

BACKGROUND NOTE

See combined background note attached to PQ0355L.

REMEMBER you are accountable for the accuracy and timeliness of the advice you provide. Departmental Instructions on answering PQs can be viewed on the CHOTS public area and on DAWN.

DRAFTED BY : **Section 40**
AUTHORISED BY : **Section 40**
GRADE/RANK : B1
BRANCH : DAS Deputy Director

TEL: **Section 40**

TEL: **Section 40**

Section 40

DECLARATION: I have satisfied myself that the above answer and background note are in accordance with the Government's policy on answering PQs, Departmental instructions (DCI GEN 150/97), and the Open Government Code (DCI GEN 54/98).

LORDS WRITTEN PARLIAMENTARY QUESTION - URGENT ACTION REQUIRED

DATE FOR RETURN : 12:00 ON 22 January 2001
 PQ REFERENCE : PQ 0359L
 PQ TYPE : LORDS WRITTEN
 MINISTER REPLYING : -NOTFOUND-

LEAD BRANCH: : DEFENCE ESTATES
 COPY ADDRESSEE(S) :
 DAS(SEC)
 MDP Sec
 D MOD Sy
 CS HQ Strike Cmd
 D NEWS
 D AIR RP

Section 40

*check back -
 under 15*

- The answer and background note must be authorised by a civil servant at Senior Civil Service level or a military officer at one-star level or above who is responsible for ensuring that the information and advice provided is accurate and reflects Departmental Instructions on answering PQs DCI GEN 150/97.
- Those contributing information for PQ answers and background notes are responsible for ensuring the information is accurate.
- The attached checklist should be used by those drafting PQ answers and background material, those contributing information and those responsible for authorising the answer and background note as an aid to ensuring that departmental policy is adhered to.
- If you or others concerned are uncertain about how PQs are answered seek advice from a senior civil servant in or closely associated with your area.

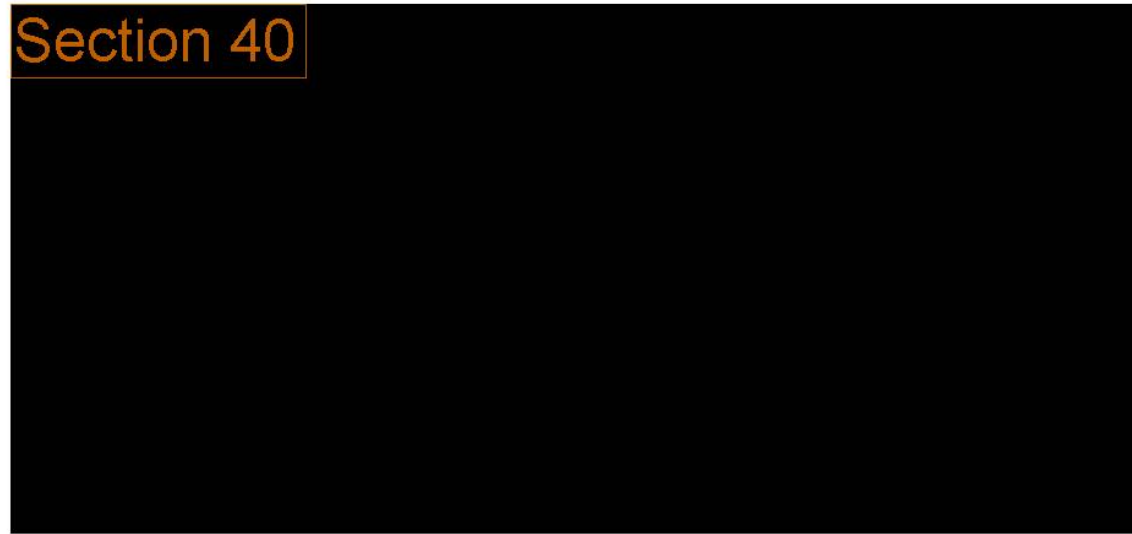
Peer's **DETAIL:** Admiral of The Fleet The Lord Hill-Norton GCB

QUESTION

To ask Her Majesty's Government To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they will detail the underground facilities at the former RAF Bentwaters installation; and what is the purpose of these facilities. (HL320)

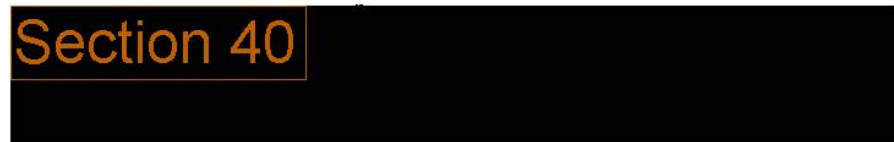
Reference Estates

Section 40



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article for material
to be sent to DAS (the)
by, a h labank, cop
19 7/20

Section 40



m.u.o.

22 JAN 2001 9:10 AM FR SECRETARIAT

Section 40

COVERING:

CLASSIFICATION:



DEFENCE ESTATES
Delivering Estate Solutions to Defence Needs

Agency Secretariat
Blakemore Drive, Sutton Coldfield, West Midlands B77 7RL



FACSIMILE COVER SHEET

TRANSMISSION DETAILS		DOCUMENT DETAILS	
To: Section 40		From: Section 40	
		File Reference: 0359L	
		Tel No (Std/Mil): Section 40	
		Fax No (Std/Mil): Section 40	
		Total number of pages including cover sheet: 3	
Recipient's Fax No: Section 40		Date: 22 Jan 2001	Time: 09:05
Subject: RAF BENTWATERS – UNDERGROUND FACILITIES			
<p>Section 40</p> <p>Background and draft reply as requested</p> <p>Section 40</p>			
Transmission No:	Transmitted by: Section 40	Sig: Section 40	

CLASSIFICATION:

COVERING:

For incorrect transmissions please contact on

Fax cover sheet

Defence Estates is an Agency of the MOD

22 JAN 2001 9:10 AM FR SECRETARIAT

Section 40

Ministry of Defence**Fri 26 January 2001****Admiral of The Fleet The Lord Hill-Norton GCB(X)(CB)**

LORDS WRITTEN

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they will detail the underground facilities at the former RAF Bentwaters installation; and what is the purpose of these facilities. (HL320)

Minister Replying **Baroness Symons**

There are no underground facilities at the former RAF Bentwaters.

17 January 01

PQ Ref 0359L

DRAFTED BY: Section 40

TEL: Section 40

DECLARATION: I have satisfied myself that the above answer and attached background note are in accordance with the government's policy on answering PQs, Departmental instructions (DCI GEN 150/97), and the Open Government Code (DCI GEN 54/98).

AUTHORISED BY:
GRADE/RANK: SCS
BRANCH:

TEL:

0359L

BACKGROUND NOTE

RAF Bentwaters was a USAF airfield and was sold to Bentwaters Investments Ltd on 15 May 1997. There were no underground facilities.



URGENT

From: Section 40 DAS 4a(Sec)

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE

Secretariat (Air Staff)

Room 8243, Main Building, Whitehall

LONDON SW1A 2HB

Telephone (Direct dial) Section 40

(Switchboard) 020 7218 9000

(Fax) Section 40

CHOTS - DAS4A(SEC)

FAX MESSAGE

TO: Section 40 DE. Section 40

SUBJECT: Pq - hard Hill-Narbon

DATE: 19 Jan 01.

NUMBER OF PAGES INCLUDING THIS COVER:

Section 40

The reference to the possibility of there being an underground facility is at Page 11. There is a "build-up" from page 8 onwards. This leads to the, apparently fairly reasonable, speculation that there is an underground suite at the site.

Section 40

(For info: hard H-N is an entrepreneur - and tireless!)

Section 40

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who kindly escorted us to the plush visitors' room and offered us piping-hot coffee, which went down very well on such a cold winter's day. Drane was equally accommodating, and when I cheekily asked for a copy of the huge Bentwaters map that graced his office wall, he willingly obliged. In all the excitement, I had forgotten it was my birthday and I could not have wished for a better gift than a USAF map of the entire Bentwaters complex, which listed and numbered every building above ground.

Vernon Drane had assigned one of his more mature security guards to accompany us on the tour. Derek Barnes was due for retirement soon, so we were lucky to have his expertise. He was a local who had been with Bentwaters security since the Americans had departed, before that he used to service their domestic appliances. Our first stop was the air-traffic control tower and although not that high, it was one hell of a climb on a wet and windy day. The view from the tower was quite amazing, one could see right across the base, over towards the forest. The fittings, which had once held the controls, were still mostly intact, and I could imagine being seated there, watching the A-10s coming in to land. However, this was not the tower I was looking for, that was in the weapons storage area. It was from that particular standpoint that an airman was instructed to keep an eye on low-flying UFOs. Just as I was taking photographs of the panoramic view, an aggressive young security guard came barging in. He thought we were intruders and had charged in with the aim of confronting us. I was now beginning to feel guilty at dragging old Barnes up those slippery metal steps to the tower, if the climb up was difficult in the gale-force wind and heavy rain, the climb down was equally so.

Our next stop was the base headquarters, where the wing commander would have ruled with his commanding officers. It was a large complex, surrounded by overgrown gardens, and at the entrance was a canopy that had obviously protected the officers from the elements as they stepped into their vehicles. I noticed most of the rooms were carpeted, and as we climbed the staircase to the higher echelons' offices they became much grander. We entered a reception

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area through two huge glass doors: one etched with the emblem of the USAF and the other with that of the 81st Tactical Fighter Wing, the last squadron to occupy the base. The doors led to a spacious reception area, and off to the right was the grandest office of all, the wing commander's. As with some of the other top-floor offices, its walls were a mass of wall-to-ceiling storage cupboards, concealed by sliding doors with no handles. Jacqueline and I had fun trying to figure out how to open them. This particular office had its own private toilet, en-suite shower and small built-in wardrobe: Air Force luxury at its best, I thought. I could not resist a nose around and found myself looking on to an enormous balcony that Barnes said had been used for cocktail parties during the summer months. This is where the wing commander would have entertained the local Anglo/American Social Committee, commonly known as the Mutual Admiration Society. This building was only constructed in the mid-1980s and according to a former wing commander the old place was embarrassingly decrepit and he had often found himself apologizing to visitors.

Adjacent to the headquarters was the Command Post, which was the nerve centre of the installation. This was another nuclear-protected building. We had the spooks about the Woodbridge shelter, but this was far more sophisticated, and much larger, and I could not resist exploring it. I thought Barnes was not so keen but he never once complained. While we waited for him to open the combination locks we spotted more of the strange showers outside the main entrance to the building.

After entering by the heavy door, we had to once again use our torches because there was no electricity inside the unused structures, and of course there were no windows. The door led into a small cubicle, which must have been where a security policeman once stood guard. From there we entered another door that led to a narrow corridor, and on the left-hand side there was a sign with the words DECON 1. This consisted of a small cubicle with a shower unit. We then passed through another heavy door and as we walked down the narrow corridor we passed three more decontamination

units, DECON 2, 3 and 4. We realized that in the event of a nuclear attack, personnel would have been required to take an outside shower and go through the decontamination procedures before they entered the main complex. All along the corridor were strange-looking devices that we realized were oxygen vents. One room consisted of enormous pipes which led through the walls to where we did not know, but assumed these would have provided the oxygen. To my right was a small room full of row upon row of decaying telephone switchboards. Obviously, this had been their communications outfit, and I considered whether it would have functioned had there been an all-out nuclear attack. As we continued through the complex we passed other empty rooms and it felt as if we were inside some kind of capsule. It was difficult in the blackness with only torches for light and I almost fell down some steps as I tried to gain my bearings. At the far end of the building was a room that featured two rows of fittings joined end to end; these had, no doubt, housed computers. Barnes accidentally knocked over an empty can of coke and the noise suddenly brought me back to reality. This was some place! Exiting through the other side of the room, we came across another huge door and it occurred to us that we had passed through several of these on the way in. As with the Woodbridge post, we hoped that none of these would close behind us. I slid back a door that seemed to take up the whole of one wall, only to discover there was a sliding panel behind it made out of some type of steel. When I slid back the panel it revealed another of the same, and another, and another, and so on. After sliding all the panels back a solid steel wall was revealed. Moving back into the room I had previously exited, I found that the panels and sealed wall led right along the edge of that room too. It was obviously a nuclear-safe outside wall and it made me realize what little chance we civilians would have stood had there been a nuclear attack. The government information booklet, *Protect and Survive*, which advised its citizens on how to protect themselves from such an attack, seemed preposterous in comparison.

Suddenly we found ourselves in another passageway that led to

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a small room. At the end of the room was an unusual solid red door that looked very important indeed. It had a small glass pane but was covered in warning signs such as: 'No photographs beyond this point. This is a restricted area,' and 'Warning. Controlled Area. It is unlawful to enter this area without permission of the Installation Commander.' Next to the door was some sort of old security system; unfortunately the door was well and truly locked and Barnes explained that there were no keys for it. I surmised this must have been one of the sensitive areas that Vernon Drane had told me still existed, apparently there were still a few of these on the installation. The door was at the very end of the building, which meant it could not really lead anywhere other than outside or down. But when I looked through the glass pane there was an area three-feet square directly in front of the door which was blocked off by a wall, and the exit which I could not see clearly was off to the left. However, there were no exits on that side of the wall because I checked when I left the building. Besides, it could not have been an exit because the signs clearly indicated it was an entrance to somewhere. We had to conclude that it was most probably the entrance to an underground facility. Disappointed, and knowing that the secret door would stay in my memory forever, we turned back, looking for the way we came in, but we seemed to have found another route. In the dark everything looked so much more confusing. We passed several more vaults and small rooms, and a sign on one of the heavy doors read: 'There are no classified documents in this vault.' Barnes pointed to a round steel contraption that reminded me of a submarine door. Was it an escape route? Did it lead to secret tunnels? Regrettably, I was not about to explore further. We were becoming nauseous at having to inhale the stale trapped air and desperately needed to get some fresh air into our lungs. As we stepped outside I was overwhelmed by a feeling of relief, and found myself thinking how fortunate we were to be able to walk out of that confined space into a world that was free from nuclear fallout.

Our next stop was the weapons storage area. We passed numerous dull buildings on the way, with our tour guide Barnes

***** -COMM. JOURNAL- ***** DATE 19-JAN-2001 ***** TIME 11:10 *** P.01

MODE = TRANSMISSION

START=19-JAN 11:08

END=19-JAN 11:10

STN NO.	COM	ABBR NO.	STATION NAME/TEL.NO.	PAGES	DURATION
001	OK	2	Section 40	005	00:02'22"

-SECRETARIAT (AIR STAFF) -

***** -

- ***** -

Section 40

RESTRICTED/UNCLASSIFIED




RESTRICTED/UNCLASSIFIED

RESTRICTED/UNCLASSIFIED
MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
TEMPORARY ENCLOSURE JACKET

MOD Form 174D
 (Revised 5/99)

35/1

REGISTERED FILE No. D/DAS 64/4		DIVISION / DIRECTORATE / BRANCH:	
Enclosure Jacket No ...12...			
DATE OPENED (Date of First Enclosure)18-1-2001.....			
SUBJECT: PQ 0351L LORD HILL-NORTON Reply by  Baroness Symonds			
Referred to	Date	Referred to	Date

USER NOTES

1. A MOD Form 262A (File Record Sheet) must be raised for each new Temporary Enclosure Jacket (TEJ) created. The TEJ should also include a minute sheet.
2. When a TEJ is incorporated into the parent file it should be placed in the file in date order (according to the date of the last action on the TEJ) and allocated an enclosure number.
3. The file minute sheet should be annotated to record the enclosure number of the TEJ along with details of the number of enclosures contained within it. The TEJ record sheet (MOD Form 262A) should be annotated to record the date on which the TEJ was incorporated into the parent file (JSP 441, paragraph 4.13 refers).

RESTRICTED/UNCLASSIFIED

PQ 0351L - Lord Hill Norton

Question:

To ask HMG what is the highest classification that has been applied to any Ministry of Defence document concerning Unidentified Flying Objects.

Answer:

The highest classification is Secret.

Background Note: headed UK RESTRICTED

A [limited] search of material identified as relating to 'UFOs' indicates that the vast majority of the papers that exist on the subject, on open and closed files, are unclassified. Directorate Air Staff (Secretariat) has traced a small number of documents graded Secret. They relate to discussions concerning handling of correspondence and administrative arrangements not 'UFO' reports and appear to hold a higher classification than might be expected from the nature of the material they contain. The DIS has applied the classification of SECRET UK EYES ONLY to a recent report generated on Unidentified Aerial Phenomena (UAP). The report concluded a low priority study to database reports of UAP sightings that have been received within that area over a period of some 30 years. The main conclusion of the report was that sightings provided nothing of value to the DIS and a decision has been taken to cease work on the subject. The overall classification of the report was dictated by analysis material included on the UK Air Defence Ground Environment. The document is otherwise UK Restricted.

LORDS WRITTEN PARLIAMENTARY QUESTION - URGENT ACTION REQUIRED

DATE FOR RETURN : 12:00 ON 18 January 2001
 PQ REFERENCE : PQ 0351L
 PQ TYPE : LORDS WRITTEN
 MINISTER REPLYING : -NOTFOUND-

LEAD BRANCH: : SEC (AS)
 COPY ADDRESSEE(S) :

MDP Sec

DI(Sec) / D Ao. —

D NEWS

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- The answer and background note must be authorised by a civil servant at Senior Civil Service level or a military officer at one-star level or above who is responsible for ensuring that the information and advice provided is accurate and reflects Departmental Instructions on answering PQs DCI GEN 150/97.
- Those contributing information for PQ answers and background notes are responsible for ensuring the information is accurate.
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- If you or others concerned are uncertain about how PQs are answered seek advice from a senior civil servant in or closely associated with your area.

Peer's DETAIL: Admiral of The Fleet The Lord Hill-Norton GCB

QUESTION

To ask Her Majesty's Government To ask Her Majesty's Government what is the highest classification that has been applied to any Ministry of Defence document concerning Unidentified Flying Objects. ←
 (HL304)

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UNCLASSIFIEDPOSSIBLE ANSWER TO PQ 03511

The DIS has applied the classification of SECRET UK EYES ONLY to a recent report generated on Unidentified Aerial Phenomena (UAP). The DIS has received copies of UAP sightings for about 30 years. These were filed without analysis. Recently, a low priority study was conducted to database the reports and carry out an analysis. The main conclusion was that the sightings provided nothing of value to the DIS in the assessment of weapon systems and that sightings can be explained as mis-reporting of man-made vehicles, natural but not unusual phenomena and natural but relatively rare and not completely understood phenomena. A decision has been made not to carry out any further work on the subject. The overall classification of the report was dictated by the analysis material included on the UK Air Defence Ground Environment otherwise it is UK RESTRICTED.

UNCLASSIFIED

17 JHN 01 17.57 FROM DI SEC **Section 40**

TO **Section 40**

F.01

Classification

F Sigs 927
(Int.9/92)

Caveat

Covering

Facsimile Transmission Cover Sheet

Transmission Details		Document Details	
Serial Number:	Date and Time of Transmission: 17/1/01	Reference:	
From: Section 40	Section 40	Subject:	
To Section 40	Fax Number: Section 40		
		Total number of pages including this cover sheet	2.
Authorizing Officer		Transmit Operators	
Rank, Name and Appointment:		Rank/Grade and Name:	
Signature:		Signature:	
Message/Remarks: <p style="text-align: center;">DI Sec</p> <p>Phone: Section 40</p>			

Covering

Caveat

Classification

***** FACSIMILE COVER SHEET *****

17 JAN '01 17:57

Message To:

Section 40

Message From:

DI SEC Section 40


DAS4A1(SEC)

From: Info(Exp)-Records1
Sent: 17 January 2001 09:37
To: DAS4A1(SEC)
Subject: RE: PQ 0351L

Section 40

How about something like this for the background note?

Identification of relevant records.

The Ministry of Defence has two main archives. One, the main archive located at Hayes that currently has in excess of 65 linear miles of records. A great majority of these are Services personnel records, but approximately, 10 linear miles are registered and unregistered files created by MOD HQ branches and  stations. These date back to the mid-1970s and are held awaiting review or for those already reviewed destruction. These records will carry a protective marking no higher than SECRET. A second, a much smaller archive, is located in central London holding approximately 3,000 linear feet of files with a protective marking at TOP SECRET level or requiring SPECIAL HANDLING).

There is no thematic index of files stored in either archive, although an exercise to create a database of archive holdings has been in place for a couple of years. But this is limited to recording basic file information such as file reference and the title as designated by the branch creating the record. The latter have proved to be particularly unhelpful on other exercises over the years for example a Ministerial file titled "USA" carried exchanges of correspondence of an ephemeral nature as well as significant details of "co-operation on special projects".

To undertake any search of the archives staff must be in the possession of at least - the abbreviate branch title and key words that might appear in the title. A physical search through MOD Form 262Fs (stored, in the main separately from files and totalling more than 1 million) ensures.

The identification of relevant files would then leads to the physical examination of the contents to establish the protective marking of individual documents and their relevancy to the subject.

Similar exercises in the past

→ In 1998 Lord Hill Norton asked a number of PQs relating to departmental holding of files relating to the subject of ufos. As a consequence of the above research was limited to the identification only of Sec(AS) and predecessor files that carried the title "UFOs".

More recently, a member of the public ask for information relating to files on the same subject that also required a search of the archives. As with the previous occasion only a limited search was undertaken.

[PQ0351L (*you might wish to consider ending on an upbeat!*)

So far as this PQ is concerned, and in attempt to be helpful, a limited search through the holding of files held by DAS(Sec) on this subject has been carried out. With the following result.....]

I hope that this is helpful

Section 40

17/01/01

-----Original Message-----

From: DAS4A1(SEC)

Sent: 16 January 2001 15:53

To: Info(Exp)-Records1

Subject: PQ 0351L

Section 40

Further to our discussion earlier today about the classification of documents concerning UFOs for one of the PQs we are answering, I would be grateful if you could send me something in writing that we can include in the background note. It may be helpful to mention the trawl of files you did for Section 40 query.

The question asked in the PQ is:

To ask Her Majesty's Government what is the highest classification that has been applied to any Ministry of Defence document concerning Unidentified Flying Objects.

As our deadline for the PQ is 1200 on Thursday 18 January, I would appreciate a response as soon as possible.

Thank you

Section 40

DAS4a1(Sec)

MB8245 Section 40

17/01/01

I 34A1(SEC)

From: STC-OPSSPT-ATC-AREA2/SO2
Sent: 16 January 2001 16:07
To: DAS4A1(SEC)
Cc: DAO ADGE1; STC-OPSSPT-ATC-AREA/SO1; STC-OPSSPT-ATC-Gp Capt
Subject: UFO RELATED PQs

Importance: High

DAO ADGE 1 requested that we provide input to you on the following 2 PQs:

- a. "What is the highest classification that has been applied to any MOD document concerning UFOs?"
- b. "Is HMG aware of any uncorrelated targets tracked on radar in Nov or Dec 1980; and whether they (HMG) will give details of any such incidents?"

Records Classification:-

We have examined the file records of the Area Radar Units (LATCC (Mil) and ScATCC (Mil)) and the Headquarters STC Operations Support Air Traffic Control (formerly HQ MATO) for instances of UFO reports. We do not hold any files that contain data relating to UFOs at either the HQ or the Area Radar units. In any case the maximum classification of files held is SECRET, therefore if there had been any input in the past this would have been the likely maximum classification. What we can say is that reports of UFOs received by AIS (Mil), are reported to your office on an unclassified FAX using an insecure telephone line.

Uncorrelated targets:-

In so far as the question of an awareness of any "uncorrelated targets tracked on radar in Nov or Dec 1980" our records do not extend that far back. Unusual incidents would be noted in the Air Traffic Control Watch Logs at LATCC (Mil) or ScATCC (Mil); The ATC Watch Logs are retained for a period of 3 years and are then subsequently destroyed. Recordings of radar data are retained for a period of 30 days prior to the re-use of the recording medium.

Signed on CHOTs

Section 40

Sqn Ldr
 SO2 ATC (Area) 2

Section 40

L 34A1(SEC)

From: 2GP-ISTAR2-2A-SO2 *x SO1*
Sent: 17 January 2001 13:23
To: DAS4A1(SEC)
Cc: DAO ADGE1; STC-CMDSEC-SEC-PARL
Subject: RE: UFO Related PQs

Importance: Low

Not a very comprehensive reply I am afraid, but it is as follows:

Records Classification

a. Our highest classification for UFO documents is RESTRICTED.

b. We have no records dating back to Nov Dec 1980. Therefore it is impossible to give any information regarding the second question.

Please let me know if we can be of further assistance.

Section 40

Sqn Ldr **Section 40**
 SO2 ASACS Ops1

Section 40

Section 40

-----Original Message-----

From: DAO ADGE1
Sent: 16 January 2001 10:38
To: 2GP-ISTAR2-SO1; 2GP-ISTAR2-2A-SO2; STC-OPSSPT-ATC-AREA2/SO2
Cc: DAS4A1(SEC)
Subject: UFO Related PQs
Importance: High

Section 40

Sorry for this fast ball but Lord Hill-Norton has submitted 4 PQs relating to a UFO report about lights in Mendlesham Forest circa 1980!! We (I) have been asked to provide inputs to DAS4A1 (SEC) on 2 of the PQs:

The first question is 'What is the highest classification that has been applied to any MOD document concerning UFOs'

The second question is 'Is HMG aware of any uncorrelated targets tracked on radar in Nov or Dec 1980; and whether they (HMG) will give details of any such incidents'

I doubt we have any records remaining for this period, but we must go through the motions. Grateful therefore if you could check down the organisation to see if there are any files or logbooks that go back to 1980 and whether any record exists of such activity. On the AD side could you also check with STCOC (old DCON records) as well as the CRCs.

By way of interpretation, I would define 'uncorrelated targets' as 'radar tracks that have not been positively identified by normal means'.

Answers have to be with DAS4A1(SEC) by cease work Wed 17 Jan 01. As I shall be out of office on that day, grateful if you would forward your inputs (including any pertinent background info and an indication of what, if anything, we would be happy to release to the public domain by way of a stated answer) on CHOtS direct to

Section 40 (DAS4A1 (SEC)), info me. TVM

4A1(SEC)

From: **DAO** DAO ADGE1
 Sent: 16 January 2001 10:38
 To: 2GP-ISTAR2-SO1; 2GP-ISTAR2-2A-SO2; STC-OPSSPT-ATC-AREA2/SO2
 Cc: DAS4A1(SEC)
 Subject: UFO Related PQs

Importance: High

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Section 40

DAO ADGE1

Official Report - Written Answers
7th May Columns 19-20.

Unidentified Objects, (Rendlesham Forest)

Mr. Redmond: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what is the current security classification on the documents his Department holds on the unidentified objects seen by members of the United States Armed Forces in Rendlesham forest, Suffolk in 1980; and if he will make a statement. [27644]

Mr. Soames: The papers held by my Department relating to the alleged events at Rendlesham forest, Suffolk in 1980 are unclassified.

Written Answers

10 JUNE 1996

Written Answers

**Unidentified Objects (Rendlesham Forest)**

Mr. Redmond: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, pursuant to his answer of 7 May, *Official Report*, columns 19-20, if he will list the titles of the papers held by his Department in respect of unidentified objects seen in Rendlesham forest, Suffolk; and if he will make a statement. [31490]

Mr. Soames: Apart from a report of the events written at the time by the United States Air Force deputy base commander at RAF Woodbridge, which has been in the public domain for a number of years, the documents held by my Department are internal staffing papers and correspondence from members of the public relating to the alleged events.

Bourlon Barracks, Catterick

Mr. Home Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what was the cost of the structure and fixed equipment of building 36 at Bourlon barracks, Catterick, for the Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers light aid detachment; and if the final payment for that building has been made by his Department. [31612]

Mr. Soames: The total cost of the structure and fixed equipment of building 36, Bourlon barracks, REME lad, was £524,179. The final payment for this building—that is, the release of retention—has not been made.

Mr. Home Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what will be the cost of modifications to the crane, doors and exhaust ventilation system in the LAD building (No. 36) at Bourlon barracks, Catterick, to facilitate maintenance work on Warrior armoured personnel carriers. [31614]

Mr. Soames: The estimated cost for the modification of the crane from a single to a two-speed motor is £5,500. There are no plans to modify any of the doors in building 36. The exhaust extraction system was modified in January 1996 at an approximate cost of £2,500.

Sea Training

Sir Dudley Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence which operational sea training facilities the United Kingdom will make available to the Western European Union, following the Birmingham declaration of 7 May. [31746]

Mr. Soames: We will make available, for national or collective participation by WEU nations, the Royal Navy's operational sea training facility at Plymouth, and the joint maritime courses which are run off the coast of Scotland.

Western European Union

Sir Dudley Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what plans he has to develop further the Western European Union's intelligence section. [31750]

Mr. Soames: The intelligence section agreed by Ministers in 1995 is not operational. Any further development of its capabilities would be undertaken by WEU in the light of experience.

Sir Dudley Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what progress has been made with the Western European Union mobility study following the Western European Union Ministerial Council meeting in Birmingham and the meeting of Western European Union Chiefs of Defence Staff in London. [31752]

Mr. Soames: Following endorsement of the strategic mobility concept by Chiefs of Defence Staff and by Ministers, a special WEU working group has begun examining the most effective means by which the concept might be implemented.

Sir Dudley Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what estimate he has made as to when the Western European Union will be in a position to conduct a full-scale Petersberg-type operation. [31747]

Mr. Soames: Our target is for WEU to be capable of conducting a small-scale crisis management mission by the end of 1996. Achievement of this goal depends on WEU making further progress on the operational improvements we have initiated during our presidency.

Sir Dudley Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence which countries have not to date offered to provide intelligence data to the Western European Union's intelligence section. [31751]

Mr. Soames: This is a matter for the nations concerned.

Sir Dudley Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what measures will be taken to increase the involvement of the associate partner members in Western European Union's work on operational development with particular reference to Africa peacekeeping, exercise policy and humanitarian task force operations. [31749]

Mr. Soames: WEU associate partners have already taken part in discussions on the specific issues referred to by the hon. Member. They have also been invited to provide information on the forces that they might make available for WEU operations. We look forward to their further involvement in discussions on other operational matters.

Sir Dudley Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will encourage the Western European Union to add a public relations element to its current crisis exercises, Crisex 96. [31753]

Mr. Soames: WEU intends to use this exercise to promote its operational role to the media, and plans a press visit to the exercise. WEU will also be testing internally new procedures for operational public information policy, developed as a UK initiative.

Sea Harrier Aircraft

Mr. Home Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many Sea Harrier aircraft have been lost in the last year; how many new aircraft from the attrition batch whose procurement was announced in January 1994 have now been deployed in squadron service as replacements; and what navigation system was fitted to those replacement aircraft when they were delivered by British Aerospace. [31758]

RESTRICTED/UNCLASSIFIED

RESTRICTED/UNCLASSIFIED

RESTRICTED/UNCLASSIFIED
MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
TEMPORARY ENCLOSURE JACKET

MOD Form 174D
 (Revised 5/99)

35+1

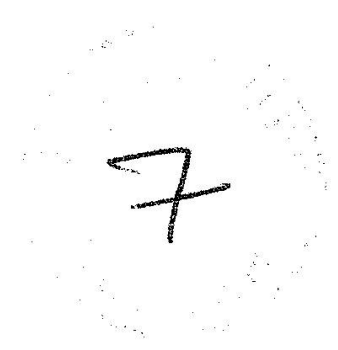
REGISTERED FILE No. D / DAS (SEC) 64/A		DIVISION / DIRECTORATE / BRANCH: DAS (SEC)	
Enclosure Jacket No ..11.....			
DATE OPENED (Date of First Enclosure)16 JAN 2001.....			
SUBJECT: PQ 0358 L LORD HILL-NORTON REPLY BY BARONESS SYMONS			
Referred to	Date	Referred to	Date

USER NOTES

1. A MOD Form 262A (File Record Sheet) must be raised for each new Temporary Enclosure Jacket (TEJ) created. The TEJ should also include a minute sheet.
2. When a TEJ is incorporated into the parent file it should be placed in the file in date order (according to the date of the last action on the TEJ) and allocated an enclosure number.
3. The file minute sheet should be annotated to record the enclosure number of the TEJ along with details of the number of enclosures contained within it. The TEJ record sheet (MOD Form 262A) should be annotated to record the date on which the TEJ was incorporated into the parent file (JSP 441, paragraph 4.13 refers).

RESTRICTED/UNCLASSIFIED

TEMPLATE TO BE USED FOR REPLY



Ministry of Defence

FRIDAY 26 JANUARY 2001

Admiral of The Fleet The Lord Hill-Norton GCB(X) (CB)

LORDS WRITTEN

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they are aware of any involvement in the 1980 Rendlesham Forest incident by either Ministry of Defence Police or personnel from the Suffolk Constabulary. (HL321)

Minister replying Baroness Symons

The Ministry of Defence is not aware of any involvement by the Ministry of Defence Police in the alleged incident. The Ministry of Defence's knowledge of involvement by the Suffolk Police is limited to a letter dated 28 July 1999 from the Suffolk Constabulary to Georgina Bruni that is contained in the recent book.

January 01

PQ Ref 0358L

BACKGROUND NOTE

See combined background note attached to PQ0355L.

REMEMBER you are accountable for the accuracy and timeliness of the advice you provide. Departmental Instructions on answering PQs can be viewed on the CHOTS public area and on DAWN.

DRAFTED BY : Section 40
AUTHORISED BY :
GRADE/RANK : B1
BRANCH : DAS Deputy Director

TEL: Section 40

TEL:

Section 40

DECLARATION: I have satisfied myself that the above answer and background note are in accordance with the Government's policy on answering PQs, Departmental instructions (DCI GEN 150/97), and the Open Government Code (DCI GEN 54/98).

LORDS WRITTEN PARLIAMENTARY QUESTION - URGENT ACTION REQUIRED

DA FOR RETURN : 12:00 ON 22 January 2001
 PQ REFERENCE : PQ 0358L
 PQ TYPE : LORDS WRITTEN
 MINISTER REPLYING : -NOTFOUND-

6 lead
 Section 40 - info

LEAD BRANCH: : SEC (AS)
 COPY ADDRESSEE(S) :
 MDP Sec
 D NEWS
 CAS
 ACAS

Replies received
HO/MDP.v

- The answer and background note must be authorised by a civil servant at Senior Civil Service level or a military officer at one-star level or above who is responsible for ensuring that the information and advice provided is accurate and reflects Departmental Instructions on answering PQs DCI GEN 150/97.
- Those contributing information for PQ answers and background notes are responsible for ensuring the information is accurate.
- The attached checklist should be used by those drafting PQ answers and background material, those contributing information and those responsible for authorising the answer and background note as an aid to ensuring that departmental policy is adhered to.
- If you or others concerned are uncertain about how PQs are answered seek advice from a senior civil servant in or closely associated with your area.

Peer's **DETAIL: Admiral of The Fleet The Lord Hill-Norton GCB**

QUESTION

To ask Her Majesty's Government To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they are aware of any involvement in the 1980 Rendlesham Forest incident by either Ministry of Defence Police or personnel from the Suffolk Constabulary. (HL321) ✓



Home Office

*Tuesday 22 Jan -
Suffolk Police 5*

*Copy of your reply
(reply to 0350.) sent*

Action Against Crime and Disorder Unit to Ho. **Section 40** 23,101

50 Queen Anne's Gate, London SW1H 9AT

Switchboard **Section 40** Facsimile **Section 40** Direct Line **Section 40**

FAX

URGENT

To: **Section 40** DAS 4a (Sec) - Ministry of Defence
From: **Section 40**
Date: 18 January 2001
Time: 11.20am
Fax number: **Section 40**
Number of pages: 4
(including this one)

If any part of this fax is unclear please telephone **Section 40**

PQs ON RENDLESHAM FOREST INCIDENT IN 1980

I have enclosed a response from Suffolk Constabulary concerning PQ's on the Rendlesham Forest incident in 1980. As you will see, they have enclosed a letter from Inspector **Section 40** **Section 40** Ms Bruni on the incident which concerns Suffolk police involvement at the time. This appears to be their only interest but I note that the contents of this letter was already included in the chapter of Ms Bruni's book which was enclosed. I think that the answer to this question will have to be that Suffolk Police did investigate incident (as per *← not available* **Section 40** letter) at the time but that it has been impossible to locate the incident files for *in the timescale* a more detailed response. Also most of the officers serving at the time have since retired including **Section 40**

I suggest that the answer to the Special Branch question is that they may have been aware at the time of the incident but would not have got involved due to there being no threat to national security.

Section 40

*↳ use of line from **Section 40** Constabulary agreed by **Section 40** over the phone.*

Public Order Section

18.1.01
Section 40

*22 Jan.
Suffolk
Police

18 Jan.
Special
Branch*

18/01/2001 12:30

NO. 433

D02

18-JAN-2001 11:37

FROM EXECUTIVE SERVICES

TO

Section 40

F.01

SUFFOLK CONSTABULARY**FACSIMILE TRANSMISSION**

FORCE HEADQUARTERS
MARTLESHAM HEATH
IPSWICH IP5 3QS

Tel: Section 40 Fax: Section 40 E-mail: Section 40

DATE : 18 January 2001

TO : Home Office Action Against Crime
and Disorder Unit

FAX NO. : Section 40

FOR ATTENTION OF : Section 40 Public Order Section

ORIGINATOR : Section 40 Executive Services Manager

PAGES TO FOLLOW : 2

TEXT :

Section 40

As discussed please find a copy of a letter sent to Georgina Bruni in July 1999 which may be of use. As also discussed due to the period elapsed since the 'incident' it has not been possible to locate any files (due to them being stored in a different location). Furthermore the situation is exacerbated by the fact that most police officers serving at that time have since retired (including the author of the attached letter!).

I trust this will suffice.

Section 40

Executive Services Manager

Confidentiality Notice - this message is intended only for the addressee and may contain information that is confidential or privileged. Unauthorised use is strictly prohibited and may be unlawful. If you are not the addressee, you should not read, copy, disclose or otherwise use this message, except for the purpose of delivery to the addressee. Please telephone the above number if this fax is incomplete, illegible, or if you have received it in error.



18/01/2001 12:30

NU.433

003

18-JAN-2001 11:38 FROM EXECUTIVE SERVICES TO

Section 40

P.02

FORCE HEADQUARTERS, MARTLESHAM HEATH, IPSWICH IP5 7QS

Tel: Ipswich Section 40 Telex: Section 40 Section 40

All official correspondence should be addressed to the Chief Constable

Section 40 QPM
Chief Constable

Your Ref:

Our Ref:

28 July 1999

Dear Ms Bruni,

INCIDENT IN RENDLESHAM FOREST - DECEMBER 1980

I refer to your letter of 22 July 1999 in relation to a series of unusual events which allegedly occurred outside the perimeter of RAF Woodbridge, Suffolk, during the last week of December 1980.

A great deal of interest has understandably been generated in respect of this story, not least because of the apparent number and standing of witnesses. However, over the intervening years, various reports of the incident(s) seem to have taken on a life of their own to the extent that the 'sighting' details and corroborative evidence have been substantially embellished. This contrasts sharply with the views of the local police who attended at the time and did not perceive this occurrence as being anything unusual considering the festive significance of the date and expected high spirits.

Such a perception lends support to the lack of police documentary evidence and one needs to understand the minimalistic nature of rural policing in order to appreciate the answers which I will attempt to give to your questions.

- (1) Both Section 40 and Section 40 have retired from the force but, being a long standing friend of the former, I have spoken to him recently and at great length in response to other similar journalistic enquiries. He does not recall making any official report and there is no evidence that one was made.
- (2) Section 40 has confirmed that he and Section 40 were in the Law Enforcement Office at RAF Bentwaters when they were diverted to a 'higher priority' task at Otley post office. As rural night-duty officers they would have sole responsibility for policing a huge territorial area (approx 400 square miles) and would certainly have treated a post office burglary as more important than a recurrence of an earlier incident which was seen as somewhat frivolous.
- (3) Section 40 (also now retired) visit to the alleged landing site would not have generated more than a standard incident log unless he was convinced that something worth reporting had occurred. Section 40 had discussed the matter with him and it appeared that all three officers were equally unimpressed with the nights events.
- (4) Civilian police officers were not employed in guarding the area surrounding the alleged landing site(s) or to deter access as there was no evidence to indicate that anything of immediate concern to the police had occurred.

continued

Georgina Bruni

18/01/2001 12:30

NO.433

004

18-JAN-2001 11:38 FROM EXECUTIVE SERVICES

TO

Section 40

P.03

- (5) There is no documentary evidence that police officers were involved in similar incidents on 27-31 December that year and Section 40 cannot recall any further requests for police attendance.
- (6) Special Branch officers should have been aware of the incident(s) through having sight of the Incident Log(s) but would not have shown an interest unless there was evidence of a potential threat to national security. No such threat was evident.

I have tried to be as objective as possible with the answers provided and, like yourself, would undoubtedly be pleased to see a local incident such as this substantiated as an authentic 'UFO' experience. Section 40 has similar views to myself and returned to the forest site in daylight in case he had missed some evidence in the darkness. There was nothing to be seen and he remains unconvinced that the occurrence was genuine. The immediate area was swept by powerful light beams from a landing beacon at RAF Bentwaters and the Orfordness lighthouse. I know from personal experience that at night, in certain weather and cloud conditions, these beams were very pronounced and certainly caused strange visual effects.

If you have any other query in respect of this subject I will be pleased to discuss the issues further. My direct dial telephone number is Section 40

Yours sincerely,

Section 40

Inspector - Operations (Planning)

TOTAL P.03

DAS4A1(SEC)

From: DAS3B1(SEC)
Sent: 18 January 2001 08:22
To: DAS4A1(SEC)
Subject: FW: PQ 0358:UFOs.

Section 40

Good morning.

Forwarded as requested by **Section 40** if it helps.

Section 40

-----Original Message-----

From: Sec(MDP)Co-ord
Sent: 17 January 2001 13:17
To: DAS3B1(SEC)
Subject: PQ 0358:UFOs.



PQ0358.doc

Good afternoon **Section 40**

Would you mind passing this on the the UFO desk!

Regards

Section 40

LOOSE MINUTE

D/MDP/36/2/8 (/01)

16 January 2001

DAS(Sec)

Copy to:

Ch Supt (Ops)

CID (CS)

4

LORDS PQ 0358.

1. Thank you for sight of the above.
2. I would suggest you reply along the following lines:

ANSWER:

“There is no record of the Ministry of Defence Police having investigated or being involved in the 1980 Rendelsham Forest incident. Issues relating to the Suffolk Constabulary are a matter for the Chief Constable of that Force”.

BACKGROUND NOTE:

“We have been unable to find any reference to the Rendelsham Forest incident in files held by MDP. Several Senior Officers of the Force have been contacted to see if they had any recollections not recorded on file. The consensus seems to be that RAF Woodbridge did not have a dedicated MDP presence on site but rather was the subject of infrequent visits by MDP officers stationed at other establishments in the area. There are no recollections of MDP officers having investigated or been involved in the incident.

We cannot comment on whether Suffolk Constabulary personnel were involved in the incident. Such issues are matters for the Chief Constable of Suffolk”.

[signed]

Section 40

Hd of MDP Sec

Section 40

LOOSE MINUTE

D/MDP/36/2/8 (/01)

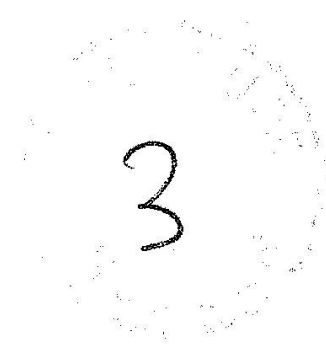
16 January 2001

DAS(Sec)

Copy to:

Ch Supt (Ops)

CID (CS)



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We cannot comment on whether Suffolk Constabulary personnel were involved in the incident. Such issues are matters for the Chief Constable of Suffolk”.

[signed]

Section 40

Hd of MDP Sec

Section 40

DAS 4A (Secretariat)
Room 8245
Main Building
Tel: Section 40
Fax:

2

Fax

To: Section 40 - MDP Sec **From:** Section 40

Fax: Section 40 **Date:** January 17, 2001

Phone: **Pages:** 6

Re: **CC:**

Urgent **For Review** **Please Comment** **Please Reply** **Please Recycle**

•Comments:

Dear Section 40

We have received PQ 0358L, one of a series of PQs which relate to an incident said to have taken place in 1980 on which we have the lead interest and are providing a consolidated response. This particular PQ asks about alleged involvement by MDP in the incident.

I would be grateful if you could provide us with an answer and appropriate material for the background note by COP 18 January.

I attach, along with the PQ, a short note on the incident in Rendlesham Forest in 1980 and a photocopy of extracts which mention MDP from a book that was published in November 2000.

With thanks

Section 40

PARLIAMENTARY QUESTION - URGENT ACTION REQUIRED

DATE FOR RETURN : 12:00 ON 22 January 2001
PQ REFERENCE : PQ 0358L
PQ TYPE : LORDS WRITTEN
MINISTER REPLYING : -NOTFOUND-

Section 40 [Redacted]

Lead
info

LEAD BRANCH: : SEC (AS)
COPY ADDRESSEE(S) :
MDP Sec :
D NEWS :
CAS :
ACAS :

- The answer and background note must be authorised by a civil servant at Senior Civil Service level or a military officer at one-star level or above who is responsible for ensuring that the information and advice provided is accurate and reflects Departmental Instructions on answering PQs DCI GEN 150/97.
- Those contributing information for PQ answers and background notes are responsible for ensuring the information is accurate.
- The attached checklist should be used by those drafting PQ answers and background material, those contributing information and those responsible for authorising the answer and background note as an aid to ensuring that departmental policy is adhered to.
- If you or others concerned are uncertain about how PQs are answered seek advice from a senior civil servant in or closely associated with your area.

Peer's DETAIL: Admiral of The Fleet The Lord Hill-Norton GCB

QUESTION

To ask Her Majesty's Government To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they are aware of any involvement in the 1980 Rendlesham Forest incident by either Ministry of Defence Police or personnel from the Suffolk Constabulary. (HL321)

Section 40 [Redacted]
Section 40 [Redacted]

MDP Sec.

Weatherfield [Redacted] Fax.
mailed to DAS Sec
by COP 18 Jan.

Section 40 [Redacted]

FAX.

Section 40 [Redacted]

BACKGROUND NOTE - PQ TABLED BY LORD HILL-NORTON JAN 01

1. . . . Lord Hill-Norton has tabled XXX PQs on the subject of material contained in a book by Georgina Bruni published in November 2000 and MOD handling of material relating to 'UFOs'. Miss Bruni's book, "You can't tell the people" concerns a well known 'UFO' incident alleged to have occurred in Rendlesham Forest in Suffolk over the Christmas period in 1980 in the vicinity of two RAF bases at that time on lease to the USAF, RAF Bentwaters and RAF Woodbridge.
2. The subject of the incident said to have taken place in Rendlesham Forest came to prominence in 1983 when a memorandum sent to MOD shortly after the event by the then Deputy Base Commander, Lt Col Charles Halt USAF, was unearthed in the US by researchers. The Halt memorandum describes the alleged incident in some detail and is reprinted in the book where claims are also made that USAF personnel met and communicated with "beings". The book accuses the UK establishment of a "cover-up" to hide the detail of the alleged event in Rendlesham Forest. Text of correspondence on the subject between a retired Chief of Defence Staff, Lord Hill-Norton, and a previous MOD Minister is reprinted in the book.
3. MOD's interest in 'UFO's' is limited to whether alleged sightings might have any defence significance; namely, if they provide evidence that the United Kingdom's airspace may have been compromised by hostile or unauthorised air activity. Unless there is corroborating evidence to suggest that the UK's airspace may have been compromised, MOD does not investigate or seek to provide a precise explanation for each of the 'UFO' letters and reported sightings received each year. MOD believes that rational explanations, such as aircraft lights or natural phenomena, could be found for most of the sightings. However, it is not the function of MOD to provide this kind of aerial identification service and resources are not diverted for this purpose.

Extract from Georgina Bruni's book 'You can't tell the people' featuring references to MOP

MORE BASE PERSONNEL SPEAK OUT

249

I from Maintenance pumps for some SP
 e was early morning.
 rst one left the other
 ayed indoors with me
 went outside to pump
 UFOs. I said, I think
 ind; I guess that's why
 oceeded to tell me an
 id that one had landed
 uld keep an eye on the
 me beings that almost
 ow suits/bunny suits,
 sed no harm or threat.
 ad told him to shut up
 : to discuss anything. I
 l somebody you don't
 attention.

o was stationed at RAF
 le to contact a couple of
 the base. Martin told me
 d secretaries knew almost
 e ladies would be a source
 trace an ex-Ministry of
 ing to divulge her name
 of Betty Garfield. Betty
 an twenty years and had
 ence. She has allowed me
 s was very involved in the
 ut me in touch with local
 ing at the base in 1971,
 utenant Colonel Richard
 of Base Operations and
 etty to explain Spring's

I must be careful what I say because I was with the MOD, but I can tell you that Colonel Spring was very much involved. I remember he suddenly disappeared from his office at short notice to meet the police. I think they were from Hull, but can't be sure about that. I think they had a similar incident up there and that was the reason for their visit – to compare notes. Colonel Spring went to the station to meet them.

Betty pointed out that the visitors were British civilian police and even the chief of police for Hull, or wherever they were from, was among the group. She insists there were no MOD police stationed at the bases, and she does not recall seeing any visit the base during that time. When I pushed her further, she replied, 'They sent people away and gave them new identities. Some were sent to RAF Lakenheath, others further afield.' I was surprised to hear that Sergeant Nevilles was sent back to the United States the day after the incident. I had not mentioned Nevilles' name to Betty, but she asked me if I had heard of him. Nevilles was the sergeant who accompanied Lieutenant Colonel Halt into the forest on the night he was involved. Betty told me that he had not only been sent away, but his name had also been changed. Apparently, his wife left soon afterwards. All attempts to contact Nevilles or his former boss, Captain Coplin, have been fruitless.

Betty did not explain how Lieutenant Colonel Spring was involved but confirmed he was the Chief of Operations. Because Lieutenant Colonel Spring was in charge of base operations he would no doubt have been informed of the incident and would most likely have played an important role in what happened after the events. Betty offered her own opinions about the incident, which I found very interesting, especially the part about electricity – was she trying to tell me something?

It was all very hush-hush at the time. I do believe it happened. The universe is massive and there must be others more advanced than we are. We don't know enough about electricity. I think they can transform themselves by using electricity. A tremendous amount

nger ... not on the base
it does not take him out of
If the Bentwaters deputy
the case, then who was?
k Matthews, who was also
en I mentioned Chuck
med me that he was not
se, and that the chief of
1. This was very interesting
mmander or the deputy
s is still very friendly with
s friend and ask him if he
received a rather amusing

at name, then eighteen
liens have been seriously
to Chuck Matthews at

one special agent who was
inger if other agents were
AFOSI. He responded:
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ion that another agency,
DSI unit – or both – took

ve been involved with the
re to comment on the
opy of Lieutenant Fred
owing information:

tatements because that
hem. This looks like a

genuine AFOSI Statement of Witness form but there should be a page with AFOSI's details [1168]. I don't know what Halt was doing taking these statements or who typed them. I notice it's dated 2 January. There doesn't seem much point in taking statements a week after the events were said to have happened. I can't see the point. You need to take them when they are fresh in the memory.

He asked me what the base commander was doing whilst all this was going on. I told him that during one of the events he was supposed to be at an awards dinner party on the Woodbridge base, and this is why his deputy commander was instructed to investigate. Persinger thought it was highly questionable that the base commander would continue to hand out awards when there was supposed to be a crisis on. I asked him if he would oblige me by giving a rundown on what procedures would be taken if such an incident had occurred (my comments in parentheses). According to Persinger, if there was a report of a 'hostile invasion or a craft that had come down', the base commander (Colonel Ted Conrad) would have dropped everything and put his police and fire departments on alert. The wing commander (then Colonel Gordon Williams) would have been notified immediately. The commander in charge of the Bentwaters AFOSI (Chuck Matthews) would have been informed and special agents (possibly John Wolfe and Steve Smith) would have been put on alert notification and would probably have gone out to investigate. The major in charge of security police (Malcolm Zickler) would have alerted his men and called in those on stand-by. He would then have had the patrols surround the craft and guard the surrounding area. ARRS would normally have been called if there was an aircraft down, but due to the close proximity of the base they would not have been involved. The British authorities, such as the Ministry of Defence Police and Special Branch, would have been informed, and of course the CIA.

So did the AFOSI investigate, I wanted to know? According to Diana Persinger, a few years after her husband's retirement they received a visit from Special Agent Steve Smith. He was a fairly new

was surrounded by hundreds of women and children who began living in disgustingly filthy conditions at a makeshift peace camp situated outside the perimeter fence. Top bodyguard and covert operator Jacqueline Davis spent several weeks under-cover at Greenham Common. She recalls being disturbed in the middle of the night by a Ministry of Defence police officer urinating on her face. It seems this was one way they relieved their boredom, another was to smear faeces on the tent poles. There has been much speculation that Greenham Common was none other than a front for Bentwaters, where the real missiles were stored. One wonders just how different the Rendlesham Forest case might have turned out had the forest surrounding the Suffolk bases been overrun by the Greenham Common protesters.

Lord Lewin, Admiral of the Fleet and the Chief of Defence Staff in 1980, was a great supporter of the United States Air Force in Europe. In fact, Lord Lewin visited RAF Bentwaters on several occasions and eventually retired to live near Woodbridge, where he died a couple of years ago. Apparently Lewin was also a supporter of nuclear weapons and argued the need for Britain's cooperation with NATO on this very subject.

Although no high-ranking American officer will openly admit that nuclear weapons were deployed at Bentwaters, there is a clue perhaps: it seems that RAF Bentwaters carried out exercises that still remain classified. On 30 June 1998 Member of Parliament Matthew Taylor posed a question to the House of Commons regarding the USAF and an exercise carried out in the United Kingdom:

MR MATTHEW TAYLOR: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what was the scenario of the exercise, Proper Watch, in 1989; on what dates and where it took place; if the United States Department of Defense took part; and if he will place a copy of the results of the exercise in the Library.⁵

⁵ Written Answers 130.

DR REID: Exercise Proper Watch was held at Bentwaters in May 1989. The exercise was a response to the crisis in the Middle East over nuclear weapons. The United States participated in the exercise. A classified report of the exercise was given to the hon. Member for Northampton (column 470), and was included in the report on Access to Government Information.

Based on all the continuing cover-up of the incident. Could it be that the exercise was about nuclear weapons? I asked Nick Brown about this in a recent issue.

The Ministry of Defence was aware of the exercise and investigated it. The Ministry of Defence was aware of this whole business.

Much has been made of the initial incident, but what about the isolated case of radiation?

George Wild is a Member of Parliament for Yorkshire. Several years ago he asked the Secretary of State for Defence that Highpoint Prison was closed on 27 December 1980. A prison officer at Armagh was at an officers' seminar that night and struck up a conversation with a woman who claimed to have recalled evacuating the building that night. Further news of this incident would be a matter of national security. The

***** -COMM. JOURNAL- ***** DATE 17-JAN-2001 ***** TIME 14:09 *** P.01

MODE = TRANSMISSION

START=17-JAN 14:06

END=17-JAN 14:09

STN NO.	COM	ABBR NO.	STATION NAME/TEL.NO.	PAGES	DURATION
001	OK	2	Section 40	006	00:02'15"

-SECRETARIAT (AIR STAFF) -

***** -

- ***** -

Section 40

→ PQ0358 - is to be answered by us on 22 January. The chapter I mention above is entitled "The Police file" and contains references to Suffolk Constabulary. I would be grateful if you would arrange for an appropriate individual in the Home Office to provide us with an answer to the element of the question on the Suffolk Constabulary and appropriate material for the background note by COP 19 January. Perhaps you would be good enough to let me have a contact numbers for the second PQ if it is to be passed to another Home Office division.

With thanks.

Signed **Section 40**





From: **Section 40** DAS 4a(Sec)
MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
Secretariat (Air Staff)
Room 8243, Main Building, Whitehall
LONDON SW1A 2HB

Telephone (Direct dial) **Section 40**
(Switchboard) 020 7218 9000
(Fax) **Section 40**
CHOTS - DAS4A(SEC)

FAX MESSAGE

TO: **Section 40** - Home office fax: **Section 40**

SUBJECT: PQ 0350L/PQ 0358L

DATE: 17 January 01

NUMBER OF PAGES INCLUDING THIS COVER:

Section 40

We spoke on the telephone.

I attach copies of the above PQs which I understand from MOD Parliamentary Branch are to be answered by MOD on behalf of HMG as they relate to an incident said to have taken place in 1980 in which MOD has the lead interest. Both make reference to Home Office issues and I was given **Section 40** **Section 40** number as a contact in the Department.

PQ0350 - is to be answered by us by 1200 on 18 January. I would be grateful if you would supply us with an answer to the question and paragraphs to insert in the background note by 0900, 18 January. I attach a short note on the alleged incident in Rendlesham Forest in 1980 and a photocopy of a chapter in the book on the incident that was published in November 2000. The Chapter contains references to Special Branch.

BACKGROUND NOTE - PQ TABLED BY LORD HILL-NORTON JAN 01

1. . . . Lord Hill-Norton has tabled XXX PQs on the subject of material contained in a book by Georgina Bruni published in November 2000 and MOD handling of material relating to 'UFOs'. Miss Bruni's book, "You can't tell the people" concerns a well known 'UFO' incident alleged to have occurred in Rendlesham Forest in Suffolk over the Christmas period in 1980 in the vicinity of two RAF bases at that time on lease to the USAF, RAF Bentwaters and RAF Woodbridge.
2. The subject of the incident said to have taken place in Rendlesham Forest came to prominence in 1983 when a memorandum sent to MOD shortly after the event by the then Deputy Base Commander, Lt Col Charles Halt USAF, was unearthed in the US by researchers. The Halt memorandum describes the alleged incident in some detail and is reprinted in the book where claims are also made that USAF personnel met and communicated with "beings". The book accuses the UK establishment of a "cover-up" to hide the detail of the alleged event in Rendlesham Forest. Text of correspondence on the subject between a retired Chief of Defence Staff, Lord Hill-Norton, and a previous MOD Minister is reprinted in the book.
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RESTRICTED/UNCLASSIFIED

1230

RESTRICTED/UNCLASSIFIED

RESTRICTED/UNCLASSIFIED
MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
TEMPORARY ENCLOSURE JACKET

34

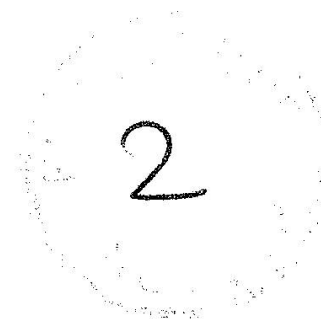
REGISTERED FILE No. D / DAS (SEC) 64/4		DIVISION / DIRECTORATE / BRANCH: DAS (SEC)	
Enclosure Jacket No ...10.....			
DATE OPENED (Date of First Enclosure) 22 JAN 01			
SUBJECT: PA 0355 L LORD HILL-NORTON REPLY BY BARONESS SYMONS			
Referred to	Date	Referred to	Date

USER NOTES

1. A MOD Form 262A (File Record Sheet) must be raised for each new Temporary Enclosure Jacket (TEJ) created. The TEJ should also include a minute sheet.
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RESTRICTED/UNCLASSIFIED

TEMPLATE TO BE USED FOR REPLY



Ministry of Defence

FRIDAY 26 JANUARY 2001

Admiral of The Fleet The Lord Hill-Norton GCB(X) (CB)

LORDS WRITTEN

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they are aware of any investigation of the 1980 Rendlesham Forest incident carried out by the United States Air Force, the Air Force Office of Special Investigations or any other United States agency. (HL322)

Minister replying Baroness Symons

The Ministry of Defence's knowledge of an investigation by the US authorities into the alleged incident in Rendlesham Forest in 1980 is limited to the information contained in the memorandum sent by Lt Col Halt USAF, Deputy Base Commander at RAF Woodbridge, to the RAF Liaison Officer at RAF Bentwaters on 13 January 1981.

January 01

PQ Ref 0355L

LORDS WRITTEN PARLIAMENTARY QUESTION - URGENT ACTION REQUIRED*Lead*

DATE FOR RETURN : 12:00 ON 22 January 2001
 PQ REFERENCE : PQ 0355L
 PQ TYPE : LORDS WRITTEN
 MINISTER REPLYING : -NOTFOUND-

Section 40

Info

LEAD BRANCH: : SEC (AS)
 COPY ADDRESSEE(S) :
 MDP Sec
 D NEWS
 CAS
 ACAS

*Info from
 DAS 3.doc.*

- The answer and background note must be authorised by a civil servant at Senior Civil Service level or a military officer at one-star level or above who is responsible for ensuring that the information and advice provided is accurate and reflects Departmental Instructions on answering PQs DCI GEN 150/97.
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Peer's **DETAIL:** Admiral of The Fleet The Lord Hill-Norton GCB

QUESTION

✓ To ask Her Majesty's Government To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they are aware of any investigation of the 1980 Rendlesham Forest incident carried out by the United States Air Force, the Air Force Office of Special Investigations or any other United States agency. (HL322)



DAS3
 Contact with
 reply and background
 note. Text cleared
 with USAF.

(DRAFT answer to P0355I - Admiral of The Fleet Lord Hill-Norton, CGB)

Question: To ask HMG whether they are aware of any investigation of the 1980 Rendlesham Forest incident carried out by the United States Air Force, the Air Force Office of Special Investigations or any other United States agency.

Answer: "The only evidence of investigation by the US authorities into the alleged incident in Rendlesham Forest in 1980 of which MOD is aware is contained in the memorandum sent by Lt Col Halt USAF, Deputy Base Commander at RAF Woodbridge, to the RAF Liaison Officer at RAF Bentwaters on 13 January 1981."

(Insert for PQ 0355L - Background material)

The MOD file on the alleged incident in Rendlesham Forest in 1980 (D/Sec(AS)/12/2/1) claims to have been opened as a registered file on 25 October 1982. However, as Sec(AS) did not exist until towards the end of 1984, or early in 1985 it is impossible to be certain when the file was actually created. An examination of the file that took place in 1998 confirmed that many of the papers it contained had been removed from their original location. The file cannot, therefore, be regarded with any degree of certainty as a full record of all papers available to MOD on the event that ever existed. A mention in a file note written in October 1983 to an unclassified USAF report is likely to be a reference to the "Halt memorandum" (Annex). The handwritten note also records that the US authorities did not carry out investigations (conducting interviews of personnel) but left MOD to carry out any inquiries it felt necessary.

When the Ministry of Defence was informed of the events which are alleged to have occurred at Rendlesham Forest in December 1980, all available substantiated evidence was looked at in the usual manner by those within the MOD/RAF with responsibility for air defence matters. The judgement was that there was no indication that a breach of the United Kingdom's air defences had occurred on the nights in question. As there was no evidence to substantiate an event of defence concern no further investigation into the matter was necessary.

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

RESTRICTED/UNCLASSIFIED



RESTRICTED/UNCLASSIFIED

RESTRICTED/UNCLASSIFIED
MINISTRY OF DEFENCE 33
TEMPORARY ENCLOSURE JACKET

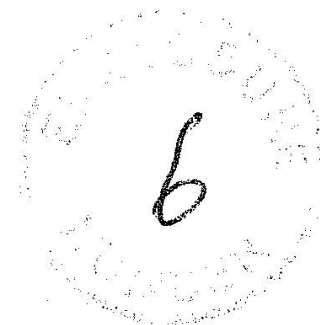
REGISTERED FILE No. D/DAS(SEC)64/4		DIVISION / DIRECTORATE / BRANCH: DAS (SEC)	
Enclosure Jacket No <u>9</u>			
DATE OPENED (Date of First Enclosure) <u>17 JAN 01</u>			
SUBJECT: PQ 0350L LORD HILL-NORTON REPLY BY BARONESS SYMONS			
Referred to	Date	Referred to	Date

USER NOTES

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RESTRICTED/UNCLASSIFIED

TEMPLATE TO BE USED FOR REPLY



Ministry of Defence

FRIDAY 26 JANUARY 2001

Admiral of The Fleet The Lord Hill-Norton GCB(X) (CB)

LORDS WRITTEN

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they are aware of any involvement by Special Branch personnel in the investigation of the 1980 Rendlesham Forest incident. (HL303)

Minister replying Baroness Symons

Special Branch officers may have been aware of the incident but would not have shown an interest unless there was evidence of a potential threat to national security. No such interest appears to have been shown.

18 January 01

PQ Ref 0350L

BACKGROUND NOTE

Linked to PQ 0348.

REMEMBER you are accountable for the accuracy and timeliness of the advice you provide. Departmental Instructions on answering PQs can be viewed on the CHOTS public area and on DAWN.

DRAFTED BY	:	Section 40	TEL:	Section 40
AUTHORISED BY	:		TEL:	
GRADE/RANK	:	B1		
BRANCH	:	DAS(Sec)		

DECLARATION: I have satisfied myself that the above answer and background note are in accordance with the Government's policy on answering PQs, Departmental instructions (DCI GEN 150/97), and the Open Government Code (DCI GEN 54/98).

LORDS WRITTEN PARLIAMENTARY QUESTION - URGENT ACTION REQUIRED

81991

DATE FOR RETURN : 12:00 ON 18 January 2001
 PQ REFERENCE : PQ 0350L
 PQ TYPE : LORDS WRITTEN
 MINISTER REPLYING : -NOTFOUND-

LEAD BRANCH: : SEC (AS)

COPY ADDRESSEE(S) :

MDP Sec

D (F&S)AIR 1

Defence Evaluation & Research

Head of Sec HSF

GVIU

D SEF POL

D NEWS

HD of MDP QQR

5

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Peer's DETAIL: Admiral of The Fleet The Lord Hill-Norton GCB

QUESTION

To ask Her Majesty's Government To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they are aware of any involvement by Special Branch personnel in the investigation of the 1980 Rendlesham Forest incident. (HL303)

assumed there
was an investigation



Home Office

Action Against Crime and Disorder Unit

50 Queen Anne's Gate, London SW1H 9AT

Switchboard **Section 40** Facsimile **Section 40** Direct Line **Section 40**

4

FAX

URGENT

To: **Section 40** DAS 4a (Sec) - Ministry of Defence

From: **Section 40**

Date: 18 January 2001

Time: 11.20am

Fax number: **Section 40**

Number of pages: 4
(including this one)

If any part of this fax is unclear please telephone: **Section 40**

PQs ON RENDLESHAM FOREST INCIDENT IN 1980

I have enclosed a response from Suffolk Constabulary concerning PQ's on the Rendlesham Forest incident in 1980. As you will see, they have enclosed a letter from Inspector **Section 40** **Section 40** Ms Bruni on the incident which concerns Suffolk police involvement at the time. This appears to be their only interest but I note that the contents of this letter was already included in the chapter of Ms Bruni's book which was enclosed. I think that the answer to this question will have to be that Suffolk Police did investigate incident (as per **Section 40** letter) at the time but that it has been impossible to locate the incident files for a more detailed response. Also most of the officers serving at the time have since retired including **Section 40**

I suggest that the answer to the Special Branch question is that they may have been aware at the time of the incident but would not have got involved due to there being no threat to national security

Section 40

Public Order Section

HO do not consider that a search of the files may be accomplished in the time allowed.

use of line from Suffolk Constabulary agreed by **Section 40** over the phone.

15.1.01
Section 40

22 Jan. Suffolk Police
18 Jan. Special Branch

18/01/2001 12:30

NO. 433

D02

18-JAN-2001 11:37

FROM EXECUTIVE SERVICES

TO

Section 40

F.01

SUFFOLK CONSTABULARY**FACSIMILE TRANSMISSION**

FORCE HEADQUARTERS
MARTLESHAM HEATH
IPSWICH IP5 3QS

Tel: Section 40 Fax: Section 40 E-mail: Section 40

DATE : 18 January 2001

TO : Home Office Action Against Crime
and Disorder Unit

FAX NO. : Section 40

FOR ATTENTION OF : Section 40 Public Order Section

ORIGINATOR : Section 40 Executive Services Manager

PAGES TO FOLLOW : 2

TEXT :

Section 40

As discussed please find a copy of a letter sent to Georgina Bruni in July 1999 which may be of use. As also discussed due to the period elapsed since the 'incident' it has not been possible to locate any files (due to them being stored in a different location). Furthermore the situation is exacerbated by the fact that most police officers serving at that time have since retired (including the author of the attached letter!).

I trust this will suffice.

Section 40

Executive Services Manager

Confidentiality Notice - this message is intended only for the addressee and may contain information that is confidential or privileged. Unauthorised use is strictly prohibited and may be unlawful. If you are not the addressee, you should not read, copy, disclose or otherwise use this message, except for the purpose of delivery to the addressee. Please telephone the above number if this fax is incomplete, illegible, or if you have received it in error.



18/01/2001 12:30

18-JAN-2001 11:38 FROM EXECUTIVE SERVICES

TO

Section 40

P.02

FORCE HEADQUARTERS, MARTLESHAM HEATH, IPSWICH IP5 7QS
 Tel: Ipswich Section 40 Telex: Section 40: Section 40
 All official correspondence should be addressed to the Chief Constable

Section 40 QPM

Chief Constable

Your Ref:

Our Ref:

28 July 1999

Dear Ms Bruni,

INCIDENT IN RENDLESHAM FOREST - DECEMBER 1980

I refer to your letter of 22 July 1999 in relation to a series of unusual events which allegedly occurred outside the perimeter of RAF Woodbridge, Suffolk, during the last week of December 1980.

A great deal of interest has understandably been generated in respect of this story, not least because of the apparent number and standing of witnesses. However, over the intervening years, various reports of the incident(s) seem to have taken on a life of their own to the extent that the 'sighting' details and corroborative evidence have been substantially embellished. This contrasts sharply with the views of the local police who attended at the time and did not perceive this occurrence as being anything unusual considering the festive significance of the date and expected high spirits.

Such a perception lends support to the lack of police documentary evidence and one needs to understand the minimalistic nature of rural policing in order to appreciate the answers which I will attempt to give to your questions.

- (1) Both Section 40 and Section 40 have retired from the force but, being a long standing friend of the former, I have spoken to him recently and at great length in response to other similar journalistic enquiries. He does not recall making any official report and there is no evidence that one was made.
- (2) Section 40 has confirmed that he and Section 40 were in the Law Enforcement Office at RAF Bentwaters when they were diverted to a 'higher priority' task at Otley post office. As rural night-duty officers they would have sole responsibility for policing a huge territorial area (approx 400 square miles) and would certainly have treated a post office burglary as more important than a recurrence of an earlier incident which was seen as somewhat frivolous.
- (3) Section 40 (also now retired) visit to the alleged landing site would not have generated more than a standard incident log unless he was convinced that something worth reporting had occurred. Section 40 discussed the matter with him and it appeared that all three officers were equally unimpressed with the nights events.
- (4) Civilian police officers were not employed in guarding the area surrounding the alleged landing site(s) or to deter access as there was no evidence to indicate that anything of immediate concern to the police had occurred.

continued

Georgina Bruni

18/01/2001 12:30

NO. 433

104

18-JAN-2001 11:38 FROM EXECUTIVE SERVICES

TO

Section 40

P.03

- (5) There is no documentary evidence that police officers were involved in similar incidents on 27-31 December that year and **Section 40** cannot recall any further requests for police attendance.
- (6) Special Branch officers ^{may} should have been aware of the incident(s) through having sight of the Incident Log(s) but would not have shown an interest unless there was evidence of a potential threat to national security. No such threat was evident.

I have tried to be as objective as possible with the answers provided and, like yourself, would undoubtedly be pleased to see a local incident such as this substantiated as an authentic 'UFO' experience. **Section 40** has similar views to myself and returned to the forest site in daylight in case he had missed some evidence in the darkness. There was nothing to be seen and he remains unconvinced that the occurrence was genuine. The immediate area was swept by powerful light beams from a landing beacon at RAF Bentwaters and the Orfordness lighthouse. I know from personal experience that at night, in certain weather and cloud conditions, these beams were very pronounced and certainly caused strange visual effects.

If you have any other query in respect of this subject I will be pleased to discuss the issues further. My direct dial telephone number is **Section 40**.

Yours sincerely,

Section 40

Inspector - Operations (Planning)

TOTAL P.03



Phone Nos.

Section 40

Sec. Section 40

From: Section 40 DAS 4a(Sec)
MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
Secretariat (Air Staff)
Room 8243, Main Building, Whitehall
LONDON SW1A 2HB

Telephone (Direct dial) Section 40
(Switchboard) 020 7218 9000
(Fax) Section 40
CHOTS - DAS4A(SEC)

FAX MESSAGE

TO: Section 40 Home office fax: Section 40

SUBJECT: PQ 0350L/PQ 0358L

DATE: 17 January 01

NUMBER OF PAGES INCLUDING THIS COVER:

Section 40

We spoke on the telephone.

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With thanks.

Signed **Section 40**

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3



From: **Section 40** DAS 4a(Sec)
MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
Secretariat (Air Staff)
Room 8243, Main Building, Whitehall
LONDON SW1A 2HB

Telephone (Direct dial) **Section 40**
(Switchboard) 020 7218 9000
(Fax) **Section 40**
CHOTS - DAS4A(SEC)

FAX MESSAGE

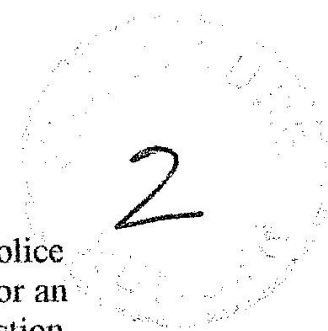
TO: **Section 40** (Home Office) **Section 40**
SUBJECT: PQ 0350L/PQ 0358L
DATE: 17 January 01
NUMBER OF PAGES INCLUDING THIS COVER: 26

Section 40

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With thanks.

Signed **Section 40**

LORDS WRITTEN PARLIAMENTARY QUESTION - URGENT ACTION REQUIRED

81991

DATE FOR RETURN : 12:00 ON 18 January 2001
 PQ REFERENCE : PQ 0350L
 PQ TYPE : LORDS WRITTEN
 MINISTER REPLYING : -NOTFOUND-

LEAD BRANCH: : SEC (AS)
 COPY ADDRESSEE(S) :
 MDP Sec
 D (F&S)AIR 1
 Defence Evaluation& Research
 Head of Sec HSF
 GVIU
 D SEF POL
 D NEWS
 HD of MDP QQR

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Peer's **DETAIL:** Admiral of The Fleet The Lord Hill-Norton GCB

QUESTION

To ask Her Majesty's Government To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they are aware of any involvement by Special Branch personnel in the investigation of the 1980 Rendlesham Forest incident.
 (HL303)

LORDS WRITTEN PARLIAMENTARY QUESTION - URGENT ACTION REQUIRED

DATE FOR RETURN : 12:00 ON 22 January 2001
 PQ REFERENCE : PQ 0358L
 PQ TYPE : LORDS WRITTEN
 MINISTER REPLYING : -NOTFOUND-

Section 40

LEAD BRANCH: : SEC (AS)
 COPY ADDRESSEE(S) :
 MDP Sec
 D NEWS
 CAS
 ACAS

Lead
Info

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- Those contributing information for PQ answers and background notes are responsible for ensuring the information is accurate.
- The attached checklist should be used by those drafting PQ answers and background material, those contributing information and those responsible for authorising the answer and background note as an aid to ensuring that departmental policy is adhered to.
- If you or others concerned are uncertain about how PQs are answered seek advice from a senior civil servant in or closely associated with your area.

Peer's **DETAIL:** Admiral of The Fleet The Lord Hill-Norton GCB

QUESTION

To ask Her Majesty's Government To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they are aware of any involvement in the 1980 Rendlesham Forest incident by either Ministry of Defence Police or personnel from the Suffolk Constabulary. (HL321)

EXTRACT FROM THE BOOK 'YOU CAN'T TELL THE PEOPLE'
BY GEORGINA BRUNI

THE POLICE FILE

Wherever I turned there were hints that the Suffolk Constabulary were not only involved in the Rendlesham Forest incident but also its cover-up. Researchers and journalists complained at having come up against a wall of silence when trying to question the Woodbridge police, and it was not until years later that one of the police officers spoke publicly, if only to dismiss the 'lights' as being nothing more than the beam from the nearby lighthouse. I was warned that trying to get anywhere with the Woodbridge police might be very difficult. Even veteran defence journalist Chuck de Caro failed to interview the officer who claimed the ground indentations at the landing site were mere animal scratchings. The Suffolk Constabulary wrote to science writer Ian Ridpath suggesting that nothing could be gained by trying to contact the officers concerned. But undeterred, I was going to give it my best shot.

According to local police records, the first reported sighting was received at precisely 04.11 hrs on the morning of 26 December. This was almost five hours after the initial sighting had been reported and the men had long since returned to the base. The call was made to the head office of the Suffolk Constabulary at Martlesham Heath. A staff member from RAF Bentwaters told the officer on duty that there were 'lights in the woods over near Woodbridge', and asked if there were any reports of a downed aircraft. Martlesham Heath checked with Air Traffic Control at West Drayton and was told there was no knowledge of any aircraft in the area to coincide with the current sightings. However, the officer was briefed on earlier sightings that had already caused quite a stir in media circles. Martlesham

then called the Woodbridge police station, which in turn alerted their night patrol.

On 6 July 1997, almost seventeen years after the call was made to Martlesham Heath Constabulary, a man calling himself Chris Arnold contacted the UK UFO Network, run by ufologists Raine and Crow, and claimed that he was the airman who had called the civilian police. Andy Tugby, a.k.a. Crow, explained that Arnold had shown up out of the blue claiming they had all been 'well and truly snookered by Halt and his buddies'. I managed to trace Arnold, who had obviously read about the case, but when I posed questions to him he was unusually evasive, considering he had made such wild claims to Raine and Crow. I contacted Colonel Halt, who, as the deputy base commander at the time of the incident, might have remembered him. Halt confirmed Arnold had been a member of Law Enforcement at RAF Woodbridge but was not involved in the actual incident. From reading Arnold's statement it is obvious he has a dislike for some of the witnesses, namely Halt and Burroughs. Arnold actually puts himself in the picture by claiming to have been involved in the 'non-event', but his testimony appears to me to be a mix and match of various stories passed down over the years, and not even the sceptics seem prepared to accept it. I certainly cannot take Arnold's critique seriously because, apart from his comments on the witnesses, there are several discrepancies, which are important enough to question his own alleged involvement.

In the early hours of 26 December PC Dave King and PC Martin Brophy were in their police vehicle heading towards RAF Bentwaters. This was part of their regular nightly visit to the USAF Law Enforcement desk. Being Christmas night it was relatively quiet and they were not expecting much activity, if any, before they went off duty later that morning. So they were surprised when a call came through on their radio instructing them to proceed to RAF Woodbridge to investigate some unexplained lights over Rendlesham Forest. It would take the officers another twenty minutes or so to arrive at the Woodbridge east gate, and it would

be coming up to 05.00 hrs before they started trekking through the forest. Dave King recounted what took place during that morning:

It was the early morning of the 26 December. It was a quiet, mild night and there was nothing going on in the area. I don't know if you are aware of this but, for the police, Christmas Day is the quietest night of the year . . . My partner and I were out on patrol when we received a call to proceed to Woodbridge, the east gate, to check out a report of something going on in the forest. We were actually on our way to visit the Bentwaters Law Enforcement desk when the call came through. When we arrived at the Bentwaters base we were escorted through the back gate to the east-gate sentry post and were then taken to the forest by some security policemen. We had to follow their vehicle. They took us towards the spot where they said the other SPs had gone and we were told they were still out there. We had to park the car and walk on foot. The Americans didn't come with us. We walked about half a mile into the forest toward the direction we were pointed in, but we didn't see any lights out there except the lighthouse and there were no Americans out there, not a soul. We walked for some thirty minutes. If you look on the forest area as being a square foot then we must have covered only a square inch of it . . . We didn't report to the base because when we got back to our car there was no one there so we just left and went home.

I asked King if he had passed any houses or buildings in the forest but he could only remember seeing some cottages beside the Woodbridge flightline. These were most probably Foley Cottages. King explained that this was not his usual patch and although he knew Woodbridge very well, he did not tend to go into the forest. I wondered if he had gone straight ahead, towards the farmer's field near Capel Green, which would have been separated from the forest by wire fencing. But he did not recall seeing any field or fencing.

King and Brophy reported they had not seen anything unusual in the forest and concluded that the Americans had confused the lights with the Orfordness lighthouse. I told King that several

witnesses had testified to seeing lights other than the lighthouse, including a craft of some kind. I also pointed out that the first sighting was probably around 23.30 hrs, and wondered if it were possible that something was there before he arrived and had long since gone. 'It's possible. We were called out late and that's five hours after that. I can only report what I saw when I was there,' said King.

When I asked him what the Americans were doing out in the forest in the first place, he agreed that in normal circumstances they would never have investigated off their patch without consulting the police. 'Not one inch,' he told me. When I mentioned that the Americans had later put up roadblocks near the alleged landing site, he was not aware of it, but pointed out that this would have been a private road belonging to the Forestry Commission, and the police would not have been notified had that been the case.

At 10.30 hrs that same morning, RAF Bentwaters called the Suffolk Constabulary headquarters for a second time. They wanted to report that they had found a site where a craft of some sort could have landed. Ian Ridpath, who took an interest in the case in 1983, wrote to the chief constable at Martlesham Heath in November of that year, requesting information on the Suffolk Constabulary's alleged involvement. He received a reply stating that an officer had attended and the area involved did bear three marks of an indeterminate pattern, but the marks were of no depth and the attending officer thought an animal could have made them.

King recalls seeing the message in the police log:

When I went on duty the next day I saw another message in the log that had come from RAF Bentwaters at around 10 a.m. on 26 December. It said they thought they had found the place where the UFO had landed. Another police officer went out to the site that morning but he found nothing.

On the second night of the sightings (26/27), PC Dave King and PC Martin Brophy were in the Law Enforcement Office at Bentwaters when the report came in. Dave King recalls the incident: