

Section 40

14th May, 1985

David Alton, Esq., MP,
House of Commons,
Westminster,
London SW1

Dear Mr. Alton,

Section 40 has kept me informed about her correspondence with you on the unusual incidents which were reported to the Ministry of Defence by USAF authorities at RAF Woodbridge in January 1981. I have also seen Lord Trefgarne's letters to you of 19th March.

Section 40 decided to write further to you about this puzzling and disquieting case, and she referred to me her enclosed letter of 31st March, which is addressed to you, in the hope that I might be able to add useful comments. Much to my regret I have had to spend much time out of London on other business in recent weeks and it is only now that I am able, very belatedly, to send on **Section 40** letter to you.

My own background, in brief, is that I served in the Ministry of Defence from 1949 to 1977, leaving in the grade of Under Secretary of State. From 1969 to late in 1972 I headed a Division in the central staffs of the MOD which had responsibilities for supporting RAF operations. This brought me into touch with a proportion of the many reports which the Department receives about unidentified traces in British airspace.

I believe that **Section 40** is right to remain very dissatisfied with the official line which the MOD has adopted on the Rendlesham Forest incidents of December 1980. I have myself said so on a number of public occasions, and I have pursued the matter in correspondence with the MOD - wholly without success.

At the risk of burdening you with an excessive amount of paper, I attach the most recent of my letters to the Ministry of Defence. You will see that this is dated 25th February 1985. I have so far received no answer, despite reminders. On a previous occasion it took the Department three and a half months to send me a wholly perfunctory reply.

Section 40 claims much collateral evidence for her own views; on this I am not competent to comment. My own position is, quite simply, that an extraordinary report was made to the Ministry of Defence by the Deputy Base Commander at RAF Woodbridge early in 1981; that the very existence of this report was denied by the MOD until persistent researchers in the US secured its release under the American Freedom of Information Act in 1983; and that the MOD's responses to questions since that time have been thoroughly unsatisfactory.

I cannot accept Lord Trefgarne's view that there is no Defence interest in this case. Unless Lt.Col. Halt was out of his mind, there is clear evidence in his report that British airspace and territory were intruded upon by an unidentified vehicle on two occasions in late December 1980 and that no authority was able to prevent this. If, on the other hand, Halt's report cannot be believed, there is equally clear evidence of a serious misjudgement of events by USAF personnel at an important base in British territory. Either way, the

Section 40

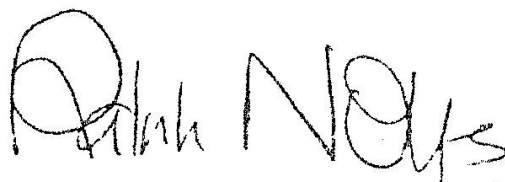
case can hardly be without Defence significance.

The dates in question are now rather remote, but I doubt that this should be taken to excuse the very perfunctory manner in which Lord Trefgarne has dealt with your letter. I hope that you may feel able to pursue the matter further, either in correspondence or in a PQ. The essence of the questions to be pressed seems to me to lie in my preceding paragraph. Seen in these terms, **Section 40** article in the GUARDIAN (which Lord Trefgarne rather surprisingly falls back upon) is wholly irrelevant. If the USAF really are capable of hallucinations induced by a lighthouse which must surely be very familiar to them, then I shudder for that powerful finger which lies upon so many triggers...

My own letter to the MOD (enclosed) raises other more detailed questions. But I do not suggest that you should necessarily concern yourself with them, anyway at this stage. It would be nice if the MOD would answer letters, of course ! But the essence of the Defence interest which I suggest a responsible Member of Parliament might reasonably raise lies in the argument I have tried to present above.

If I can be of any assistance in discussion with you, I am at your disposal.

Yours sincerely,



(Ralph Noyes)

Section 40

31 March 1985

Dear Mr Alton,

Thank you for your enclosures (undated) which reached me on 30th inst.

May I comment on the reply of Lord Trefgarne to yourself.

His letter is virtually a word-for-word repeat of the standard MoD line (it must save money to keep churning them out of the word processor!) However, he does add a couple of points not previously noted. These are the specific references to not covering up "any incident or mishap" and not "in any way to obscure the truth". That said, and it presumably being true, I would have thought that it was of interest to know from the MoD why they only have the memo from Col Halt (and note he is referred to in Trefgarne letter as Colonel Halt, his rank now, although on the memo he is Lt.Col.).

Bear in mind that this incident (whatever it was) occurred on BRITISH soil (not base land) and just outside the perimeter fence of an RAF owned base. Consequently British citizens have a right to expect to have been kept informed of matters, especially as then British commander (Squadron Leader Donald Moreland) was specifically on base for that purpose.

YET - according to the MoD stance - we are lead to believe the following data was at no time made available...VIZ

(i) The tape recording made by Halt, the base security chief and several other senior officers, which describes in detail the taking of soil samples, tree samples, photograph radiation readings, infra-red readings etc AT THE SITE ON BRITISH SOIL. Subsequently (as the tape records) a "UFO" reappeared. This tape is in our hands and Moreland personally told me in January 1984 (several months before we got it from the US commander in America) that he was aware of its existence.

How come the MoD have no copy? How come the activities recorded on it took place on British soil without MoD knowledge? How come Moreland never advised the MoD of this vital evidence?

(ii) The photographs and samples recorded on the tape (which is officially accepted as genuine by the US) are, again, crucial evidence. Under a recent Freedom of Information (US) request they have been admitted and are likely to be made available in the USA very shortly. Again, I think we are entitled to ask why the MoD appear not only to be unaware of these but have no copies or copies of the analysis results which must accompany them. Again Moreland was aware that these samples and photographs were taken

IF, as the MoD contend, the events do not bear any relationship to a secret test or experiment (and if they do they have lied both to you, as an MP, and to me) then that is an admission that they involve an Unidentified Object (which is all I contend the UFO to be). Indeed in the letter to me of 13 April 1983 DS 8 do say that the lights are unidentified and have "no explanation".

It seems to me that there are questions here concerning the inter-relation between the US Air Force on British soil and our country IF, as contended, several senior officers from a USAF base can be involved in protracted work outside the base and on British land without such facts being known by the MoD or the results of their work being made available.

It is an interesting question as to who legally owns the samples of allegedly

irradiated soil and tree bark taken from BRITISH land (owned by the Forestry Commission in fact)! I doubt very much that the USAF have carte blanche approval to do what they like on our shores. And if they do I for one am very concerned about it!

Finally, you will note that the official response makes no reference to the lighthouse normal background radiation theories propounded by **Section 40** in the Guardian (on the strength of almost no evidence). Yet the Trefgarne letter to you does try to convince you this is the answer,

Neither the MoD nor the USAF will accept the lighthouse theory officially because they are as well aware as I am that it is easily refutable by the facts. **Section 40** actually stated on television (in a debate with myself) (5 March 1985) that he regarded his investigation as more objective. His investigation, as he admitted, has consisted of interviewing not a single one of the 17 eye-witnesses from the USAF now traced as being present during the events. Instead it consisted of speaking to one forestry worker who found some holes in the ground one month after the sightings and has presumed they might have been connected! I have spoken to that worker also, on the site itself, and he is less than convinced of his theory himself.

None of this takes into account the various BRITISH CIVILIAN eye-witnesses who saw the events, some in positions where it is literally impossible to see the lighthouse, others looking in the opposite direction from it, and one who had the decidedly curious experience of the "lighthouse" flying right over the top of his house!

I am trying to force no explanation onto anybody. But frankly the lighthouse idea is utterly ridiculous and the MoD must know that.

Besides which - what does it do to the USAF/RAF/MoD inter-relationship if all these senior officers (base commander, deputy commander, chief security officer, on-duty night command officer and control tower chief amongst them!) do not know what a lighthouse looks like, which has stood five miles from one of our bases for decades and still stands today?

It seems to me this proffers defence implications should these men (or men like them) ever be put into a situation where they have to defend this land!

In connection with which comes the question of the radiation. **Section 40** insists this was ordinary background stuff. The forest was not irradiated. The "peak" readings in the alleged ground traces (samples taken) are quoted as seven-tenths on the point five scale. And I am reliably informed these are significant.

But again - assuming they are not - are we to take it that none of these senior USAF officers have received any training in radiation monitoring? If so - are YOU satisfied to leave them in charge of cruise missiles and nuclear weapons on our shores?

I know that I am not happy, and I am convinced that such factors pose even more serious defence implications than if a genuine bona-fide UFO was involved. The MoD have steadfastly refused to make any comment on these matters. Perhaps you, Mr Alton, can get them to do so?

I pass this letter to Ralph Noyes for forwarding to you, with a letter I trust he will write you. Ralph, as former head of the DS 8 section handling UFO enquiries, knows the situation better than I, supports our call for more information on this affair, and will I hope open your eyes to the truth about what is being obscured here.

Please do not be put off. There are important civil liberties issues at stake.

E11
E12



MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
MAIN BUILDING WHITEHALL LONDON SW1A 2HB

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

file 12/4
copy to 12/2/v

PARLIAMENTARY UNDER-SECRETARY OF STATE
FOR THE ARMED FORCES

D/US of S(AF)DGT 4884

11 June 1985

Dear Mr Rees,

Thank you for your letter of 14 May which enclosed a further letter from **Section 40**.

I am afraid I have little to add to what I said in my letter of 20 February 1985 in reply to your original enquiry on this matter. We remain satisfied that the events reported by Colonel Halt on 13 January 1981 are of no defence significance. The report was, like all other UFO reports, examined at the time by those in the Department responsible for the air defence of the UK and we have since seen nothing to alter our views.

Turning to **Section 40** request for copies of all UFO reports we have received since 1980, I am afraid that the Department could not justify the effort involved in acceding to this request. However, **Section 40** will already know that we are prepared to release reports of specific incidents to interested parties and, if he has any particular reports in mind, **Section 40** can obtain copies of these from Sec(AS)2 in my Department, whose address is room **Section 40** Ministry of Defence, Main Building, Whitehall SW1A 2HB.

Yours sincerely,

Trefgarne

Lord Trefgarne

Rt Hon Merlyn Rees MP

D/O Air Def / 3/6/3-909

(611)
file
12/2/1

From: GE3

To: Sec (AS) 2a

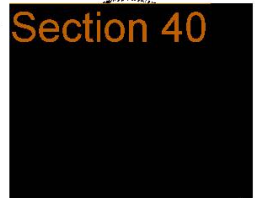
Subject: UFO FIGHTING 27 DEC 80

1- We discussed and I agreed to forward copies of relevant correspondence

2. Regrettably, the tasking letter you MOS referred to on incident on 29 Dec 80, therefore the replies from Westwood and Gaster radar are probably worthless. Unit radar recordings are not held for 4 years consequently we are back where we started!

3/5.

Section 40



Wg Cdr
GE3

Section 40



RESTRICTED
UNCLASSIFIED



Royal Air Force
Neatishead Norwich Norfolk NR12 8YB

Telephone NORWICH **Section 40**

36

Please reply to the Officer Commanding
Your reference

MOD (Ops(GE)2b(RAF))

Our reference NEAT/12/1/AIR

Date 3 Feb 81

UNEXPLAINED LIGHTS

Reference:

A. D/DD Ops (GE)/10/8 Dated 26 Jan 81. - E26

1. At Reference A you asked us to provide a statement of radar observations, or lack of them, regarding a reported sighting of airborne phenoma on the evening of 29 Dec 80.

2. I regret that, in accordance with local procedures, our radar camera recorder was switched off on cessation of normal flying activities at 1527Z on 29 Dec 80. An examination of executive logs revealed no entry in respect of unusual radar returns or other unusual occurrences.

Section 40

Sqn Ldr
for OC

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
- 9 FEB 1981
DD OPS (GE) RAF

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02/3/Air

Eastern Radar
RAF Watton



Watton Section 40

MOD(Air)
Ops (GE) 2b (RAF)

26 Feb 81

UNEXPLAINED LIGHTS - RAF BENTWATERS

References:

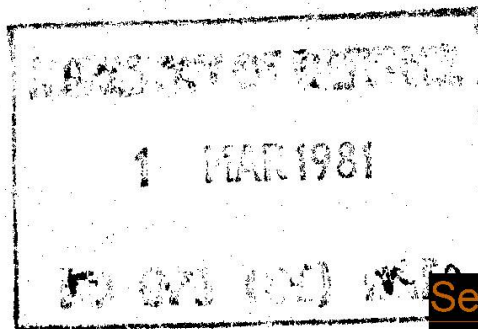
Section 40

E26

- A. Telecon Sqn Ldr [redacted] / Sqn Section 40 23 Feb 81.
- B. D/DD Ops (GE)/10/8 dated 26 Jan 81.

1. At Reference A we confirmed that the film of the reported sighting in Reference B was at fault. We have now developed the film on the days prior to and after the reported phenomena - regrettably both films were also faulty.

2. On the night of the reported sighting our controller on duty was requested to view the radar; nothing was observed. The facts are recorded in our log book of that night



Section 40

Sqn Ldr
for OC

Section 40



12/3

Section 40

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7274

FILE
26

RAF Neatishead
Eastern Radar
RAF Watton

D/DD Ops(GE)/10/8

26 January 1981

UNEXPLAINED LIGHTS

1. The Deputy Base Commander of RAF Bentwaters has reported sightings of airborne phenomena on the evening of 29 Dec 80 in the Rendlesham forest area near Woodbridge. We would appreciate a statement of radar observations, or lack of them, in the area and at the time concerned.

Section 40



Squadron Leader
Ops(GE)2b(RAF)

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

E10



MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
 Main Building Whitehall London SW1A 2HB
 Telephone Section 40 (Direct Dialling)
 (Switchboard)

Mr R Noyes

Section 40

Your reference

Our reference

D/Sec(AS)12/3 ✓

Date

15 May 1985

Dear Mr Noyes

Thank you for your letter of 25 February 1985, addressed to Section 40 who, as I believe you now know, has left this division (now Sec(AS)). I am sorry that I have not been able to reply before now. Thank you also for sight of the extracts from your proposed book.

In his letter of 20 March 1984, Section 40 explained the MOD's position regarding Colonel Halt's reports on events near RAF Woodbridge in 1930, and I have little to add to the views Brian expressed. I know from your letter that you are well aware of the limited extent of the MOD's interest in the subject. Nonetheless, there are, perhaps, one or two points which I should make. Firstly, whilst I cannot, of course, comment on the proportion of UFO sightings which are not reported, I can assure you that those which are reported to local police forces and to the Civil Aviation Authority should all be passed on to this division of the MOD. We treat all these reports seriously in case they show anything of defence interest. However, we have never found any reason to believe that, in the defence context, such reports warrant more detailed research. Equally, since our interest extends only as far as defence of the UK, there has never been any formal liaison with other Governments.

Turning to your specific questions about the Woodbridge incident, I can assure you that no unidentified object was seen on any radar recordings during the period in question, and that the MOD has no knowledge of the tape-recording or cine film you mention. As we have said in the past, the report sent by Colonel Halt was examined by those in the Department responsible for the air defence of the UK and since then there has been nothing to alter the view that there was no defence significance to the incident.

Yours sincerely

Section 40

E25

Section 40

U.S.A.

November 12.1984

Ministry Of Defence
Whitehall London SW1A 2HB

Dear Sir:

I am an american investigator of the u.f.o. phenomena. The involvement of my wife and myself with the phenomena is well documented in two books published in the U.S. The books are (The Andreasson Affair) and (The Andreasson-Affair Phase Two) published by Prentice Hall Publishing of New Jersey. Because of our experiance with the u.f.o. craft and occupants we seek the truth with regard to the whole phenomena in it's entirety.

It is for this reason I write you. I am aware of the report our Air Force OSI completed and sent to your agency concerning the landing of a "craft of unknown origin crewed by several entities near RAF Bentwaters on the night of December 29/30 1980". I would appreciate any information you could send me regarding this incident, especially what is refered to as Flag A and on original reports Flags B-C which states the landing is not considered a defence issue in view of the overt peaceful nature of the contact. The report further states this is part of a series of landings to SAC bases in the U.S.A. and Europe. Any help you can provide concerning this situation would be greatly appreciated.

Thank You

Section 40

Section 40



From: Section 40 Defence Secretariat 8 Room Section 40

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
Main Building Whitehall London SW1A 2HB

Telephone Section 40 (Direct Dialling)
Switchboard)

12/2/1
E26

REPORT OF SIGHTING -
BUNDLESHAM FOREST
DECEMBER 1981

Section 40

USA

Your reference

Our reference

D/DS 8/10/209

Date

28 November 1984

Dear Section 40

I have seen the alleged report of a 'UFO' landing near RAF Bentwaters which you referred to in your letter, but I am afraid that it is a forgery. Although apparently written on official Ministry of Defence paper (I have only seen a photocopy), it is most certainly not an official document and its contents bear no relation to our policy towards reported sightings of 'Unidentified Flying Objects'. Obviously I have no idea where it came from or why it was written and can only conclude that it was intended by someone as a joke.

In fact, our interest in reported sightings of 'UFOs' is very limited. We are concerned solely with whether these reports reveal anything of defence interest, such as intruding aircraft and if we are satisfied that they do not we take our investigations no further. There is no organisation in the MOD appointed solely for the purpose of studying UFO reports and no staff are employed on the subject full time. The reports we receive are referred to the staff responsible for the air defence of the United Kingdom, who examine them as part of their normal duties.

We did receive a report by Col Charles Halt of the USAF, of some lights seen outside RAF Bentwaters in December 1980, I attach a copy, although you may well have already seen it. The Department satisfied itself at the time that the lights were of no defence significance and took matters no further. We did not attempt to identify what might have been seen, but I can assure you that there is no evidence whatsoever that anything intruded into British airspace or landed outside RAF Bentwaters.

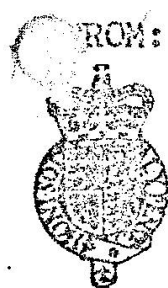
I hope you find this helpful.

Yours sincerely,

Section 40

S4/Section 40

(E9)



FROM:

Section 40 DEFENCE SECRETARIAT 8

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
Main Building Whitehall London SW1A 2HB

Telephone Section 40 (Direct Dialling)
(Switchboard)

Section 40

Your reference

Our reference

D/DS8/10/209

Date

14 September 1984

Dec

Section 40

Thank you for your letter of 18 July.

I should first of all point out that the sole interest of the 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 organization in the Ministry of Defence appointed solely for the purpose of studying UFOs, 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.

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, of lights seen outside RAF Woodbridge. A copy of this is enclosed. We are satisfied that the events described are of no defence significance.

I am also enclosing with this copies of 2 recent Parliamentary Questions, which you may be interested in.

Yours Sincerely

Section 40

10 Sept 84

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
D.S. 8
25 JUL 1984
FILE 10/2091

Section 40

18/July/84.

Dear Sir,

I am sending this letter with ref to my interest in the events surrounding the Rendlesham Forest UFO incident in Suffolk Dec/80. I am studying this case, as it is of some significance. And I would be obliged if you could send me some additional information regards this incident?

As I was informed by a certain person that some files on the Rendlesham case had been despatched to investigators involved etc, via freedom of information act.

Hoping you are able to reply.

Yours Sincerely,

Section 40

From: Squadron Leader [Section 40] RAF



RAF LIAISON OFFICE
Royal Air Force Bentwaters Woodbridge Suffolk IP12 2RQ

file 10/201 eb

Telephone Woodbridge [Section 40]

No Action

[Section 40]

Defence Secretariat Div 8d
Ministry of Defence
Main Building
Whitehall
LONDON
SW1A 2HB

Your reference

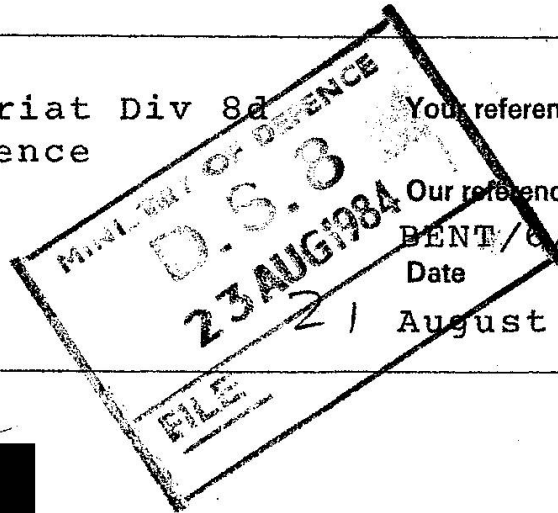
[Section 40]

Our reference

BENT/6/AIR

Date

21 August 1984



Dear

[Section 40]

Further to my telecon of yesterday I enclose a copy of the request from 'Cable News Network' on information concerning our "UFO" incident of 1980.

At the moment I have no involvement but I would not be surprised to find the British interest revived.

Yours

[Section 40]

RCV MSG # TIME RADAY
 0232 1618 233/84

IMMERIA

ANY CASUAL TELEPHONE CONVERSATIONS CAN REVEAL CLASSIFIED INFORMATION THROUGH CARELESSNESS - IMPATIENCE - AND TRYING TO TALK AROUND.

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ZNR UUUUU

O P 201700Z AUG 84

FM HQ USAF RAMSTEIN AB GE//PAM//

TO RUDOVJA/81TFW RAF BENTWATERS UK//PA//

INFO RUDOVFA/3AF RAF MILDENHALL UK//PA//

BT

UNCLAS

SUBJ: QUERY FROM CNN TO RE UFO SIGHTING(S)

1 REFERENCE TELECON BETWEEN MAJ MCCOLLISTER, HQ USAF/PAM, AND CAPT MARZINSKI, 81TFW/PA, 20 AUG 84, SAME SUBJ.

2 OSAF/PAM HAS RECEIVED A WRITTEN REQUEST FROM CHUCK DE CARO OF CABLE NEWS NETWORK FOR INFORMATION ABOUT AN ALLEGED UFO SIGHTING AT RAF BENTWATERS ON 27 DEC 1980. THE CNN REPORTER HAS A COPY OF A LETTER DATED 13 JAN 81 FROM THE THEN-DEPUTY BASE COMMANDER AT RAF BENTWATERS WHICH REPORTS ON THE INCIDENT. THE 13 JAN 81 LETTER WAS ADDRESSED TO 3AF/CC. OSAF/PAM HAS ASKED US TO HELP THEM RESPOND TO SOME 20 QUESTIONS POSED BY CNN. WE NEED YOUR ASSISTANCE IN FLESHING OUT THE RESPONSES. WOULD APPRECIATE 81TFW/PA, THROUGH 3AF/PA, PROVIDE US THE BEST RESPONSES POSSIBLE TO THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS. WE WOULD APPRECIATE THE ANSWERS BY 23 AUG 84, OR SOONER IF POSSIBLE. THE QUESTIONS ARE:

PAGE 2 RNFQAAAG087 UNCLAS

Q-1: EXACTLY HOW MANY UNEXPLAINED LIGHTS/SIGHTINGS OCCURRED?

Q-2: OVER THE COURSE OF HOW MANY DAYS DID INCIDENTS OCCUR?

Q-3: DID USAF SECURITY POLICE CORDON OFF THE AREA SPECIFIED IN LT COL HALT'S REPORT?

Q-4: WHAT UNITS WERE INVOLVED IN THE SIGHTINGS? WERE AAVS UNITS THERE?

Q-5: WAS THERE A HELPING HAND, COVERED WAGON, FADED GIANT OR BROKEN ARROW REPORTED OR REPORT GENERATED BY THE INCIDENT?

Q-6: DID GEN. GORDON WILLIAMS WITNESS THE INCIDENT? IF SO, WHY DID HALT WRITE A REPORT?

Q-7: WILL GENERAL WILLIAMS WRITE AN OFFICIAL STATEMENT ABOUT HIS INVOLVEMENT WITH THE INCIDENT FOR CNN?

Q-8: HOW MANY USAF PERSONNEL WITNESSED THE SIGHTINGS?

Q-9: DID SECURITY POLICE MAJOR ZEIGLER WITNESS THE INCIDENT?

Q-10: DID SGT. JOHN BURROUGHS WITNESS THE INCIDENT?

Q-11: WAS THERE A LIEUTENANT ENGLAND IN THE SECURITY POLICE UNIT AT RAF BENTWATERS AT THE TIME AND DID HE WITNESS THE INCIDENT?

Q-12: WHAT ARE THE CURRENT UNITS AND DUTY STATIONS OF GENERAL WILLIAMS, COLONEL HALT, SGT BURROUGHS, MAJ ZEIGLER AND LT ENGLAND?

Q-13: WERE THERE USAF DISASTER PREPAREDNESS, EOD OR NUCLEAR

PAGE 3 RNFQAAAG087 UNCLAS

WEAPONS MANAGEMENT TEAMS DISPATCHED TO THE SIGHT OF THE INCIDENT? ARE THERE COPIES OF THEIR REPORTS IN USAF FILES? IF SO, WHICH UNITS HAVE THE FILES?

Q-14: WHAT UNIT OR WHAT PERSONNEL TOOK THE RADIOACTIVITY READINGS REFERRED TO IN LT COL HALT'S REPORT? WHAT UNIT OR PERSONNEL

ESTABLISHED THE GEOMETRY OF THE INDENTATIONS ON THE GROUND? WHERE ARE THEIR OFFICIAL MEASUREMENTS AND REPORTS?

Q-15: WERE THERE ANY NON-NATO PERSONNEL INTERVIEWED OR SEEN AT THE SITE OF THE INCIDENT? COULD THESE PERSONNEL HAVE BEEN ASSOCIATED WITH THE UNEXPLAINED LIGHTS?

Q-16: WERE OSI PERSONNEL DISPATCHED TO THE INCIDENT SITE? DID OSI INTERVIEW LT COL HOLT, SGT LARRY WARREN, AIRMAN STEVEN LA PLUNE, GENERAL WILLIAMS, MAJOR ZEIGLER, LIEUTENANT ENGLAND OR SGT BURROUGHS?

Q-17: WILL THE USAF PROVIDE A LIST OF USAF PERSONNEL WHO WITNESSED THE INCIDENT?

Q-18: WHAT ARE THE REASONS THAT WILLIAMS, HOLT AND BURROUGHS GAVE FOR NOT GRANTING OFFICIAL INTERVIEWS?

Q-19: ARE THERE PHOTOGRAPHS, TAPE RECORDINGS, VIDEOTAPES, DRAWINGS OR DESCRIPTIONS OF ANY KIND IN USAF FILES? IF NOT, TO WHAT AGENCY OR AGENCIES HAVE THE FILES BEEN TRANSFERRED?

PAGE 4 RHFBAAALD87 UNCLAS

Q-20: WERE PERSONNEL FROM CIA, DIA, NSA, USAF INTEL, OR NSC NOTIFIED ABOUT LT COL HOLT'S SIGHTINGS? WHY? DID THE SECAF VISIT THE BENTWATERS IMMEDIATELY AFTER THE INCIDENT? WHY? DID ANY SECAF STAFF ACCOMPANY THE SECAF? WHO WERE THEY?

3 YOUR ASSISTANCE IN THIS PROJECT IS APPRECIATED.

BT
#6087

NNNN

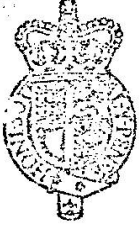
Section 40

From:

Section 40

Defence Secretariat 8

file G128



MINISTRY OF DEFENCE Rm Section 40

Main Building Whitehall London SW1A 2HB

Telephone Section 40 (Direct Dialling)
(Switchboard)

Section 40

Your reference

Our reference

D/DS8/10/209-767

Date

18 July 1984

Dear

Section 40

Thank you for your letter of 28 June. I am afraid that there really is very little more I can say in answer to the two main questions you ask.

We received Colonel Halt's report regarding the lights seen in Renllesham Forest, near RAF Woodbridge, and the operational staff have satisfied themselves that there was nothing in the report which gave rise to any concern from a defence point of view. In these circumstances, and I apologise if this was not quite clear in my earlier letter, we make no attempt whatsoever to establish what was seen. I can therefore make no official comment on what was seen, or try to guess what it might have been, but, as I said, there is absolutely no evidence that anything had either intruded into UK airspace or landed near RAF Woodbridge.

As to your second question, no Government Department or official body, apart from the Ministry of Defence, has any interest in these reports, and the interest of the Ministry of Defence is very strictly limited, in the way I described.

Yours sincerely,

Section 40

Section 40

6127

Solicitor

Telephone: Section 40

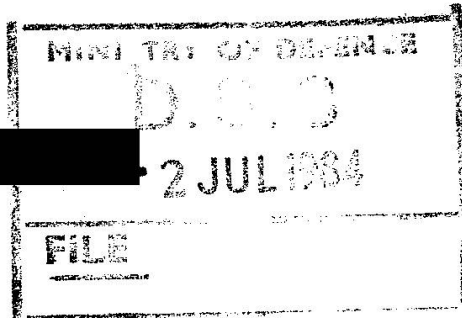
Section 40

OUR REF: HH/SL
YOUR REF: D/DS8/10/209

28th June, 1984

For the attention of Section 40

Ministry of Defence,
Defence Secretariat 8,
Room Section 40
Main Building,
Whitehall,
LONDON SW1A 2HB



Dear Section 40,

I thank you for your letter of the 19th instant with its enclosures.

If I might refer to the last paragraph of your said letter and refer you to Colonel Halt's report, of which I have a copy, you will obviously observe that of the three numbered paragraphs thereof, paragraphs numbered 1 and 2 relate to "a strange glowing object..... metallic in appearance and triangular in shape approximately two to three metres across the base and approximately two metres high.....hovering or on legs" - since you say that you have satisfied yourself that nothing in Colonel Halt's report was of significance from a defence point of view I assume that you are aware of and can explain to me what this object was?

You then go on to say that there is no evidence of anything having "intruded" into British air space and "landing" near R.A.F. Woodbridge and therefore am I to take this to mean that the vehicle referred to in paragraph numbered 1 of Colonel Halt's report has been identified by you and that you are satisfied that it was not an "intruder" i.e. it had the consent of H.M. Government, directly or indirectly, to be there?

I am sure you will take my point that there is a great deal more referred to in Colonel Halt's report than mere "lights" since the report clearly describes a substantive Craft which obviously left marks bearing witness to its presence (see paragraph No. 2 of Colonel Halt's letter).

If I may be permitted to continue, I would like now to refer to the second paragraph of your letter to me wherein you state that your Ministry is solely concerned with matters of a "defence" interest, which I accept, and perhaps you would kindly confirm, as I understand to be the case, that whilst your Ministry's interest is solely in connection with anything that might be held to be a threat to our national security, there is another "wing" of Government or State, or a "wing" controlled by the Government, which does have an interest in those objects that fly about, which have no defence implications (i.e. are not a threat to national security) and which are not what the man in the street would regard as conventional aircraft, meteorite, satellite, ball lightning, comet or any atmospheric phenomena.

At this stage I hope you will not be offended of my enquiring as to whether you, Section 40, replied to my letter from your own knowledge and file or whether the reply to me was passed from others to your good-self, i.e. is the reply yours or are you acting as a "go-between"?

Section 40

Solicitor

Telephone: Section 40

Section 40

OUR REF:

- 2 -

YOUR REF:

I feel that I do owe you some explanation as to how and why I am involved in the subject of unidentified flying objects and I would mention that, if you can spare me another few more minutes, my interest in this subject commenced some six years ago, when, as a total cynique, I investigated a sighting in Wales for the purpose of giving a talk to a discussion group, of which I was then and still am a member, on the subject of U.F.O.'s.

I started out to prepare this talk "tongue in cheek" and, indeed my visit to Wales (actually Anglesey) was made in the same frame of mind but I have to say that I returned with a somewhat different point of view.

Since that time I have been involved, along with colleagues whose acquaintance I was to make, in the research of a small but significant number of sightings and I find that, although I have never seen anything myself, the more that I delve into this subject the more convinced I become that there is a craft of unknown origin, or at least of an origin unknown to the great mass of mankind, which flies about this planet motivated by a purpose at which I can only guess.

The questions that one has to ask oneself are to what extent does Government know more than the man in the street and conceal from him such knowledge and is one under a public duty to enlighten the man in the street not only as to the possibility of such concealed information but also as to its content?

The dilemma that one faces is whether or not it is in the interests of the man in the street to be aware of what is going on or whether it is in his interests not to know and clearly, the answer to this must depend on the reasons for concealment i.e. whether the same is in the public good and, as such, an exception from the normal rule that the public is entitled to know what is going on or whether concealment from the public is ~~not~~^{not} in their interests since it is designed solely to protect, perhaps, limited sectional interests e.g. that of the oil industry against the introduction of a new plentiful and cheap means of fuel.

I subscribe to the "middle of the road" view that the public are entitled to know something of that which is going on but as yet cannot make a decision as to whether they are entitled to full disclosure since I have to concede that there may be wiser heads than mine who have genuine bone fide reasons for concealment, of which I may not be aware, but which are clearly in the public interest.

Much of what I have said may well be meaningless to you and I suspect it will be if you are merely replying to me from information which is passed on to you from elsewhere, and from a source to which you yourself do not have access.

However, I feel as a matter of courtesy that I owe you some explanation of my involvement in the topic of U.F.O.'s which I suspect is a relative term, since what may be totally unidentifiable to one person may be partially identifiable or recognisable to another.

Finally, having outlined in short general terms my philosophy and thinking on the subject, I would be grateful to receive your specific reply

Section 40

Solicitor

Telephone: Section 40

Section 40

OUR REF:

- 3 -

YOUR REF:

to the points I have raised relating to Colonel Halt's report and that Department of State which does concern itself with those craft when the same are considered not to be a Defence issue.

Thanking you in anticipation.

Kind regards.

Yours sincerely,

Section 40

Section 40

From: Section 40 Defence Secretariat 8

Room Section 40

(E126)



MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
Main Building Whitehall London SW1A 2HB

Telephone Section 40 (Direct Dialling)
(Switchboard)

Section 40

Your reference

Our reference

D/DS8/10/209-110

Date

18 July 1984

Section 40

Dad

Thank you for your letter of 4 July. I am sorry that you appear to have found my last letter, of 22 June, disappointing. However, I have nothing to add to my explanation of the Ministry of Defence's interest in so called UFO reports and I suggest that there is little point in continuing this correspondence.

Yours Sincerely,

Section 40

WIGAN ARIEL PHENOMENA INVESTIGATION TEAM (6125)



Section 40

DATE. 4th JULY 1984 W/L4/MD.

To/ Section 40

DEAR Section 40

I yet again find myself writing to you, somewhat dissatisfied this time. I received your last letter only to find my questions unanswered and your reply was inadequate. (TOTALLY)

- ① RENDELSHAM FOREST INCIDENT. After reading COL HALTS report - How did the MOD satisfy themselves that there was no defence implications PLEASE explain the conclusion and how it was reached!
- ② MOD RELEASE FILES. Why do you NOT keep to your policy as in section 3 of your letter to me dated 6th JUNE 1984. Send me ONE report file such as the one you released to ufologist Section 40 and Author/ufologist Section 40 if you find yourself unable to release the file I would like an explanation.

In your reply I would be grateful if it contained more than nine lines of TOTAL jargon and repeats of what you have stated in previous letters. I look forward to an half decent answer - many thanks

Yours sincerely

Section 40

Section 40

ON BEHALF OF WAPIT

WIGAN

DIRECTORS:

Section 40

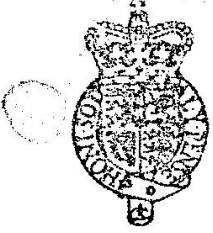
Council/

Section 40

Section 40

From: Section 40 Defence Secretariat 8:

File - (B15)



MINISTRY OF DEFENCE DS8, Room Section 40
Main Building Whitehall London SW1A 2HB

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

Section 40

Your reference

Our reference
D/DS8/10/209-148

Date
22 June 1984

Dear

Section 40

I am sorry that I forgot to enclose the copy of Col Halts report with my previous letter. I am therefore including it with this. As to the remainder of your letter, we received no report of an "unidentified flying object" near Cwmbran on 14 September 1982, and as I have said before we do not have the resources to search through our files for any reports we may have received from the Wigan area, for a particular year. The reports we receive have so far proved to be of no interest from a defence point of view, so this would in any event fall well outside our defence responsibilities.

Yours sincerely,

Section 40

ENC:

6114

WAPIT ARIEL PHENOMENA INVESTIGATION TEAM:

Center for UFO STUDIES,

Section 40

for reference. WPT/L2/MD

for reference D/DS8/10/209.

ear Section 40

Thank you for your reply to my last letter to your department. In your reply to me you wrote, 'find enclosed a copy of Colonel Halt's report, apparently a further inspection of your reply no report was to be found in the envelope. Please could you amend this by sending the copy to us as stated - many thanks. Section 3 of your letter you stated, and I quote, 'We will release the details of particular specified reports on request'. Then to your policy I would like to ask on behalf of our investigators in the MOD file investigation of the September 14th 1982 sighting at CWMBRAN, your department are reported to be covering this case by a well known UFO Association, we would be well pleased if you could help us in anyway with this case. Here at WAPIT, we do now understand that your department do not ATTEMPT to identify UFO's/ARIEL phenomena unless it causes concern from DEFENCE point of view. Back to section 3 again, you do keep the details/files of cases reported to you, this being the thing that interests me - if this is so - then why is this information NOT passed over to serious investigation teams! For example, I myself on behalf of WAPIT requested information files on certain cases such as the RENDELSHAM forest incident - the complete file - and all we receive is NOTHING! - Then may I ask why you have a policy to CONSIDER release of specified reports, when you don't for some reason wish to keep to this policy? OR accidentally sway away from the GENUINE requests made? May I make it clear in NO WAY are we saying this is a deliberate sway from the so-called MOD Policy. Once more I must point out that your department do NOT investigate UFO's - so how do you know the sightings will NOT be investigated unless files are made open to ufologists - so that they can get on with their job of investigation and evaluation of the phenomena observed. That is why we MUST have co-operation through all our network channels, for the ufologist to continue with a case must obtain as much information as possible to do his job of evaluation well. (I hope you agree with me on this point?).

May I enquire what Reports you received in 1983 for the Wigan AREA a percentage number out of the 390 you received...

May I now take time to thank you sincerely (I feel sure it is due) for the co-operation, time and consideration you have given me so far.

We are Investigators of a Phenomena which at present remains Unidentified and we try very hard to keep our Investigation of the subject OBJECTIVE and detailed (which I am sure you will appreciate). Once again I thank you and the department, and I look forward to your speedy reply...

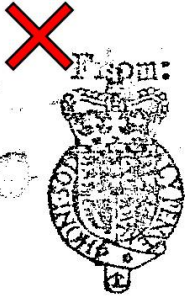
Yours sincerely

Section 40

Section 40

ON BEHALF OF WAPT-WIGAN

DUPLICATE COPY available from // FILE 118C Pg 940 // REF WPT/L2/MD/ - D-DBS/10/209 // 6TH JUNE 1984.



From: **Section 40** Defence Secretariat 8 Room **Section 40**
MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
 Main Building Whitehall London SW1A 2HB
 Telephone **Section 40** (Direct Dialling)
Section 40 (Switchboard)

file

6109

Section 40

Your reference

Our reference

D/DS8/10/209¹²²

Date

19 June 1984

Dear **Section 40**

Thank you for your letter of 4 June; I am sorry that we did not reply when you first wrote in March.

The letter you enclosed with yours is very interesting, but I have to say that it is a forgery. Although apparently written on Ministry of Defence headed paper it is most certainly not an official document and, as I shall explain, its contents bear no relation to our policy towards reported sightings of "Unidentified Flying Objects". Obviously I have no idea where it came from or why it was written, and I can only conclude that it is intended as a joke.

In fact, the Ministry of Defence's interest in reported sightings of UFOs is very limited. We are concerned solely with whether these reports reveal anything of defence interest, such as intruding aircraft, and if we are satisfied that there are none we take our investigations no further. There is no organization in the MOD appointed solely for the purpose of studying UFO reports, and no staff are employed on the subject full time. The reports we receive are referred to the staff responsible for the air defence of the United Kingdom, who examine them as part of their normal duties.

We did receive a report from Col Charles Malt of the USAF of lights which had been seen outside RAF Woodbridge. This was confirmed by John Stanley, Minister of State for the Armed Forces in answer to a written Parliamentary Question from Sir Patrick Wall MP on 24 October last year. A copy of this is attached for your information. The Department satisfied itself at the time that nothing in the report was of significance from a defence point of view. What the explanation for the lights is I do not know. However, I can assure you that there is absolutely no evidence of anything having intruded into British airspace and 'landing' near RAF Woodbridge.

Yours Sincerely,

Section 40

6108

Section 40

[Redacted]

Solicitor

phone

Section 40

[Redacted]

Section 40

[Redacted]

OUR REF: HH/SL

YOUR REF:

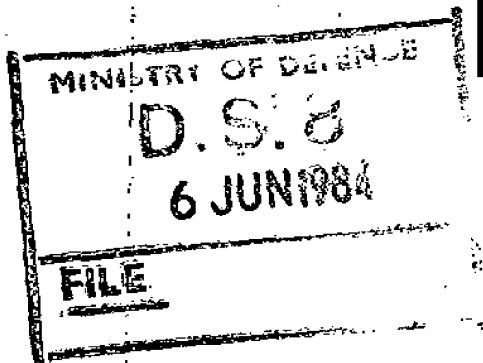
RECORDED DELIVERY

4th June, 1984

Section 40

[Redacted]

Head of D.S.8.,
Ministry of Defence,
Main Building,
Whitehall,
London SW1.



Dear

Section 40

[Redacted]

re: U.F.O. Sighting in Rendlesham Forest of December 1980.

I enclose a copy of a letter which was sent to me in January of this year, together with a copy of the front of the envelope containing the same, and would be grateful to receive your observations thereon.

Thanking you in anticipation.

Kind regards.

Yours sincerely,

Section 40

[Redacted signature]

*Copy to [unclear]
12 June*

U.K EYES 'B'



MINISTRY OF DEFENCE

Main Building, Whitehall, London SW1A 2HB

Telephone (Direct Dialling) **Section 40**

(Switchboard) **Section 40**

THE MAJORITY OF REDACTIONS ON THIS PAGE ARE ON THE ORIGINAL DOCUMENT

Dear [REDACTED],

As you know, OSI has completed a report on the landing of a craft of unknown origin crewed by several entities near RAF Bentwaters on the night of December 29/30 1980.

Interestingly, OSI reports that the entities were approximately 1½ metres tall, wore what appeared to be nylon-coated pressure suits, but no helmets. Conditions on the night were misty, giving the appearance that the entities were hovering above ground level.

Tape recordings were made on which the entities are heard to speak in an electronically synthesized version of English, with a strong American accent. Similar transmissions intercepted irregularly by NSA since 1975. (See attached - Flag A)

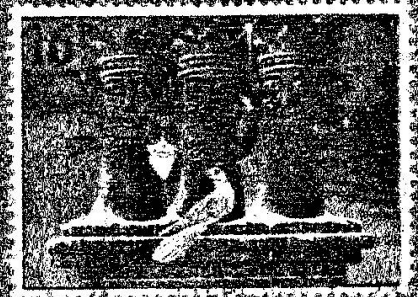
According to OSI, entities had claw-like hands with three digits and an opposable thumb.

Despite original reports (Flags B - G), OSI said the craft was not damaged but landed deliberately as part of a series of visits to SAC bases in USA and Europe. Reports that craft was repaired by US servicemen or was taken on to the base are not confirmed by OSI.

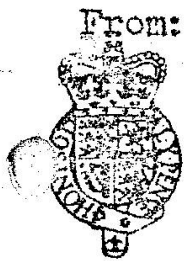
Landing is not considered a defence issue in view of the overt peaceful nature of the contact, but investigations by DS8 are to be continued on [REDACTED] authority. Precautionary plan for counter-information at a local level involving [REDACTED] and a [REDACTED], is strongly recommended.

Sincerely

[REDACTED]



Section 40



From: Section 40 Defence Secretariat 8 Room Section 40

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE

Main Building Whitehall London SW1A 2HB

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

file

6105

Your reference

Section 40

Our reference

D/DS8/10/209 730

Date

19 June 1984

Section 40

Dear

As I have explained previously, the MOD's only interest in so called "UFO sightings" is to establish whether they reveal anything of defence interest. Once we are satisfied that they do not, we do not consider them further. In the case of the lights seen outside RAF Woodbridge, we were satisfied that there were no defence implications. If you followed the press articles on the Woodbridge incident you will have seen the results of a good deal of investigative journalism which turned up quite rational and down to earth explanations for what was seen. As I recall one favourite explanation was the light from the Orfordness lighthouse. What the truth is I do not know; as explained, we do not attempt to investigate reports to a point at which a positive explanation can be made. I can assure you, though, that there is no question of anything having intruded into British airspace and "landed" near RAF Woodbridge.

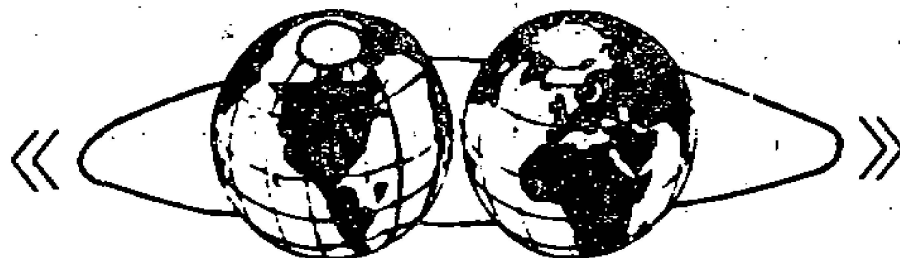
I am afraid that I cannot help you with the information you requested concerning the 8 alleged sightings in 1978. Whilst we are prepared to release individual reports if they are readily available and easily to hand we do not have the staff or resources to mount extensive searches through our records and it was never our intention to provide a research service for members of the public.

Yours Sincerely,

Section 40

YUFOS RESEARCH DIVISION

(6104)



Reply letter
12 June

Section 40

Defence Secretariat 8,
Ministry of Defence,
Main Building, Whitehall
London, SW1A 2HB

Your Ref: D/DS8/10/209

Our Ref: W1

Section 40

6/June/1984

Subject: Unidentified Flying Objects

Dear

Section 40

Thank you for your letter dated 11/5/1984 in relation to my question regarding an official investigation by the MOD in response to the high level of purported sightings of UFOs in the Yorks/Lancs area.

Turning to a much more recent letter acquired by this organisation from the MOD. I would appreciate your own thoughts regarding a letter forwarded to your dept, from Col. Charles Holt, Deputy Base Commander at RAF Woodbridge. He obviously is convinced an unknown flying object was in the vicinity of the base, do you not feel that the implications behind such a statement warrant an official enquiry? I have a letter from Section 40, Captain, USAF, Chief, Public Affairs Division, that states, "we have no official interest in what may have happened, especially since the lights were seen off base". (17.10.83). Your letter forwarded to one of our researchers clearly proves some investigation was carried out by USAF personnel, i.e. paragraph 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 (29.12.80) 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 centre of the triangle formed by the depressions. A nearby tree had moderate (.05-07) readings on the side of the tree towards the depressions".

I feel this is more than speculative talk, the document is ample evidence that unknown craft were operating in British Airspace. Therefore one can only reach the disturbing conclusion that the British and American Governments are aware of the nature and logic which revolves around this phenomenon.

As a member of the British public I feel the subjects of UFOs should be investigated totally. 4000 CIA and American Secret establishment documents prove without a shadow of a doubt, an official interest. I think the well used phrase by the MOD

Publishers of

QUEST

-2-

That we are only interested in Defence implications "does not ring true. Something unknown to the base commander at Woodbridge obviously broke British Airspace, one must be perplexed at the attitude the authorities have publicly shown.

I would be interested to learn of your stance, if we acquired video footage of unknown and structured craft which clearly shows the subject image on the ground, and in this case - an UFO? It is most frustrating when we acquire actual photographs of UFOs which have been analysed by the Worlds foremost authority on computer analysis, and been classified genuine, that the British Government are taking no action.

I would now like to turn to a number of sightings which occurred between the dates of 28th May - 18th August, 1978, near the Menwith Hill (USA) listening base. We investigated no fewer than 8 reported sightings by the villagers of Darley, who I must add were very frightened. The reports were investigated by this organisation who were in constant contact with a **Section 40** Public Relations Officer at the base. I am sure Menwith Hill forwarded a number of these sightings to MOD. The exact dates and times are as follows:

28.5.1978. 7.30pm. Multiple witnesses.
 29.5.1978. 9.15pm. 1 man.
 1.6.1978. 11.12pm. 1 man 1 female.
 3.6.1978. 11.05pm. 1 man.
 28.7.1978. 10.30pm. 5 men 5 female.
 5.8.1978. 10.40pm. Multiple witnesses.
 9.8.1978. 10.20pm. 3 girls (teenage).
 18.8.1978. 12.30pm. 5 men 5 female.

I would appreciate any data you may have regarding the above dates, and for your comments regarding the contents of the Woodbridge letter. Thank you for your valuable time.

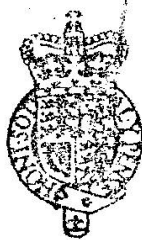
Yours Faithfully,

Section 40

Section 40, Research Director.

From: Section 40 Defence Secretariat 8

File. 699



MINISTRY OF DEFENCE Room Section 40
 Main Building Whitehall London SW1A 2HB
 Telephone Section 40 (Direct Dialling)
 (Switchboard)

Section 40

Your reference

Our reference

D/DS 8/10/209-688

Date

6 June 1984

Dec 1 Section 40

You wrote again on 16 May with further questions on the Ministry of Defence's policy towards the reports we receive of flying objects which the observer could not identify. I shall take your questions in turn.

First you asked about the number of reports we have received. For each of the years since 1978 we received the following number: 1978 - 750, 1979 - 550, 1980 - 350, 1981 - 600, 1982 - 250, 1983 - 390.

As to your second question, our policy is that we will consider releasing the details of particular, specified reports, on request, if the information is easily identifiable and readily to hand. We do not have the resources, though, to go through our files for all reports from Wigan since 1980.

Your third question concerned the lights seen in Rendelham Forest in December 1980, as reported by Colonel Halt of the United States Air Force. As you may have gathered from Mr Stanley's answer in Hansard of 24 October 1983, we received this report and satisfied ourselves that it contained nothing of defence interest. In case you have not seen it, I enclose a copy of Colonel Halt's report.

Finally, I explained in my previous letter that so long as there is nothing in the report to cause concern from a defence point of view (and there never has been) we make no attempt to identify what was seen.

Yours sincerely,

Section 40

Section 40 From: Section 40

File (697)
+1



Defence Secretariat 8
MINISTRY OF DEFENCE Room Section 40
Main Building Whitehall London SW1A 2HB

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

Section 40

Your reference

Our reference

D/DS8/10/209-664

Date

31 May 1984

Dear Section 40

You wrote to me again on 19 May with further questions about our policy towards reports of 'Unidentified Flying Objects'.

We receive our reports from a variety of sources, but principally from the police, RAF Stations and civil airfields. These bodies send on to us any reports they receive from members of the public of flying objects which the observer could not identify, so that operational staff here can check for possible defence implications. However, as Mr Stanley explained in his Parliamentary answer of 24 October last year, no report we have received has ever been of concern from this point of view. That includes Colonel Halt's report of lights in Rendlesham Forest.

Yours Sincerely,

Section 40

698

24 MAY 1984

WIGAN ARIEL PHENOMENA INVESTIGATION TEAM:
 CENTER FOR
 UFO STUDIES.

Section 40

May 16th 1984.

REF. UFO/Further Investigation.

Dear Sir,

E25 REF.

Regarding your last letter dated 24th April 1984.
 What we here at the Center for UFO Studies would like
 to know is:

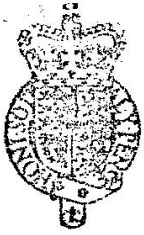
- ① Could we have the total numbers of UFO sightings
 for the years 1978-1979-1980-81-82-83-84?
- ② We also believe and have been told that the MOD
 released CASE files to fellow British UFO researchers
 Section 40 is one who received one. So why do
 other investigators in the phenomena, not get any DATA
 even when required?. SUCH AS OUR INVESTIGATION TEAM.
- ③ RENDLESHAM FOREST CASE (MOD) could we have the
 case and what conclusion you reached?.
- ④ HAVE ALL UFO SIGHTINGS for the years 1982-1983 been
 identified by MOD or outside sources?..

We hope you will be able to help with our questions as it is
 of utmost importance that we get our facts right, so there is no
 misunderstanding between us all, Cooperation is the ESSENCE.
 Thank you very much for your HELP, and may we send our best wishes
 for the future.

Yours sincerely

Section 40

ON BEHALF OF WAPIT - WIGAN.



From **Section 40** Defence Secretariat 8

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE

Main Building Whitehall London SW1A 2HB

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

File. (694)

Section 40

Your reference

Our reference

D/DS8/10/209-648

Date

25 May 1984

Dear

Section 40

Thank you for your two letters, of 7 and 8 May.

In your letters you asked whether we had any information concerning three reported sightings of flying objects which the observer could not identify. The only one of these for which I could find a report was the one on 27 December 1980, at RAF Woodbridge. I am therefore attaching a copy of a report by Colonel Charles Halt of the United States Air Force, which is the only information we have on this.

You may also be interested in the two attached Parliamentary Questions.

Yours sincerely,

Section 40

YUFOS RESEARCH DIVISION

692



Section 40

Defence Secretariat 8,
Room **Section 40**
Ministry of Defence,
Main Building,
Whitehall,
London SW1A 2HB.

DATE: 8.5.84.

Section 40

Overseas Liaison Officer

Section 40

Dear Sir/Madam,

Could you please forward any information that you have on the following reports of Unidentified Flying Objects.

1) Date and time of sighting: Friday the 11th of July 1980, 3.30 am.

Description of object: A large flattened oval shaped object, Colour yellow then blue/white then changed back to yellow.

Position of observers: Soyland Moor between Littleborough and Todmorden North Yorkshire, England.

How Observed: Naked eye only.

Direction object first seen: North.

Weather conditions: Cold and clear with Moon and stars visible.

Names of observers: Police Constable **Section 40** and Police Constable **Section 40**

2) Second report.

Date: December the 27th 1980 at 3am.

Description of object: Metallic triangular object, 2/3 meters across its base and 2 meters high. One red light on top with a row of blue lights underneath. The object was on some sort of "legs".

Position of observers: Tangham wood, near USAF base at RAF Woodbridge, Suffolk England.

How observed: Naked eye and 8-12 power lens.

Direction object seen: North.

P.F.O.

Publishers of



Angle of sight: 10 degrees above the horizon, just above tree top level
and on the ground.

Distance: Not determined.

Movements: Object came down through trees in a multitude of colours and
landed on the ground. When moving off it manoeuvred between trees.

Weather conditions: Not determined.

Names of observers: Lt Colonel Charles I Halt, deputy commander of the
USAF 81st Tactical Flying Wing. Plus both British
and American Air Force personnel.

I would appreciate all the information that your department has on the
two UFO reports that I have mentioned.

If there is any cost involved for the above reports I will be only too
pleased to oblige.

Hopefully I will receive your reply before too long, until then I am,

Yours Sincerely,

Section 40

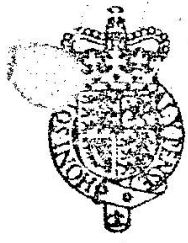
Section 40

OLC.

DS/H/D

From: Section 40 Defence Secretariat 8

File 680



MINISTRY OF DEFENCE Room Section 40
Main Building Whitehall London SW1A 2HB

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

Section 40

Your reference

Our reference

D/DS8/10/209-639

Date

22 May 1984

Section 40

Dear

I am afraid that previous references to us having released sixteen reports of flying objects which the observer could not identify from the South Wales area appear to have been mistaken. In fact we released only fifteen such reports. I enclose, though, the one report I think you are missing to complete the "set".

You also asked about Lt Col Halt's report on the lights which were seen near RAF Woodbridge on 27 December 1980. Mr Stanley's answer in Hansard of 24 October 1983, of which you have a copy, made it clear that we received a copy of this report and satisfied ourselves that it contained nothing of defence interest. I have nothing to add to that.

Yours sincerely

Section 40

Section 40
[Redacted]

5th MAY

Dear [Redacted]

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
12 MAY 1948

Thank you very much for your letter of 4th May and the UTO reports. I requested 16 reports which you had mentioned in the letter, but on inspection I counted only 14, would it be possible to be also sent these remaining two to complete the set following the last one: (A 191755 83 5 MINUTES OVER SWANSEA AIRPORT?) You informed me that my request as a "serious inquiry" does not come into the category you were thinking of on a "specific sighting." Therefore enclosed.

2

with this letter is a document which may W/O clubs know about could you tell me the following Is the document a true statement of happenings 27, 28 29, Dec 1980.

I'd like the ministry investigate the claim of a supposed W/O landing at a USA base woodbridge suffolk if so, what were their findings. I look forward too possibly receiving the two missing reports. please excuse my persistence.

Yours sincerely

Section 40

DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE

HEADQUARTERS, AIR FORCE, WINDSOLOFTON, WILTSHIRE, ENGLAND

TO: CO

SUBJECT: Unexplained Lights

13th Jan 81

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 (.06-.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.

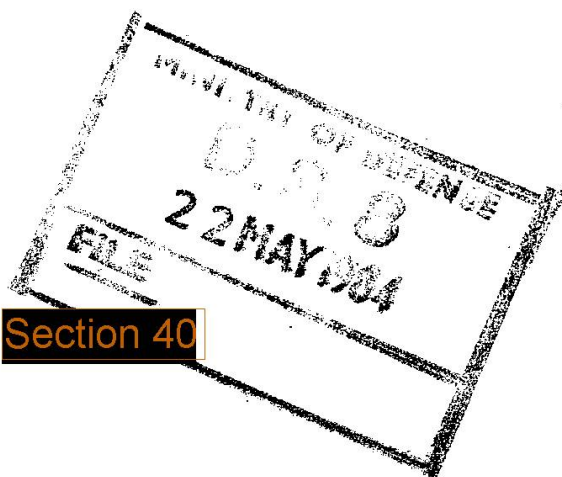
Charles I. Halt
 CHARLES I. HALT, Lt Col, USAF
 Deputy Base Commander

696

Section 40

May 19th., 1984

Your ref: D/DS8/10/209.



Section 40

Defence Secretariat 8, Room
Ministry of Defence,
Main Building,
Whitehall,
LONDON, SW1A 2HB.

Section 40

Dear Sir/Madam,

Thank you for your letter of the 10th instant, which was very informative.

With reference to the 'Hansard' extract for 13th. March last, my colleagues and I were wondering whether you could kindly provide OSEAP with a breakdown of the sources for the UFO reports your Department received from 1981 to 1983. It seems quite remarkable that you have received so many, whilst OSEAP, and others, have received none.

In fact, OSEAP has received no reports for approximately 18 months! Hence our interest in some old, interesting cases.

So, if at all possible, we would like to know from what channels the MOD gets its reports in such great numbers.

Coming to Rendlesham, would you confirm that an unidentified aerial craft hovering very near to a Tactical Combat Base must surely have defence implications? The facts, as reported by Col. Halt would seem to give some cause for concern. One does not feel reassured by the nature of the Secretary of States for Defence's reply in Handsard for 24th. October last.

Once again, thank you for your cooperation in these matter.

Yours truly,

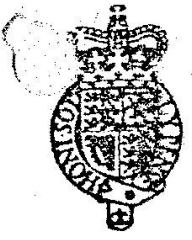
Section 40



for OSEAP.

From: Section 40 Defence Secretariat 8, Room Section 40

File. (691)



MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
Main Building Whitehall London SW1A 2HB
Telephone Section 40 (Direct Dialling)
Section 40 (Switchboard)

Section 40

Your reference

Our reference
D/DS8/10/209-611
Date

10 May 1984

Dear Section 40

Thank you for your recent letters on the subject of reported UFO sightings. I am sorry to have been some time replying.

To take your general question first, it has now been decided not to publish the reports of alleged UFO sightings we receive. As you may know, we get several hundred of these each year and to prepare them for publication would be a considerable editorial task, for which we have neither the staff nor resources. This would also fall well outside our defence responsibilities. However, for some time we have been prepared to release the details of particular reports to serious enquirers provided the information was easily identifiable and readily to hand. That continues to be our policy.

As to your questions about specific 'incidents', I am afraid that neither the first, third nor fourth of those you mentioned was reported to the Ministry of Defence, so I am unable to help with those. The only information we have on the lights seen in Rendlesham Forest is the report by Colonel Halt of the United States Air Force. You will probably already have seen this, but in case you have not I enclose a copy.

You may also be interested in the enclosed Parliamentary Questions on the Ministry of Defence's interest in alleged UFO sightings.

Yours Sincerely,

Section 40

690

O.S.E.A.P.,

Section 40

30th. April, 1984

8 MAY 1984
FILE

Defence Secretariat Division 8,
Ministry of Defence,
Main Building,
Whitehall,
LONDON, SW1A 2HB.

Dear Sir/Madam,

re: release of information on UFO Reports.

Regarding the above matter, until early this year I had received courteous replies to my enquiries, from your Department.

However, my colleagues and myself are somewhat perturbed that you have apparently ceased to respond to any letters from this quarter. Indeed, this year I have written on behalf of OSEAP on three occasions: 22nd. January, 13th. March and 23rd. March.

Following reports in the press, however accurate, we were led to believe that you were supplying information where possible in response to enquiries from serious bodies. OSEAP is one such organisation and feels that the least you could do is to write and confirm your Department's position on the matter being discussed. Surely it would be just a matter of good manners, even though you will have more important matters to attend to.

Yours faithfully,

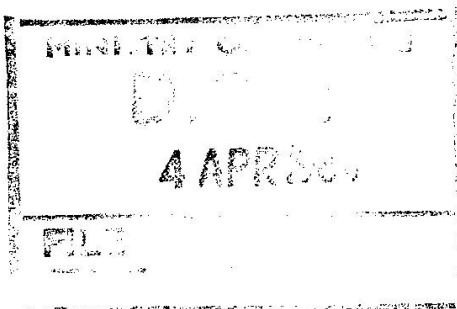
Section 40

Section 40

689

23rd. March, 1984

Defence Secretariat Division 8,
Ministry of Defence,
Main Building,
Whitehall,
LONDON, SW1A 2HB.



Dear Sir/Madam,

re: release of information on UFO reports.

Following my letter to your department of the 13th. inst., I would like your comments on a front page article that appeared in 'THE ADVERTISER' for March 16th. It concerns the release of 16 reports to BUFORA and contains the following: "So it is interesting now to see that a Government department is now willing 'to consider providing reports on specific incidents to serious inquiries', writes **Section 40** .

On behalf of my colleagues I would ask your criteria for serious inquiries and their acceptance.

If the newspaper report is correct then I take this opportunity to ask your department on the following cases:-

1. Llanerchymedd, Anglesey 1st. Sept., 1978. (OSEAP was involved in the main investigation of the incidents and subsequently produced a special report).
2. Rendlehsam Forest. (Highly publicised in the press but seemingly lacking substance. Although not initially involved, OSEAP has become interested in the case after paying this area a visit last year).
3. Llandrillo, Clywdd 23rd. Jan., 1974. (OSEAP followed this incident up last year which involved aerial lights and earth tremors. Although these may not be connected).
4. South Stacks, Holyhead, Anglesey: 4th. Feb. 1974. (Due to nearness, in time, to the previous incident OSEAP has become interested in the washing-up on the shore of a plane-like object. The RAF and Aberporth Range Establishment said it was not theirs and the Navy's underwater research base at Portsmouth was sent a drawing. The object was 9' long, with a wingspan of 5', with a black aluminium body and the remnants of an aerial.)

I trust that you will kindly supply any information you are able on the above incidents. I hardly need remind you that OSEAP is a serious investigative team.

Finally, I would ask your department if you have had any connections with a mysterious UFO group called: APEN, or a **Section 40** who resides in Redcar and is supposedly a representative of the same.

Yours truly **Section 40**

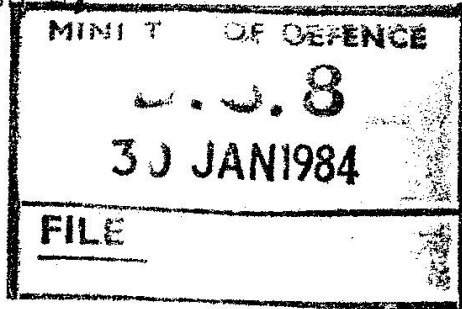
on behalf of OSEAP.

(687)

OSEAP,
Section 40

22nd. January, 1984

Defence Secretariat Division A,
Ministry of Defence,
Main Building,
Whitehall,
LONDON, SW1A 2HB.



Dear Sir/Madam,

Re: release of information relating to UFO reports.

Just a line to say my colleagues and I are still interested in your Department's position on the above matter.

Therefore, may we again ask you what is being done with the information, if anything?

Yours truly,

Section 40

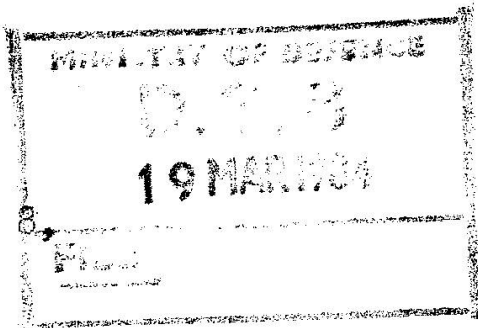
for OSEAP.

688

OSEAP,
Section 40

13th. March, 1984

Your ref:- D/DS8/10/209.



Defence Secretariat Division 8,
Ministry of Defence,
Main Building,
Whitehall,
LONDON, SW1A 2HB.

Dear Sir/Madam,

Further to my letter of 22nd. January last and the report in the 5th. March issue of the Daily Express, I once again would ask your department's position in relation to the release of information relating to UFO reports.

I would again stress the need for caution in releasing this type of material. Not only because of 'national security' considerations, but also of the type of person who might have access to it. You will be aware that 'distortion of the facts' is endemic within so-called UFO research circles.

Hoping that this communication is received favourably, I am

Yours faithfully,

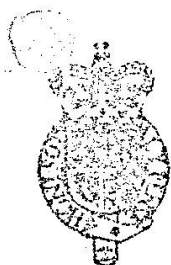
Section 40

for OSEAP.

Section 40

From: Section 40 Defence Secretariat 8;

File 648



MINISTRY OF DEFENCE, Room Section 40

Main Building Whitehall London SW1A 2HB

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

Your reference

Our reference

D/DS8/10/209-517

Date

24 April 1984

Section 40

Section 40

Thank you for your letter of 9 March 1984. Your suggestion that the Ministry of Defence has documents relating to the alleged UFO sighting at RAF Woodbridge in December 1980, other than Colonel Halt's report, is quite mistaken.

Perhaps I ought to explain that the sole interest of the 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 UFOs, 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. There is certainly no evidence that alien spacecraft have landed on the planet. Although we have not carried out our own studies, we are aware of independent studies into the UFOs, notably by the University of Colorado published in 1969. This concluded that 90% of all UFOs reported could be plausibly related to ordinary phenomena.

I attach copies of 2 recent Parliamentary Questions on the Ministry of Defence's interest in UFO reports. I am returning your stamped addressed envelope.

Yours sincerely,

ENCs:

Section 40

(E17)

bufora

15 MAR 1984

British UFO Research Association
U.F.O. Investigator for Suffolk

Section 40

Defence Secretariat Division 8.

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
Main Building Whitehall
London
SW1A 2HB.

9th March 1984.

RE:- WOODBRIDGE INCIDENT DEC '80'.

Dear Sir/Madam,

I have been informed that a certain amount of UFO Documents are being released. As I am a credited UFO Investigator for BUFORA, 'BRITISH UFO RESEARCH ASSOCIATION'. I would be grateful if you could assist me with my enquiries. For the past 3 years I have been one of the main investigators on the Woodbridge incident in December 1980. We the investigators, the other being Section 40, now know that Photographs, Tape recording and signed witnesses statements Do exist. Our source of information being reliable. We have been informed that the Ministry of Defence has Documentatoin on the said mention case. We received Col Charles I Holt's report via the Freedom of Informations Act, in the United States. This report was first sent to the MoD, by Sqn Leader Donald Moreland. the MoD eventually sent a copy to the US Air Force in the United States. We have been informed that Col Halts report is but only a brief account of the incident and a full report has been made . We would be gratefull if you would provide us with the later also other Documentation on the Woodbridge incident. I have enclosed just one of many Documents we have received. The enclosed being from the Air Force Headquarters 513th Combat Support Group (U.S.A.F.E.).

We look Forward to your Acknowledgement of this Letter.

YOURS SINCERELY

Section 40

DIRECTOR OF INVESTIGATION Section 40