

THE UFO

WORLD

'86



Compiled by:

J E N N Y R A N D L E S

on behalf of BUFORA:-
the British UFO Research
Association

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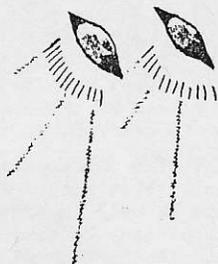
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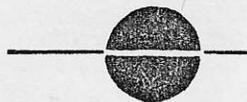
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I N T R O D U C T I O N :

The idea for this little publication has been brewing for some time. Now, at last, and thanks to the willingness of the management council of EUFORA - the British UFO Research Association, it has finally appeared. The plan is to provide you with a review of what happened in the UFO world during 1985. In this sense we have sections on news, research projects, significant cases, new theoretical insights and key publications of the year.

None of these things are comprehensive. There are bound to be omissions, doubtless some significant ones. The content may also suffer from a degree of selectivity. This is an experimental issue, but I hope it will be a trial run for the future. EUFORA, and I, would both be delighted if THE UFO WORLD becomes an annual event each spring or early summer. However, that very largely depends upon the success of this issue. We are not looking for profits - and we have skimped a bit on presentation to give you the most information for the least cost, in the belief that this is what you would have wanted. But it remains to be seen whether you want THE UFO WORLD '87 to appear - and, naturally, if you do then tell us!

Many of you may feel that something important from your country is not included in this issue. Indeed that your nation does not even rate a mention! Or you may feel there were other things that should have been included instead of what is in here. There is a simple way to ensure your wishes are granted in the next edition. 1986 (the subject of that next edition) is already half over. Collate, report and send material NOW for THE UFO WORLD '87. You have seen the format. You have seen what we need. We are always open to ideas. But a few hundred words about what is going on in your neck of the woods will make all the difference.

Of course, it goes without saying that this publication would never have appeared without the contributions of all those people named within. To them a very heart-felt thank you is offered and is well deserved. I do not want to pick out individuals because there will already be some not named in the text who deserve to be. If they are missing (probably because they were too modest to name themselves in submissions) then I am sorry. However, one man does require a special mention - Hilary Evans. Without his efforts, gathering data from his many European colleagues this would have been a much smaller first attempt.

To end on a very sad note. As I was finalising the last pages of this publication I heard the news that Dr. J. Allen Hynek had died, following a thank - fully not too protracted illness. His name is known to UFO researchers everywhere. As one who had the great honour to meet him several times and enjoy the incomparable honesty, friendship and sheer glow of both himself, Mimi and his children I feel the loss even more than I would have done. Without doubt Allen was the greatest UFO champion the world has had, is the best ambassador we still have. His name will live forever through the things he did and said. I know this presentation of what is good about the UFO world is exactly the kind of thing that he stood for and I feel no reservation in dedicating this first issue to the only ufologist about whom the adjective 'irreplaceable' genuinely applies.

Rest well, Allen. We shall continue the struggle for truth.

Jerry Randles

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INTERNATIONAL NEWS

AUSTRALIA:

The arrival of Halley's Comet sent many eyes gazing skyward for the very first time, Paul Norman reports. However, few UFO sightings resulted. There were quite a number of misidentifications; eg of satellites. One woman also sent in a photograph of a "spaceship" that was eventually shown to be nothing more spectacular than an aircraft contrail. "I did not know they looked like that" she replied.

Between July and September 1985 there was a major wave of sightings, which involved high flying objects that drifted in view for several hours. An aircraft from the RAAF was sent up to intercept and obtained photographs, later used to aid in the identification as a complex weather balloon. The problem was that nobody took responsibility. However, computer plotting did in the end trace the culprit thousands of miles to a French experiment that had drifted across much of the Southern hemisphere.

On 5 September New South Wales premier, Neville Wran was "buzzed" in his lightplane by one of these objects. According to leading Australasian investigator, Bill Chalker, "it was most likely an unidentified high altitude ball-con." He wryly commented; "This 'UFO' may well have been sustained by 'hot air' - a vital ingredient of many of our politicians!"

Information supplied by:- Bill Chalker & Paul Norman

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DENMARK:

Investigation in this country is handled by SUFOI (Scandinavian UFO Information). They also produce what must be one of the most lavish journals in the world - with the unfortunate English title "UFO Nyt". In its six issues a year UFO-Nyt maintains a glossy 64 page format packed with photos. It also contains an invaluable function for many Ufologists - a summary of chief articles written in English.

One of the great strengths of Danish UFO research is their ability to look at supposedly "classic" cases and re-evaluate them. In 1985 it came good with the publication of a devastating analysis of the famous Swedish photographic case from Skillingaryd in May 1971. (UFO-Nyt 4/5, 1985)

25-year old Lars Thörn took two daylight pictures of a typical disc-shaped object beside a brick wall. Owing to the startling nature of the images this case has been hailed as one of the most impressive of recent years and has been promoted in several books (eg UFO REALITY, 1983 - where it is considered to be genuine). This was primarily due to the failure of the Research Dept. of the Swedish Defence Ministry to discover an explanation.

However, diligent work by the group GICOFF revealed flaws. For example, not all the negatives had been made available by witness Thörn. The missing ones show what appears to be two car hub caps stuck together! The photographer also claimed to see another UFO later and take more pictures of it! A rare event, to say the least.

Because the two photographs were not taken from exactly the same position, it proved possible for fairly close approximations to be made for the size of the UFO. It turned out to be around 40cm! Wires involved in the hoax were also now indicated. GCOFF eventually succeeded in making a similar hoax picture using hub caps and the method that is believed to have been employed. This was carried out at the same place in Skill ingaryd where the Lars Thörn photographs were taken.



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This pattern of modern UFO investigation often goes un-noticed by the media, who worldwide assume that research groups exist to prove the reality of little-green-men and fail to recognise the self-critical work that goes on. Kim Møller Hansen of SUFOI is a leader in this type of self-policing and received a bursary in 1985, which is awarded annually to the UFO researcher considered to have contributed most to Danish field studies.

Hansen is also very strong on education. He believes that the public is often misinformed about the subject and deserves better. He wrote the only 1985 published UFO book, whose translated title is "UFO Cover-Up". However, this title may be slightly misleading. It concerns the work undertaken in Australia by Bill Chalker, when he was given surprise access to the RAAF UFO archives. These did not reveal substantial evidence of any form of cover-up; although they did produce much fascinating material on official UFO study in that country. Whilst Chalker has produced papers in 1983 and 1984 for the American and British literature this is the first book on the subject. That it should come from Scandinavia says much about the level of interest which the UFO phenomenon produces there.

It would not be true to say that Hansen is an outright skeptic. His re-evaluation of the 7 January 1970 "classic" from Imjarvi in Finland, has not destroyed the case. Quite the contrary, he says of it:- "the matter is still among the UFOs unexplained appearances." Briefly two men were skiing through trees when they observed a strange object in a clearing. A red-grey fog making an odd humming noise descended to the ground with the object inside this. A tiny creature stood within a shaft of light amidst the fog and struck the men with a beam. One became paralysed down the side and had to be carried for medical attention. Both men suffered illness and doctors said that their skin appeared to have been subjected to X-rays. One of the curious aspects of this case is that after the strange (yet credible) first report, the two witnesses began to claim many weird encounters, with countless UFOs & a number of peculiar little figures. Taken alone these would tend to place their story in jeopardy. However, there is no obvious reason not to accept what they are saying. This "suicide syndrome" - where witnesses tend to diminish their own credibility is a remarkably common feature of the UFO phenomenon.



The major project SUFOI worked on in 1985 was an attempt to redefine the parameters "UFO" and "UFO Report" for international acceptance. Sixty pages of draft material was compiled and they hope to produce a standard set of definitions for the international UFO community during 1986.

Information supplied by:- Per Anderson, Flemming Rasmussen and Raya Erichsen.

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FRANCE:

It was no accident that the scientist portrayed by Stephen Spielberg in his epic movie "Close Encounters of the Third Kind" (1977) is a Frenchman. Ufology in France is widely regarded as the most advanced in the world.

There are a number of reasons why this should be so. A principal one is that France hosts the only government-sponsored and scientist-operated UFO research group in the world. This team is GEPAN (Study group into unidentified aerospace phenomena). It is a fairly low-key team based on the Space Centre in Toulouse. But it does collect sighting reports investigated by the Gendarmerie and conducts research into those it considers most interesting. Their attitude would appear to be that UFOs are a real phenomenon and not basically of an hallucinatory nature. GEPAN published nothing in 1985. Indeed their last publication was in 1983. Very little contact ensues with the private UFO community.

This extraordinary official stance is very curiously offset by the civilian UFO groups. In France they are undoubtedly amongst the most cautious and sceptical in the world. Indeed they were the home of what is sometimes called the "New Ufology", or more specifically "The Psycho-Social" hypothesis.

Put very simply what this school of thought argues is that all UFO reports are potentially reducible to either hoaxes or outright hallucinations (rather small in number), or misperception of ordinary things. The 'grafting' of bizarre elements onto stars, planets, aircraft etc is seen as the fundamental cause of a whole range of superficially strange cases. The principal justifications they use for this concept are as follows:-

- (1) The unexplained cases are very similar to the ones that are explained.
- (2) The UFO 'evidence' (eg photographs) tends to crumble under effective study
- (3) There is a widespread modern myth about extraterrestrial intervention.
- (4) This myth has left UFO investigators far from critical and guided by the "old men" brought up in the belief of a gigantic cover-up of hidden proof
- (5) UFO investigators are generally unfamiliar with processes well-known to psychologists (eg sensory deprivation and perceptive illusions).

This form of approach to the UFO mystery has left many workers dispirited and reduced in numbers. The enthusiasts have faded from the scene. The critical researchers see the media only interested in spacemen interpretations and this has left them with very little room for manoeuvre.

It is certainly ironic to find the government (even indirectly) supporting the reality of UFOs, whilst private researchers are in the main effectively arguing against that! But this is the way of things in France.

French groups tend to be many, but small in numbers. There are also quite a few committees formed to handle specific areas. They link together largely through amity (although there is the FFU - the French UFO Federation - with more formal ties). These committees produce much work, including an annual 250 page document that covers all main aspects of French UFO analysis. The French are indeed an academic lot!

There is one independent magazine, published bi-monthly. It uses the initials LLDN (Lumiers dans la nuit) - which has the most romantic title of any UFO journal... Lights in the night. It is one of the oldest and still best-regarded repositories of UFO case histories in the world.

I T A L Y:

Research in this country focuses on CUN (National UFO Centre); although this suffered a major split during 1985. Approximately fifty essential workers are the powerhouse in what the locals call the "hidden territory" of world ufology.

CUN has been very active in promoting new joint projects and these will continue under new auspices. The central archives in Turin is establishing a major data base of 20,000 cases. This appears to be more than are held in Britain by EUFORA, perhaps suggesting the wealth of UFO phenomena around. In Rome "Project Italia 3" stores close encounters of the third kind and aims to re-evaluate old cases in the light of modern investigation techniques. Meanwhile scouring of newspaper files is the heart of "Project 1947" which has already uncovered some previously unknown reports from the days before UFO investigation began in earnest during the 1950's.

As with many nations, computers are beginning to figure in UFO work now that they are more readily and cheaply available. Maurizio Verga is responsible for this side of things. They use Commodore 64 and Apple II computers in a network and Marco Bottaini has developed software exclusively for a file of close encounter cases to be called ITACAT. Verga edits a new venture begun in 1985, the Computer UFO Newsletter. It is written in English and is the only journal devoted to the use of computers in UFO research. It is available from:- via Matteotti 69 22070 Ceremate (Como)

Paolo Toselli is also in the final stages of a fascinating piece of work. He gave question sheets to 100 children aged between eight and fourteen and asked them to imagine a sighting, including UFO sketches. This fictional data is now being put onto an Apple IIc computer and the comparisons between it and the genuine cases reported by children should be very illuminating.

Production of reports in English is recognised as important, if the British and American researchers are to be reached. Italy hosts UPIAR Research in Progress (PO Box 11221 - 20110 Milano). This is a refereed science journal that reports on UFO research. Managing editor is Roberto Farabone. Editor Vincente Juan Ballester Olmos. There are other publications (in Italian), including the only news-stand magazine "The Journal of Mysteries". However, UFO News-Flash exists to transmit to English readers the latest media references to Italian cases. It is not available on subscription - only on a data exchange basis. The editor is Massimo Greco (PO Box 29- 25121 Brescia).

Greco is the author (along with Arrigo Muscio) of the only book in Italian published during the year. English translation of the title is "UFO: Illusion or Reality?" and it has 128pp with photos and diagrams depicting the main cases from the country. It is available from the UFO News-Flash address in exchange for a money order value \$ 8 US. or £7.

Unlike many other countries 1985 was a big year for UFO reports. Many were seen by pilots (including the airlines ATI, British Airways and Olympic). They involved glowing lights over the Mediterranean, especially in December. The local NATO bases around Naples and Brindisi were put on alert as sightings continued to pour in - including some from the island of Cyprus. However, official sources claim that none of these things were recorded by the many radar systems that cover these areas.

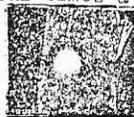
Information supplied by:- Massimo Greco

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S C A N D I N A V I A :

UFO research in Norway and Sweden is Project Hessdalen. Whilst that is, of course, an over-simplification there is no doubt that the Project is just about the most important development in the subject during the eighties.

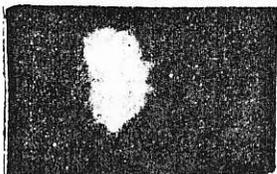
Hessdalen is a remote valley surrounded by steep hills close to the Arctic Circle and often ice-bound. Few UFO investigators live near to it, although the Norwegian Leif Havik (at 40 miles) is perhaps closer than anyone. In December 1981 the few inhabitants in scattered villages began to report UFOs. Not just one or two, but in astonishing numbers. Almost every day. Often several times a day. Soon everyone in the area had seen them! They took the form of brilliant lights that danced about the sky, such as this picture that was taken in October 1982. Sometimes shapes were perceived in them; although it is possible that this was due to psychological factors rather than real cigar or disc shapes possessed by these quite peculiar phenomena. However, it was soon established beyond any doubt that a physical phenomenon was manifesting in an extraordinary way in this lonely place.



UFO-Sweden and UFO-Norway combined to form "Project Hessdalen" in June 1983 with a view to discovering what these UFOs were. Here was a unique opportunity to conduct scientific investigation. They were not about to waste it. Havik, who had seen the lights himself, joined forces with Hakan Ekstrand, Jan Fjellander, Odd-Gunnar Røed and Erling Strand and went on a crusade to gain money to set up the scheme. This gained its first converts at the International UFO Congress staged by BUFORA in August 1983 - when the Hessdalen case and early photographs caused a sensation.

Whilst no official interest was shown by Norway's authorities the Project received remarkable aid from the NDRE (the Defence Research Establishment) and the Universities of Oslo and Bergen. Expensive equipment was loaned and a caravan monitor station was set up in the valley. Many cameras, infra-red viewers, spectrum analysers, geiger counters, seismographs, magnetographs and even a radar scanner were placed on site. Sporadic visits were made throughout the year but a major four-week research experiment operated in January and February 1984.

Dozens of astonishing photographs were taken. Almost everyone saw many UFOs.



The lights moved about, hovered, appeared in the sky, below hill-lines, were seen at night and in daylight. For once the question - do UFOs exist? - became irrelevant. At Hessdalen there was no doubt about that. All that mattered was what these particular UFOs were. Whilst the working theory was that they would turn out to be some form of UAP (Unidentified Atmospheric phenomenon) - to use the term cautious investigators

prefer - there were some startling results. A He-Ne 0.5 mW laser was used to beam a red light at the UFO when it appeared! As soon as it was "shot" the UFO changed its rate of pulsation. One week later a red laser-like light was "shot" back at the astonished researchers. Were these assumed natural phenomena attempting to communicate?

The radar produced many puzzles. When objects were clearly visible and filmed it recorded nothing. When it tracked an object nothing was seen! Occasionally there was a match up and the UFO was filmed at the same time as video-recording the radar trace. The spectrum gratings also suggested that the objects were not gaseous (as assumed) but solid. Yet they were tracked moving at 8500 m/s - way in excess of the speed of sound. No sonic booms were ever detected. Indeed the UFOs were notoriously ghost-like.

Cooperation with military authorities sometimes lead to their jets being sent up in response to Project reports of a UFO. What resulted was never made public. However, all project members sometimes reported a curious "rippling" motion - like on a boat at sea - as the ground appeared to respond to the passage of a UFO. No seismic activity was recorded. Inexplicable instrument failures throughout sightings also occurred on several occasions.

In 1985 the project again spent four winter weeks in the valley doing a continuous monitor programme, half with and half without instrumentation, to see if this affected results. Dr J Allen Hynek even participated in some of this work. Whilst the 1984 programme had led to increased scientific interest the atrocious weather (including fierce snowstorms) seems to have resulted in very few new sightings.

In late 1985 and into 1986 new local sightings at Hessdalen continue. Sadly the financial plight of the Project has precluded new work. Scientific interest is amazingly lukewarm - possibly due to the harsh climatic conditions in the area.

Hessdalen is by no means the only place where this kind of Project is feasible, and some (eg the Pennine moors of England) are more hospitable. But whilst the UFO subject continues to be one for ridicule and little-green-men cliches it will be left to dedicated people like Project Hessdalen to gather the data.

The results already collated may take years to assess, and the big questions remain unanswered. Summarising the 1985 work Odd-Gunnar Røed was forced to say that he could not tell whether the Hessdalen UFOs were natural or controlled phenomena. "Yes and no to both possibilities" was the best he could say!

A 74pp [English] "Final Technical Report - Part One" was published in 1985. It describes the first year of the project, including graphs, maps, charts and many of the photographs. It is available for a price of £7 from:- Project Hessdalen PO Box 14, N-3133 Duken Norway. Use bank account 2420.25.33945. All proceeds go to the funds and will aid future work. A sequel work "Part Two" will review the 1985 results, in due course. Assuming that the money exists to do this.

Scandinavian ufology may not have any finance, but it has plenty of grit, scientific enthusiasm and may be the true pioneer for the way ahead.

Information supplied by:- Erling Strand and Project Hessdalen

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S W I T Z E R L A N D:

Ufology in this country revolves around one of the finest magazines in the world - OVNI-Présence ("UFO Presence"). Written in French and edited by Yves Bosson (AESV C.P. 342 1800-Vevey 1 Switzerland)

Rarely does it report on sightings in its native country. Indeed sightings as such have less importance than in most UFO journals. It is very French in direction and shares the critical stance common in that country. Articles are often geared towards the psycho-social theories and it revels in exposing classic cases which turn out not to be UFOs. However, it does this in a very fair and objective manner.

UFO-Présence also translates into French some of the more important pieces from English language journals and so performs a vital function. Its 1985 issues focused on Italian ufology - especially the 5 December 1984 major sightings that became the talk of the UFO subject in Southern Europe and made press stories around the world. The conclusion of UFO Présence? - That it was quite probably a spectacular meteoric event.

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UNITED KINGDOM:

The gulf between the realities of the UFO world (as hopefully evidenced by this publication), and the popular concept of the same field, was well illustrated by British media attention during 1985. Stories which posed these questions all featured:- "Is your pet an alien?" ; "Are you living next door to an alien?" and "Are you married to an alien?" Enormous focus was placed upon two American tourists, Michel and Aurora El-Legion, who went on a promotion tour charging £6 a head to hear their wild tales. They claim to be from space and also believe that NASA is secretly kidnapping millions and shipping them to Mars in home-grown UFOs.

The El-Legions were the 1985 lunatic fringe, accompanying the ever popular Aetherius Society - who claim thousands of members, advise the House of Lords on UFO matters, and are in telepathic contact with Jeeus (currently residing on Venus). Their 'research' includes preventing World War III by concentrated "prayer energy" (and it works - they say - because World War III has not yet happened!) Whilst radio and television gave such things plenty of time (even an entire 40 minute programme devoted to the El-Legions), only one serious national media feature discussed UFOs...an ITV networked debate called "DAY - TIME", which set Jenny Randles against skeptical astronomer Dr John Mason and invited audience contributions from investigators and witnesses.

Against this very lop-sided background serious UFO work continued. There are quite a number of small local groups in main population centres. They come and go, but the estimated number during 1985 was about 20. In size they average about half a dozen members, but some claim many more. The fact that UFO interest is generally at a very low ebb keeps the numbers smaller than for many years.

Largest of these is the Yorkshire UFO Society, one of three organisations based on England's "Hessdalen" - the Pennines. They have some similarities with the American group NICAP in the fifties and are passionately involved in an exposure of the "cover-up" and the physical reality of UFOs. They publish a magazine aptly titled "Quest" (69 Buller Crescent Leeds West Yorkshire LS9 6LJ) In March 1985 they held a major one-day conference in Leeds. In August they had a week long "sky watch" on the hills. This attracted much press interest, garnered many old sightings - but nothing was filmed during the session. The UFOs had temporarily moved away, it seems.

In the south is a group called SIGAP (Surrey Investigations into Aerial Phenomena). They forged a liaison with the internationally famous journal -FSR. FSR (Flying Saucer Review) completed its thirtieth year in 1985, edited by Gordon Creighton. In its time it has heralded many major stories. However, it has slipped a little out of touch with the main thrust of world ufology. Along with SIGAP the magazine was deeply involved in the search to find the mystery of some flattened circles of corn and barley that have been turning up in fields each June and July. A BUFORA special on this affair is being released in 1986. FSR is obtainable from:- FSR Publications Snodland Kent ME6 5HJ

Many of the local groups in the north and midlands are allied together into the "Northern UFO Network" (NUFON). This is simply a liaison system which has a central data file of almost 2000 cases and publishes a journal (Northern UFO News) that aims to record all sightings (explained or otherwise) reported by the groups that participate in the scheme. It thus provides an ongoing catalogue for researchers. It is available from:- 8 Whitethroat Walk Birchwood Warrington Cheshire WA3 6PQ.

Nationally work is coordinated by the British UFO Research Association (BUFORA) - the oldest and only active country-wide body. In keeping with all UFO organisations, its membership has been falling in recent years. But it seems to have stabilised in 1985 at around 250. From these a team of 22 accredited field investigators cover Britain, concentrating on "high strangeness" cases and detailed reports.

These investigators form what is called the National Investigations Committee (NIC) - which has autonomy and meets several times a year to plan case work. Regularly participating are several of the local groups who see the sense of coordinated efforts. These include the West Yorkshire UFO Research Group, Manchester UFO Research Association and Leicester UFO Centre.

Computerisation of data was also important in Britain during 1985. Mike Wooten took over responsibility for this and began the task of sifting through the 15,000 files stored at the EUFORA research headquarters in Peterborough. Many hundreds were considered worthy of putting onto the computer data base. It is anticipated that valuable patterns might become evident when this programme is completed.

The NIC also developed what is called the UFO Sensitivity Index, which was to be marketed to world wide UFO groups during 1986. Essentially the idea is to use a card test to offer an estimate of a witness's sensitivity to various kinds of UFO (Identified Flying Objects). This will allow some consistent means of measuring the strangeness of their UFO report.

The card comprises a set of photographs showing UFOs in various ambiguous poses. Some are harder to spot than others. There are also some genuine UFOs. Statistician Paul Fuller helped design the scoring method, which should allow some interesting research possibilities when field tests begin.

Another research project begun in 1985 was "Anamnesis". This means "life - profile" and concerns close encounter witnesses. It was designed by an Austrian psychiatrist, Dr Alex Keul, and is being field tested in Britain by the NIC. Ken Phillips is coordinating the project, which will operate until the end of 1987 when a preliminary evaluation of the results will decide the next step. Sociologist Dr Shirley McIver, from York University, and clinical psychologist, Dr Malcolm Scott, from Luton, are assisting in the analysis. Dr McIver is the only British scientist who obtained her Ph.D. by means of an official study of UFO investigations. Her work centred on the beliefs of investigators.

The idea of the Anamnesis project is to use questionnaires and standard psychology tests (eg involving ink-blot tests) to look for similarities in the background to witnesses who claim extreme UFO sightings. It is hoped that the popular theory held by many scientists (that such witnesses are mentally unstable) will be open to either proof or disproof in this way. No matter how much UFO investigators might feel that witnesses are sane, the only way a scientist will accept that opinion is if it is accompanied by proper test data. Hence this experiment.

Another area that EUFORA has been particularly keen on is the question of a code of practice to govern behaviour. After a long series of meetings with several other British groups this code was agreed, providing the first concrete example of what is possible when ufologists forget their differences and work together. The Code acts as a guide to investigators in their dealings with the witness, fellow researchers and the public. Most of it is pure common sense but, like the oath taken by doctors or lawyers, it shows that we mean business and care about the ethics of what we do. The code has already been adopted by the paranormal research team ASSAP, and in 1985 the Australian Center for UFO Study also agreed to it. EUFORA is keen to hear from other world-wide groups who would like to adopt the code as standard.

No conferences were held in the year; although EUFORA staged monthly lectures in London. The most fascinating came in April 1985 when Ralph Noyes lectured. He was civil service head of the Ministry of Defence department DS 8 for four years, and DS 8 were responsible (amongst other things) for handling UFO data. Ralph gave some significant insights to British government thinking on the subject.

Information supplied by:- Jenny Randles

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UNITED STATES:

Like everywhere else the birth place of modern UFO study suffered from the near demise of the UFO during 1985. Sightings were very few in number. Research organisations had to endure falling memberships. And concentration was placed heavily on the past. One writer was forced to suggest that those who remained in the field were to become historians instead of investigators.

In other respects it was a most traumatic year. Dr J. Allen Hynek, without much doubt the world's most famous and best respected ufologist, suffered a major illness and underwent surgery for a brain tumour. He was forced into retirement in Arizona and although everybody wished him well the country was forced to face the future in the knowledge that he was unlikely to ever be the driving power that he has always been in the past.

Jerome Clark, himself a well-known writer in the field, took over Hynek's role as editor-in-chief of the "International UFO Reporter", the magazine which is published by the Center for UFO Studies (CUFOS). He said that the tragedy which struck "the acknowledged leader of ufology" had "sent shockwaves through the field and initiated frequently pessimistic assessments of its future."

However, Clark was determined to steer CUFOS through this troublesome time and introduced major new changes in the magazine. "...it became, necessarily, less concerned with recent sightings...and increasingly concerned with setting a new agenda for ufology, emphasizing the need for sound thinking and discouraging the practice of unprovable speculations about the ultimate nature of the UFO phenomenon. In that sense it became a unique voice in American ufology - and one that both old-line proponents and debunkers have greeted with some bemusement."

CUFOS had also had a brief hiatus with a financial benefactor. The media all over the world reported that Dr Hynek had founded the International Center for UFO Research (not directly connected with CUFOS) and that a sum of money, that might be as much as one million dollars, was to be donated by an anonymous (and obviously wealthy) patron who wished to see true study of UFOs commence. This was a longstanding dream of many who have poured in their own time and meagre resources over the years. Sadly it turned out too good to be true. Those responsible did not share Hynek's scientific principles and the whole project collapsed.

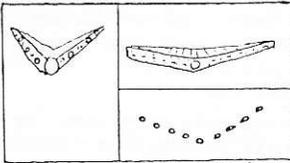
APRO (Aerial Phenomena Research Organisation) - the oldest UFO group in the world, also suffered at the hands of illness. Its founders Coral and Jim Lorenzon, who have been at the forefront of ufology for thirty-five years, were forced to suspend publication for a time. But it still contributes and was notably sceptical in its assessment of the wave of "boomerang" UFOs which dominated the sightings scene. Field investigator Dick Ruhl concluded they were aircraft.

Other UFO investigators are less sure of this and investigations continue. Aside from CUFOS only MUFON (Mutual UFO Network) is active in this sense. It has a monthly "MUFON Journal" (almost the only UFO magazine issued so regularly to remain anywhere in the world). It also sponsors an annual three-day conference each year. The 1985 event was at St Louis, and according to Jerome Clark was comparatively disappointing. Nevertheless the publication of its proceedings seems to have been the highlight of a rather dismal year for UFO literature in the USA. Especially significant is the in-depth discussion of two famous "UFO crashes" in the very early days. William Moore's masterpiece of detective work set the American UFO movement buzzing, since whilst demolishing one (at Aztec, New Mexico), he produced almost conclusive evidence that the incident at Roswell in July 1947 was a real event. And if the authorities have had a real crashed disc for almost forty years a whole series of major questions are thrown into sharp focus.

Another new venture was "UFO information week" organised by MUFON's public relations officer, Marge Christensen, during August. This was a nationwide publicity blitz that resulted in much interest. According to Jerome Clark, "This well-meaning effort, unfortunately, was symptomatic of a growing tendency among American ufologists to orient their efforts toward public relations exercises, when the real issue needs to be the scientific soundness of UFO investigation. In the end the opinions of the public at large are mostly irrelevant... ufologists need to convince scientists of the seriousness of their case."

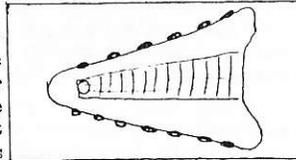
Like all previous media experiments the "Information Week" did not create a new wave of sightings, illustrating that the phenomenon is not tied directly to press interest as many skeptics argue. Some old cases were brought to light, showing that one of ufology's major problem areas is that few people know how or where to report their observations.

The "boomerang" UFOs that have so dominated the headlines have actually been reported since 1983. Hundreds of witnesses are now known from areas of



both New York State and Connecticut, especially around Westchester County. As the illustrations show, these witnesses have been describing very large formations of lights, often in a "V" formation. Whether it is relevant that the television series "V" (about aliens invading in UFOs) began, and was screened during, the main wave of sightings still remain unknown. But there are

some who think that it might be. Opinions are divided on this case like with almost no other in recent memory. Some investigators feel that the repeatability and extraordinary number of reliable witnesses (plus, of course, some photographs) tends to support the very strange nature of these events; making it a classic case. Others believe that these factors make it rather suspicious, as the phenomenon simply does not behave in this fashion. Those who have delved into it suggest that there is evidence for a team of daredevil pilots who are quite deliberately hoaxing the reports by dangerous and possibly illegal night flying. The controversy seems set to rage on.



Research seems very different from Europe's concentration on social and psychological matters. According to Clark, "Two issues dominate ufology in America: the official cover-up, real or alleged, of UFO secrets... and abductions."

It is these cases of alleged abduction by aliens which is providing the most dramatic new developments. New York artist Budd Hopkins and a team of psychologists (lead by Dr Aphrodite Clamar) have been conducting experiments with a range of ordinary folk who claim to have been taken on board UFOs. Impeccable methods seem to have been utilised in these experiments and many once skeptical scientists have been shocked by the thoroughly consistent results that are emerging. Clark says... "The implications- that these reports do not seem to be psychological in origin, that the responsible agency is an incomprehensible, and not especially benevolent, alien intelligence- are such as to cause ufologists who have wanted to believe in extraterrestrial visitation to consider exactly what such visitation may mean"

The methods of research which Hopkins and Clamar are using show the way ahead for this kind of work. Whilst it remains to be seen if their case will finally be proven the indications, of complex medical experiments and somewhat disconcerting sexual overtones to the alien abductions, are to say the least disturbing. Even more so, because in England a similar set of experiments lead by lawyer Harry Harris and psychiatrist Dr Albert Kellar has been uncovering closely similar patterns. The British workers seem entirely ignorant of the results being obtained across the Atlantic and unfortunately appear to be far less interested in publishing reports - although they have video filmed the results over a period of about five years.

A great deal of attention in the USA is given to the "Freedom of Information Act". Since this became law in 1976 it has allowed researchers to request documents about the UFO subject from government departments. If these are denied specific reasons (eg national security) must be cited. To date a huge stockpile of papers from the CIA, FBI, US Air Force and other bodies has been released. Many agencies (eg the super-secret NSA - responsible for satellite monitoring) have denied access to papers they hold.

In 1985 Ray Boeche of MUFON, one of the tireless workers who spends his time writing countless letters tracking down papers (often hidden in obscure places in the hope that nobody will come after them!) seems to have made a major breakthrough. He says, "A request sent to the US Defense Intelligence Agency (DIA) provided 139 pages of material, dating from December 1957 to June 1980. Many items of interest are to be found in this collection - sightings of UFOs by scientists in Antarctica, reports of UFOs from the Soviet Union and the People's Republic of China, the scrambling of Peruvian Air Force fighters which fired on a UFO, and so on." All of this material had been previously denied and took much effort to weedle out. It makes one wonder exactly what else has been refused over recent years, aside from the more obvious question of how the authorities can on the one hand deny the UFOs "defence significance" (to use a phrase often issued) and yet possess literally hundreds of documents about them in their defence agency files.

However, the real breakthrough in Boeche's DIA releases came only upon very careful study (almost with a magnifying glass!). To quote Boeche, "The 'Gem' in question is a three-word name, Project Moon Dust, which is found on only four of the documents. It appears first in an intelligence report dated 16 January 1967, and again on a 6 April 1967 report. These two intelligence documents were originated by the US Defense Atache's Office at the US Embassy in Rabat, Morocco, and sent to DIA headquarters in Washington."

These "Moon Dust" papers simply refer to Moroccan press stories that are not specified and end by concluding that they "presage future reporting which could be valuable in pursuit of Project MOON DUST."

What is this previously unknown project? There are many indications that, whilst the official American position is that government study of UFOs ended when the Air Force Project BLUE BOOK was closed in 1969, a secret study has always carried on in the background, and does so now - without BLUE BOOK to act as a cover. Is this what MOON DUST represents?

This possibility is made clearer by the other two references to this mystery project in the DIA releases. They are dated 17 and 21 August 1979 - ten years after BLUE BOOK closed and American official interest in UFOs ended. There should be no code name for a project then, because there is supposed to be no project! Yet these defense reports from La Paz, Bolivia, refer to the overflight of some UFOs and strange objects found on the ground after their passage. The objects were "spherical, about 70 centimetres in diameter, and 2 metres in circumference, with a hole apparently melted in one side". They were made of "special light alloy but very resistant". They seem to have been designed for space re-entry. It would appear that MOON DUST is concerned with physical evidence of space objects!

Ray Boeche intends to continue the fight and enquiries with other agencies have produced some surprises already. MOON DUST is definitely UFO related and still operates today. Boeche wonders "have we stumbled onto BlueBook's covert counterpart?" He is offering copies of the MOON DUST papers for photocopy and postal costs only. (Available from PO Box 94627 Lincoln Nebraska 68509)

Information supplied by:- Ray Boeche and Jerome Clark

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SIGHTING REPORTS

WORLDWIDE:

The lack of UFO sightings around the world has been noticeable since the Spielberg movie "Close Encounters of the Third Kind". Following its release in 1978 reports have plunged to all-time lows virtually everywhere. This fact was commented on by both Scandinavian and French sources during 1985. A SUFOI (Denmark) spokesman said, "The number of sightings and reports still decreases and is very low compared with the seventies".

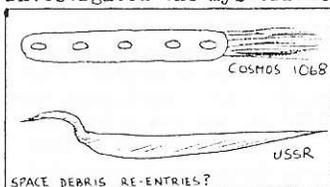
Nothing illustrates this better than BUFORA in Britain. In 1977 (the last major European wave) over 700 cases were reported. By 1980 this plunged to 118. Figures since are shown in brackets:- 1981 (69), 1982 (29), 1983 (35), 1984 (25). The total for 1985 looks like being even less than that!

Why should this be so? Has the romance gone out of reporting the UFO, now it can be seen on the cinema screen? One factor is the increasing sophistication of investigators. More cases are rejected without being followed up, once their likely solution is foreseen. Witnesses too have become more familiar with misperceptions in the sky. Artificial satellites (which used to generate dozens of UFO sightings a year) are hardly ever mistaken nowadays.

One growth area in misinterpretation is the space debris re-entry. There is now so much junk in the atmosphere that Russian and American booster rockets or hardware are re-entering on a regular basis, burning up and creating a major spectacular in the heavens. The contrast with the pathetic show by Halley's Comet in 1985 is very marked.

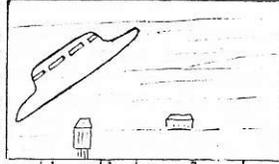
The satellite burn up can leave a train of debris across the sky for up to several minutes and has resulted in a number of prominent UFO reports. One of the most dramatic occurred on New Year's Eve 1978 when the booster from the COSMOS 1068 satellite crashed into the upper atmosphere in a blaze of destructive glory. Thousands of people out on the streets described cigar-shaped UFOs with portholes, or reported aircraft on fire to local fire brigades. It seems to be only a matter of time before one of these re-entries (which occasionally involves pieces making it all the way to earth) is the harbinger of death from space. Sooner or later someone will die at the hands of a real Extra-terrestrial artifact! Indeed, during 1985, when there was a mysterious accident to a packed Air India Jumbo Jet, similarities in the timing of re-entering debris fuelled suggestions (which appear unfounded) that perhaps this tragedy had been caused by a catastrophic mid-air collision.

UFO investigators must be ever alert for this type of possibility. BUFORA investigated the mysterious incident which befell a cargo aircraft over East Anglia in late 1984. During 1985 attempts were made to find out what caused the Trislander aircraft to land at Amsterdam without one engine. It had been struck over Rendlesham Forest, Suffolk, in the middle of the night and unidentified metal fragments had been discovered embedded within. Accident investigators felt it possible these had come from space. The Soviet Union have been turning these things to great advantage. They use the UFO reports that re-entries and launches generate to mask space experiments. This provides much interest for investigators of the UFO, who now have to be experts in international affairs! During 1985 one such reported object buzzed an Aeroflot flight from Tbilisi to Tallinn at 30,000 feet. A light display which became a green cloud was noted. This cloud then "changed shape into a plum, then square, and finally 'solidified' into a giant needle-nosed wingless aircraft with a curious tail". It was tracked by ground radar travelling at 300 MPH. A real UFO or a Soviet experiment? Nobody knows - but the USSR have launched a major new UFO enquiry headed by a former cosmonaut.



One of the things that this dearth in sightings has allowed is a backtrack to older cases. These can now be re-evaluated in the light of modern methods of investigation. In Britain the famous Peter Day movie-film, shot in January 1973, has been subjected to a major re-appraisal by the Wiltshire group SCUFORI. They have concluded that it is explicable in terms of an F-111 jet known to have crashed that same morning. There remain controversial elements in their case, but if valid what has widely been regarded as the only genuine piece of UFO movie film in the UK may now have joined the ranks of the IFOs.

British and Australian researchers have been looking into a claim by a former RAF corporal that in October 1957 he saw a UFO hovering over the atomic test site at Maralinga, in South Australia. During 1985 there was a public enquiry about these tests. The Australian government are after compensation, as they believe inadequate precautions were taken and radiation sickness has produced some levels of serious illness. However, these investigations have not taken into account the extraordinary allegation that a classic UFO was seen above the site by several officers. It was tilted at a 130 deg. angle, made of silvery/blue metal and had a line of windows on it. After 15 minutes it flew silently away. Checks were made with all possible sources of air activity, but nobody knew what it was. The British government deny any knowledge of this event. But Bill Chalker is pursuing official Australian files. Perhaps Britain will be the first country to obtain a lawsuit from outer space!



Previously unknown cases from the past have become a feature of UFO research in these slow times. Investigators can afford to spend much time on them. In France enquiries continue into the Trans-En-Provence case, four years ago, which excited the government team CEPAN like no other. A UFO allegedly landed and altered the chemical structure of plants on the ground. It is this kind of in-depth study of selected cases that might provide the breakthrough.

Another area has been seeking out cases in otherwise unheard from nations. In 1985 two cases from Greenland were followed up by SUFOI in Denmark. On 24 October 1983 (at 05.00) two nurses claim to have seen "a big sphere" followed by "eight smaller objects with different colours" Inside were "three human-like beings...wearing red and black clothes." Duration was almost an hour and a half. A similar object was seen by two other people at the same location (Copenhagen) at 04.30 two days later. Then, on 2 November 1983 (at 18.45) four people at Egedesminde saw a "airship with several white and red lights" which projected a searchlight beam at the water and a nearby mountain. Police enquiries into all these sightings revealed no explanations.

At the same time in mainland Denmark one of the rare breed of "car-stop" cases was being investigated. At 03.30 on 21 November 1982 a man at Hobro saw four blue lights above his car. The engine stopped and the vehicle rolled forward about 100 metres. The lights then extinguished and the car regained power. Afterwards the witness had pains in his eyes and when he looked at normal light bulbs they had a red glow. This kind of baffling case presents a real challenge to science, because of its fascinating consistencies. CUFOs in the USA and EUFORA in Britain have both produced catalogues and research documents on the subject.

Interestingly, there were similar reports from East Anglia in Britain during late October/early November 1983. These centred around the Rendlesham Forest area where British investigators continue to follow up the alleged reports that a "spaceship" crashed in December 1980. This major case was pursued by ufologists on both sides of the Atlantic in 1985. Ray Boeche at MUFON was particularly successful in obtaining aid from a State Senator who put more time into his enquiries than he has in many other matters since becoming a senator. But, despite admitting this, he had no comment to offer as to what really occurred in that wood.

Case investigations which date chronologically from 1985 and which are of special interest are summarised in the pages which follow:-

DATELINE:- 23 January 1985 Location:- Burnley, England

On this date northern England was covered in a blanket of snow. When JS, a 47-year old school headmaster from Lancashire, heard a "thud" he assumed it was merely some of this falling off the roof. However, when he went outside to investigate he was amazed to see a brilliant light in the north-west heading towards the school, where he was naturally in residence. It seemed to be barely moving and after several minutes he called to his family. It was 21.15 hrs and quite dark, but his wife and three daughters (one aged 15, the others 13-year old twins) all came into the garden to watch in astonishment as the object drifted over. As it passed almost directly above them the bright "headlight" went out and a diamond or kite shape was visible. This had four vivid green lights at each apex, a central amber light, dark black vanes or spokes radiating from this and a mass of twinkling bluish "fairy lights" scintillating around the edge. All of this at a height no more than 500 feet, moving in absolute silence and seeming almost to hang as it drifted so slowly. They discussed the prospect of it being an aircraft but had never seen one like it before. Its strangeness was enhanced by the fact that street lamps were temporarily broken, so the area was very dark. All traffic vanished from the vicinity during the encounter too - something researchers call the "O₂ Factor", and which is a weird but common feature of such close encounter cases. Total duration was fifteen minutes and the object was lost to the south over the Pennine Hills, a well known UFO "window". One other family a couple of miles away reported a bright green light - but the lack of further witnesses in a highly built up location remains puzzling. The investigators noted the remarkable similarity with a sighting over South Wales on 19 January 1983. This almost identical object was reported to the Ministry of Defence, who leaked the case to Jenny Randles a few months later. In June 1984 she and BBC-Wales in Cardiff reconstructed the case for a TV documentary but were unable to explain it. However it was tracked back to close proximity to an RAF base! (For a report on the Welsh case see MUFORA BULLETIN:- 015/016)

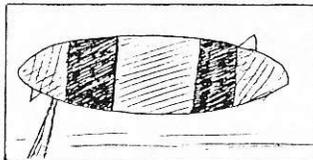
Investigation:- MUFORA (Peter Hough & Mike Sacks). Also Carol Halsall of WAPIT

Conclusion:- UNKNOWN

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DATELINE:- 18 February 1985 Location:- Tynset, Norway

This was a blisteringly cold winters night with a temperature of minus 34°C. At approximately 21.25 hrs the sky was clear and full of stars. A mother of three children (aged from 9 to 13 years) went out to collect the post, necessitating a short walk to do so. Her attention was arrested by an object she at first assumed to be a parachute. It hung quite immobile glowing with green, red and orange bands. Eventually, after making sure it was there she ran in for her children. For half an hour they all watched the strange object before it began to drift off westwards. As it did so it swayed from side to side "like a ship on the ocean". Alternately the side and end view were offered to the witnesses. Twice beams of light were projected from the underside of the object towards the ground. They came from opposite sides of the underbelly, and lasted only seconds. Finally the strange phenomenon performed a "loop", dipped and then rose upwards in a steep climb and vanished at high speed. This most unusual encounter occurred not very far from the Hessdalen valley.



Investigation:- UFO NORWAY (Leif Havik)

Conclusion:- UNKNOWN

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DATELINE:- 14 April 1985 Location:- Castladia, Italy

Two young people, both aged 23, left Pordenone by car at 20.00 hrs to drive to the ski-resort of Piancavallo, where they had a drink. They drove on towards Castladia near to 22.00. The weather was bad, with a thunderstorm shortly before they set off. However, a strange greenish/yellow fog seemed to have descended on the road and the snow appeared to have melted in the immediate vicinity. Whilst puzzling this out their car engine inexplicably failed; although both headlights and radio continued to operate. Slowly they coasted to a halt. After several attempts they got the engine to start, but only for a few metres. Then it stopped again. They were now on a slight hill and descending without power. Suddenly the driver saw two weird creatures picked out by the headlamp beams. They were hidden behind a bush, but darted out from it and crossed the road ahead. Both wore silvery suits and were at least 1.7 metres tall (almost 6') and all of 1.4 metres ($4\frac{1}{2}$ ' wide! No other details were noticed. His fiancée (in the passenger seat) did not see these figures. In desperation the driver tried to start the engine as they continued to be carried down the hill. It would not work. Finally they reached a small village and were driven home by two friends. When they returned some hours later with a tow truck to collect the stricken car it began first time, without being touched by the mechanic. Meanwhile, at nearby San Quirino, at about 21.45 hrs, a man had seen a bright egg shaped object in the sky. It pulsed and then turned into two lights (one red and one green) which fell towards the ground but stopped at a height of a couple of hundred feet. At this close approach the man could see that the lights were on either edge of a bright greenish/yellow dome on top of a saucer-like device. Eventually the object left the scene, at first in a stop/start fashion and then at speed. A further witness a couple of miles away also observed what appears to have been the phenomenon.

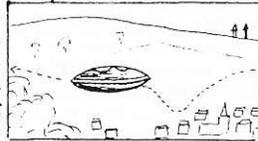
Investigation:- CUN (Antonio Chiumiento)

Conclusion:- UNKNOWN

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DATELINE:- 19 May 1985 Location:- Ventnor, Isle of Wight, England

A 43-year old man was out on downland above this coastal town at 20.45 on a dull Summer's evening. There was high overcast cloud but almost no wind. Sea mist closed in by 22.00. He first observed what looked like a yellow flare climb up out of the sea to the south-east. It then ascended, levelled off and tracked from his right to left, hugging the ground. It was very low down (only a few tens of feet) and well below the hill-line. At one point it dipped and hovered above some houses in the town. After being here quite a few seconds it rose and continued on its ground-hugging course to the north-west. At closest point it passed within 100 feet of him and he had a very clear view of the object. It was in the form of a discus, about eight feet wide. A band of glowing translucence acted like a rim round the middle. On top were two patches of light. Towards the end of the sighting he saw these more clearly as the object tilted on its edge. At closest approach he heard a "sssh" sound. He last saw the thing after three minutes disappearing beyond a hedge. Despite going to look when he reached the hedge the object had vanished. Extensive investigations and local press stories produced no other witnesses, despite Ventnor being a very popular tourist spot. No conventional solutions made sense. However, there are two radar stations on the downs within two miles of this location and the object was last seen heading straight for one at Appuldurcombe Down. Police advise that a "special radar test" was operational from the other site on St Boniface Down during May, using Naval helicopters. Although no confirmation has been given by either the MoD or Navy it is considered that a secret RPV (Remotely piloted vehicle) was responsible, on a mission for which UFOs would be a good cover. Investigation:- BUFORA (Paul Fuller)



DATELINE:- 9 June 1985

Location:- Mount Newman, Australia

In the Summer of 1985 there was a whole wave of sightings in Western Australia. This particular one involves a breed that is becoming increasingly common with somewhat alarming consistency:- the aerial encounter between UFO and aircraft. Two pilots were flying a Piper Navahoe lightplane out of Newman and had climbed to 10,000 feet when an orange ball of light materialised ahead. It then appeared to stop dead and fall down to a height of only 2000 feet and paced them beneath for another twenty minutes. It then disappeared, but at one point the pilot had to make a bank to the right as he feared the possibility of a mid-air collision. Stories such as this have become rife all over the world, increasing the fear of a potential disaster - if indeed one has not already occurred. Again in Australia, in October 1978, pilot Frederick Valentich radioed that he was being paced by a UFO. The official accident report includes the transcript of his final messages, displaying terror and strange sounds over the microphone. The lightplane, then over the Bass Straits, disappeared. In the eight years since, neither any trace of it nor its pilot have ever been found.

Investigation:- West Australian UFO Investigation Center (Michael Borley)

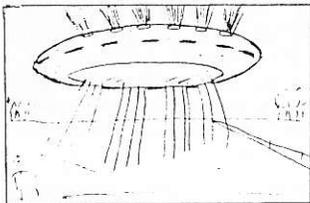
Conclusion:- UNKNOWN

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DATELINE:- 21 June 1985

Location:- Pennsylvania, USA

One of the things which UFO investigators sometimes claim is that the phenomenon uses spectacular natural events as a cover for some dazzling show. It is easy to regard this as a crazy suggestion. However, the events just before and after midnight, into the early hours of 21st June, may be worth pondering. Investigators for the Pennsylvania "hot-line" were swamped with calls concerning a trail of red/orange lights. It did not take long to discover that Cosmos 1530 had re-entered the atmosphere over the Eastern USA and was the cause of this display. Nevertheless some reports clearly were not the product of this piece of space-junk. When plotted onto a map they do show a correlation. The first call (just before midnight and received before the space debris re-entered) came from a man in Pittsburgh who saw a huge object with blue and white lights that drifted very slowly across the sky. Several friends with him saw it too. It was so enormous it blocked out the stars as it drifted silently by. Simultaneously a woman returning from an all-night grocery store was witness to some lights in another suburb of the city. They were on a huge solid-looking oval craft "the length of a football field" and covered in many lights. It was only 50 feet above the rooftops and made a soft whirring sound as it drifted to the east very slowly. Meanwhile, north of Pittsburgh, at 00.03, two men driving home on a back-road observed a remarkably similar thing with six blue lights. About 90 miles south-east at 00.15 a carload of people at Champion saw a lighted object of an akin nature. And at 00.30 at close by Indianhead an object assumed to be a brilliantly lit "blimp" drifted over. The craft was oval and so low that it illuminated trees with blue beams of light as it passed across. The only sound was a rushing of air, but nearby dogs seemed to be barking at it. One man walked right underneath it and saw it perfectly. The top section had six blue lights and was rotating anti-clockwise, giving off flashes that lit up a metal surface. He rushed home to get extra witnesses and a camera. But on return it had gone. In a case such as this it is very hard to know exactly what could look like this, appear to so many people over such a wide area and not be of very considerable scientific interest.

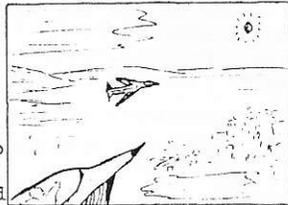


Investigation:- MUFON (Stan Gordon and PASU hotline) Conclusion:- UNKNOWN

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DATELINE:- 22 July 1985 Location:- Bulawayo, Zimbabwe

In August 1985 many newspapers around the world reported that two military jets had been sent in pursuit of a UFO over Zimbabwe. The case received surprisingly favourable coverage in even erudite media sources. Unfortunately in none was the solution presented. Apparently the glowing orange object was first seen in South Africa on 21 July. Two jets here were scrambled, but there was more secrecy than in Zimbabwe. By 17.45 hrs on the 22nd the object had been seen so often, and was now stationary over the control tower at Bulawayo Airport, that two Hawk planes were sent up to investigate. The civil airport was closed for several hours whilst this investigation continued. Does travel delay insurance cover UFOs as a cause, one wonders? The object was like a "bright star" and seemed to "zoom" up from its estimated 15,000 feet to about 100,000 feet - way beyond the ceiling of the planes. An extensive investigation by Cynthia Hind eventually uncovered the truth. Air Marshall Azim Daudpota was very impressed... "This was no ordinary unidentified flying object" and Air Commodore Dave Thorne agreed it was genuine. Wind speeds and checks with launch sites ruled out the balloon option, considered likely due to the long stationary and very slow moving nature of the phenomenon. "This immediately rules out that it could have been a balloon", the pilots Group Captain insisted. The two pilots had 1500 and 1800 flying hours experience respectively and described their views in writing. Both were baffled. However, descriptions compiled from witnesses on the ground who observed through telescopes or binoculars seemed to suggest a balloon. "Uprturned wine glass", "reflective sphere" and other similar accounts were offered. NI Bull the airports met. officer was one such witness, through binoculars. He felt it could have been a balloon very high (where winds could be quite different). At over 100,000 feet the jets would have got nowhere near to it and would have had little better view than the unaided eye on the ground. Ultimately it was learnt that the French space centre (the same team which runs the UFO section "GEPAN") were involved in high-altitude scientific experiments using huge balloons (over 100 feet across!) They were designed to make complex recordings and drift for 50 days. Indeed some of the July launches could circumnavigate the southern hemisphere and still turn up in South America or Australia in September. As mentioned earlier in this publication, and see below, these experiments proved more than a nuisance during 1985. Perhaps the Mount Newman case in Australia (see previous page) was one of the earliest launches - although none before July have been discovered.



Investigation:- MUFON- Africa (Cynthia Hind)
 Conclusion:- High-Altitude Balloon

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DATELINE:- 15 September 1985 Location:- Aosta, Italy

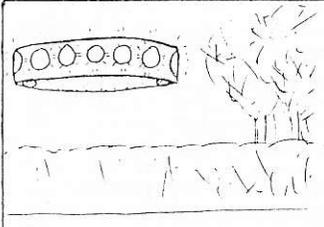
Because the Zimbabwe UFOs remained that, according to the world's press, the people of Italy thought that they too had been privileged with a major case. At 09.00 RAI, the local TV network, received many calls. Some said it was a UFO, others a balloon. It was a triangle, or cone, hovering, or moving very slowly at a great height. Three silver balls were seen on each apex. Hungry for a scoop the TV centre chartered a plane and took off to hunt the UFO. The plane reached 10,000 feet - but estimates showed the UFO to be at least 35,000 feet beyond that. At 12.05, with the UFO now moving away, the TV crew shot movie film of their prey. However, ground radar at Milan only picked up the "transponder" (a radar beeper) from the aircraft. The UFO was not visible. Investigation continues, but speculation is fuelled by the balloon experiments above. Could this have been a balloon launched from France itself? All indications are that it was.

Investigation:- CUN (Eduardo Russo and Gampaola Grassino)
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DATELINE:- 15 September 1985

Location:- Bagshot Heath, Surrey, England

Nine hours after the TV crew filmed their UFO over Italy perhaps Britain's major case of 1985 occurred. Whatever was seen in this instance it was quite certainly not a balloon. The principal witness is butcher David McMurray and his wife Sue. Their two small children remained asleep in the back of the car. The McMurrays were returning from a visit to friends along a quiet side road that crosses Bagshot Heath, four miles north-east of Farnborough. At 21.00 they were met by an "amazing sight" - a bright white glow hovering over the road ahead (ie in the south-west). The glare was so intense that Mr McMurray had to turn away. This first light "shot off skywards" and vanished, but a second one had appeared from behind trees to their left (ie in the south) and hovered or paced the car as it moved forward. Another car that was behind them had pulled to a halt and appeared to have seen the UFO. The McMurrays continued down the road about one mile to where some houses stood. Near these he stopped and got out of the vehicle. Mrs McMurray refused to go with him and locked the car door. The



UFO was now plainly stationary to the south and the witness had his best view. The object was oval with a red and green light on either side of the base. Several white lights ringed the side of it. A faint buzz or hum also seemed to emanate from its direction. Sue McMurray described it as "saucer-shaped, flat underneath, with large "spotlights" on the rim." After one and a half minutes it shot away to be seen as just star-like. Mr McMurray drove back up the hill but there was no sign of it. However, the

car which had stopped behind them was still there, interior light on. Mr McMurray regrets not inquiring to see if its occupant had viewed the UFO. The next day all four members of the family overslept (most unusual), Mr McMurray developed a severe headache which was bad enough for him to call the doctor and the doctor to send him to hospital for ECG and blood pressure tests. These proved quite normal. He also felt "hollow" in his stomach and shakey. This persisted for eight days. Sue McMurray had similar symptoms for the last three days. Other effects noted by Mr McMurray include small red circles (about one and a quarter inches in size) which appeared on his neck and sides in the weeks after the sighting. Odd memory lapses. Disturbed sleep. Out-of-the-body floating sensations (on several nights). The words "Epsilon 44L-47L" entering his head for no reason (and he has no idea what they mean). And the sudden discovery that he was explaining to himself the scientific basis of mechanical equipment in his idle thoughts. Something he has no training in. The day following the encounter the McMurray's car also failed to start. A tow was necessary and the garage found the battery drained flat. The story made national headlines in the Sunday Mirror two weeks after it happened. (Headline "Our UFO Terror"). And this and local press stories uncovered two other sets of witnesses from about ten miles north, around Wokingham, Berkshire; where reddish lights were reported. One of these was explained by the MoD as a Harrier jet - which is tested locally and can hover in mid-air using its jets. The exact location of the McMurray's encounter (Bagshot Heath) is rich in military centres. These include the Royal Aircraft Establishment at Farnborough (about 6 miles south-east) (where many planes are test flown), the military academy at Sandhurst (3 miles west) and Bisley camp, due south of them. This latter is a major training area (using Bagshot Heath) and often produces activity such as parachute flares. This case looks destined to become significant. Regression hypnosis was carried out by Dr Leonard Wilder for FSR (Flying Saucer Review) on 12 January 1986. But is it necessarily as strange as it seems?

Investigations:- SICAP, Surrey (Omar Fowler)

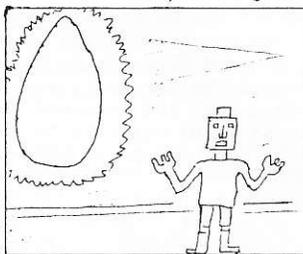
Conclusion:- Pending

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DATELINE:- 28 October 1985

Location:- Hønefoss, Norway

One of the most peculiar Close Encounters of the Third Kind befell a group of school children aged between 7 and 12 years. They were out on a cold night watching the eclipse of the moon when a light appeared in the north-east. It came near ground level and was seen to be oval in shape, with a grey colour behind it. One of the children pointed a torch towards it; although it was about 200 metres away and still in the air. It seemed to respond by projecting a blinding glow in their direction, bathing them in light. As it did so it illuminated a weird scene on the road below :- 100 tiny creatures under two feet tall! They were of different colours, including white, brown & black and wore the same box-like structures on their heads. Meantime the UFO was disappearing into the sky in a vertical direction. The figures seemed to be frightened of the children and ran away. But they were seen on a number of occasions over the next three hours! Sometimes the entities made an odd muttering noise. On other occasions they played a sort of "hide and seek" game. One child tried to take a photograph, but the creatures ran away. Several of the youngsters went inside to tell their parents. A number confirmed being told when the ufologists got there. However, none of the adults went outside to see for themselves! One man jogging by had the figures pointed out by the children. He claimed it was a cat and left! Some footprints were found in a garden and when a local dog sniffed them it went wild and pawed the earth, destroying them. Some of the children also complained of feeling sick on the evening of their encounter, but were fine the next day. When the investigation team arrived two weeks had gone by and no evidence remained. However, about twelve children were interviewed and all gave broadly similar accounts. It is not thought likely that they were all lying. Checks with police, airports and radar stations all proved to be negative. Bizarre as this story certainly is, there was no obvious source of an explanation.



Investigations:- UFO NORWAY (Leif Havik)

Conclusion:- UNKNOWN

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DATELINE:- 21 December 1985

Location:- Hessdalen, Norway

The 1985-86 winter began where previous years had left off, with yet more sightings in the Hessdalen valley. One of the more interesting comes from a man who was frustrated by unusual disturbance patterns on his TV set. He set off outside to find the cause and observed a large globe was hanging low over the River Valley at Jønshaugen. After about thirty minutes of watching it he got fed up and went back indoors. In Hessdalen UFOs are so common - place, that once you are satisfied that one is responsible then you simply have to sit it out and wait for it to go. As it duly did! Who said nobody ever sees UFOs any more?

Investigations:- UFO NORWAY/ Project Hessdalen

Conclusion:- UNKNOWN

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R E S E A R C H and T H E O R I E S

NEAR DEATH EXPERIENCE AND CLOSE ENCOUNTERS:- Two sides of the same coin?

By Darren P. Chanter

Darren is a psychologist and member of the West Yorkshire UFO Research Group. His interest in UFOs is relatively new. This is one of his first published articles.

The aim of this article is to highlight the often striking similarities that exist between accounts of so-called 'Near Death Experience', and those which refer to alleged 'close encounters' - particularly those UFO cases which exhibit a high degree of strangeness. I intend to suggest that, in view of these similarities, the two types of experience are fundamentally related. Both are examples of the percipient having undergone an altered state of consciousness.

One man has made an extensive study of the 'near death experience' (or NDE). He is Dr Raymond Moody. Moody noted fifteen stages or events which can be said to be 'typical' of this phenomenon, in so far as they occur regularly from one account to the next. (1) (All page numbers in this article refer to this book.) Briefly, these can be described as follows:-

- 1 "Ineffability": So far outside the realm of normal, everyday experience do these experiences prove to be, that those involved almost always label them as being ineffable or inexpressable.
- 2 "Hearing the news": On numerous occasions subjects have heard what is said by those around them, including "hearing their doctors or other spectators ... pronounce them dead" (p.26)
- 3 "Feelings of peace and quiet": These occur throughout the NDE, though they are particularly evident during the early stages.
- 4 "The noise": Various "auditory sensations" (p.28) are reported. Some are pleasant, almost musical; others not so (eg loud ringing or banging).
- 5: "The dark tunnel": Almost without exception "people have the sensation of being pulled very rapidly through... (what is variously described as) a tunnel, funnel, vacuum, void, sewer, valley or a cylinder." (p.29)
- 6: "Out of the body": Usually following (sometimes preceding) their passage through the tunnel, subjects find they have separated from their "physical body" - which they can still clearly see beneath them - often to find themselves in another "body", which is described as ephemeral in nature, totally lacking in physical characteristics, and possessing an ability to travel instantaneously. Other interesting aspects of this new kind of existence include a sense of 'timelessness' and a heightened awareness.
- 7: "Meeting others": At this stage subjects often experience deep feelings of loneliness and isolation. However, these are soon dispelled by the arrival of "spiritual beings" (often recognisable as deceased relatives or friends) who come to greet and comfort them.
- 8: "The being of light": This stage invariably takes the form of a meeting with a being of light, which communicates telepathically with the subject.
- 9: "The review": Frequently this communication with the being of light involves a panoramic review of the subjects life up to the moment of his 'death'. Although this takes place almost instantly, all who experience it remember it in vivid detail.
- 10: "The border or limit": Occasionally people report having approached, but been unable to cross over, a kind of border or limit; such as a door, fence, expanse of water, or a simple line situated in front of them.

- 11: "Coming back": Before being allowed to cross this border, all subjects are informed that (irrespective of whether or not they wish to do so) they must return to their physical bodies. (The fact that they return makes these near death experiences - ie the people live to tell the tale!) Interestingly, very few "experience the actual re-entry" (p.60)
- 12: "Telling others": Despite the certainty the subjects themselves feel as regards the reality of their experience, there is a general reluctance on their part to reveal them to anyone other than a close friend or relative - usually for fear of ridicule or of being thought mentally unstable.
- 13: "Effect on lives": Following their experience many individuals report that their life has taken on a renewed sense of meaning; and that they have undergone a marked change in attitude regarding certain key issues.
- 14: "New views of death": Perhaps the most profound of these effects concerns the subjects attitude to death after the NDE. The prospect no longer frightens or worries the overwhelming majority of percipients.
- 15: "Corroboration": Although most NDE claims are by their very nature impossible to corroborate, this is not the case with those events which allegedly took place whilst the subject was viewing his body. It is often found that what the subject claimed to have seen and heard (whilst seemingly unconscious) coincides with the testimony of witnesses who certainly were fully conscious at the time. (2)

Moody collected this data in his capacity as a psychiatrist, from hundreds of people who came close to death following accident or illness. It is interesting to note just how many features are present in the UFO literature.

For example, describing experiences as "ineffable" is a common reaction among UFO witnesses, as is a marked reluctance to reveal their stories to the general public. (3) We also find a sense of timelessness, heightened awareness of surroundings, and feelings of peace and calm are all aspects of the "Oz Factor" - a term coined by Jenny Randles to describe a range of strange, almost dream-like effects that close encounter participants regularly experience.

Although less common, out-of-body experiences (OOBEs) have also been reported in connection with close encounters... particularly CEMs. For example, contactee Gaynor Sunderland reported experiencing a dissociation from her physical body during her encounter. (4) Gaynor also reported being sucked through a long tunnel towards a bright light, followed by telepathic communication with alien beings - during which she allegedly felt no fear and remained quite calm.

Whilst Gaynor Sunderland is somewhat unique in that she claims most of the Moody stages (and several more besides), she is by no means alone in having undergone - in the context of a UFO encounter - experiences that parallel almost exactly those during an NDE.

One further similarity should be noted and its significance considered. This is the situation of the percipient. Several recent studies have shown that UFO CEM cases (or alien contacts) tend very strongly towards being single-witness events, usually occurring late at night either in the bedroom or some isolated environment where there is limited sensory input. (5) Compare this with the situation faced by a severely ill patient - "often isolated and immobile.... in conditions of subdued sound and light with no visitors..." (p.117). The comparisons are obvious. Little wonder the resulting experiences also prove to be so alike. Indeed, the presence of sensory deprivation appears to be an important - perhaps even necessary - factor in the attainment of an altered state of consciousness and, therefore, also in the kind of experience that tends to result from such a state. This view is further supported by the findings of psychologists studying isolation research. These tally very closely with both the NDE and UFO close encounter accounts. (6)

Before I finish I should mention the religious vision. The similarities are again very striking and include the following:-

- i) Such visions are generally seen by a single percipient, even though others may be in the vicinity (this "sphere of influence" for an encounter is a common aspect of UFO cases)
- ii) They are rarely unique events; ie many religious visionaries (like UFO contactees) tend to become "repeaters".
- iii) Any communication between entities and participant usually takes place by telepathy and frequently takes the form of a warning or prophecy concerning mans impending doom and how we might avoid this fate. Again this is the single most common message allegedly given by UFO entities.
- iv) As with CEAs and NDEs, religious visions invariably have a profound effect on those who experience them; often resulting in marked changes in attitude values and life styles.

Gilbert Cornu, a French ufologist, seems to have discovered a close correlation between UFO sightings and religious visions. He looked at visions of the Virgin Mary (probably the best known and most frequently seen figure) and his results suggest that the two are related in some possibly fundamental way. (7)

We have seen how the UFO contacts and NDE are often so alike in content that they could be interchangeable. Moreover, both experiences tend to occur under very similar circumstances; more often than not when the percipient is in some altered state of consciousness (usually resulting from a combination of isolation and sensory deprivation). Therefore it seems logical to conclude that the two are fundamentally related and present different aspects of one and the same phenomenon. If this is the case, then the analogy of a coin (with NDEs and UFO encounters representing the two sides) is appropriate. However, the inclusion of the religious vision into the picture suggests that the coin may well be multi - faceted.

Of course a crucial question remains, particularly in ufology. Does this altered state of consciousness actually cause or merely enable the experience to take place?

- References:
- (1) Moody, Dr R, Life after life, Mockingbird, 1975, Bantam, 1976
 - (2) Many first hand accounts are included in Moody's book.
 - (3) Indeed, Moody's statement "an enormous mass of material lies hidden in the minds of persons who have had such experiences but who, for fear of being labelled "crazy" or "over-imaginative", have never related them to more than one or two friends or relatives..." (p.94) refers to NDEs. but seems equally valid as comment on the UFO phenomenon.
 - (4) Randles, Jenny, Alien Contact, Spearman/Daniels, 1982, Coronet 133
 - (5) Randles, Jenny, UFO Study, Hale, 1981, Chapter 16
 - (6) These include time and reality distortions, panoramic reviews of life, encounters with non-human entities, and separation from the body.
 - (7) Evans, Hilary, Visions, Apparitions, Alien Visitors, Aquarian, 1984 - (p.121) "Whatever UFO sightings are, they are something which is related to visions of the virgin, and vice-versa."

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THOUGHTS ON THE POSSIBLE NATURE OF THE INTELLIGENCE AT WORK IN UFO PHENOMENA

By Ian. S. Cresswell

Ian is a member of the North Lancashire UFO Investigation Group, and has been a researcher for ten years. He has published many theoretical articles, eg in MAGONIA.

Do the experiences of a UFO witness offer any indication about the kind of intelligence involved in this phenomenon? Can we take it at face value and assume that it is physical and objective, relating to actual encounters with alien craft and their occupants? Or might these manifestations be of a quite different kind?

In my work to date I have tried to outline the many inconsistencies, distortions and discrepancies in close encounter cases, which appear to make little sense if we are dealing with an external, physical phenomenon. (See "What dreams Might Come" - MACHIA, 16, 1984).

My main conclusion has been that the main core of the exotic UFO phenomenon (the close encounter case) has its origin other than in an external, objective cause. The witnesses have, in fact, experienced a series of subjective images that have been superimposed upon objective reality, in such a way that they are indistinguishable from it.

If this is true, where does it leave those cases which seem to produce physical evidence (eg photographs, ground traces etc)? While some of this evidence does appear to indicate something objective, when it is given closer inspection by scientific methods it often falls apart. We must face up to the harsh fact that the UFO phenomenon cannot be proven to be objective, at least on the basis of the evidence so far available.

The experiences themselves fail to fit the usual scientific pattern for theory, experiment and test. Instead they are very much of a subjective nature and, as such, fall into the domain of the psychologist. However, that said, I do not wish to give the false impression that these experiences result from some abnormal psychological state of mind, nor that the percipients are willing these events to occur. They do not seem to be of a pathological nature. Those who undergo close encounters tend, on the whole, to be sane and stable. Yet they experience things that are quite literally bizarre. These are fully automatic and autonomic and manifest outside the control of the conscious part of the mind of those who witness them.

A number of interesting factors have come to light in recent years and these add strength to the basic outline I have set out:-

- (1) Many of the close encounter cases occur in isolation from other people when the level of sensory background is lower than it would be if there were other people present.
- (2) A large number of these incidents occur during the hours of darkness or just before and after this time.
- (3) The experiences frequently occur when the witnesses are driving or doing something fairly automatic.
- (4) Many of these cases involve children or young people, or individuals from a mainly rural location.
- (5) Many of the close encounters of the fourth kind (CE4s) have come to light thanks to methods of regression (eg hypnosis) or from half-remembered dreams.

There is a pattern here. What are we to gather from it?

Looking at the first point it does seem that a general lowering of sensory input is a necessary first step to allow the manifestation of images from a different level of the human psyche. The conscious barriers have to be breached in order for unconscious content to flow into our minds. The second and the third points follow on naturally from this. There may well be a biological basis that dictates the importance of the hours of darkness. These are generally the period of time when the conscious part of the mind is dominated by the unconscious. It then turns into a "new reality" in which dreams become the landscape.

Notice how if, during the normal hours of sleep, people remain awake for excessive periods unconscious images become very strong and can even superimpose themselves upon the "real" world. Is there a connection here with the many nocturnal close encounters?

Something similar may be suggested concerning the way sensory thresholds lower when someone is driving. It is as if the person enters a state similar to that of a sleep-walker.

It is also of great interest that young children have more UFO encounters than one might expect. In most, if not all, young children, and to a lesser extent young people in the age group 12 to 16 years, ego (self) consciousness is not as well defined as it is for an adult. This is especially true of children who have a strong 'psychic' life, with fantasy, imaginary playmates and wish-fulfillment being very prominent.

Reality to the mind of a child can be very different from that of an adult. Subjective images quite often take the place of the "real world", without the child necessarily realising that it has happened. The kind of images that are found in the dreams of children frequently stem from that part of the mind which psychiatrist Carl Jung termed the "collective unconscious". These images cannot be represented or understood in a material way. They are symbols. Myths and fairy tales are prime examples, which is why these form such a crucial element in every child's life - irrespective of culture.

If what I am trying to show is correct and close encounters are subjective instead of objective in nature, then we might predict that witnesses would tend to be young and from rural (or unscientific) areas of society. Also those cases which have come to light through the use of regression or dreams further suggest that we are dealing with images instead of real events. When a witness under -goes the process of regression then it removes the normal barriers (which prevent material from the unconscious flooding into the conscious mind). Subjective phenomena are then experienced, but (most importantly) the witness has no way to tell whether these things are completely subjective or partly objective. Because both are assumed to be real, by the thoroughly confused mind.

What then are we dealing with in UFO close encounters? Is it an external series of events mixed with subjectivity, or a purely subjective sequence of images stamped upon the "real world" as a form of illusion? I think the facts tend to support the latter. However, I am not persuaded that this means the controlling intelligence must be our own. All it seems safe to assume is that the intelligence at work (whatever it is) uses the human mind to manifest.

It is very important that we do not automatically view this intelligence as existing beyond the boundaries of man's knowledge. It may not be. It appears to be working through our minds to create belief systems that form the heart of the UFO phenomenon as we understand it. Whether we can regard this source as truly "alien" (in the conventional application of that term) has to be very doubtful. Only one problem such a consequence would provide is how it could have been so active over almost the entirety of man's history. Has some alien race always been here? Do we suggest that the purpose of this intelligence is to create belief systems for mankind? Perhaps the idea is to increase human awareness by presenting us with baffling and puzzle-causing subjective images. A form of intelligence test. In the past we have interpreted these things in a religious or mystical form. Now we look at it through twentieth-century eyes.

Man creates his own belief systems, of course. But they tend to be very short lived and localised to just a few social groups or nations. What is different about the UFO related belief systems is their predominance and persistence. They are channeled through all our minds by this hypothetical other intelligence. The result then appears in every culture, regardless of class, social position, colour or creed. It also lasts a long time, although some modifications and extensions to the theme are added from time to time. A sort of update to introduce new elements that suit the needs of our evolutionary progress.

Many of these themes are of the kind Jung termed archetypal, in the sense that they are represented by images. He considered their origin to be in the collective unconscious - the myth-making part of the mind.

What is this intelligence? Are we dealing with an extra-terrestrial race, simply described in psychological jargon? Or is the nature of this intelligence far more subtle and complex than we have as yet considered? We do not know. But we can speculate.

Let us picture some intelligence that is in a state of greater advancement than ourselves, so much so that during its own past it has gone through similar stages of development to ones we have yet to reach. In that case it knows our future as well as our past, within certain limits. This intelligence may only exist at a level of psychic reality. It may not be physically real in any form. What if a race such as this wished to impart information to less advanced cultures (eg ourselves)? Perhaps the only way our hypothetical intelligence could do this would be by using some form of constant, but subjective, stimulus and projecting it into our unconscious minds. From here a process of transformation takes place and stimulates us into creating subjective images which we stamp onto the "real world".

What is the purpose of all this? It seems to be to create belief systems within our human society. Perhaps this could be a form of educational programme. No doubt there will be those who will say this line of thought is both exotic and mystical, yet do we have any right to deny its potential? It would seem to be logical to anticipate that a highly advanced intelligence would appear to us as magic, dreams or visions.

Of course, it may well be that to truly comprehend this intelligence we must evolve beyond our current level of consciousness. Certainly this race seems to be creating a belief system through scientific and technological imagery, which, although subjective in its nature, is regarded as by us as being a real technological phenomenon. This is because of the manner in which we project the images onto the world outside our minds.

Notice how the images and belief systems associated with the UFO phenomenon have kept pace with our own level of scientific progress. But they never go beyond. Nothing new or totally unknown has come through to us. It constantly updates itself, but uses what we know.

Perhaps the important thing is not the content of these experiences but the simple fact of the existence of this intelligence. It is like a homing signal or flashing beacon that we are decoding.

We seem to be dealing with an intelligence that can manufacture its own reality and manipulate ours. It makes us see exactly what it wants us to see, in order that we can comprehend the simple fact that it is here.

These modern day "technological visions" are the latest in a long line of metaphysical revelations that have been experienced by man throughout our history. Their apparent nature is no more accurate in representing their true status than any other. What does count is the message which underlies them. This seems to be the chosen method of communication by some highly evolved intelligence. It may be the only way that modern man can understand.

Whatever the truth, it seems that the outcome may be of great importance for the human race. To know that we are not alone would change everything. But we may be misleading ourselves to think that "alien" means extra-terrestrial. The indications are that this intelligence is very closely connected with us. To look into the depths of the universe for this fabulous intelligence may be to look in quite the wrong place. It may already be here, within.

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P U B L I C A T I O N S

B O O K S I N 1 9 8 5:

Four significant foreign language books were published during the year. In French, Michel Dorier and Jean-Pierre Troadec issued "Les OVNI" (The UFOs) in a series "What do I know?" from the French University Press. It forms a brief summary of major cases and theories. More revolutionary is Bertrand Meheust and his new work "Soucoupes volantes et folklore" (Flying Saucers and Folklore) - which is an examination of how society weaves myths around the concept of the UFO and is one of the very few behavioural science studies of the field. It was published by Mercure in Paris.

In Italian there is "UFO: illusione o realia?" from Massimo Greco and Arrigo Muscio. This discusses several of the best Italian cases on record. (GUN)

In Spanish comes "UMMO- la increible verdad" by veteran researcher Antonio Ribera. UMMO is an amazing affair concerning supposed extra-terrestrial messages offering a wealth of data about an alien race, received via the postal system in Spain for twenty years! Ribera has already produced one book on the matter and this new attempt relates the history of this incredible saga. Published by Plaza y Janes.

American Works:-

MUFON:-1985 Symposium Proceedings Edited by Walt Andrus and Richard Hall
180pp \$10 US from MUFON Review:- Clark, FATE, December 1985

An annual treat containing transcripts of the three-day Summer conferences of MUFON. Notable for the 48pp paper by William Moore updating the UFO crash at Roswell, New Mexico, in July 1947.

ALIENS AMONG US Ruth Montgomery
240pp \$15.95 US by P Putnam inc. Review:- Clark, FATE, February 1986

A look at the contactee and space brothers syndrome told in fairy story fashion. An enjoyable but far from critical appraisal of the situation.

RESEARCH WORKING FILE ON ADAMSKI Edited by William Moore
125pp \$16.50 US from Moore/MUFON Review:- Clark, FATE, February 1986

A collection of contemporary papers and documents concerning the famous Polish/American contactee George Adamski, who claimed spaceflights in the 1950's.

SCIENCE AND THE UFOs Jenny Randles and Peter Warrington
216pp \$17.95 US by Blackwell inc. Review:- Rimmer, MA DONIA, August 1985

An historical and current account of the relationship between science and the UFO phenomenon, offering guidelines for how this might be improved. (Also a UK edition from Basil Blackwell, \$12.50:-Review:-The Guardian, 13 July 1985)

THE UFO LITERATURE Richard Rasmussen
Annotated bibliography of 1093 books Review:- Brunswick, IUR, Jul/Aug 1985
\$29.95 US by McFarland inc.

Useful as a list of books, although with serious omissions. No evaluation or qualifying text. Brief notes on the content of each volume. Valuable indexes.

British Works:-

THE UFO CASEBOOK Edited by Peter Brookesmith
96pp £1.99 by Orbis Books Review:- Barclay, The Unknown, Dec 1985

Reprints from "The Unexplained" of UFO case histories once in FSR, by Charles Bowen.

UFOs:--WHERE DO THEY COME FROM?
96pp £1.99 by Orbis Books

Edited by Peter Brookesmith
Review:--

More reprints from the part-work "The Unexplained", featuring articles on UFO origin by a range of leading writers. New introduction by Hilary Evans.

BLESSED ARE THE MEEK
198pp £9.50 by The Book Guild

Deyes Hutton
Review:-- Randles, The Unknown, Nov 1985

A novel based on a UFO abduction experience set in Scotland.

A SECRET PROPERTY
186pp £7.95 by Quartet Books

Ralph Noyes
Review:-- Birdsall, QUEST, May/June 1985

A very strange novel about UFOs, which starts in Rendlesham Forest and a fictional RAF "Bentbridge" and builds to a comic farce ending that offers an "earthlights" type solution. Noyes was former head of the Ministry of Defence section which handles UFO reports!

BEYOND EXPLANATION?
187pp £9.95 by Robert Hale

Jenny Randles
Review:-- Barclay, The Unknown, Dec 1985

A collection of stories about famous people and their paranormal adventures. Several involve UFOs. Analysis suggesting a psychological/psychic solution is also offered. Are UFOs a global psychic phenomenon?

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MAJOR MAGAZINE ARTICLES:

The following list is not meant to be exhaustive but offers some scope for researchers. The addresses of the magazines are included in a section at the end and are correct as of 1 May 1986. If anybody feels a major article has been left out - do let us know. We do not claim to be infallible and there is an inevitable degree of personal choice.

Personalities:

MUFON Journal Feb "Close Encounter with Dr J. Allen Hynek" Dennis Stacy
pp 3-6 Revealing interview with the most famous scientist in the field.
QUEST Mar/Apr "The Ralph Noyes lecture" Graham & Mark Birdsall
pp 3-5 Report on lecture by Noyes, who was head of MoD division which was responsible for UFO data in Britain.

Research:

IUR Jan/Feb "The case against the IFO" Jenny Randles
pp 4-6 Research study into 100 IFO reports of a Russian satellite re-entry, asking how these compare with UFO reports. (Next issue had responses and more debate, including from Phillip J. Klass)
FSR Feb "Abductees are 'normal' people" Dr J. Allen Hynek
pp 12-15 A report on a major research study examining CEA witnesses with a range of psychological tests. 'Elind' psychologists reviewed data before discovering the fact that the subjects claimed UFO contacts!
MUFON Journal Mar "UFOs: More Engine effects" James McCampbell
pp 4-6 Close encounters where car engines effected by UFOs, including some new cases that involve diesel engines - previously thought immune.

EUFORA Journal May "The Frontiers of Ufology" Hilary Evans
pp 23-28 An examination of several aspects of science and the way that
UFO phenomena overlap with them; eg folklore, meteorology etc.

Sightings:

FSR Feb "Boomerang over three counties" Imbrogno, Lesnick, Clark
pp 17-24 A report on the New York State "V" formation UFO sightings.

FATE Feb "The Missing Films" Dr Bruce Maccabee
pp 52-54 What has happened to film taken of 'green fireballs' in the USA
during the Project Twinkle secret research project?

IUR May/Jun "The South-West lights" Brad Sparks & Jerry Clark
pp 10-13 A detailed examination of the sightings which occurred during
(also next the tenancy of Project Twinkle - pieced together from official
two issues) files and other data. Many strange green fireballs were seen by
sensitive military and nuclear plants and are unresolved today.

IUR Jul/Aug "Crashed Discs" - NO/MAYBE Drs David Jacobs/R. Hall
pp 4-7, 16 A debate on the question of crashed UFOs. Are the sightings of
any tangible value? Historian Jacobs says no. Hall is less sure.

MAGONIA Dec "Men in Black—a new case" Peter Hough
pp 19-21 A rarity in Britain, follow up by sinister men after a UFO case
in Wigan, MIBs (Men in Black) - from the phenomenon or some
secret government agency investigating reports?

FATE Dec "UFO saboteurs" Micheal T. Shoemaker
Mysterious aircraft sightings in 1916 on the US mainland.
War nerves or early UFOs?

Theories:

ANOMALY Jan "Earthlights update" Devereux, McCartney, Robins
pp 10-18 Latest developments in the "earthlights" theory for geo-phy-
-sical UFO origin. Reproduction of lights in British laboratories
with photo results.

MUFON Journal Feb "Ufonauts—homo sapiens of the future?" Dr M. Swords
pp 7-13 A look at the idea that UFOs might be time-travel vehicles
and ufonauts our own descendants if evolution trends continue.

FATE Mar "UFO abductions or birth memories?" Alvin T. Lawson
pp 68-80 Lawson reviews his theory that contact cases might be a re-
pressed memory of our own birth.

IUR May/Jun "Birth traumas from outer space" D. Scott Rogo
pp 4-5, 16 Rogo answers the Lawson theory and produces much critical
evidence that seems to refute it.

FORTEAN TIMES Summer "The UFO as a geopsychic artifact" Hilary Evans
pp 63-65 An updated review of the theory that geophysical processes
can create fields of energy that trigger psychic or psycho-
logical experiences in close encounter witnesses.

FATE Oct "Seeing the lights" Hilary Evans
pp 82-87 UFOs as intelligent balls of light that may dwell in the
atmosphere (also November).

EUFORA Journal Nov "The Doorman Effect" Jenny Randles
pp 2-6 Is there a filter process in the brain which allows data
through from the subconscious mind; this data being clothed
in UFO images but representing a message from some other source?

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