From: Section 40 Secretariat (Air Staff) 2a1
MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
Main Building, Whitehall, London SW1A 2HB

Telephone (Direct dial) 0171 218 2140
(Switchboard) 0171 218 9000
(Fax) Section 40

ENCLOSURE NUMBER 3

Section 40
Sutton-in-Ashfield
Nottinghamshire
Section 40

Your reference

Our reference
D/Sec(AS)/64/3
Date
2 September 1998

Dear Section 40

Thank you for your letter of 28 July in response to mine of 20 May.

In view of my reply to Q1 of your earlier letter, you will understand why Q2 was not answered.

Turning to Q4, as I explained in my previous letter there was no evidence to suggest anything of air defence concern occurred on the nights in question in Rendlesham Forest. With this in mind, and after nearly 18 years, I am unable to trace any information about felling of trees in the area.

In Q7 you asked about the UK Government's policy in respect of 'UFOs'. This is a national issue and determined by our own Government of the day.

Finally, responding to Q8, the UK Government's interest in reports of 'UFOs' is limited to establishing any potential military threat to the integrity of the UK's airspace. With that in mind, any reports of 'unidentified flying objects' have always been given the attention they deserve.

Yours sincerely,

Section 40

Section 40
Sutton-in-Ashfield
Nottinghamshire
Section 40

Secretariat (Air staff) 2A 1A
Room 8245
Ministry of defence
Main building
Whitehall
London
SW1A 2HB

18 JULY 1998

Dear Section 40

Thank you for your letter of 20th may. I asked you a number of questions regarding RAF Bentwaters, and RAF woodbridge. There were one or two questions that you did not answer, numbers 2,4,7,8. Number 8 is very important to my research and I need an answer to the question, may be it will help if I asked the question in a different way. "As it ever been mod policy to play down the subject of UFO's and to avoid attaching undue attention or publicity?. I would be very grateful for any answers to the above. I look forward to hearing from you in the near future.

Your Sincerely

Section 40

From: Section 40 Secretariat (Air Staff) 2a1
MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
Main Building, Whitehall, London SW1A 2HB

ENCLOSURE NUMBER 15

Telephone (Direct dial) 0171 218 2140
(Switchboard) 0171 218 9000
(Fax) Section 40

Section 40

Sutton in Ashfield
Nottinghamshire
Section 40

Your reference

Our reference
D/Sec(AS)/64/3
Date
20 May 1998

Dear Section 40

1. Thank you for your letter of 9 April, in which you asked a number of questions in connection with 'unidentified flying objects'.

2. You ask about RAF Bentwaters and RAF Woodbridge during an alleged incident at the end of December 1980. All substantiated evidence available at the time was looked at by those within the Department with responsibility for air defence matters and the judgement was that nothing of air defence concern occurred on the nights in question. It is the policy of this and previous Governments to neither confirm nor deny the presence of nuclear weapons at any site either past or present. The information is being withheld under Exemption 1 of the Code of Practice on Access to Government Information.

3. You also ask about the role of Secretariat(Air Staff)2a. All alleged sighting reports made to Ministry of Defence establishments, including military bases, are forwarded to this Branch which is the MOD focal point for handling correspondence and queries of this nature. Since the beginning of this year there have been no alleged sightings by on duty military personnel.

4. You will know from earlier correspondence the extent of the MOD's interest in the 'UFO' phenomenon. It is UK Government policy that the air defence and air traffic implications of 'unidentified flying objects' are the responsibility of the MOD and the Civil Aviation Authority respectively. Within the remit placed upon the MOD in relation to this policy, action, as necessary is taken in respect of any further investigation. Where there is no evidence on an alleged incursion of the UK Air Defence Region by unauthorized foreign military activity it is a matter of policy that no further action should be taken.

Finally, you asked about he role of the Provost and Security Service (P&SS) in respect of 'UFO reports'. The alleged involvement of P&SS is frequently misunderstood. Until 1992 the Flying Complaints Flight (FCF), part of the HQ P&SS(UK) based at RAF Rudloe Manor, was the central coordination point for any 'UFO' reports made to RAF stations by members of the public or service personnel. Its function was simply to record the details and pass on the reports directly to Sec(AS)2a. Sec(AS)2a examined the reports and decided, with advice as necessary from air defence experts and others, whether what was seen had defence implications. The FCF involvement in the collection of 'UFO' reports ceased in 1992 when all reports received by RAF stations were sent instead directly to Sec(AS)2a. Since that date, the extent of the FCF's involvement in the 'UFO' reporting process, in common with all other RAF stations, is to note down the details of any reports made to them from the local area and forward them to Sec(AS)2a.

Yours sincerely,

Section 40

Section 40
Sutton in Ashfield
Nottinghamshire
Section 40

Secretariat (Air Staff) 2A 1A
Room 8245
Ministry of Defence
Main Building
Whitehall
LONDON
SW1A 2HB

9 April 1998

Dear Sir/Madam

I am writing to you regarding the 28th December 1980 sighting at the twin base complex of R.A.F. Bentwaters and R.A.F. Woodbridge in Suffolk. I have some questions that I hope you can answer for me.

1. Were Nuclear weapons stored at R.A.F. Bentwaters?

2. Was R.A.F. Bentwaters on full alert at the time, due to problems in Europe?

3. Who did the analysis, and on what basis did the Ministry conclude there was no threat?

4. After the incident, why was a large section of the forest cut down?

5. Is Section (2A 1A) simply a clearing house for UFO reports, or is there a higher office which disseminates reports beyond those which reached you?

6. How many military sightings have there been this year?

7. Has official British policy towards the UFO phenomenon been affected by Washington?

8. Why is it MOD policy to play down the subject of UFO's, and to avoid attaching undue attention or publicity?

9. Are the Provost Security Service department still investigating UFO`s?

I look forward to hearing from you in the near future.

Yours sincerely

Section 40

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
SEC (AS) 2
14 APR 1998

AIR 2/17527

AIR/X 59/64

21 PCK

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
Main Building, Whitehall, LONDON S.W.1
Telephone: Whitehall 7022, *ext.*

Our reference:
Your reference:

24 June 1965

Mr Langton has shown us your letter of the 15th June about Project Blue Book.

In the United Kingdom, the Air Force Department of the Ministry of Defence has the primary responsibility for investigating reports of UFOs., and the reasons for this allocation of responsibility are exactly the same as in your case.

We investigate every case reported to us, and we use every assistance, civilian as well as military, available to us to identify a particular object. For example, we have frequently used the resources of Kodak Ltd., to examine photographs, films and equipment submitted to us. We do not, however maintain a special scientific staff for this purpose. It is normally handled as part of the routine work of our Air Force Technical Intelligence department. Unlike you, however, we do investigate single-observer sightings. Our results over the years are in line with yours viz. in some 90% of cases investigated, we are able to make a positive, rational identification, in 10% we are unable to do so because of insufficient data, and in no case have we unearthed any evidence of extra-terrestrial origin.

Our policy is to play down the subject of UFOs and to avoid attaching undue attention or publicity to it. As a result, we have never had any serious political pressure to mount a large-scale investigation such as Project Blue Book. Indeed, the matter has been raised only once in Parliament in the last 5 or 6 years, and then only in a perfunctory way.

The specific answers to your questions are as follows:-

a. No

b. No

c. Yes, a considerable number

d. We investigate about 70 case a year but there are others which are not reported to us, although sometimes reported in the newspapers.

We should be delighted to discuss the matter with Dr Hynek when he comes to London and no doubt you will let us know in due course when he will be here.

Lieutenant Colonel John P. Spaulding,
Civil Branch,
Community Relations Division,
Office of Information,
Department of the Air Force,
Washington DC
U.S.A.

AIR 2/17527

DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

JUN 15 1965

Dear Mr. Langton:

In keeping with the Air Force role for the air defense of our country, we are responsible for the investigation of unidentified flying objects (UFOs) reported in the skies over the United States. The name of this program which is governed by Air Force Regulation 200-2 is Project Blue Book. A copy of the current report on this project and a copy of the regulation governing the program are attached for your information.

We are interested in obtaining the following information on British UFO activity:

a. Do you have a Government program comparable to our Project Blue Book?

b. If so, do you have a scientific consultant?

c. Are there civilian organizations in your country which are dedicated to the study of UFOs?

d. How much UFO activity do you have in your country?

The Air Force scientific consultant to Project Blue Book, Doctor J. Allen Hynek, is planning a trip to London in September. While he is there, he would like to discuss this subject with you.

Thank you for your time and cooperation on this matter.

Sincerely,

JOHN P. SPAULDING
Lt Colonel, USAF
Chief, Civil Branch
Community Relations Division
Office of Information

2 Atch
1. Blue Book Report
2. AFR 200-2

Mr. R. A. Langton
SHF(Air) Room 8241
Main Building
Ministry of Defense
Whitehall
London SW 1, England

From: Section 40 Secretariat(Air Staff)2a1a, Room 8245,
MINISTRY OF DEFENCE,
Main Building, Whitehall, London. SW1A 2HB

Telephone (Direct dial) 0171 218 2140
(Switchboard) 0171 218 9000
(Fax) Section 40

ENCLOSURE NUMBER 28

Section 40

Wellingborough,
Northamptonshire.
Section 40

Your reference

Our reference
D/Sec(AS)/64/3
Date
October 1998

Dear Section 40,

Thank you for your letter of 7 September, the content of which has been noted.

Yours sincerely,

Section 40

Section 40

Section 40

7/9/98

Dear Sir.

BBC Lane broadcast
the 1953 Queens Speech Act
by mentioning on Radio
by ROB Hayes and on
TV by Hawks presenter
by mentioning UFOs.

Can you inform MR Best
Director.

Section 40

From: Section 40 Secretariat(Air Staff)2a1a, Room 8245,
MINISTRY OF DEFENCE,
Main Building, Whitehall, London. SW1A 2HB

Telephone (Direct dial) 0171 218 2140
(Switchboard) 0171 218 9000
(Fax) Section 40

ENCLOSURE NUMBER 27

Section 40
Barnham Broom,
Norfolk.
Section 40

Your reference

Our reference
D/Sec(AS)/64/3
Date
1 October 1998

Dear Section 40

I am writing with reference to your recent report of an unexplained aerial sighting which you observed on the evening of 16 September. The details of your report have been passed from RAF Coltishall to this office as we are the focal point within the MOD for correspondence relating to 'unidentified flying objects'.

The Ministry of Defence examines any reports of 'unidentified flying objects' it receives solely to establish whether what was seen might have some defence significance; namely, whether there is any evidence that the United Kingdom's airspace might have been compromised by hostile or unauthorized foreign military activity.

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

With regard to your particular observation, I have looked back through our sighting report files and can confirm that we received no other reports of 'UFO' sightings for 16 September from the Norfolk region, and we are satisfied that there is no corroborating evidence to suggest that the United Kingdom's airspace was breached by unauthorised military aircraft.

Yours sincerely,

Section 40

Report held on 6412 pt H enc. 50.

From: Section 40 Secretariat (Air Staff) 2a1
MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
Main Building, Whitehall, London SW1A 2HB

ENCLOSURE NUMBER 26

Telephone (Direct dial) 0171 218 2140
(Switchboard) 0171 218 9000
(Fax) Section 40

Section 40

Weston-Super-Mare
North Somerset
Section 40

Your reference

Our reference
D/Sec(AS)/64/3
Date
1 October 1998

Dear Section 40

Thank you for your letter of 17 September.

First I should explain that the Ministry of Defence examines any reports of 'unidentified flying objects' it receives solely to establish whether what was seen might have some defence significance; namely, whether there is any evidence that the United Kingdom's airspace might have been compromised by authorized foreign military activity.

Unless there is evidence of a potential threat to the United Kingdom from an external military source, we do not attempt to identify the precise nature of each reported incident. We believe that down to earth explanations could be found for these reports if resources were diverted for this purpose but it would be an inappropriate use of defence resources to provide this kind of aerial identification service.

As is the case with other government files, MOD files are subject to the provisions of the Public Records Act of 1958 and 1967. This Act of Parliament states that official files generally remain closed from public viewing for 30 years after the last action has been taken. It was generally the case that before 1967 all 'UFO' files were destroyed after five years, as there was insufficient public interest in the subject to merit their permanent retention. However since 1967, following an increase in public interest in this subject 'UFO' report files are now routinely preserved. Any files surviving from the 1950s and early 1960s are already available for examination by members of the public at the Public Record Office, Ruskin Avenue, Kew, Richmond, Surrey, TW9 4DU. Files from 1967 onwards will be routinely released to the Public Record Office at the 30 year point. This will include any paperwork the MOD may have held on the alleged incident of November 1967 to which your letter refers.

I hope this explains the position.

Yours sincerely,

Section 40

nonflying/UFOs

MINISTERIAL CORRESPONDENCE UNIT

To SEC(AS)2

Ref No 5780 /1998

Date 22-9-98

The Secretary of State,/_____ has received the attached letter from a member of the public. It has not been acknowledged by this office.

Please send a reply on behalf of the Minister concerned. All Ministers attach importance to such letters being answered promptly, your reply should therefore be sent **within 20 working days** of the date of this minute. If, exceptionally, this should prove impossible an interim reply should be sent within the same timescale.

A new Open Government Code of Practice on Access to Government Information came into force on in January 1997. All replies to members of the public must be in accordance with the procedures set out in the Code. A full explanation of the Code of Practice is contained in DCI(Gen) 54/98: further information is available from DOMD on extension [redacted] MB.

Under the Citizens' Charter, Departments are now required to keep records of their performance. All branches and Agencies are required to keep information on the number of **requests for information which refer to the Code of Practice** including details of the correspondent and the nature and date of the reply. In addition, the Department is required to provide a record of the total number of letters from members of the public and provide statistics (which may be used on a valid sample) of its performance in providing replies within their published targets.

As part of our monitoring procedure, random spot checks on the accuracy of your branch records on correspondence will be performed throughout the year.

MB 6140 EXT [redacted]

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
SEC (AS) 2
23 SEP 1998
FILE

Section 40
[redacted]
Weston-Super-Mare
North Somerset
Section 40

5780

17 September 1998

Dear Sirs

I am currently doing some research into the Karl Farlow UFO sighting which took place on the 6th of November 1967, between Sopley & Avon, Hampshire.
I am writting to you in the hope that you maybe able to help with my investigations. This case was investigated by the MOD but no official explanation was issued. Can you please tell me what the investigation revealed, as there was physical damage caused to the roads surface and a nearby telephone box. Also one of the witnesses suffered from severe shock. It has also been suggested that the 'object' sighted was of military origin, can you confirm this.
Thank you and I look forward to hearing from you soon.

Yours faithfully

[redacted]
Section 40

From: Section 40, Secretariat (Air Staff) 2a1
MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
Main Building, Whitehall, London SW1A 2HB

Telephone (Direct dial) 0171 218 2140
(Switchboard) 0171 218 9000
(Fax) Section 40

ENCLOSURE NUMBER 25

Section 40

LEEDS
Section 40

Your reference

Our reference
D/Sec(AS)/64/3
Date
28 September 1998

Dear Section 40

Thank you for your letter of 15 September.

In respect of the subject of 'unidentified flying objects' the views of my precedessor, Mr Pope, are his own and do not represent nor reflect the views of the Department.

The limit of the Ministry of Defence's interest in this subject and, therefore, the duties of the Sec(AS)2a desk officer, are as set out in my letter of 4 November 1996.

Yours sincerely,

Section 40

Section 40

11 September 1998

LETTER FROM Section 40 - DUE FOR RESPONSE BY WED 7 OCTOBER

1. Please read the attached letter from Section 40 and from TAB A onwards in the blue attachment. TAB A makes cracking reading - I couldn't have put it better myself and shows that Section 40 has taken lots of time and logic to carefully analyse Pope and his fellow cronies. Alot of it shows insight - probably due to the fact that Section 40 claims to be a civil servant in an OGD (was an EO now and HEO).

2. Background. You may recall Section 40 wrote to us twice in November 1996 asking about Pope's role and responsibilities in respect of 'UFOs' and he was the chap who challenged the previous idea that we give out addressess of 'UFO' organisations to members of the public. His letters and our replies are at TABs B and C.

3. On the face of it Section 40 is on our side. However, whereas before we wrote to him as an ordinary member of public, he has now revealed his 'journalistic' tendencies and whatever we reply to this letter will almost certainly appear in print, and, hence we must be careful what we say.

4. Let's discuss at some stage. Happy reading!!!!

Section 40

Head of Sec (A8)

1. As Section 40 says, interesting reading. The second para of Section 40 latest piece has Rin 'researching & investigating for the British Govt' (tab A1)

2. I never cease to be amazed at the effort devoted to this subject, but this writer is unusual in that he is definitely not a Section 40 fan. He has put together various strands of information - our letters, the BBC's 'Invasion Earth', Bill Norton's PQ about the answers above - in an effort to discredit Section 40

3. Would it be acceptable to reply to Section 40 latest letter on the lines that 'Section 40 views are most certainly his own and that the limit of the Department's interest and, therefore the duties of the Sec(RAF)2a desk officer are as set out in the letter of 4 Nov (tab B)?

I agree. While I am heartened by Section 40 criticism I don't want us involved in internecine warfare between ufologists. Section 40 17/9.

[redacted] Section 40
Leeds [redacted]

5 September 1998

Secretariat (Air Staff) 2a
Ministry of Defence
Main Building
Whitehall
London SW1A 2HB

Dear Sir

Re 'UFO' investigations conducted by Nick Pope

In 1996 (under the reference D/Sec(AS)/64/3) [redacted] Section 40 was good enough to respond to some enquiries I made about the actual level of involvement that, as an EO, Nick Pope had in active 'UFO' investigation, and the referral of callers to civilian research organisations.

Now, Mr Pope's fame has grown, and his claims of the reality of UFOs and aliens have tended to become more exotic. I would be grateful if you could confirm whether some of his more recent claims about his access to apparently secret information, his degree of involvement in active investigation, and the level of official interest in what he says and writes, are true. By way of background, I have enclosed a copy of *Abduction Watch,* a sceptical newsletter that I publish. The second half of this issue deals with authors who claim to be using official sources in their writing, and Nick Pope is, naturally, one of those authors. If you would like to comment on any of the remarks I have made in this respect, I would be pleased to hear your views. As you will see, he is quoted as recently saying that

> "I have to be careful with every single word I say, because I know that every word, every sentence will be picked over by ufologists, the Ministry of Defence and, er, a number of other agencies."

I have also enclosed a copy of a recent piece by Mr Pope, published on the Internet. In it, he says

> "I work for the Ministry of Defence, and between 1991 and 1994 was responsible for researching and investigating the UFO phenomenon for the British Government."

It seems more likely that he was he actually spending 20% of his work time in handling enquiries from the public, but in his books he has written about "numerous instances where my rigorous official investigations had failed to uncover any conventional explanation for what was seen", and of "The hundreds of cases I investigated each year". In the Internet article, he has also said that

> " . . while my involvement with the Rendlesham Forest case came long after the events concerned, I had an advantage over other researchers in that I was approaching the case from an unique angle, having access to the

official government file on the incident, and being able to call upon official resources and expertise."

I would be grateful if you could explain, in order to clarify whether his claims are based on his work for the MoD, or on his own personal convictions and investigations

1. Whether the MoD really does pick over every word, every sentence that Mr Pope utters about ufology? Are there other agencies similarly engaged as he suggests?

2. What Pope was actually tasked to do in respect of 'UFO' reports and investigations within Sec(AS)2a. Were his 'investigations' required to be "rigorous", and was he required to "uncover a conventional explanation for what was seen?", rather than merely to ascertain whether a report was likely to have any defence significance?

3. On how many occasions he left the office to conduct "on-site" investigations of UFO reports, and for what reason. What authority was required for him to undertake such investigations - if any - and what specialist training was provided in order to enable him to perform these duties?

4. Why Pope was required to conduct an 'investigation' into an event - the 'Rendlesham Forest' case - that had reportedly occurred more than ten years previously. Did he have access to an "official government file" on the incident that was not available to others? What "official resources and expertise" did he call on in his investigation? On what date was his report completed, and may the public access the results of his investigation?

5. Was Pope really, as he claims, "responsible for researching and investigating the UFO phenomenon for the British Government"?

Thank you for your assistance.

Yours faithfully

Section 40

/SUP>Ufomind /SUB>Paranormal Research Index

Latest Milestone - 1,000 Visits: An Alien Harvest
All that is necessary for the triumph of evil
is that good men do nothing.

O
XOU
PLGKA
FEOAODG
DPJYNLHUY
XESQVCDSYLI
RGZEWAURORAV?

(Skyopen) FW: RENDLESHAM

From: "Skywatch International Inc."
Subject: (Skyopen) FW: RENDLESHAM
Date: Thu, 27 Aug 1998 16:33:26 -0500

-----Original Message-----
From: [redacted] Section 40
Sent: Thursday, August 27, 1998 3:52 PM
To: [redacted]
Subject: RENDLESHAM Section 40

REDACTED ON ORIGINAL DOCUMENT

[redacted]

There has been much recent debate about the Rendlesham Forest incident, and some interesting and well-researched articles have appeared. These include "Seeing the Forest for the Trees", a detailed analysis from Jenny Randles, which appeared in the Summer edition of International UFO Reporter. There have been two articles by James Easton, entitled "Rendlesham Unravelled" and "Resolving Rendlesham", together with a piece by Georgina Bruni, entitled "Rendlesham Unravelled - NOT". How are we to make sense of the various conflicting views? Has the case really been resolved, or is there more work to be done before we can make such a claim?

As many readers of this statement will be aware, I work for the Ministry of Defence, and between 1991 and 1994 was responsible for researching and investigating the UFO phenomenon for the British Government. As such, while my involvement with the Rendlesham Forest case came long after the events concerned, I had an advantage over other researchers in that I was approaching the case from a unique angle, having access to the official government file on the incident, and being able to call upon official resources and expertise.

Various accounts of the Rendlesham Forest incident have appeared in numerous books, magazines and articles, many of which take a radically different view. I have summarised the case in my first book, "Open Skies, Closed Minds". More detailed accounts appear in "Left At East Gate" by Larry Warren and Peter Robbins, and "UFO Crash Landing" by Jenny Randles. I shall not attempt to rehash any of this material, but shall instead focus on the areas that have sparked the recent controversy.

The first of these areas concerns the original witness statements made by

Penniston, Burroughs, Cabansag and Chandler. James Easton makes much of the fact that these statements are fairly bland, and points out that some of the witnesses seem to have added to their stories over the years. However, based on my own official investigations of other cases I can tell people that this is entirely consistent with the way in which junior military personnel report UFOs. They do so tentatively if at all, as they are unsure on official policy and unclear as to what ramifications there may be for their careers. They will be more forthcoming in telephone conversations and face to face meetings, and much more inclined to speak out once they have left the service. Having met a number of the military witnesses, Jenny Randles is clearly aware of this factor. Sadly, a number of the sceptics do not seem to have the same understanding of the way in which the military operate.

Bearing in mind the above point, the key document is still Charles Halt's memo, and its mention of a "strange glowing object" which was "metallic in appearance and triangular in shape, approximately two to three metres across the base and approximately two metres high". As a senior officer he had no qualms about being more forthcoming, because he was clearly aware of policy, and knew that there was a requirement to report details of any UFO sighting to the Ministry of Defence.

What then are we to make of inconsistencies between the accounts of different witnesses, and in particular the testimony of Larry Warren? Taking the first point, it is well-known to any police officer that different people perceive the same event in different ways. This has been demonstrated in a number of studies, and is something that I was briefed about as part of my official duties at the MOD. With regard to Larry Warren, he and Peter Robbins stayed with me for several days while they were promoting "Left At East Gate", and we had numerous, in-depth conversations about the case. I am personally convinced that he was present, and was a witness to some quite extraordinary activity. But it was abundantly clear that the activity he witnessed was not that referred to in Halt's memo.

This brings me to the recent work done by independent researcher Georgina Bruni, editor of the Internet magazine "Hot Gossip UK" @ www.hotgossip.co.uk. Georgina is a good friend of mine, and in recent months she has re-interviewed many of the well-known witnesses, and uncovered and spoken to several new ones. She will be publishing this material in due course, although she will be unable to do so in the immediate future, due to the pressure of other business commitments.

Let us now turn to the physical evidence. This consists of the damage to the trees in the clearing where the metallic craft was seen on the first night of activity, the indentations at the point it apparently landed, and the radiation readings taken from these trees and indentations. In "Open Skies, Closed Minds" I revealed the results of the first and only official investigaton into this aspect of the case, detailing my enquiries with the Defence Radiological Protection Service. The official assessment was that the radiation readings recorded were ten times what they should have been for the area, although I should stress that the radiation was low level, and would not have posed any danger to those present.

Ian Ridpath has highlighted some legitimate doubts about the suitability of the equipment used to record the radiation levels, and further suggests that Halt may even have misread the dial on the Geiger counter. Whilst I accept these points, I should explain that any official investigation can only be based on the data received by the Ministry, and not on such speculation - intriguing though it may be. But one can actually set aside any debate about the precise level of the readings, on the basis that the readings can only be considered in their proper context. In other words, we need to consider the events collectively, not individually. We have a sighting of a UFO, coupled with tree damage and indentations in the very same clearing in which the UFO was seen. Then we have radiation readings which, irrespective of how high they were, just happened to peak where the trees were damaged and in the very centre of the indentations. We should also remember the fact that Halt's memo explains how "the animals on a nearby farm went into a frenzy" when the object was seen. While none of this proves that the UFO was of extraterrestrial origin, it seems clear that there was an object of some sort involved, which had an effect on the surrounding environment.

The sceptics clearly disagree, returning to the theory that all the UFO sightings were misidentifications of the Orford Ness lighthouse or the Shiplake Lightship, or even of stars, and that the indentations in the clearing were caused by burrowing rabbits! When I met Charles Halt he was dismissive of this, and confirmed that he and other witnesses were familiar with the lighthouse, which was indeed visible as an entirely separate object for some time during his actual UFO sighting. Furthermore, as he explained on the "Strange But True" documentary on the case, "A lighthouse doesn't move through the forest; the lighthouse doesn't go up and down, it doesn't explode, doesn't change shape, size - doesn't send down beams of light from the sky".

Long after the events concerned, questions are still being asked about this case in parliament, both in the House of Commons and the House of Lords, by

MPs and Peers who are clearly alive to the defence and national security implications of the incident. When seeking expert analysis on a case such as this, one really cannot obtain a more authoritative view than that of Admiral of the Fleet The Lord Hill-Norton, a former Chief of the Defence Staff and Chairman of the NATO Military Committee. With the greatest respect to the sceptics, Lord Hill-Norton is considerably better qualified to analyse an incident such as this. Commenting on the case he has said "It seems to me that something physical took place; I have no doubt that something landed....either large numbers of people....were hallucinating, and for an American Air Force nuclear base this is extremely dangerous, or what they say happened did happen, and in either of those circumstances there can only be one answer, and that is that it was of extreme defence interest....."

In summary, James Easton and Ian Ridpath should be commended for highlighting some intriguing new material and for stimulating constructive debate on this case. But while it's a neat soundbite to claim that the case is resolved, this would be a premature and naive claim to make, and one that is clearly inconsistent with the facts. As Georgina Bruni and Jenny Randles have shown, there is still work to be done here.

Nick Pope
London
27th August 1998

Abduction Watch 12/13 August 1998

GULLS AND GULLIBILITY

Somewhere, out there . . . are Tim Rifat, David Morehouse and a host of people who've been on Remote Viewing training courses!

We are, soon, going to be suffering from a surfeit of Remote Viewing, which looks like being the coming fad among the X-Files generation. I understand that Century have paid substantially for Tim Rifat's forthcoming book, and I'd like to stimulate a vigorous and constructive debate on the reality of RV at an early stage. Before, perhaps, it becomes necessary to suggest that the Fraudulent Mediums Act could be used in specific instances.

To my surprise, a number of senior figures and Council members from BUFORA seem to have been impressed by RV, and attended a course run by David Morehouse, one of those involved in the scrapped US government research. Steve Gamble writes about it in the pseudo-history magazine *Quest*, and the man responsible for inflicting Derrel Sims on last year's BUFORA conference, Richard Conway (in *AE* 28), recounts two of Morehouse's cases, both of which involved time travel. One necessitated travelling a mere year or so, allegedly 'explaining' the TWA 800 crash in July 1996

> "The viewers went back to that point in time and saw the plane explode in the air . . they saw the entire side of the plane cave in, and saw heads explode as well as bodies . . The viewers discovered through many viewing sessions that a microwave weapon had been fired during a test, and it was this weapon that had ripped through the plane"

For the second journey, the viewers went back more than 80 years

> "One of the targets that I found most fascinating that the viewers had to view was the Tunguska incident, also known as the Great Siberian Explosion . . Experts have advocated that this was caused by a meteorite/space debris. However, 17 remote viewers witnessed very similar things when doing a routine training exercise in the military program. They saw a rip open up in the sky and a structured craft of some sort come through the rip. David Morehouse described having a feeling that the pilot of the craft was nothing more than a learner driver."

If the claims made for RV were true, it would be reasonable for either governments or individuals to pay. In *Alien Encounters* Tim Rifat - who charges £160 for a postal training course in RV - describes RV's potential for human cruelty

> "Both Russia and China have already deployed remote viewing as psi-warfare against the Americans. It enables them to hypnotise people at a distance, give them cancer, or even kill them."

Rifat also demonstrates the immense range of RV, and of the viewers. He reports that

> "Leading (*though unnamed*) experts have revealed that American and Russian beam weapons are regularly shooting down alien craft, engaged in a secret war to protect mankind. Remote viewers are able to psychically spy on these UFOs and aliens, some of whom come from different dimensions, such as the 'transcendentals' from the biophysical realm."

The *British Association of Remote Viewing and Paranormal Research*, based in Selby, N Yorks wants

to develop programmes using RV "as an aid in personal development and emotional problems" and for "A UFO reporting and investigative network". It commends readers to the writings of Carlos Castaneda, Tim Rifat and David Icke, and also gives a stern instruction to potential members

> "The Remote Viewing of United States and British security installations is forbidden to our members. We do not recommend the RV of Soviet sites kindly leave them alone to get on with whatever they need to do. You have been warned."

You might think that a learnable - purchaseable, even - skill like RV could be easily demonstrated. If it's really possible to travel out into different dimensions in space to see invisible aliens being shot down by American and Russian "beam weapons", or to hop back 80 years with 16 other remote viewers (who would presumably all have to be observing at the same time, even if they started out separately!) to see what caused the crater at Tunguska, surely much simpler journeys could be easily achieved.

Yet that never seems to be the case. As often happens, really remarkable events are reported when they can't possibly be tested or verified. If only remote viewers can go to those extraordinary times and places, the rest of us can't prove those events didn't happen. Confusing, isn't it?

I've suggested before - and suggested to Tim Rifat, too - that there must be straightforward tests which could, compared to all this travel in time and space, be easily performed. Finding out the makes, colours and registration numbers of the cars parked in a nearby car park? The colours of the front doors and the layouts of the front gardens of the houses in a particular road? The titles, authors and cover colours of the books on a particular shelf in a local library? I'm not aware that any remote viewer, despite the extensive claims made for RV, has ever publicly succeeded in, or even attempted, such straightforward but potentially convincing tests.

More to the point, if RV really can be learned, and operated so specifically that 17 remote viewers can travel back 80 years to precisely the same place, and the same moment in time, then I don't understand why it is only used for such stupid, speculative, trivial and useless purposes. Or why anyone is impressed or satisfied by hearing stories which sound as if they are designed to appeal to those with a dumb, speculative, believer's interest in the paranormal, willing not only to suspend disbelief on demand, but also happy to pay for the privilege.

Those selling RV make very clear claims. They claim that it can be used to travel freely in space or time - preferably backwards in time, but not necessarily or exclusively so - to precise times and geographical locations. There appears to be no limit to either parameter. After all, 80 years and deep space are supposed to be no problem.

If those claims were true, then I cannot comprehend why RV is not being used, day in and day out, all over the world, to prevent and solve all kinds of crime. If a range of the sort of simple tests I've suggested above could be set up by US or UK police forces, and passed repeatedly by remote viewers to establish their dependability, I am sure that it would only be a short time before police forces and courts all over the world would accept RV as a sound investigative technique which produces reliable evidence. If the claims made for RV are true, surely it would be so simple for remote viewers to return - maybe just a few hours or days, not 80 years - to a crime scene. They wouldn't even have to travel geographically: they could be taken there by the Police.

Once at the crime scene, it would surely present no problem for the remote viewer to travel back in time to see precisely how a crime was committed, the sequence of events, what was said, who was responsible. If 17 remote viewers can go to a precise second at Tunguska to see "a rip open up in the

sky and a structured craft of some sort come through the rip", then I don't see that precise descriptions of vehicles, descriptions of persons involved, how a murder or assault was carried out, what weapon was used, and how and when the criminal(s) left the scene of crime, could present any difficulty at all. Where a child goes missing, and was seen, for instance, being taken away in a car, the remote viewer could easily go back those few hours or days, look at the car, remember its registration number and description, describe the person or persons who have taken the child away, and presumably, being able to move at will in space or time, follow the car and lead the Police to where the child has been taken. War crimes trials could be transformed: the remote viewer could provide precise evidence of how torture and killing had taken place, who was responsible for it. Once it was established that RV is as reliable as those who make money from selling it claim it to be, what criminal would be able to argue against the evidence of remote viewing? What court, in what country, would not accept the evidence of RV?

Investigation of this kind would absolutely transform the solving of all kinds of crime. It would be a far greater deterrent than the death penalty, dramatically reducing serious and violent crime all over the world. And, as well as specific criminal events, RV could be used to investigate - precisely, by locating the black box, for instance - the cause of air crashes and other disasters. It could be used to monitor human rights abuses all over the world, prisons and other establishments being visited through RV, so that brutal regimes would fear the wholly dependable revelations made by remote viewers about the treatment of political prisoners.

If the claims made for remote viewing were true and accurate, the potential for good that could come out of it is almost limitless. I am sure that the best remote viewers would be lauded by society, and paid salaries commensurate with the effect that their skills could have. RV could, without doubt, change the world for the better.

Yet none of these remote viewers, or even the governments alleged to have found that they could genuinely do what they claim, have ever used RV for any good or constructive or worthwhile purpose. Claims for the reality of RV are all based in the fringes of the paranormal, in conspiracy theory, in the myth of alien intervention, in fear of a supposed New World Order. They cannot be tested or checked, and whether potential customers accept RV or not is a matter of belief, not proof. So long as RV is as pointless and useless as it currently seems, and so dependent on fear for its publicity, I suggest that we treat it as a rather unpleasant and exploitative nonsense. If the claims made for RV are true, then not only are there easy ways to prove them, but we should be able to look forward to seeing remote viewers use this remarkable skill to really help others, and not just to make money for themselves. Somehow, I think we might be in for a very long wait.

Alison's Balloon update - the GMC responds

I finally wrote to the General Medical Council, which has responsibility for the conduct and discipline of most doctors in the UK. I couldn't insist that the GMC gives me its opinion of the use of 'recovered memory therapy', because nothing has happened to me which I, personally, could complain about. Nor was I writing to them on behalf of anybody who wanted me to. It was up to the GMC if it wanted to give an opinion. Here's the essence of what I wrote -

> "You may be aware of the relatively recent phenomenon of people believing that they have been 'abducted by aliens'. This belief generally entails a conviction that the person has been physically taken into a spacecraft by alien beings, and has there been subjected to an intimate, pseudo-medical, physical examination and other procedures. For female 'abductees' - the majority - the other procedures tend to involve insemination, followed some months later, during a separate abduction event, by the forced removal of a hybrid - alien/human - foetus.

Later , it is believed that they will be taken again in order to 'nurture' the hybrid children, who are supposedly bred so the aliens may continue their bloodline in the face of imminent extinction.

These unusual beliefs have been primarily developed and promoted through the use of regression hypnosis, which has generally been induced and controlled by abduction investigators themselves, few of whom have any kind of relevant training or qualification in medicine or psychology. The accepted justification for the inability of the abductee to recall these extraordinary events consciously, without hypnosis, is that the aliens have covered the true events with 'screen memories' which only hypnosis can penetrate. Sometimes the abductee is allegedly aware of is a period of 'missing time', for which he/she cannot account.

At a conference earlier this year, I heard an account of an instance of a working GP using regression hypnosis specifically for this purpose. The account was given by the 'abductee' herself, and by a solicitor, well-known for his belief in the reality of alien abduction, who had arranged the involvement of the GP. The GP was named, and he has responded to an enquiry I sent, confirming that he used regression hypnosis in this case.

I understand that the GP had attended a training course in hypnosis 'for dentists', which I presume would be concerned with hypno-anaesthesia rather than regression and the recovery of memory. The solicitor had apparently sought out the young woman who was not, prior to his involvement, aware that her sighting of an unusual aerial object entailed a period of 'missing time'. Once she had decided that was actually the case, the arrangement was made with the GP, and the purpose of the hypnosis seems to have been to explore what 'happened' during that period, in the context of the 'unexplained' object (which from the video taken by the young woman appears to many to be a balloon).

It is likely that a video was made of the regression, although I have not seen it. However, the solicitor explained that the young woman "became very distressed and frightened under hypnosis", and indicated that she did not wish to continue with it after recalling that she had been "taken from her home into a black hole". She spoke at the conference on the basis that she was speaking at first-hand about the abduction experience. The impression was given that she accepted the reality of her being "taken" as she had said. Further hypnosis was not ruled out.

I would be grateful to know whether the GMC would consider that hypnotic regression, undertaken by a GP with this training, for these reasons, with these results, raises any issue of conduct. I don't know whether it is pertinent to the question, but it is likely that this solicitor (see the *Newsletter* of the British Society of Experimental and Clinical Hypnosis No 20, April 1983) will have paid the GP for his services.

I have in mind, particularly, paragraph 17 of 'Good Medical Practice', which under the heading 'Abuse of your professional position' provides that doctors registered with the GMC "must not . . recommend or subject patients to investigation or treatment which you know is not in their best interests". It seems unlikely that any investigation - or was it treatment - in which the patient "became very distressed and frightened", and in consequence of which she came to believe that she was "taken from her home into a black hole", was likely to have been in that patient's best interests.

It would seem inappropriate for any person - least of all a doctor - to seek to represent that regression hypnosis is an accurate or dependable method of 'recovering' memories of hitherto

unremembered, but deeply traumatic events. I would imagine that you are familiar with 'Recovered memories of childhood sexual abuse - Implications for clinical practice', published in the *British Journal of Psychiatry* no 172 (1998). Summarising a detailed exposition of the problems of 'recovered memory' techniques, this article explicitly finds that

"when memories are 'recovered' after long periods of amnesia, particularly when extraordinary means were used to secure the recovery of memory, there is a high probability that the memories are false, ie of incidents that had not occurred."

The authors refer specifically to 'alien abduction', saying that

"The creation under hypnosis of memories of previous lives, often as distinguished historical subjects, or of abduction by aliens and sexual abuse in space ships reveal the extent to which this technique is suspect. Of concern is the extent to which people who elicit and report such memories appear to believe them despite their semi-delusional nature."

Reflecting a substantial amount of other medical, psychological and legal opinion, the authors go on to urge the utmost caution in any consideration of the use of techniques to enhance or recover memory. I would, in conclusion, be grateful to know whether the GMC would also consider that hypnotic regression is an undependable and possibly harmful technique, the product of which is likely to be confabulated at best. And whether the GMC considers that the use of hypnotic regression by a registered GP for the purpose of exploring an alleged experience with an unidentified flying object could ever be regarded as acceptable conduct, whether or not it resulted in the patient becoming "very distressed and frightened", or convinced that she had been "taken from her home into a black hole".

Should you require any further information, please do not hesitate to contact me."

I received a brief 'holding' reply, and then the following response from Head of the Standards Section of the GMC, which leaves me with some difficult decisions.

"Thank you for your letter of 27 July about the use of regression hypnosis by registered medical practitioners. I have referred your letter to a medical member of the GMC. He has asked me to reply in the following terms.

First, it might be helpful to explain our role and remit. The General Medical Council licences doctors to practise medicine in the UK. Our purpose is summed up in the phrase: *Protecting patients, guiding doctors.*

The law gives us four main functions:

* keeping up-to-date registers of qualified doctors
* giving advice on standards of professional conduct and on medical ethics
* promoting high standards of medical education
* dealing firmly and fairly with doctors whose fitness to practise is in doubt

However, we are not in a position to judge the value or effectiveness of particular medical therapies either in orthodox or non-orthodox medicine. This is a matter for bodies such as the Royal Colleges and the BMA. Nor can we comment on specific cases, such as the actions of the general practitioner which you discuss in your letter, as to do so may compromise the fair consideration of a complaint at a later stage.

> We provide guidance to doctors on the standards of practice and care expected of them, and I enclose a copy of the second edition of our booklet *Good Medical Practice*, which was published last month. We also consider under our fitness to practise procedures the actions of doctors who have put patients at risk by behaving in an irresponsible manner, for example by providing treatment without having adequate training or experience, or by offering treatment while knowing that it is not effective, or is inappropriate to the patient's needs.
>
> If you have concerns about the conduct of a doctor, whom you believe to be putting patients at risk, the member suggests that you raise this with us formally, providing the name of the doctor concerned, and any documentary evidence you have about the events or the conduct of the doctor. This information can then be considered formally through our fitness to practise procedures. I enclose a copy of our booklet *A problem with your doctor?* which gives some further information about the scope of the GMC's procedures, and how to make a complaint to us."

So, what do I do? Making any kind of formal complaint against a doctor is a serious business, and I'm conscious that I know nothing of the GP's motives or intentions when he decided to become involved in this. He may have thought he was helping, he may have thought his actions were for the best. He may, perhaps, have become convinced of the reality of alien abduction, and may see himself - as other apparently responsible and intelligent people have come to see themselves - as playing a part in understanding that reality. He may be an excellent doctor with an unusual belief, and I wouldn't, personally, want to disadvantage him professionally simply because he holds that belief.

I have the impression from the careful wording of the reply that the "medical member of the GMC" considers that there may be a real issue here, and that if a complaint was made, it would be taken seriously. But I don't know enough about the circumstances of the case, and the individuals involved, to put anyone at risk simply because, quite possibly, an individual made a poor judgment for the best of reasons. "Above all, do no harm" is as good a byword for me as for those I criticise.

My view - and I'd be happy to hear any other constructive opinions - is that it would be best to communicate to other researchers that if any doctor subject to GMC discipline becomes involved in regression in connection with alien abduction, he may well find himself subject to a complaint and investigation. And that if it isn't appropriate for a doctor to regress, then it certainly isn't appropriate for some belief-ridden amateur with no medical training. And, also, to see whether I can follow-up the GMC's suggestion and obtain a general view of the technique and its use in this context from the BMA. Please let me know of any other/better ideas you might have.

The Secrets that you Keep (and the ones you don't!)

If we're ever going to get to grips with the constantly-growing belief in alien visitation, which underpins the more specific, and even more frightening belief in abductions, we need to look behind the other strand of belief in aliens. This is the 'real evidence' strand, that claims to have accessed hard information from official sources, to know what governments believe and, more important, really know, about alien life and the threat it presents.

In the USA, this strand has found its Holy Grail in Roswell and associated crashes, landings and recoveries. You'll probably be all too familiar with them by now, and have realised why the most sensible figures involved have concluded that it's worth demanding that the US government releases whatever facts it has. Without some sort of new input, there will never be anything but argument and the endless dissection of minutiae with ever-decreasing results. Personally, I doubt that the US government knows enough to be any help: if we can't find a plain answer with what we already know,

then I don't suppose there's one to be found. Sometimes you have a mystery you can solve. And sometimes, you just have a mystery.

Here in the UK, Tim Good, Nick Redfern and Nick Pope are the three prominent figures writing at this end of the 'alien reality' spectrum. Good and Redfern seem less than comfortable with the medical/millennial content of abductions. Pope - strongly rumoured to consider himself an abductee, though unwilling to let that be seen to cloud his apparent objectivity - seems able to believe in more or less anything if his column in *Sightings* was anything to go by, but his employment with the Ministry of Defence (MoD) gives him a credibility as a source that he is not alone in finding useful. The three of them propagate - and seem genuinely to believe in - the proposition that Earth has been subject to a persistent history of physical, real-time alien visitation, about which the UK government knows much, and deliberately keeps secret from its people. All three make substantial sums of money from writing books based on that premise.

Yet the quality of evidence depended on by all three appears consistently poor. All use essentially the same simple tactic, mixing together

1. 'official' accounts of UFOs and of 'official' investigations

2. 'unnamed soldier' material, from anonymous and untested sources who ostensibly claim to know the secrets behind the 'official' reports and investigations, and to be willing - usually for no apparent reason - to pass them on to popular UFO authors, who may then make money out of telling them to everybody else

3. UFO reports made and investigated by believers in alien visitation, presence and, often, abduction of humans and animals as well (Good, for instance, depends on more than 70 references culled from the frequently loopy and apocalyptic *Flying Saucer Review* - and some of the world's worst, old, untested UFO photos - to glue together his speculations in *Alien Base*. Pope - who referred callers to the MoD to Tony Dodd's regression-riddled Quest International, regurgitates much of Quest's array of belief in abductions without asking any of the vital questions as to credibility and proof, and the production of accounts through the amateur, secretive use of hypnosis to obtain 'memories' of abduction. The most dramatic 'new' case in Redfern's *Covert Agenda* is the now utterly devalued 'Welsh Crash', for his Rendlesham account he was willing to depend on Larry Warren, and for other secrets of government activity he was content to rely on John Lear and Linda Moulton Howe.)

Its unfortunately easy, if authors aren't scrupulously careful, for anonymous speculation to appear to turn into official information. I've been cross-checking a few of the more unlikely references, and, by way of example, came across this clear instance of a wild and unproven secondhand tale being made to look like a fact -

In his book *A Covert Agenda - The British Government's UFO Top Secrets Exposed*, in the chapter 'Meeting the Ministry' - actually just an interview with civil servant and fellow alien presence believer Nick Pope - Redfern makes an apparently astonishing, but unequivocal statement about the MoD's financial and policy commitment to UFO research, along with a hint that there might be a cover-up of the real facts

> "Pope has advised me that Sec (AS) 2a has no appreciable 'UFO budget' to support its investigations. Yet, as Timothy Good has learned, in 1978 no less than £11 million was appropriated by the MoD to ensure that in-depth studies into the UFO enigma were undertaken."

Redfern does give a reference for this assertion - to page 18 of Timothy Good's book *Alien Liaison - The Ultimate Secret*. And there's the source for Redfern's supposed knowledge of MoD spending and activities. Good says

> "And as to the lack of Defence funds to undertake in-depth investigations, I have learned otherwise. Via an academic source who was involved in secret research for the Ministry of Defence, I was informed that in 1978, for example (a year of intensive UFO activity), no less than £11 million had been appropriated.
>
> The same source confirmed that secret research by the RAF had determined the extraterrestrial origin of UFOs, and furthermore suggested that the origin of humankind was in some way connected with the visitors. Unfortunately, I am unable to substantiate these claims except in apocryphal terms."

So, Good can't substantiate his unnamed source, who, for someone involved in secret research himself, and apparently passing on other secrets as well, seems surprisingly untroubled by having all these secrets set out in a UFO pot-boiler. Particularly when you consider that there must be so few people who would fit his description that Good might as well have named him in great big letters. If he wanted to. If he actually could without it becoming apparent that the claims made were absurd.

But Redfern doesn't just draw the line at accurately reproducing Good's proofless claim. No, instead of merely passing on the speculation that £11 million had been appropriated, he goes on to add that this was "to ensure that in-depth studies into the UFO enigma were undertaken". Good had never said that, nor had Good's unnamable source. An appropriation of £11 million - making £11 million available - becomes £11 million of studies that have actually been undertaken into the UFO enigma by the MoD, studies which the MoD supposedly wanted to be "in-depth" and which it wanted to "ensure" were undertaken. There isn't a shred of proof for this claim. It doesn't appear in Good's account, which appears to be Redfern's only source. Maybe Redfern had another source who could be depended on to provide accurate information to back up, and provide more detail of, the claims made by Good's source. But Redfern doesn't indicate that he has such a source, and the way he has set this passage out indicates that this could be one of the "British Government's UFO Top Secrets", promised in his title. That sure would back up an argument that aliens are real, and that the government knows all about it. Which could be useful if that's what you want potential buyers of your books to believe is true.

I don't know quite how to describe this problem. It's unfortunate - and potentially misleading - enough for this claim to be given the appearance of fact, but Redfern is regarded as a relatively dependable researcher within the field. The incestuous reproduction of attractive and saleable accounts of UFO and alien reality worldwide suggests that in due course - if it hasn't happened already - yet more authors will state that the UK government actually spent £11 million on in-depth UFO research in 1978. Which will almost certainly be untrue.

Because of the degree of commitment that all three of the UK authors - typical of others around the world - have to the reality of the alien presence, it probably wouldn't be right to make any suggestion of dishonesty. These people have their own agenda. They want to provide evidence which supports what they believe to be true, and consequently they are happy to use any claim or report which offers that support, regardless of how feeble or flawed or unlikely or disturbingly anonymous it may - to us outsiders - appear to be. But however much external disinformation, from a source or sources we have barely started to identify, there may be, there is also an element of what I might term 'self-hoaxing', where believers build on each others' fears and beliefs to present what appears, at first glance, to be evidence that supports their beliefs.

A heavily-publicised example of this 'self-hoaxing' appears in a recent 'News Release from Nick Redfern', dated 17 July 1998, where he pursues a tactic he adopted in the 'Meeting the Ministry' chapter of his book *A Covert Agenda*, publishing (it also appears in the last edition of *Alien Encounters*) an interview he apparently conducted with Nick Pope.

Some of you will have seen this: it's worth a read. It's written in the usual terms, implying secrets not quite understood, with shadowy hints of the suppression of facts, and ever-present eavesdroppers waiting to prey on would-be whistleblowers. Remarking on his "interest in the MoD's involvement in the UFO issue", he describes Nick Pope's "forthcoming book, 'Operation Thunderchild' (scheduled for a 1999 release)". Pope is quoted as saying about it

> "The book tells the story of an encounter between UFOs and the RAF. Forget Independence Day; this is how it would really happen. There will be all sorts of things I can say in there that I can't say in a non-fiction book."

After a couple more questions, Pope goes on

> "I have to be careful with every single word I say, because I know that every word, every sentence will be picked over by ufologists, the Ministry of Defence and, er, a number of other agencies".

Redfern comments - a bit heavy-handedly -

> "Despite repeated attempts on my part for clarification on the issue of 'other agencies' noting his every word, Pope refused to elaborate. A slip of the tongue perhaps? Who knows?"

And goes on to be surprised at how much cooperation the MOD gave in the making of that wonderfully OTT, formulaic, unoriginal but entertaining SF extravaganza 'Invasion Earth'. Oh wow. But if what Pope had said really was a "slip of the tongue" then surely Redfern would have had the decency not to deliberately issue a 'News release' emphasising what Pope had apparently said, neither would he have published the same information in *Alien Encounters*. This reads like melodrama, staged for a purpose, rather than a chance unfortunate remark.

At a time when Redfern and Pope are headliners at conferences, when both are well-paid for their books, and Good commands extraordinary sums of money for his written work, I feel distinctly out of step here. But, the raw documentary research aside - and I admire Redfern's work in that respect - there is no solid proof for the claims of alien presence made by any of them. Good and Redfern depend on official documents and secondhand sources, and Pope implies a direct access to secrets. But I have reason to doubt that, much as Pope may genuinely believe in the reality of an alien/RAF encounter and the rest of the alien presence/abduction construct, any significant proportion of what he says he knows arises directly from within the MoD.

In an early article - as in his first book and repeatedly since - Pope claimed that, "I held the rank of Executive Officer when in Sec(AS)2a; this civil service rank equates to that of an Army Captain. I am now a Higher Executive officer, which equates to the rank of Major." I have little doubt that this comparison has assisted Pope to give an impression of authority and access to inside knowledge that a clearer explanation of his position in the MoD - and the precise limits of his job in Sec(AS)2a - would not. In 1996 I wrote -

> "It appears that while Mr Pope was collecting the apparently vital and significant information that he is now presenting to the public in various different formats, he was an Executive Officer in the

civil service, a rank he says, "equates to that of an Army Captain". As an Executive Officer (EO) myself, in the HQ of another department, I found this an intriguing proposition.

After more than twenty years in the EO grade, on the maximum of the ordinary pay scale, and with some additions for good performance, I earn less than £16,000 a year (*all figures are as of April 1996*). When I joined the civil service, the entry qualifications for the EO grade were two 'A' levels of any description, and I don't think that has changed much since. I currently have no responsibilities for staff, and have never been responsible for more than seven. Occasionally, an EO might supervise up to a dozen staff, but he would rarely have personal responsibility for significant decisions involving their deployment. If you get fed up at your local social security office, or Jobcentre, and demand to see the supervisor, that will be an EO. It's a job where you need to be honest, accurate, and technically sound, but it's nothing special in the great scheme of things. Higher Executive Officer (HEO) is the next step up, and is a standard civil service 'middle management' grade.

The comparison with the Army ranks suggested by Mr Pope did not seem to ring true to me. I had this impression that a Captain could well, in combat, be responsible for the lives and deaths of a substantial number of men. A Major even more so. Using the straightforward investigative technique of finding out the facts, I compared the pay scales of the two civil service jobs with their supposed Army counterparts. This was enlightening.

Executive Officer	between £11,433 and £16,826
Army Captain	between £23,668 and £27,521
Higher Executive Officer	between £15,363 and £21,491
Army Major	between £30,054 and £36,010

In addition, Army officers receive subsidies for food and accommodation, and various allowances. Civil servants seldom receive any addition except London Weighting. The differences in income are actually greater than the figures suggest. The differences in responsibility are as great.

Continuing my investigation - actually, having a chat with the Sergeant in the local Forces Information office - I found that probably the only way in which civil service grades equate with Army ranks as Mr Pope has suggested is in the privileges given to civil servants if they visit an Army base. Where they eat - the Officer's Mess - and where they sleep. Otherwise, I suspect that they do not equate at all, and that Mr Pope's comments might possibly be regarded as misleading.

If the Government has entrusted responsibility for the conduct of its information-gathering, assessment and public relations regarding UFOs to a mere EO, then you can be pretty sure of one of two things. Either it has secrets to protect, and placed in the job someone who has no idea what they are, and whose ignorance is useful in protecting those secrets. Or - and this is far more likely - the Government has long since decided that UFOs have no defence or other significance, and decided to fill its 'UFO liaison' job as cheaply, and as at low a grade, as would be consistent with the rudiments of providing a service to its customers."

Later, as Pope's star continued to rise in the firmament of ufology, I wrote a couple of letters to the MoD asking about the nature of his job, his responsibilities, and the time he spent on it, as well as querying the sense of referring callers to the dubious skills of Quest International - which in a second letter they informed me they no longer did. Kerry Philpott's replies were consistent with my view that an EO would have been responsible only for dealing with incoming phone-calls, logging them,

and sifting them for anything that would be of interest further up the line before issuing standard replies. It seems that this was far from a full-time job: Pope's 'Meeting the Ministry' interview, "There is no specific 'UFO budget', excepting the staff costs, ie around 20% of my salary", suggests it only occupied one day a week.

The caption to Pope's photo in *Covert Agenda says* "Nick Pope, who for three years (1991-4) investigated UFO sightings for the Ministry of Defence." If he had the Sec(AS)2a job for three years, then if he spent only one day a week on it, the maximum number of days he could have spent on the UFO issue in work time was around 156. An average civil servant, even without sickness, will have around 7 weeks a year off, which would bring that down to around 135 days on the UFO task. In the Introduction to *The Uninvited* (*p.xiii*) he states of his time with the MoD "My conversion was not a blind leap of faith, but was based upon numerous instances where my rigorous official investigations had failed to uncover any conventional explanation for what was seen." In *Open Skies, Closed Minds (p.3)* he refers to "The hundreds of cases I investigated each year . . ." Considering that he had to man the phone and answer letters as well, I wonder what Pope's "rigorous official investigations" amounted to. It scarcely seems credible that he could have conducted hundreds of rigorous investigations each year in around 45 days.

From Kerry Philpott's letter to me dated 4 November 1996, it seems likely that Pope's job didn't actually require him to "uncover any conventional explanation for what was seen". Instead, Philpott explains - and this seems to fit the available work time much better than Pope's version - that

> "The MoD examines any reports of "UFO" sightings it receives solely to establish whether what was seen might have some defence significance: namely, whether there is any evidence that the UK Air Defence Region might have been compromised by a foreign hostile military aircraft. The reports are examined, with the assistance of the Department's air defence experts as required and, unless there is evidence of a potential military threat, and to date no "UFO" sighting has revealed such evidence, we do not attempt to identify the precise nature of each report."

In other words, Pope's task may have been different to what he has intimated. Was he really, in the course of his work, looking for unknowns? Or was he looking only for reports of "defence significance". Despite his claim that "my official status gave me an edge over other researchers" *(Open Skies, Closed Minds, p.3)*, was research actually part of his job? The MoD's <u>real</u> level of interest in reports from the public may be summed up in a brief extract from Hansard, August 1998.

> *Lord Hill-Norton* Why [has] the MoD installed an answering machine to report UFOs?
> *Lord Gilbert* It carries a message that explains that callers will be contacted only in the event that follow-up action is deemed appropriate.

Unfortunately, nobody seems to have asked Pope just how he obtained all the remarkable information he claims to know. Maybe people have assumed that he would have access to it, by virtue of his job, maybe convinced by his Captain/Major comparisons. But I can't think of a situation in which a lowly EO would be given that access. Are we to believe that Pope has been accessing information for which he does not have clearance? That he's a master of espionage? I think not. So, should we really accept that what Pope says about secret and sensitive information comes from within the MoD? Why should we believe it? What proof has Pope provided not only that it's true, but also that it comes first-hand from official sources?

Although the part-time occupant of the 'UFO desk' would have heard and read some interesting reports going up the line from the public, he wouldn't have been told any more about a matter of serious importance or secrecy. Why would the MoD bother to pass secret, sensitive information back

down the line to a desk EO who wasn't even engaged full-time on the UFO task, and had management responsibility for only one shared, junior member of staff? He had no need to know. He couldn't do anything with the information. The proposition that he would have been included in the distribution of secret and sensitive information makes no sense at all.

That Pope is still churning out 'new' secrets is also a surprise. I understand that he was promoted to Higher Executive Officer (HEO, the grade I'm now working in too, by chance) in 1994. I gather that this took him away from the Air Secretariat into, if I remember correctly, some sort of Finance/Admin work. The MoD is a huge government department, and the chances of Pope continuing to have access to any sort of 'secret' material after his change of job - let alone material about a UFO/RAF confrontation - are pretty much nil. Even if a rumour went around the MoD to that effect, Pope would know no more than anyone else who heard it, and it's unlikely that any such rumour would be more than fragmental, tiny suggestions of strange events. Any significant leak of information would undoubtedly be reported, and the appropriate security action would be taken. The civil service has clear and well-used disciplinary procedures, and I'm not aware that Pope has been made subject to any of them. The MoD isn't MI5, Pope is no David Shayler, and I suggest that any supposedly 'secret' material he appears to have accessed since his change of job should be scrutinised with particular rigour to identify its source.

If Pope really were party to information about a UFO/RAF confrontation, if such a confrontation had ever actually taken place, then I am reasonably confident that he wouldn't be writing a book about it, let alone boasting about it in advance to acquaintances. For me, the fact that he is doing so, and so far in advance of publication, leads me to believe that what he has to say is of no concern to the government, however convinced he may be of its truth. I suggest that it may be wise to look at Pope's claims in the light of his unusual, possibly unsubstantiated, beliefs, rather than accepting an extraordinary access to state secrets - secrets which nobody else has dared to reveal. In *Open Skies, Closed Minds* he thanks, among others, Tim Good, Budd Hopkins, Tony Dodd and Colin Andrews. In *The Uninvited* he adds Peter Robbins, Betty Hill, Whitley and Anne Strieber, Philip Mantle and Harry Harris to that list. No doubt they would thank Pope, too, for carrying their beliefs to a wider public on the back of his employment with the MoD, but I suggest we should be more than cautious in assuming that Pope's information about alien reality - including an alien/RAF encounter - comes from the government, when it seems so much more likely that he heard it from his new-found friends. Who probably started him worrying about there being "er, a number of other agencies" interested in him, too!

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PS I'm not trying to ignore the 'Nazi UFO' investigation. I'm just swamped with ground-breaking material from incisive and generous researchers all over the world, with more promised and on the way. I already have hundreds, probably well over a thousand pages of relevant sources to go through, so it's going to be a while before *Secrets or Lies 2* makes it onto the printed page. But please don't let that deter you from keeping the flow of research going. This one really is worth doing!

From: Section 40 Secretariat (Air Staff) 2a1
MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
Main Building, Whitehall, London SW1A 2HB

Telephone (Direct dial) 0171 218 2140
(Switchboard) 0171 218 9000
(Fax) Section 40

Section 40
Harrogate
North Yorkshire
Section 40

Your reference

Our reference
D/Sec(AS)/64/3

Date
4 November 1996

Dear Section 40

1. Thank you for your letter of 25 October.

2. I should first like to point out that the views expressed by Mr Pope in his book "Open Skies, Closed Minds" are his own personal opinions and do not represent nor reflect the views held by the Ministry of Defence.

3. By way of background it might be helpful if I explain the role that the MOD has in connection with the subject of "unidentified flying objects". The MOD examines any reports of "UFO" sightings it receives solely to establish whether what was seen might have some defence significance; namely, whether there is any evidence that the UK Air Defence Region might have been compromised by a foreign hostile military aircraft. The reports are examined, with the assistance of the Department's air defence experts as required and, unless there is evidence of a potential military threat, and to date no "UFO" sighting has revealed such evidence, we do not attempt to identify the precise nature of each report. We believe that down-to-earth explanations are available for most of these reported sightings, such as aircraft seen from unusual angles, or natural phenomena.

4. The MOD has not recommended that members of the public should contact organisations or associations interested in the "UFO" phenomenon. However, on request, details of civilian organisations with an interest in the "UFO" phenomenon have been passed to members of the public and it is entirely up to them whether or not they choose to approach these organisations.

5. Finally I should add that Mr Pope was a desk officer in the Secretariat(Air Staff)2a section from 1991-1994. At that time he was an executive officer and shared the support of one administrative officer. Sec(AS)2a is the focal point for handling queries directed at the MOD in connection with "UFOs". At the time Mr Pope worked in the section there were no staff working on this subject full-time and this remains the case. The work represents a small part of the overall duties of the section.

Yours sincerely,

Section 40

Section 40 [redacted]
Harrogate [redacted]

25 October 1996

Ministry of Defence
Main Building
Whitehall
London SW1A 2HB

Dear Sir

Re Ministry of Defence responses to 'UFO' reports

I have recently had the dubious pleasure of reading the book, *Open Skies, Closed Minds*, by Nick Pope, who I understand is still employed by the Ministry of Defence.

In that book, at Appendix 3, Mr Pope presents what I presume is meant to be a standard written response from the Ministry to a UFO report. I note that at the end of the letter Mr Pope includes a suggestion that the recipient might like to, "contact one of the civilian groups involved in UFO research, who will doubtless be very interested to hear from you, and may well have some ideas about what you saw."

I would be grateful if you could inform me whether Mr Pope did actually make recommendations of this kind, and whether such recommendations are still made? I am particularly concerned because while one of the organisations mentioned might be regarded as reasonably balanced and scientific, if completely amateur, the other is heavily involved in selling magazines and videos about the more peculiar aspects of experience and belief about unidentified flying objects, and appears, as a matter of routine, to encourage those who have made reports to undergo regression hypnosis. The hypnotists they use appear to have no relevant licence or qualifications, and there seems to be no medically qualified person present during what are sometimes repeated sessions of hypnosis. The outcomes of those sessions are frequently published for profit.

Because there is a widespread concern about the activities of this organisation, I have recently referred a case where an 11-year old child was investigated, and widely publicised as having been abducted and physically abused by non-human alien beings, to the relevant Social Services office, and the NSPCC. I am aware that Social Services have pursued the treatment of this child with the organisation concerned.

I would be grateful if you would inform me whether any person, on behalf of the Ministry of Defence, has ever suggested that any member of the public should approach what Mr Pope describes as "Quest International on [redacted] Section 40
Section 40 Or, indeed, whether any other UFO research organisation has been recommended. If so, perhaps you could explain what prior investigation has been made by the Ministry into the purpose and competence of any such organisation and how, and by whom, such investigations were conducted.

As a final point, I notice that Mr Pope has been widely described as being the Head of the Secretariat (Air Staff) 2a. As an EO, it seems unlikely that he would have had line management responsibilities for many staff. I would be grateful to know what the staffing structure of his section may have been, and how many staff, and of what grade, were involved in this work. However, my main concern is that the Ministry may be recommending members of the public to organisations and investigators who often seek to profit from the investigations they conduct, who use pseudo-medical methods to instigate "recall" without any of the appropriate safeguards, and who hold personal beliefs that almost inevitably preclude the possibility of their conducting a balanced and objective investigation.

Thank you for your assistance in this matter.

Yours sincerely

[redacted] Section 40

From: Section 40 Secretariat (Air Staff) 2a1
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Section 40

Harrogate
North Yorkshire
Section 40

Your reference

Our reference
D/Sec(AS)/64/3

Date
22 November 1996

Dear Section 40

1. Thank you for your further letter dated 19 November.

2. As I said in my previous letter, the Department has provided some details about organisations and associations interested in the "UFO" and other unusual phenomena to members of the public. It was the practice, if asked, to provide details of addresses of those organisations which were known at the time, but only in response to specific requests, or where it was implied that this kind of information was required.

3. Public interest in the "UFO" phenomenon has, however, grown and the number of organisations and groups associated with it has also increased. We therefore considered whether it was appropriate to continue to provide this information, particularly since the Department has no expertise in this area. We concluded that it was not appropriate to continue to do so and no information is now provided.

Yours sincerely,

Section 40

[redacted]
Harrogate [redacted]

19 November 1996

Section 40
Secretariat (Air Staff) 2a 1
Ministry of Defence
Main Building
Whitehall
London SW1A 2HB

Dear Section 40

Re Ministry of Defence responses to 'UFO' reports

Thank you for your letter of 4 November, and for the helpful information that you provided.

Unfortunately, I perhaps failed to make clear the potential seriousness of the MOD providing, as you put it, "details of civilian organisations with an interest in the 'UFO' phenomenon" to members of the public.

While I appreciate your comment that it is up to those provided with these details to decide whether they make contact with any organisation, my view is that in providing such details the MOD is inevitably conveying a degree of approval. This view would certainly be reinforced by Mr Pope's comments regarding these civilian organisations: he appears to have gone some way beyond simply providing details on request.

As I suggested in my earlier letter, the beliefs of some of these "civilian organisations" are not consistent with current scientific knowledge. Some depend heavily on non-medical regression hypnosis as a method of investigation of alleged events, some are little more than cults, firmly convinced of the most extraordinary range of human/alien interactions. Their beliefs form the basis of their dealings with 'UFO witnesses'. Several are involved in marketing magazines and videos based on their beliefs - magazines and videos that depend for their content on a steady supply of experients and abductees.

I doubt that any government department would approve of its employees effectively referring members of the public to religious cults - the Unification Church, say, or Scientology, or the Children of God - in order to have their experiences explained. Yet it appears that a precedent has been set - perhaps by Mr Pope, who has demonstrated his own range of peculiar beliefs, and may soon be demonstrating yet more - of providing details of organisations that are no less cultic, and no less dangerous. From your letter, it seems that this policy has not been questioned, and that you are content to continue providing that information without considering the possible effects on the individual members of the public who are put in contact with those organisations.

If you feel that further consideration should be given to this policy, I would be happy to provide relevant information concerning any 'UFO' organisation in the UK. If you do not, then I will seek to raise this matter at a higher level. In either case, I would be grateful if you could inform me of which "civilian UFO organisations with an interest in the "UFO" phenomenon" details have been provided by the MOD to members of the public during, say, the past three years?

Your help in this matter is appreciated.

Yours sincerely

Section 40

From: Section 40, Secretariat (Air Staff) 2a1
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ENCLOSURE NUMBER 23

Section 40
Low Hill
Wolverhampton
West Midlands
Section 40

Your reference

Our reference
D/Sec(AS)/64/3
Date
28 September 1998

Dear Section 40

Thank you for your letter of 14th September to my colleague Section 40 concerning reports of 'unidentified flying objects'. I am replying as Section 40 is currently on leave.

Section 40 letter of 10 September clearly set out the limited interest that the Ministry of Defence has in respect of this subject. Our interest is to establish whether there is any military threat to the United Kingdom associated with an 'unexplained' sighting. The MOD has no remit in respect of the extraterrestrial hypothesis, but that said to date it remains that case that the MOD knows of nothing which proves that this phenomenon exists.

I am afraid there is nothing further to add.

Yours sincerely,

Section 40

Section 40

LOW HILL

WOLVERHAMPTON

WEST MIDLANDS

Section 40

14T SEPTEMBER 1998

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
WHITEHALL
LONDON

Dear Section 40

Thank you for your letter dated, tenth September. I feel compeled to write back. Although you have given me a brief explanation, I feel that it was more of a neutral response to my enquiry. My point in writing back, is to mention that there is overwhelming evidence to support U.F.O Sightings that remain undeniable. This evidence comes in the form of graphs, radar charts and reports from Commercial pilots, Military-pilots and to my knowledge, even astronauts. if the MOD never make a positive comment to support this evidence and the MOD never de-classify documents relating to such stories, of which are covered in red-tape or have been destroyed; what would they think if a person like myself had a close-encounter, this would be on a par as far as psychology goes, to witnessing a brutal murder. No question about it. Because it's an assault on your intellect.

yours Sincerely

Section 40

P.S. IF ANYBODY THEREABOUTS COULD PROVIDE ME WITH A COPY OF "PROJECT BLUE BOOK" I WOULD BE VERY SATISFIED.

From: Section 40 Secretariat(Air Staff)2a1a, Room 8245,
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Section 40

Low Hill,
Wolverhampton,
West Midlands.
Section 40

Your reference

Our reference
D/Sec(AS)/64/3
Date
10 September 1998

Dear Section 40

Thank you for your letter of 27 August addressed to the Prime Minister regarding 'unidentified flying objects'. Your letter has been passed to the Ministry of Defence and this office is the focal point within the MOD for correspondence of this nature. I have been asked to reply.

First it may be helpful if I explain that the Ministry of Defence examines any reports of 'unidentified flying objects' it receives solely to establish whether what was seen might have some defence significance; namely, whether there is any evidence that the United Kingdom's airspace might have been compromised by hostile or unauthorized foreign military activity.

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

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

Yours sincerely,

Section 40

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ENCLOSURE NUMBER 22

Section 40

Saudersfoot
PEMBROKESHIRE
Section 40

Your reference

Our reference
D/Sec(AS)/64/3
Date
28 September 1998

Dear Section 40

Thank you for your letter of 16 September to my colleague, Section 40 concerning 'UFOs'. I am replying as Section 40 is currently on annual leave.

You asked for a statement on:

- the role of RAF Brawdy in the investigation of 'unidentified flying objects', and:

- why the MOD now uses an answerphone facility for accepting reports of 'unidentified flying objects'.

Attached please find two official Hansard extracts with statements from the Under Secretary of State for Defence and the Minister for Defence Procurement covering these points in response to Parliamentary Questions recently tabled on these issues.

Your letter also states that you are interested in looking at old MOD 'UFO' report files. As is the case with other government files, MOD files are subject to the provisions of the Public Records Act of 1958 and 1967. This Act of Parliament states that official files generally remain closed from public viewing for 30 years after the last action has been taken. It was generally the case that before 1967 all 'UFO' files were destroyed after five years, as there was insufficient public interest in the subject to merit their permanent retention. However since 1967, following an increase in public interest in this subject 'UFO' report files are now routinely preserved. Any files surviving from the 1950s and early 1960s are already available for examination by members of the public at the Public Record Office, Ruskin Avenue, Kew, Richmond, Surrey, TW9 4DU. Files from 1967 onwards will be routinely released to the Public Record Office at the 30 year point.

Yours sincerely,

Section 40

Mr. Spellar: WE177 was manufactured between 1966 and 1977. Regular servicing was carried out as necessary to ensure continued safety and reliability whilst in service. I am withholding information as to the number of weapons manufactured under Exemption 1 of the Code of Practice on Government Information relating to Defence, Security and International Relations.

Mr. Matthew Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence which contractors and Ministry of Defence organisations designed each variant of the WE177 weapon; and when this work was carried out. [46825]

Mr. Spellar: Design work for WE177 was started over 30 years ago with the design for the first variant completed in 1963, the second in 1965, and the last in 1972.

The co-ordinating design authority for all WE177 variants was Hunting Engineering, with the Atomic Weapons Research Establishment as design authority for the warhead element. The Royal Ordnance Factories at Burghfield, Cardiff and Chorley, RAF Farnborough, and RARDE Fort Halstead assisted in the work, as did a number of other contractors. Given the age of the programme it has not been possible to compile a full and accurate list.

Mr. Matthew Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, pursuant to his answer of 12 November 1997, *Official Report*, column *581*, if the weights, sizes and yields of each type of the WE177 weapon are now declassified information. [47804]

Mr. Spellar: Information on the size and weight of all three variants of the WE177 bomb is unclassified and is listed. Technical details relating to the performance of the weapons, including yield, which would reveal information about our design capabilities, or aspects of current operational systems, or be of assistance to proliferators, continues to be covered by exemption 1 of the code of practice on access to Government information relating to defence security and international relations.

Variant	*Weight*	*Size*
Type A	600lb	112 inches long
Type B	950lb	133 inches long
Type C	950lb	133 inches long

All variants had a diameter of 16.5 inches and a fin span of 24.5 inches.

Commachio Group Royal Marines

Mr. Matthew Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence where the Commachio Group Royal Marines is based; how many companies it comprises; what is the function of each company; and what plans he has for their relocation. [46820]

Dr. Reid: Commachio Group is based at RM Condor, Arbroath, and comprises an HQ Company and 3 Rifle Companies. The latter rotate in protecting the UK's strategic deterrent assets at HMS Neptune, Faslane, the RN Armament Depot Coulport, and during related road movements. Following public consultation, I approved earlier this year the Group's permanent relocation to HMS Neptune by April 2001.

HMS Ocean

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, pursuant to his answer of 11 June 1998, *Official Report*, column *638*, when he expects to receive details of the costs and the liability in respect of the damage to the tail shaft bearings of HMS 'Ocean'; and if the *(a)* costs and *(b)* inquiry conclusions will be made public. [47074]

Mr. Spellar: The Formal Inquiry currently underway into the cause of the damage to HMS Ocean's port shaft "A" bracket bearing is expected to conclude in the autumn of this year. The Inquiry is being conducted by the prime contractor, Vickers Shipbuilding and Engineering Limited. The costs of, and liability for, the damage will be the subject of negotiation between MOD and the company following the Inquiry and is not expected to be resolved before the end of the year.

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, pursuant to his answer of 11 June 1998, *Official Report*, column *638*, what assessment his Department has made of the cause of the damage to HMS Ocean on her launch in October 1995; and what changes to operating arrangements have been made as a result. [47063]

Mr. Spellar: The hull damage sustained by HMS Ocean during her launch on 11 October 1995 was attributable to the accidental collapse of a forward launch cradle. It is the responsibility of the prime contractor Vickers Shipbuilding and Engineering Limited to ensure that launch arrangements are safe and acceptable and, where necessary, adapted to reflect lessons learnt from previous experience. The damage will not require any change to the proposed operating arrangements of HMS Ocean once she enters service.

SA80 and M16 Rifles

Mr. Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if the bullets used by British forces using *(a)* SA80 and *(b)* M16 rifles have tumbling action. [47044]

Dr. Reid: The large majority of bullets used by British Forces in SA80 and M16 rifles are known as ball or tracer rounds. Armour-piercing rounds are also used. These bullets are categorised as spin-stabilised, non-deforming bullets. All spin-stabilised bullets will tumble to some degree when they hit a human target.

UFOs

Mr. Caton: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will make a statement on the role of RAF Brawdy, Pembrokeshire in the investigation of sightings of unidentified flying objects. [47318]

Mr. Spellar: Brawdy ceased to be an RAF station on 31 March 1996 when the establishment was transferred to the Army.

Generally, my Department examines reports of unidentified flying objects only to establish whether there is any evidence that the United Kingdom's Air Defence Region has been penetrated by hostile or unauthorised foreign military activity. Unless a report reveals evidence of a potential threat from an external military source, no attempt is made to determine the precise nature of what might have been seen.

NATO: New Members and Command Structure

Lord Kennet asked Her Majesty's Government:

Whether the new members of NATO will fill senior NATO commands; and, if so, which. [HL2479]

Lord Gilbert: It is planned that the Czech Republic, Hungary and Poland will fill posts in the new NATO command structure. The exact number, seniority and location of these has not yet been determined.

Unidentified Flying Objects

Lord Hill-Norton asked Her Majesty's Government:

When arrangements for disseminating reports of unidentified flying objects within the Ministry of Defence were put in place and last reviewed; and whether they will ensure that all airports, observatories, RAF bases and police stations have accurate and up-to-date instructions about how to record details of unidentified aerial phenomena reported to them, together with instructions to pass them to the appropriate authorities within the Ministry of Defence; and [HL2607]

What follow-up action is taken by the Ministry of Defence when it receives a report of an unidentified flying object; and whether checks are routinely made to see whether such reports can be correlated by radar. [HL2609]

Lord Gilbert: The Ministry of Defence's interest in reports of unidentified flying objects is limited to establishing whether there is any evidence that the United Kingdom's airspace has been penetrated by hostile or unauthorised foreign military activity and whether reporting procedures are adequate for this purpose. Unless there is evidence of a potential threat, no attempt is made to identify the precise nature of each reported incident. Arrangements within the MoD have been in place for a number of years for disseminating reports; they were last reviewed in April 1997. Where necessary, reports of unidentified flying objects are examined with the assistance of relevant MoD experts, and this may include radar correlation.

Lord Hill-Norton asked Her Majesty's Government:

How many reports of unidentified flying objects were notified to the Ministry of Defence in 1996, 1997 and the first six months of 1998; and how many of these sightings remain unexplained. [HL2608]

Lord Gilbert: The number of reports received by the Ministry of Defence of aerial activity not identifiable to the witness is as follows:

1996: 609

1997: 425

1998: 88 (January–June)

Unless there is evidence to suggest that the United Kingdom's airspace has been compromised by unauthorised foreign military activity, we do not seek to provide an explanation for what might have been seen as the MoD is not resourced to provide an identification service.

Lord Hill-Norton asked Her Majesty's Government:

Whether, in evaluating reports of unidentified flying objects, the Ministry of Defence will routinely consult staff at the Royal Greenwich Observatory, the Ballistic Missile Early Warning Centre at RAF Fylindales and the Deep Space Tracing Facility at RAF Feltwell. [HL2610]

Lord Gilbert: These or other staff may be consulted, depending on the circumstances.

Lord Hill-Norton asked Her Majesty's Government:

Why the Ministry of Defence has installed an answering machine on the line used by members of the public to report unidentified flying objects; and whether those people who leave contact details on the machine receive a formal reply. [HL2611]

Lord Gilbert: An answering machine enables members of the public to leave details about aerial activity or seek further information about our policy in respect of unidentified flying objects. The machine carries a message that sets out the MoD's limited interest in the subject and explains that, in the case of reported sightings, callers will be contacted only in the event that follow-up action is deemed appropriate.

Lord Hill-Norton asked Her Majesty's Government:

How many military personnel witnessed the unidentified craft that overflew RAF Cosford and RAF Shawbury on 31 March 1993; and whether, when the craft has not been identified, such an event ought to be classified as being of no defence significance. [HL2612]

Lord Gilbert: The Ministry of Defence is aware of a single report from two military personnel of an alleged sighting in the West Midlands on 31 March 1993. The facts reported were fully examined at the time. No firm conclusions were drawn then about the nature of what had been seen, but the events were not judged to be of defence significance. The MoD has no reason to doubt the judgments made at the time.

European Parliament, House of Commons and House of Lords: Comparative Costs

Viscount Tenby asked Her Majesty's Government:

What are the costs of maintaining the European Parliament, the House of Commons and the House of Lords, including:

(a) salaries, pensions, travelling allowances, secretarial expenses and other expenses for Members;

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Section 40 SAUNDERSFOOT, PEMBROKESHIRE, Section 40

16 September 1998

Dear Section 40

RE: RAF BRAWDY, PEMBROKESHIRE

I would be most grateful if you could make a statement on the role of RAF Brawdy, Pembrokeshire in the investigation of unidentified flying objects.

I am also interested in learning how to obtain declassified documents from the Government and/or MoD relating to unidentified flying object sightings reported in the past.

I understand the MoD's telephone line to members of the public reporting UFO sightings has been connected to a telephone answering system. I would be grateful if you could provide an answer for this.

I thank you for your time, and look forward to hearing from you in due course.

Yours sincerely,

Section 40

UFO.

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
SEC (AS) 2
17 SEP 1998
FILE

This enclosure has been taken off and placed on File 64/3/2 Part A Enclosure 8

This enclosure has been taken off and placed on File 64/3/2 Part A Enclosure 7

ACS(F&S) HQLC | Fax: Section 40 | 24 Sep '98 | 9:13 | P.01/05

HQ LOGISTICS COMMAN

ENCLOSURE NUMBER 20

Facsimile Transmission Cover Sheet

Transmission Details:

To: Section 40 Sec(A-J) 2a1	From: Section 40 CS(ChuSec)1a, HQLC (Tel: Section 40)
Fax No: Section 40	Fax No: Section 40
Serial No:	Date Sent: 24 Sep 98 / Time Sent: 1015

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Number of Pages Including This Cover Sheet: 5	Reference: Section 40
	Subject: The Usual!

Authorising Officer:	Transmitting Officer:
Rank, Name and Appointment: Go, Section 40 CS(ChuSec)1a	Rank, Name and Appointment: →
Signature: Section 40	Signature: →

Message/Remarks:

Agreed with Section 40 none Section 40 Section 40 we spoke. Section 40 letter follows. Unless you advise to the contrary, I propose sending a reply that refers to my letter of 7 September (which you very kindly cleared for me) and saying that I have nothing further to add.

Grateful, once again, for your advice.

Yours Section 40 24/9

Classification	Caveat	Covering

ACS(F&S) HQLC Fax [redacted] 24 Sep '98 9:14 P.02/05
24 SEP '98 09:37 FROM CENTRAL REGISTRY

[redacted]
Christchurch
Dorset
[redacted]
Tel - [redacted]

'Confidental'

Top secret!

Dear Air officer commanding in Chief.

I recently wrote to the MOD to tell them in confidence that in Amrica there is an de-classified document which states that there are in every defence Agencie there is an un-offical department. The MOD was one of the Names mentioned. Not only that Top secret Last documents have been found by The people (Newspaper) Which Proves that the MOD know more than thought but clearly the secretariat wasn't told that fact!

I warn you I'm not stupid I'm a Ufologist an expert.

RAF Rudlar Manor, has been knicknamed by thousands (due to leaks) as Britains AREA 51.

As of Now our communication Must be kept Classified for our safety.

Now, if you don't trust me you can send me a contract that allows me to know classified Stuff But dangerous for me to realise (Hint)

Now, Are we keeping our own Et spacecraft if Not RAF Ruclear where.

As I've told the Amricans I can save them money.

I need to Find the ufo-conspriators in Britian so they can help me.

You could say I want to Join them.

If you can help which I believe you can (Hint).

I'll be willing to be trained in Naval Intel. be Expendable and Infiltrate AreaS1 or Fly over and get the truth for you.

You scratch my back I scratch yours I need all the help I can get.

I'm sure your not lazy like Airstaff and keep Seing stupid 'I don't know Anything' quotes.

Anything you send me ie. Info. Photos I will keep highly classified!

All I want todo is Serve my country in a Above Top secret way.

I'll be glad if you can help me.

Section 40

and Answer the Questions below

1 - Whats Britians involvement with Ufos?
2 - Why Are Amricans Running our task force?
3 - What are you willing to do to help me?
4 - Are you Afraid of the Men in Black?
5 - Are you keeping ~~these~~ Et craft if not where?
you do Realise we are surposed to surve
Your country yet we are being laugheal
at.

The Question is Are you Brave enagh
to step where Angels fear to tread.

If you Are Brave then I can do with
your help.
We will make our country Proud.

Like I said our Communication is,
Classified.

I hope to hear from as I hope you'll
give me my Times worth instead of
the MOD being Stupid when evidance
against them was found in the 60's.

Yours sincrely

Section 40

Ufo Hunter.

P.S. Remmber I'm not stupid.

From: Section 40

ENCLOSURE NUMBER 40

HEADQUARTERS LOGISTICS COMMAND

Royal Air Force Brampton, Huntingdon, Cambridgeshire, PE18 8QL

Telephone: Huntingdon [redacted]
RAFTN: Section 40
Fax [redacted]

Section 40
Christchurch
Dorset
Section 40

Please reply to the Air Officer Commanding in Chief

For the attention of: CS(Fin Sec)1

Our Reference: LC/356805/3/4/F&S

Date: 7 September 1998

Dear Section 40

Thank you for your letter postmarked 28 August 1998 about RAF Rudloe Manor.

RAF Rudloe Manor consists of a parent unit and 6 lodger units. The parent unit provides administrative services such as accommodation, medical, dental, education, catering and transport facilities. The responsibilities of its lodger units include a wide range of world-wide communications, including support of the UK constellation of SKYNET satellites, which provide communications to all three Services. The Bristol University Air Squadron provides air experience and flying training for cadets and operates from the airfield at Azimghur Barracks at Colerne village, close to Rudloe Manor. The Headquarters for the RAF Police in the UK is based at Rudloe Manor, as is the HQ for their Western Region.

There is no unit based at RAF Rudloe Manor (or at any other MoD establishment) specialising in engineering of 'ET' spacecraft, investigating 'UFO/flying saucers' or extraterrestrial life.

As my colleagues in Secretariat (Air Staff) explained to you in their letter of 19 August, the MoD's interest in reports of 'unidentified flying objects' is limited to establishing whether there is any evidence to suggest that the UK's airspace has been compromised by hostile or unauthorised foreign military activity. Any further questions about 'UFOs' should be directed to Sec(AS)2a1 and I believe that you already have their address.

All Ministry of Defence establishments are 'Restricted' places within the meaning of the Official Secrets Act and RAF Rudloe Manor is no exception.

RAF Rudloe Manor's postal address is: Officer Commanding, RAF Rudloe Manor, Hawthorn, Wiltshire, SN13 0PQ.

I hope this is helpful.

Yours sincerely

Section 40

pp [redacted]

From: Section 40 Secretariat (Air Staff) 2a1
MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
Main Building, Whitehall, London SW1A 2HB

Telephone (Direct dial) 0171 218 2140
(Switchboard) 0171 218 9000
(Fax) Section 40

Section 40
Hull Road
York
Section 40

Your reference

Our reference
D/Sec(AS)/64/3
Date
23 September 1998

Dear Section 40

Thank you for your letter of 11 September.

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

On a more general note, the MOD examines any reports of 'unidentified flying objects' it receives solely to establish whether what was seen might have some defence significance; namely, whether there is any evidence that the United Kingdom's airspace might have been compromised by authorized foreign military activity.

Unless there is evidence of a potential threat to the United Kingdom from an external military source, we do not attempt to identify the precise nature of each reported incident. We believe that down to earth explanations could be found for these reports if resources were diverted for this purpose but it would be an inappropriate use of defence resources to provide this kind of aerial identification service.

As is the case with other government files, MOD files are subject to the provisions of the Public Records Act of 1958 and 1967. This Act of Parliament states that official files generally remain closed from public viewing for 30 years after the last action has been taken. It was generally the case that before 1967 all 'UFO' files were destroyed after five years, as there was insufficient public interest in the subject to merit their permanent retention. However since 1967, following an increase in public interest in this subject 'UFO' report files are now routinely preserved. Any files surviving from the 1950s and early 1960s are already available for examination by members of the

public at the Public Record Office, Ruskin Avenue, Kew, Richmond, Surrey, TW9 4DU. Files from 1967 onwards will be routinely released to the Public Record Office at the 30 year point.

I hope this is helpful.

Yours sincerely

Section 40

Leaflets/UFOs

MINISTERIAL CORRESPONDENCE UNIT

To SEC(AS)2

5809
Ref No /1998

Date 22-9-98

The Secretary of State,/_____ has received the attached letter from a member of the public. It has not been acknowledged by this office.

Please send a reply on behalf of the Minister concerned. All Ministers attach importance to such letters being answered promptly, your reply should therefore be sent **within 20 working days** of the date of this minute. If, exceptionally, this should prove impossible an interim reply should be sent within the same timescale.

A new Open Government Code of Practice on Access to Government Information came into force on in January 1997. All replies to members of the public must be in accordance with the procedures set out in the Code. A full explanation of the Code of Practice is contained in DCI(Gen) 54/98: further information is available from DOMD on extension Section 40.

Under the Citizens' Charter, Departments are now required to keep records of their performance. All branches and Agencies are required to keep information on the number of **requests for information which refer to the Code of Practice** including details of the correspondent and the nature and date of the reply. In addition, the Department is required to provide a record of the total number of letters from members of the public and provide statistics (which may be used on a valid sample) of its performance in providing replies within their published targets.

As part of our monitoring procedure, random spot checks on the accuracy of your branch records on correspondence will be performed throughout the year.

MB 6140 EXT Section 40

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
SEC (AS) 2
23 SEP 1998
FILE

Section 40

York

Section 40

5809

11th September 1998

Dear Sir / Madam,

I am currently studying A-Levels at Section 40 York and as part of my General Studies course myself and some friends must produce a fifty minute talk on a contemporary issue of interest and present it to the rest of our group.

The topic we ourselves have chosen is space exploration and the possible existence of extraterrestrial life forms - **"Are we really alone?"**. In preparation for the talk we need to research relevant information using books, television documentaries and computer software. The reason for writing to you is in hope of obtaining any information which would help us in our research and could be utilised in our talk. If anyone knows anything about alien life forms it is probably you. Obviously we don't expect classified information (although that would be nice!) or anything that isn't public knowledge but we would be very grateful for detailed data on any events in which the MOD was involved in. Anything at all would be very much appreciated and very useful to us if it was received within the next two weeks.

We would therefore be extremely grateful if you could please help us to research something slightly out of the ordinary and make the talk as best we can. Thankyou for reading and the time you have given to us.

Yours sincerely,

Section 40

From: Section 40 Secretariat(Air Staff)2a1, Room 8245,
MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
Main Building, Whitehall, London SW1A 2HB

Telephone (Direct dial) 0171 218 2140
(Switchboard) 0171 218 9000
(Fax) Section 40

ENCLOSURE NUMBER 18

Section 40
Courthouse Green,
Coventry.
Section 40

Your reference

Our reference
~~D/Sec(AS)/64/3~~

Date
17 September 1998

Dear Section 40

Thank you for your letter to the Prime Minister of 20 August concerning the subject of 'unidentified flying objects'. Your letter has been forwarded to this office within the Ministry of Defence for reply as we are the focal point for correspondence of this nature.

The Ministry of Defence examines any reports of 'unidentified flying objects' it receives solely to establish whether what was seen might have some defence significance; namely, whether there is any evidence that the United Kingdom's airspace might have been compromised by unauthorized foreign military activity.

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

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

I hope this explains the position.

Yours sincerely,

Section 40

Low flying/UFOs

MINISTERIAL CORRESPONDENCE UNIT

To SecD(AS)2

Ref No 5340 /1998

Date 1-9-98

The attached letter(s) which the Prime Minister has received has been forwarded to this Department for official action. No.10's letter codes are as follows:

A - The letter has been acknowledged by No.10. Please send a full reply **within 20 working days.**

B - The letter has been acknowledged by No.10. Please consider whether there is anything which can usefully be said to the correspondent and action accordingly.

C - No acknowledgement has been sent. In this case, however, it is obviously important that both an acknowledgement and a full reply are sent.

Unless specifically asked to do so, there is no need for you to copy your replies to this office.

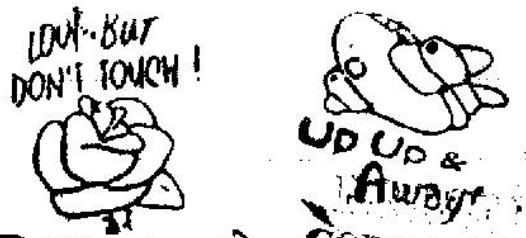
A new Open Government Code of Practice came into force on January 1997. All replies to members of the public must be in accordance with the procedures set out in the Code. A full explanation of the Code of Practice is contained in DCI(Gen) 54/98; further information is available from DOMD on extension [redacted]MB Section 40

Under the Citizens' Charter, Departments are now required to keep record of their performance. All branches and Agencies are required to keep information on the number of requests for information which refer to the Code of Practice including details of the correspondent and the nature and date of the reply. In addition, the Department is required to provide a record of the total number of letters from members of the public and provide statistics (which may be based on a valid sample) of its performance in providing replies within their published targets.

As part of our monitoring procedure, random spot checks on the accuracy of your branch records on correspondence will be performed throughout the year.

MINISTERIAL CORRESPONDENCE UNIT
MB 6140 EXT [redacted]MB Section 40

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
SEC (AS) 2
-2 SEP 19[illegible]
FILE



5340 Section 40 [redacted]

COURTHOUSE GREEN
COVENTRY
Section 40 [redacted]

3 (amend).
DEFENCE
MOD
-aliens

Tele: [redacted]

Date: 20/8/98.

Dear Mr Tony Blair (Primeminister).

HELLO!

My name is Section 40 and I am 10 years old.
I have been fascinated by the alien phenomeron for most of my life, I have never seen an alien, but I have watched so many documentorys, that I have come to a stage of believing that there are living aliens in this world.
So MR Tony Blair I am writting to you because I want my questions answered and not ridiculed away. I do not want to be patronised by you or anyone else in that case. I just want my questions answered fully, honestly, and completely.

Question: Is it true that aliens are helping the British and American governments and military in mass production of high-tec arms and air craft?

Question: Is it ture the British and American governments are hiding the truth from innocent law abiding citizens the truth being that alien beings are living in this world, and visiting our earth on a regular bases?

Question: If there are aliens visiting planet earth in there U.F.O.'s which there is strong evidence to prove so, why do top governments and military want to hide this information and dismiss it as pure fantasy and

imaganation?
Surly we ~~ee~~ innocent law abiding and tax paying citizens have a right to be informed of these gang ons.

Question: Is it so that you want to hide this information from ordinary folk because you do not want them to be fightened and disarrayed by such powerfull information?
Well I think that even if this information was let out to the public there would be no difference to everyday life because most people know of this already.

Please would you reply my letter giving me answers. I have got lots of other questions that I would like answered, but first could you answer these (the above questions).

Also could I please have yours and your wifes that is MRS Blairs autographs.

Thank-you!

Yours greatfull

Section 40

"THE TRUTH IS OUT THERE"

BYE!

From: Section 40 Secretariat (Air Staff) 2a1
MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
Main Building, Whitehall, London SW1A 2HB

Telephone (Direct dial) 0171 [redacted] 2140
(Switchboard) 0171 218 9000
(Fax) Section 40

ENCLOSURE NUMBER 17

Section 40

Crowthorne
Berkshire
Section 40

Your reference

Our reference
D/Sec(AS)/64/3
Date
16 September 1998

Dear Section 40

Thank you for your recent letter in which you asked me to confirm whether an event a patient of yours believes occurred in 1977 is supported by any documentary evidence.

First I should explain that the Ministry of Defence examines any reports of 'unidentified flying objects' it receives solely to establish whether what was seen might have some defence significance; namely, whether there is any evidence that the United Kingdom's airspace might have been compromised by unauthorized foreign military activity. Unless there is evidence of a potential threat to the United Kingdom from an external military source we do not attempt to identify the precise nature of each reported incident, as it would be an inappropriate use of defence resources to attempt to do so.

To provide the information you seek, which is not held in a readily identifiable format, would require a manual search of a large number of paper records of alleged 'unexplained' aerial sightings from that year to check locations, thereby diverting resources from essential defence tasks.

I am afraid, therefore, I am unable to provide you with the information you seek.

Yours sincerely,

Section 40

8 SEP

Section 40

UFO LETTER - BROADMOOR HOSPITAL

Attached is an 'odd' letter we have received from (at first glance) a Staff Nurse at Broadmoor Hospital. It is strange in that it is not written on Headed notepaper, and, incidentally, the Staff Nurse appears not to know how to spell 'psychosis'.

We need to discuss how you want me to play this. In 1977 we received over 435 reports of 'UFO' sightings. From the information given (nothing!) we would need to recall the files and search through each of these reports to see if any were made between the villages of Yelverton and Crapstone that year. I could send an interim if you want me to do this.

Having made this effort I don't see how it would help with the patient's treatment though. We wouldn't be telling him that someone else witnessed the same 'UFO' sighting and that he wasn't imagining it - we would probably be confirming that someone else saw 'lights in the sky' as well.

Our reply could of course be sent to the boss at Broadmoor (Chief Executive?) asking that he/she pass it on to the Staff Nurse (incase it was written by an inmate!).

Grateful for a word.

Section 40

Strange not on headed paper

L

Section 40

Broadmoor Hospital

Crowthorne

Berks

Tel Section 40

Re: UFO Sighting

Dear Section 40

I am a psychiatric nurse at Broadmoor Hospital and have been asked by one of the forensic consultant psychiatrists to research the claims of a patient. The patient states that in 1977, on two occassions, he saw unidentified flying objects in the Plymouth area over Dartmoor. These sightings took place on a mile of moor road between the villages of Yelverton and Crapstone.

I have contacted the local paper but unfortunately their archieves only date back to 1983. Both myself and the patient would be extremely grateful if you could offer any evidence that these sighting were witnessed by others and not part of his psycosis.

psychosis

I look forward to hearing from you in the near future.

Yours sincerely

Section 40

Section 40

Staff Nurse

1977 - 435 reports

Due for reply by 24 SEP.

Section 40

Air Secretary 2(A)

MOD
Whitthall
London

SEC (AS)

5/h

From: Section 40 Secretariat(Air Staff)2a1, Room 8245,
MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
Main Building, Whitehall, London SW1A 2HB

Telephone (Direct dial) 0171 218 2140
(Switchboard) 0171 218 9000
(Fax)
Section 40

ENCLOSURE NUMBER 16

Section 40

Drybrook
Gloucestershire
Section 40

Your reference

Our reference
D/Sec(AS)/64/3

Date
16 September 1998

Dear Section 40,

Thank you for your letter to the Prime Minister of 20 August concerning the subject of reports of 'unidentified flying objects'. Your letter has been forwarded to this office within the Ministry of Defence for reply as we are the focal point for correspondence of this nature.

My letter to you of 9 November 1995, in response to yours to the Prime Minister of the time, John Major, set out the Ministry of Defence's limited interest in reports of 'unidentified flying objects. This is that Ministry of Defence examines any reports of 'unidentified flying objects' it receives solely to establish whether what was seen might have some defence significance; namely, whether there is any evidence that the United Kingdom's airspace might have been compromised by hostile or unauthorized foreign military activity.

Unless there is evidence of a potential threat to the United Kingdom from an external military source, and to date no 'unidentified flying object' sighting has revealed such evidence, we do not attempt to identify the precise nature of each reported incident. We believe that down to earth explanations could be found for these reports, such as aircraft lights or natural phenomena, if resources were diverted for this purpose but it would be an inappropriate use of defence resources to provide this kind of aerial identification service.

As is the case with other government files, MOD files are subject to the provisions of the Public Records Act of 1958 and 1967. This Act of Parliament states that official files generally remain closed from public viewing for 30 years after the last action has been taken. It was generally the case that before 1967 all MOD 'UFO' report files were destroyed after five years, as there was insufficient public interest in the subject to merit their permanent retention. However since 1967, following an increase in public interest in this subject MOD 'UFO' report files

are now routinely preserved. Any files from the 1950s and early 1960s which did survive are already available for examination by members of the public at the Public Record Office, Ruskin Avenue, Kew, Richmond, Surrey, TW9 4DU. Files from 1967 onwards will be routinely released to the Public Record Office at the 30 year point. I do not know whether the Public Record Office are able to offer a Postal service. May I suggest that you write to them in this connection if you wish to pursue this matter.

Finally, your letter asks for contacts in various United States Government organisations. You may wish to contact the United States Embassy at 24 Grosvenor Square, London, W1A 1AE, who may be able to assist you with addresses etc.

Yours sincerely,

Section 40

[redacted]

low flying / ufos

MINISTERIAL CORRESPONDENCE UNIT

To SEC (AS) 2

Ref No 5341 /1998

Date 1-9-98

The attached letter(s) which the Prime Minister has received has been forwarded to this Department for official action. No.10's letter codes are as follows:

A - The letter has been acknowledged by No.10. Please send a full reply **within 20 working days.**

B - The letter has been acknowledged by No.10. Please consider whether there is anything which can usefully be said to the correspondent and action accordingly.

C - No acknowledgement has been sent. In this case, however, it is obviously important that both an acknowledgement and a full reply are sent.

Unless specifically asked to do so, there is no need for you to copy your replies to this office.

A new Open Government Code of Practice came into force on January 1997. All replies to members of the public must be in accordance with the procedures set out in the Code. A full explanation of the Code of Practice is contained in DCI(Gen) 54/98; further information is available from DOMD on extension [redacted] MB. Section 40

Under the Citizens' Charter, Departments are now required to keep record of their performance. All branches and Agencies are required to keep information on the number of requests for information which refer to the Code of Practice including details of the correspondent and the nature and date of the reply. In addition, the Department is required to provide a record of the total number of letters from members of the public and provide statistics (which may be based on a valid sample) of its performance in providing replies within their published targets.

As part of our monitoring procedure, random spot checks on the accuracy of your branch records on correspondence will be performed throughout the year.

MINISTERIAL CORRESPONDENCE UNIT
MB 6140 EXT [redacted] MB Section 40

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
SEC (AS) 2
-2 SEP 1998
FILE

(R) 29/05

3 MOD Defence

20th August 1998

10 Downing Street
Westminster
London
W1

Section 40

Drybrook
Gloucestershire
Section 40

5341

Dear Mr. Blair,

I am writing to you with regards to the phenomenon of 'Unidentified Aerial Craft' or 'UFOs', a subject which I have been investigating for a number of years.

I wrote a letter to your predecessor Mr. Major in 1995 with regards to the subject of 'Unidentified Aerial Craft', to which I received a reply back from the M.O.D. The M.O.D. stated that they held no files on the subject, and that the M.O.D were not directly involved, and undertook no investigations into the phenomenon. Since then however I have learned that the M.O.D. do indeed hold files on the subject of UFOs, and are directly involved with research into the phenomenon. This is evident from the 'thirty-year ruling' policy, whereby documents thirty years old or more are released into the public domain depending on their 'threat to national security', and many other clauses. I have also learned that the M.O.D. have tracked such aerial vehicles on R.A.D.A.R. and records of such events are held by the M.O.D. It is common knowledge to the public that the M.O.D have so say 'destroyed' a number of files which relate to UFO sightings by military sources (AI(Tech)5B), files which one would deem to be more credible, and of greater importance to research than that of the remaining files of civilian sightings (S6). My first question is why would files of a more credible nature be destroyed, if they have been, and why would files of a less technically proven nature remain intact for any person to see at the public records office? It appears to me that this destruction of these documents seems to be a little ludicrous, when the witnesses are often 'trained eyes', such as military pilots, and other R.A.F personnel.

It is also evident that documents relating to 'Unidentified Airborne Vehicles' are held by the Deputy Directorate of Intelligence (Technical), or the D.D.I. It is also known that G.C.H.Q. in Cheltenham are also actively involved with the phenomenon, in particular intercepting telephone calls to individuals about extraterrestrial activity, and UFOs.

I would therefore like to gain access to the remaining files on UFOs, and alien activity, which have been declassified by the relevant government departments, such as the M.O.D, and the D.D.I. As I do not have the means to get to the public records office would it be possible to mail these documents to me, or inform me on how to access them by post.

Would it also be possible to send me any other contacts for this phenomenon outside of the United Kingdom, such as the F.B.I, U.S.A.F, the D.I.A, and the C.I.A, as these departments also hold declassified documents, and are willing to send them to requesters.

Yours sincerely

Section 40

ENCL NO. 64

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
From: Section 40 Secretariat(Air Staff)2a, Room 8245,
Main Building, Whitehall, London SW1A 2HB

Telephone (Direct Dialling) 0171 218 2140
(Switchboard) 0171 218 9000
(Fax)

Section 40
Stroud
Gloucester
Section 40

Your reference

Our reference
D/Sec(AS)/64/3
Date
9 November 1995

Dear Section 40

Previous correspondence

1. Thank you for your (and Section 40) recent letter to the Prime Minister regarding the subject of "unexplained" aerial sightings, or "UFOs" as they are often characterized. This office is the focal point within the Ministry of Defence for this subject and I have been asked to reply.

2. First perhaps it would be useful if I were to clarify the role that the MOD has with respect to reports of "unexplained" aerial sightings. The MOD and HM Forces have responsibility for the effective defences of the United Kingdom. In order to discharge that responsibility we remain vigilant for any potential threat, from whatever source. And it is in this context alone that we look at such reports in order to establish whether what was seen might be of defence significance. If no threat is discerned, and in connection with "unexplained" aerial sightings this has been the case in all instances to date, we make no further attempt to investigate and establish exactly what may have been seen.

3. The MOD does not have any direct interest, expertise or role in respect of "UFO/flying saucer" matters, or those relating to the existence or otherwise of extraterrestrial lifeforms, about which we remain totally open-minded. However, I should add at this point that the MOD is not aware of any evidence which might substantiate the existence of such extraterrestrial activity.

4. Any queries that you may have in connection with the United States' policy on the subject of "UFOs" should be addressed to the US Government directly. As such you may care to contact the United States Embassy in London at the following address:

United States Embassy
24 Grosvenor Square
London
W1A 1AE

Yours sincerely

Section 40

Section 40

S. Woodchester,
Stroud,
Glos.

Section 40

Stroud,
Glos.

Section 40

R 20/10

Dear Mr. Major,

We have recently been studying the phenomena of U.F.O.'s and have become increasingly aware that information on this subject is being concealed from the public at large by the U.S. government. Would it be possible for you to disclose any of this information to us as it would be useful in our studies. It is impossible, considering Britain's relationship with America, that the British government has no idea what is happening. It is our belief that the public has a right to know the concealed truths about these mysterious events.

2.

Yours Sincerely

Section 40

From: Section 40, Secretariat(Air Staff)2a1, Room 82
MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
Main Building, Whitehall, London SW1A 2HB

Telephone (Direct dial) 0171 218 2140
(Switchboard) 0171 218 9000
(Fax) Section 40

ENCLOSURE NUMBER 14

Section 40

Bournemouth,
Dorset.
Section 40

Your reference

Our reference
D/Sec(AS)/64/3

Date
16 September 1998

Dear Section 40

Thank you for your letter of 25 August concerning reports of 'unidentified flying objects'. This office is the focal point within the Ministry of Defence for correspondence of this nature.

The Ministry of Defence examines any reports of 'unidentified flying objects' it receives solely to establish whether what was seen might have some defence significance; namely, whether there is any evidence that the United Kingdom's airspace might have been compromised by hostile or unauthorized foreign military activity.

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

As is the case with other government files, MOD files are subject to the provisions of the Public Records Act of 1958 and 1967. This Act of Parliament states that official files generally remain closed from public viewing for 30 years after the last action has been taken. It was generally the case that before 1967 all MOD 'UFO' files were destroyed after five years, as there was insufficient public interest in the subject to merit their permanent retention. However since 1967, following an increase in public interest in this subject MOD 'UFO' report files are now routinely preserved. Any files from the 1950s and early 1960s which did survive are already available for examination by members of the public at the Public Record Office, Ruskin Avenue, Kew, Richmond, Surrey, TW9 4DU. Files from 1967 onwards will be routinely released to the Public Record Office at the 30 year point.

Yours sincerely,

Section 40

The Ministry of Defence,
Secretariat Airstaff 2.
Room 8245,
Main Building,
Whitehall,
London,
SW1A 2HB

[redacted]
BOURNEMOUTH,
DORSET,
[redacted]

August 25. 1998

Dear Sirs & Madams,

Hello and how are you all now? I have been conducting some researches into esoteric and exotic mysticism, which includes the minor field of Ufology. The honoured authors of all the popular texts insist that the Borough Of Warminster In England is the undisputed Unidentified Flying Object Capital of Britain. I seek the connection of information upon this matter. I asked the warminster police force, who with extreme reluctance and great ill-will gave me your number. They stated that they knew nothing of themselves and could tell me less! Also they relayed my enquiry directly to the press; who again had nothing for me!

However, I retain the distinct impression that my literary and documentary informative earlier sources were perfectly honest in their opinion of Warminster. The clue is that, it is the focal point of the Flying Saucer mysteries. People must have reported sightings of craft, visitors, "Men In Black", alien objects; and only you have this information! I would like to share the knowledge which you have thus far acquired. Please write back and let me know how this may be done. I eagerly await your reply.

Yours Sincerely

[redacted]

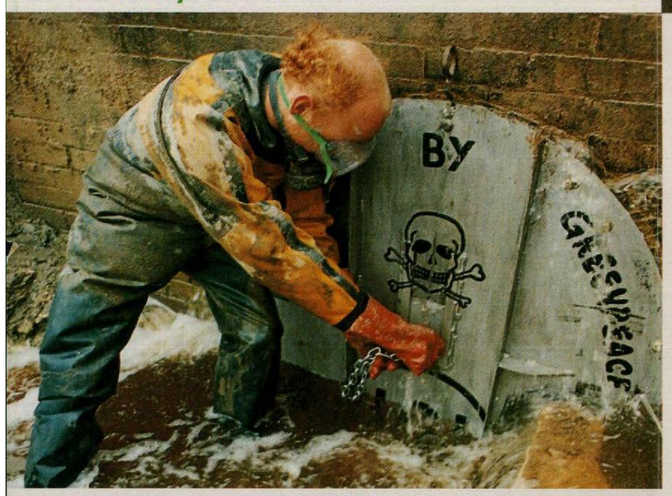
will it be...

what's being done to our world?

Look around you. In your backyard, on the national and international news, all the evidence is there: our world is under threat. During the past 25 years, Greenpeace has scored some major successes and put environmental issues firmly on the agenda. But we can't relax; we need to keep up the pressure for change.

It's time, if you care about the Earth and our role on it, for you to join with us and our 2.9 million supporters in 158 countries...

All it takes is this leaflet and a little direct action of your own.



Our direct actions include blocking toxic waste outflow...

The Earth's enemies are our enemies...

Sadly, some people are prepared to go to the ends of the earth for short-term financial gain. Whatever the lengths they go to, we have to confront them. Polluting chemicals are carried on the wind and by currents all around the globe. The international trade that threatens species with extinction and endangers lives with toxic waste recognises no boundaries. That's why Greenpeace operates globally: we have a permanent presence in 35 countries.

Six ships with 12 inflatables are continuously in action...

...preventing the loggers laying waste the forests...

...and we need people like you

Such a vast operation costs a great deal of money and the only source of funds we have is individuals.

We do not solicit funds from governments or business corporations (as if they'd offer!), leaving us free to target all those at fault. Nor are we linked to any political organisation.

We depend on people like, well, hopefully like you.

Front cover

Originally, the banners protested against polluting our seas and whaling.

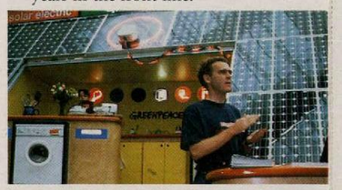
Back cover

...and fishers srtipping bare the ocean...

Action... for you

Such is the damage the human race has done in a short time, radical actions are needed to redress the balance. The courage of Greenpeace campaigners is legendary - risking their health blocking toxic outflow pipes, risking their lives by bouncing around in tiny inflatables in front of whaling harpoons or tankers full of nuclear waste. Whenever the most effective course is to intervene with non-violent, direct action, we take it.

These actions make a massive impact not only because they channel the anger of individuals. They form part of campaigns, carefully planned and coordinated with the benefit of 25 years in the front line.



...proving alternatives - like solar power - do work...

We all know the problems... let's find solutions

Dramatic action on the high seas and disrupting public meetings to draw attention to the Earth's plight is the famous face of Greenpeace. Behind the scenes, a lot more goes on. We pester anyone - governments and multinational companies - who can take the decisions which could change things for the better.

...gathering evidence at the site of disasters...

More than that, if something is causing a problem, we search out a realistic, clean, safe and sustainable alternative.

'They' - not surprisingly they tend to have vested interests - drag their feet and say things can't be done. We prove them wrong.

This leaflet is printed on chlorine-free paper, now commonplace.

The 'Greenfreeze' fridge we commissioned successfully uses climate- and ozone-friendly technology and is now being produced all over the world.

We're making enormous advances promoting solar power and we've built a car that doubled the fuel efficiency of the original model.

Greenpeace - reforming industry and defending nature.

so now

"We can make difference."

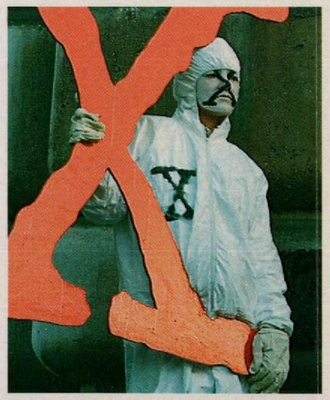
So believed a handful of North American activists in 1971, when they sailed their small boat into a US atomic test zone off Amchika, Alaska. By bravely facing up to an awesome challenge, they made sure their voice was heard, halted nuclear tests - and gave birth to Greenpeace.

The state of the world today can be depressing, but ***you*** can make a difference. Fill in the form today and add your voice to a growing worldwide protest.

As soon as you're on board, we'll send you briefings on who's endangering life on Earth - and what Greenpeace is doing about it.

How far will you go to save the planet?

How about the nearest post box? **You can join us right now using the form on the right.**



...protesting against tampering with our food.

GUMMED EDGE To turn these two panels into an envelope, follow instructions at side.

will you join?

We invite you to join us and save the natural world.

Name Mr/Mrs/Miss/Ms

Address

Postcode Tel. No.

Please choose a subscription rate (*tick*):

☐ Individual **£14.50** ☐ Family/Household **£19.50** ☐ Unwaged **£7**

☐ Overseas inc. Eire **£25** ☐ Additional donation of **£**

If you can, please top up your subscription with an additional donation.

When you pay by Direct Debit, it saves administration costs and makes your support more valuable.

Instruction to your Bank or Building Society to pay Direct Debits DIRECT Debit

Originators identification number 9 7 2 2 4 8

1. Name and full postal address of your Bank or Building Society branch

To the Manager (Bank name)

Bank address

Postcode

2. Name(s) of account holder(s)

3. Branch sort code ☐☐-☐☐-☐☐ **4. Account number** ☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐

5. Payment I/We* wish to pay Greenpeace Ltd. the sum of **£** monthly/annually*.
Starting on the ☐1st ☐15th ☐28th of (month)
or shortly after this date (*please delete as appropriate)
(Please make the start date at least one month from now.)

6. Instruction to your Bank or Building Society Please pay Greenpeace Ltd Direct Debits from the account detailed on this instruction subject to the safeguards assured by the Direct Debit guarantee.

Signature(s) Date

Banks and Building Societies may not accept Direct Debit instructions for some types of account

Other ways to pay **KF006**

Please choose a subscription rate from the top of this form.

☐ Please charge my Access/Visa account no: Expiry Date: ☐☐-☐☐

OR ☐ I enclose a cheque/P.O. for **£** payable to Greenpeace Ltd.

Please note that Greenpeace Ltd. cannot accept charity vouchers or payroll giving.

Amount **£** Date

Signature

We occasionally allow other organisations to post their materials to Greenpeace supporters. In return we send Greenpeace material to their supporters. This is an efficient, economical and successful way of recruiting much needed help. However, if you would prefer not to receive such material, please tick this box. ☐

GUMMED EDGE To turn these two panels into an envelope, follow instructions at side.

GUMMED EDGE Detach these two panels from the rest of the leaflet at perforation, enclose remittance, seal along the three gummed edges and mail to Greenpeace. GUMMED EDGE

you could play a part in **even more**

success stories

Without our supporters, these battles would have been lost... at what cost?

'86 A worldwide moratorium on commercial whaling following our 'Save the Whales' campaign. Sadly, we've been in action ever since against countries such as Japan who continue to whale under the guise of scientific research.

'89 Persuaded the European Community to reduce pollution in the North Sea including a ban on the UK dumping of industrial waste.

'91 World Park Antarctica was created to preserve a wilderness when - after an eight year campaign - governments finally signed up to a 50-year ban on mining minerals.

'92 Stopped large scale driftnetting from stripping our oceans bare.

'95 Stopped testing of nuclear weapons when the UK, French, USA, Russian and Chinese governments signed the Test Ban Treaty, after our ships once again sailed into the Pacific test zones.

'96 The twice-as-fuel-efficient car: Greenpeace built a prototype based on a Renault Twingo. (Whatever happened to the 150mpg car produced by Shell's engineers in the 1950's?)

Detach these two panels from the rest of the leaflet at the perforation, enclose remittance, seal along gummed edged and mail to Greenpeace.

Judith Watt
GREENPEACE
FREEPOST ND944
Northampton
NN3 6BR.

This envelope needs no postage stamp but if you use one Greenpeace saves money.

These words, written in Greenpeace UK's early days by an anonymous supporter, put we humans - and the emergence of Greenpeace - into context. Many thousands of people have been moved by them to take the step of adding their voice to ours.

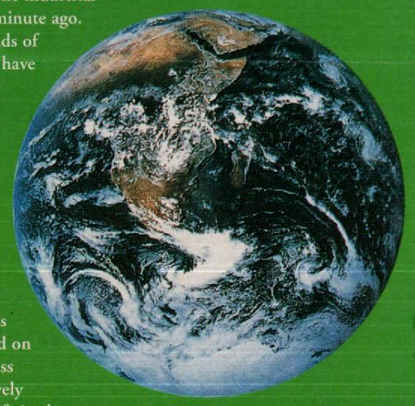
Think of the planet Earth as a 46 year old...

The Earth is thought to be around 4,600 million years old, an almost inconceivable time span. For the moment, think of it as someone in middle age, 46 years old.

This person is a late developer. Nothing at all is know about their first seven years and only sketchy information exists about the next 35 years. It is only at the age of 42 that the Earth began to flower.

Dinosaurs and the great reptiles did not appear until a year ago, when this planet reached 45. Mammals arrived only eight months ago. In the middle of last week, human-like apes evolved into ape-like humans, and at the weekend the last ice age enveloped the Earth.

Modern humans have been around for four hours. During the last hour we discovered agriculture. The industrial revolution began just a minute ago. During those sixty seconds of biological time, humans have made a rubbish tip of Paradise.

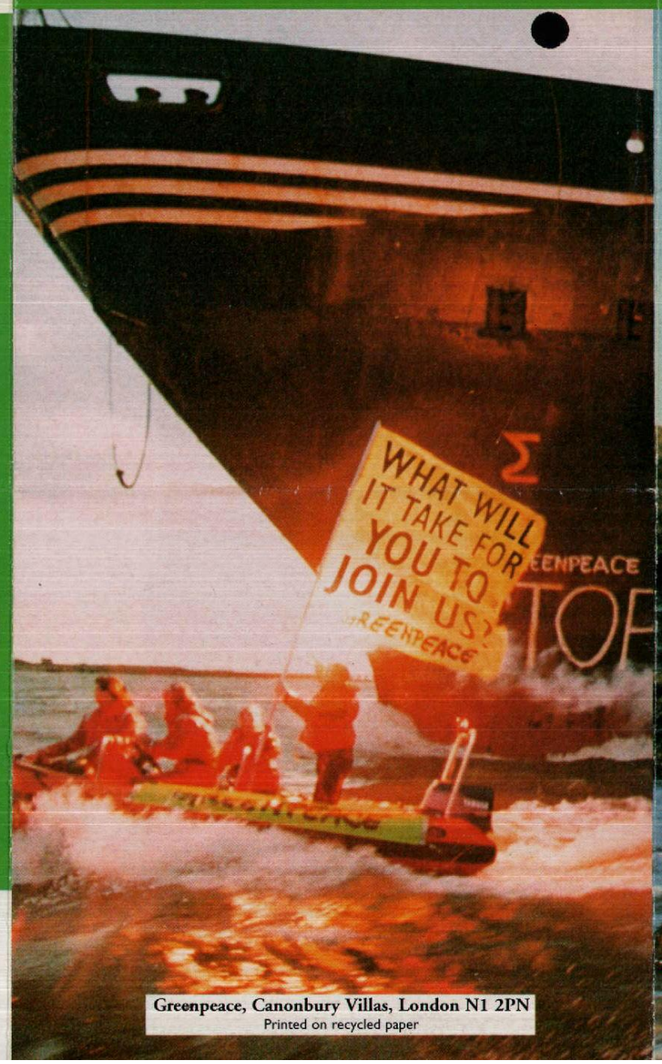


We have caused the extinction of many hundreds of species of animals, many of which had been here longer than us, and ransacked the planet for fuel. Now we stand, like brutish infants, gloating over this rise to ascendancy, poised on the brink of the final mass extinction and of effectively destroying this oasis of life in the solar system.

Now will you join?

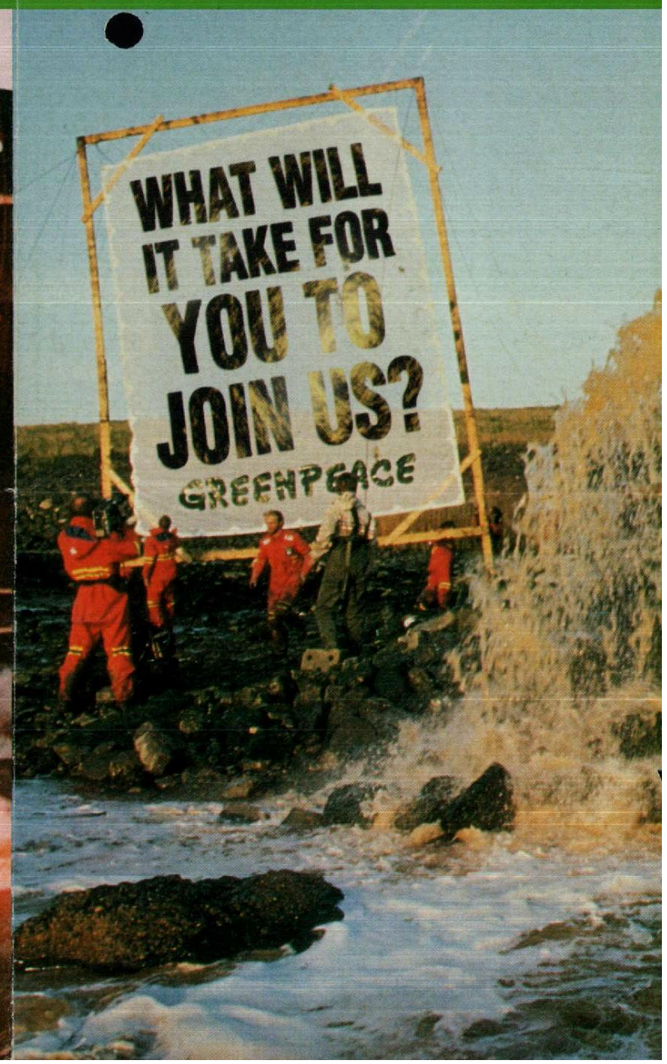
GREENPEACE
Greenpeace, Canonbury Villas, London N1 2PN
http://www.greenpeace.org.uk

GREENPEACE



Greenpeace, Canonbury Villas, London N1 2PN
Printed on recycled paper

GREENPEACE



From: Section 40 Secretariat (Air Staff) 2a1
MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
Main Building, Whitehall, London SW1A 2HB

ENCLOSURE NUMBER 13

Telephone (Direct dial) 0171 218 2140
(Switchboard) 0171 218 9000
(Fax) Section 40

Section 40

Surbiton
SOUTHAMPTON

Your reference

Our reference
D/Sec(AS)/64/3

Date
15 September 1998

Dear Section 40

I am writing in connection with the message that you left on our answerphone facility yesterday, concerning the 'unexplained' sight observed by your son over your house last Friday.

First perhaps it would be helpful if I explained that the Ministry of Defence examines any reports of 'unidentified flying objects' it receives solely to establish whether what was seen might have some defence significance; namely, whether there is any evidence that the United Kingdom's airspace might have been compromised by unauthorized foreign military activity.

Unless there is evidence of a potential threat to the United Kingdom from an external military source, and to date no report of a 'UFO' has revealed such evidence, we do not attempt to identify the precise nature of each reported incident. We believe that down to earth explanations could be found for these reports, if resources were diverted for this purpose but it would be an inappropriate use of defence resources to provide this kind of aerial identification service.

With regard to the specific observations by your son I can confirm that to date MOD has not received any other reports of 'unidentified flying objects' from any location in the United Kingdom on Friday 11 September, and there is no other evidence to suggest an unauthorized incursion of the UK's national airspace by foreign military activity, which, as I have explained, is our only concern.

I hope this is helpful.

Report held on 6/12 pt H enc. 48.

Yours sincerely

Section 40

From: Section 40 Secretariat(Air Staff)2a1a, Room 8245,
MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
Main Building, Whitehall, London SW1A 2HB

Telephone (Direct dial) 0171 218 2140
(Switchboard) 0171 218 9000
(Fax) Section 40

Section 40
Wolverhampton,
West Midlands.
Section 40

Your reference

Our reference
D/Sec(AS)/64/3
Date
10 September 1998

Dear Section 40,

Thank you for your letter of 27 August addressed to the Prime Minister regarding 'unidentified flying objects'. Your letter has been passed to the Ministry of Defence and this office is the focal point within the MOD for correspondence of this nature. I have been asked to reply.

First it may be helpful if I explain that the Ministry of Defence examines any reports of 'unidentified flying objects' it receives solely to establish whether what was seen might have some defence significance; namely, whether there is any evidence that the United Kingdom's airspace might have been compromised by hostile or unauthorized foreign military activity.

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

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

Yours sincerely,

Section 40.

ufos

MINISTERIAL CORRESPONDENCE UNIT

To Sec(AS)2

Ref No 5453/1998

Date 4 SEP 1998

The attached letter(s) which the Prime Minister has received has been forwarded to this Department for official action. No.10's letter codes are as follows:

A - The letter has been acknowledged by No.10. Please send a full reply **within 20 working days.**

B - The letter has been acknowledged by No.10. Please consider whether there is anything which can usefully be said to the correspondent and action accordingly.

(C) - No acknowledgement has been sent. In this case, however, it is obviously important that both an acknowledgement and a full reply are sent.

Unless specifically asked to do so, there is no need for you to copy your replies to this office.

A new Open Government Code of Practice came into force on January 1997. All replies to members of the public must be in accordance with the procedures set out in the Code. A full explanation of the Code of Practice is contained in DCI(Gen) 54/98; further information is available from DOMD on extension [redacted] MB. Section 40

Under the Citizens' Charter, Departments are now required to keep record of their performance. All branches and Agencies are required to keep information on the number of requests for information which refer to the Code of Practice including details of the correspondent and the nature and date of the reply. In addition, the Department is required to provide a record of the total number of letters from members of the public and provide statistics (which may be based on a valid sample) of its performance in providing replies within their published targets.

As part of our monitoring procedure, random spot checks on the accuracy of your branch records on correspondence will be performed throughout the year.

MINISTERIAL CORRESPONDENCE UNIT
MB 6140 EXT [redacted] MB Section 40

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
SEC (AS) 2
-8 SEP 1998
FILE

Sec(AS)2

[redacted]

WOLVERHAMPTON
WEST MIDLANDS
[redacted]

27TH AUGUST 1998

5453

H.R.H. GOVERNMENT
DOWNING STREET
LONDON

R2818.

DEFENCE
MOD

Dear Mr Blaire,

I am writing to ask if you could provide me with any positive information to confirm a story, surrounding an alleged Top-Secret program, Commonly known as the assesment. To my knowledge, the assesment is a comprehensive study of U.F.O. activity around the planet earth, and that mankind has been the subject of an "intensive and massive survey of several extraterrestrial civilizations", and that some kind of process involving the E.T's and mankind is unfolding. I have a genuine interest in ufology and I know that this story has come from Supreme-Headquarters of Allied-Powers-Europe (SHAPE). I hope that you will reply to my enquiry and have enclosed a S.A.E for your convenience. Hope to hear from you soon.

Best wishes

[redacted]

From: Section 40, Secretariat(Air Staff)2a1a, Room 8245,
MINISTRY OF DEFENCE,
Main Building, Whitehall, London. SW1A 2HB

Telephone (Direct dial) 0171 218 2140
(Switchboard) 0171 218 9000
(Fax) Section 40

ENCLOSURE NUMBER 11

Section 40
Barnetby,
North Lincolnshire.
Section 40

Your reference

Our reference
D/Sec(AS)/64/3
Date
10 September 1998

Dear Section 40

I am writing with reference to your message left on the Secretariat (Air Staff) answerphone on 9 September in which you reported an unexplained aerial sighting observed the previous evening over North Lincolnshire. This office is the focal point within the MOD for correspondence relating to 'unidentified flying objects'.

First I should explain that the Ministry of Defence examines any reports of 'unidentified flying objects' it receives solely to establish whether what was seen might have some defence significance; namely, whether there is any evidence that the United Kingdom's airspace might have been compromised by hostile or unauthorized foreign military activity.

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

With regard to your particular observation, I have looked back through our sighting report files and can confirm that we received no other reports of 'UFO' sightings for 8 September from anywhere in the UK, and we are satisfied that there is no corroborating evidence to suggest that the United Kingdom's airspace was breached by unauthorised military aircraft.

Yours sincerely,

Section 40

Report held on
6412 pt H
enc 46.

COMMUNITY RELATIONS OFFICE

With the Compliments of

AIR
DEFENCE
VARIANT

ROYAL AIR FORCE
CONINGSBY
LINCOLN
LN4 4SY
Telephone [redacted] Section 40
Fax Telephone ext [redacted]

Section 40
Community Relations Office

From Squadron Leader Section 40 RAF
RAF CONINGSBY
Lincoln LN4 4SY

Telephone: Section 40 Military Network: Section 40
Fax:

Section 40
Chapel en le Frith
STOCKPORT
Cheshire
Section 40

Reference CON/31/1/ATC

Date 4 September 1998

Dear Section 40

REQUEST FOR INFORMATION - 9 SEPTEMBER 1995

Thank you for your letter dated 15 August 1998. I am unable to help you in providing an explanation for the events witnessed on 9 September 1995 between 21.25 hrs and 21.47 hrs. Royal Air Force Coningsby does not keep records of aircraft movements from nearly 3 years ago; and, as 9 September 1995 was a Saturday there were no staff on duty in Air Traffic Control Tower. Had there been staff on duty I believe they would have had difficulty seeing the lights described, as there was a full moon and meteorological records indicate over half the sky obscured by cloud.

Yours sincerely,

Section 40

for info:-
Sec (AS) ZA1A.

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
SEC (AS) 2
- 9 SEP 1998
FILE

From: Section 40, Secretariat(Air Staff)2a1a, Room 8245,
MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
Main Building, Whitehall, London SW1A 2HB

Telephone (Direct dial) 0171 218 2140
(Switchboard) 0171 218 9000
(Fax) Section 40

9

Section 40

St Osyth,
Essex.
Section 40

Your reference

Our reference
D/Sec(AS)/64/3
Date
8 September 1998

Dear Section 40

Thank you for your letter of 10 August, the content of which has been noted.

Yours sincerely,

Section 40

ESSEX UFO & METAPHYSICAL RESEARCH GROUP

Section 40
Secretary/Treasurer
Section 40
St. Osyth, Essex.
Section 40
Tel.No.

President: Section 40
Chairman:

10 August 1998

Dear Section 40

Thank you for your letter of 6 August 1998. This will be my last correspondence to your department about "unexplained aerial sightings" over this area, since it seems to become a time-consuming needless exercise to the both of us.

I would state however, with respect, that there is a frequent incursion, reported in this area , of "unusual" triangular shaped aerial craft of immense proportions. Not just here, but elsewhere over the globe as well, reported incidences of which, I am sure the department are well aware.

Your letter implies there was no incursion of UK airspace on the specified date. This suggests that the craft is either undetectable by our technology or it has authorization to roam where it chooses. It follows, therefore, that it could be either extraterrestrial or experimental involving the human element in its design construction and use.

To date this craft or its type, has shown no visible signs of hostility, since it does not fire "death rays " nor "drop bombs" which we can actually see.

So what is its purpose or function?

The insignificant and powerless person can only speculate.

Perhaps it is to inflict Earth's inhabitants with "invisible" hostilities, such as the transmissions of viruses by UV radiation, or specific frequencies intended to disturb the brain's neurotransmitters to cause mental dysfunction. Achieved by using microwaves as carriers of certain frequencies to induce "illness".

I thank you for your co-operation in this matter.

Yours sincerely,

Section 40

From: Section 40 Secretariat (Air Staff) 2a1
MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
Main Building, Whitehall, London SW1A 2HB

Telephone (Direct dial) 0171 218 2140
(Switchboard) 0171 218 9000
(Fax) Section 40

ENCLOSURE NUMBER 8

Section 40

Swadlincote
South Derbyshire
Section 40

Your reference

Our reference
D/Sec(AS)/64/3
Date
8 September 1998

Dear Section 40

Thank you for your letter of 17 August.

The Ministry of Defence's policy with respect to 'unidentified flying objects' has been explained to you on numerous occasions over the last few years. We examine any reports of 'unidentified flying objects' received solely to establish whether there is any evidence that the United Kingdom's airspace might have been compromised by hostile or unauthorized foreign military activity.

I am afraid there is nothing further to add.

Yours sincerely,

Section 40

Section 40

Swadlincote,
South-Derbyshire,

Section 40

11th August, 1998.

Hello Section 40

I wish to reply to the various Explanations offered in the Past to Members of the Public, Police-Constables, Civil-Aviation Pilots, Members of Parliament, both in the House of Commons, on

din the House of Lords. Fi
rst of all, there is part of a
communication that was
sent to me earlier this yea
r and is dated Twenty-Fif
th of February, Nineteen
Ninety Eight. [redacted] IS THE WOMAN WHO AN
SWERS LETTERS FROM THE PU
BLIC ABOUT 'UFO'S'. SHE USUA
LLY SAYS THAT THE MATTER "PO
SES NO THREAT AND IS THERE
FORE NOT OF DEFENCE INTERE
ST". MY POSITION IS THAT I HA
VE NO DOUBT THAT SOME PHYS
ICAL THINGS ARE OPERATING IN
OUR ATMOSHERE, AND I WANT
TO KNOW WHAT THEY ARE, WHE

Section 40

Section 40

RE THEY COME FROM AND WHO
DIRECTS THEM. I SHALL DO MY B
EST TO FIND OUT." Signed AD
MIRAL OF THE FLEET, THE LO
RD HILL-NORTON G.C.B., CHIEF
OF DEFENCE STAFF-NINETEE
N SEVENTY-ONE-SEVENTY-THR
EE. (RETIRED) [redacted] for you to
state that a number of Wit
nesses have "OBSERVED THE P
LANET VENUS IN THE NIGHTSK
Y" can only be confirmed by
Radar and Jodrell-Bank in
he share. As for People mist
aking what they observe for
a 'Weather-Balloon' then that
is a Load of Nonsense [redacted]
as for Hallucinations occurr

ing to Ten Witnesses at
he same Time I would ask
you are "insane" ie Out of yo
ur Body or out of your Mind
-? When someone film
s an Object using a Camc
rder can you deny the Realit
y of what Occurred-? Remem
er this One Day, a certain
Photograph may not say a
Thousand Words. It may say
it all - why not accept
the Fact that Helicopters
cannot go as fast "Fourteen
-Thousand Miles per Hour-?
This Area-South-Derbyshire
is known as a 'UFO-HOT-SPOT'
and there is a Man who in th

e Early Hours of One Morn
g stated to the 'Burton Mail'
that he had observed a 'FLY
NG BLACK TRIANGLE' over the
Main 'A-50' Road at Bretby
near Burton-Upon-Trent. I
know that in Warburton, La
neashire 'British-Aerospa
ce' have built a 'F-Lying-Th
angle' to test for themselve
s, and a Much-Larger Version
probably is in use now!
Section 40
a built-up Area in the
Midlands what are Royal-Ai
r-Force Jets doing flying ov
er Cities and Towns - it
has taken Twelve Years for
the 'Stealth' Aircraft to ben

amed in a Public-Newspap
er. These Matters mentione
d above I will take up with
my Solicitor and since we ar
e Part of the European Uni
on to the European Court of
Human Rights. Section 40 from
this Date forthwith either
Put Up or Shut Up! I await
your Reply with interest in
due course beware TEMPUS F
UGIT!,

Section 40

'Liberal-Democrats' "Secrecy
Bill. Get on With it!"

From: Section 40, Secretariat(Air Staff)2a1a, Room 8245,
MINISTRY OF DEFENCE,
Main Building, Whitehall, London. SW1A 2HB

Telephone (Direct dial) 0171 218 2140
(Switchboard) 0171 218 9000
(Fax) Section 40

ENCLOSURE NUMBER 7

Section 40

Aberdare,
Mid-Glamorgan
Section 40

Your reference

Our reference
D/Sec(AS)/64/3
Date
8 September 1998

Dear Section 40

Thank you for your letter of 18 May (received here on 17 August) in which you refer to the alleged events at Rendlesham Forest of December 1980. My letter of 19 December explained the MOD's position with respect to these alleged events. I am afraid there is nothing further that I can add.

Yours sincerely,

Section 40

Section 40

Aberdare,
Mid Glam,
S.Wales.

Ministry of Defence,
(Official UFO reporting desk),
Main building,
Whitehall,
London, SW1Q.
18th May 1998

Section 40

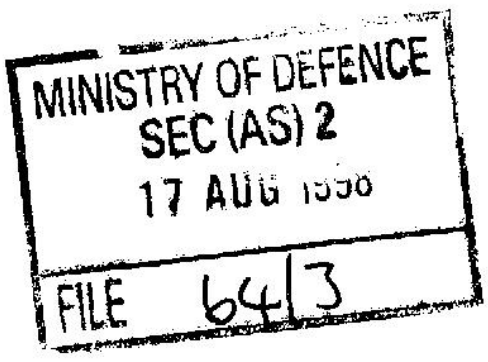
Dear Section 40,

I was hoping that you could send me a copy of the official report on the Rendlesham Forest incident which occurred on the 27th and 28th of December 1980. If you could I would be very greatful.

Yours faithfully

Section 40

I have not interpreted this as the Halt Memo.
I take 'official report' to mean any official report made by those responsible for investigating it.
There is no such report.



ENCLOSURE NUMBER 5

From: Section 40, Secretariat(Air Staff)2a1a, Room 8245
MINISTRY OF DEFENCE,
Main Building, Whitehall, London. SW1A 2HB

Telephone (Direct dial) 0171 218 2140
(Switchboard) 0171 218 9000
(Fax) Section 40

Section 40

London.
Section 40

Your reference

Our reference
D/Sec(AS)/64/3
Date 3 September 1998

Dear Section 40

I am writing with reference to your message left on the Secretariat (Air Staff) answerphone on 2 September in which you reported an unexplained aerial sighting observed on 21 August. This office is the focal point within the MOD for correspondence relating to 'unidentified flying objects'.

First I should explain that the Ministry of Defence examines any reports of 'unidentified flying objects' it receives solely to establish whether what was seen might have some defence significance; namely, whether there is any evidence that the United Kingdom's airspace might have been compromised by hostile or unauthorized foreign military activity.

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

With regard to your particular observation, I have looked back through our sighting report files and can confirm that we received no other reports of 'UFO' sightings for 21 August from the London area, and we are satisfied that there is no corroborating evidence to suggest that the United Kingdom's airspace was breached by unauthorised military aircraft.

Yours sincerely,

Section 40

Report held on
6412 pt H
enc. 33/1

From: Section 40, Secretariat(Air Staff)2a1a, Room 8245
MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
Main Building, Whitehall, London SW1A 2HB

Telephone (Direct dial) 0171 218 2140
(Switchboard) 0171 218 9000
(Fax) Section 40

Section 40
Cults,
Aberdeen.
Section 40

Your reference

Our reference
D/Sec(AS)/64/3
Date
3 September 1998

Dear Section 40

Thank you for your recent letter in which you were able to explain the cause of your 'UFO sighting' of 26 July 1997 and your more recent experience.

As I said in my letter to you of 11 August 1997, the Ministry of Defence believes that rational explanations could be found for most 'unexplained' sights on the sky, as has proved to be the case in this instance. Thank you for letting us know the outcome of your experiences.

Yours sincerely,

Section 40

This enclosure has been taken off and placed on File 64/3/2 Part A Enclosure 5

Section 40
CULTS
ABERDEEN
Tel. Section 40

Section 40
Aberdeen.

Section 40

RAF Fenclars

You wrote to me on 11th August last year, having heard from about my "unidentified flying object which I had seen while on a course at St. Andrews.

26 Aug 97 I was back at the
not UFO sighting Summer School again this year and being up about 4 am looked out of my window and saw the same object in the sky. (like a clock face with the time at 6.35 am or pm.)

The friend who was with me was very disappointed that I had not wakened her last year. So after a lot of thought I did so this year.

She could not see it. All she saw was a bright light which she thought would be the planet. She put it down & the flash that her sight is not as good as mine. After watching it for considerable time I happened to put my glasses on - all I could see was the same as she saw!

I saw my optician this week & ask him if the fact that I have squinting behind one eye due to having had measles could cause this effect and he said Yes it was perfectly possible.

So it is no wonder no one else reported having seen my U.F.O.!

Yours sincerely,

[redacted]

From: Section 40 Secretariat (Air Staff) 2a1
MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
Main Building, Whitehall, London SW1A 2HB

Telephone (Direct dial) 0171 218 2140
(Switchboard) 0171 218 9000
(Fax) Section 40

ENCLOSURE 3 NUMBER

Section 40
Sutton-in-Ashfield
Nottinghamshire
Section 40

Your reference

Our reference
D/Sec(AS)/64/3
Date
2 September 1998

Dear Section 40

Thank you for your letter of 28 July in response to mine of 20 May.

In view of my reply to Q1 of your earlier letter, you will understand why Q2 was not answered.

Turning to Q4, as I explained in my previous letter there was no evidence to suggest anything of air defence concern occurred on the nights in question in Rendlesham Forest. With this in mind, and after nearly 18 years, I am unable to trace any information about felling of trees in the area.

In Q7 you asked about the UK Government's policy in respect of 'UFOs'. This is a national issue and determined by our own Government of the day.

Finally, responding to Q8, the UK Government's interest in reports of 'UFOs' is limited to establishing any potential military threat to the integrity of the UK's airspace. With that in mind, any reports of 'unidentified flying objects' have always been given the attention they deserve.

Yours sincerely,

Section 40

Section 40
Sutton-in-Ashfield
Nottinghamshire
Section 40

Secretariat (Air staff) 2A 1A
Room 8245
Ministry of defence
Main building
Whitehall
London
SW1A 2HB

28 JULY 1998

Dear Section 40

Thank you for your letter of 20th may. I asked you a number of questions regarding RAF Bentwaters, and RAF woodbridge. There were one or two questions that you did not answer, numbers 2,4,7,8. Number 8 is very important to my research and I need an answer to the question, may be it will help if I asked the question in a different way. As it ever been mod policy to play down the subject of UFO's and to avoid attaching undue attention or publicity?. I would be very grateful for any answers to the above. I look forward to hearing from you in the near future.

Your Sincerely

Section 40

From: Section 40, Secretariat (Air Staff) 2a1
MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
Main Building, Whitehall, London SW1A 2HB

ENCLOSURE NUMBER 15

Telephone (Direct dial) 0171 218 2140
(Switchboard) 0171 218 9000
(Fax) [redacted] Section 40

Section 40 [redacted]
Sutton in Ashfield
Nottinghamshire
Section 40 [redacted]

Your reference

Our reference
D/Sec(AS)/64/3
Date
20 May 1998

Dear [redacted] Section 40

1. Thank you for your letter of 9 April, in which you asked a number of questions in connection with 'unidentified flying objects'.

2. You ask about RAF Bentwaters and RAF Woodbridge during an alleged incident at the end of December 1980. All substantiated evidence available at the time was looked at by those within the Department with responsibility for air defence matters and the judgement was that nothing of air defence concern occurred on the nights in question. It is the policy of this and previous Governments to neither confirm nor deny the presence of nuclear weapons at any site either past or present. The information is being withheld under Exemption 1 of the Code of Practice on Access to Government Information.

3. You also ask about the role of Secretariat(Air Staff)2a. All alleged sighting reports made to Ministry of Defence establishments, including military bases, are forwarded to this Branch which is the MOD focal point for handling correspondence and queries of this nature. Since the beginning of this year there have been no alleged sightings by on duty military personnel.

4. You will know from earlier correspondence the extent of the MOD's interest in the 'UFO' phenomenon. It is UK Government policy that the air defence and air traffic implications of 'unidentified flying objects' are the responsibility of the MOD and the Civil Aviation Authority respectively. Within the remit placed upon the MOD in relation to this policy, action, as necessary is taken in respect of any further investigation. Where there is no evidence on an alleged incursion of the UK Air Defence Region by unauthorized foreign military activity it is a matter of policy that no further action should be taken.

5. Finally, you asked about he role of the Provost and Security Service (P&SS) in respect of 'UFO reports'. The alleged involvement of P&SS is frequently misunderstood. Until 1992 the Flying Complaints Flight (FCF), part of the HQ P&SS(UK) based at RAF Rudloe Manor, was the central coordination point for any 'UFO' reports made to RAF stations by members of the public or service personnel. Its function was simply to record the details and pass on the reports directly to Sec(AS)2a. Sec(AS)2a examined the reports and decided, with advice as necessary from air defence experts and others, whether what was seen had defence implications. The FCF involvement in the collection of 'UFO' reports ceased in 1992 when all reports received by RAF stations were sent instead directly to Sec(AS)2a. Since that date, the extent of the FCF's involvement in the 'UFO' reporting process, in common with all other RAF stations, is to note down the details of any reports made to them from the local area and forward them to Sec(AS)2a.

Yours sincerely,

Section 40

Section 40
Sutton in Ashfield
Nottinghamshire
Section 40

Secretariat (Air Staff) 2A 1A
Room 8245
Ministry of Defence
Main Building
Whitehall
LONDON
SW1A 2HB

9 April 1998

Dear Sir/Madam

I am writing to you regarding the 28th December 1980 sighting at the twin base complex of R.A.F. Bentwaters and R.A.F. Woodbridge in Suffolk. I have some questions that I hope you can answer for me.

1. Were Nuclear weapons stored at R.A.F. Bentwaters?

2. Was R.A.F. Bentwaters on full alert at the time, due to problems in Europe?

3. Who did the analysis, and on what basis did the Ministry conclude there was no threat?

4. After the incident, why was a large section of the forest cut down?

5. Is Section (2A 1A) simply a clearing house for UFO reports, or is there a higher office which disseminates reports beyond those which reached you?

6. How many military sightings have there been this year?

7. Has official British policy towards the UFO phenomenon been affected by Washington?

8. Why is it MOD policy to play down the subject of UFO's, and to avoid attaching undue attention or publicity?

9. Are the Provost Security Service department still investigating UFO's?

I look forward to hearing from you in the near future.

Yours sincerely

Section 40

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
SEC (AS) 2
14 APR 1998

AF/X 99/64

(21qA)

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE

Main Building, Whitehall, LONDON S.W.1

Telephone: Whitehall 7022, ext.

Our reference:
Your reference:

24 June 1965

Mr Langton has shown us your letter of the 15th June about Project Blue Book.

In the United Kingdom, the Air Force Department of the Ministry of Defence has the primary responsibility for investigating reports of UFOs., and the reasons for this allocation of responsibility are exactly the same as in your case.

We investigate every case reported to us, and we use every assistance, civilian as well as military, available to us to identify a particular object. For example, we have frequently used the resources of Kodak Ltd., to examine photographs, films and equipment submitted to us. We do not, however maintain a special scientific staff for this purpose. It is normally handled as part of the routine work of our Air Force Technical Intelligence department. Unlike you, however, we do investigate single-observer sightings. Our results over the years are in line with yours viz. in some 90% of cases investigated, we are able to make a positive, rational identification, in 10% we are unable to do so because of insufficient data, and in no case have we unearthed any evidence of extra-terrestrial origin.

Our policy is to play down the subject of UFOs and to avoid attaching undue attention or publicity to it. As a result, we have never had any serious political pressure to mount a large-scale investigation such as Project Blue Book. Indeed, the matter has been raised only once in Parliament in the last 5 or 6 years, and then only in a perfunctory way.

The specific answers to your questions are as follows:-

a. No

b. No

c. Yes, a considerable number

d. We investigate about 70 case a year but there are others which are not reported to us, although sometimes reported in the newspapers.

We should be delighted to discuss the matter with Dr Hynek when he comes to London and no doubt you will let us know in due course when he will be here.

Lieutenant Colonel John P. Spaulding,
Civil Branch,
Community Relations Division,
Office of Information.
Department of the Air Force,
Washington DC
U.S.A.

AIR 2/17527

213A

DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

JUN 15 1965

Dear Mr. Langton:

In keeping with the Air Force role for the air defense of our country, we are responsible for the investigation of unidentified flying objects (UFOs) reported in the skies over the United States. The name of this program which is governed by Air Force Regulation 200-2 is Project Blue Book. A copy of the current report on this project and a copy of the regulation governing the program are attached for your information.

We are interested in obtaining the following information on British UFO activity:

a. Do you have a Government program comparable to our Project Blue Book?

b. If so, do you have a scientific consultant?

c. Are there civilian organizations in your country which are dedicated to the study of UFOs?

d. How much UFO activity do you have in your country?

The Air Force scientific consultant to Project Blue Book, Doctor J. Allen Hynek, is planning a trip to London in September. While he is there, he would like to discuss this subject with you.

Thank you for your time and cooperation on this matter.

Sincerely,

JOHN P. SPAULDING
Lt Colonel, USAF
Chief, Civil Branch
Community Relations Division
Office of Information

2 Atch
1. Blue Book Report
2. AFR 200-2

Mr. R. A. Langton
SHF(Air) Room 6241
Main Building
Ministry of Defense
Whitehall
London SW 1, England

From: Section 40, Secretariat(Air Staff)2a1a, Room 8245,
MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
Main Building, Whitehall, London SW1A 2HB

Telephone (Direct dial) 0171 218 2140
(Switchboard) 0171 218 9000
(Fax) Section 40

Section 40

Hardwick,
Cambridge.
Section 40

Your reference

Our reference
D/Sec(AS)/64/3
Date
28 August 1998

Dear Section 40

Thank you for your letter of 6 August in which you have asked for any information the MOD may be able to provide regarding a 'UFO' sighting on 1 November 1997 in the Suffolk area.

First it may be helpful if I explain that the Ministry of Defence examines any reports of 'unidentified flying objects' it receives solely to establish whether what was seen might have some defence significance; namely, whether there is any evidence that the United Kingdom's airspace might have been compromised by hostile or unauthorized foreign military activity.

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

I have looked back through our sighting report files and I can confirm that the MOD did not receive any sighting reports from anywhere in the UK on 1 November 1997. I have also made enquiries and have found that there were no military aircraft conducting low level flying training in that area on the date and time specified.

Yours sincerely,

Section 40

Section 40

Hardwick
Cambridge Section 40
6.8.98

Dear Section 40

My name is Section 40 and I am an accredited Investigator for the British Unidentified Flying Object Research Association (BUFORA). I am also 'Regional Coordinator' for BUFORA UFO investigators in East Anglia.

I have a report of unidentified flying objects from the **Stonham Aspal** area of Suffolk (52° 12' N, 1° 10'E) at 06:25 on I November 1997. In order to assess the possibility that the witnesses were reporting a sighting of military aircraft, are you able to tell me whether there were any (air) exercises in progress at that time which originated from the Army base at **Wattisham**. Also, anything in the area originating from RAF **Marham** or **Coltishall**?

I would be extremely grateful for this information , or for any other information you could give me that you think may be helpful.

Yours faithfully,

Section 40

Section 40 D Sec(AS)2b
did a log + trace.
No low flying mil
a/c were booked
into the system.

Section 40
28/8/98

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
SEC (AS) 2
10 AUG 98

FILE

From: Section 40 Secretariat(Air Staff)2a1a, Room 8245,
MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
Main Building, Whitehall, London SW1A 2HB

Telephone (Direct dial) 0171 218 2140
(Switchboard) 0171 218 9000
(Fax) Section 40

ENCLOSURE NUMBER 1

Section 40

Hainault,
Essex.
Section 40

Your reference

Our reference
D/Sec(AS)/64/3
Date
28 August 1998

Dear Section 40

Thank you for your letter of 21 August addressed to the Secretary of State for Defence regarding an alleged 'UFO' incident. Your letter has been passed to this office as this is the focal point within the Ministry of Defence for correspondence of this nature. I have been asked to reply.

The Ministry of Defence examines any reports of 'unidentified flying objects' it receives solely to establish whether what was seen might have some defence significance; namely, whether there is any evidence that the United Kingdom's airspace might have been compromised by hostile or unauthorized foreign military activity.

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

You asked specifically about an incident which is alleged to have occurred at Rendlesham Forest/RAF Woodbridge in December 1980. When the Ministry of Defence was informed of the events in question, all available substantiated evidence was looked at in the usual manner by those within the MOD/RAF with responsibility for air defence matters. The judgement was that there was no indication that a breach of the United Kingdom's air defences had occurred on the nights in question. As there was no evidence to substantiate an event of defence concern no further investigation into the matter was necessary. Although a number of allegations have subsequently been made about these reported events, nothing has emerged over the last 17 years which has given us reason to believe that the original assessment made by this Department was incorrect.

Yours sincerely,

Section 40

Low flyings/UFOs

MINISTERIAL CORRESPONDENCE UNIT

To Sec (AS) 2

Ref No 5222 /1998

Date 27/8/98

The Secretary of State,/_____ has received the attached letter from a member of the public. It has not been acknowledged by this office.

Please send a reply on behalf of the Minister concerned. All Ministers attach importance to such letters being answered promptly, your reply should therefore be sent **within 20 working days** of the date of this minute. If, exceptionally, this should prove impossible an interim reply should be sent within the same timescale.

A new Open Government Code of Practice on Access to Government Information came into force on in January 1997. All replies to members of the public must be in accordance with the procedures set out in the Code. A full explanation of the Code of Practice is contained in DCI(Gen) 54/98; further information is available from DOMD on extension Section 40 MB

Under the Citizens' Charter, Departments are now required to keep records of their performance. All branches and Agencies are required to keep information on the number of **requests for information which refer to the Code of Practice** including details of the correspondent and the nature and date of the reply. In addition, the Department is required to provide a record of the total number of letters from members of the public and provide statistics (which may be used on a valid sample) of its performance in providing replies within their published targets.

As part of our monitoring procedure, random spot checks on the accuracy of your branch records on correspondence will be performed throughout the year.

MB 6140 EXT Section 40 MB

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
SEC (AS) 2
27 AUG 1998
FILE

Sec (A3)
hominthying/UFOs.

Section 40
Hainault,
Essex.
Section 40

21 August, 1998.

Dear Section 40

Now that this country is run by a government which has a more open policy with it's electorate, I feel that I can now take the opportunity to ask the Ministry Of Defence whether it is now able to reveal more about the incident involving a UFO at the USAF/RAF base of Woodbridge, Suffolk, in December of 1980. As my husband himself witnessed something close to the area at around the same date, we have always taken a close interest in the case. I would like to know why the Ministry denied any knowledge of the incident at the time, when it was later revealed via the release of a document through the United States Freedom Of Information Act, that it had a memo relating to the incident dated January 13, 1980. I would also be interested to know why the Ministry feels that the incident was regarded as having been "of no defence significance," when clearly there certainly was concern at the time, as the airbase was holding the biggest nuclear arsenal in northern Europe. Would you be willing to allow the rest of the documents, tapes, and photographs relating to the incident to now be made public? The case is now nearly eighteen years old, and I feel that the general public is well able to cope with whatever findings were made, and the opinion that the Government holds on this incident. I hope that you can answer my questions, and look forward to your reply.

Yours faithfully,

Section 40