

**FILE NOTE**

Although the cover of this file states that it was opened on 25 October 1982, it is clear that this was not the case. Sec(AS) was not in being at this time only being formed around early 1985 and therefore no file with a reference number starting with D/Sec (AS) could have been in existence in 1982. Although no record of when it was opened can be found, it is probable that it was created during the period 1991-94.

The file itself is clearly a compilation file comprised primarily of documents that were removed from their original file and placed on this file. This would account for the non sequential enclosure numbers which may confuse readers. Enclosure 29 on page 14 lists which files many of the enclosures are believed to have originally come from.

DAS-FOI
9 April 2008

RESTRICTED/UNCLASSIFIED
MINISTRY OF DEFENCE

MOD Form 329D
(Revised 3/83)

S/A MOD Form
(Revised)
2025

реши

25 OCT 1982

Registered file number

12/2/11

Part No. A

- 1. Attention is drawn to the notes on the inside flap**
- 2. Enter notes of related files on page 2 of this jacket.**

DIVISION/ESTABLISHMENT/UNIT/BRANCH

~~Sec 1.71~~ 2a

SUBJECT Unidentified Flying Objects (U.F.O.'s)
Report of Sighting, Rendlesham Forest
December 1980

[illegible]

Sent Out Date: [REDACTED] 1-11-00
Ext **Section 40**
From DR2e2
Bourne Ave. Hayes, Middx, UB3 1RF.

Section 403n 3-3-4

FOR DRO USE ONLY

1st Review date

File Ref. SEC(A3)12/2/1

Part: A

2nd Review date

PA ACTION

(MOD Form 262F
must be completed)



RCU000087176

TNT

RESTRICTED/UNCLASSIFIED



M1

A copy of this file was requested under the Code of Practice on Access to Government Information (the Code) in May 2001 by **Section 40**

Section 40

A copy was sent on 11 May 2001. Five documents were withheld under Exemptions of the Code. Two under Exemption 1 (Defence, Security and International Relations) and three under Exemption 2 (Internal opinion advice, recommendation, consultation and deliberation). Some details were obscured in accordance with the Data Protection Act 1998.

Section 40 appealed to the Department (DG Information (Exploitation)) against the decision to withhold these documents and the two withheld under Exemption 1 were released in September 2001. DG Info(Exp) upheld the Directorate of Air Staff (DAS) decision to withhold the remaining three documents under Exemption 2 and **Section 40** was advised of his right to approach the Parliamentary Ombudsman if he was not satisfied with this decision. Further details can be found on D/DAS(Sec)/64/3/11 Part B.

The file was also sent to other individuals who had learnt of its release and made requests for copies. One such individual, **Section 40** **Section 40** was sent the file on 9 November 2001. He also appealed against the decision to withhold the three documents under Exemption 2 of the Code and when his appeal was unsuccessful, decided to take the case to the Ombudsman.

On 17 July 2002 the Ombudsman wrote to the Permanent Secretary with his decision. The three documents that had been withheld were correspondence between an MP and a Minister, two draft replies to ministerial correspondence and associated background notes. The Ombudsman commended the MOD on the release of the majority of this file (some 174 pages) and recognised the strength of argument that advice and recommendations contained in submissions to Ministers depended on candour for their effectiveness. He also agreed that these documents do fall under the scope of Exemption 2. However, in the particular circumstances of this case he recommended that the documents should nonetheless be released and the MOD accepted this decision. The remaining documents from this file were released to **Section 40** on 24 July 2002. Further details of the Ombudsman case can be found on D/Sec(AS)/64/3/10 Part A.

The Department also agreed to release the documents to all those other individuals from whom they had previously been withheld and letters were sent to 18 others on 25 July 2002. All enquirers after this date will receive a copy of the whole file.

Section 40

DAS-LA-Ops+Pol1

Section 40

1 August 2002

Copy taken from D/DS8/10/207 - Part A on 26 Feb 2001

X



RAF LIAISON OFFICE

Royal Air Force Bentwaters Woodbridge Suffolk IP12 2RQ

Telephone Woodbridge **Section 40**

E110

Your reference

MOD (DS8a)

Our reference BENT/019/76
AIR

Date 15 January 1981

UNIDENTIFIED FLYING OBJECTS (UFO's)

I attach a copy of a report I have received from the Deputy Base Commander at RAF Bentwaters concerning some mysterious sightings in the Rendlesham forest near RAF Woodbridge. The report is forwarded for your information and action as considered necessary.

Section 40

D H MORELAND
Squadron Leader
RAF Commander

Copy to:

SRAFLO, RAF Mildenhall

Copy sent to Ops (SE) 26 Sq WVR

Section 40

also consulted by Ops (SE) 26. are:

DISC
PS/ACS (control)
Radar establishments in
area.

DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
HEADQUARTERS 81ST COMBAT SUPPORT GROUP (USAF)
APO NEW YORK 09755



REPLY TO
ATTN OF:

CD

13 Jan 81


SUBJECT:

Unexplained Lights

TO:

RAF/CC

1. Early in the morning of 27 Dec 80 (approximately 0300L), two USAF security police patrolmen saw unusual lights outside the back gate at RAF Woodbridge. Thinking an aircraft might have crashed or been forced down, they called for permission to go outside the gate to investigate. The on-duty flight chief responded and allowed three patrolmen to proceed on foot. The individuals reported seeing a strange glowing object in the forest. The object was described as being metallic in appearance and triangular in shape, approximately two to three meters across the base and approximately two meters high. It illuminated the entire forest with a white light. The object itself had a pulsing red light on top and a bank(s) of blue lights underneath. The object was hovering or on legs. As the patrolmen approached the object, it maneuvered through the trees and disappeared. At this time the animals on a nearby farm went into a frenzy. The object was briefly sighted approximately an hour later near the back gate.
2. The next day, three depressions 1 1/2" deep and 7" in diameter were found where the object had been sighted on the ground. The following night (29 Dec 80) the area was checked for radiation. Beta/gamma readings of 0.1 milliroentgens were recorded with peak readings in the three depressions and near the center of the triangle formed by the depressions. A nearby tree had moderate (.05-.07) readings on the side of the tree toward the depressions.
3. Later in the night a red sun-like light was seen through the trees. It moved about and pulsed. At one point it appeared to throw off glowing particles and then broke into five separate white objects and then disappeared. Immediately thereafter, three star-like objects were noticed in the sky, two objects to the north and one to the south, all of which were about 10° off the horizon. The objects moved rapidly in sharp angular movements and displayed red, green and blue lights. The objects to the north appeared to be elliptical through an 8-12 power lens. They then turned to full circles. The objects to the north remained in the sky for an hour or more. The object to the south was visible for two or three hours and beamed down a stream of light from time to time. Numerous individuals, including the undersigned, witnessed the activities in paragraphs 2 and 3.


CHARLES I. HALT, Lt Col, USAF
Deputy Base Commander

Copy taken from D/DS8 110/209 - sent on 26 Feb 2001

29

FOOSE MINUTE

D/DD Ops(GE)10/8

DI 55

Copy to:
PS/ACS(G)(RAF)

UNEXPLAINED LIGHTS

1. During the preparation for the Lords Debate on UFOs on 18 Jan 1979, DI 55 **Section 40** made contributions to Hd of S4(Air)'s Draft Closing Address and Background note. Since the bulk of reports of unusual sightings have been of a routine nature. However I have been asked by DS8 if any other dept would have an interest in the attached correspondence from the USAF Deputy Base Commander at Bentwaters.

2. We would particularly like to know whether the readings of radioactivity are unusual or whether they are within the normal background range to be expected.

Section 40

28 Jan 81

Sqn Ldr
Ops(GE)2b(RAF)

Section 40

Encl: Dept of the Air Force letter 13 Jan 81

Q12

OOSE MINUTE

D/DD Ops(GE)/10/8

DS8 ~~4~~UNEXPLAINED LIGHTS

Reference: A. D/DS8/72/1/2 dated 20 Jan 81.

1. At Reference you forwarded a report from RAF Bentwaters for information and asked if anyone else might have an interest in the content. You will see from the attached IM, I forwarded a copy to DI55 and PS/ACS(G)(RAF). I have had no response.
2. SOC/CRC Neatishead regret that the radar camera recorder was switched off at 1527Z on 29 Dec 80 and an examination of the executive logs revealed no entry in respect of unusual radar returns or other unusual occurrences.
3. I have spoken with Sqn Ldr Moreland at Bentwaters and he considers the Deputy Base Commander a sound source. I asked if the incident had been reported on the USAF net and I was advised that tape recorders of the evidence had been handed to Gen Gabriel who happened to be visiting the station. Perhaps it would be reasonable to ask if we could have tape recordings as well.

Section 40

Sqn Ldr
Ops(GE)2b(RAF)

Section 40

16 Feb 81

Copy taken from D/D88/10/207 - Part A on 26 Feb 2001

MEMORANDUM

MOD Form 4A

to DS8.

From GEZL

Date 9/3/81.

Tel Section 40

Your ref

Lr 58/12/1/2 dated 20/1/81

Our ref

D/DDOPS(CE)/10/8

Subject

UNEXPLAINED NIGHTS

1. Further to my LM at Ref dated 16 Feb attached herewith copies of responses from DISSA and DISS2 — with an offer to pursue from the letter.

Section 40

(CE)ZL(RAF)

Section 40

Section 40

134

LOOSE MINUTE

75/108/15/1

Cps (GE) 2b (RAF)

Copy to:
PS/ACS(G)(RAF)

UNEXPLAINED LIGHTS

Reference:

1. D/DD Cps (GE)10/8 dated 26 January 1981.

1. Having canvassed DSTI for thoughts on this matter, DI55 cannot offer any explanation for the phenomena.

2. In answer to your specific inquiry regarding the readings of radioactivity, please see the attached correspondence from ADI/DI52.

3. If you wish to take up ADI/DI52's offer of further assistance, please let me know.

2 March 1981

Section 40

DI55(a)

Section 40

Enc: DI52/106/10 dated 23 February 1981.

Loose Minute

DI52/106/10

Section 40
24/2

DI55a Attn Section 40

Unexplained Lights

Reference: DI55/106/15/1

1. Like DI55, DI52 do not know of any serious explanation for the phenomena described at reference.
2. Background radioactivity varies considerably due to a number of factors. The value of 0.1 milliroentgens (mr), I assume that this is per hour, seems significantly higher than the average background of about 0.015 mr. I would not expect the variation in this to be much more than a factor of two, although it might be greater for specific reasons.
3. If you wish to pursue this further I could make enquiries as to natural background levels in the area. The way the US report is written, however, suggests that 0.1 mr was greater than they expected.

Section 40

23 February 1981

Section 40

ADI/DI52

Copy taken from File DS8/10/209 Part E on 2 February 200

MD

LOOSE MINUTE

D/BD Ops(GE)/10/8

DS8

6/209

E129/1

UFO SIGHTING - RAF WOODBRIDGE DECEMBER 1980

1. At Reference you ask if the suggestion that the URAF be asked for the tape recordings was followed up by this Deputy Directorate. It was considered that the tapes would reveal no better report than that already received, and no further request was made. However, it is considered that your approach to the RAF Liaison officer, will produce any considered views on the event.

2. I believe your outlined response is the right one; Neatishead, which is the Sector Ops Centre responsible for that area had nothing unusual to report, and nothing more substantive has come to light. I have received no evidence that any radar reported unusual tracks. MISS Randles appears to have "evidence of radar track", and provided that it can be managed without undermining our position, I would like to have a look at this radar evidence.

Section 40

21 Mar 83

Sqn Ldr
Ops(GE)2h(RAF)

Section 40

Registered File Disposal Form

MOD Form 2622
(Revised 5/95)

FILE TITLE: (Main Heading - Secondary Heading - Tertiary Heading etc) UNIDENTIFIED FLYING OBJECTS Report of Sgt. Radleson Forest December 1980		Reference: (Prefix and Number): D/Sec(AS)/12/2/1
PROTECTIVE MARKING (including caveats & descriptors): RESTRICTED / UNCLASS		Part: A
Date of last enclosure: 15/4/94	Date closed: 25 SEP 95	

PART 1. DISPOSAL SCHEDULE RECOMMENDATION (To be completed when the file is closed)		FOR CS(RM) USE ONLY	
Destroy after _____ years <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Forward to CS(RM) after _____ years <input type="checkbox"/>	No recommendation <input type="checkbox"/>	
Date of 1st review _____		Date of 2nd review _____	
Forward Destruction Date _____		Forward Destruction Date _____	
Reviewer's Signature: _____		Reviewer's Signature: _____	

PART 2. BRANCH REVIEW (To be completed not later than 4 years after the date of the last enclosure) (Delete as appropriate)	
a. Of no further administrative value and not worthy of permanent preservation. DESTROY IMMEDIATELY (Remember that TOP SECRET and Codeword material cannot be destroyed locally and must be forwarded to CS(RM)). <input type="checkbox"/>	
b. (i) To be retained for _____ years (from date of last enclosure) for the following reason(s):	
LEGAL <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	DEFENCE POLICY <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
CONTRACTUAL <input type="checkbox"/>	ORIGINAL COMMITTEE PAPERS <input type="checkbox"/>
FINANCE <input type="checkbox"/>	OTHER (Specify) _____ <input type="checkbox"/>
AUDIT <input type="checkbox"/>	

(Continued overleaf)

(ii) Key enclosures which support the recommendation are:

(iii) At the end of the specified retention period the file is to be:

Destroyed

☐

Considered by CS(RM) for permanent preservation

☐

c. Of no further administrative value but worthy of consideration by CS(RM) for permanent preservation.

☐

PART 3. BRANCH REVIEWING OFFICER

Signature: _____

Name: _____
(Block Capitals)

Grade/Rank: _____ Date: _____
(Not below HEO/Equivalent)

PART 4. DESTRUCTION CERTIFICATE

It is certified that the specified file has been destroyed.

Signature: _____

Name: _____
(Block Capitals)

Grade/Rank: _____ Date: _____

Witnessed by (TOP SECRET* and SECRET only)

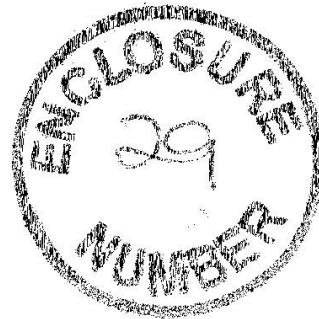
Signature: _____

Name: _____
(Block Capitals)

Grade/Rank: _____ Date: _____

*(FOR CS(RM) USE ONLY)

*This minute should be kept
as the top enclosure.*



LOOSE MINUTE

D/Sec(AS)/12/2/1

16 April 1998

MISSING ENCLOSURES PLACED ON FILE D/SEC(AS)/12/2/1 PT A

1. A close examination of the enclosures on this file and closed files recalled from MOD archives has confirmed that many enclosures have been removed from their original location. The full details of the enclosures placed on D/Sec(AS)/12/2/1 are as follows:

<u>Enc no</u>	<u>Removed from:</u>
E132	- D/DS8/10/209 part D
E2	- D/DS8/10/209 part E
E121	- D/DS8/10/209 part E
E122	- D/DS8/10/209 part E
E159	- D/DS8/10/209 part E
E180	- D/DS8/10/209 part E
E1/1	- D/DS8/10/209 part F
E2	- D/DS8/10/209 part F
E6	- D/DS8/10/209 part F
E63	- D/DS8/10/209 part F
E64	- D/DS8/10/209 part F
E65	- D/DS8/10/209 part F
E66	- D/DS8/10/209 part F
E67/1	- D/DS8/10/209 part F
E67/2	- D/DS8/10/209 part F
E68/1	- D/DS8/10/209 part F
E73	- D/DS8/10/209 part F
E75	- D/DS8/10/209 part F
E81	- D/DS8/10/209 part F
E82	- D/DS8/10/209 part F
E83	- D/DS8/10/209 part F
E84	- D/DS8/10/209 part F
E85	- D/DS8/10/209 part F
E86	- D/DS8/10/209 part F
E87	- D/DS8/10/209 part F
E88	- D/DS8/10/209 part F
E89	- D/DS8/10/209 part F
E90	- D/DS8/10/209 part F
E91	- D/DS8/10/209 part F
E95	- D/DS8/10/209 part F
E96	- D/DS8/10/209 part F
E97	- D/DS8/10/209 part F
E98	- D/DS8/10/209 part F
E100/1	- D/DS8/10/209 part F
E100/2	- D/DS8/10/209 part F
E101/2	- D/DS8/10/209 part F
E104	- D/DS8/10/209 part F
E113	- D/DS8/10/209 part F

*10/209 - Vols. D-G
recalled for.*

Section 40
23.101

Seen - Vols.

D/E/F.

Vol. C + G missing at Haps

E6 - D/DS8/10/209 part G
 E7 - D/DS8/10/209 part G
 E8 - D/DS8/10/209 part G
 E9 - D/DS8/10/209 part G
 E10 - D/DS8/10/209 part G
 E12 - D/DS8/10/209 part G
 E13 - D/DS8/10/209 part G
 E14 - D/DS8/10/209 part G
 E15 - D/DS8/10/209 part G
 E16 - D/DS8/10/209 part G
 E24 - D/DS8/10/209 part G
 E25 - D/DS8/10/209 part G
 E47 - D/DS8/10/209 part G
 E48 - D/DS8/10/209 part G
 E79 - D/DS8/10/209 part G
 E80 - D/DS8/10/209 part G
 E87 - D/DS8/10/209 part G
 E88 - D/DS8/10/209 part G
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 E92 - D/DS8/10/209 part G
 E94 - D/DS8/10/209 part G
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 E99 - D/DS8/10/209 part G
 E104 - D/DS8/10/209 part G
 E105 - D/DS8/10/209 part G
 E108 - D/DS8/10/209 part G
 E109 - D/DS8/10/209 part G
 E114 - D/DS8/10/209 part G
 E115 - D/DS8/10/209 part G
 E125 - D/DS8/10/209 part G
 E126 - D/DS8/10/209 part G
 E127 - D/DS8/10/209 part G
 E128 - D/DS8/10/209 part G

2. Enclosures 2, 3, 9, 25 and 26 appear to have been removed from D/DS8/10/209 part H but that file has been destroyed and I am unable to positively confirm this.

3. This file (D/Sec(AS)/12/2/1 part A) claims to have been opened as a registered file on 25 October 1982. This is not possible because Sec(AS) was not in being at that time. Sec(AS) was previously DS8 until late '84/early '85. It is not possible to ascertain exactly when this file was created.

Section 40

SEC(AS)2

Section 40

File Note,

Spoke to **Section 40** at the Defence Radiological Protection Service (**Section 40**), re the radiation readings recorded at the time of the Bantletham Forest incident. 0.01 would be the general level of background radiation, so the 0.1 recording is about 10 times what would be normal.

However, military radiation detectors are geared for high level readings, so low-level readings may be difficult to record accurately, as the scale will be small at the bottom of the meter. * We don't have details of what instrument was used.

It is just possible to have such an event. A university lab might well have some radioactive source with a very short half life, and could use it so as to give readings, which would not be recorded a few days later.

The level of radiation of 0.1 is completely harmless.

Section 40

15/4/94

* Especially if the needle was fluctuating.

DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
HEADQUARTERS 81ST COMBAT SUPPORT GROUP (USAF)
APO NEW YORK 09755



REPLY TO
ATTN OF:

CD

13 Jan 81


SUBJECT: Unexplained Lights


TO: RAF/CC

1. Early in the morning of 27 Dec 80 (approximately 0300L), two USAF security police patrolmen saw unusual lights outside the back gate at RAF Woodbridge. Thinking an aircraft might have crashed or been forced down, they called for permission to go outside the gate to investigate. The on-duty flight chief responded and allowed three patrolmen to proceed on foot. The individuals reported seeing a strange glowing object in the forest. The object was described as being metallic in appearance and triangular in shape, approximately two to three meters across the base and approximately two meters high. It illuminated the entire forest with a white light. The object itself had a pulsing red light on top and a bank(s) of blue lights underneath. The object was hovering or on legs. As the patrolmen approached the object, it maneuvered through the trees and disappeared. At this time the animals on a nearby farm went into a frenzy. The object was briefly sighted approximately an hour later near the back gate.

2. The next day, three depressions 1 1/2" deep and 7" in diameter were found where the object had been sighted on the ground. The following night (29 Dec 80) the area was checked for radiation. Beta/gamma readings of 0.1 milliroentgens were recorded with peak readings in the three depressions and near the center of the triangle formed by the depressions. A nearby tree had moderate (.05-.07) readings on the side of the tree toward the depressions.

3. Later in the night a red sun-like light was seen through the trees. It moved about and pulsed. At one point it appeared to throw off glowing particles and then broke into five separate white objects and then disappeared. Immediately thereafter, three star-like objects were noticed in the sky, two objects to the north and one to the south, all of which were about 10^0 off the horizon. The objects moved rapidly in sharp angular movements and displayed red, green and blue lights. The objects to the north appeared to be elliptical through an 8-12 power lens. They then turned to full circles. The objects to the north remained in the sky for an hour or more. The object to the south was visible for two or three hours and beamed down a stream of light from time to time. Numerous individuals, including the undersigned, witnessed the activities in paragraphs 2 and 3.


CHARLES I. HALT, Lt Col, USAF
Deputy Base Commander

 LOOSE MINUTE

D/Sec(AS)12/2/1

25 Jan 94

DPO(RAF) - **Section 40**

CENTRAL TV UFO DOCUMENTARY - REQUEST FOR INFORMATION ON RENDLESHAM FOREST

1. We spoke yesterday about Central TV's request for information on the UFO sighting in Rendlesham Forest in December 1980.
2. I have been through our file on this incident, and have drawn together an unclassified note based on previous MOD statements. This can be drawn upon in answering questions, or passed to Central TV in toto. I have also attached a copy of Lt Col Halt's report, which can be passed to Central TV.
3. As I mentioned yesterday, **Section 40** is still in the Department, and works for the Housing Trust Team. I do not know what the rules are with regard to interviews with present or former officials, or whether it would be worthwhile having a word with her. I have not contacted her, but if you wish to do so, she is on **Section 40**.
4. Please let me know if you need anything else; as I mentioned, my understanding is that this documentary is to be much more serious than some of the more sensationalist programmes that have been produced in the past. I believe that it will be in our interests to be as helpful as we can, and to try and reflect the good relationship that we now have with many of the more serious UFO groups and researchers. There are still a few within the field who believe that the MOD is involved in a cover-up, and I think the more helpful and open we are, the less likely it is that this view will get an airing.

Section 40

Sec(AS)2a

Section 40

UFO SIGHTING AT RENDLESHAM FOREST

We are aware that on 27 and 29 December 1980 a number of personnel from RAF Woodbridge saw strange lights in the vicinity of the base, in Rendlesham Forest.

Lt Col Charles Halt USAF, the Deputy Base Commander, submitted a report on these events, which was passed to the Ministry of Defence. As is the case with all UFO reports submitted to the MOD, Lt Col Halt's report was examined carefully by those staff responsible for the air defence of the United Kingdom. No evidence was found of any threat to the defence of the United Kingdom, and no further investigations were carried out. No further information has come to light which alters our view that the sightings of these lights was of no defence significance.

No unidentified object was seen on radar during the period in question, and there was no evidence of anything having intruded into UK airspace, and landed near RAF Woodbridge.

We are aware that there are a number of theories circulating about these UFO sightings. One theory was that what was seen was the beam of the Orford Ness lighthouse, with distortions being caused by the beam having been seen from through the trees. There were also suggestions that fireball activity might explain some of the lights.

In the absence of any hard evidence, the MOD remains open-minded about these sightings.

DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
HEADQUARTERS 81ST COMBAT SUPPORT GROUP (USAF)
APO NEW YORK 09755



REPLY TO
ATTN OF: CD

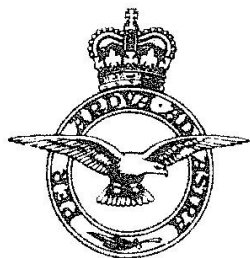
13 Jan 81

SUBJECT: Unexplained Lights

TO: RAF/CC

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CHARLES I. HALT, Lt Col, USAF
Deputy Base Commander

**RAF LIAISON OFFICE**

Royal Air Force Bentwaters Woodbridge Suffolk IP12 2RQ

Telephone Bentwaters **Section 40****Section 40**

Secretariat (Air Staff)2a

Room **Section 40**

Ministry of Defence

Main Building

Whitehall

LONDON SW1A 2HB

BENT/1/2/AIR

8 July 1992

Dear **Section 40**UFO SIGHTING - DECEMBER 1980

Reference:

A. D/Sec(AS)12/2/1 dated 2 July 1992.

1. I refer to your letter at Reference A concerning the reported sighting of a UFO on 27 December 1980. I have no records on this subject and the file to which you refer has long since been destroyed.

2. However, I have spoken with our resident Historian from the 81st Tactical Fighter Wing who has unearthed an article which I have photocopied for your information. It all makes interesting reading.

Yours sincerely

Section 40Squadron Leader
RAF Commander

WOODBIDGE RAF/USAF AIR BASE

In December 1980 it is alleged that a grounded UFO was seen in the **Rendlesham Forest** area outside the back gates of RAF/USAF Woodbridge in Suffolk, England.

There are various, and conflicting, reports about what occurred on the night. According to the official report made by the Deputy Base Commander, Lieutenant-Colonel Charles **Halt**, two security police witnessed lights outside the back gate and called for permission to investigate on the grounds that an aircraft might have crashed. Three patrolmen were sent and they reported seeing a glowing object in the forest, described as triangular in shape, about 9 feet wide and 6 feet high, and emanating a powerful white light. Other reports detail blue and red lights at various points on the object. It was either hovering or standing on short legs and as the patrol approached, it manoeuvred away slowly through the trees on to a nearby farm (causing some disturbance in the animals there) before disappearing into the sky very quickly. However, the object was briefly sighted again about an hour later.

Investigation the following day found three ground traces indicating possible landing leg depressions.

However, there are other stories of events that night including one that the overall Commander of the base, Wing Commander Gordon **Williams**, was present at the investigation and also communicated with aliens that had been seen apparently carrying out repairs to the craft.

It is alleged that many films and photographs were taken but that these were all confiscated by senior officers and have not been released.

Investigators examining these claims have obtained interviews with two of the patrol who investigated the UFO, airman John **Burroughs** and a second airman who remains anonymous and is given the pseudonym of James **Archer**. Basically their stories agree with the Deputy Commander's statement. Archer denies seeing aliens but saw shapes inside the object, to which he had approached within three feet, and commented, 'I don't know what they were but the shapes did not look human. Maybe they were like robots.'

One of the security police at Woodbridge, Sergeant Adrian **Bustinza**, came forward after the publication of a book, *Skycrash* by Jenny Randles, Brenda Butler and Dot Street (see References and Background Material), and told his detailed version of events in the forest that night. Again, for the most part, his account basically agrees with that of Lieutenant-Colonel Halt. He describes the object as being seen through a yellow mist like 'nothing I have ever seen before', and comments that it was a tremendous size compared to the clearing it was in and that he was surprised it was able to fit into the area. One major discrepancy arises in his description, however; he describes it as saucer-shaped rather than triangular-shaped, which would seem to be a very major disagreement considering both reports come from eye witnesses.

There is allegedly a tape recording made by Lieutenant-Colonel Halt and his men while in the forest investigating the event and part of this has

328 **Woodruff, R. S.**

been released by a former base commander at Woodbridge, Colonel Sam **Morgan**. On the tape various voices including Lieutenant-Colonel Halt's describe what they are supposed to be seeing as they pursue the object through the woods.

When challenged by a former Chief of the Defence Staff, Admiral-of-the-Fleet Lord **Hill-Norton**, the Secretary of State for Defence, Michael Heseltine, through Lord **Trefgarne**, released the statement that 'the events to which you refer were of no defence significance'.

As Lord Hill-Norton put it, there would seem to be some defence significance either in an unknown object's entering and possibly landing in British territory or, alternatively, a deputy base commander of an RAF/USAF base filing a ludicrous and make-believe report. Lieutenant-Colonel (now Colonel) Halt has confirmed subsequently that this memorandum is legitimate. He also went on to say, 'There are a lot of things that are not in my memo.'

WOODRUFF, R. S.

In many people's eyes the quality of the witness to a UFO event is as important as the event itself. On that basis one sighting of three red lighted UFOs buzzing low over cars near Bethel in Vermont, USA should rank highly. Witnesses in other cars watched a police car ahead being buzzed. The police car contained a high State police official and the State pathologist, Dr R. S. Woodruff.

Calculation by the police indicated that the speed of the UFOs was some 2,000 miles per hour.

Despite the fact that the UFOs had come down precisely together in line of formation, slowed down and flown parallel to the ground, the Air Force explained that they were only meteors.

WRIGHT PATTERSON AIR FORCE BASE

Wright Patterson Air Force Base in America is a name that frequently occurs in the pages of this encyclopedia and in the annals of UFO research.

It is alleged that this base is the storehouse and examination facility for retrieved crash flying saucers and also for alien bodies.

Other stories have it that Wright Patterson contains a 'quick reaction force' designed to retrieve downed saucers, a sort of SAS or SWAT team to deal with aliens.

There is even an allegation that Senator Barry **Goldwater** attempted to gain entry to the base to examine UFO evidence but was refused by the then commanding officer, General Curtis LeMay.

WYKOFF, LIEUTENANT ROBERT C.

On 10 August 1950 Navy physicist Lieutenant Robert Wykoff, using Navy binoculars, watched a large disc-shaped UFO manoeuvring near Edwards Air Force Base, the scene of many such sightings.



From: **Section 40** Secretariat(Air Staff)2a, Room **Section 40**

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
Main Building Whitehall London SW1A 2HB

Telephone (Direct Dialling) **Section 40**
(Switchboard) **Section 40**
(Fax) **Section 40**

Section 40

RAF Commander
RAF Bentwaters
Woodbridge
Suffolk
IP12 2RQ

Your reference

Our reference

D/Sec(AS)12/2/1

Date

2 July 1992

Dear Sqn Ldr **Section 40**,

1. I am writing concerning the background to the UFO sighting near RAF Woodbridge on 27 December 1980, and the report that was subsequently made by the USAF Deputy Base Commander, Lt Col Halt.

2. I have attached a copy of a letter from one of your predecessors, together with a copy of Lt Col Halt's report, and I have two requests:

a. If you have files going back this far, could I have a copy of the original covering letter, BENT/19/76/Air dated 15 January 1981. I believe our copy was archived some time ago.

b. I would be grateful if you would confirm that Lt Col Halt's report is a genuine USAF report; this may sound a strange request, but over the years there have been a very clever series of hoax documents produced on the subject of UFOs. These often relate to official government/military knowledge of UFOs, and often appear to be on official notepaper - presumably using genuine official letters sent to members of the public, with the hoax text placed over the genuine text, and then photocopied again. In the absence of all the background papers, I am unsure as to the exact circumstances under which this report first surfaced. I do not know what standard practice would be, but would such a report not have been submitted on paper with a Bentwaters/Woodbridge address?

3. This may all seem like ancient history, but this alleged incident has become the best known UFO story in the UK, being mentioned in dozens of books on the subject (including one entire book relating the story of how USAF personnel repaired a crashed flying saucer and communicated with its alien occupants!). We still receive a steady stream of telephone enquiries and letters on the subject even to this day.

Yours Sincerely,

Section 40



Recycled Paper



RAF LIAISON OFFICE

Royal Air Force Bentwaters Woodbridge Suffolk IP12 2RQ

Section 40

Telephone Woodbridge Section 40

Kept - sent.
E132

MOD(DS8a)

Your reference

Our reference

BENT/19/76/Air

Date

25 October 1982

UNIDENTIFIED FLYING OBJECTS (UFO's)

Reference:

A. BENT/19/76/Air dated 15 January 1981.

1. Under cover of reference A I forwarded you a copy of the Deputy Base Commander's report concerning some unexplained lights and sightings on 27/29 December 1980. Some time after the incident I was approached by two women who claimed to be UFO investigators, but I refused to confirm or deny their claims. A week ago I was telephoned from New York by a Section 40 from Omnie Magazine. He asked me questions about an article in a British UFO Magazine. He claimed he was a serious UFO investigator and wanted to write an objective article about the incident. I told him that whoever wrote the article he described to me must have had a vivid imagination.

2. I have now managed to obtain a copy of the article and enclose a copy for your information. The magazine is called "The Unexplained" published weekly by:

ORBIS Publishing Ltd

Section 40

The article was in Volume 9 Issue No 106.

3. I now anticipate a flood of enquiries and would be grateful for some guidance on MOD Policy concerning UFO's.

Section 40

D H MORELAND
Sqn Ldr
RAF Cdr

DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
HEADQUARTERS 81ST COMBAT SUPPORT GROUP (USAF)
APO NEW YORK 09755



REPLY TO
ATTN OF:

CD

13 Jan 81


SUBJECT:

Unexplained Lights

TO:

RAF/CC

1. Early in the morning of 27 Dec 80 (approximately 0300L), two USAF security police patrolmen saw unusual lights outside the back gate at RAF Woodbridge. Thinking an aircraft might have crashed or been forced down, they called for permission to go outside the gate to investigate. The on-duty flight chief responded and allowed three patrolmen to proceed on foot. The individuals reported seeing a strange glowing object in the forest. The object was described as being metallic in appearance and triangular in shape, approximately two to three meters across the base and approximately two meters high. It illuminated the entire forest with a white light. The object itself had a pulsing red light on top and a bank(s) of blue lights underneath. The object was hovering or on legs. As the patrolmen approached the object, it maneuvered through the trees and disappeared. At this time the animals on a nearby farm went into a frenzy. The object was briefly sighted approximately an hour later near the back gate.
2. The next day, three depressions 1 1/2" deep and 7" in diameter were found where the object had been sighted on the ground. The following night (29 Dec 80) the area was checked for radiation. Beta/gamma readings of 0.1 milliroentgens were recorded with peak readings in the three depressions and near the center of the triangle formed by the depressions. A nearby tree had moderate (.05-.07) readings on the side of the tree toward the depressions.
3. Later in the night a red sun-like light was seen through the trees. It moved about and pulsed. At one point it appeared to throw off glowing particles and then broke into five separate white objects and then disappeared. Immediately thereafter, three star-like objects were noticed in the sky, two objects to the north and one to the south, all of which were about 10° off the horizon. The objects moved rapidly in sharp angular movements and displayed red, green and blue lights. The objects to the north appeared to be elliptical through an 8-12 power lens. They then turned to full circles. The objects to the north remained in the sky for an hour or more. The object to the south was visible for two or three hours and beamed down a stream of light from time to time. Numerous individuals, including the undersigned, witnessed the activities in paragraphs 2 and 3.


CHARLES I. HALT, Lt Col, USAF
Deputy Base Commander

From: Section 40

Secretariat (Air Staff)2a, Room Section 40

E24

file copy

Section 40

D/Sec(AS)12/2/1

5 August 1987

per Section 40

Thank you for your letter dated 31 June which requested information on the Rendlesham Forest "incident". As we mentioned to you in our letter dated 16 May 1986 the only information that we have on this alleged UFO sighting is the report by the Deputy Base Commander of RAF Woodbridge, Lieutenant Colonel Charles Halt, USAF. In case you haven't seen it before I attach a copy of the report which may be of interest to you. You may recall that the sole interest of the Ministry of Defence in reported sightings of UFOs is to establish whether they have any bearing on the defence of the country. We are satisfied that the events described in Lieutenant Colonel Halt's report are of no defence significance.

I hope that this proves useful.

LS

Section 40

Section 40
[redacted] aff.O/K file
Halt.

(E23)

Draft response to Section 40 [redacted] letter
of 31/6/87 is attached.

Lt.Col Halt's report of Jan '81 (see file)
has already been released by sec(As)
to a number of members of the public.

Section 40
[redacted]

4/8.

Section 40

19/7

E22

Section 40

has written about Rendlesham Forest on three ~~other~~ occasions. Our first reply gave him our standard letter explaining our interest in UFO's [E67 Part A]. His second letter [E5 Part 6] did not receive a reply. His third asked us to determine whether or not the Rendlesham Forest incident involved a USAF "stealth" plane. We answered a simple "NO". (E's 31+32 Pt B)

My reply to Section 40 again explains our policy on UFO's and as he appears not to have a copy, I have included a copy of Lt Col Hall's report. This has been released to other ufologists in the past.

Section 40

Thank you. Would you please locate Lt Col Hall's report, & also the example of its release to other ufologists in the past.

Section 40

15/07

Examples: E17 pt A 12/2/1
E16 pt A 12/2/1
(tagged)

there are plenty more.

15/7

Section 40

Section 40

Section 40

replied 05/08

Section 40

Section 40

(E2)

31/6/87.

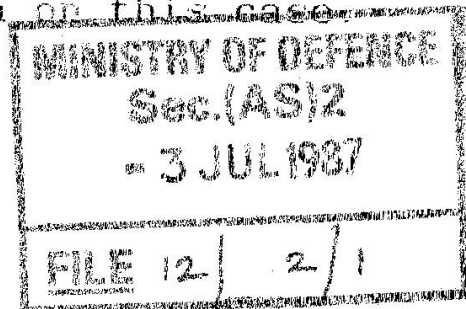
Dear Section 40

I have enclosed a photo, for which i think will amuse you.
I would be very grateful if you could send me any information
that you may have on the rendelsham forest case in "Dec 1980".

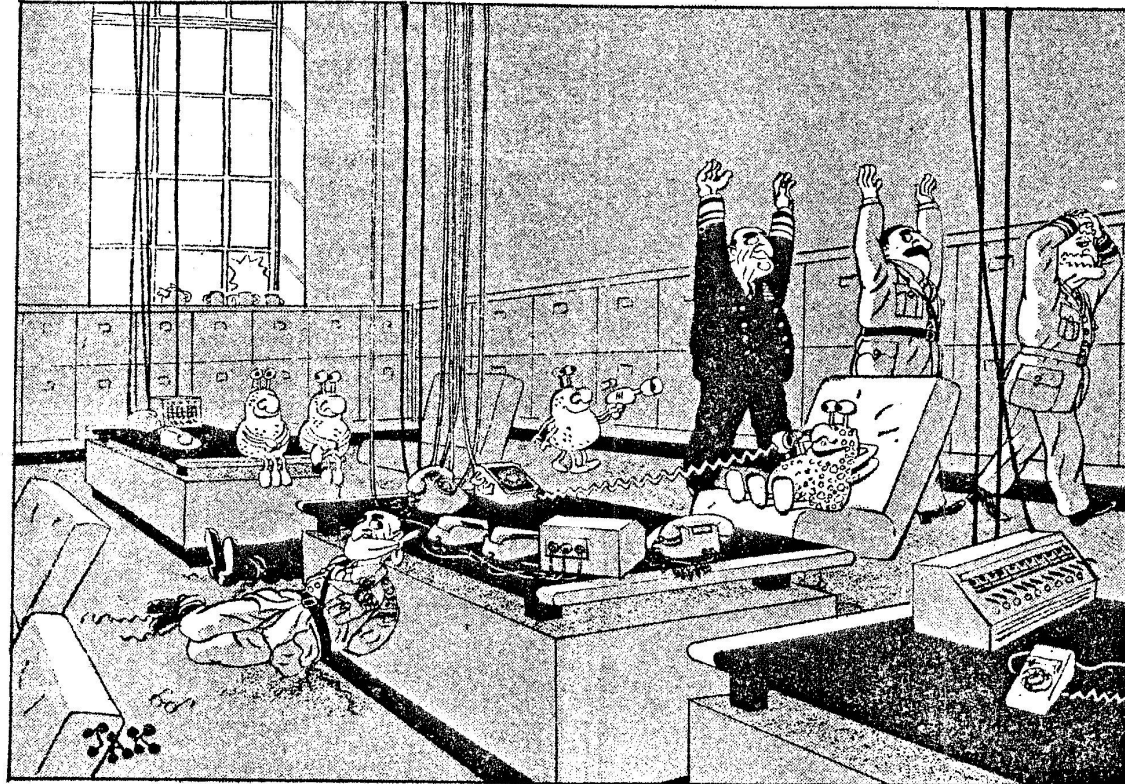
If you dont have any information in the ministry could you
tell me where to obtain some information on this case.

YOURS SINCERELY.

Section 40



Edgar Hatvany

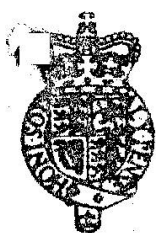


"Ministry of Defence here—No, Madam, it was just a Russian rocket breaking up on re-entry."

The cartoon by JAK is reproduced by kind permission of the London "EVENING STANDARD" (22/NOV/68)

From: **Section 40** Secretariat (Air Staff) 2a, Room **Section 40**

E20



MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
Main Building Whitehall London SW1A 2HB

Telephone **Section 40** (Direct Dialling)
(Switchboard)

Section 40

Your reference

Our reference D/Sec(AS)12/2/1✓

Date 2/ August 1985

Dear

Section 40

Thank you for your letter of 9 July 1985. The Ministry of Defence's interest in Unidentified Flying Objects (UFO's) was explained to you by my predecessor, **Section 40** in his letters of 19 June and 18 July 1984.

The only information we have on the alleged "UFO sighting" at Rendlesham Forest in December 1980 is the report by Colonel Charles Halt, of the United States Air Force. We are satisfied that the events described are of no defence significance. We can find nothing in our records to suggest that alleged eye-witnesses were interviewed by the MOD, this is consistent with our normal practice when dealing with UFO reports.

Yours sincerely

Section 40

PP's 10/209/146
12/2/1

E14 85/99

Section 40

Telephone Section 40

Solicitor

Section 40

OUR REF: HH/MJC

YOUR REF: D/DS8/10/209

Ministry of Defence,
Main Building, Rm Section 40
Whitehall,
London.
SW1A 2HB

9th July 1985

For the attention of Section 40

Dear Section 40

re: UFO Sighting at Rendlesham Forest

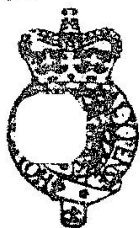
I would be grateful if you could kindly indicate to me if your Department interviewed any of the alleged eye witnesses to the above incident and if so, whom and the dates of such interviews.

Kind regards.

Yours sincerely,

Section 40

C18.



MINISTRY OF DEFENCE

Main Building Whitehall London SW1A 2HB

Telephone **Section 40** (Direct Dialling)
(Switchboard)Sec(AS)2a, Room **Section 40****Section 40**New York 11572
USA

Your reference

Our reference

D/Sec(AS)12/2/1✓

Date

2 July 1985

Dear **Section 40**

Your letter of 3 March 1985, addressed to the Office of Public Information, has been passed to me for reply. I am sorry that you received no reply to your earlier letter, however I can find no trace of it in our records. You may find it useful if I explain that the sole interest of the United Kingdom Ministry of Defence in reported sightings of Unidentified Flying Objects (UFOs) is to establish whether they have any bearing on the defence of the country.

There is no organisation in the Ministry of Defence appointed solely for the purpose of studying reports of such objects, and no staff are employed on the subject full time. The reports we receive are referred to the staff in the Department who are responsible for the air defence of the United Kingdom, and they examine the reports as part of their normal duties.

Since our interest in UFOs is limited to possible defence implications we have not carried out a study into the scientific significance of these phenomena. Unless there are defence implications we do not attempt to identify sightings and we cannot inform observers of the probable identity of the object seen. The Department could not justify the expenditure of public funds on investigations which go beyond the pure defence interests.

We have to recognise that there are many strange things to be seen in the sky, but we believe there are adequate explanations for them. They may be satellite debris re-entering the earth atmosphere, ball lightning, unusual cloud formations, meteorological balloons, aircraft lights, aircraft at unusual angles or many other things.

The only information we have on the alleged "UFO sighting" at Rendlesham Forest in December 1980 is the report by Colonel Charles Halt, of the United States Air Force. We are satisfied that the events described are of no defence significance.

Yours sincerely

Section 40

24
12/2/1

March 3, 1985

Office of Public Information
Ministry of Defence
Air Ministry section
London, England

Gentlemen:

In a letter dated November 18, 1984 I requested certain information from your office in regard to a number of UFO incidents that occurred in the immediate vicinity of the Bentwaters/Woodbridge NATO airbase complex in the county of Suffolk, during the last week of December 1980. It is most disappointing that to this date I have received NO reply.

It is my sincere hope that you will respond to the following questions;

- 1) Does your office confirm receipt of the letter from USAF Lt. Col. Charles I. Halt, Deputy Base Commander, describing the UFO incidents?
- 2) Did your office conduct, or participate in, any further inquiry into this matter? Also, does your office maintain a dossier on this matter?
- 3) Can you suggest any prosaic explanation for these specific incidents?

Sincerely,

Section 40



Oceanside, New York 11572
U.S.A.

E17



MINISTRY OF DEFENCE

Main Building Whitehall London SW1A 2HB

Telephone **Section 40** (Direct Dialling)
(Switchboard)Sec(AS)2a, Room **Section 40****Section 40**

Your reference

Our reference D/Sec(AS)12/2/1 ✓

Date 2 July 1985

Dear **Section 40**

Thank you for your letter of 15 April. You may find it useful if I explain that the sole interest of the United Kingdom Ministry of Defence in reported sightings of Unidentified Flying Objects (UFOs) is to establish whether they have any bearing on the defence of the country.

There is no organisation in the Ministry of Defence appointed solely for the purpose of studying reports of such objects, and no staff are employed on the subject full time. The reports we receive are referred to the staff in the Department who are responsible for the air defence of the United Kingdom, and they examine the reports as part of their normal duties.

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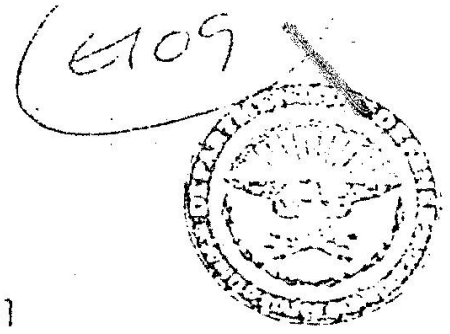
We have to recognise that there are many strange things to be seen in the sky, but we believe there are adequate explanations for them. They may be satellite debris re-entering the earth atmosphere, ball lightning, unusual cloud formations, meteorological balloons, aircraft lights, aircraft at unusual angles or many other things.

The only information we have on the alleged "UFO sighting" at Rendlesham Forest in December 1980 is the report by Colonel Charles Halt, of the United States Air Force. We are satisfied that the events described are of no defence significance. I enclose a copy of Colonel Halt's report which may be of interest.

Yours sincerely

Section 40

DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
HEADQUARTERS 81ST COMBAT SUPPORT GROUP (USAF)
APO NEW YORK 07155



REPLY TO
ATTN OF:

CD

13 Jan 81

SUBJECT:

Unexplained Lights

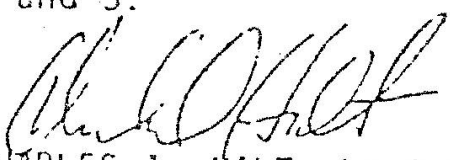
TO:

RAF/CC

1. Early in the morning of 27 Dec 80 (approximately 0300L), two USAF security police patrolmen saw unusual lights outside the back gate at RAF Woodbridge. Thinking an aircraft might have crashed or been forced down, they called for permission to go outside the gate to investigate. The on-duty flight chief responded and allowed three patrolmen to proceed on foot. The individuals reported seeing a strange glowing object in the forest. The object was described as being metallic in appearance and triangular in shape, approximately two to three meters across the base and approximately two meters high. It illuminated the entire forest with a white light. The object itself had a pulsing red light on top and a bank(s) of blue lights underneath. The object was hovering or on legs. As the patrolmen approached the object, it maneuvered through the trees and disappeared. At this time the animals on a nearby farm went into a frenzy. The object was briefly sighted approximately an hour later near the back gate.

2. The next day, three depressions 1 1/2" deep and 7" in diameter were found where the object had been sighted on the ground. The following night (29 Dec 80) the area was checked for radiation. Beta/gamma readings of 0.1 milliroentgens were recorded with peak readings in the three depressions and near the center of the triangle formed by the depressions. A nearby tree had moderate (.05-.07) readings on the side of the tree toward the depressions.

3. Later in the night a red sun-like light was seen through the trees. It moved about and pulsed. At one point it appeared to throw off glowing particles and then broke into five separate white objects and then disappeared. Immediately thereafter, three star-like objects were noticed in the sky, two objects to the north and one to the south, all of which were about 10° off the horizon. The objects moved rapidly in sharp angular movements and displayed red, green and blue lights. The objects to the north appeared to be elliptical through an 8-12 power lens. They then turned to full circles. The objects to the north remained in the sky for an hour or more. The object to the south was visible for two or three hours and beamed down a stream of light from time to time. Numerous individuals, including the undersigned, witnessed the activities in paragraphs 2 and 3.


CHARLES I. HALT, Lt Col, USAF
Deputy Base Commander

25
Section 40

file
12/2/1

April 15th. '85.

Dear Sir,

In the late 1970's my daughter saw what could only be described as an unidentified flying object over Accrington in Lancashire.

Since then I have met several people who have had a similar experience, and I have recently read a library book 'SKYCRASH'.

Over the past few years my interest in this phenomena has increased, therefore I wonder if you could let me have any further information or copies of documents relating to the incident in Rendlesham Forest in December 1980?

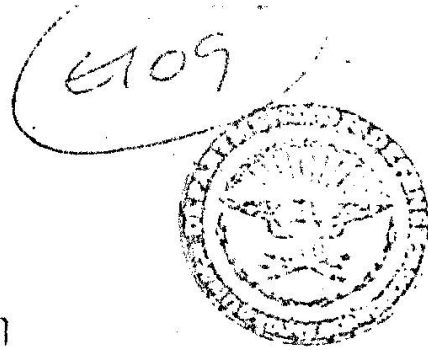
Your co-operation would be much appreciated.

Sincerely yours,

Section 40

Section 40

DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
HEADQUARTERS 81ST COMBAT SUPPORT GROUP (USAF)
APO NEW YORK 07155



REPLY TO
ATTN OF: CD

13 Jan 81


SUBJECT: Unexplained Lights

TO: RAF/CC

1. Early in the morning of 27 Dec 80 (approximately 0300L), two USAF security police patrolmen saw unusual lights outside the back gate at RAF Woodbridge. Thinking an aircraft might have crashed or been forced down, they called for permission to go outside the gate to investigate. The on-duty flight chief responded and allowed three patrolmen to proceed on foot. The individuals reported seeing a strange glowing object in the forest. The object was described as being metallic in appearance and triangular in shape, approximately two to three meters across the base and approximately two meters high. It illuminated the entire forest with a white light. The object itself had a pulsing red light on top and a bank(s) of blue lights underneath. The object was hovering or on legs. As the patrolmen approached the object, it maneuvered through the trees and disappeared. At this time the animals on a nearby farm went into a frenzy. The object was briefly sighted approximately an hour later near the back gate.

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3. Later in the night a red sun-like light was seen through the trees. It moved about and pulsed. At one point it appeared to throw off glowing particles and then broke into five separate white objects and then disappeared. Immediately thereafter, three star-like objects were noticed in the sky, two objects to the north and one to the south, all of which were about 10° off the horizon. The objects moved rapidly in sharp angular movements and displayed red, green and blue lights. The objects to the north appeared to be elliptical through an 8-12 power lens. They then turned to full circles. The objects to the north remained in the sky for an hour or more. The object to the south was visible for two or three hours and beamed down a stream of light from time to time. Numerous individuals, including the undersigned, witnessed the activities in paragraphs 2 and 3.


CHARLES I. HALT, Lt Col, USAF
Deputy Base Commander

I attach copies of two recent Parliamentary Questions on the Ministry of Defence's interest in UFO reports, which you may be interested in.

Yours sincerely

Section 40



Hansard Extract

13 March 1984

Cols 132 & 133

Unidentified Flying Objects

Sir Patrick Wall asked the Secretary of State for Defence (1) how many alleged landings by unidentified flying objects have been made in 1980, 1981, 1982 and 1983, respectively; and how many have been investigated by his Department's personnel;

(2) how many unexplained sightings there have been in 1980, 1981, 1982 and 1983, respectively; and which of these had been traced by radar and with what result.

Mr. Lee [*pursuant to his reply, 9 March 1984, c. 728*]:
For the years in question, the Ministry of Defence received the following numbers of reports of sightings of flying objects which the observer could not identify: 350, 600, 250, and 390. Reports of alleged landings are not separately identified. The Department was satisfied that none of these reports was of any defence significance and, in such cases, does not maintain records of the extent of its investigations.

HANSARD EXTRACT

24 OCTOBER 1983

Col. 62

RAF Woodbridge (Alleged Incident)

Sir Patrick Wall asked the Secretary of State for Defence (1) if he has seen the United States Air Force memo dated 13 January 1981 concerning unexplained lights near RAF Woodbridge;

(2) whether, in view of the fact that the United States Air Force memo of 13 January 1981 on the incident at RAF Woodbridge has been released under the Freedom of Information Act, he will now release reports and documents concerning similar unexplained incidents in the United Kingdom;

(3) how many unexplained sightings or radar intercepts have taken place since 1980.

Mr. Stanley: I have seen the memorandum of 13 January 1981 to which my hon. Friend refers. Since 1980 the Department has received 1,400 reports of sightings of flying objects which the observers have been unable to identify. There were no corresponding unexplained radar contacts. Subject to normal security constraints, I am ready to give information about any such reported sightings that are found to be a matter of concern from a defence standpoint, but there have been none to date.

E/6



MINISTRY OF DEFENCE

Main Building Whitehall London SW1A 2HB

 Telephones **Section 40** (Direct Dialling)
 (Switchboard)
Sec(AS)2a, Room **Section 40****Section 40**

Your reference

Our reference

Date

D/Sec (AS) 12/2/11 ✓

28 June 1985

USA

Dear **Section 40**

Thank you for your letter of 25 March 1985. You may find it useful if I explain that the sole interest of the United Kingdom Ministry of Defence in reported sightings of Unidentified Flying Objects (UFOs) is to establish whether they have any bearing on the defence of the country.

There is no organisation in the Ministry of Defence appointed solely for the purpose of studying reports of such objects, and no staff are employed on the subject full time. The reports we receive are referred to the staff in the Department who are responsible for the air defence of the United Kingdom, and they examine the reports as part of their normal duties.

Since our interest in UFOs is limited to possible defence implications we have not carried out a study into the scientific significance of these phenomena. Unless there are defence implications we do not attempt to identify sightings and we cannot inform observers of the probable identity of the object seen. The Department could not justify the expenditure of public funds on investigations which go beyond the pure defence interests.

We have to recognise that there are many strange things to be seen in the sky, but we believe there are adequate explanations for them. They may be satellite debris re-entering the earth atmosphere, ball lightning, unusual cloud formations, meteorological balloons, aircraft lights, aircraft at unusual angles or many other things.

The only information we have on the alleged "UFO sighting" at Rendlesham Forest in December 1980 is the report by Colonel Charles Halt, of the United States Air Force. We are satisfied that the events described are of no defence significance. I can assure you that there is no question of attempting to cover up any incident or mishap, nor are we attempting in any way to obscure the truth. I enclose a copy of Colonel Halt's report which may be of interest.

NOTE

Please inform if your dept does have a procedure that can be arranged that would assure that any large volume of documents could be sent via Air Mail if yes the cost of mailing first class Air Mail I would like to arrange to receive all documents that your dept can release to me this method if you can estimate the cost of this procedure then please reply have provided a return reply envelope with Air Mail stamps on it for courtesy reply will mail the amount to pay for mailing via Air Mail of package first class if volume of documents is large or small either amount I will be happy to forward the amount as instructed by the dept you work in thank you very much

from
Section 40

U.S.A.

file
12/2/1

MINISTRY OF DEFENSE
MAIN BUILDING WHITEHALL
LONDON ENGLAND SW1A-2HB
DEFENSE SECRETARIAT 8

March 25th 1985

Section 40

Dear Sirs

I am presently involved in doing some background research into a book titled Sky Crash A Cosmic Conspiracy by Dot Street Brenda Butler and Jenny Randles. I would like to verify some basic facts discussed in this book as they were writing about the MOD DS8 and its capacity or involvement into the Rendlesham Forrest (UFO Unknown Lights) of December 27th and the 30th 1980 the copy of the report that they obtained from from the MOD DS8 as it concerns your dept and I am asking of that particular report if a copy of the report is available to the general public if requested. I am aware that the report was sent by Squadron Leader Donald Moreland on January 14th 1981 to the MOD DS8 a copy of this report will be enclosed with this letter plus additional version of that report that should probably be regarded as not very accurate on details or facts surrounding this case in particular also I understand that RAF Watten had picked up on their radar and tracked this UFO to about fifty miles south and to the east of Ipswich and in the general vicinity of the Rendlesham Forrest after which they lost radar contact this occurred on the night of December 27th 1980 and the radar recordings were examined by USAF intelligence officers concerning this uncorrelated target such recordings are kept a few days before being reused this is a precaution against the unforeseen such as a air crash of an airplane. I believe a rumor circulating around the radar base was that it was possible that a object that they had tracked had crash landed into the forest near Ipswich. This had been a mettalic UFO, a structured device of unknown origin. Men who had gone out to confront the UFO from a nearby base had found the engine and lights of their jeep failing as they got closer. They then had to continue on foot. The object was on the ground for several hours before repairs could be undertaken by the aliens who crewed it. During this period high ranking officers from the base went into the forest and the base commander himself (we assume Colonel Gordon Williams) had conversed with the occupants. It is no known what the radar men made of this tale, but it was apparently told by a radar man to the authors. But the fact that they tracked a target which aroused considerable interest in the USAF was certainly intriguing.

about your dept, there is a basic one page file for each UFO report that you would receive. now about regulations that direct persons to send UFO reports to your dept, and can I obtain a copy of these documents that exist that dictate guidelines a sort of official document that informs police and military about why these reports are important to the MOD DS8 and why this particular dept has been chosen for this assignment of evaluating of the UFO sighting reports that are sent through official channels and is there any joint cooperation between your government and other NATO allies with regards to this UFO phenomena and channeling of important data on specific UFO sighting cases that warrant other NATO Allies being informed about progress in investigating a particular case like the Rendlesam Forrest incidents that were highly documented and by official channels and by higher ranking personnel were involved which is indeed very unusual. does your office ever conduct any field investigations on UFO sighting reports looking into background of a particular sighting that has physical traces with photographic evidence of a UFO and photos of the landing sight showing actual physical traces left behind by the UFO and does your dept have a manual for reference of different categories of these UFOs like the MUFON field investigators manual which is a guide explaining some of the differences between IFOs Identified Flying Objects Unidentified Flying Objects and basis rules to help determine category of the UFO sighting. what is your department step by step procedures for investigating these UFO sighting reports. where not secret I am very interested in obtaining some more detailed information on how a military base might be instructed in investigating a UFO sighting within their own military base property or do they just send in a brief sighting report how much details would be important to sufficiently investigate the UFO sighting to determine the defense implications of that particular report and has the MI5 or MI9 intelligence services ever been utilized to obtain more additional UFO reports this I understand and is a possibility for additional UFO reports do you know of the British government and whether its intelligence apparatus is doing any monitoring of the UFO phenomena for possible intelligence information of some benefit to British military security am aware that our National Security Agency and the Central Intelligence Agency are doing some secret monitoring of the UFO phenomena for national security reasons which are considered valid enough. I wish to thank you for your kind and gracious assistance that you will provide in your reply

SINCERLY

Section 40

Signed

Section 40

from

Section 40

DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
AIR FORCE OFFICE OF SPECIAL INVESTIGATIONS
CHIEF OF INFORMATION RELEASE

Section 40 WASHINGTON D.C. 20330-5025

MARCH 8th 1985

I am presently involved in some background research investigateing on a book titled Clear Intent by Barry Greenwood and Larry Fawcett on page 224 of their book a report is discuss- ed which originated from Kirckland AFB N.M. dated 2-9 Sept 80 OSI complaint form for offic- ial use only 8 Aug 3 80 alledged sightings of Unidentified Aerial Lights in restricted tes- t range the file # is 8017D93-0/29 I wish to ask if you can release the complete file unde- r the Freedom of Information Act 5 USC552 and can I please recieve a copy of this file the following incidents are on file at the British Minestry Of Defense their address is Ma- in Building Whitehall London SW1A-2HB the present head of the UFO report recieving dept DS8 is Section 40 however not knowing how their government would respond to an inquiry from a citizen of a foreign country about documents that the British Government might rega- rd as sensitive enough as far as being of a high security nature a reply possibly would not be given here concerning a official report probably regarded as confidential meaning not for distribution to persons with out a security clearance I should point out that the report is on page 218 of the book Clear Intent and on (page 22 and 23 of the book Sky Crash A Cosmic Conspiracy by Brenda Butler Dot Street and Jenny Randles) the report has ben photoduplica- ted in its entirety in both books what I am interested in verifying here is the existence of the report and possibly additional documents in the form of an open file this is the filed report written as follows DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE HEADQUARTERS 81st Combat Support Group RAF Bentwaters filed by Deputy Base Commander Lt, Col, USAF CHARLES I HALT dated January 13th 1981 subject Unexplained Lights 1. Early in the mourning of 27 Dec 80 (approximately 0300) two USAF security police patrolman saw unusual lights outside the back gate at RAF Woodbrid- ge. Thinking an aircraft might have crashed or been forced down, they called for permission to go outside the gate to investigate. The on duty flight chief responded and allowed three patrolmen to proceed on foot. The individuals reported seeing a strange bright object in the forrest. The object was described as being metallic in appearance and triangular in shape ap- proximately two to three meters across the base and approximately two meters high. It illum- inated the entire forrest with a white light. The object itself had a pulsing red light on top and a bank(s) of blue lights underneath. The object was hovering or on legs. As the pa- trolmen approached the object it maneuvered through the trees and disapeared. At this time the animals on a nearby farm went into a frenzy. The object was briefly sighted an hour lat- ter near the back gate. 2. The next day, three depressions one and a half inches deep and seven inches in diameter were found where the object had been sighted been sighted on th g- round. The following night (29 Dec 80) the area was checked for radiation. Beta/gamma readi- ngs of 0.1 milliroentgens were recorded with peak readings in the three depressions and n- ear the center of the triangle formed by the depressions. A nearby tree had moderate (.05-.0 7) readings on the side of the tree tword the depression. 3. Later in the night a red sun like light was seen through the trees. It moved about and pulsed. At one point it appeared to throw off glowing particles and then broke into five seperate white objects and then di- sapeared. Immediately thereafter, three star like objects were noticed in the sky, two obje- cts to the north and one to the south, all of which were about ten degrees off the horizon. The objects moved rapidly in sharp angular movements and displayed red, green and blue lig- hts. The objects to the north appeared to be ecliptical through an 8 by 12 power lense. They then turned to full circles. The object to the south was visable for two or three hours and beamed a stream of light from time to time. Numerous individuals including the undersigned, witnessed the activities in paragraphs 2 and 3

Signed CHARLES I HALT, Lt, Col, USAF Deputy Base Commander

the following personall were assigned at the joint RAF base of Bentwaters/Woodbridge during the Rendlesham forrest incidents of Dec 27th and 30th 1980

Lt, Col, Charles I Halt now Colonel Colonel Jack Cochran left in 1984 around spring

Colonel now Brig, Gen, Ted Conrad left in left in 1981

Colonel Sam Morgan left in 1981

Colonel now Brigadier General Gordon Williams left in Jan 81

Major Malcolm Zickler left in jan 81

Captain Kathleen McCollom left in Jan 84

Colonel Soya left in jan 81

Sergeant Adrian Bustinza Jan 81

Airman 1st Class John Burrougs left in Jan 81

Airman 1st Class Steve Wilkins left possibly in Jan 81

Airman 1st Class Art Wallace Left in Jan 81 not his real name and he is no longer in the USAF now a civillian also on record by authors of Sky Crash A Cosmic Coverup

Airman 1st Class James Archer left in Jan 81 witnessed UFO on Dec 27th 80 not his real name is on record of the authors of the book Sky Crask A Cosmic Conspiiracy by Brenda Butler Dot Street and Jenny Randles

Airman 1st Class Steve Roberts Security police patrolman witnessed the first sighting of Dec 27th 80 not his real name is known by the authors of Sky Crash A Cosmic Coverup

Squadron Leader Donald Moreland British RAF base Commander during the UFO events

Brigadier General Richard M Pascoe 25th Air Division left in spring of 84

the following reports of the Rendlesham forrest incidents was was recieved from a person who was stationed at Bentwaters RAFB during the second UFO event of 30 Dec 80 this person has asked the authors of Clear Intent not to use his real name so for the record he will be refered to as Art Wallace this is his view of the events typed exactly as printed on pages (214,215,216,217) of the Book Clear Intent Art Wallace was attached to the Bentwaters Air Force Base as a Security Policeman. He had ben assigned to the base for only a short period of time when at 1:00 A.M. on the night either on or near to 30 Dec 80 Airman Wallace was on duty at the Bentwaters flight line, a jeep pulled up. Two men a sergeant and a lieutenant, told Wallace to get in because they were going over to the motor pool. On the way over, Airman Wallace and the sergeant were told to get gas powered "light-alls" (trailer mounted lights used to illuminate large areas). The lights were attached to the jeep, and the Bentwaters main gate where they met other vehicles. The convoy moved out toward the Rendlesham forrest a few miles away. Airman Wallace heard radio chatter mentioning names of people he knew plus OSI most likely a referance to the Air Force Office of Investigations. Airman Wallace saw security police as well as members of the British Military stationed all along the way. They pulled onto a dirt road and drove about a mile into the Rendlesham Forrest, stopping at Airman Wallace referred to as a staging point. The men were ordered to check their weapons in since they would not be taking them along Airman Wallace went into the woods with four other men led by a captain who had met them at the Bentwaters motor pool. As they approached a clearing in the woods, they noticed a brightness in the distance and the sound of helicopters overhead. Wallace noticed an airman crying at the edge of the clearing with a medic attending him. This puzzled Airman Wallace as he couldnt imahine what might have been going on. The first thing the men noticed when they had a clear view view was the large movie cameras had been placed surrounding a field in the clearing. Many plainclothes personel were milling about watching something. The something was an object taking the appearance of a transparent aspirin tablet, hovering about one foot off the ground. Airman Wallace estimated that the object was fifty feet in diameter and had a bright, pulsating, yellow mist inside it. It did not move from its position.

Airman Wallace and some of the men approached the object to within ten feet. Two down in the field came over to the object according to Airman Wallace, appeared to be just staring at the object, oblivious to the security men in the area. A radio call was heard over a field radio unit. A helicopter pilot said, here it comes. In the distance a red light appeared first behind a pine tree, then in front of it. The light quickly sped over to the aspirin shaped object and hovered at a position about twenty feet above it. After maintaining this position for a minute, the red light broke up. No explosion occurred in the conventional sense. The light merely broke up into a shower of particles. Suddenly, in the place of the red light and the aspirin shaped object another vehicle appeared. Airman Wallace said it was a domed disc, bright white in color, with an intricately detailed surface much like the models used in movies like "star wars" and "close encounters". It had two appendages on the lower flange of the disc which seem to be the beginning of delta wings but not quite. Shadows were cast on the surface of the disc by some of the raised relief detail. Airman Wallace and the men with him walked around the object and noticed some interesting effects. Their own shadows were cast onto the object, probably by the bright "light balls" in the field. Not only did their shadows bend upwards at the head but but as they walked and stopped, the shadows would appear to advance one pace more than stop. Stunned and disbelieving of this effect, Airman Wallace and the others walked and stopped several times, each time noticing the effect repeat itself. Additionally, the third time that they tried this a light came over the head of a shadow and moved from one head to another.

Under hypnosis Wallace found his memory extending beyond the point where one 'TV video light' danced on the side of the UFO. He now saw aliens. Wallace describes them clearly. There were three and their height was about three or three and a half feet. Their heads were large and out of proportion to their bodies. Their eyes were like inverted cat's eyes, and the ear, nose and mouth were all just slits. Two wore all over silver suits 'like an overall' - the other, who seemed to be the leader, wore a similar suit but blackish. He also had what looked like a long stick by his side. It was apparently clinging to the suit, but there did not appear to be any belt or fastening. The three aliens floated from the underside of the craft and onto the ground. Still in a floating motion the one in black moved towards Gordon Williams, who Wallace insists was close to the craft. He heard no words exchanged, but saw what might have been sign language. Whilst this was happening there seemed to be a disturbance over the far side of the craft. It was out of view and so Wallace could not see what was occurring, but he could tell from the reaction of the men that something. And the aliens appeared to react too. Their eyes were normally very small but at this point they responded by enlarging them. They swelled up into big circles and then returned to normal. After a few moments the contact with Williams proceeded. Wallace was aware that the aliens had damaged their craft and that assistance was being offered in its repair. But he was simply mesmerized watching the conversation. Then one of the other two aliens began to float over in the direction of the group of men of which Wallace was one. Oh my god he's coming over to us Wallace recalls shouting. And then even the hypnosis could produce nothing beyond blackness, until the reawakening in the barracks.

The debriefing occurred that day following the night UFO encounter. Wallace was picked up on base by a black car with dark glass. He could not see where he was going, he felt as if he were drugged because they made him get in and he did not want to. He felt very strange. The two men wore dark suits and looked oriental. Neither spoke when he demanded to know where they were taking him. But he felt a voice in his head say, 'Don't be afraid.' After getting out of the car at an unknown location in the dark, Wallace was led down several flights of steel stairs. He was now in a large room which housed the UFO, identical to the one he had seen in the forest the day before. But he was hastily led away from here into another room where several other men he recognized from the encounter were present. Everywhere around him was spotless and clean, like a hospital. An officer then spoke verbally and told him not to worry as all would be explained. But he then feels he lost consciousness again as his next memory is of waking up and being given breakfast. After the food he was taken to a room where there were rows of chairs and a small platform with a big screen on it. Seven men including himself, were sat there. All had been out in the forest that night. An officer, whom Wallace did not recognize, then onto the platform and explained that they were about to see some film and be informed as to why they were there.

The film was a collection of movie clips apparently taken from aircraft. They showed UFOs in pursuit of military planes and spanned many years, beginning with Second World War footage. One scene was of a craft in a huge hangar somewhere. After the show the lights came on and nothing was said. Wallace felt very calm and relaxed and again as if he were drugged. But through a glow shining at the back of the screen he saw a small figure. It was only in silhouette, masked by the material, but it was evidently an alien! The alien proceeded to explain who it was, where it came from and why it was on earth. This it did straight into Art Wallace's mind no words were spoken. Wallace could not recall the name or origin of the alien, ever under hypnosis. But he could remember the reason supposedly offered for its visit. The aliens were here to educate mankind. But only certain people had been selected to receive this knowledge. The seven men in the room were some who had been chosen. Others had been chosen before and there were a number of aliens doing similar things elsewhere. They had been on earth for a very long time, watching over and guiding the human race. Great changes were due soon. Some had happened already. Others were yet to come and Wallace and the others intended for the purpose, would have a big part to play in these. More information would be given when these changes came closer. But they should have no fear, because the aliens were going to watch over their proteges.

Now this version has a high degree of strangeness in the explanation of why the aliens had allegedly made contact with Wallace. I believe this view should be taken with a grain of salt or several grains of salt. I believe it highly possible for some contact in the future between humans and some alien intelligent life forms but the way that might occur is another area for discussion. The Wallace version is not acceptable in my view of reality. I don't think such a meeting could possibly take place under those circumstances. Perhaps in some distant time we may meet alien intelligent life forms but we need more time to develop our world space exploration programs. Perhaps more world cooperation in space will lead to more advances in space exploration but until then we can be satisfied for the present that there are possible intelligent life forms out there. We only have to get there and I believe with our shuttle program we are in the right direction. This space program gets several countries involved in various projects that benefit everyone involved. This is a very good step in achieving long term space research goals that will eventually lead to some possible future contact with alien life forms either below or at our level or much higher in intelligence than the human occupants of the water planet earth.

As far as the UFO phenomena is concerned there are many interesting theories as to why alien life forms. As some of the close encounter cases that are well researched seem to point to some interest in our planetary biology and the varied life forms that inhabit our planet including but not exclusively humans. I think that if a scientist does research on a lower form of intelligent life his standard rule might be not to alter the conditions of that given species in the process of doing his biological research so that true scientific studies can be conducted on that particular biological life form. This does not seem to be the case in the UFO contact cases. The aliens are only partly successful in their endeavor to allegedly conduct their human study. The more documented case histories indicate the persons allegedly abducted are able to remember their abduction with the assistance of specialized hypnosis regression. Thus their presence has become known to persons. In addition to the alleged person abducted by the aliens this conflicts with our own ideas of and experience of what happens when superior intelligence contacts lower forms of life. The results are usually very unfortunate. The lower form of life usually loses his identity, his culture, something like when the predator-prey scenario when the predator is virtually eliminated with his natural enemy gone. His balance of population overproduces. The unplanned introduction of pest control methods can lead to an unbalance in nature so the natural means that exist do work as with humans. If we made an uncontrolled contact with a vastly superior intelligent life form many thousands of years in advance of our selves the consequences might destroy our civilization and culture and result in the destroying of any human nationality that we have today. So planned contact with humans is possible but limited contact at best is the best approach at the present.

Signed Section 40

X



MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
MAIN BUILDING WHITEHALL LONDON SW1A 2HB

Telephone **Section 40** (Direct Dialling)
[redacted] (switchboard)

File
12/2/1

PARLIAMENTARY UNDER-SECRETARY OF STATE
FOR THE ARMED FORCES

D/US of S(AF)DGT/6210

19 June 1985

Dear Peter,

You wrote to Michael Heseltine on 1 May 1985 about the sighting of an unidentified flying object near RAF Woodbridge in December 1980. Michael has asked me to reply as UFO questions fall within my responsibilities.

I do understand your concern and I am grateful to you for having taken the trouble to write. I do not believe, however, that there are any grounds for changing our view, formed at the time, that the events to which you refer were of no defence significance.

You may recall the House of Lords debate on UFOs in 1979 (Hansard, 19 January 1979). I attach an extract of what I said on that occasion. Whilst I respect the views of those who differ from me on this matter I am bound to say that nothing I have seen since then has led me to change the views I myself expressed.

Yours,
David

Lord Trefgarne

I think I shall be able to

1985-10-10

1985-10-10

Admiral of the Fleet the Rt Hon Lord Hill-Norton GCB

EIS

Reference.....

12/4 copy to: 12/2/12

M5

APS/US of S(AF)
through Sec(AS)2 **Section 40**

1. US of S(AF) will recall recent correspondence on this matter with Lord Hill-Norton and Rt Hon Merlyn Rees MP. In both cases he took the line that we have nothing to add to what had already been said on the Woodbridge incident. Indeed, this was the line taken in previous correspondence with David Alton (See M3). The enclosed draft reply to Mr Alton once more follows this approach.
2. Mr Alton specifically requested a copy of the MOD official reply to Mr Noyes' last letter. This is enclosed, together with an earlier letter to which it refers. There is no objection to passing this correspondence to Mr Alton.
3. You may wish to note that Mr Alton has apparently passed on both letters sent by Lord Trefgarne on 19 March 85, even though one of these was intended to be for his information only.

12 June 1985

Section 40

Sec(AS)2a
Section 40

DRAFT

D/US of S(AF)/DGT 5173

June 1985.

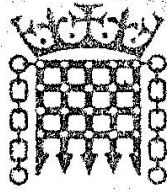
Thank you for your letter of 16 May to Michael Heseltine enclosing one from Mr R Noyes. You asked to see a copy of the Department's reply to Mr Noyes' letter of 25 February 1985 and this is enclosed, together with earlier correspondence to which it refers.

As I pointed out in my letter of 19 March, the MOD concerns itself only with the defence implications of reported UFO sightings. In this context, the report submitted by Col Halt in January 1981 was examined by those in the Department responsible for such matters and, as I have made clear in the past, it was considered to have no defence significance. We have since seen nothing to alter this view and there is nothing I can usefully add to the comments made in Sec(AS)'s letter or Mr Noyes.

Lord Trefgarne

David Alton Esq MP

Job No 2-24



HOUSE OF COMMONS
LONDON SW1A 0AA

16th May 1985

Dear Michael,

I enclose a letter I have received from Mr R Noyes following on from enquiries I first raised with your Department in March.

I read Mr Noyes letter with great interest and it seems to me that the points he raises are quite reasonable and merit a reply.

I should be most grateful if you could let me have your comments and if you could let me see a copy of the reply to Mr Noyes' own letter to your Department dated 25th February 1985.

Yours sincerely,

David Alton

David Alton, MP.

The Rt. Hon. Michael Heseltine, MP.
Secretary of State
Ministry of Defence
Main Building
Whitehall
London SW1 2HB