

It was a frosty night. I was doing my routine check with the Law Enforcement desk on RAF Bentwaters. We did that every night. We checked in with them and exchanged information. While I was there another report came in on the radio, a pocket radio, saying that there were lights in the forest at the exact same spot as the previous night. This would now be the early hours of the 27th. I was just about to go and have a look, thinking I might see something this time, when I got an emergency call to attend to a post office break-in about ten miles away at Otley.

I asked King if there was a report filed in the police log for this sighting.

No, we didn't bother with it; we just thought they were bored watching their planes, and besides we had an emergency on. If that happened today the police wouldn't have time to mess around with it. It was a quiet time due to Christmas so there wasn't much going on. There were rumours that the Americans had set up searchlights on that second night waiting for it to return, but I don't believe it.

The fact that PC King did not take the incident seriously enough to at least make a report, resulting in it not being recorded in the police log, is somewhat disturbing. I pointed this out to him, but he considered the post office break-in to be an emergency and the sighting of lights in Rendlesham Forest to be of little consequence. In fact, I was curious to know more about the post office break-in, and why King had been called to an incident ten miles away. I thought, surely there must have been a police station at Otley, where the break-in had occurred, or at least closer to the incident than he was. King agreed this was a distance away, although it was not entirely unusual that Woodbridge police would be called to investigate further afield. Nevertheless, he has confirmed that patrols were off base for a second night, and even though there is no evidence to suggest that a landing of any kind took place that night, we know there were unidentified lights in the sky over Woodbridge.

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King and Brophy finished their night shifts on the morning of 27 December, when they went on break for a few days. If, as has been suggested, the Woodbridge police were involved in the second major encounter, it has been a well-kept secret. Through the help of Malcolm Zickler, who was in charge of the police forces at the bases, I was able to contact retired Police Superintendent George Plume, who was the officer in charge of the Woodbridge police station during that period. Plume said he was surprised to hear from me because no one had contacted him about the case in eighteen years. I soon realized, however, that he was not on duty at any time during the events because he only worked the day shift from 08.00-18.00 hrs. Of course, he was aware that something unusual had occurred, but reminded me that it was a long time ago, and in order to assist me he would need the names of the officers concerned.

If George Plume needed names I had to find them. On one of my trips to Woodbridge I decided to pay a visit to the local police station. Being brought up in the country I knew they were always willing to help visitors and were known to be generous with advice. Woodbridge station looked like any other small country police station: you walk into the small reception, ring the bell and out pops the friendly bobby. The officer was indeed very friendly, and when I began asking him about the Rendlesham Forest incident and wanted to know the names of the police officers involved, he seemed familiar with the case and gave me the names of Dave King and Martin Brophy. Having explained that I had already interviewed King and was aware of Brophy, I asked for the names of the other officers involved. Surprisingly, he offered the name of Brian Creswell, and I was told that he had recently retired from the force and was still living locally. The officer could not remember the names of any other policemen who might have been involved, so I asked him if he would enquire of his colleagues. He disappeared into the back office and after what seemed like a very long time, returned with a look of shock on his face. He was positively white! Something had happened in the back office and, whatever it was, it had caused him to clam up. The friendly police officer had suddenly become very aggressive.



'There is no use you trying to contact him because he won't discuss it,' he stated. 'Contact who? Brian Creswell?' I asked. 'He doesn't want to talk about it, so there is no point you trying to get in touch with him,' he continued. I could see he was very agitated and was probably angry because he had already revealed too much. I decided to change the subject slightly and ask if it were possible to view the incident log for that particular period, to which he replied, 'Are you recording this?' I thought this was an odd sort of question. Indeed, why would he be concerned about me recording the conversation? Realizing I was not getting anywhere, I asked if he would summon one of the other officers to talk to me, but he flatly refused, which I found even more odd. After all, it was a quiet police station and I was requesting assistance.

I was not surprised to learn that the log books were no longer available, but according to George Plume, the police force had changed over to computers in 1975 and therefore records of that period should still be stored somewhere. I explained this to the police officer, only to be told that I would need to contact the head office at Martlesham Heath. I had a better idea. Armed with a name, I contacted Plume. He remembered Brian Creswell and told me he was living in Ipswich. Creswell had retired three years earlier, after thirty-three years' honourable service with Her Majesty's police force. Apparently, his colleagues were known to call him 'Monster', probably because he is over six feet tall. Plume suggested I try calling him but I explained that his number was unlisted. He seemed to think it was unusual for a rural police officer, retired or otherwise, to be listed as ex-directory. However, Plume was able to update me on Martin Brophy. PC Brophy had retired a couple of years after the incident and being very ambitious had moved to a civilian job, possibly with a technology company, and was last known to be living near RAF Mildenhall.

George Plume had been a great find, and as a former senior police officer he was able to offer valuable tips that helped with my investigation. But he reminded me of the USAF commanders I had spoken to. They were all very willing to assist in my enquiries,

provided I did not ask too many questions about the incident itself. This was very difficult considering that was my main reason for contacting them in the first place. Plume seemed to think I was delving too deep and gave me a friendly warning to be careful. There had been several of these friendly warnings, mostly from USAF commanders, but his was especially interesting, inasmuch as it came from a man who had been in charge of the Woodbridge police when all this was going on. As with the others, his warning was in no way threatening: on the contrary it was very well meant. It was nice to know that so many people were concerned about my welfare, but it only made me realize that something unusual must have occurred, and maybe I really was getting too close for comfort.

I decided to contact Dave King again. I wanted to find out what he knew about Brian Creswell's involvement. Thinking that Creswell might have been one of the officers called out during the second landing, I was surprised to learn that he was the police officer who had visited the landing site and examined the ground indentations the day after the initial incident. 'He won't talk to you, he refuses to talk to anyone about it,' said King. Where had I heard that before? I asked King why Creswell was being so secretive. I considered that if he had finished his day shift on the 26th, there was a possibility he might have been one of the officers called out during night duty between 27 and 29 December. King thought it was also possible. It just seemed strange that he would be so evasive if all he did was examine a few rabbit scratchings.

It would take me several months to locate Brian Creswell, and I was not convinced he would not want to talk to me. In spite of warnings that witnesses would not cooperate, most turned out to be very helpful, but I was certainly wrong about Creswell. The lady who answered the telephone took my name and a minute later he was on the line. I had barely introduced myself when he began shouting down the phone in a very determined gruff voice. Now I know why Woodbridge had a low crime rate for so long. You would not want to get on the wrong side of PC Creswell!

I know who you are. I know you have been trying to find me. I know you want to talk to me and I don't want to talk to you. I have nothing to say to you, but I do want to know who gave you my number because I am ex-directory.

When I told him his uncle had given me the number, he would not believe me, and I thought it was just as well he was not aware that I had his work number too, which incidentally was given to me by another retired police officer of the same surname. At this stage I expected him to slam down the receiver, but he wanted me to know that the incident was built up over nothing but rubbish. It was useless trying to ask any questions because these were overpowered by his yelling. Realizing I only had a few seconds with this man, I threw in my ace and told him I had a photograph of a police officer examining the alleged landing site and I had reason to believe it was him. He wanted to know where I had got the photograph, but then he answered his own question by suggesting it must have come from the Americans. I explained that I only wanted to talk to him about his visit to the forest and his conclusion that the ground indentations he had examined were nothing more than animal scratchings. He was clearly not going to discuss it. 'I know what I saw. I know what I did and I'm not giving you any information,' he stated. I apologized for the inconvenience and bid him farewell. A few minutes later he returned my call. There was something he wanted me to know. He had retired from the police force after thirty-three years and, contrary to rumours, had not become an alcoholic but was almost teetotal. I realized he was referring to local rumours and assured him I was not interested in them and they should not concern him either, pointing out that they were related to two officers who had allegedly been involved in the second major incident. With that he offered an apology for the way he had reacted and the call was terminated. In all the time I had been working on this case I had never come across anybody who was so reluctant to talk about it.

According to witness Jim Penniston, the police officer who

investigated the landing site was adamant that he was not going to report anything other than that they were animal scratchings. When Penniston described the UFO to him, the officer refused to write it in his report. From what he told me, Penniston was clearly bothered by what he thought was the police officer's apparent lack of interest in the evidence; I have often wondered what would have happened if a full police report had been written based on Penniston's first-hand encounter with a UFO. I wished there had been an opportunity to discuss this with Cresswell.

Malcolm Zickler assured me there was a British police presence on Bentwaters. He called it a 'subdivision', and he is in no doubt that these officers were fully aware of the incident. It turned out that George Plume was stationed at Bentwaters for several years after his retirement, but was not too happy when I discovered this, which I believe he thought was none of my business. Zickler explained that there were always one or two British police officers on the base, and after-hours they would be called if there were any civilian visitors. Sometimes there were those who drank too much and they apparently had girl problems. Zickler recounted, 'Some of the girls were there to look for husbands, and there were those who were looking for something else – the Colchester lot. So we had to call them if there were problems.'

I met Nick Ryan at a social function I attended at the Bulgarian Ambassador's home in London. Nick was with the elite Air Rescue and Recovery Squadron, based at RAF Woodbridge from 1982 to 1984. I spent the evening drilling him on the Rendlesham Forest incident, the bases and especially the ARRS. He confirmed that at least one British police liaison officer was stationed at Bentwaters during office hours. I asked him if they would have been involved in the incident.

The British civilian police would not have been notified about this incident until it was over. Under no circumstances would we have involved the civilian police. We would call them afterwards to find out if they had any reports, it was a way of finding out if any civilians were involved. But we would not ask for assistance on



something like this. The MOD Police are responsible for the areas surrounding any USAF bases in Britain. If need be, they would be required to guard the area around the perimeters.

However, Major Edward Drury told me outright that the British civil police were involved in the second incident but could not supply me with names. He even remarked that it was a local police officer he was friendly with who had told him there was a D-Notice slammed on the incident. (A D-Notice is a government instruction given to the press requesting them not to publish because it involves national security.)

Woodbridge resident Gerry Harris had a story to tell about the civilian police. Soon after his own sighting he became curious, and following his conversation with some of the foresters he decided the best way to find out was to visit the area for himself. On 29 December he was passing the east-gate entrance to the Woodbridge base when he noticed a British policeman and an American security policeman guarding the entrance to a forest logging path. After parking his van, he approached the police officer to tell him of his intention to visit the forest to see what was going on. As incredible as it may seem, Harris claims the American refused to allow him access. He argued that it was a public footpath and he had a right to enter but was told, in no uncertain words, 'Go away.' Not easily discouraged, he moved forward only to see the American cock his M-16 rifle and to hear the British policeman warn him, 'You better do as he says.' One burning question has to be, who was the British police officer? If Harris's recollection of events is correct it poses some even more important questions: (a) why was a USAF security policeman guarding British territory? (b) Why was the USAF security policeman armed on British territory? (c) Why was a USAF security policeman allowed to threaten a British citizen on British territory?

It has been a difficult task trying to find the names of the policemen who would have been on night duty during the rest of Christmas week. Over the years the Suffolk Constabulary appear to



have gone to great lengths to protect the identity of these officers. As a result, local rumours were invented and these are what appear to have upset Brian Creswell. The gist of the tales is that one of the officers was supposed to have been so disturbed by the incident that he ended up in a mental institution. The other was said to have suffered severe shock and become an alcoholic. I had already checked out these stories and knew they were nothing but nonsense. Whilst I admit that I have not been able to trace either of these men, none of the local policemen I have spoken to appears to know anything about these claims. I realize the police have been very cagey about this case, and it is possible that two local policemen were involved, but I am sure word of them having left the force in such strange circumstances would be known locally. George Plume thought the stories were very amusing, but insisted that there was not a grain of truth to them. 'I would have known if that had happened. None of the men left the force for those reasons,' he exclaimed. I could not help wondering if it was Plume who had forewarned Brian Creswell about these stories and my interest in trying to contact him. Either that or someone was listening in on my phone line.

Dave King does not believe there was any cover-up by the Suffolk Police. He told me:

I didn't know this was a story until I first heard about that book *Skycrash* a few years later. The reason those researchers never heard from us was because they got the date wrong. They came to the police station saying it was the 27th, but there wasn't a log of it for that day. There was no cover-up from us.

It is very interesting that no further incidents were reported in the Woodbridge police log, especially considering the police visited the bases every night. One would assume that whoever was on duty during the second major incident must have known what was going on. Did they think the same as King, that it was nothing of any importance or are they staying silent for other reasons?

Adrian Bustinza recalls the British police being involved in the second incident. He explained to me what he witnessed:

The British police weren't there at the beginning. I was on my way back to the forest, after filling the light-all in Woodbridge, and I saw two British policemen blocking the road into the forest. Their vehicle was parked on the road and they were there to make sure no civilians went in.

When I asked him if he had seen any British police officers near the landing site, he was certain they never went near the UFO or into the forest at any time. Apparently, they stayed on the perimeter of the forest, near the road.

Adrian Bustinza's memory of the British police being responsible for keeping civilians out of the way corresponds with the testimony of Gerry Harris, who claims they were blocking the same entrance on 29 December. It stands to reason that the local police would know if there was such an incident taking place. After all, this was a much bigger event than the initial encounter, where only a handful of US personnel were involved. On this particular night, or early morning, we are told that convoys of vehicles were moving through the Suffolk roads heading for Rendlesham Forest. What were the Woodbridge police doing during all of this? With such a large operation going on they must have known about it. So why are they denying it? Could it be that they were under strict orders to stay quiet because the incident was a threat to national security? Or maybe they were told it was a top-secret exercise. According to a police spokesman, there would have been a skeleton staff on duty during the Christmas period, as it was such a quiet time. Could it be that the local police were simply uninformed, or are there police officers out there who know something of the matter but are unable to discuss it because they have signed the Official Secrets Act?

If the Woodbridge police were involved, one wonders what they told the press. Journalists are known to call the local police station every day to pick up the latest news stories. In rural areas they will hear everything from Mrs Jones's cat stuck up a tree to a burglary in

the High Street. If there is a serious accident or crime, very often one of the police officers will tip off a journalist whom he is familiar with. So what happened with this particular incident? Why was it not on the front pages of the East Anglian newspapers or mentioned in the national press? Searching through decades of press reports referring to the Suffolk installations, I discovered that several USAF planes had crashed in the area. Surely if the Rendlesham Forest incident involved a plane crash it would have been reported in the local press along with the other reports. But there was no mention of an accident occurring in Woodbridge during that month.

A few months after I spoke to Dave King, the retired police officer visited Rendlesham Forest and retraced his steps of 26 December. He explained that it was nothing like it had been in 1980, when the trees were up to eighty feet tall. Since then, of course, the severe storm of 1987 that hit the British Isles had destroyed a large part of the forest. I was pleased to hear that King had made this trip, and even more so when he told me that he was not so sure it was the lighthouse the witnesses had been referring to after all. This was partly due to the call he had received from Marjorie Wright, a local woman who told him about her father's sighting, explaining that it could not have been a lighthouse. The fact that King had a change of mind was a real breakthrough, because his original lighthouse theory had been damaging to the authenticity of this case. It came as a surprise then that, following my interviews with King, the Suffolk Constabulary had contacted him and were now claiming he was still unconvinced that the 'occurrence' was genuine.

I had decided to write to the chief constable of the Suffolk Police because I wanted to know what their involvement was, if any, and whether Special Branch was aware of the situation. Because it was so long since the incident had occurred, I thought it was necessary to offer as much information as possible. I wanted to make sure they knew my information was not based on rumour.

I received a prompt reply from Inspector Mike Topliss and was

very impressed that he had taken the time and trouble to reply in such detail.

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 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 your questions.

(1) Both PC King and PC Brophy 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 similar journalistic enquiries. He does not recall making any official report and there is no evidence that one was made.

(2) Dave King has confirmed that he and PC Brophy 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) PC Brian Creswell's (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. PC King had discussed the matter with him and it appeared that all three officers were equally unimpressed with the night's 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.

(5) There is no documentary evidence that police officers were involved in similar incidents on 27-31 December that year and PC King could not 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. PC King holds 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 issue further. My direct dial telephone number is —.

Yours sincerely

[signed]

Mike Topliss

Inspector - Operations (Planning)



Apart from Dave King's verbal recollection of the 26 December incident, the Suffolk Police claim they were not involved in any further events. As there appears to be no official documentation at Martlesham Heath, Inspector Topliss had interviewed Dave King in order to find answers to my questions. However, King was on his break during the rest of that week and having interviewed him myself I know he has no personal knowledge of what occurred after he went off duty.

I cannot blame Inspector Topliss for thinking there was nothing to the case, especially if there is no documented evidence available in the Martlesham police records for him to refer to. Unless the police officers who were allegedly involved in the incident or its aftermath come forward, then it is unlikely we will progress further in this enquiry. Topliss agrees with Dave King that the Suffolk Constabulary were in no way involved in a cover-up. However, he suggested the officers could be reluctant to discuss the case in general because they are afraid it might be classed as secret, or because they were discouraged to talk to the press.

Also, on 22 July 1999, I wrote to the secretariat of the Ministry of Defence Police. I wanted to know if they were involved in the incident. On 17 August I was surprised to receive a reply from the chief of the department, Paul A. Crowther, whose title is Agency Secretary and Director of Finance and Administration.

*D/DMP/36/2/7 (262/99)*

17th August 1999

Dear Ms Bruni

Thank you for your letter dated 22nd July 1999, requesting information about an incident in Rendlesham Forest in 1980. With regard to your request, we have been unable to find any reference to the incident in files held by our Operations and CID departments. However, it is worth noting that files of this age are not normally held centrally – they are either destroyed or archived. Several of the more senior officers of the Force have

however been contacted with regard to the presence of an MDP detachment at Woodbridge in 1980. It would appear that RAF Woodbridge did not sustain its own detachment; rather it was the subject of infrequent visits by MDP officers stationed elsewhere in Suffolk. There is no recollection of the reporting of such an incident.

The Ministry of Defence Police Agency, like all Government Departments and Agencies, is bound by the Code of Practice on Access to Government Information. This means that we are committed to providing you with the information you require, as long as it is not exempt under the Code. If you wish to make a complaint that your request for information has not been properly dealt with, you should appeal to: Ministry of Defence, OMD14, Room 617, Northumberland House, Northumberland Avenue, London WC2N 5BP.

Yours sincerely

[signed]

P. A. Crowther

I am grateful to Paul Crowther for taking the trouble to investigate and respond to my questions. Nevertheless, the fact that, according to the more senior officers, there was no recollection of such an event does not surprise me. This case is too big, and nobody from the Ministry of Defence, retired or otherwise, is willing to openly discuss it. If any police were involved it might have been the MOD Police. According to local resident Gary Collins, the Ministry of Defence owned the road that separated RAF Woodbridge from the landing sites. This would certainly account for why the Americans were allowed to block the road and guard the perimeter of the forest, because when they leased the bases from the Ministry of Defence, they probably had rights to the road as well. Apart from a different badge, the MOD Police uniform is very similar to the regular force uniform and their vehicles have 'Police' on the side, so witnesses may have confused them with the Suffolk Constabulary.

I read the MOD Police reply to a Ministry of Defence source

whom I have known for many years, and he was surprised to hear that I had received a response from the top man of the department. 'It must be very sensitive to have been considered by the most senior person. You must have worried them. Maybe this case warrants a public enquiry,' he said. Maybe it does.

If Special Branch were involved in the investigation, they certainly cannot admit to it because, by doing so, it would indicate that there had been a threat to national security. As Inspector Topliss points out, Special Branch officers should have been aware if anything had occurred through having sight of the incident log. However, we know that the Woodbridge police log did not record any further incidents; therefore we must consider whether they blundered in this case. The Suffolk Constabulary either took the incident seriously enough to inform Special Branch or, as Topliss suggests, it was dismissed as 'frivolous'. But let us not forget that Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher had just warned Russia to keep out of the Polish crisis, the IRA were threatening to bomb Britain, and unidentified flying objects were playing havoc on the perimeter of a USAF NATO base with Bentwaters armed to its teeth in nuclear weapons. Under the circumstances, are we really expected to believe that Special Branch would not have a reason to investigate? We can forgive the Woodbridge police for thinking that a post-office break-in was far more important than a UFO report near a military base, but surely someone would have been responsible for investigating the incident? Apart from the Ministry of Defence, who claimed to have only checked the radar reports, no government or military department either side of the Atlantic is taking any responsibility for it. The fact that 'unidentifieds' were hovering over RAF Woodbridge for several hours on at least three consecutive nights, even landing in the nearby forest, is, in my opinion, a definite threat to national security. This is especially so when one considers that RAF Bentwaters deployed nuclear weapons.

According to a fact sheet on the Metropolitan Police, Special Branch was formed as 'The Special Irish Branch' in 1883 to combat the threat from the Fenian movement, whose aim was independence

in Ireland, and who had been responsible for a series of explosions in London. The Special Irish Branch later became known as the 'Special Branch', and extended work into royalty protection with Queen Victoria's Jubilee. While Special Branch is a division of the police force, in practice it coordinates closely with MI5, and has continued to develop its role as a conduit of information and intelligence for the Metropolitan Police and Security Service.

I wondered if MI5 might have had an interest in the Rendlesham Forest incident. I was in for a surprise, inasmuch as MI5 had a presence at Martlesham Heath for a number of years. Martlesham Heath, just a few miles from Woodbridge, was the headquarters of the Suffolk Constabulary, the headquarters of the Suffolk Special Branch and certain MI5 operations. According to former MI5 agent Peter Wright, the agency had a major post office laboratory based there. In his infamous book, *Spycatcher*, Wright describes how the MI5 infiltrated public mail. The headquarters of this special outpost, known as the 'Post Office Special Investigations Unit', was based near St Paul's in London, where MI5 had a suite of rooms on the first floor run by MI5 agent and ex-military officer Major Denham. This unit specialized in mail tampering and telephone tapping. Apparently, each major sorting office and exchange in the country had, and probably still has, a 'Special Investigations Unit Room'. The headquarters were later moved to Martlesham Heath where a special post office laboratory was set up. Although St Paul's was still in use, if a letter which had been opened needed special attention, it was dispatched by motorcycle courier up to the Suffolk office. It seems there was quite a set-up at Martlesham Heath.

It is worth mentioning that, according to the Bentwaters Staff Judge Advocate, Lieutenant Colonel Arnold I. Persky, the British authorities, including the local police, would have been contacted and expected to accompany the USAF patrols to the scene of the incident. Although Persky was aware that there had been an incident he assured me that if it had concerned an American air crash on British territory someone from his office would have been

summoned to investigate, in case the USAF were charged with damages to any property. Persky was sure that the British authorities were alerted and that they went to the forest sometime during the incident. He also thinks that British police were on the scene.



\*\*\*\*\* -COMM. JOURNAL- \*\*\*\*\* DATE 17-JAN-2001 \*\*\*\*\* TIME 12:17 \*\*\* P.01

MODE = MEMORY TRANSMISSION

START=17-JAN 12:10

END=17-JAN 12:17

FILE NO. = 060

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-SECRETARIAT (AIR STAFF) -

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Section 40

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

Telephone (Direct dial) Section 40  
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 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

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 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.

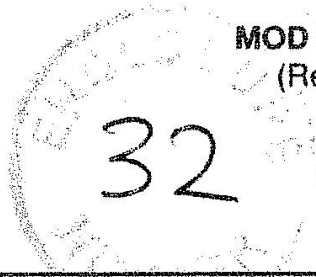
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**TEMPORARY ENCLOSURE JACKET**

MOD Form 174D  
 (Revised 5/99)



<p><b>REGISTERED FILE No.</b>                  D/DAS(SEC) 69/4</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Enclosure Jacket No ...8.....</p> <p><b>DATE OPENED</b> (Date of First Enclosure)                  .....16 JAN 2001.....</p>	<p><b>DIVISION / DIRECTORATE / BRANCH:</b></p> <p style="text-align: center; font-size: 1.5em;">DAS(SEC)</p>		
<p><b>SUBJECT:</b> PG 0349L                  LORD HILL - NORTON                  REPLY BY BARONESS SYMONS</p>			
Referred to	Date	Referred to	Date

**USER NOTES**

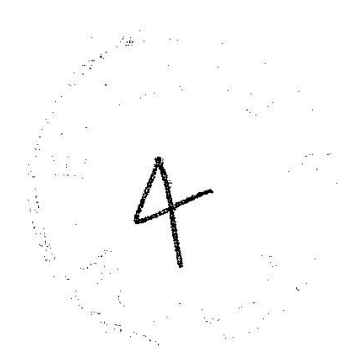
1. A MOD Form 262A (File Record Sheet) must be raised for each new Temporary Enclosure Jacket (TEJ) created. The TEJ should also include a minute sheet.
2. When a TEJ is incorporated into the parent file it should be placed in the file in date order (according to the date of the last action on the TEJ) 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 uncorrelated targets tracked on radar in November or December 1980; and whether they will give details of any such incidents. (HL302)

Minister replying Baroness Symons

Records dating from 1980 no longer exist. Paper records are retained for a period of three years before being destroyed. Recordings of radar data are retained for a period of thirty days prior to re-use of the recording medium.

18 January 01

PQ Ref 0349L

**BACKGROUND NOTE**

Linked to Background Note for 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).

Section 40  
[Redacted Signature Area]

*DAS/AD*  
*12/1/2001*



**LORDS WRITTEN PARLIAMENTARY QUESTION - URGENT ACTION REQUIRED**

DATE FOR RETURN : 12:00 ON 18 January 2001  
 PQ REFERENCE : PQ 0349L  
 PQ TYPE : LORDS WRITTEN  
 MINISTER REPLYING : -NOTFOUND-

LEAD BRANCH: : SEC (AS)  
 COPY ADDRESSEE(S) :  
 DI(Sec)  
 Defence Evaluation & Research  
 GVIU  
 D SEF POL  
 D NEWS

DAO  
 (2 Gp STC)



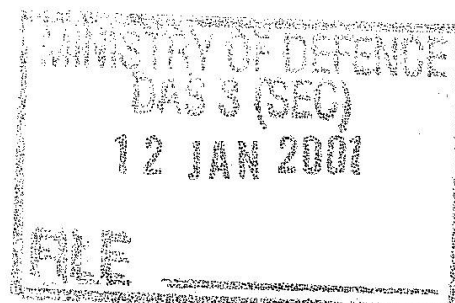
- The answer and background note must be authorised by a civil servant at Senior Civil Service level or a military officer at one-star level or above who is responsible for ensuring that the information and advice provided is accurate and reflects Departmental Instructions on answering PQs DCI GEN 150/97.
- 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 uncorrelated targets tracked on radar in November or December 1980; and whether they will give details of any such incidents. (HL302)

1980



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



REPLY TO  
 ATTN OF: CD

13 Jan 81

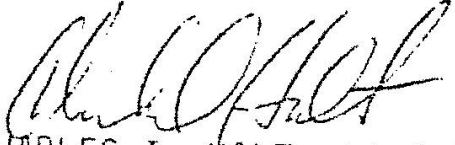
SUBJECT: Unexplained Lights

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.

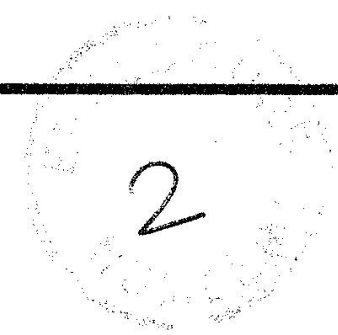
3. Later in the night a red sun-like light was seen through the trees. It moved about and pulsed. At one point it appeared to throw off glowing particles and then broke into five separate white objects and then disappeared. Immediately thereafter, three star-like objects were noticed in the sky, two 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

**DAS4A1(SEC)**

**From:** 2GP-ISTAR2-2A-SO2  
**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:

- a. Our highest classification for UFO documents is RESTRICTED.

*Uncorrelated Targets.*

- 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

*Reply: There are no records dating back to 1980.*

Sqn Ld, Section 40  
 SO2 ASACS Ops1  
 Ext 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'

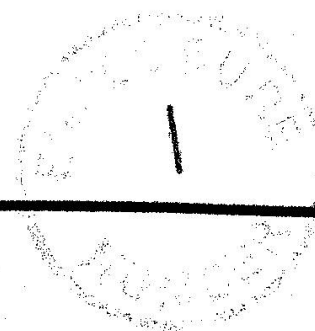
I doubt we have any records remaining for this period, but we must go through the motions. Grateful therefore if you could check down the organisation to see if there are any files or logbooks that go back to 1980 and whether any record exists of such activity. On the AD side could you also check with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



**DAS4A1(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

*Always produce for  
 a log to be maintained*

**DAS4A1(SEC)**

---

**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'

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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

**Section 40**

DAO ADGE1



	All persons ILO unemployed of working age (thousands) of which (percentage) with highest qualification <sup>1</sup>	Degree or other higher education	'A' level and equivalent (excluding trade apprenticeships)	Trade apprenticeship	GCSE or equivalent	Other	No Qualification
United Kingdom	2,344	11.6	12.3	10.6	18.1	20.0	27.4
Great Britain	2,274	11.7	12.3	10.4	18.2	20.4	27.0
England	1,942	11.8	12.2	9.7	18.1	20.8	27.4
South East	742	14.1	12.8	8.7	16.7	22.1	25.5
Greater London	379	15.6	11.2	7.1	15.8	23.7	26.5
Rest of South East	362	12.6	14.4	10.5	17.7	20.3	24.5
East Anglia	72	<sup>2</sup> —	<sup>2</sup> —	<sup>2</sup> —	21.1	23.6	23.0
South West	169	12.7	14.9	10.1	22.1	18.4	22.0
West Midlands	219	9.0	12.1	6.6	16.9	19.5	35.9
East Midlands	152	9.9	13.4	11.5	18.5	18.7	28.0
Yorkshire and Humberside	189	11.0	11.9	8.2	18.3	20.2	30.4
North west	248	11.9	9.4	10.7	19.9	20.0	28.2
North	151	7.1	11.3	16.5	16.8	22.1	26.3
Wales	114	9.3	9.7	10.8	19.2	20.2	30.8
Scotland	218	12.0	14.6	16.0	19.1	16.6	21.6
Northern Ireland	69	<sup>2</sup> —	<sup>2</sup> —	19.4	14.1	<sup>2</sup> —	41.0

**Notes:**

<sup>1</sup>Working age is men aged 16–64 and women aged 16–59. Includes those who did not answer, but percentages are based on totals excluding them.

<sup>2</sup>Sample size too small for reliable estimate.

**Source:**

Labour Force Survey (winter 1995–96), Office for National Statistics.

**Highly Indebted Poor Countries Initiative**

**Mr. Bill Michie:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment he has made of the recently agreed highly indebted poor countries initiative; and if he will make a statement. [1329]

**Mrs. Angela Knight:** I refer to the answer I gave to the hon. Member for Newham, North-East (Mr. Timms) on 14 October, *Official Report*, columns 705–706.

if it was judged that breaches of United Kingdom airspace had occurred; and if he will list all similar incidents which have occurred since 1979. [2932]

**Mr. Soames:** The targets were identified as Russian maritime patrol aircraft and were in the northern portion of the UK air defence region. They did not penetrate UK airspace. Information covering the period from 1979 is not held in a readily available form and could be provided only at disproportionate cost and effort.

**DEFENCE****Nuclear Weapons**

**Mr. Llew Smith:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what assessment he has made of the report of the Canberra Commission on the elimination of nuclear weapons. [2931]

**Mr. Soames:** We have noted the conclusions of the Canberra Commission. We remain committed to the pursuit of negotiations in good faith on effective measures relating to nuclear disarmament, as set out in article VI of the nuclear non-proliferation treaty. But nuclear disarmament cannot realistically be pursued independently of the broader security context. We and NATO continue to judge that nuclear deterrence plays an essential role in maintaining peace and stability in Europe.

**Unidentified Flying Objects**

**Mr. Redmond:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will make a statement on the circumstances of the two occasions referred to in his answer of 24 July, *Official Report*, column 424, when RAF aircraft were scrambled or diverted from task to investigate uncorrelated radar targets; if the objects were identified;

**Mr. Redmond:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence when United Kingdom military personnel were briefed about the scrambling of Belgian F-16 aircraft on 30 and 31 March 1990; when the unidentified flying object concerned was detected on United Kingdom radar systems; and if RAF aircraft were scrambled. [3185]

**Mr. Soames:** The Belgian authorities did not notify adjacent countries because no threat was perceived. There is no evidence of radar contacts within the UK air defence system.

**Radiation**

**Mr. Redmond:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if the radiation readings, reported to his Department by Lieutenant Colonel Charles Halt on 13 January 1981, were judged to have posed any threat to Lieutenant Colonel Halt and his team; who assessed the readings; how the radiation compared with background radiation in the area; and if he will make a statement. [2934]

**Mr. Soames:** There is no record of any official assessment of the radiation readings reported by Lieutenant Colonel Halt.

**RESTRICTED/UNCLASSIFIED**

20

**RESTRICTED/UNCLASSIFIED**

**RESTRICTED/UNCLASSIFIED**  
**MINISTRY OF DEFENCE**  
**TEMPORARY ENCLOSURE JACKET**

MOD Form 174D  
 (Revised 5/99)

31

REGISTERED FILE No. D/DAS(SEC) 64/14		DIVISION / DIRECTORATE / BRANCH:  DAS(SEC)	
Enclosure Jacket No ..... 7 .....			
DATE OPENED (Date of First Enclosure) ..... 16 JANUARY 2001 .....			
SUBJECT: PQ 0348L LORD HILL - NORTON REPLY TO 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

FILE 4

**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 personnel from Porton Down visited Rendlesham Forest or the area surrounding RAF Walton in December 1980 or January 1981; and whether they are aware of any tests carried out in either of those two areas aimed at assessing any nuclear, biological or chemical hazard. (HL301)

Minister replying Baroness Symons

The staff at the Defence Evaluation and Research Agency (DERA) Chemical and Biological Defence (CBD) laboratories at Porton Down have made a thorough search of their archives and have found no record of any such visits.

18 January 01

PQ Ref 0348L

**LORDS WRITTEN PARLIAMENTARY QUESTION - URGENT ACTION REQUIRED**

DATE FOR RETURN : 12:00 ON 18 January 2001  
 PQ REFERENCE : PQ 0348L  
 PQ TYPE : LORDS WRITTEN  
 MINISTER REPLYING : -NOTFOUND-

LEAD BRANCH: :  
 COPY ADDRESSEE(S) :  
 DAS(SEC)  
 DI(Sec)  
 GVIU  
 D SEF POL  
 D NEWS

DERA

3  
 - supply with  
 background  
 "The Book" - RF  
 Madab.

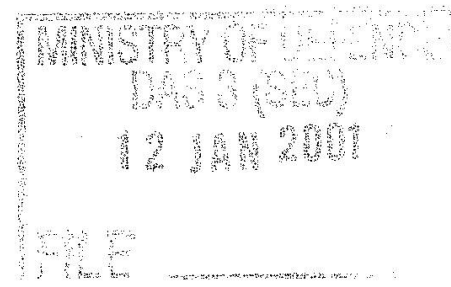
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- Those contributing information for PQ answers and background notes are responsible for ensuring the information is accurate.
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- If you or others concerned are uncertain about how PQs are answered 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 whether personnel from Porton Down visited Rendlesham Forest or the area surrounding RAF Walton in December 1980 or January 1981; and whether they are aware of any carried out in either of those two areas aimed at assessing any nuclear, biological or chemical hazard. (HL301)

REC-18  
 word - probably "test"





**DERA**

# Fax Message

Documents protected above restricted may not be sent. Restricted documents without a caveat may be sent to UK mainland addresses only.

Directorate of Corporate Affairs,  
Cody Building, Ively Road,  
Farnborough, GU14 0LX

To (recipient's name):		Section 40	
Department or company:		DAS	
From (sender's name):	Section 40	Authorised signature:	Section 40
Fax number:	Section 40	Tel number:	Section 40
Recipient's fax number:	Section 40	Number of pages including this sheet:	2+1
Copied to:			
Date:	18/1/01	Protective marking and descriptor of material:	
Document date:		Document Reference:	
Message:			
Section 40			
<p><u>PQ 0348L</u></p> <p>Draft answer and background note attached. This has not gone to Parliamentary Branch.</p> <p>Regards</p> <p>Section 40</p>			

NOTICE: This communication may contain information which is commercial-in-confidence and/or legally privileged and is intended only for the addressee named above. If you are not the named addressee, the communication has been sent to you in error. Any copying, distribution or other use of the information is strictly prohibited. We should be grateful if you would contact us immediately so that we can arrange for its return.

If this fax is incomplete, please telephone this number immediately:

Section 40

DERA is an Agency of the Ministry of Defence

**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 personnel from Porton Down visited Rendlesham Forest or the area surrounding RAF Walton in December 1980 or January 1981; and whether they are aware of any carried out in either of those two areas aimed at assessing any nuclear, biological or chemical hazard. (HL301)

Minister replying Baroness Symons

The staff at the Defence Evaluation and Research Agency (DERA) Chemical and Biological Defence (CBD) laboratories at Porton Down have made a thorough search of their archives but have been unable to find any records of such visits taking place.

January 01

PQ Ref 0348L

**Background to PQ Ref No: 0348L**

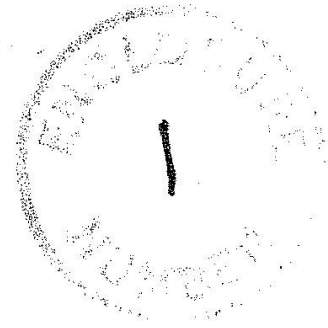
This is one of several PQs raised by Lord Hill-Norton, the answers to which, including this one, are being coordinated by the Directorate of Air Staff. The questions are believed to have been prompted by a recently published book on the Rendlesham Forest incident about an alleged UFO sighting.

Staff at DERA Porton Down have searched records for details of this incident and also made enquiries with some of the very few existing members of staff who were working at Porton Down at that time. No information about this incident has been found.

Drafted by: Section 40 Directorate of Corporate Affairs, DERA, Farnborough  
Tel: Section 40 Fax Section 40

Approved by: Section 40 Director Corporate Affairs, DERA, Farnborough  
Tel: Section 40 Fax Section 40





From: Section 40

**MINISTRY OF DEFENCE**

Directorate of Air Staff 4a1 (Secretariat)  
Room 8245, Main Building, Whitehall  
LONDON SW1A 2HB

Telephone (Direct dial) Section 40  
(Switchboard) 020 7218 9000  
(Fax) Section 40

**FAX MESSAGE**

Phone:

TO: Section 40

SUBJECT: PQ 0348L

DATE: 16 January 2001

NUMBER OF PAGES INCLUDING THIS COVER: 7

Section 40

Fax:

Section 40

Section 40

Sorry about the delay but Lord Hill Norton has now tabled a further two PQs on this subject that diverted our attention slightly.

Please find attached a background note, a copy of the acknowledgements from a recently published book on the Rendlesham Forest incident (thanking Lord Hill-Norton) and extracts from the book which mention possible involvement of Porton Down personnel.

I hope this helps. Please let me know if there is anything else we can help with.

Section 40



## **BACKGROUND NOTE**

1. . . . Lord Hill-Norton has tabled five other 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'. Three are being answered by MOD, one by the Home Office and one is to be answered by (DERA). 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.

known civilians to hear  
1999. © *Georgina Bruni*  
ral Petr S. Deynekin, the  
Air Force (centre), and  
Chief of Staff of the  
ion circa 1996. *Courtesy*

RAF Bentwaters (1999).

l for training purposes),

RAF Woodbridge, taken  
January 1981). © *Adrian*

sites (1999). © *Georgina*

9). © *Georgina Bruni*  
ling site showing barren

d Captain Mike Verrano  
orning after the incident

wing the scuffed-up area  
three indentations in a  
gs (26 December 1980).

: (26 December 1980).

ving indentation marked  
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ving indentation marked  
*ulyas*

officer and Captain Mike  
*Ray Gulyas*

s at RAF Woodbridge/

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

This book has only been made possible thanks to a great many people. I am deeply indebted to my agent, Andrew Lownie, for his encouragement, support and efforts. My thanks also to my editor Gordon Scott Wise, Editorial Director at Sidgwick and Jackson, for his enthusiasm and patience and for helping me to turn this extraordinary, complex case into a valuable casebook. To Nick Pope for contributing the foreword, for advising me on the best way to obtain government documents and for his precious contributions. To my parents, family and friends for their understanding of my isolation whilst working on this investigation.

This story could not have been told without the generous assistance of the witnesses and many people who have played an important role in these strange events. I am especially grateful to Major General Gordon E. Williams USAF (ret.) for his patience and contributions and allowing me to interview him in person. To former Special Agent Wayne Persinger, Deputy Commander, Air Force Office of Special Investigations (Bentwaters), USAF (ret.), for his contributions. To Colonel Sam P. Morgan USAF (ret.), for providing me with the first copy of the 'Halt Tape'. To Ray Gulyas USAF (ret.) and his wife Maryann, for their contributions and for leading me to the original photographs of the initial landing site. I am grateful to all these men and women for allowing me to interview them and for assisting me with my enquires: Rick Bobo USAF (ret.), Lieutenant Colonel Fred 'Skip' Buran USAF (ret.), Adrian Bustinza USAF (ret.), Tony Brisciano USAF, Edward N. Cabansag USAF (ret.), Gary Collins, Lieutenant Colonel Bernard E.

USAF (ret.), Timothy Charles I. Halt USAF (ret.), Anthony Johnson, William Kirk USAF Squadron Leader Donald Bersinger, Maisie Pettit, (ret.), Steve (ret.), Steve & Simms USAF (ret.), (ret.), Jerry Vaughn USAF (ret.), Lieutenant Colonel Malcolm to remain anonymous. hatcher. To Michael of the Fleet, The Lord use his exchange of an Gordon Kinsey for ing the history of for showing me the and for sharing her ir, valuable assistance Ray Boeche, Antonio for opening their old also to the following and assistance, thus h. David Bonner BSc pert help on hypno- d contributions, and e. Budd Hopkins for : helping with local (ret.) for his contacts, f the early years. Dave eorge Plume for his : friendship, patience contributions. Many like Topliss, Vincent

Thurkettle, George Wild and Marjorie Wright for sharing their stories.

I would also like to thank the following people for their assistance and patience: James Anderson, Derek Barnes, Linn Barringer, Keith Beabey, Graham William Birdsall, Mrs David Boast, James Buckles USAF (ret.), John Lawrence Briggs, Lieutenant Colonel Al Brown USAF (ret.), Robin D. Cole, Paul Crowther, Jacqueline Davis, Vernon Drane, Sean Emerson USAF (ret.), Jackie Errington, Mary Everest, Lucius Farish, Halan E. Girard, Walter F. Hern USAF (ret.), Tony McEvoy, Fred Nunn, Lieutenant Colonel Pevsky USAF (ret.), Peter Phillips, Jeff Rense, Ian Ridpath, Nick Ryan ARRS, USAF (ret.), Malcolm Scurrah, Andrew Sheepshanks, Simon Smith, Steve Smith USAF (ret.), Gaynor South, Lee Spiegel and Robert Todd.

And last but by no means least: Alan Akeroyd, Dennis Bardens, Ron Burrell USAF (ret.), Sally Brown, Charles Chow, Neil Cunningham, Brian Creswell, Jonathon Dillon, Ann Drury, Mrs Drury SRN, Timothy Good, Dr Jane Grundy BSc (Hons) PhD DSc FRCPath, Ron Harlan, Bob Higgins, Kane, Michele Kaczynski, Dr Gerhard Knecht, Dr Helmut F. Lammer, Rowena Naylor, William John Naylor, Dan Sherman USAF (ret.), Martin Stout, Bruce Taylor, Bernard Thouanel, Glenmore Trenear-Harvey RAF (ret.), Jenny Randles, Sonia White, Martin Wood, Anglia International Airpark, CAUS, CompuServe, Colchester Barracks, Kodak, Ministry of Defence for Air, Ministry of Defence Police, Ministry of Defence Library, *Sightings Magazine*, Suffolk Constabulary, Suffolk Record Office, *UFO Magazine (UK)*, *Unopened Files*. To friends Penelope Bouchot-Humbert, Lady Anna Brocklebank, Robert A. Bell and Lord Anthony Leitrim, for you know what, Walter F. Hern USAF (ret.), CUFON, East Anglican Press, Quest, United States Air Force. To everyone I might have failed to mention, my apologies, and of course not forgetting Alan, because you always knew.

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forget what they had seen because it was only poachers and it was now a matter for the local police. Neither of the witnesses believed the poacher story and, as Thompson recalls, their notebooks covering that particular night were immediately confiscated. He also claims that the duty log in Operations and the occurrence log went missing. According to Thompson, the loss of one of these logs would result in a major investigation and in the case of RAF police would never happen.

According to Thompson, for several days after the incident Americans visited the forest around the perimeter of the Watton base. Just after the New Year Thompson was at the local public house, and whilst in the company of a couple of civilian police from the area he remembers joking with them about the locals filling their freezers with poached sheep and venison. It appears that the local police were unaware of any poaching activity during the night in question, though it was known that poachers did operate in the area all year round. They were also surprised to hear about the unusual lights and had not been told that Americans were messing around in the forest. Were these the same American scientists who were reported to have been investigating Rendlesham Forest?

Thompson had more to add, explaining that immediately after the Watton incident a team of four British government scientists, supposedly from the Ministry of Defence Research Centre, Porton Down, were driven to the forest by another of his colleagues, also an RAF policeman. Once in the forest, the scientists changed into strange-looking space-type suits with tubes running into air compressors which seemed to be connected to their backs. The police officer was left waiting for them while they wandered off through the trees. On their return they changed back into their clothes, packed their suits and climbed into the vehicle in complete silence. In fact, the only word they spoke during the whole time they were in the police officer's company was a simple 'goodbye' as they speedily departed. One cannot dismiss the possibility that there may be a connection between the Rendlesham Forest incident and RAF Watton. There are obvious similarities between the two: they occurred on the same dates;



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Porton Down Research Centre, situated in Wiltshire, is one of the United Kingdom's most secretive and sensitive sites. Known as the Chemical and Biological Defence Establishment, it was founded in 1916 to combat German gas attacks. If this centre was involved in an investigation, then there is no doubt that the incidents which occurred during Christmas week 1980 were of great concern to both the US and UK defence departments. I also believe that should their results have proved positive then Highpoint Prison, and possibly others like it, would have been used to isolate those suffering with whatever virus or contamination the visitors might have brought with them. This would also indicate that, contrary to their denial, the Ministry of Defence and the CIA not only carried out an investigation but made preparations.

I spoke to a scientist who is familiar with Porton Down Research Centre. She explained that in the event of an unknown threat, all precautions would be taken. When dealing with the unknown, such as objects landing from space, you would aim for the highest level of isolation in case they brought an infectious agent. When I described the men in white suits with tubes attached to their backs, she explained that this attire would most probably have been used as a protection against dealing with an unknown microbiological threat. I had to conclude that if there was a risk of an unknown threat, it would be much easier to evacuate the local community in such a crisis, but the government would want to have the prisoners made more secure in case they later had to deal with a national disaster. The more I looked into the Rendlesham Forest incident as being a possible biological threat, the more I began to believe that this was indeed something that our defence departments were very much concerned about.

Lord Hill-Norton should be congratulated for his diligent efforts in trying to find answers to the Rendlesham Forest incident. In 1997 he wrote to Lord Gilbert at the House of Lords but was furious when Gilbert failed to respond positively to his questions. Hill-Norton replied to Gilbert's letter on 22 September 1997:

Donahue USAF (ret.), Major Edward Drury USAF (ret.), Timothy Egercic USAF (ret.), Betty Garfield, Colonel Charles I. Halt USAF (ret.), Gerry Harris, James Hudnall USAF (ret.), Anthony Johnson USAF (ret.), Nigel Kerr RAF (ret.), Dave King, William Kirk USAF (ret.), Steven La Plume USAF (ret.), Squadron Leader Donald Moreland RAF (ret.), Richard Nunn, Diana Persinger, Maisie Pettit, James W. Penniston USAF (ret.), Lori Rehfeldt USAF (ret.), Steve Roberts USAF (ret.), Lieutenant Colonel Park Simms USAF (ret.), William Sone USAF (ret.), Harry Thompson RAF (ret.), Jerry Valdes-Sanchez USAF (ret.), Lindy 'Cookie' Vaughn USAF (ret.), Larry Warren USAF (ret.), Roy Webb, Lieutenant Colonel Malcolm Zickler USAF (ret.) and to all those who wish to remain anonymous.

Special thanks to Baroness Margaret Thatcher. To Michael Portillo for taking my questions. To Admiral of the Fleet, The Lord Hill-Norton GCB for allowing me to use his exchange of correspondence with Lord Gilbert. To historian Gordon Kinsey for his knowledgeable help with understanding the history of Orfordness and Bawdsey. To Brenda Butler for showing me the landing sites, allowing me to interview her and for sharing her important files. To Dot Street for her humour, valuable assistance and for allowing me access to her files. To Ray Boeche, Antonio Huneus, Mark Birdsall and Nicholas Redfern for opening their old files on the case for me to study. Many thanks also to the following people who have given much of their time and assistance, thus making a valuable contribution to my research. David Bonner BSc CCQSW DHP (NC) MNRHP for his expert help on hypnotherapy. Chuck de Caro for his humour and contributions, and Barry Greenwood for his valuable assistance. Budd Hopkins for taking my questions and Bill Kemball for helping with local information. Captain Mike Martin USAF (ret.) for his contacts, Chris Pennington for sharing his knowledge of the early years. Dave Piggot for his scientific evaluations and George Plume for his professional advice. To Peter Robbins for his friendship, patience and understanding, and for his precious contributions. Many thanks to Max Shortley, Ronnie Spaine, Mike Topliss, Vincent

Thurkettle, George stories.

I would also assistance and pa Barringer, Keith I Boast, James Bu Lieutenant Colonel Crowther, Jacquiel (ret.), Jackie Erris Girard, Walter F. Lieutenant Colonel Ian Ridpath, Nicol Andrew Sheepsha Gaynor South, Le

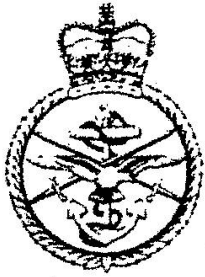
And last but by Ron Burrell US. Cunningham, Bri Drury SRN, Timo FRCPATH, Ron H. Gerhard Knecht, John Naylor, Da Taylor, Bernard T Jenny Randles, S Airpark, CAUS, Ministry of Defen Defence Library, Record Office, U Penelope Boucho Bell and Lord An USAF (ret.), CU Air Force. To ever and of course not

**RESTRICTED/UNCLASSIFIED**



**RESTRICTED/UNCLASSIFIED**





PARLIAMENTARY UNDER-SECRETARY OF STATE  
FOR DEFENCE

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE

MAIN BUILDING WHITEHALL LONDON SW1A 2HB

Telephone (020 **Section 40** Direct Dialling)

(020 **Section 40** (Fax)

(020) 7218 9000 (Switchboard)

**Section 40**

30

11

D/US of S/LM 3359/00/Y

14<sup>th</sup> September 2000

*Dear Martin,*

Thank you for your letter of 19 August on behalf of your constituent, Mr Eric Morris of Northwich, Cheshire, about an alleged sighting of an 'unidentified flying object' over Hartford on 9 July. I am replying as this matter falls within my area of responsibility.

It might be helpful if I explained that my Department examines any reports of 'unidentified flying objects' it receives solely to establish whether what was seen might have some defence significance, namely whether there is any evidence that United Kingdom airspace might have been compromised by hostile or unauthorised air activity. Unless there is evidence of a potential threat to the United Kingdom from such an external source, and to date no 'UFO' report provided to us has revealed such evidence, no attempt is made to identify the precise nature of each alleged sighting reported. We believe that rational explanations such as aircraft lights or natural phenomena could be found for them if resources were diverted for this purpose, but it is not the function of my Department to provide this kind of aerial identification service. It would be an inappropriate use of defence resources if we were to do so.

Mr Morris contacted my Department by telephone on 10 July to say that he had witnessed a 'UFO'. A letter providing more details was received on 17 July. Enquiries were set in hand to investigate what had been reported. My officials acknowledged Mr Morris's letter on 31 July and advised that a full response might be delayed. Mr Morris telephoned my officials on 3 August and was advised that an investigation was in progress and that the outcome would be reported to him as soon as enquiries were complete.

Martin Bell Esq MP

Private Only



INVESTOR IN I





The investigation found no evidence in what Mr Morris reported of any defence significance. A full reply was sent to him on 23 August and has crossed in the post with your letter. I enclose ... copies of the correspondence for your information.

*Best wishes*

Section 40

DR LEWIS MOONIE MP

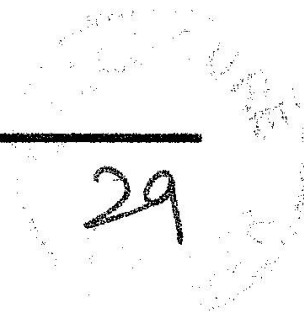


Recycled Paper

SEC(AS)2

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**From:** PARLIAMENTARY TYPIST3 on behalf of PARLIAMENTARY ENQUIRIES  
**To:** SEC(AS)2  
**Sent:** 30 August 2000 08:39  
**Subject:** Read: Reverse PE



Your message

**To:** PARLIAMENTARY ENQUIRIES  
**Subject:** Reverse PE  
**Sent:** 29/08/00 16:50

was read on 30/08/00 08:39.

SEC(AS)2

---

To: PARLIAMENTARY ENQUIRIES  
Subject: Reverse PE

28

I attach a draft reply to a letter we have received direct from Martin Bell MP. Copies of the Martin Bell letter and the correspondence mentioned in the draft reply will be walked down in the morning (Wednesday).

**Section 40**



PE@MartinBell.doc

file  
27

Loose Minute

D/Sec(AS)64/4

25 August 2000

**Parliamentary Enquiries**

**REVERSE PE – MARTIN BELL MP**

1. Martin Bell MP has written direct on behalf of a constituent, Mr Morris, about a substantive response to a letter about an alleged UFO sighting.
2. Mr Morris left a message on the Sec(AS)2 'UFO' answerphone on the evening of Monday 10 July to say that he had witnessed a 'UFO' the previous evening. A letter providing more details (copy attached) was received by RAF Valley and Sec(AS)2 on 17 July. Mr Morris claimed that he and a colleague had videoed a 'ufo' and obtained a recording of a pilot in a 'chasing' aircraft. RAF Valley acknowledged their copy of the letter on 18 July and advised that it had been passed to Sec(AS)2; we advised Mr Morris on 31 July that it was unlikely that we would be able to provide a substantive response within the 20-day Charter timescale because staff absences at the time meant that we were not able to deal with all correspondence as quickly as we would normally do so.
3. The MOD Press Office was contacted by BBC Radio 1 and the local media (the Knutsford Gazette) about the alleged incident the day after the letter was received. They advised that within the limits of MOD's interest in these matters, enquiries would be made about what had been reported. Mr Morris was interviewed on Radio 1 about the incident the same day (18 July). He telephoned Sec(AS)2 on 3 August to ask how the enquiries were progressing and was advised that they were not, at that stage, complete.
4. A detailed investigation into the facts reported by Mr Morris was carried out by MOD Air Defence Staffs and included checks with Military Air Traffic Staffs. No evidence was found to substantiate a threat to the UK Air Defence Region or that the 'craft' witnessed had military origins.
5. A full reply was sent to Mr Morris on 23 August and crossed with Mr Bell's letter in the post.

Section 40

DAS AD4(Sec)

MB 8247 Section 40

CHOTs Address SEC(AS)2



D/USofS/

Thank you for your letter of 19 August on behalf of your constituent, Mr Eric Morris of Northwich, Cheshire, about an alleged sighting of an 'unidentified flying object' over Hartford on 9 July. I am replying as the Minister responsible for these matters.

It might be helpful if I explained that my Department examines any reports of 'unidentified flying objects' it receives solely to establish whether what was seen might have some defence significance, namely whether there is any evidence that United Kingdom airspace might have been compromised by hostile or unauthorised air activity. Unless there is evidence of a potential threat to the United Kingdom from such an external source, and to date no 'UFO' report provided to us has revealed such evidence, no attempt is made to identify the precise nature of each alleged sighting reported. We believe that rational explanations such as aircraft lights or natural phenomena could be found for them if resources were diverted for this purpose, but it is not the function of my Department to provide this kind of aerial identification service. It would be an inappropriate use of defence resources if we were to do so.

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The investigation found no evidence in what Mr Morris reported of any defence significance. A full reply was sent to him on 23 August and has crossed in the post with your letter. I enclose copies of the correspondence for your information.

DR LEWIS MOONIE

Martin Bell Esq MP



# PARLIAMENTARY ENQUIRY

## FOR IMMEDIATE ACTION

### IMPORTANT - YOU MUST READ THIS GUIDANCE

TO: DASH (SEC) PE REF NUMBER: US1340/2001  
 Copy to:  
 MINISTER REPLYING: USOAS DRAFT REQUIRED BY: 13/3/2001  
 DATE: 13/2001 FROM: Section 40 PE Unit TEL: Section 40  
 FAX: Section 40

**\*\* TO BE GIVEN PRIORITY AT ALL TIMES \*\***

**\*\* TO BE GIVEN PRIORITY AT ALL TIMES \*\***

YOU WILL BE HELD ACCOUNTABLE FOR THE DRAFT ANSWER AND ADVICE, WHICH MUST BE ACCURATE AND NOT MISLEADING IN ANY WAY.

ENSURE THE DEADLINE IS MET: FROM 2001/02 ONWARDS, THE DEPARTMENT IS COMMITTED TO ANSWERING 90% OF ENQUIRIES WITHIN 15 WORKING DAYS; OUR PERFORMANCE IN 2000 WAS SIGNIFICANTLY LOWER THAN THIS.

A NAMED OFFICIAL AT B2 (GRADE 7) LEVEL OR ABOVE MUST CLEAR ALL DRAFTS. OTHER GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS OR MOD DIVISIONS SHOULD BE CONSULTED AS NECESSARY.

IF YOU ARE AN AGENCY, THE MINISTER'S OFFICE HAS DIRECTED THAT THIS ENQUIRY SHOULD RECEIVE A MINISTERIAL - NOT CHIEF EXECUTIVE - REPLY.

E-MAIL DRAFTS TO 'PARLIAMENTARY ENQUIRIES', NOT TO PE CLERKS OR PRIVATE OFFICES.

(Please ensure sensitivity of your email message is 'Normal'.)

IF THIS CORRESPONDENCE SHOULD BE DEALT WITH BY ANOTHER BRANCH, PLEASE PASS IT ON AND INFORM US IMMEDIATELY.

Number of pages sent by fax: 6

**\*\* TO BE GIVEN PRIORITY AT ALL TIMES \*\***

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE  
 DAS 3 (SEC)  
 - 1 MAR 2001



Revised 26 January 2001



01 MAR 2001 08:57 FR MOD PARLIAMENT DIVISION

**\*\* TO BE GIVEN PRIORITY AT ALL TIMES**

- *Ministers place great importance on the content, style and speed of replies. Letters should be polite, informal, to the point and in clear, simple language. Avoid acronyms and MOD jargon. Always emphasise the positive aspects of Government policy. No background note is required unless essential to explain the line taken in the draft reply.*

- **DEADLINES:** It is important that your draft is with us by the date shown at the top of this notice, as Ministers must send a written reply within 15 WORKING DAYS OF RECEIPT OF THIS ENQUIRY. The Department's performance is reported each year to Parliament. If you cannot meet the deadline, you should therefore provide an interim reply that apologises for the delay, sets out the action being taken to answer the enquiry, and advises when a substantive reply can be expected. You should aim to provide a substantive draft reply within a further 8 working days. Interim replies should be used infrequently, as every effort must be made to reply to correspondence from MPs (and others) promptly.

- Action at official level on the same case should be held until the Minister has sent a full reply. Please discuss any questions about the substance of the drafts, or other policy aspects, direct with the relevant Private Office.

- **LAYOUT:** Draft replies should be double-spaced. Always include the full PE reference number at the top left of the draft. Put the MP's full title at the bottom left of the first page. Only add the address if the letter is from the Minister direct to a constituent.

- **OPENING AND CLOSING:** All Ministers prefer to start: "Thank you for your letter of ... (MP's ref if given) on behalf of/enclosing one from your constituent, Mr ... of ... about ..."  
If a Minister is replying on behalf of another, start: "Thank you for your letter of ... to Geoff Hoon/Liz Symons/John Spellar/Lewis Moonie on behalf etc"  
For Mr Spellar, add: "I am replying in view of my responsibility for ..."  
For Baroness Symons, add: "I am responding because of my responsibility for this issue." (or, in the case of letters from fellow Peers: "I have been asked to respond.")  
For Dr Moonie, add: "I am replying as this matter falls within my area of responsibility."  
Choose an appropriate ending (except for Dr Moonie, who will add his own) - such as: "I hope this is helpful"; "I hope this explains the position/situation"; "I am sorry I cannot be more helpful"; or "I am sorry to send what I know will be a disappointing reply".

- **OPEN GOVERNMENT:** Replies MUST be drafted in accordance with the Code of Practice on Access to Government Information. It is set out in DCI 223/99. If you are recommending to a Minister that some or all information is withheld, the answer must specify the law or exemption in the Code under which it is being withheld - eg "I am withholding the information requested under exemption 1 of Part II of the Code of Practice on Access to Government Information." It is NOT acceptable to rely on past practice.

**INTERIM REPLIES:** If it is obvious on receipt of a PE that you cannot reply in full, an interim MUST be provided by the deadline stated. **REMEMBER:** an interim reply covering the majority of the issues raised could help our performance statistics.

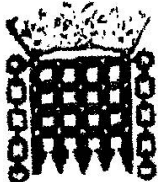
**\*\* TO BE GIVEN PRIORITY AT ALL TIMES \*\*****\*\* TO BE GIVEN PRIORITY AT ALL TIMES \*\*****\*\* TO BE GIVEN PRIORITY AT ALL TIMES \*\***

INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

Revised 26 January 2001



01 MAR 2001 08:37 PM MOD PARLIAMENTARY DIVISION



HOUSE OF COMMONS  
LONDON SW1A 0AA

131871/01

26 February 2001

Dear Justice Secretary

I shall be grateful if you will give the enclosed  
communication from **Section 40** .....  
your attention and send me a reply which I can forward to  
my constituent.

Please acknowledge.

Yours faithfully

**Section 40**

**Section 40**

The Hon. Mrs. Ruby Cook TD  
Justice Secretary

H.C.91B

RECEIVED BY
PARLIAMENTARY BRANCH
2872
ENTER REPLYING: Usaf5
KEYWORD(S): Ufos
LEAD BRANCH: DAS4sec
COPIED TO:
RELATED CASE:
CLERK: <b>Section 40</b>

Section 40

Swansea

Section 40

20/2/2001

Dear [Section 40]

Please can you ask the appropriate Minister to confirm or deny the existence of U.S. experimental craft in the skies of the Bristol channel area, as I am now aware of at least a dozen "U.F.O." sightings in our area over the past couple of years, some confirmed by several or more eye witnesses and one of which was caught on videotape after repeated appearances. This was broadcast on H.T.V.'s programme "Weird Wales". I highly recommend a visit to their archive, as the footage was no hoax, and the lady who had the courage to take the video, was obviously experiencing anxiety.

Yours sincerely,

[Section 40]

01 MAR 2001 08:58 FR MOD PARLIAMENT BRANCH

Section 40

SECRET

## puzzled by sky sight

A GROUP of Swansea workers spotted some possible UFOs in the sky on Saturday — three silver coloured spheres the size of planes.

The five colleagues, who work in Mount Pleasant but do not want to be named, said they were totally bewildered by the sight at about 11.15am.

One of the group said the spheres were spotted in the sky over Mount Pleasant.

He added: "We saw these three spheres — one was stationary and another one knocked it across the sky towards Mumbles and replaced it by remaining stationary itself.

"These two spheres just disappeared after this. The whole thing lasted about five minutes.

"It was really spooky. They were all about the size of a plane high up.

"We thought at first it might have been balloons but not after one of them shot off towards Mumbles."





# Foreign & Commonwealth Office

## OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH AFFAIRS

TO: Section 40 MOD Correspondence PRECEDENCE: \_\_\_\_\_

FAX NO: Section 40 DATE: 28<sup>th</sup> Feb 2001

FROM: Section 40 CLASSIFICATION: U/C.

(contact myself or Section 40)

MESSAGE: Section 40

Please see attached letter re: 'UFO sightings'.  
Do you have a dept that respond to these or is this a case for the 'X-Files'!

Please let me know if you can accept the transfer.

accepted. Section 40

Thanks. Section 40

This transmission consists of 4 page(s) (including leader).  
For transmission queries please phone Section 40





Loose Minute

D/Sec(AS)64/4

21 August 2000

**PE UNIT**

**PARLIAMENTARY ENQUIRY – US 3156/00- DAVID CHIDGEY MP**

1. **Section 40** has written direct to the Department about UFOs on two previous occasions, in February and August 1996.
2. In February 1996 **Section 40** asked about a newspaper report that MOD was to release UFO sighting reports from the late 1950s and asked for an opinion about an alleged sighting he had witnessed in the early 1960s. He was advised of the Department's limited interest in the subject and that anything reported at that time would be held on files already open for viewing at the Public Record Office.
3. In his letter in August 1996, **Section 40** mentioned meeting Nick Pope, a former member of Sec(AS), who had just published his first book on UFOs, '*Open Skies, Closed Minds*' and that he was in correspondence with him. **Section 40** also recounted further sightings he had witnessed and asked when Ministers and the Department would admit that extraterrestrial craft had penetrated the UK Air Defence Region. Our reply reiterated the Department's limited interest and advised that the views expressed in Mr Pope's book were entirely his own and did not reflect those of MOD.

**Section 40**

**Section 40**

AD/Sec(AS)2


MB8247 **Section 40**

① **Section 40** - you may wish to compare the format/text with your draft to see where/how I changed it.

② **Section 40** for info

**Section 40**

21/8



www.raf.mod.uk **ROYAL AIR FORCE**

D/USofS/LM/3156/00

August 2000

Thank you for your letter of 31 July (Reference: 42/ExS/9/5/30-ho) enclosing one from **Section 40** of **Section 40** about an alleged sighting on 19 May of an 'unidentified flying object' over Southampton Water.

**Section 40** will be aware from previous correspondence with my Department that the Ministry of Defence examines any reports passed on from members of the public of sightings that they cannot themselves identify only to establish whether what has been witnessed might have some defence significance. My Department's only concern is to establish whether there is any evidence in what has been seen that the United Kingdom's airspace might have been compromised by hostile or unauthorised air activity. I should add that the integrity of the UK's airspace in peacetime is maintained through continuous policing of the UK Air Defence region by the Royal Air Force and MOD remains vigilant for any potential threat. However, unless there is evidence of a potential threat, and to date no 'unidentified flying object' reported to us has revealed such evidence, no attempt is made to identify the precise nature of each sighting. We believe that rational explanations, such as aircraft lights or natural phenomena, could be found for them if resources were diverted for this purpose but it is not a function of the MOD to provide this kind of aerial identification service. It would be an inappropriate use of defence resources if we were to do so.

I should wish to assure **Section 40** that my Department received no other reports of 'unidentified flying objects' for 19 May and my officials are satisfied that there is no

corroborating evidence to suggest that UK airspace was breached by unauthorised activity on that date.

Finally, I must say that my Department has no expertise or role in respect of the existence or otherwise of extraterrestrial lifeforms, about which it remains open-minded but I should add that to date the MOD knows of no evidence to substantiate the existence of these alleged phenomena.

DR LEWIS MOONIE MP

**David Chidgey Esq MP**



LOOSE MINUTE

D/Sec(AS)64/4

August 2000

**PE UNIT**

(through Sec(AS)2 - **Section 40**)

**PARLIAMENTARY ENQUIRY – US 3156/00- DAVID CHIDGEY MP**

1. **Section 40** has corresponded with the Department about UFO on two occasions, once in February 1996 and again in August 1996.
2. In his letter of 2 February 1996 **Section 40** enquired about a newspaper report that mentioned the MOD were to release reports of 'UFO's' and their attempted interception by Air Defence aircraft, from the late 1950's. He then went on to recall a 'UFO' sighting he had had in the early 1960's and asked for our opinion as to what he saw. A response was sent detailing our limited interest in the subject and advising him of the references of files that were open for viewing at the Public Record Office that covered the period in question.
3. **Section 40** then wrote to the Department on 2 August 1996 following his meeting with Mr Nick Pope a former member of Sec(AS) who had then just published his first book on this subject of 'UFO's, 'Open Skies, Closed Minds'. **Section 40** went on to recount further sightings he had allegedly seen and ask when the Department and Ministers were going to 'come clean'. Our reply reiterated the Department's limited interest and said the Mr Pope's views were entirely his own and did not reflect the views of the MOD.

**Section 40**

Sec(AS)2a1

MB8245 **Section 40**

CHOTS:SEC(AS)2A1



US 3156/00

August 2000

**DRAFT REPLY TO DAVID CHIDGEY MP**

Thank you for your letter of 31 July on behalf of your constituent, **Section 40**f

**Section 40** concerning his alleged sighting of an 'unidentified flying object' over Southampton Water on 19 May 2000. This Department is the focal point within the MOD for correspondence of this nature.

As **Section 40** will be aware from previous correspondence with this Department, the Ministry of Defence examines any reports of 'unidentified flying objects' it receives solely to establish whether what was seen might have some defence significance; namely, whether there is any evidence that the United Kingdom's airspace might have been compromised by hostile or unauthorised foreign military activity.

Unless there is evidence of a potential threat to the United Kingdom from an external military source, and to date no 'UFO' report has revealed such evidence, we do not attempt to identify the precise nature of each sighting reported to us. We believe that rational explanations, such as aircraft lights or natural phenomena, could be found for them if resources were diverted for this purpose, but it is not the function of the MOD to provide this kind of aerial identification service. It would be an inappropriate use of defence resources if we were to do so.

With regard to **Section 40** particular observation, I have looked back through our sighting report files and can confirm that we received no other reports of 'UFO' sightings for 19 May from anywhere in the UK. We are satisfied that there is no

corroborating evidence to suggest that the United Kingdom's airspace was breached by unauthorised military aircraft.

You may wish to assure **Section 40** that the integrity of the UK's airspace in peacetime is maintained through continuous surveillance of the UK Air Defence Region by the Royal Air Force. This is achieved by using a combination of civil and military radar installations, which provide a continuous real-time "picture" of the UK airspace. Any threat to the UK Air Defence Region would be handled in the light of the particular circumstances at the time (it might if deemed appropriate, involve the scrambling or diversion of air defence aircraft). From that perspective, reports provided to us of 'UFO' sightings are examined, but consultation with air defence staff and others as necessary is considered only where there is sufficient evidence to suggest a breach of UK air space. Only a handful of reports have been received in recent years that warranted further investigation and none revealed any evidence of a threat.

The MOD does not have any expertise or role in respect of 'UFO/flying saucer' matters or to the question of the existence or otherwise of extraterrestrial lifeforms, about which it remains totally open-minded. I should add that to date the MOD knows of no evidence which substantiates the existence of these alleged phenomena.

**David Chidgey MP**

**Dr Lewis Moonie MP**

SEC(AS)2

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**From:** PARLIAMENTARY TYPIST1 on behalf of PARLIAMENTARY ENQUIRIES  
**To:** SEC(AS)2  
**Sent:** 21 August 2000 13:54  
**Subject:** Read: PE 3156/2000 - DAVID CHIDGEY

Your message

**To:** PARLIAMENTARY ENQUIRIES  
**Subject:** PE 3156/2000 - DAVID CHIDGEY  
**Sent:** 21/08/00 13:54

was read on 21/08/00 13:54.



UBD  
605669A

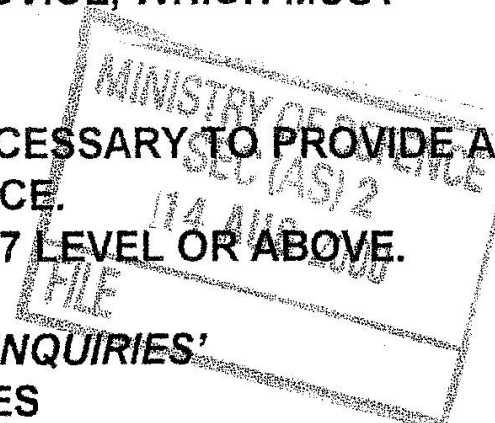
**PARLIAMENTARY ENQUIRY - FOR IMMEDIATE ACTION**  
**IMPORTANT - YOU MUST READ THIS GUIDANCE**

TO: SEC (AS) 2PE REF NUMBER: US 3156/2000MINISTER REPLYING: USOASDRAFT REQUIRED BY: 24 8/2000DATE: 14 8/2000 FROM: **Section 40** PE Unit TEL: **Section 40** FAX: **Section 40**

YOU WILL BE HELD TO ACCOUNT FOR THE DRAFT ANSWER AND ADVICE, WHICH MUST BE ACCURATE AND NOT MISLEADING IN ANY WAY.

ENSURE THE DEADLINE IS MET - IF YOU CANNOT, IT MAY BE NECESSARY TO PROVIDE AN INTERIM REPLY. IF IN DOUBT, SEEK ADVICE.  
ALL DRAFTS MUST BE CLEARED BY A NAMED OFFICIAL AT GRADE 7 LEVEL OR ABOVE.

PLEASE E-MAIL DRAFTS TO 'PARLIAMENTARY ENQUIRIES'  
NOT TO PE CLERKS OR PRIVATE OFFICES



*Ministers place great importance on the content, style and speed of replies. Letters should be polite, informal, to the point and in clear, simple language. Avoid acronyms and MOD jargon. Always emphasise the positive aspects of Government policy. No background note is required unless essential to explain the line taken in the draft reply.*

**DEADLINES** Ministers must send a written reply within **15 WORKING DAYS OF THIS ENQUIRY** as the Department's performance is reported each year to Parliament. It is therefore very important that your draft is with us by the date quoted at the top of this notice. If, exceptionally, you cannot meet the deadline, an interim reply should be provided giving as much information as possible. You should also inform me immediately.

**IF THIS PE IS NOT FOR YOUR BRANCH, YOU MUST LET ME KNOW AT ONCE.**

Action at official level on the same case should be held until the Minister has sent a full reply. Please discuss any questions about the substance of the drafts or other policy aspects direct with the relevant Private Office.

**LAYOUT** Draft replies should be double-spaced, Always include the full PE reference number at the top left of the draft. Put the MP's full title at the bottom left of the first page. Only add the address if the letter is from the Minister direct to a constituent.

**OPENING AND CLOSING** All Ministers prefer to start: "Thank you for your letter of ... (MP's ref if given) on behalf of/enclosing one from your constituent, Mr ... of ... about ..."

If a Minister is replying on behalf of another Minister start "Thank you for your letter of ... to Geoffrey Hoon/ Elizabeth Symons/John Spellar/Lewis Moonie on behalf etc"

For Mr Spellar add "I am replying in view of my responsibility for ..."

**(EXCEPT FOR DR. MOONIE'S DRAFTS)** choose an appropriate ending, such as:

"I hope this is helpful"

"I hope this explains the position/situation"

"I am sorry I cannot be more helpful"

"I am sorry to send what I know will be a disappointing reply"

**OPEN GOVERNMENT** Replies **MUST** be drafted in accordance with the Code of Practice on Access to Government Information. It is set out in **DCI 223/99**. If you are recommending to a Minister that some or all information is withheld, the answer must specify the law or exemption in the Code under which it is being withheld - eg "I am withholding the information requested under exemption 1 of Part II of the Code of Practice on Access to Government Information." It is **NOT** acceptable to rely on past practice.

**INTERIM REPLIES** If it is obvious on receipt of a PE that you cannot reply in full, an interim **MUST** be provided. **REMEMBER:** An interim reply covering the majority of the issues



David Chidgey, C.Eng., FICE M.P. (Eastleigh)

Tel: Section 40

Fax:

PE

RECEIVED  
10 AUG 2000  
US OF S



HOUSE OF COMMONS  
LONDON SW1A 0AA

USAS  
SECRET  
UFOS

Dr. Lewis Moonie MP  
Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State  
Ministry of Defence  
Main Building  
Whitehall  
LONDON SW1A 2HB

31st July 2000

*David Chidgey*

Unidentified Sightings over Southampton Water

My constituent Section 40 has raised the above matter with me which is of some concern to him.

I enclose copies of his letters together with a copy of the newspaper article referred to, and I would be grateful for any information you may be able to supply in relation to these sightings.

Many thanks.

*David Chidgey*

Section 40

Ref: 42/ExS/9/5/3-ho

Constituency Office: 113 Leigh Road, Eastleigh, Hampshire SO50 9DS  
Tel: 023 8062 0007 Fax: 023 8061 8245

RECEIVED 12 JUN 2000

Thursday 8th June 2000

Section 40

Hants. Section 40

Tel: Section 40

Dear David;

Further to that very long standing question of mine ref; the Bilderberg Group and the financing of attendance by a former (?) Defence representative and companion, which, as you will recall, points to a blatant lie by said minister as proved by the copy of Hansard I drew your attention to, do I get the impression that, dating from the "passing the buck" ever since October 1999, is still ongoing, maybe in the hope that the matter will die away by neglect?

Perhaps it is now the time to draw your attention to an even more dramatic..and I use the description in the full awareness of it's ramifications having dealt in, and experienced, the subject, for over sixty years, although the earlier such was not recognised at that period as what it is has since been re-evaluated.

In order not to complicate matters, I am enclosing a copy of a letter to a Southern Daily Echo reporter who may, or may not, take it up, as he did so splendidly with a similar incident in the issue of the 26th April...copy enclosed in case you missed it..hardly likely I hope as it involves your constituent!

I do not know what you will be inclined to do with it! I am in full, I hope, possession of my inbuilt faculties. I am just one of thousands, and according to surveys, millions, who have had "the experience" as we wryly describe it!

You might try the MOD in Whitehall or even our current Minister of Defence although one gets a standard reply from both more often than not of "no defence significance"..a misnomer if nothing else.

However, I would be fairly satisfied..if not entirely!..if you could arrive at a suitable explanation of this episode over Southampton Water,,surely NOT an area, with all it's civilian and military installations on each shore, that "anyone can do anything" over it, as one responsible authority told me..see article. While other authorities, listed, deny ANYTHING took place as described AND FILMED!

I have left nothing out. You will have to take on board the more "paranormal" incidents as you wish. I have been writing a book on such things, based, mostly, on personal experiences, for some 15 years or so, a manuscript of some



80.000 words although requiring, again, an increasingly lengthy "epilogue" which is ongoing!

The recent "blanket" of silence which has descended upon those NASA films taken from and around the Space Shuttle..copies of which many of us have seen..including repeated denials by television spokespeople concerning "missing" segments of film previously announced or known to be in their possession of unexplained phenomena is also quite blatantly part and parcel of that Freedom of Information Act of both the UK and the USA and in particular the product of the most secretive Government we may well have had, under the Great Leader (!) who might as well pack his bags NOW!

Politics, of course, are part and parcel also of the enigma..which I fully realise has the power to change the entire civilisation of this planet. But, like Churchill, whatever history tries to make him into, told it as it was..insofar as that is allowed!..AND WE RESPONDED.

Are our present lot going to leave it at that? We will never forgive them, you know. We MIGHT forgive them for the FEAR they have of losing their power over their peoples. That is a human emotion. We will NOT forgive them for allowing millions to suffer untold psychological and spiritual misery of being abandoned by those supposedly responsible and answerable to them. Fortunately..and maybe not so much by my own choice..I have been able to deal with the phenomena with no apparent negative emotions. My reason for that is..again, probably, because the "missing bits" have been blanked off to date!

In the last four years or so, and as a natural progression of the healing ability "acquired" in 1978-9, I think, I have been able to speak of the formerly unspeakable on TV, Radio, and to audiences, as I re-evaluated childhood "dreams" and vaguely recalled incidents thence to adult ditto in the seventies onwards.

Also..again, fortunately, I have many friends and colleagues who share my experiences and dawning comprehension.

There you are, David. I know I have opened the legendary "Pandora's Box" and hope your maturity of knowledge and beliefs will allow you to examine all this carefully and open-mindedly.

Your reply..of whatever complexion!..would be appreciated.

I am,

Yours Sincerely,

Section 40



Copy of letter to "Echo" reporter.

Tuesday 30th May 2000

Section 40

Hants. Section 40

Tel; Section 40

Dear Section 40

Seems as if the last item on what is currently a going on around here wasn't good enough to reach the Echo but thanks anyway. Cannot but think the one penned herewith DOES deserve exposure although have a disturbing feeling that the apparent worldwide clamp down..Western World anyway..on recent NASA films samples of which I've seen along with the SUFOG group and other items ongoing..is even going to reach the local Press or public! Hopefully I'm wrong! But can't help recalling that X Files series item that had it christened..aptly!..`Deny Everything`! Read on..your reply please!

"What IS going on in the skies over Southampton Water?"

On Friday the 19th May the Southampton UFO group (SUFOG) held another "skywatch" from the vantage point of the hill behind the Millhouse pub/restaurant in Grange Road, Netley Abbey. Section 40 Section 40 Section 40 Section 40 and Section 40 (made up the contingent) Nothing drastic happened until around 10.30pm, (unlike the last skywatches) when a strong light was observed hovering over Southampton Water in the vicinity of Hythe. The groups camcorder equipment swung into action. filming an amazing six minute sequence of events that had very mysterious consequences, still ongoing.

The "light" moved around in various directions, sometimes staying absolutely still. The film shows a light aircraft of some kind, coming out from the Southampton Docks direction..or Southampton Airport?..and then circling the first "light" a few times before flying back. The plane carried normal lights. The first light then began to move towards the docks..still quite low in height...and then in a descending arc back again. More hovering..the plane re-appeared..circling again..then moved off to a distant location where the film still picks it up. The first light then begins to apparently descend into the sea although this may have been because it vanished behind trees on the waters-edge at Netley Abbey. Having watched the film I thought the first light might have been a helicopter as it shone a strobe type light once or twice. However, UFO "history" has many reports of unmarked helicopters that everyone, but everyone, denies possessing!

Once I'd seen the film twice I began to make enquiries of various authorities since the first light was "unidentified"



②

Beginning with the Coastguard at, I believe, Lymington, they soon gave me the answer that 'nothing was reported'..not even an aircraft! Onto Hythe Police Station..ditto! They patched me to Bitterne Station since that stands in for Netley Abbey ditto currently..I knew that anyway..they in turn put me through to Police Central Control who also had no reports of activity or aircraft and suggested, in any case, the police don't possess a helicopter, only a plane..which statement had repercussions concerning a previous incident observed by Netley residents! However, from there I contacted Air Traffic Control...denial of anything they knew about. I then tried Air Sea Rescue at Lee on Solent..an affable sounding chap also said 'no reports' for that night but put me on to some kind of Special Air Service who apparently oversee incidents. Nothing to report but suggested it might have been a 'private' incident. I queried this and was told Southampton Water wasn't a "controlled area" and 'anyone could do anything over it'. The mind boggled at this.

Finally, and in some sort of desperation, I rang, via the telephone book, the MOD/RAF/USADA (!) at Hythe..I mean, how high can you go?..and a pleasant enough guy briefly discussed the incident...when I described it he said 'you are talking about a UFO, arent you?' I said 'yes', since it was so far "unidentified," all I was trying to do was get any answer! Not surprisingly, in view of my recipients status and organisation, he said he couldnt answer that one anyway but put me onto another source which gave me the by then familiar rejoinder. By then I had come to a full stop! Can you wonder? We have, of course, the video should you wish to take this further.

I might add...recall my previous article to you? that the intrepid skywatching group repeated their practice of going on, after the incident, to Netley Royal Victoria Park where they had encounters of a different kind, ...even more so than the first occasion when they had left the park rather hurriedly! If you are wondering what "spooks, ghosts" etc etc have to do with UFO's..my friends, many researchers and actual "experiencers" have come around to the conclusion,,backed up by notable professionals..that "it" is all ONE that comes under the "umbrella" of what we call the paranormal..an interdimensional area of science that Quantum physics have made the paradigm leap into in the last decade.

Since I am just one who has had these experiences..still ongoing currently from the last sixty odd years or so..I can go along with all this. By the way, those "ghostly" Park experiences were further added to over the May Bank Holiday when I casually mentioned them to one of the park's tea rooms staff who I've known for many years, and who is aware of my interests. I got back a whole series of ghostly goings on over some years that some had UFO type details too. The