better condition) and returned to the United Kingdom.

Upon my return I contacted the studio to find out more about the images from the "Tent Footage". I got the impression that as a joke the film had been interfered with, but nobody was owning up. This meant that with regard to the "Tent Footage" I was uncertain as to what was real and what was not, and if the film had been interfered with, I could not use it. THIS IS

WHY I COMPLETELY PULLED BACK FROM USING THE FILM.

As a result I INFORMED ALL PARTIES that had come into contact with the Tent Footage (and I am sure they will confirm this) that I was NOT CONFIDENT with regard to the Tent Footage and further that it should NOT be used in conjunction with the autopsy film, this instruction went to all broadcasters including Fox (Kiviat).

Indeed when Kiviat wanted to use the Tent Footage for a subsequent program I was totally against it. However he still wished to use it and to that end he provided me with a written disclaimer dated NOVEMBER 1995 which was to be used during the broadcast. In the end I won the point and the film was not used. The situation regarding the Tent Footage was known to all, it was not appropriate to use as it may have been interfered with.

It was the only thing I could do, as I did not want it to compromise the main autopsy film.

I believe I did the responsible thing in removing the "Tent Footage" from circulation at the very beginning.

My position regarding the Autopsy film and the reels recovered remains unchanged. Any discussion regarding the Tent Footage is completely irrelevant. I DID NOT USE THAT STUDIO AGAIN, AND NEITHER THE STUDIO OR ANYONE ASSOCIATED WITH THE STUDIO HAD ANYTHING WHATSOEVER TO DO WITH THE AUTOPSY FILM.

THE AUTOPSY FILM IS WHAT IT IS, AND NOTHING WILL CHANGE THAT."

It is true that Mr Santilli has not widely shown the Tent Footage and in an interview published in the UFO Times in September 1995 says that he has discounted the Tent Footage because he considers it unsafe. But at the end of the day, does any of this really matter. Any alleged physical evidence is only supporting material for the statement of the witness. If ANY of this film is to be considered as evidence of anything the witness must be available for interview and this has not happened. Likewise, the original film material must be available for study. To my knowledge this has not happened. Kodak have made offers to try to accurately date the film, I believe these have not been taken up. Until these things happen, the film will be at best, a good story.

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BUFORA LECTURES

Meetings are held at the University of Westminster, 35 Marylebone Road, London, NW1 5LS starting at 2pm and lasting until approximately 5pm. Approximately half way through the afternoon there is a short break for refreshments (not provided). Generally a selection of publications are on display for purchase.

There are no London Lectures during July and August. A programme for the new lecture season which will run from September round to next June. This season there will be no lecture in January. The admission prices have been held to the same as last year, £1-50 for members and £3-50 for non-members.

The programme will be published in August. The new lecture season will start on Saturday 5th September. Whilst it is not anticipated that meetings will have to be changed or cancelled without prior notice, the Association reserves the right to do so.

REGIONAL MEETING

A joint meeting of BUFORA and the Cambridge UFO Group will be held at the Family Room, The Unicorn Public House, Church Lane, Trumpington, Cambridge on Friday 9th October 1998. The meeting will start at 8pm and last until approx. 10:30pm

Speaker : John Spencer

NEWSCUTTINGS

Thanks to all those members who have sent in cuttings. Please keep them coming. Send to the following address :

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