

ALL REDACTIONS ON THIS PAGE ARE ON ORIGINAL DOCUMENT

EIS

~~TOP SECRET~~

Y.R.D. 010050

COPY ONE OF ONE.

~~EYES~~

On 24 June, 1947, a civilian pilot flying over the Cascade Mountains in the State of Washington observed nine flying disc-shaped aircraft traveling in formation at a high rate of speed. Although this was not the first known sighting of such objects, it was the first to gain widespread attention in the public media. Hundreds of reports of sightings of similar objects followed. Many of these came from highly credible military and civilian sources. These reports resulted in independent efforts by several different elements of the military to ascertain the nature and purpose of these objects in the interests of national defense. A number of witnesses were interviewed and there were several unsuccessful attempts to utilize aircraft in efforts to pursue reported discs in flight. Public reaction bordered on near hysteria at times.

In spite of these efforts, little of substance was learned about the objects until a local rancher reported that one had crashed in a remote region of New Mexico located approximately seventy-five miles northwest of Roswell Army Air Base (now Walker Field).

On 07 July, 1947, a secret operation was begun to assure recovery of the wreckage of this object for scientific study. During the course of this operation, aerial reconnaissance discovered that four small human-like beings had apparently ejected from the craft at some point before it exploded. These had fallen to earth about two miles east of the wreckage site. All four were dead and badly decomposed due to action by predators and exposure to the elements during the approximately one week time period which had elapsed before their discovery. A special scientific team took charge of removing these bodies for study. (See Attachment "C".) The wreckage of the craft was also removed to several different locations. (See Attachment "B".) Civilian and military witnesses in the area were debriefed, and news reporters were given the effective cover story that the object had been a misguided weather research balloon.

~~TOP SECRET~~

MAJESTIC TWELVE

~~TOP SECRET~~

T52-EXEMPT (E)

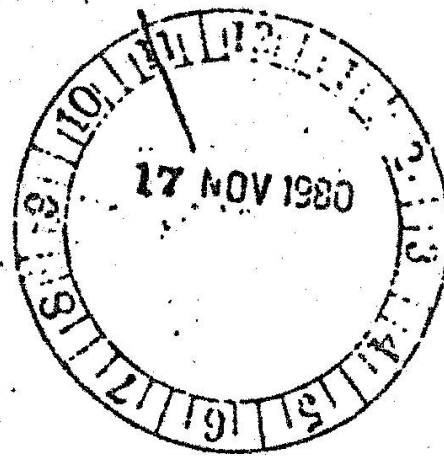
~~EYES ONLY~~

Y.R.D.

010280

E14

~~SECRET~~



2-I D-1
CC-1

RTTEZYVW RUFLOJA9136

ZNY ~~SECRET~~

BT

~~SECRET~~ FOR AFOSI ONLY

H 171130Z NOV 80

FM HQ AFOSI BOLLING AFB DC//IVOE

TO HUNTABA AFOSI DIST 17 KIRTLAND AFB NM, BID

INFO 7602 AINTELG FT BELVOIR VA//INSH

~~SECRET~~ FOR AFOSI ONLY

REF: REQUEST FOR PHOTO IMAGERY INTERPRETATION YOUR MSG 292030Z OCT 80.

SUBJECT CASE NR: 8017D93-126 HQ CR 44.

1. SUBJECT NEGATIVES/FILM WERE ANALYZED BY HQ IVT AND 7602 AINTELG, IT AND THE FOLLOWING RESULTS WERE FOUND:

A. NEGATIVE #1: DEPICTING C-5A AIRCRAFT ON APPROACH AND STREAKING UNIDENTIFIED AERIAL OBJECT IN LOWER RIGHT PORTION OF FILM. FILM FOUND TO BE UNALTERED. SIZE DIFFERENTIAL WAS NOT CONSISTENT WITH SIZE OF AIRCRAFT. CONCLUSION: INCONCLUSIVE

B. NEGATIVE #2: DEPICTING CYLINDER SHAPED UNIDENTIFIED AERIAL OBJECT IN UPPER LEFT PORTION OF PHOTO. FILM FOUND TO BE UNALTERED. FILM SHOWED OBJECT TO BE CONSISTENT WITH FIELD DEPTH AND CONSISTENT WITH RELATIVE SIZE OF FIXED OBJECTS. CONCLUSION: LEGITIMATE NEGATIVE OF UNIDENTIFIED AERIAL OBJECT. BOLTON/REINFELD METHOD DID NOT REVEAL VISIBLE MARKINGS ON OBJECT.

C. NEGATIVE #3: DEPICTING IRREGULAR SHAPED UNIDENTIFIED AERIAL OBJECT IN SEVEN FRAMES OF 8MM FILM. BECAUSE OF THE SIZE AND APPARENT SPEED OF OBJECT NO FURTHER CLASSIFICATION OR CONCLUSION COULD BE DRAWN. FILM SHOWN TO BE UNALTERED.

D. 3/4 INCHES OF 8MM FILM: DEPICTING APPARENT COLORED OBJECT MOVING IN FRONT OF STILL CAMERA. FILM FOUND TO BE UNALTERED. SPECTROGRAPHY REVEALED COLORS TO BE BASIC PRISM FEATURES. DEPTH ANALYSIS REVEALED OBJECT TO BE WITHIN 152MM OF CAMERA. OBJECT WAS NOT CONSISTENT WITH RELATIVE SIZE OF FIXED OBJECTS OBSERVED FOR SEVERAL SECONDS IN FILM. CONCLUSION: INCONCLUSIVE.

E. ORIGINAL NEGATIVE DEPICTING UNIDENTIFIED OBJECT. FILM FOUND TO BE UNALTERED. BECAUSE OF A LACK OF FIXED OBJECTS IN THE FILM, NO DEPTH ANALYSIS COULD BE PERFORMED. BOLTON/REINFELD METHOD REVEALED OBJECT TO BE SAUCER SHAPED, APPROXIMATE DIAMETER 37 FEET. OBJECT CONTAINED A TRILATERAL INSIGNIA ON THE LOWER PORTION OF OBJECT. CONCLUSION: LEGITIMATE NEGATIVE OF UNIDENTIFIED AERIAL OBJECT.

2. REF YOUR REQUEST FOR FURTHER INFORMATION REGARDING HQ CR 44. THE FOLLOWING IS PROVIDED: CAPT GRACE 7602 AINTELG, INS CONTACTED AND RELATED FOLLOWING: (S/WINTEL) USAF NO LONGER PUBLICLY ACTIVE IN UFO RESEARCH, HOWEVER USAF STILL HAS INTEREST IN ALL UFO SIGHTINGS OVER USAF INSTALLATION/TEST RANGES. SEVERAL OTHER GOVERNMENT AGENCIES, LEAD BY NASA, ACTIVELY INVESTIGATES LEGITIMATE SIGHTINGS THROUGH COVERT COVER. (S, WINTEL/FSA) ONE SUCH COVER IS UFO REPORTING CENTER, US COAST AND GEODETIC SURVEY, ROCKVILLE, MD 20852. NASA FILTERS RESULTS OF SIGHTINGS TO APPROPRIATE MILITARY DEPARTMENTS WITH INTEREST IN THAT PARTICULAR SIGHTING. THE OFFICIAL US GOVERNMENT POLICY AND RESULTS OF PROJECT AQUARIUS IS STILL CLASSIFIED TOP SECRET WITH NO DISSEMINATION OUTSIDE OFFICIAL INTELLIGENCE CHANNELS AND WITH RESTRICTED ACCESS TO "TOP TWELVE". CASE ON HEINENITZ IS BEING HANDLED BY NASA INS. WHO REQUEST ALL FUTURE EVIDENCE BE FORWARDED TO THEM THRU AFOSI, IVOE.

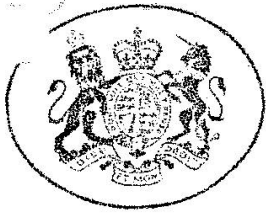
4. REF YOUR REQUEST FOR TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE. BECAUSE OF A CHANCE OF PUBLIC DISCLOSURE, NO KNOWLEDGEABLE PERSONNEL WITH SPA WILL BE PROVIDED. CONTINUE TO RECEIVE ASSISTANCE FROM INDIVIDUALS MENTIONED IN YOUR MESSAGE, MILLER, FUGATE. BECAUSE OF THE SENSITIVITY OF CASE, REQUEST THEY BE THOROUGHLY DEBRIEFED AT REGULAR INTERVALS.

BIS

1515

140000Z 17NOV80

~~SECRET~~
~~SECRET~~



MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
MAIN BUILDING WHITEHALL LONDON SW1A 2HB
Telephone Section 40 (Direct Dialling)
[Redacted] (Switchboard)

Hd / Sec (AS) to see

Section 40

Section 40

18/17

413

pl
12/4

PARLIAMENTARY UNDER-SECRETARY OF STATE
FOR THE ARMED FORCES

D/US of S(AF)DGT 28/1/4

17 July 1985

Dear Peter,

Thank you for your letter of 24 June 1985 concerning our previous exchange of correspondence on Unidentified Flying Objects.

I am sorry you were unhappy with my response but I can assure you my department does take the subject seriously, and I do appreciate the very real concern which caused you to raise the subject.

Yours,

David.

Lord Trefgarne

I am of course very willing to talk to you further on this if you wish.

D.

Internal Distribution:

Sec (AS) 2E

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

E12H

LOOSE MINUTE

D/Sec(AS)/12/4 ✓

9 Jul 85

APS/US of S(AF)

UFOs

Reference:

A. D/US of S(AF)DGT 28/1/4 dated 27 Jun 85

You asked at reference for a draft reply to Lord Hill-Norton's letter of 24 June 85. Please find attached a short self-explanatory draft as discussed on the telephone today.

Section 40

Sec(AS)2a

Section 40

DRAFT

D/US of S(AF)/DGT 28/1/4

July 1985

Thank you for your letter of 24 June 1985 concerning our previous exchange of correspondence on Unidentified Flying Objects.

I am sorry you were unhappy with my response but I can assure you my department does take the subject seriously. I do appreciate the very real concern which caused you to raise the subject.

Lord Trefgarne

Lord Hill-Norton

Job No 2a2-35

(E12) file 12/4

COVERING: ~~TOP SECRET/SECRET/CONFIDENTIAL/MANAGEMENT IN CONFIDENCE~~

REFERENCE: D/US of S(AF)DGT 28/1/4

See (AS) 2

UFOs

I am attaching a letter/minute from Lord Hill-Norton to Lord Trefgarne dated 24 June 85

Will you please consult other Departments, Divisions and Branches, as necessary, and submit advice, together with a draft letter/minute in order to reach US of S(AF) not later than 10 July 85

I am sending copies of this minute/letter to:

.....
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....

You have already kindly provided us with a speaking note on this subject for our debate in the House of Lords next Wednesday, at which Lord Hill-Norton is due to speak. Perhaps you could also consider whether any further material should be prepared.

Date: 27 June 85

Section 40
APS/US of S(AF)
Section 40



24th June, 1985

The Lord Trefgarne,
House of Lords,
London.

Dear David,

Thank you for your letter of 19th June, in reply to mine of 1st May addressed to the Defence Secretary. Apart from good manners, which might be thought to have required some earlier acknowledgement, I am astounded that a serious letter to a Minister from a member of the House of Lords was allowed to remain unanswered for seven weeks.

I am sorry that you take the view that the sort of uproar which occurred in Suffolk in December 1980 is of 'no defence significance', because I have no doubt from my rather longer experience that you are mistaken. Unless Lt. Col. Halt was out of his mind, there is clear evidence in his report that British airspace - and probably territory - were intruded upon by an unidentified vehicle in that month, and that no bar to such intrusion was effective. If Halt's report is not believed, there is equally clear evidence of a serious misjudgement of events by members of the U.S.A.F. at an important base in the U.K. Either way the events can hardly be without defence significance.

There is a good deal more which I could add, but I shall not weary you further on this narrow issue. I remain convinced, as I said in my letter to Heseltine, that you are courting trouble. The media and the U.S. Freedom of Information Act will certainly prove more difficult to brush off than you evidently expect. I have done what I saw as my duty, bearing in mind that I am still on the Active List, in attempting to warn you. I shall continue to press, in various ways, for a more responsible attitude from this, and successor, Governments.

Yours,

Peter Hunt-Murray

FAO
Section 40 [redacted]

Section 40 [redacted]

*With the Compliments of the
A / Private Secretary
Parliamentary Under Secretary*

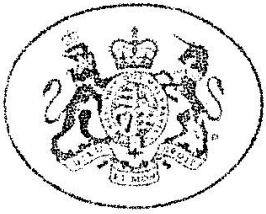
Section 40 [redacted]

of State for Defence for the Armed Forces

24/16

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE, WHITEHALL, S.W.1

File 12/4
C11



MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
MAIN BUILDING WHITEHALL LONDON SW1A 2HB

Telephone **Section 40** (Direct Dialling)
[Redacted] (Exchangeboard)

PARLIAMENTARY UNDER-SECRETARY OF STATE
FOR THE ARMED FORCES

D/US of S(AF)DGT 6210

19 June 1985

Dear Peter,

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

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

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

Yours,
David

Lord Trefgarne

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
Hd. Sec. (AS)
24 JUN 1985
FILE

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

file 12/4 E12 E10



MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
MAIN BUILDING WHITEHALL LONDON SW1A 2HB

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

PARLIAMENTARY UNDER-SECRETARY OF STATE
FOR THE ARMED FORCES

D/US of S(AF)DGT 5173

17 June 1985

Dear Mr Alton,

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

As I pointed out in my letter of 19 March, the MOD concerns itself only with the defence implications of reported UFO sightings. In this context, the report submitted by Col Halt in January 1981 was examined by those in the Department responsible for such matters and, as I have made clear in the past, it was considered to have no defence significance. We have since seen nothing to alter this view and there is nothing I can usefully add to the comments made in the official's letter of 25 February to Mr Noyes.

Yours sincerely,

[Handwritten signature]

Lord Trefgarne

David Alton Esq MP

Reference.....

✓2/4 copy to: 12/2/1

M5

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

1. US of S(AF) will recall recent correspondence on this matter with Lord Hill-Norton and Rt Hon Merlyn Rees MP. In both cases he took the line that we have nothing to add to what had already been said on the Woodbridge incident. Indeed, this was the line taken in previous correspondence with David Alton (See M3). The enclosed draft reply to Mr Alton once more follows this approach.

2. Mr Alton specifically requested a copy of the MOD official reply to Mr Noyes' last letter. This is enclosed, together with an earlier letter to which it refers. There is no objection to passing this correspondence to Mr Alton.

3. You may wish to note that Mr Alton has apparently passed on both letters sent by Lord Trefgarne on 19 March 85, even though one of these was intended to be for his information only.

12 June 1985

Section 40

Sec(AS)2a

Section 40

DRAFT

D/US of S(AF)/DGT 5173

June 1985

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

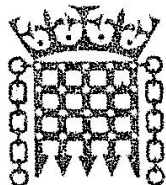
As I pointed out in my letter of 19 March, the MOD concerns itself only with the defence implications of reported UFO sightings. In this context, the report submitted by Col Halt in January 1981 was examined by those in the Department responsible for such matters and, as I have made clear in the past,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

Lord Trefgarne

David Alton Esq MP

Job No 2-24

us(AF)



HOUSE OF COMMONS
LONDON SW1A 0AA

16th May 1985

Dear Michael,

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

I read Mr Noyes letter with great interest and it seems to me that the points he raises are quite reasonable and merit a reply. I should be most grateful if you could let me have your comments and if you could let me see a copy of the reply to Mr Noyes' own letter to your Department dated 25th February 1985.

Yours sincerely,

David Alton.

David Alton, MP.

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

Section 40

14th May, 1985

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

Dear Mr. Alton,

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

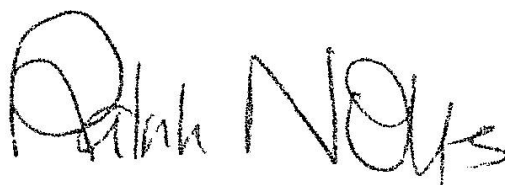
case can hardly be without Defence significance.

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

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

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

Yours sincerely,



(Ralph Noyes)

Section 40

31 March 1985

Dear Mr Alton,

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Best wishes

Section 40

E8

E11



MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
MAIN BUILDING WHITEHALL LONDON SW1A 2HB

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

*file 12/40
copy to 12/2/1*

PARLIAMENTARY UNDER-SECRETARY OF STATE
FOR THE ARMED FORCES

D/US of S(AF)DGT 4884

11 June 1985

Dear Mr Rees,

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

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

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

Section 40

Yours sincerely,

Trefgarne

Lord Trefgarne

Rt Hon Merlyn Rees MP

M4

①

Section 40

COPIES
E7/1

UFO

ET (AS)

Please note E9. Forward a draft reply to this office by close of play
6/6/85.

Section 40

21/5/85. For APS/US of S (AF)

Section 40

M5

APS/US of S (AF)

I enclose a draft reply to the letter at E9 as requested. There is little to add to US of S (AF)'s previous reply to Mr Rees on this subject (E8) and suggest there is advantage in keeping the reply brief.

7 June 1985

Section 40

Head of Sec (AS)

FROM US OF S(AF) TO RT HON MERLYN REES MP

Thank you for your letter of 14 May 1985 which enclosed a further letter from your constituent **Section 40**

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

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

① Mr Luckes

② File

Lt

Section 40

D/Sec(AS)/12/4

7 June 1985

APS/US of S(AF)Copy to:
APS/S of S
D Air DefUNIDENTIFIED FLYING OBJECT: WOODBRIDGE, DECEMBER 1980

1. I understand you agreed with APS/S of S that US of S(AF) would reply to Lord Hill-Norton's letter of 1 May which was sent to Sec(AS) under cover of APS/S of S's minute MO 26/19 dated 29 May 1985. You kindly agreed to an extension of the deadline and indicated that the gist of Lord Trefgarne's reply should simply be to refer to his contribution to the Lords debate on the subject on 19 January 1979.
2. I attach a draft reply accordingly. The events to which Lord Hill-Norton refers are, of course, those in your file D/US of S(AF)/DGT 4884 in which US of S(AF) is in correspondence with Mr Merlyn Rees MP. US of S(AF) told Mr Rees in his letter of 20 February that those events were of no defence significance.

Section 40

Head of Sec(AS)

DRAFT LETTER FROM US OF S(AF) TO ADMIRAL OF THE FLEET
THE LORD HILL-NORTON GCB

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

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

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

Section 40



May 1940

1940

this at

CAS: utg

today

Section 40



3/6

MINISTERIAL BUSINESS: TO BE GIVEN PRIORITY AT ALL TIMES

CLASSIFICATION: UNCLASSIFIED

PRIVATE OFFICE REFERENCE: MO 26/19

20/5 12/19

Sec(AS)2

Section 40

UFO 3

1. In consultation with the other Directorates or Divisions concerned, please advise the Secretary of State with a draft as necessary, on the attached communication from Lord Hill-Norton dated 1 May 85
2. Please submit advice by not later than 31 May 85
3. The attachment must be placed on a Departmental registered file.
4. ~~I am copying this minute with the attachment to:~~

PS/OSofS(NF)

Date: 29 May 1985

Section 40

APS/S of S

Section 40

MINISTERIAL BUSINESS: TO BE GIVEN PRIORITY AT ALL TIMES

MINISTERIAL BUSINESS: TO BE GIVEN PRIORITY AT ALL TIMES

Admiral of the Fleet The Lord Hill-Norton G.C.B.

Section 40

Section 40

Personal

The Rt. Hon. Michael Heseltine, PC, MP,
 Secretary of State for Defence,
 Ministry of Defence, Main Building,
 Whitehall,
 London, SW1A 2HB.

1st May, 1985

Dear Secretary of State,

I have been interested for some years in the UFO problem, and belong to the (rather ineffective) House of Lords UFO Group. In pursuit of this interest I have recently been impressed by some, to me anyway, new evidence of what is called the "Bentwaters Incident". In case the matter has not already been brought to your personal attention I think you would wish to be aware of unusual incidents which were reported to your officials by the United States Air Force authorities at RAF Woodbridge in January 1981. Although this date is now somewhat remote, the case has puzzling and disquieting features which have never been satisfactorily explained by your Department and which continue to preoccupy informed sections of the public. Having recently seen a cogent documentary programme on the reported events made by the American television company, Cable News Network (already broadcast in the US and now likely, I believe, to be shown here), I think you may wish to take stock of the matter.

In brief, the Deputy Commander at the USAF Base at RAF Woodbridge informed the Ministry of Defence in a written report dated 13th January 1981 that events had occurred in British territory adjoining the base on two nights in late December 1980 which suggested the intrusion of a piloted vehicle which had entered and left British airspace, and landed on British territory, on these two occasions with complete impunity and without identifying itself. The existence of this report was not made public until a copy of it was released in the US under their Freedom of Information Act in June 1983. In the preceding two years or so the Ministry of Defence had denied any knowledge of untoward events at RAF Woodbridge. Since the report was made public the official line in response to enquiries has merely been that the matter is of no Defence interest.

My personal view, having considered the fragmentary but compelling evidence brought to public knowledge by the media, is that the case cannot be disposed of in these rather perfunctory terms. If the report made by the USAF authorities in January 1981 is accurate, there is evidence that British airspace and territory are vulnerable to unwarranted intrusion to a disturbing degree. If, on the other hand, the report of the Deputy Base Commander must be dismissed (together with the collateral testimony given to Cable News Network and other investigators by several additional American witnesses), then we have evidence - no less disturbing, I suggest - that a sizable number of

- 2 -

The Rt. Hon. Michael Heseltine

1st May, 1985

USAF personnel at an important base in British territory are capable of serious misperception, the consequences of which might be grave in military terms. It seems to me advisable that you should be briefed on the case in view of the likelihood of continued public interest in it, and that your officials should be ready to demonstrate a more serious concern with its implications than they have so far manifested. There seems to be a head of steam building up on this matter, and I can see a potential 'banana-skin' looming.

I was able to see the Cable News Network documentary at their London office by courtesy of their American Headquarters. But I have no doubt that they would be very ready to show it to you personally, or to a small group of your officials, if you felt that this would be helpful in briefing you.

Yours sincerely,

Hu-Mu



MINISTRY OF DEFENCE

MAIN BUILDING WHITEHALL LONDON SW1A 2HB

Telephone **Section 40** (Direct Dialling)

Section 40 (switchboard)

12/4

PARLIAMENTARY UNDER-SECRETARY OF STATE
FOR THE ARMED FORCES

D/US of S(AF)DGT 5173

19 March 1985

Dear Mr Alton,

I enclose a formal reply to your letter of 21
February concerning **Section 40**

Section 40

... I thought that you might also be interested to
read the enclosed "Guardian" article which goes
some way towards refuting **Section 40** arguments!

*Yours sincerely,
Lord Trefgarne*

Lord Trefgarne

David Alton Esq MP

24.



MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
 MAIN BUILDING WHITEHALL LONDON SW1A 2HB

Teleph **Section 40** (Direct Dialling)

Section 40 (Switchboard)

PARLIAMENTARY UNDER-SECRETARY OF STATE
 FOR THE ARMED FORCES

D/US of S(AF)/DGT 5173

19 March 1985

Dear Mr Alton,

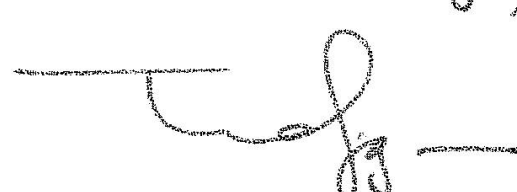
Thank you for your letter of 21 February with the enclosed from **Section 40**

I should first of all point out that the sole interest of the Ministry of Defence in reported sightings of Unidentified Flying Objects (UFOs) is to establish whether they have any bearing on the defence of the country.

There is no organisation in the Ministry of Defence appointed solely for the purpose of studying UFOs, and no staff are employed on the subject full time. The reports we receive are referred to the staff in the Department who are responsible for the air defence of the United Kingdom, and they examine the reports as part of their normal duties. Unless there are defence implications we do not attempt to identify sightings and we cannot inform observers of the probable identity of the object seen. The Department could not justify the expenditure of public funds on investigations which go beyond the pure defence interests.

The only information we have on the alleged "UFO sighting" at Rendlesham Forest in December 1980 is the report by Colonel Charles Halt, of the United States Air Force, which **Section 40** mentions in her letter. We are satisfied that the events described are of no defence significance. I can assure you that there is no question of attempting to cover up any incident or mishap, nor are we attempting in any way to obscure the truth.

I am also enclosing with this copies of 2 Parliamentary Questions, one of which is that put down by Sir Patrick Wall and which **Section 40** also mentions.

Yours sincerely,


Lord Trefgarne

David Alton Esq MP

M2APS/US of S(AF)

1. I attach a draft reply to David Alton MP. Since Mr Alton is unlikely to be familiar with the MOD's interest in the subject, the draft follows the standard line taken with correspondents on UFOs.

2. However, Mr Alton's correspondent, **Section 40**, is well known to us. She has written on a number of occasions, both privately and as **Section 40** of the British UFO Research Association, concerning the reported sighting at Rendlesham Forest in December 1980. She has also written a book on the subject. She has been assured that there is no question of a cover up over this incident. A copy of her letter of 15 March 1983 and our reply of 13 April 1983 are enclosed. There is nothing we can usefully add to what has been said to **Section 40** before.

3. Also enclosed are copies of 2 PQs which we normally pass to correspondents who may be interested. One of these, put down by Sir Patrick Wall on 24 October 1983, is specifically mentioned in **Section 40** letter.

4. You may also have seen an article, again mentioned by **Section 40** which appeared in The Guardian on 5 January 1985, giving an interesting counter-argument to that which she propounds. **Section 40** **Section 40** is clearly not convinced by the Guardian piece and for this reason no mention of it is made in the draft reply which will no doubt be passed on to her. However, a copy of the article is enclosed and US of S(AF) may like to pass this to Mr Alton for information under separate cover.

Section 40

Sec(AS)2

Section 40

12 Mar 85

DRAFT

D/US of S(AF)/DGT 5173

March 1985

Thank you for your letter of 21 February with the enclosed
from **Section 40**

I should first of all point out that the sole interest of the Ministry of Defence in reported sightings of Unidentified Flying Objects (UFOs) is to establish whether they have any bearing on the defence of the country.

There is no organisation in the Ministry of Defence appointed solely for the purpose of studying UFOs, and no staff are employed on the subject full time. The reports we receive are referred to the staff in the Department who are responsible for the air defence of the United Kingdom, and they examine the reports as part of their normal duties. Unless there are defence implications we do not attempt to identify sightings and we cannot inform observers of the probable identity of the object seen. The Department could not justify the expenditure of public funds on investigations which go beyond the pure defence interests.

The only information we have on the alleged "UFO sighting" at Rendlesham Forest in December 1980 is the report by Colonel Charles Halt, of the United States Air Force, which **Section 40** mentions in her letter. We are satisfied that the events described are of no defence significance. I can assure you that there is no question of attempting to cover up any incident or mishap, nor are we attempting in any way to obscure the truth.

I am also enclosing with this copies of 2 Parliamentary Questions, one of which is that put down by Sir Patrick Wall and which **Section 40** also mentions.

Lord Trefgarne

David Alton Esq MP

Job No 2a(1)-40

Defence Secretariat Division 8

E156.

Section 40

D/DS8/10/209-1270

8 April 1983

Thank you for your recent correspondence on the subject of UFOs.

As regards your offer to summarise the reports held by this Department there really is very little to summarise. I attach a copy of a blank report form showing the type of information we require together with a couple of examples of completed reports (with the name and address of the informant deleted for reasons of confidentiality). I am sure you will agree that, although we hold a large number of reports, each one is indeed very brief.

Turning now to your interest in the sighting at RAF Woodbridge in December 1980, I can confirm that USAF personnel did see unusual lights outside the boundary fence early in the morning of 27 December 1980 but no explanation for the occurrence was ever forthcoming. There is however, no question of the account being a cover-up for a crashed aircraft or testing of secret devices as you suggest, nor was there any contact with "alien beings".

I understand that an article on the Woodbridge sighting has been published in the magazine "OMNI" (Vol 5 No.6) in which you may be interested.

Section 40

Section 40

Section 40

February 28 1983

Dear Section 40

Further to your letter to me of 20 January 1983 (your ref: D/DS8/10/209); the subject UFOs. I trust you have received my subsequent letter to this (addressed to Section 40) wherein I suggested that you might consider lodging the files you hold with a recognised scientific establishment. Here they could be accessible (on arrangement) to serious researchers, and their use could be adequately controlled. I really think this makes sense because the volume of data you must hold would make it very difficult to release other than summaries in printed form and often access to the full materials might be essential for scientific study.

A number of possible sources for locating these files, eg a university, come to mind. Indeed there have been a number of interested responses to the article on UFOs by myself and Peter Warrington (New Scientist, 10 Feb 1983) to which I refer you for illustration of my, hopefully, serious and non-sensationalist position on this topic.

I am well aware that to you UFO data is barely of interest and, as it does not seem to directly impinge on defence implications, of relatively low priority. However, I hope you also see that whilst 90% of these reports are unquestionably explicable there are reports that seem to offer probative data to scientists. Work that you, of course, have neither the facilities nor the resources to handle. It should be your concern that you hold this data, faithfully reported by individuals who would like something done. And I am delighted at your decision to make the material accessible for research.

Presumably it will be in your interests to cultivate a mood whereby UFO reports are not made to you, but to a scientific establishment (another advantage of lodging the files there). You could naturally rely upon the UFO community to transmit reports to you which might suggest defence implications. That is, if you are fair by serious investigators serious investigators will naturally be fair by you. And we too, of course, have the interests of Britain at heart and would not wish you to be unaware of any cases that might involve defence implications. Even though, as you have pointed out to me previously, none of your studies so far have produced such implications.

You have promised to advise me when you have taken a decision to release data, which is why I was somewhat surprised to learn that you have supplied to some colleagues of mine in Bristol data on cases in South Wales. I would, therefore, very much like an update on the current position please. For the last few years whilst writing to you I have stressed that I want to help put across your true position to the public (with which I have some influence as a full-time writer of UFO books and articles). But for this purpose I do need your help in return, of course. I see from the current issue of FLYING SAUCER REVIEW, for example, that much is said about your alleged cover-up and it is towards correcting this view with the facts (if you will openly give them) that I am concerned. Hence my previous requests to be granted access to the data prior to release so that I might present a fair review in the UFO literature and defuse such commentary.

Finally, on the question of defence implications, I would wish to advise you of an accretion of data concerning an incident which appears to have taken place at the US Air Force base at Woodbridge, Suffolk, in December 1980. It is of some concern to me that you have not been able to offer any statement on this event, because on face value the evidence does suggest that somebody is hiding something.

Now I have published some of the material supplied to me (and gathered myself) in the UFO literature, primarily because in lieu of any other reason I believe the information should be told. But understand my position here. I have no wish to do anything injurious to British defence and if I was offered any reason (however roundabout) which suggested the case should simply be dropped then I would do so. For example, it is possible that the UFO story is covering either an accident or

of some secret device (either by British or American sources). Therefore, to continually stress this in a UFO context (which is how it has been reported) and inevitably have to mention such non-UFO explanations as these possibilities might be against this nations interests. Yet what else can I do, since I have no such reason to argue in this way and feel myself duty bound to discuss the matter in case it genuinely has gone un-noticed and yet may be of potential importance?

Very briefly, on this case, we have first-class hard evidence (which we could of course give to the national press but have had no desire to so do) that something occurred (during the last three days of the month, possibly December 29, 1980). This includes evidence of radar tracking of the unexplained object, its 'landing' in Rendlesham Forest and a number of independant testimonies that relate to a quite fantastic account of what supposedly happened after that. It is impossible for me and the couple of other people in possession of these full facts not to accept that a genuine event did occur and naturally we are more than a little concerned that (a) it has not been admitted to and (b) you profess to know nothing about it.

As I said, the evidence is strong (almost, I might say, categorically probative) and could (if we chose to discuss the full facts in the right way outside the limited circukation we have done so far) lead to quite an outcry about cover-ups. Personally, I believe you must have very good reason for doing what you are doing about this incident, and that may have nothing to do with UFOs per se. However, please see my position and recognise my dilemma. I want to do the right thing.

I am not expecting a reply saying anything specific about this event, but you may be able to offer advice about the problem I face. I have this data that seems probative. You do not seem to want it and claim to know nothing about it. I cannot just sit on it because it appears to be too important. Yet if I make a big issue out of it national security may suffer.

I would add that the story behind these events indicates that there was contact between military sources and an other intelligence (which is not alien spaceships in the nuts and bolts sense) but which is an indigenous intelligence to planet earth which in fact is way beyond us in terms of most capacities and therefore represent the real rulers of our world.

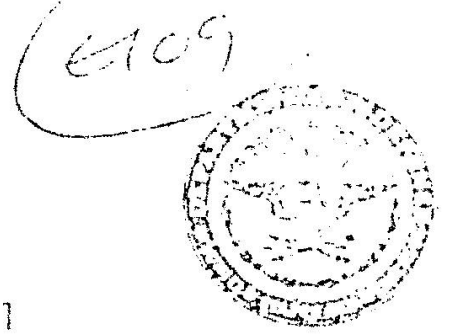
This account does merge with data offered by other sources to me (in confidence) including government officials in this country and abfoad. I have never published it and have actually played down the possibility in my books. I am not saying I believe it. But I am saying that I have heard it from so many sources that I do have to listen. And it does make a great deal of sense out of many things?

The UFO subject is complex and to represent it fairly very difficult. I so very much do want to do the right thing. But I am beginning to doubt if I am doing the right thing. Can you offer any advice?

Yours sincerely,

Section 40

DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
HEADQUARTERS 1ST COMBAT SUPPORT GROUP (USAF)
APO NEW YORK 0735



REPLY TO
ATTN OF:

CD

13 Jan 81

SUBJECT:

Unexplained Lights

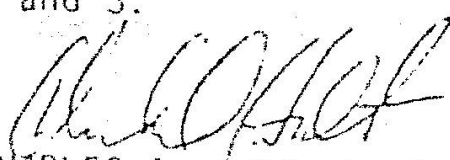
TO:

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

GRASSROOTS

A flashlight in the forest

Despite a massive cover-up, News of the World investigators have proof that the mysterious craft came to earth in a red ball of light. An American airman who was there told us there were three beings in silver space suits aboard the craft. . . . More seriously, they produced a supporting statement from a named American Air Force colonel, which we reprint on the right. And an American UFO expert who said 'You can't hide the truth for ever.' Which is where Ian Ridpath takes up the investigation.

FOUR Christmases ago, something remarkable was said to have occurred outside the US Air Force base at Woodbridge, near Ipswich. News of the event leaked out slowly, finally hitting the headlines in October 1993: "UFO Lands in Suffolk — Official," screamed the front page of the News of the World.

The story was sensational. I told of a group of American airmen who were confronted one night with an alien spaceship in Rendlesham Forest, which surrounds the air force base. According to the story, the craft came down over the trees and landed in a blinding explosion of light.

The airmen tried to approach the object, but it moved away from them as though under intelligent control. The following day, landing marks were found on the ground, burns were seen on nearby trees, and radiation traces were recorded. There was even talk of aliens aboard the craft, and allegations of a massive cover-up. It had all the ingredients of a classic JFO encounter.

The News of the World's informant was a former US airman. He was given the pseudonym Art Wallace, for he claimed that his life had been threatened if he talked. Yet here he was freely giving interviews to newspapers and television.

While his fantastic story might be doubted, it was impossible to shrug off a memo written by the deputy base commander, Lt. Col. Charles I. Halt, to the Ministry of Defence, which was publicly released in the United States under the Freedom of Information Act. Halt's memo, reprinted in full here, is not as sensational as Wallace's story, but it is prime documentary evidence of a type rarely encountered in UFO cases.

UFO researchers in Britain could scarcely believe their luck: this was The Big One, final proof that We Are Not Alone. The News of the World

paid £12,000 for the story. A book was recently published about the case, and American TV crews have been filming at the site in recent weeks.

All that evidence, backed up by the word of the US Air Force, could not possibly have a rational explanation.

Or could it? Here are the facts that you have not been told.

Soon after the News of the World story appeared, I went in search of local opinions about the case. I made contact by telephone with a forester, Vince Thurkettle, who lives within a mile of the alleged UFO landing site. "I don't know of anyone around here who believes that anything strange happened that night," he told me.

So what did he think the flashing light was in Rendlesham Forest? I was astonished by his reply. "It's the lighthouse," he said.

That lighthouse lies at Orford Ness on the Suffolk coast, five miles from the forest. Thurkettle plotted on a map the direction in which the airmen reported seeing their flashing UFO, and found that they were looking straight into the lighthouse beam.

Could this really be the answer? I visited the site with a camera crew from BBC TV's Breakfast Time. On the way there, the cameraman was sceptical about the lighthouse theory. I didn't blame him.

It was gone midnight when Vince Thurkettle took us to the site of the alleged landing, and it felt spooky. The area had by now been cleared of trees as part of normal forest operations, but enough pines remained at the edge of the forest to give us a realistic idea of what the airmen saw that night.

Sure enough, the lighthouse beam seemed to hover a few feet above ground level, because Rendlesham Forest is higher than the coastline. The light seemed to move around as we moved. And it looked close — only a few hundred yards away among the trees. All this matched the

Colonel Charles Halt's memo on official American Air Force notepaper was headed "Unexplained Lights", dated 13 January 1981, and sent to the RAF. It said:

1. Early in the morning of 27 Dec 80 (approximately 0300 L), 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 degrees 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.

airmen's description of the UFO.

The conclusion was clear. Had a real UFO been present as well as the lighthouse, the airmen should have reported seeing two brilliant flashing lights among the trees, not one. But they never mentioned the lighthouse, only a pulsating UFO — not surprisingly, since no one expects to come across a lighthouse beam near ground level in a forest.

So startlingly brilliant was the beam that the television cameras captured it easily. The formerly sceptical cameraman was convinced. My report was shown the following morning on Breakfast Time, much to the dismay of UFO spotters and the News of the World reporter.

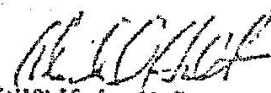
The lighthouse theory soon had its supporters and its detractors. But there were still too many open questions for the case to be considered solved. For instance, what about those landing marks?

Some weeks later I returned to Rendlesham Forest in search of answers. The landing marks had long since been destroyed when the trees were felled, but I now knew an eyewitness who had seen them: Vince Thurkettle. He recalled for me his disappointment with what he saw.

The three depressions were irregular in shape and did not even form a symmetrical triangle. He recognised them as rabbit diggings, several months old and covered with a layer of fallen pine needles. They lay in an area surrounded by 75ft tall pine trees planted 10ft to 15ft apart — scarcely the place to land a 20ft wide spacecraft.

The "burn marks" on the trees were axe cuts in the bark, made by the foresters themselves as a sign that the trees were ready to be felled. I saw numerous examples in which the pine resin, bubbling into the cut, gives the impression of a burn.

Additional information came from other eyewitness-


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

ses — the local police, called to the scene by the Woodbridge air base. The police officers who visited the site reported that they could see no UFO, only the Orford Ness lighthouse. Like Vince Thurkettle, they attributed the landing marks to animals. The case for a landed spaceship was looking very shaky indeed.

What had made the airmen think that something had crashed into the forest in the first place? I already knew from previous UFO cases that a brilliant meteor, a piece of natural debris from space burning up in the atmosphere, could give such an impression. But I was unable to find records of such a meteor on the morning of December 27.

Here the police account provided a vital lead by showing that Col. Halt's memo, written two weeks after the event, had got the date of the sighting wrong. It occurred on December 26, not December 27.

With this corrected date, I telephoned Dr John Mason, who collects reports of such sightings for the British Astronomical Association. He told me that shortly before 3 am on December 26 an exceptionally brilliant meteor, almost as bright as the full moon, had been seen over southern England. Dr Mason confirmed that this meteor would have been visible to the airmen at Woodbridge as though something were crashing into the forest nearby. The time of the sighting matched that given in Col. Halt's memo.

Finally, I turned to the question of the radiation readings. I learned that readings like those given in Col. Halt's memo would be expected from natural sources of radiation such as cosmic rays and the earth

CONT... 12

short, there was no
 radiation at the site.
 star-like objects
 paragraph of Col.
 s' moment, they were prob-
 y just that — stars. Bright
 estial objects are the main
 culprits in UFO sightings, and
 have fooled many experi-
 enced observers, including
 pilots. The object seen by Col.
 Halt to the south was almost
 certainly Sirius, the brightest
 star in the sky.

If it seems surprising that a
 colonel in the US Air Force
 should identify a star as a
 UFO, consider the alterna-
 tives. Is it likely that a bright,
 flashing UFO should hover
 over southern England for
 three hours without being
 spotted by anyone other than
 a group of excited airmen?
 And if Col. Halt really
 believed that an alien craft
 had invaded his air space,
 why did he not scramble
 fighters to investigate?

UFO hunters will continue
 to believe that an alien
 spacecraft landed in
 Rendlesham Forest that
 night. But I know that the first
 sighting coincided with the
 burn-up in the atmosphere of
 an exceptionally bright
 meteor, and that the airmen
 who saw the flashing UFO
 between the pine trees were
 looking straight at the Orford
 Ness lighthouse. The rest of
 the case is a product of human
 imagination.

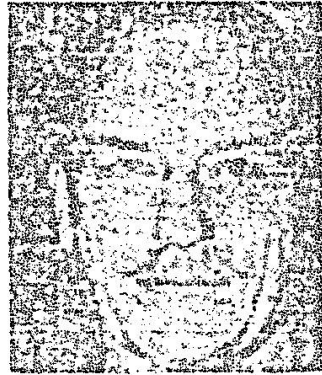
DAILY
EXPRESS

Enoch warns Irish over 'spy' radar 13

By JOHN WARDEN Political Editor

A NEW long-range radar system which can see over
 the horizon could be the turning point in Anglo-Irish
 affairs, Enoch Powell claimed last night.

The system, code-named Cold Witness, may be
 based in Britain and
 would greatly improve
 NATO surveillance of the
 strategically important
 waters around Norway.



Mr Powell: 'Blackmail'

It would, said Mr Powell,
 strip the Irish Republic of
 its importance for picking
 up early warning signals of
 Russian movements.

Mr Powell, Official
 Unionist MP for South
 Down, who was speaking in
 County Armagh, added that
 Ireland had previously been
 able to blackmail Britain
 and America into under-
 mining the constitutional
 position of Ulster.

THE TIMES

Powell alert over Dublin's £800m radar defence 2

By Anthony Bevin
 Political Correspondent

The development of a high-
 level radar system could strip
 the Irish Republic of its
 strategic influence over Britain
 and the United States, Mr
 Enoch Powell said last night.

Official Unionist MP said in
 a speech at Markethill, Co
 Armagh, that the implications
 of the little-noticed develop-
 ment were revolutionary for
 Northern Ireland. It was the

trump card which could mark a
 turning point in the province's
 fortunes.

Mr Powell said that so long as
 defence surveillance was limited
 by the horizon, the republic's
 position in the Atlantic was of
 outstanding strategic import-
 ance.

"Hence the elaborate micro-
 wave telecommunications sys-
 tem, unrelated to any possible
 domestic requirements, with
 which the republic is being
 provided at a cost of £800

million and which will be able
 to feed data into the so-called
 'Backbone' network in Britain."

He added: "This importance
 of the territory of the Irish for
 strategic and intelligence pur-
 pose has endowed it since the
 1960s with an ideal weapon for
 blackmailing the United States
 and, through the United States,
 Britain, into undermining the
 constitutional status of Ulster
 and preparing the way for its
 absorption into an all-Ireland
 confederation.

"It has been a ruthless
 exercise directed at acquiring
 and protecting strategic assets in
 the island of Ireland and it has
 been conducted with typical
 cynicism and unscrupulousness
 from beginning to end."

But Mr Powell said that the
 end of that exercise was in sight,
 if the advance of defence
 technology and 'over-the-hor-
 izon' radar undermined the
 republic's position.

"If Britain, including North-
 ern Ireland, can do the job itself
 just as well, there is no need to
 pay the republic blood money
 to have the job done somewhere
 else. Why send washing out,
 which you could do at home?"

"Chill news indeed for
 FitzGerald and Haughey, chill
 news for the IRA and Sinn Fein:
 their wares will no longer be
 marketable, the days when they
 basked in the sunshine of
 British and American official
 countenance and co-operation
 will have gone by. The writing
 is upon the wall."

Hansard Extract

13 March 1984

Cols 132 & 133

Unidentified Flying Objects

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

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

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

HANSARD EXTRACT

24 OCTOBER 1983

Col. 62

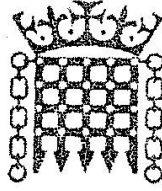
RAF Woodbridge (Alleged Incident)

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

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

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

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



HOUSE OF COMMONS
LONDON SW1A 0AA

Acknowledged E1
US(Af)
25 FEB 1985

See (AS)

21st February 1985

[Faint handwritten text]

I enclose a letter I have received from

Section 40

Section 40

I should be most grateful if you could let me have your comments on the points raised by this lady and if you could let me know whether your Department has investigated any of the incidents she describes.

Yours sincerely,

[Handwritten signature]
David Alton, MP.

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

Section 40

Section 40

12 February 1985

Dear Sir,

Please let me apologise for the time I take up in writing you this letter. Especially as I am not one of your constituents. (Although you are my closest Liberal M.P.). I write because I believe the subject is of concern to the British people and the Liberal party has demonstrated a respect for that.

I also note that Section 40, a BBC Radio Merseyside producer, has had a brief word with you on the subject of this letter a couple of months back. That fact, plus my genuine admiration for you (I have voted Liberal in every election since I became old enough in the unfashionable days of 1970) leads me to inquire if there is anything you can do.

The subject concerns 'UFOs'. But please do not switch off at that. My approach to the subject is not (emphatically not) the "UFOs are spaceships piloted by little green men" angle. Section 40 will support that. As will my several books on the phenomenon or my articles in the scientific press (see, for example, "New Scientist" February 1983).

Besides which I am not writing to ask you to defend the UFO spotters, a thing which might be politically unwise in view of some of the UFO spotters I know! The specific events with which I am concerned may not even be UFO related. But they certainly involve a serious withholding of information from the public by the present government and a possible attempt to suppress a secret weapons mishap that went on eight miles from Ipswich in December 1980.

It would be impossible to explain in a letter all the substance behind this matter. All I aim to do is give some background, some names of people you can check out to demonstrate that I am not talking through my hat, and then ask for some time to see you. I do appreciate how extraordinarily busy an M.P. must be, but if you can suggest a date I am willing to come to London where (if you can offer myself and a colleague an hour or so) we would like to show you documents, play some tape recording, and generally paint a more detailed background. Much of this material about the December 1980 events has been leaked to us by US government sources (but confirmed later by our own MoD), others involve data refused to us by the MoD and obtained in the USA (via the Freedom of Information Act) despite being official MoD property!

Briefly, my involvement began in January 1981 (about 4 weeks after the alleged incident) when a radar operator at RAF Watton breached the official secrets act and leaked to me a story concerning an object which they had tracked entering UK air space on 27 December 1980, and which had 'crashed' into Rendlesham Forest half a mile outside the perimeter fence of RAF Woodbridge (a NATO base leased by the MoD to the Americans, entirely staffed by the US Air Force flying A-10 bombers, but presided over by a British Squadron Leader as base commander). My radar source advised that USAF intelligence men had gone to Watton and examined the radar film of the incident a couple of days later (something that must have involved MoD permission). These USAF men had spun a fantastic yarn about the object being a "spaceship" and a communication between the Wing Commander of the unit (now a USAF Brigadier General Gordon Williams, who is based in Washington).

Of course, not being one to believe a tale like this (whoever is telling it) I and some colleagues in East Anglia spent the next two and a half years trying to find out the truth. Within a few months we had come to the conclusion the UFO story had to be a blind leaked publicly as something which would be laughed at, in order to mask something extraordinary (and presumably rather nasty) which had really gone on.

The work since has involved tracking down the civilians involved, spending a great deal of time and money (even going to the USA), and interviewing military witnesses from Airmen First Class up to the Brigadier General. We found a lot of circumstantial evidence that civilians had been frightened off. Definite evidence that government officials had investigated the matter on 1 January 1981 by interviewing local civilians. Three USAF airmen (up to rank of Sergeant) who independently supported the story as offered by the Watton radar man. Plus many other airmen and higher ranks (including the British Squadron Leader, Donald Moreland, three USAF Colonels, including the base commander and deputy base commander) who all affirmed that an unexplained event had occurred which involved an object crashing into the forest, flying about, being chased by a security patrol and taking off again leaving severe damage, radiation levels etc. These higher ranks all refused to acknowledge the alien nature of the craft or the alleged communication with Williams. But they all insisted that it was something unknown to them. The USAF base commander said it was not American, British or Russian, but he had no idea what it was.

Naturally, we sought official confirmation of this. We have letters and tape recordings with people involved. The MoD (via their department handling such enquiries, DS 8) denied any knowledge of the events. Later when knowledge was admitted (after we produced their own document, obtained via the US Freedom of Information Act) they suggested it must have been temporarily mislaid at the times when we approached them (Feb/March 1981 and October 1981). All of which is odd since when we had our first official appointment to see the British base commander (on 18 February 1981, just six weeks after the events) he thought we were from the MoD to interview him! He was clearly expecting an investigation. (For reasons later proved when the MoD document was released to us - this base commander had forwarded, with a covering letter, the official base report on the incident to the MoD files just four weeks previous to our visit).

In early 1983 I published several papers on the case, and the results of our investigation so far. This included an interview with the US science journal "Omni". That appeared in March 1983. Within four weeks I suddenly had a letter from the MoD department DS 8 now (after over two years) admitting that they did have records on such an event, that it was unexplained, and that there was no question at all of it involving "alien beings" (inverted commas their use) or being a cover for a crashed aircraft carrying a nuclear bomb (a theory I postulated) or the testing of secret devices (something I had never suggested to them or in any article). This had been part of a quote from me in OMNI, however. The DS 8 officer was now (just a month after publication in the USA) referring me to this magazine article, without in her letter indicating I am quoted by it!

When I received this letter (13 April 1983) two other dramatic things happened at once, after two years of stalemate and bluffing. A USAF Colonel (Ted Conrad) gave an interview to OMNI admitting it was a real unexplained phenomenon but shooting down any talk of aliens, and along with him Squadron Leader Moreland officially confirmed the incident too! Also a US airman trotted out into the public domain (and created a front page article in that eminently 'credible' source the News of the World!) talking a load of bull about alien contact on the base. Voice Stress analysis on him

...

was seemingly demonstrated what we believed all along. Either he is a paranoic jumping on the bandwagon (or as seems more likely in view of the background facts) he was put up to this by US government sources to rescue the flagging UFO "nutters" theory in the face of the danger that the real truth would get out.

The second event was official support from the Pentagon confirming (in similar terms to the MoD) that the events had happened and were unexplained. They then released to us a memo (allegedly with MoD permission!) which was signed by then deputy base commander (Lt Col Charles Halt) and reported direct to our MoD:- TWO incidents, both involving unexplained UFOs, both witnessed by many USA personnel (including Halt himself), and the first (being the original event we knew all about) having left tree damage, symmetrical holes in the ground, and radiation in the holes and on the trees. It had also upset nearby farm animals (we discovered from one farmer whose cattle were hit by a taxi when scared by the object that he was paid sufficient compensation to clear off out of the area and buy a new farm in Devon!)

There are numerous problems about this memo, not counting the question as to why the MoD had denied this to British citizens, even denied its existence, but according to its covering letter endorsed its release to US citizens under their FoI act! One is this mysterious second incident, never before mentioned by any of our witnesses (despite the report itself attesting that many more people were a party to it than to the events of 27 December) (The MoD admission to me of 13 April, just two months before this memo release in the USA, was paradoxical as it talks only of the first night and makes no mention of the second...it is also, at best, misrepresenting the truth, because it is plainly based on the above referred to memo yet talks of "lights" when the memo describes a triangularcraft of very specific dimensions, and says not one word about the tree damage, animal effects, symmetrical holes in the ground or radiation levels officially referred to!)

The second major problem with the memo is that it is dated 13 January 1981, 17 days after the events. The MoD insist this is the only data on their files and thus their first record. Yet the local interrogations occurred 12 days prior to this as did the the USAF intelligence visit to the RIF base at Watton (which must have had MoD approval).

We took the MoD memo to Whitehall (on the pretext that we had a file, denied to us previously, but released to Americans under FoI, so we were not sure if we were in breach of the official secrets act by possessing it). At the MoD we were told we were not in contravention, had the memo confirmed as in MoD possession, and had it insisted that they had not released it to the US government for FoI release, despite the cover letter with its release from the US government saying exactly the opposite!

The News of the World story then appeared and a sequence of "shoot it down" stories have followed, suggesting that it was a lighthouse at Orford Ness. The calibre of news media promoting these stories is strange, in view of the usual lethargy about UFO matters "The Times" (3 Oct 1983), "The Guardian" (as recent as 5 Jan 1985) etc. However, the MoD, the base itself, and all the officers involved absolutely refuse to acknowledge the lighthouse theory. They still insist (in writing) that the event is unexplained. Not that the media sources mentioned above are taking any notice of this. And believe me we have tried to get a serious media source to counteract these blatant "cover-up" stories.

A tape recording has even now been released to us, recording the events of the second night. This includes the taking of site photographs, samples of irradiated bark and soil, geiger counter monitoring of the damage and traces, and a detailed

4...

discussion of these things by several USAF officers (including the deputy base commander, head of base security, and on duty night commander). Later on the tape a UFO reappears which evidently is the Orford Ness lighthouse. But the tape also clearly illustrates that the senior officers are acting !

This tape has been officially confirmed by several senior officers on the base (including the last three base commanders!). Yet in writing under Freedom of Information, the US government have denied its existence. So have our own MoD. Both these parties also refuse to acknowledge the existence of the photos and samples, as plainly recorded on the tape.

As I said right at the start this is a complicated business. And I can only scratch the surface of it here. But it seems to me (remaining as objective as I can) that something happened which the MoD and US government want to hide. To do this they have been willing to use a crazy UFO tale as a convenient smokescreen and possibly even comply with fabrication of evidence and testimony (certainly to obscure the truth from British citizens)

Major Sir Patrick Wall, of the defence committee, has asked questions in the house. But these followed the news of the world codswallop and, despite my briefing him beforehand, were frankly the wrong questions to ask. John Stanley (the same man in the dock over Belgrano right now) responded and did nothing but admit that the government had seen the Halt memo to the MoD. Patrick Wall backed off. I spoke to him last November and he refused point blank to ask any more questions, on the grounds that four years ago is too long back into the past!

Former chief of staff at the MoD and admiral of the fleet, Lord Hill-Norton, has also been of partial help and been briefed. But he prefers the quiet life and says there is nothing he can do.

This leaves us with one of two positions. The evidence clearly suggests something did happen, capable of damaging and irradiating civilian land. The official position remains that it is unexplained. Are the government really ignoring an unexplained intruder on by an irradiating object, right next to one of our NATO bases? If so I cannot be satisfied.

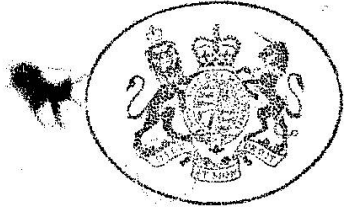
The other option is that the lighthouse theory is true. If so, then it means that senior USAF officers have mutually complied in a conspiracy to protect their incredible incompetence. They not only mistake a lighthouse (which has been there for decades) as a triangular craft flying around the forest and landing for two hours! They also cannot tell whether tree damage and holes in the ground are real or not. They do not know whether radiation levels are normal or not. And their investigations and MoD investigations are so inept they cannot spot the very same lighthouse, which continued to be exactly where it was night after night after night.

This implies something ~~remise~~ about our base commander policy at NATO bases, which I think causes grave concern for European security. For all three US commanders (1980-1984) are party to the above (as fabricators and conspirators, not just fools). So is the British base commander. So is the MoD for endorsing the appointments.

One thing these media stories saying "it was a lighthouse" have all missed is this. Lt Col Charles Halt, deputy base commander, signatory of the MoD memo, witness to the events, instigator of the tape, was promoted to full Colonel the very week the News of the World story appeared. A few months later, when the "it was a lighthouse"

Best wishes,

Section 40



PARLIAMENTARY UNDER-SECRETARY OF STATE
FOR THE ARMED FORCES

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
MAIN BUILDING WHITEHALL LONDON SW1A 2HB

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

EZ
Section 40

file
12/4

D/US of S(AF)/DGT 4884

20 February 1985

Dear Mr Rees,

Thank you for your letter of 24 January, with the enclosed from your constituent **Section 40**

I should first of all point out that the sole interest of the Ministry of Defence in reported sightings of Unidentified Flying Objects (UFOs) is to establish whether they have any bearing on the defence of the country.

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

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

The only information we have on the alleged "UFO sightings" at Rendlesham Forest in December 1980 is the report by Colonel Charles Halt, of the United States Air Force, of lights seen outside RAF Woodbridge, a copy of which was sent to **Section 40** on request and which he mentions in his letter. We are satisfied that the events described are of no defence significance.

I am also enclosing with this copies of 2 recent Parliamentary Questions, one of which mentions the report in question.

Yours sincerely,
Trefgarne

Lord Trefgarne

Rt Hon Merlyn Rees MP

Section 40

LOOSE MINUTE

DGT 4884

R Feb 85

APS/US of S(AF)

1. I attach a draft reply to Merlyn Rees MP. Since Mr Rees is unlikely to be familiar with the MOD's interest in the subject, the draft follows the standard line taken with correspondents on UFOs.
2. However, Mr Rees' constituent, Section 40 represents an organisation called the Yorkshire UFO Society (YUFOS) which is well known to us. The report to which Section 40 refers was provided by the MOD in May 1984. A copy of the report, together with our covering letter and Section 40 request, are also enclosed. Clearly there is nothing we can usefully add to what was said in our letter to Section 40.
3. Also enclosed are copies of 2 PQs which we normally pass to correspondents who may be interested. One of these, put down by Sir Patrick Wall on 24 October 1983, specifically mentions the incident in question.
4. You may also have seen an article which appeared in The Guardian on 5 January 1985, giving an interesting counter-argument to that propounded by YUFOS. A copy of the article is enclosed and US of S(AF) may like to pass this to Mr Rees for information under separate cover. We are aware, from other correspondence, that UFO investigators are not convinced by this article and for this reason no mention of it is made in the draft reply which will no doubt be passed on to Section 40.

Section 40

Sec(AS)2

Section 40

DRAFT

D/US of S(AF)/DGT 4884

February 1985

Thank you for your letter of 24 January, with the enclosed from your constituent **Section 40**

I should first of all point out that the sole interest of the Ministry of Defence in reported sightings of Unidentified Flying Objects (UFOs) is to establish whether they have any bearing on the defence of the country.

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

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

The only information we have on the alleged "UFO sightings" at Rendlesham Forest in December 1980 is the report by Colonel Charles Halt, of the United States Air Force, of lights seen outside RAF

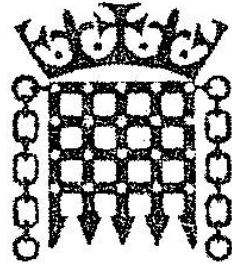
Woodbridge, a copy of which was sent to **Section 40** on request and which he mentions in his letter. We are satisfied that the events described are of no defence significance.

I am also enclosing with this copies of 2 recent Parliamentary Questions, one of which mentions the report in question.

Lord Trefgarne

Merlyn Rees Esq MP

Job No 2a(1)-24



HOUSE OF COMMONS
LONDON SW1A 0AA

Acknowledged

28 JAN 1985

Sec AS

24 January 1985

Dear Michael

I enclose copies of two letter I have received from **Section 40** who is a constituent of mine.

Your comments on the points he makes would be appreciated.

*How
Merlyn*

Merlyn Rees

Rt Hon M Heseltine MP
S of S Defence
Whitehall Sw1

YUFOS RESEARCH DIVISION



Merlyn Rees M.P.
 c/o
 The House of Commons,
 Westminster,
 London.

20.1.85.

Section 40

Overseas Liaison Officer

Section 40

England

Tel. Section 40

Dear Mr Rees,

Just a few lines to ask you if you have managed to ask the questions of Mr Heseltine which were contained in my last letter dated 23.12.84.

The reason that I may seem a little impatient is that the questions I asked are vital to my research into UFOs at the present, so if you have not already asked Mr Heseltine the questions in my last letter could you please do so at the earliest opportunity.

I can appreciate that you are a busy man but I take the study of UFOs very seriously as no doubt you are aware of if you read the copy of QUEST I sent you. If you would care to find out more about the kind of research undertaken by our organisation then I would like to invite you to attend our forthcoming conference in Leeds on March the 23rd.

The conference is to be held at Centenary House North Street, Leeds, and starts at 1.15 prompt. Speakers include Section 40 (our president) Section 40 (our research head) and myself. I am sure that if you could find the time to attend the conference you will not be disappointed.

Please find enclosed with this letter a SKY CRASH leaflet. I would recommend that if you have the time you read this book then you may realise why the questions I have put to both you and Mr Heseltine are so important.

Yours Sincerely,

Section 40

Publishers of **QUEST**

YUFOS RESEARCH DIVISION



Mr Merlyn Rees M.P.
c/o
The Houses of Parliament,
Westminster,
London.

23.12.84.

Dear Sir,

Please find enclosed a copy of a report that I obtained from the Ministry of Defence in May of this year.

The report is from Lt Col Charles Halt, who at the time was deputy base commander at RAF Woodbridge in Suffolk. This report was sent to the MOD by Col Halt and as you will see it refers to the sighting of an unusual metallic glowing object and numerous sightings of unusual lights, all of which were observed near to RAF Woodbridge.

What I would like you to do on my behalf is to ask Mr Michael Heseltine a number of questions concerning the enclosed report.

These questions are as follows:

1. What was the object in paragraph one and from where did it originate. Was the object mentioned in paragraph one a secret military device, British, American, foreign or a mixture in origin. Was the object mentioned in paragraph one not of human design and origin?
2. Is there any truth in the rumours that during the observation of the object mentioned in paragraph one that contact between Woodbridge base personnel and beings of a non-human intelligence took place.
3. Was there any photographs taken of the object mentioned in paragraph one or cine or video film. If yes what was the results of the developed film and where is it now.
4. Was there any photographs taken of the depressions mentioned in paragraph two. If yes where are these photographs at this moment in time. Also what does the Minister for Defence make of the high radiation readings that were recorded within the area of depressions mentioned in paragraph two.
5. What were the objects that were observed in paragraph three, and from where did they originate.
6. What official investigation was carried out into the observations mentioned by Col Halt in the enclosed report.

Section 40

Overseas Liaison Officer

Section 40

England

Tel. Section 40

Publishers of

QUEST

Are we to believe that no investigation was carried out at all.

7. I would also like to know what further information the MOD has on this report. Are we to believe that the report by Col Halt is the only document that refers to the sightings outside of RAF Woodbridge.

Last but not least I have been asked by a colleague of mine to ask Mr Heseltine if he or any scientific body will take an unbiased look at the evidence accumulated by my colleague into this report by Col Halt. The large amount of evidence accumulated by my colleague does conclude that something very unusual was observed outside RAF Woodbridge. My colleagues name is **Section 40** and she is willing to present her evidence to anyone anywhere anytime so long as three weeks notice is given in advance of presenting the evidence.

These are all the questions I would like to ask the Minister for Defence at the moment.

I would also be interested to hear your comments on this report as well Mr Rees I am sure it will make interesting reading. I have also enclosed a copy of our latest journal "QUEST" for your attention I would also like to hear your comments on our journal.

I look forward to both your reply and the reply from Mr Heseltine.

Yours Sincerely,

Section 40



From **Section 40** Defence Secretariat 8

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
Main Building Whitehall London SW1A 2HB

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

File (694)

Section 40

Your reference

Our reference
D/DS8/10/209-648

Date

25 May 1984

Dear

Section 40

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

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

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

Yours sincerely,

Section 40

YUFOS RESEARCH DIVISION

(E92)



Section 40

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

DATE: 8.5.84.

Section 40

Overseas Liaison Officer

Section 40

England

Tel. Section 40

Dear Sir/Madam,

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

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

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

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

How Observed: Naked eye only.

Direction object first seen: North.

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

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

Second report.

Date: December the 27th 1980 at 3am.

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

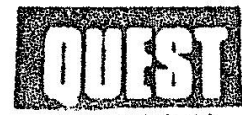
Position of observers: Tangham wood, near USAF base at RAF Woodbridge, Suffolk England.

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

Direction object seen: North.

P.T.O.

Publishers of



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

Distance: Not determined.

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

Weather conditions: Not determined.

Names of observers: Lt Colonel Charles I Malt, deputy commander of the USAF 31st Tactical Flying Wing. Plus both British and American Air Force personnel.

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

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

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

Yours Sincerely,

Section 40

Ar

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



REPLY TO
 ATTN OF: CD

13 Jan 81

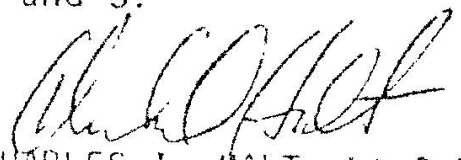
SUBJECT: Unexplained Lights

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

THE GUARDIAN GRASSROOTS

A flashlight in the forest

Despite a massive cover-up, News of the World investigators have proof that the mysterious craft came to earth in a red ball of light. An American airman who was there told us there were three beings in silver space suits aboard the craft. . . . More seriously, they produced a supporting statement from a named American Air Force colonel, which we reprint on the right. And an American UFO expert who said 'You can't hide the truth for ever.' Which is where Ian Ridpath takes up the investigation.

FOUR Christmases ago, something remarkable was said to have occurred outside the US Air Force base at Woodbridge, near Ipswich. News of the event leaked out slowly, finally hitting the headlines in October 1983: "UFO Lands in Suffolk — Official," screamed the front page of the News of the World.

The story was sensational. It told of a group of American airmen who were confronted one night with an alien spaceship in Rendlesham Forest, which surrounds the air force base. According to the story, the craft came down over the trees and landed in a blinding explosion of light.

The airmen tried to approach the object, but it moved away from them as though under intelligent control. The following day, landing marks were found on the ground, burns were seen on nearby trees, and radiation traces were recorded. There was even talk of aliens aboard the craft, and allegations of a massive cover-up. It had all the ingredients of a classic UFO encounter.

The News of the World's informant was a former US airman. He was given the pseudonym Art Wallace, for he claimed that his life had been threatened if he talked. Yet here he was freely giving interviews to newspapers and television.

While his fantastic story might be doubted, it was impossible to shrug off a memo written by the deputy base commander, Lt. Col. Charles I. Halt, to the Ministry of Defence, which was publicly released in the United States under the Freedom of Information Act. Halt's memo, reprinted in full here, is not as sensational as Wallace's story, but it is prime documentary evidence of a type rarely encountered in UFO cases.

UFO researchers in Britain could scarcely believe their luck: this was The Big One, final proof that We Are Not Alone. The News of the World

paid £12,000 for the story. book was recently published about the case, and American TV crews have been filming at the site in recent weeks.

All that evidence, backed up by the word of the US Air Force, could not possibly have a rational explanation.

Or could it? Here are the facts that you have not been told.

Soon after the News of the World story appeared, I went in search of local opinions about the case. I made contact by telephone with a forester, Vince Thurkettle, who lives within a mile of the alleged UFO landing site. "I don't know of anyone around here who believes that anything strange happened that night," he told me.

So what did he think the flashing light was in Rendlesham Forest? I was astonished by his reply. "It's the lighthouse," he said.

That lighthouse lies at Orford Ness on the Suffolk coast, five miles from the forest. Thurkettle plotted on a map the direction in which the airmen reported seeing their flashing UFO, and found that they were looking straight into the lighthouse beam.

Could this really be the answer? I visited the site with a camera crew from BBC TV's Breakfast Time. On the way there, the cameraman was sceptical about the lighthouse theory. I didn't blame him.

It was gone midnight when Vince Thurkettle took us to the site of the alleged landing, and it felt spooky. The area had by now been cleared of trees as part of normal forest operations, but enough pines remained at the edge of the forest to give us a realistic idea of what the airmen saw that night.

Sure enough, the lighthouse beam seemed to hover a few feet above ground level, because Rendlesham Forest is higher than the coastline. The light seemed to move around as we moved. And it looked close — only a few hundred yards away among the trees. All this matched the

Colonel Charles Halt's memo on official American Air Force notepaper was headed "Unexplained Lights", dated 13 January 1981, and sent to the RAF. It said:

1. Early in the morning of 27 Dec 80 (approximately 0300 L), 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 degrees 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.

airmen's description of the UFO.

The conclusion was clear. Had a real UFO been present as well as the lighthouse, the airmen should have reported seeing two brilliant flashing lights among the trees, not one. But they never mentioned the lighthouse, only a pulsating UFO — not surprisingly, since no one expects to come across a lighthouse beam near ground level in a forest.

So startlingly brilliant was the beam that the television cameras captured it easily. The formerly sceptical cameraman was convinced. My report was shown the following morning on Breakfast Time, much to the dismay of UFO spotters and the News of the World reporter.

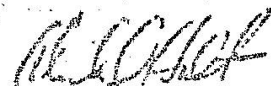
The lighthouse theory soon had its supporters and its detractors. But there were still too many open questions for the case to be considered solved. For instance, what about those landing marks?

Some weeks later I returned to Rendlesham Forest in search of answers. The landing marks had long since been destroyed when the trees were felled, but I now knew an eyewitness who had seen them: Vince Thurkettle. He recalled for me his disappointment with what he saw.

The three depressions were irregular in shape and did not even form a symmetrical triangle. He recognised them as rabbit diggings, several months old and covered with a layer of fallen pine needles. They lay in an area surrounded by 75ft tall pine trees planted 10ft to 15ft apart — scarcely the place to land a 26ft wide spacecraft.

The "burn marks" on the trees were axe cuts in the bark, made by the foresters themselves as a sign that the trees were ready to be felled. I saw numerous examples in which the pine resin, bubbling into the cut, gives the impression of a burn.

Additional information came from other eyewitness-


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

ses — the local police, called to the scene by the Woodbridge air base. The police officers who visited the site reported that they could see no UFO, only the Orford Ness lighthouse. Like Vince Thurkettle, they attributed the landing marks to animals. The case for a landed spaceship was looking very shaky indeed.

What had made the airmen think that something had crashed into the forest in the first place? I already knew from previous UFO cases that a brilliant meteor, a piece of natural debris from space burning up in the atmosphere, could give such an impression. But I was unable to find records of such a meteor on the morning of December 27.

Here the police account provided a vital lead by showing that Col. Halt's memo, written two weeks after the event, had got the date of the sighting wrong. It occurred on December 26, not December 27.

With this corrected date, I telephoned Dr John Mason, who collects reports of such sightings for the British Astronomical Association. He told me that shortly before 3 am on December 26 an exceptionally brilliant meteor, almost as bright as the full moon, had been seen over southern England. Dr Mason confirmed that this meteor would have been visible to the airmen at Woodbridge as though something were crashing into the forest nearby. The time of the sighting matched that given in Col. Halt's memo.

Finally, I turned to the question of the radiation readings. I learned that readings like those given in Col. Halt's memo would be expected from natural sources of radiation such as cosmic rays and the earth

CONT... 12

CONT.
 short, there was no
 radiation at the site.
 As for star-like objects
 the first paragraph of Col.
 Halt's memo, they were prob-
 ably just that — stars. Bright
 celestial objects are the main

culprits in UFO sightings, and
 have fooled many experi-
 enced observers, including
 pilots. The object seen by Col.
 Halt to the south was almost
 certainly Sirius, the brightest
 star in the sky.

If it seems surprising that a
 colonel in the US Air Force
 should identify a star as a
 UFO, consider the alterna-
 tives. Is it likely that a bright,
 flashing UFO should hover
 over southern England for
 three hours without being
 spotted by anyone other than
 a group of excited airmen?
 And if Col. Halt really
 believed that an alien craft
 had invaded his air space,
 why did he not scramble
 fighters to investigate?

UFO hunters will continue
 to believe that an alien
 spacecraft landed in
 Rendlesham Forest that
 night. But I know that the first
 sighting coincided with the
 burn-up in the atmosphere of
 an exceptionally bright
 meteor, and that the airmen
 who saw the flashing UFO
 between the pine trees were
 looking straight at the Orford
 Ness lighthouse. The rest of
 the case is a product of human
 imagination.

DAILY
EXPRESS

Enoch warns Irish over 'spy' radar 13

By JOHN WARDEN Political Editor

A NEW long-range radar system which can see over
 the horizon could be the turning point in Anglo-Irish
 affairs, Enoch Powell claimed last night.

The system, code-named Cold Witness, may be
 based in Britain and
 would greatly improve
 NATO surveillance of the
 strategically important
 waters around Norway.

It would, said Mr Powell,
 strip the Irish Republic of
 its importance for picking
 up early warning signals of
 Russian movements.

Mr Powell, Official
 Unionist MP for South
 Down, who was speaking in
 County Armagh, added that
 Ireland had previously been
 able to blackmail Britain
 and America into under-
 mining the constitutional
 position of Ulster.



Mr Powell: 'Blackmail'

THE TIMES

Powell alert over Dublin's £800m radar defence 2

By Anthony Bevin
 Political Correspondent

The development of a high-
 level radar system could strip
 the Irish Republic of its
 strategic influence over Britain
 and the United States, Mr
 Enoch Powell said last night.

Official Unionist MP said in
 a speech at Markethill, Co
 Armagh, that the implications
 of the little-noticed develop-
 ment were revolutionary for
 Northern Ireland. It was the

trump card which could mark a
 turning point in the province's
 fortunes.

Mr Powell said that so long as
 defence surveillance was limited
 by the horizon, the republic's
 position in the Atlantic was of
 outstanding strategic import-
 ance.

"Hence the elaborate micro-
 wave telecommunications sys-
 tem, unrelated to any possible
 domestic requirements, with
 which the republic is being
 provided at a cost of £800

million and which will be able
 to feed data into the so-called
 'Backbone' network in Britain."

He added: "This importance
 of the territory of the Irish for
 strategic and intelligence pur-
 pose has endowed it since the
 1950s with an ideal weapon for
 blackmailing the United States
 and, through the United States,
 Britain, into undermining the
 constitutional status of Ulster
 and preparing the way for its
 absorption into an all-Ireland
 confederation.

"It has been a ruthless
 exercise directed at acquiring
 and protecting strategic assets in
 the island of Ireland and it has
 been conducted with typical
 cynicism and unscrupulousness
 from beginning to end."

But Mr Powell said that the
 end of that exercise was in sight,
 if the advance of defence
 technology and 'over-the-hor-
 izon' radar undermined the
 republic's position.

"If Britain, including North-
 ern Ireland, can do the job itself

just as well, there is no need to
 pay the republic blood money
 to have the job done somewhere
 else. Why send washing out,
 which you could do at home?"

"Chill news indeed for
 FitzGerald and Haughey, chill
 news for the IRA and Sinn Fein:
 their wares will no longer be
 marketable, the days when they
 basked in the sunshine of
 British and American official
 countenance and co-operation
 will have gone by. The writing
 is upon the wall."

Hansard Extract

13 March 1984

Cols 132 & 133

Unidentified Flying Objects

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

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

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

HEARD EXTRACT

24 OCTOBER 1983

Col. 62

RAF Woodbridge (Alleged Incident)

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

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

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

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