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MOD Form 329D
(Revised 3/83)

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE

Date opened

8.8.96

1. Attention is drawn to the notes on the inside flap
2. Enter notes of related files on page 2 of this jacket.

DIVISION/ESTABLISHMENT/UNIT/BRANCH

SEC(AS)2A

Registered file number

D/SEC(AS)64/5

Part A

SUBJECT

"UFOs"

PRESS CUTTINGS.

DO NOT DESTROY

For permanent preservation in
The National Archives

CLOSED.

SEE PART B.

FOR DRO USE ONLY

1st Review date

2nd Review date

PA ACTION

(MOD Form 262F
must be completed)



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Registered File Disposal Form

MOD Form 262F
(Revised 9/01)

FILE TITLE: (Main Heading - Secondary Heading - Tertiary Heading etc)
**UFOs
Press Cuttings**

Reference:
(Prefix and Number):
D/Sec (AS) 64/5
Part: **A**

PROTECTIVE MARKING (including caveats & descriptors):

Date of last enclosure: **9 FEBRUARY 2004**

Date closed:

PART 1. DISPOSAL SCHEDULE RECOMMENDATION
(To be completed when the file is closed)

Destroy after _____ years

Forward to INFO(EXP)-R after 10 years

FOR PERMANENT PRESERVATION
~~No recommendation~~

FOR DEFENCE INFO(EXP)-R USE ONLY

<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Date of 1st review	Date of 2nd review	Forward Destruction Date
Reviewer's Signature: _____	Reviewer's Signature: _____	

PART 2. BRANCH REVIEW
(To be fully completed at time of file closure)
(Delete as appropriate)

a. Of no further administrative value and not worthy of permanent preservation. DESTROY IMMEDIATELY (Remember that TOP SECRET and Codeword material cannot be destroyed locally and must be forwarded to INFO(EXP)-R.

b. (i) To be retained until the end of the year indefinitely for the following reason(s):

LEGAL <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	DEFENCE POLICY + OPERATIONS <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
CONTRACTUAL <input type="checkbox"/>	ORIGINAL COMMITTEE PAPERS <input type="checkbox"/>
FINANCE/AUDIT <input type="checkbox"/>	MAJOR EQUIPMENT PROJECT <input type="checkbox"/>
DIRECTORATE POLICY <input type="checkbox"/>	OTHER (Specify) <input type="checkbox"/>

Public Interest
For permanent preservation at The National Archives.

PPQ = 100

(Continued overleaf)

(ii) Key enclosures which support the recommendation are:

Four horizontal lines for listing key enclosures.

(iii) At the end of the specified retention period the file is to be:

Destroyed
Considered by DR for permanent preservation

c. Of no further administrative value but worthy of consideration by INFO(EXP)-R for permanent preservation.

PART 3. BRANCH REVIEWING OFFICER (not below C2/equivalent)

Signature: [Redacted]

Name: [Redacted] (Block Capitals)

Grade/Rank: B2 Date: 29/6/04

Branch Title and Full Address:

Tel No:

PART 4 DESTRUCTION CERTIFICATE

It is certified that the specified file has been destroyed.

Signature: _____

Name: _____ (Block Capitals)

Grade/Rank: _____ Date: _____

Witnessed by (TOP SECRET* and SECRET only)

Signature: _____

Name: _____ (Block Capitals)

Grade/Rank: _____ Date: _____

*(FOR DR USE ONLY)

Have aliens got their eyes on Portsmouth?

BY SUZY AUSTIN

MOST sightings of UFOs turn out to be hoaxes, tricks of light or, in one case, a roof being lifted on to a building.

But enthusiast Anthony Woods claims to have captured comprehensive footage of alien life.

His camcorder film of 200 alleged sightings above Portsmouth is being hailed 'the greatest daylight UFO footage ever seen'. It shows strange orbs and lights in the sky.

Experts, including Prof Roger Green of Warwick University, have ruled out digital trickery and UFO Magazine was so impressed it has helped Mr Woods release a DVD of his footage.

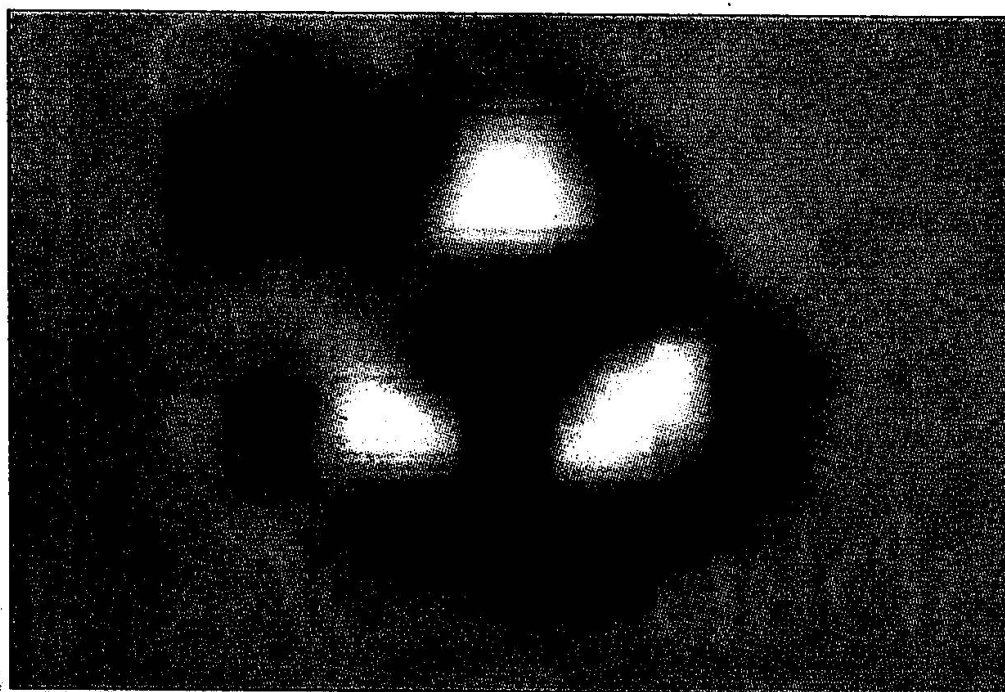
Mr Woods, who claims he first saw a UFO while playing football as an eight-year-old, said he did not know



UFO spotter: Anthony Woods

why he saw so many when no one else had reported sightings. 'What they are or where they come from is still very much a mystery. I feel very privileged that they have appeared to me but I do not feel chosen as such,' he added.

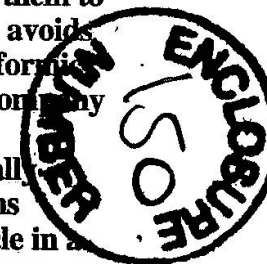
His DVD will be premiered this week at the International UFO Congress in Nevada before going on sale.



Trick or treat? A UFO sighting captured on Mr Woods' film

Keep your cool, even in death

GREEN crusaders are taking a chilling approach to death. Campaigners concerned about the impact of traditional cremation have launched a service that flash-freezes corpses to -18°C (-64°F) and dips them in liquid nitrogen at -196°C (-385°F). Bursts of sound shatter the remains, turning them to powder. Supporters say this avoids embalming, which releases formalin acid into the soil. Swedish company Promessa Organic, which pioneered the environmentally friendly system, said remains 'return to the ecological cycle in a dignified manner'. They take a year to break down in a grave while decomposition by traditional burial can take years. The company is seeking a patent for its green burials in 35 countries.



ENCLOSURE NUMBER 149

METRO Wednesday, August 6, 2003

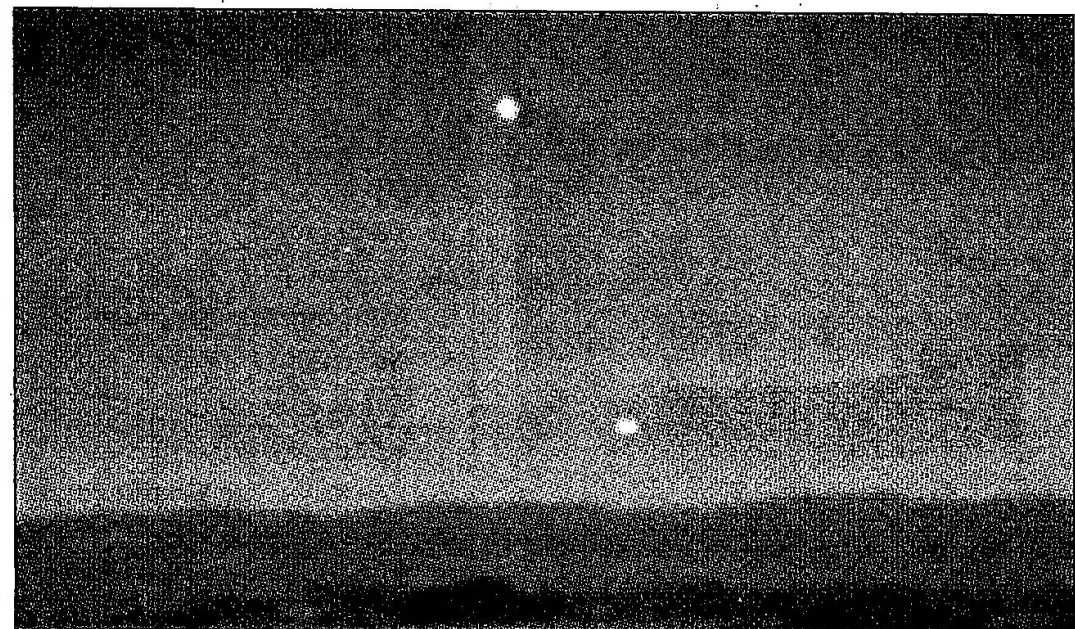
v1

Close encounters of the blurred kind

THESE bright lights in the evening sky stopped a TV cameraman in his tracks. Tom Hines was filming near a stately home when he spotted the bright lights in the sky and quickly trained his camera on them. Two orbs appeared on the Worcestershire horizon and then disappeared, only for three to reappear seconds later and form a cluster. Tom, who works on BBC soap Doctors, filmed them for seven minutes. He said: 'The only way I can describe it was like somebody turning on spotlights in the sky. I'm certain what I filmed was from another world. It was seriously like something out of Close Encounters.'



Enlightening? Cameraman Tom Hines, below, claims the film he shot shows UFOs



So who is lording it on Web?

Grumpy adults spoil child's play

INTOLERANT adults are stifling the development of children by complaining when they play outside, it was claimed yesterday. Boisterous youngsters were often told off by parents and neighbours for making a noise and being a nuisance, the Children's Society said. In one case, a girl of eight was stopped from cycling down her street because a neighbour complained the wheels squeaked. Another time, an irate neighbour burst a three-year-old boy's ball because it bounced over her hedge. The charity polled 2,600 children, aged seven to 16, and found 80 per cent had been told off for playing out. Half had been shouted at. Tim Linehan, of the society, said: 'Playing outdoors is a fundamental part of everyone's childhood but that is being threatened by intolerance. We are in danger of letting grumpy grown-ups tidy our children away.'

THE GREEN ROOM

By Neil Sean



Celebrities behind closed doors Sting is to announce dates for a world tour next year. The former

Police frontman also teams up with Macy Gray for his new album, to be released in September

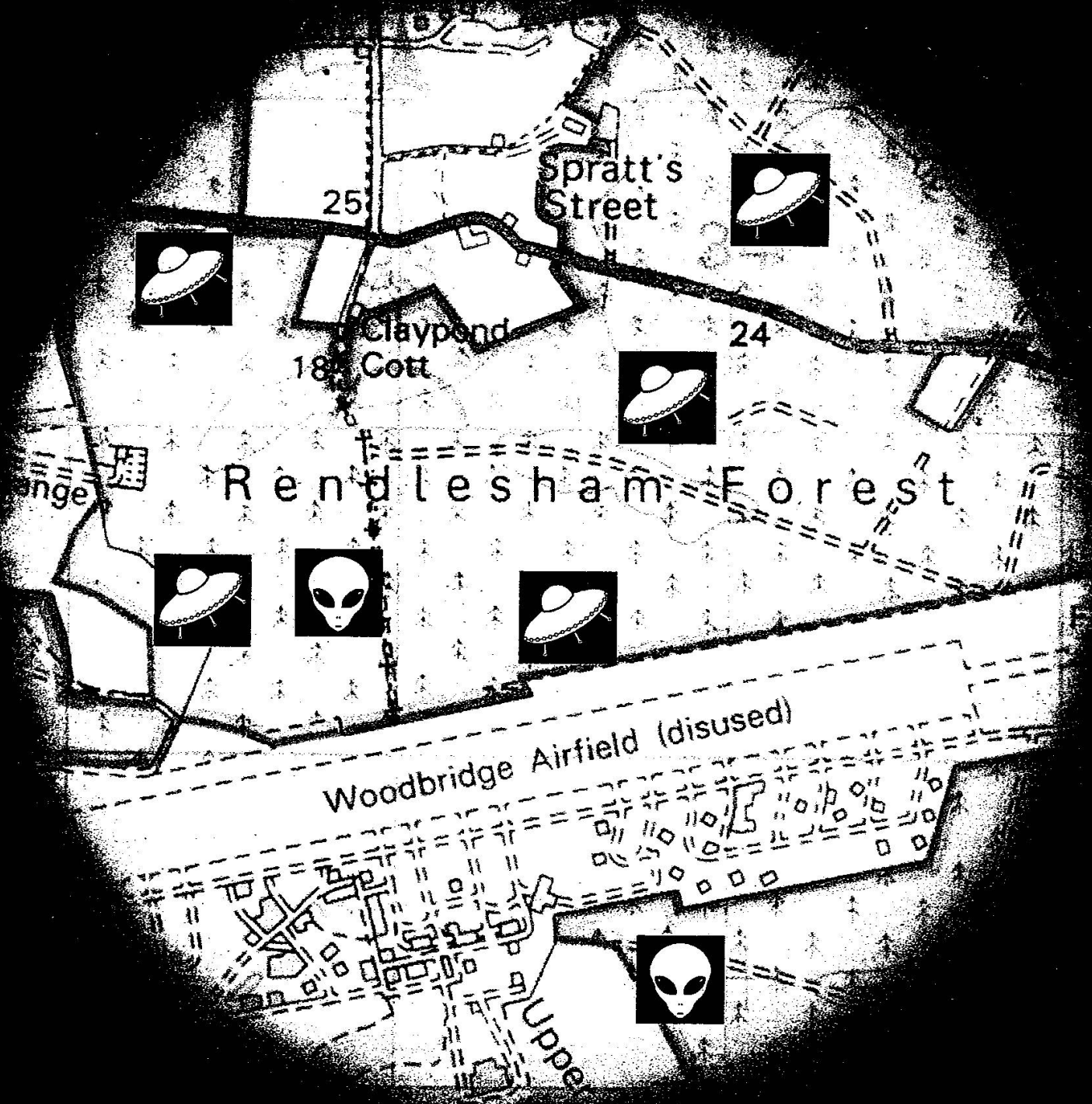
Ciggie-loving Nicole Kidman always requests a non-smoking room when she checks in to her fave London hotel but on arrival changes her mind

THE INDEPENDENT REVIEW

WEDNESDAY 4 DECEMBER 2002

INSIDE

PROPERTY: YOUR 16-PAGE GUIDE TO BUYING AND SELLING. THIS WEEK — HOW TO BUY A HOUSE AT AUCTION, PLUS ITALY IN FOCUS



THE LIGHTS IN THE FOREST

The Government, the aliens and the truth about the Rendlesham Incident

If you go down to the woods today...

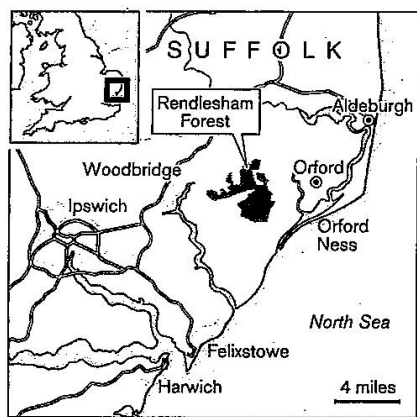
Brenda Butler paused at the barbed-wire fence separating us from the field where the spaceship had landed. It was 2am. In the gloom I could just see the outline of the 60-year-old grandmother and UFO expert as she watched her partner, Peter, disappear into the darkness. He had gone in search of Marek, another of our party, who had stepped over the barrier and walked into the field a minute earlier.

Not long afterward, a lone figure loomed out of the darkness, stumbling over the ploughed earth towards us. Peter was back. "It's your mate," he whispered to me urgently. "He's passed out."

Half a mile behind us, down the Forestry Commission logging-road known as track 10, was RAF Woodbridge. This small Second World War airfield used by the US Air Force until 1993, hidden in the depths of Rendlesham Forest, in Suffolk, had been back in the news recently after two decades of anonymity with the release of the Ministry of Defence's Rendlesham Files. Now available for public inspection, the files contain information about Britain's most celebrated UFO sighting; their release was followed on Monday by the parliamentary ombudsman's announcement that the MoD had repeatedly suppressed information about what had happened in the forest. Particular secrecy has surrounded a "restricted file", the contents of which have been whispered about for years.

Over three nights around Christmas 1980, it is said, several spaceships visited the airbase after one of their number ran into trouble and had to stop and make repairs. What makes the Rendlesham Incident unique is the subsequently released memorandum from the base's deputy commander, Lt Col Charles Halt, to the Ministry of Defence. In the memo, Halt, who was later promoted to full colonel, described how two airmen, investigating strange lights in the forest, came across a "metallic, glowing object", which "manoeuvred through the trees and disappeared", whereupon the animals on a nearby farm went "into a frenzy". Two nights later, he reported, the object returned. Halt was out in the forest with a patrol when they saw a "red, sun-like object". After they had followed the light through the trees, it divided into five, and part of it "beamed down a stream of light from time to time". Here, at last, was the evidence that the ufologist community had been waiting for: official endorsement of an extraterrestrial encounter.

On the third night, Halt made a tape on his micro-cassette recorder, covering several hours on just less than 19 minutes of tape. The greater part is taken up by



Halt's patrol of four officers assessing the site of a suspected landing, checking radiation levels and having trouble with their electrical equipment.

In the last few minutes of the tape, at around 2am, the men start to see lights moving through the trees. Their initial composure suddenly gives way to breathless panic: "It's coming this way. It's definitely coming this way... There's something very, very strange," says the deputy commander at one point.

At 3.15am, the light-show is still going on as Halt exclaims: "Here he comes from the south! He's coming in towards us now!"

Right beside him, another officer says: "Shit!", and a moment later, beams of light start hitting the ground around them.

"This is unreal," Halt gasps.

Almost 22 years have passed since the Rendlesham Incident, but the enthusiasm of ufologists has only intensified in that time, with one author calling the area "Black Hole Disneyland". Several books and hundreds of websites about the events either confirm Rendlesham's status in the international ufologist community as being second only to Roswell in importance, or debunk the notion that anything out of the ordinary happened at all.

The first book to be published, entitled *Skycrash*, was co-written by my guide on the expedition into the forest, Brenda Butler, who has spent two or three nights a week out in Rendlesham Forest since the alleged landing.

I had phoned Butler, who could hardly be described as a sceptic, in the hope of discovering more about this tantalising chapter in the history of UFO sightings and official secrecy. But it soon became apparent that I would need someone to show me the landmarks in the 3,500-acre forest, so I asked if I could accompany her on one of her sky-watches. As their popularity had increased, she had had to divide the group into two parties that patrolled different

It is Britain's most celebrated UFO encounter: the sighting in 1980 of 'alien' craft in a Suffolk forest.

Now, it has been revealed that the Government tried to hush up the affair. So what, asks **MARK LUCAS**, really happened in the strange case of the Rendlesham Incident?

areas of Rendlesham; she was happy for me to join hers. On the night we were due to meet, I had been fortifying myself at a party when I ran into a hypnopsychologist, Marek Sinski. When the quietly intense 40-year-old learnt of my plans, he expressed a strong desire to come along, too.

We met Butler at midnight beside the barrier to track 10. Behind me was the perimeter fence of the airfield; the disused runway lights loomed into the night sky. Ahead, the logging-road stretched away like a canyon, with its black walls of 70ft-tall Corsican pines. By the dull glow of a car's interior light, I could make out the small, dark woman surrounded by three regulars on her sky-watches - Terry, Paul and Jonathan - and her partner, Peter Parish. Her pure-white German shepherd, Mason, galloped around us, chasing his ball.

As we set off down track 10 on foot, Butler spoke, in her soft Suffolk accent, of some of the experiences she had had here, seeing glowing orbs and meeting extraterrestrials. "Last year, the yeti was down here," she said matter-of-factly, "looking very, very sad." The yeti, she explained, had followed the group on many occasions: "We had some people from Blackpool down here, and they also saw him. He freaked them out, actually."

Butler indicated a drain cover to our right. "It leads to an underground instal-

lation," she said. One day she was sitting on top of it when she "lost" four hours, a phenomenon known as missing time. We turned down a side-track. After a hundred yards, Parish led the way into the undergrowth off to the side, and we scurried through, bent over to avoid low branches, which we politely warned one another about, and only straightening up when we emerged into a clearing. "This", said Butler, "is Colonel Halt's landing-place."

We sat in silence, contemplating the events that took place there more than two decades ago: Halt and his fellow officers had been taking radiation readings and measuring imprints in the ground when they suddenly saw a bright light moving near by.

"What can you feel?" Butler asked.

My new friend Sinski broke the silence. "It's strong, isn't it?" he said.

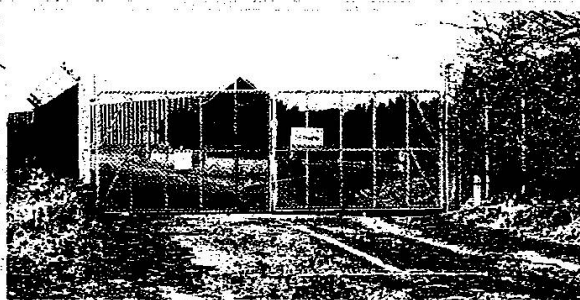
Butler's dog, Mason, began dashing around us, growing happily. "He always goes mad where there's energy or there's been contact," she remarked. "On several occasions he's been chased by strange lights which engulf him." Her online journal goes into more detail: "Mason had disappeared for several minutes", it states, of one typical evening, "during the time when Brenda spoke in an unknown language. He returned covered in red, green and blue fibre-optic-type lights, and licked each person, still in the circle, by placing his paws on their shoulders."

Leaving Col Halt's place, we returned to the small avenue, veering right toward track 12. As we walked in single file along the narrow pathway, I asked Butler about her life. She had been a clairvoyant, she told me, with her own circle, and had been involved "in a lot of things - paranormal, ghosts, poltergeists" ever since being contacted by an alien named Ra when she was five.

"I've been abducted on several occasions," she added. Her kidnappers, she had learnt since undergoing regressive hypnosis, were the "greys" - "classic" small aliens. She now worked in a home for people with learning difficulties.

We came out into a clearing at the edge of the forest and saw the flash of the Orfordness lighthouse on the horizon. "This is Larry Warren's landing-place," Butler declared, indicating a field. It was then that Sinski stepped over the barbed-wire fence and strode purposefully into the darkness.

Larry Warren's extraordinary book *Left at East Gate* was published in 1993. The former airman, a member of the security forces at RAF Woodbridge, claimed to have witnessed the overall commander of the twin-base complex, Squadron Leader Gordon Williams, conversing with extraterrestrials. After that, said Warren, a New Yorker, he was taken to an underground installation and introduced to an



Robert Estall/Corbis; Mark Lucas; Anglia Press Agency



alien "who had an accent I couldn't identify". His description of the visitors had clearly struck a chord with Butler: "Little tiny ETs dressed in white jumpsuits!" she exclaimed. "I've seen them myself!"

"Do you ever worry that people may think you're a bit strange?" I asked her.

She cheerfully dismissed my suggestion. "I don't care what they think," she replied. "It's better than sitting at home drinking coffee and watching television day in, day out." But if I was finding things weird, Sinski was taking to it all like a duck to water.

When Butler's partner came out of the field to tell us that the psychotherapist had passed out, ufologists were quickly dispatched to carry him back, but he returned with them on foot without saying a word, and in the awkwardness of the situation, we found ourselves moving on.

As we struggled through a dense patch of undergrowth, I recalled the 1956 Incident - in which up to 18 objects apparently combined to form a single radar echo, which was then clocked, and witnessed from the air and on land, doing roughly 12,000mph over the airbase - and wondered why UFOs were rarely seen nowadays.

"You're joking, aren't you?" Butler asked, before telling me about her last sighting, less than three weeks previously. Unfortunately, her partner had turned his flashlight on the spaceship, and it had disappeared.

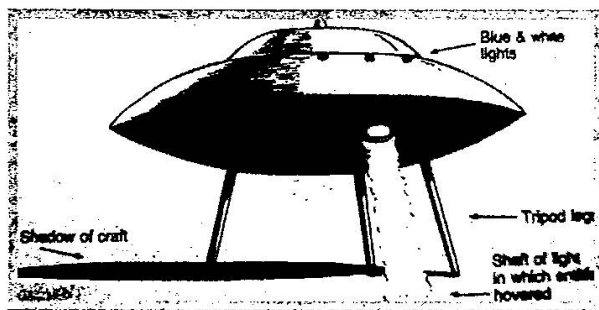
"I won't be doing that again," he told me, sheepishly.

As we headed down track 12, Butler explained why she had had contact there. "There's a portal," she said: "they come through on interdimensional energy." On occasion, the ETs had pulled her hair, put things in her pockets and hit Parish on the back of the head. One night, the Dark Shadow pushed her backward, and she fell

over on to her partner, who collapsed on top of their companion, Terry. "We have a laugh with them," she said.

At 3am, we returned to the Woodbridge runway lights at track 10. Leaving Butler deep in conversation about UFO organisations' finances with the second group, which had appeared from track 1, Sinski and I walked over to our cars, discussing the night's events. There was a hesitancy in his manner, but finally he leant toward me: "Something very important happened here tonight," he told me, though an explanation would have to wait until morning.

Driving home, I pondered the various theories that had been used to explain the incidents, mostly by people who weren't present. Georgina Bruni, author of the most recent book about the events, *You Can't Tell the People*, believes that there were three nights of activity, with a full-blown close encounter of the third kind. At the other end of the spectrum is Ian Ridpath, editor of *The Oxford Dictionary of Astronomy*. In his view, excited airmen were merely chasing the beam of the Orfordness lighthouse, and the starlike objects of Halt's memo "were just that - stars."



Secrets and files: the Rendlesham forest (above), site of the UFO sightings; a sketch of the 'alien craft' by a US airman who saw the 'incident' in 1980 (below); the gates to RAF Woodbridge (opposite, bottom)

Ridpath's scepticism is persuasive. In particular, he has shown that it is at least possible that when Halt's patrol came out of the forest, they, like the first night's witnesses, were confused by the lighthouse. But another airman says: "If Charles [Halt] says a beam of light shone down at his feet, then a beam of light shone down at his feet. You can take that to the bank."

Halt retired from the air force in 1991 and now lives in Virginia, in the USA. I managed to obtain an e-mail address for him and wrote several times without response before he was finally persuaded to answer. He was, he told me rather pointedly, "tired of being pestered" by what he described as "most unusual people".

Though he refused to talk about the Rendlesham Incident, we began a tentative exchange on the neutral subject of the airbase's history as a "crash-recovery" runway for damaged aircraft returning from raids over occupied Europe. He told me that "more than one young cop" swore he had seen East End Charlie - the ghost of a Second World War airman - from the guardhouse at East Gate, where the events of December 1980 had begun. "On one particular Friday night, late," he recalled, "I drove out the back gate, and the guard was trembling so badly, I ended up having a replacement sent out." In 1983 - 32 years after the Americans took over the airbase - they discovered that dynamite had been buried under the runway in case it was overrun by invading Germans. Despite the clean-up operation, Halt wrote, "we never were completely sure that all the explosives had been removed."

Sinski appeared after breakfast the following day, and we settled down to talk. I asked why he had been apparently unconscious in

Larry Warren's landing-place, but he was annoyed that I'd thought he might have been. "I had a very powerful experience," he explained, "and I was recovering." He told me of a message he had received while out in the field. He assured me that, although it might not have meant much to someone like me, there were people for whom it was of great importance. "I can confirm that it is the greys out there, and that they are the ones responsible for the abductions," he told me, in his quietly compelling manner. "What they have been doing up until now has been very, very bad. I learnt last night that they are changing their ways."

In search of further guidance, I approached Reg Presley, lead singer with the Sixties pop group The Troggs and now an expert in the paranormal, and asked for his opinion of the Rendlesham Incident. He was very interested in the case and said that they were "all good sightings". Clearly not a man who had trouble believing in the possibility of abductions, he even mentioned his surgeon friend who removed pieces of alien hardware from people's feet and hands. "You wouldn't believe what he took out of them," he reflected, adding that the objects had "the teeniest-weeniest little wires".

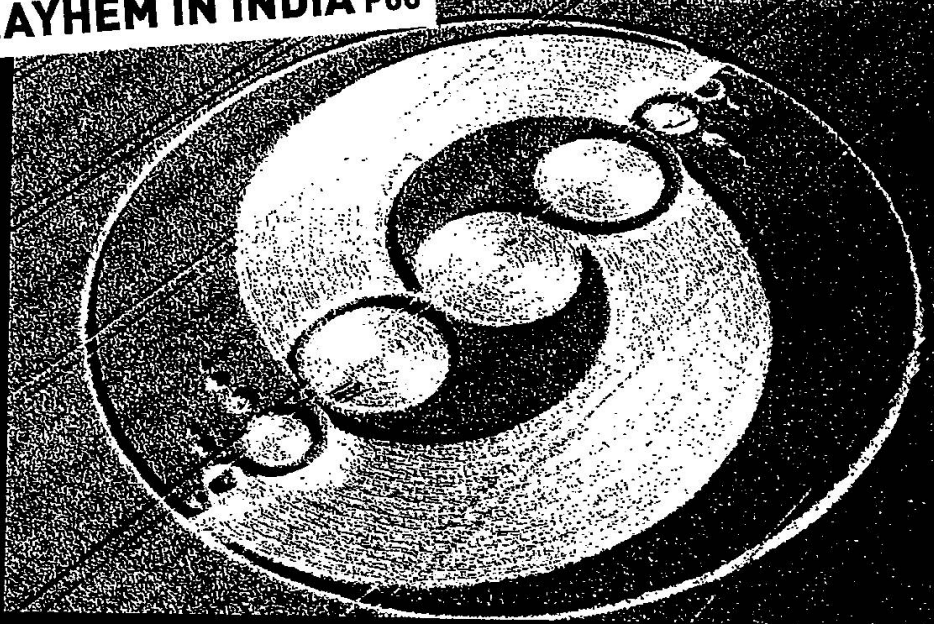
The MoD has finally made a decision on the airbase after its nine years of neglect and has announced that two army regiments will be moving in after a £100m refit. The soldiers may be surprised at some of the visitors - alien and otherwise - they receive outside the perimeter fence. "Once you start coming here," Butler told me, "you can't keep away." For, although Woodbridge's role as an airbase may have been in doubt, its status as a UFO tourist shrine has never looked more assured.

MOLINA WARNER ON ZOMBIES P46 FROZEN DEAD GUY DAY P20 JUMPING JESUS P09

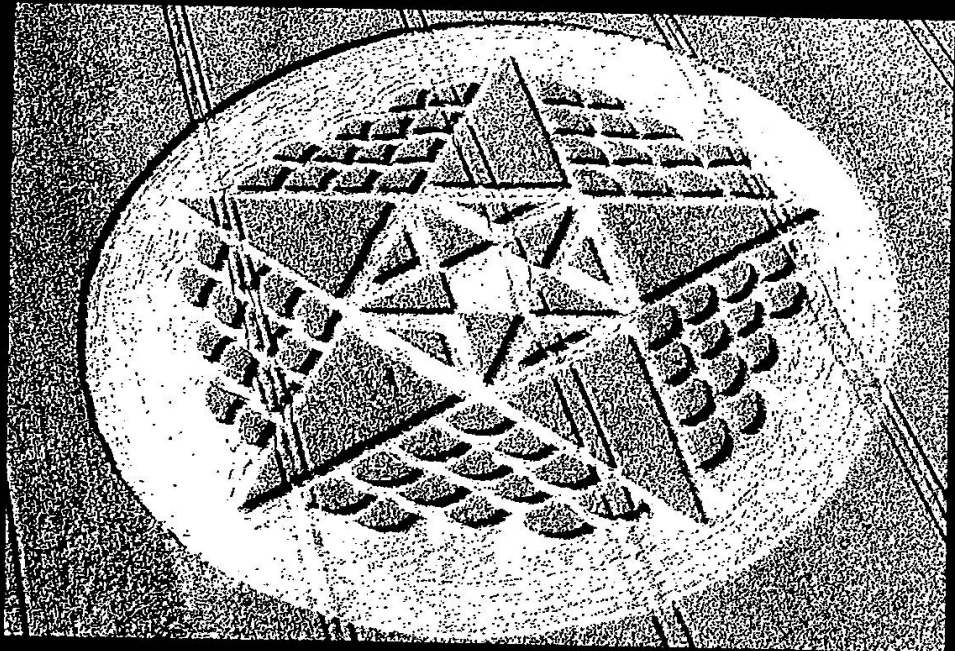
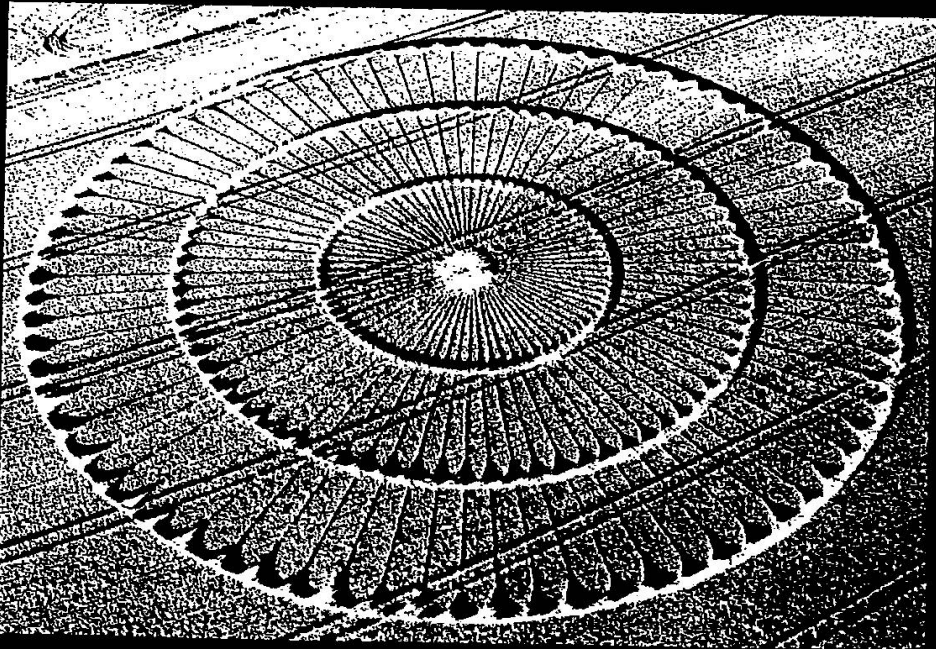
FORTEAN TIMES

THE WORLD OF STRANGE PHENOMENA FT 164 NOV 2002 £2.80

**MORE MONSTER
MAYHEM IN INDIA P06**



TOP OF THE CROPS

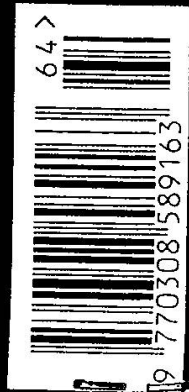


**THE BEST OF THE YEAR'S CROP CIRCLES P10
ARTISTS, ALIENS OR EARTH ENERGIES? P50**

**OPENING
BRITAIN'S
X-FILES P38**
SECRET GOVERNMENT
DOCUMENTS
REVEALED



**CHINA'S
WHITE
PYRAMID P28**
SEARCHING FOR THE
ORIENT'S MYSTERY
MONUMENT



BRITAIN'S X-FILES

What does the British Ministry of Defence really know about unidentified flying objects? Is there a conspiracy of silence over visits by alien craft? With the imminent arrival of a British Freedom of Information Act, many hundreds of formerly 'secret' files covering official investigations of UFO reports in Britain are now available for study. DAVID CLARKE and ANDY ROBERTS spent three years following the paper-trail in search of Britain's X-Files. This is what they found...

The question of just how much the British government knows about UFOs has pre-occupied ufologists since the subject first made newspaper headlines. No real evidence has ever emerged to suggest that the government knows any more about a deep conspiracy.

Although the Royal Navy and the War Office investigated reports of strange "aerial phenomena" during the First and Second World Wars [see panel], from 1952 investigation of UFOs¹ had become exclusively a matter initially for the Air Ministry and later the Ministry of Defence (MoD). MoD policy towards UFOs has been consistent over the past 50 years. Members of the public who report sightings receive a standard statement which has altered little. After investigating thousands of sightings², the MoD claims it has never found any solid evidence in one single case for "extraterrestrial activity".

But why, if UFOs — in the popular sense of 'flying saucers from outer space' — do not exist, does the MoD continue to collect reports? According to the Air Staff, the only reason reports are studied is to assess if they have any "defence significance". The definition of this phrase has long puzzled ufologists, but is as follows: "An event that has 'no defence significance' is an event that is regarded as presenting no direct military threat against sovereign territory."³ Once that assessment is made, the MoD maintains that its interest ends.

But how does the MoD assess whether a UFO report is of defence significance? "The means by which reports are categorised include an assessment of the location, time and nature of a report and any likely explanation of its cause (planetary objects, areas of high density air traffic, atmospheric, space objects etc). A check of operational logs may be included to determine whether any related air activity was detected at the time by UK Air Defence system [radar]." If no threat is found, and the MoD maintains this has been the case in all reports to date, no further action is taken. What's more, "it is quite common for a sighting to remain unexplained but not require further official action."⁴

Put simply, the MoD relies upon the comprehensive and overlapping coverage of modern high-powered radar to detect any 'hostile' intrusions into UK Airspace. Once a 'UFO' is deemed to pose no threat to defence, MoD interest ends. Radar is the most important tool in the identification

process. Before the development of modern microwave radar, equipment was prone to malfunction and natural phenomena were frequently misinterpreted as enemy aircraft. Phantom radar returns and 'angels' were common during the 1940s and 1950s, when the majority of the classic UFO cases involving radar were reported, but have largely disappeared today. Few, if any, UFOs reported visually have been independently confirmed by a radar tracking⁵ and as one senior officer who commanded a front-line RAF station at the height of the 'flying saucer' era explained: "Of course we were interested in UFOs, as they were essentially

investigators maintained that a small residue remained unexplained because of what they called "a cold scent." An intelligence report from 1954 states that investigations of these cases presented problems because "ninety nine times out of a hundred, the scent is completely cold... when reports can be looked into immediately, a very large number are attributable to balloons, conventional aircraft, meteors, planets or such ordinary phenomena as the reflection of car headlights on a low cloud base."⁶

The MoD's pragmatic stance has long infuriated ufologists. To believers in the 'extra terrestrial hypothesis' (ETH), the 10 per cent of cases which remain 'unidentified' are evidence of alien 'craft' capable of evading our defence systems. On occasion, senior RAF officers, politicians and members of the MoD's staff have believed that alien visitation was the only logical explanation, but their opinions have never influenced public policy on the subject. Probably the best known 'inside' proponent of the ETH is Nick Pope, who served as Higher Executive Officer with Sec (AS) 2a, as the MoD's 'UFO desk' at

Whitchell was known, from 1985 to 2000. Pope claims that he became an ETH believer as a result of the cases he dealt with during his tour of duty from 1991-94. Having failed to persuade his superiors, on leaving the post Pope decided to write a book, *Open Skies, Closed Minds*, billed as "the first time a Government UFO expert speaks out."⁷ The book was a disappointment as it lacked any new revelations and betrayed a rather superficial knowledge of the subject gleaned from the UFO literature, rather than via access to any unseen government files.

The first, and most senior, civil servant to make public statements about UFOs was the late Ralph Noyes, who retired from the MoD in 1977 as Assistant Under Secretary of State for Defence. Like Nick Pope, Noyes said he and military colleagues had no doubt that some UFOs could not be easily explained, but his conclusions were "entirely against the simplistic ETH hypothesis." Noyes was deeply involved in psychological research, and for him UFO phenomena bore "all the hallmarks of the classic paranormal" and had "as much reality — as well as the absence of solid-

BIGGER THAN THE BOMB: At least according to a headline in the *Sunday Dispatch*, 1 October 1950. To Ralph Noyes, though, UFO phenomena had "as much reality as a rainbow".

State May Pay First Child Allowance

Full Inquiry Into The No. 1 Sensation Of The Age

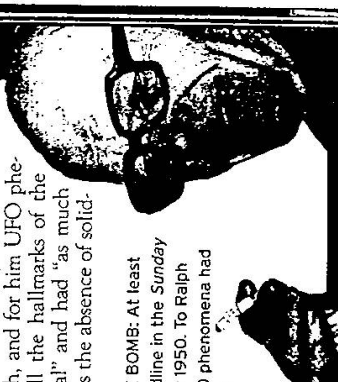
State May Pay First Child Allowance

Vet Saves Terrier In Lake Michigan

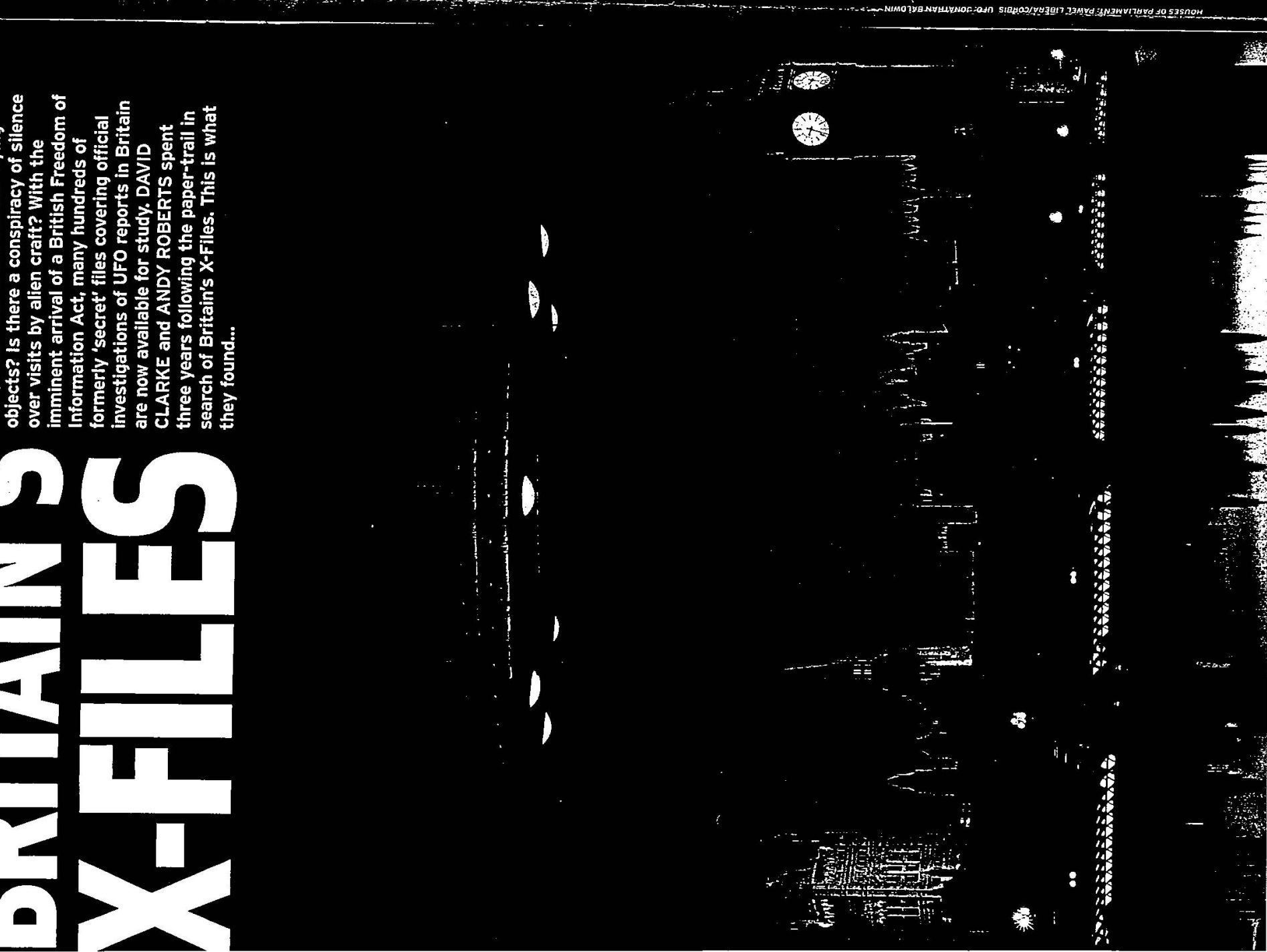
IT IS QUITE COMMON FOR A SIGHTING TO REMAIN UNEXPLAINED

our raison d'être. Any object appearing on our detection radars was literally a UFO until identified. There were some that were never satisfactorily identified, but this must not be taken to mean that they were caused by phenomena from other worlds."

The vast majority of reports received by the MoD have been judged to have mundane explanations, with between five and 10 per cent remaining 'unidentified.'



BIGGER THAN THE BOMB: At least according to a headline in the *Sunday Dispatch*, 1 October 1950. To Ralph Noyes, though, UFO phenomena had "as much reality as a rainbow".



THE COMPLETE FIRST SEASON

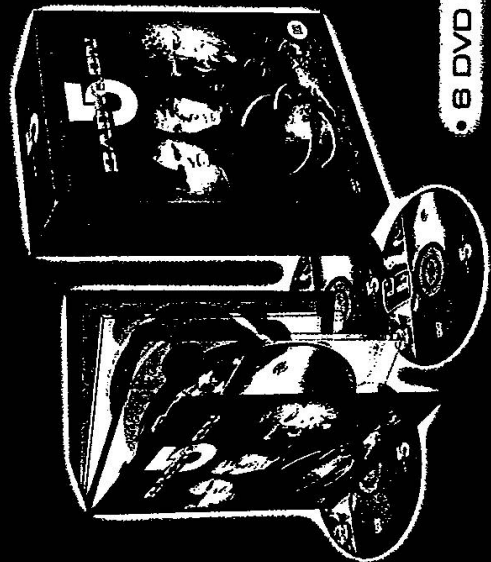
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in series such as The X-Files. According to Keyhole, the government feared a War of the Worlds-style panic if the 'truth' were revealed. His 'deep throat' sources also hinted there was a covert 'space race' to capture a saucer and plunder the secrets of UFO propulsion systems before they could fall into the hands of the Communists¹². Keyhole also believed there was an ongoing battle between those officials in government who wanted to reveal 'the truth' and those who wished to perpetuate the 'cover-up'.

The deeply secretive British establishment was equally as divided over the UFO issue. While some influential public figures such as Mountbatten were taking 'flying saucers' seriously, they were careful to confine their views to a private audience. Meanwhile, the British government's intelligence and scientific advisors (who were dubbed "the dome-headed boys" by one highly placed believer) dismissed the whole subject. They regarded UFOs as an unnecessary diversion from what they perceived to be the real threats, the expanding Soviet empire and the imminent Third World War. While some viewed the arrival of hostile aliens as a development that could help unify a divided world in the face of a common threat, others saw the subject as a source of potential danger.

To the intelligence agencies, widespread popular belief in 'alien' UFOs led to the possibility that a wave of 'fake' sightings could be generated as a weapon to confuse the West's early warning system in the critical moments before a pre-emptive nuclear strike. This nightmare scenario was central to the CIA's interest in UFOs and the thinking of Dr HP 'Bob' Robertson, who chaired the CIA Panel on UFOs that met in 1953. His close friend, Dr RV Jones of British Intelligence, briefed the Air Staff on the "UFO problem" during the waves of 1952 and 1967. Jones drew heavily upon his American contacts and pointed to a list of similar scares and mass delusions that had spread during earlier periods of tension and war¹³.

It was typical of the close US-UK relationship during the Cold War that Britain's UFO policy would follow the lead taken by the Americans, particularly the key recommendations made by the CIA-sponsored Robertson Committee. The committee called for a systematic campaign to play down the mystery, debunk sightings and to "strip the UFOs of the special status they have been given and the aura of mystery they have unfortunately acquired." Within weeks, orders were circulated to all RAF stations that reports of 'aerial phenomena' by RAF personnel - particularly involving radar - were covered by the Official Secrets Act and should not be discussed with members of the public, specifically the Press¹⁴. Initially, intelligence officers from DDI (Tech) at Air Ministry had sole responsibility for the investigation of UFOs, but from 1958 "for security reasons" all public and parliamentary business related to the subject was delegated to two civilian branches of the air staff, S6 and S4f (Air). Henceforth, Air Intelligence slipped



An Article By One Of
Britain's Great War Leaders

I Believe In Flying Saucers

By
Air Chief Marshal
LORD DOWDING,
Air Officer Commanding-in-Chief
Fighter Command In The
Battle of Britain

I HAVE never seen a flying saucer. I have never seen any of the things that have been described as flying saucers. My belief in their existence is based on a quantity that far exceeds the amount of evidence that has been put forward by the 'dome-headed boys'.

There is a vast amount of evidence in the form of photographs, films, and reports of sightings. Some of these are of a very high quality and some are of a very low quality. But the fact is that there is a vast amount of evidence. I believe in their existence.

It is The Fact that... Did... I believe in their existence... I have never seen a flying saucer... My belief in their existence is based on a quantity that far exceeds the amount of evidence that has been put forward by the 'dome-headed boys'.

BELIEVER: Air Chief Marshal Lord Dowding (left) went public in the 'flying saucers' craze strictly private. While Louis Mountbatten (bottom) kept his interest in the 'flying saucers' craze strictly private.

THE "DOME-HEADED BOYS" DISMISSED FLYING SAUCERS

ity - as any rainbow.⁸ Although the first official investigation of aerial phenomena (Project Sign) began in the USA following the sightings of 1947-48, the British government did not begin any formal study until forced to do so by public opinion. This began during the summer of 1950, when British newspapers and magazines began to serialise the first American 'flying saucer' books by Donald Keyhole and Frank Scully⁹. Initially, senior officers viewed 'flying saucers' as a silly season fad. If they were taken seriously at all it was in the context of Cold War fear of a new 'secret weapon' of either American or Soviet origin. From 1950 onwards, the 'secret weapon' theory slowly lost ground to the popular idea that the saucers were visitors from other worlds. When viewed alongside the latest developments in faster-than-sound jets, atomic energy and speculation about future space travel, the ETH seemed a possible, even logical explanation for the growing mystery. By 1954 this belief had spread to the high echelons of the Royal Air Force, when Desmond Leslie, co-author with George Adamski of *Flying Saucers Have Landed*, was invited to present the 'facts about flying saucers' to a gathering of 'brass hats' which included the Commander in Chief of Fighter Command, Air Marshal Sir Dermot Boyle.¹⁰ In the early days, several public figures such as Lord Dowding and Lord Mountbatten became caught up in the 'saucer' craze. Mountbatten persuaded his former press advisor Charles Esdile, then editor of the *Sunday Dispatch*, to place the 'facts' before the public in what was to be the first of many tabloid media series on 'flying saucers'.¹¹ The ensuing blitz of media coverage was a major factor in altering perceptions, both among the public and in the government.

longside the emergence of the ETH into public consciousness came a sub-myth that was to become one of the characteristic themes of the modern UFO mythology - the government conspiracy. The belief that the US and British governments, and their intelligence agencies in particular, were working to conceal facts about alien visitors from the public is a motif that occurs in the earliest 'saucer' literature. This idea was largely a literary device invented by Major Donald Keyhole and found a resonance in the growing paranoia and distrust of government that was characteristic of the Cold War. Keyhole's version of the cover-up was far more straightforward than the elaborate conspiracies featured



THE FLYING SAUCER WORKING PARTIES

DURING THE SUMMER OF 1952, REPORTS OF UFOS TRACKED BY RADAR AND CHASED BY JET FIGHTERS ABOVE WASHINGTON DC LED THE BRITISH PRIME MINISTER, WINSTON CHURCHILL, TO ASK HIS AIR MINISTER: "WHAT DOES ALL THIS STUFF ABOUT FLYING SAUCERS AMOUNT TO?"

The British Admiralty, War Office and Air Ministry have taken an interest in aerial phenomena whenever they were perceived as a possible threat to defence. In 1912, on the orders of Winston Churchill, the Admiralty investigated reports of an 'unidentified aircraft' which flew over Sheerness in Kent. This incident triggered off a wave of sightings of 'phantom' Zeppelin airships that were the subject of an investigation by a branch of military intelligence which, in 1916, became MIS.

During the Second World War, military intelligence became interested in a series of strange reports by bomber crews who described strange pulsating lights that pursued aircraft involved in raids upon Germany. They were concerned these UFOs, dubbed 'foo fighters' by US aircrew, might be a new Nazi secret weapon. Although the reports could never be fully explained, as no aircraft had suffered harm, it was decided they were harmless natural phenomena that could be safely ignored.

Official interest continued after the war, when 'ghost planes' were tracked by RAF radar and 'ghost rockets' were reported in the skies above Scandinavia. In response the RAF supplied radar equipment to the Swedes and two secret agents were sent to the Baltic to investigate. British intelligence came to believe that a terrestrial enemy - Soviet Russia - was the source of these aerial phantoms until a scathing demolition of the sightings was presented by the Air Ministry's Director of Scientific Intelligence, Dr R V Jones.

Jones' scepticism towards the ghost rockets, and later flying saucers, had been honed during his experience assessing intelligence whilst fighting the 'secret war' against the Axis forces. He refused to believe 'ghost rockets' or 'flying saucers' existed until physical evidence was found either from the crash or capture of an example.

The craze for seeing and writing about flying saucers filtered through all levels of society at the height of the Cold War and reached its peak during



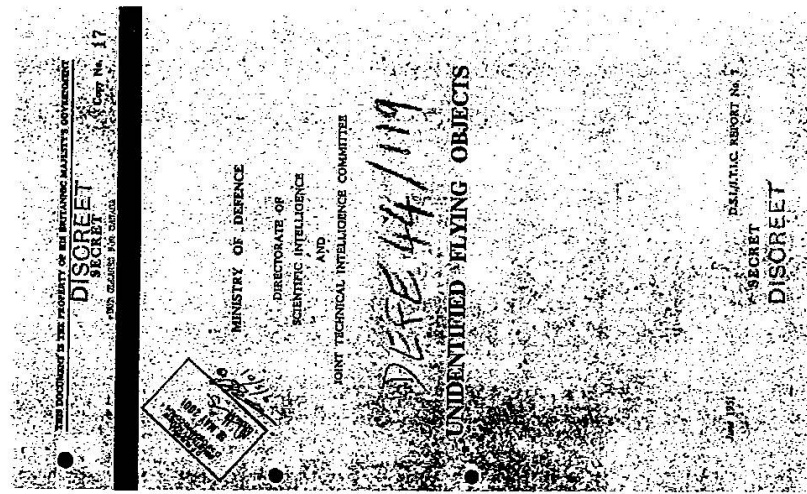
The 'Flying Saucer Working Party' of 1950-51 was just the first of a series of informal inquiries initiated by the MoD.

that all sightings could be accounted for as misidentifications, natural phenomena and hoaxes. Rumours about the existence of an official study also leaked out and questions were asked in Parliament. In 1955, the Conservative MP Major Patrick Wall asked if the Air Ministry intended to publish its report on 'flying saucers'. Wall was assured that there had been "no formal inquiry" but the question was carefully evaded until, almost 50 years later, we found the minutes of this non-existent study in a file marked 'Top Secret' at the Public Record Office.

Our research established that, contrary to official statements, the 'Flying Saucer Working Party' of 1950-51 was just the first of a series of informal inquiries initiated by the MoD. A follow-up study by the Air Ministry in 1954 resulted in a 10,000 word 'secret' report that has yet to be released. The 'informal' nature of these inquiries meant that even evidence of their existence could be successfully erased from official history. Their conclusions, if not the motivation behind them, were no secret: the majority of UFOs could be explained by a range of natural phenomena, but 'flying saucers' were entirely a matter of belief.

The first, short-lived Working Party, under the Directorate of Scientific Intelligence (DSI) operated for eight months in 1950-51. Its five members included technical intelligence experts from the MoD, Air Ministry, Admiralty and War Office. This team was set up as a direct response to the concerns expressed by Lord Mountbatten and the defence scientist, Sir Henry Tizard, who argued that 'flying saucers' deserved serious study.

The Working Party's brief six-page final report, *DSI/JTIC Report No. 7: Unidentified Flying Objects*, betrays a half-hearted attempt to debunk the subject. It relied upon in-depth field investigation of just three reports made by RAF officers, including a group of test pilots from Farnborough. US intelligence played a key role in the formulation of the Working Party's scathing conclusions. These recommended that there should be no further investigation of the subject until new evidence came to light.



'AFTER THE WAR, 'GHOST PLANES' WERE TRACKED BY RAF RADAR

the summer of 1952, with reports of UFOs tracked by radar and chased by jet fighters above Washington DC. These events led the British Prime Minister, Winston Churchill, to ask his Air Minister: "What does all this stuff about flying saucers amount to? What can it mean? What is the truth?"

study of UFOs, or indeed had ever conducted its own scientific study of the subject. Until recently this claim could not be independently checked, as serving personnel were subject to the OSA and those files that had not been routinely destroyed (as was Air Ministry policy until 1967) were covered by the strict 30 year closure rules.²⁰ Now, that situation is changing almost daily. More than 100 files and 1975, have been released to the Public Record Office. These records include large numbers of case files, studies such as the Flying Saucer Working Party report and collections of UFO policy documents. With a British Freedom of Information Act due for implementation by 2005, the MoD along with other government departments have for some time been obliged to adopt a more open response to requests for information. As a result, a host of UFO material once closed indefinitely is slowly becoming available for researchers. Probably the biggest prize of all was the release to the authors in May 2001 of the complete file on the classic Rendlesham Forest UFO incident. Although the file was acquired under the existing Code of Practice for Access to Government Information, its release was hastened by the impending FOIA.²¹

With a flood of government documents now available, research into official UFO archives in Britain is rapidly catching up with the situation in America, where researchers have enjoyed the benefits of a FOIA since 1974. What is absent from the British X-Files is one single, unambiguous piece of evidence to suggest that the MoD had ever tried to conceal 'the truth' about UFOs from the public. All they reveal is embarrassment, ignorance and occasional concern about the effect belief in UFOs was having upon the media and politicians, particularly when this led to demands for more expenditure.

Ufologists in America and Britain have devoted decades to their quest to force the government to reveal its 'Top Secret' files. They believed these would prove the existence of alien visitors. Today many of those files have been released and yet no evidence either for aliens or cover-ups has been found, so a deeper cover-up is suspected. Those who enter this hall of mirrors adopt the position that official conclusions which do not support the ETH must be disinformation. Evidence that disproves classic UFO cases must be forged, or planted by government agents. During our research, it became clear that the idea of an official cover-up is belief-driven and can never be disproved.

As one exasperated civil servant put it, "The inescapable conclusion that major governments of the world are holding back some critical information about UFOs can be utterly repudiated. There is no official cover-up conspiracy." Or to quote Daniel Webster, "There is nothing so powerful as the truth and often nothing as strange."²²

CAPTAIN'S CLOSE ENCOUNTER: The Evening Press, 20 September 1952.

"the captured flying saucer" and alien cadavers hidden in vaults below Whitehall.

Pro-ETH writers such as Tim Good and Nick Redfern have argued that the 'UFO desk' was merely a front for a more extensive, lavishly funded and covert UFO investigation team hidden within the nearby offices of the Defence Intelligence Staff (DIS). For his part, Pope has never denied that his branch was able to draw upon the expertise of 'specialist divisions' such as DI 55 for advice on technical aspects such as radar. But he claimed that there was no 'cover branch' within those divisions who were dedicated to the study of UFOs - indeed, if there was, he would have known about it. But Pope also places great emphasis upon the fact that all government employees are signatories to the Official Secrets Act and have to 're the party line' on UFOs. Could we, therefore, rely on Nick Pope, as a MoD civil servant, to tell us 'the truth'?

The MoD continues to maintain that it has never employed experts dedicated solely to the

UFOS HAD BECOME A 'PUBLIC RELATIONS' HEADACHE

back into the shadows as mere 'technical advisers' to the civilians who run what would become known as "the UFO desk."¹⁹ Defence Intelligence were routinely copied in on the more unusual reports received until October 2000, when the DIS decided they no longer wished to receive UFO reports from the Air Staff.¹⁶

After 1969, when the US Air Force had closed down its own Project Blue Book, the MoD decided it should continue to quietly monitor UFO reports. This was not because officials disagreed with the American conclusion that further study was not justified, but because it felt there was a "need to answer questions from the public which might arise from a real anxiety about national security."¹⁷

The MoD was also sensitive to public opinion, particularly criticism by MPs and the Press over the way UFO reports were handled. With the ending of the Cold War, UFOs were no longer a 'defence issue' and had instead become a 'public relations' headache. As one official put it, while they wished to avoid wasting public money chasing phantoms, "it would only require one sensational unexplained and much publicised incident to bring down a shower of public criticism on government for failing to give adequate attention to such matters."¹⁸ Consequently, the MoD decided to continue collecting reports, albeit in a half-hearted manner, and occasionally sent out teams of experts to investigate those which it considered to be the most puzzling.

The 'UFO desk' has been known by a variety of different names as a result of the MoD's internal changes, but continues to perform essentially the same duties today as it did in 1958. Its incumbents say for a three-year stint before being posted, and their level of interest in the subject has varied from total lack of interest to the enthusiastic opportunism of Nick Pope. Despite many claims to the contrary, it remains the central reporting point in the UK for UFO reports made by service personnel, police, civilian aircrew and members of the public. In addition, its staff of career civil servants work with Air Staff advisers in the preparation of answers to Parliamentary questions and brief Ministers on the subject.

Files of correspondence from the era 1962-72 reveal how the UFO desk staff divide their time between making routine inquiries into reports and answering routine inquiries to messes and ufologists. The attitude they have cumulatively displayed was once summed up by one incumbent as "politely unhelpful."¹⁹ Letters in PRO files range from puzzled and sincere witnesses of 'lights in the sky' to missives penned in capital letters and red ink which demand the MoD immediately release

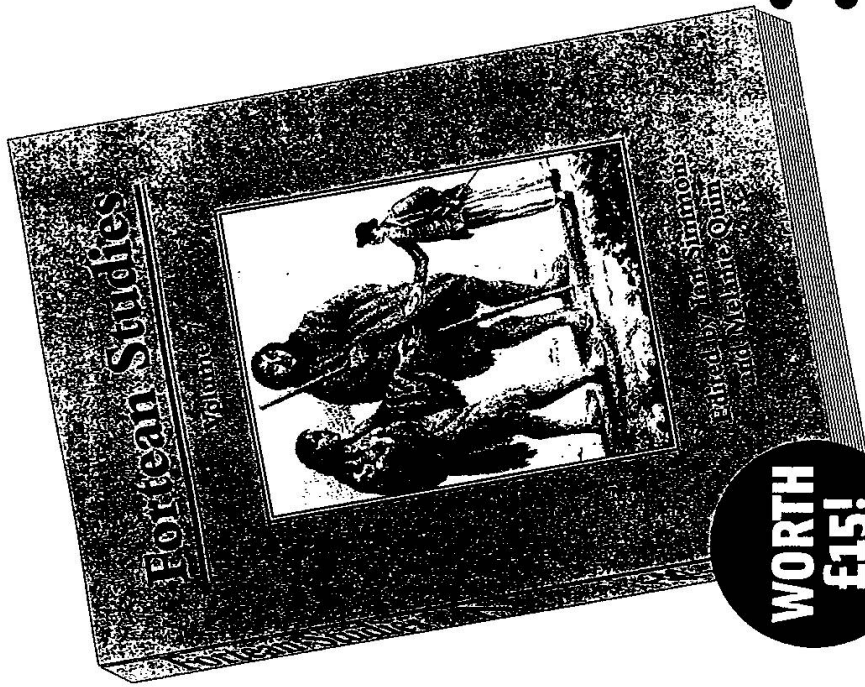
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MYLES FORMBY



ROBERT JONES

THE BACKROOM BOYS OF ROOM 801: Dr R V Jones (left) and Wing Commander Myles Formby (right) worked in the Air Ministry's secretive UFO HQ near Trafalgar Square.

OFFICERS AND RAF POLICE WERE SENT TO INTERVIEW WITNESSES

The Washington UFO 'invasion' led to a re-think and initiated a new information exchange with American Intelligence, but the secrecy remained. In September 1952, the MoD reformed its 'flying saucer committee' under the sole control of the Air Ministry, reporting to Dr Jones. Responsibility for UFOs was delegated to the sole control of the Deputy Director of Intelligence (Technical) or DDI (Tech), at the Air Ministry. Here, the most unusual reports were studied by a team of two, led by Wing Commander Myles Formby, who was based in an attic room in the former Metropole Hotel on Northumberland Avenue, near Trafalgar Square. The Air Ministry's secretive UFO HQ would become immortalised in a Sunday newspaper headline of 1957 which revealed 'the Secret of Room 801'.

Further ad hoc UFO studies were undertaken in 1957 and 1959 by Technical Intelligence officers reporting to the Joint Intelligence Committee (JIC) which advised the Prime Minister on intelligence and security. On all these occasions official interest followed reports of radar-visual sightings made by the RAF which threatened to expose weaknesses in Britain's air defences at the height of the Cold War.

MoD files released at the PRO also contain records of occasions when officers from Defence Intelligence and the RAF Police were sent to interview UFO witnesses. These may be the source of rumours surrounding the activities of sinister 'Men in Black' whose mission was to 'silence' UFO witnesses and remove evidence. In reality, in all the cases where field investigations were made by the MoD, prior appointments were made with the witnesses who were almost exclusively police officers and retired service personnel rather than members of the public.

In October 1967 a massive UFO wave engulfed the British Isles following reports that two Devon police officers had chased a 'star-spangled flying cross' in their patrol car at speeds approaching 90 mph (145km/h). For the last time, following pressure from MPs, the MoD assembled a

The team's psychologist was Alex Cassie, a wartime POW whose experiences formed the basis for Donald Pleasance's character in the film *The Great Escape*. His conclusions were similar to those reached by the Flying Saucer Working Party: "I looked into UFO sightings on behalf of the MoD for two years and came to the conclusion that the people who reported sightings were far worthier of research than the reports themselves." **[1]**

AUTHOR BIOGRAPHY

Andy Roberts is a veteran Fortean researcher and broadcaster with a special interest in UFOs. He believes that the ultimate truth lies somewhere in the music of the Grateful Dead. Dr David Clarke teaches an undergraduate course on supernatural belief at the Centre for English Cultural Tradition, University of Sheffield. Before completing his doctorate in folklore he worked as a journalist and has a lifelong interest in UFOs and Fortean anomalies. He is the author of 7 books, the latest - *Out of the Shadows* - co-authored with Andy Roberts.

REFERENCES

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- Letter from DAS 4 (MoD), 26 October 2001.
- RAF News, 19 April 1996.
- See *Out of the Shadows* (Piatkus, London 2002) pp 122-144 for more information on 'angels' and radar-UFO reports.
- Air Ministry Secret Intelligence Summary: *Flying Saucers*, 1955; see PRO AIR 22/95.
- High Pope, *Open Skies, Closed Minds* (London: Simon & Schuster, 1996).
- Letter to *Magnum* online magazine, 1988; personal communications, 1988-89.
- Donald Keyhoe, *The Flying Saucers are Real* (New York: Fawcett Publications, 1950); Frank Scully, *Behind the Flying Saucers* (New York: Henry Holt, 1950).
- PRO AIR 2/1817
- Sunday Dispatch*, 1 October 1950.
- A similar explanation for MoD secrecy was given by the former Chief of Defence Staff, Lord Hill-Norton, to UFOlogist Jenny Randles in 1982.
- The best source for R V Jones' conclusions is the article he wrote for *Physics Bulletin* (July 1968), 'The Natural Philosophy of Flying Saucers'; later republished in the University of Bradford's *Scientific Study of UFOs* (1969).
- PRO AIR 20/9994.
- PRO DEFE 31/18.
- Statement from DAS 4 (MoD) to authors, 26 October 2001.
- PRO AIR 2/19086.
- From a 1967 letter from Defence Intelligence director Archie Potts to Dr Robert Lowe, of the Candon Committee. Copy in PRO DEFE 31/18.
- PRO DEFEZ/18.
- Prior to 1967 Air Ministry routinely destroyed its UFO files at the yearly intervals. This policy was halted as a result of pressure from Colonel John Conarty, commander of the RAF's Central Flying School. As a result the MoD claim the earliest UFO records they hold date from 1962.
- See James Easton, 'Rendlesham Revealed' FT152-28-31.

RESOURCES

- RECOMMENDED READING**
David Clarke & Andy Roberts 'Out of the Shadows: UFOs, the establishment and the official cover-up' (Piatkus, London, 2002).
- RECOMMENDED SURFING**
www.flyingsaucers.com Flyingsaucers.com exists to publish the research findings from David Clarke and Andy Roberts.

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EXERCISES / OUT-OF-HOURS / FOREIGN / FLYPASTS & OTHER NOTEWORTHY ACTIVITY

UAA:

	Name (file ref)	LFA(s)	Aircraft / Description
18-28 NOV	CQWI 2/02 (20/9)	12, 13, 14, 16 & 17	STC/AWC EX BASED AT RAF LOSSIEMOUTH. SEE NEWS BRIEF AT THE FOOT OF THIS DOCUMENT.
28/29 JAN	EX TARTAN JOUST (20/9)	14	ANNUAL 1 DAY EX INVOLVING UP TO 34 TDO AC FROM RAF LOSSIEMOUTH. (29 JAN IS BACKUP DAY)

DISPLAYS/FLYPASTS ETC (note: this is by no means an exhaustive list):

19 NOV	HELO PUBLICITY DEMO (20/5/1)	B/S/I AVOID	1 x LX CONDUCTING ROPING DEMO IN PORTSMOUTH AS PART OF FILM/RN PROMOTION. NB RECCE FLIGHT ON 4 OR 5 NOV AND REHEARSAL ON 18 NOV.
28 NOV	RNAS CULDROSE FLYING DISPLAY	3	- CNX - DISPLAY INC SK, LX & MERLIN HELOS PLUS HARRIERS, JETSTREAM AND NIMROD.
6 DEC	LINTON-ON-OUSE FP	11	9 x TUCANO FOR GRADUATION FLYPAST - 1040Z

(ACN FOLDER)

UPDATED 22/11/02

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UNDERLINED & 'TBC' INFO IS NOT FOR RELEASE

Key:

AAC - Army Air Corps
 AWC - Air Warfare Centre (RAF
 Waddington)
 BBMF - Battle of Britain Memorial Flt.
 CAOC - Combined Air Operations Centre
 COMAO - Composite Air Operation
 CSST - Captain Submarine Sea Training
 EAG - European Air Group
 EWTR - Electronic Warfare Tactics
 Range (RAF Spadeadam)
 Ex - Exercise
 FP - Flypast
 JMC - Joint Maritime Course
 NVG - Night Vision Goggles
 OOH - Out of hours
 OTA - Otterburn Training Area

PODT - Pre-Operational Deployment
 Training
 RAFAT - RAF Aerobatic Team (Red Arrows)
 RN - Royal Navy
 SAR - Search & Rescue
 SPTA - Salisbury Plain Training Area
 STANTA - Stanford Training Area
 STC - HQ Strike Command
 TBC - To be confirmed
 TLP - Tactical Leadership Programme
 TLT - Tactical Leadership Training
 UAA - Unusual Air Activity
 USL - Under Slung Load

BE - Belgium
 CA - Canada
 DE - Denmark
 FR - France
 GE - Germany
 GR - Greece
 IT - Italy
 NL - Netherlands
 NO - Norway
 PO - Portugal
 SP - Spain
 SQ - Slovakia
 TU - Turkey
 US - United States

Carbide
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10/11/02
10/11/02

CQWI NEWS BRIEF

DATE: 4 November 2002

SUBJECT: LOW FLYING BY USAF AIRCRAFT DURING THE COMBINED QUALIFIED WEAPONS INSTRUCTORS (CQWI) COURSE 2/02

SOURCE: DAS (LA) Ops&Pol2 - [REDACTED]

D/NEWS: D News RAF - Sqn Ldr [REDACTED]

BACKGROUND

CQWI 2/02 is a medium-scale exercise taking place between 18-29 November. Prior to the exercise a number of USAF B1 aircraft will deploy to the UK, these are expected to conduct low flying with RAF aircraft in certain areas of the United Kingdom. The B1 will be an unusual sight at low level over the UK and its participation in the exercise might attract public interest.

KEY MESSAGE

B1 aircraft of the United States Airforce are deploying to RAF Fairford and taking part in a routine RAF training exercise, the Combined Qualified Weapons Instructors Course 2/02. The aircraft are joining the course on 19 and 20 November in order to provide participating crews with experience of operating with dissimilar aircraft types. During this time the aircraft may operate at low level over parts of Scotland and northern England. We are sorry if anyone is disturbed by this training activity.

KEY POINTS**B1s:**

- Three USAF B-1 strategic bomber aircraft will arrive in the UK on 15 November, and will return to the US on 22 November. The aircraft will be unarmed.
- The aircraft will conduct training sorties from RAF Fairford during the period 18-20 November. Sorties on 19 and 20 November may involve two of the aircraft operating at low level over Scotland and northern England, as part of a routine RAF training exercise, CQWI 2/02.
- The current operational status of RAF Fairford as a NATO designated standby base remains unchanged.
- *If asked:*
This training exercise, like all others, is necessary to help maintain a high level of operational readiness and effectiveness. It does not imply any decision has been taken in respect of future military action.

CQWI:

- CQWI courses are designed to develop the tactical skills of frontline aircrew and provide a framework for qualified weapons instructor staff to train & assess candidates. A Composite Air Operation (COMAO) flying sortie takes place each weekday afternoon.
- Exercise planners and participating aircrew will do all they can to ensure that this essential training activity causes the least possible disturbance to members of the general public.

Nuclear power

Hail, Caesar

A clever new design could lead to a kinder, gentler form of nuclear power

IT SOUNDS impossible: a nuclear reactor that generates electricity from nuclear waste. Yet that is what Claudio Filippone, a nuclear scientist and director of the Centre for Advanced Energy Concepts at the University of Maryland, proposed a few years ago. He has now devised an improved design, called CAESAR ("clean and environmentally safe advanced reactor") that is even more counterintuitive. As well as being environmentally friendly—it can produce electricity without causing any extra pollution—his new design could also help prevent nuclear proliferation.

Conventional nuclear reactors run on fuel rods made largely of uranium-238, enriched with about 4% uranium-235. If you hit a uranium-235 atom with a neutron, it releases a tiny amount of energy and breaks up into smaller nuclei and more neutrons, which can in turn hit other atoms. Pack atoms close enough together, and a self-sustaining reaction occurs, producing a vast amount of energy in the form of heat. Several things control the reaction rate, including a "moderator" that is inserted between the fuel rods to slow down some of the neutrons so that they move slowly enough to split atoms. After two or three years, there are so few uranium-235 atoms left that the reaction cannot sustain itself. At this point, fresh fuel rods are needed.

In contrast, Dr Filippone's new design works by splitting the far more numerous uranium-238 atoms inside fuel rods. Such atoms are very picky. To get them to split, you have to hit them with a neutron going at exactly the right speed. (Uranium-235 and plutonium atoms are far less choosy, so getting a self-sustaining reaction going is relatively easy—hence their use in weapons.) The key to the new design is the unusual choice of moderator: steam. Steam's density can be controlled very finely, so it can be used to slow passing neutrons to ensure that they are moving at exactly the right speed to split a uranium-238 atom.

The result is a tiny burst of energy, more neutrons and smaller nuclei, as usual. But CAESAR exploits the fact that these smaller nuclei also decay to produce additional, slow-moving neutrons, known as "delayed neutrons". In a conventional reactor, the moderator slows these neutrons down so much that they cannot contribute to the reaction. But when steam is used as the moderator, the delayed neutrons keep going until they hit another uranium-238

atom. It should then be possible to maintain a self-sustaining reaction in "spent" fuel rods of pure uranium-238 for several decades. So material now treated as waste could be used as fuel. The problem of disposing of spent fuel will remain, but CAESAR is, in effect, a form of waste storage that produces electricity.

The design also has implications for preventing nuclear proliferation. The cores of existing reactors have to be accessible so that fuel rods can be moved in and out. By adjusting the configuration of the core in

Flying saucers

DIY UFOs

Government scientists deny photographing UFOs. It must be true then

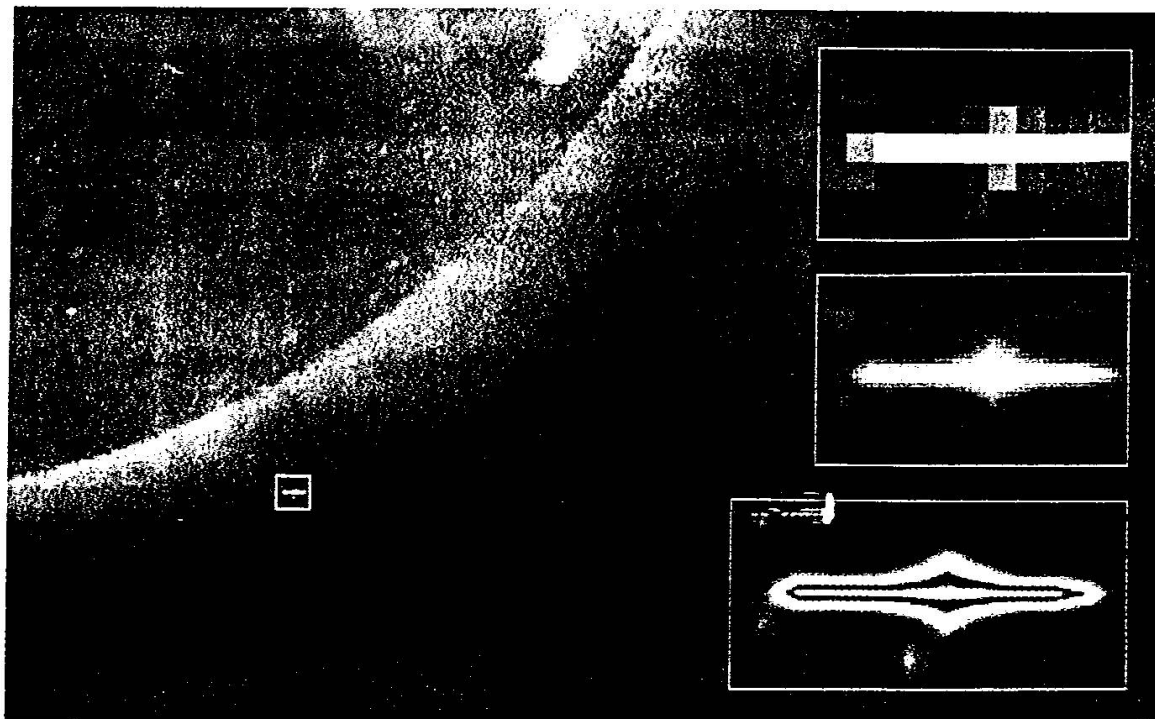
IT SOUNDS like a scene from "The X-Files". Government scientists, after years of "covering up" and "refusing to comment", have now "officially denied" taking pictures of UFOs. The photographs in question come from a spacecraft called the Solar & Heliospheric Observatory, or SOHO, which studies the sun. Ever since its launch in 1995 by Europe's and America's space agencies, SOHO's pictures have generated ferment among UFOlogists, who say it has taken hundreds of shots of flying saucers.

Now the scientists say they want to

the right way—by judicious positioning of graphite, for example—almost any civilian reactor can be made to produce plutonium, and thus to make weapons. Access to the core is not necessary with CAESAR, as it could run for decades without any need for refuelling. Thus it could be sealed. Countries could then adopt the design to show that their nuclear intentions were entirely peaceful.

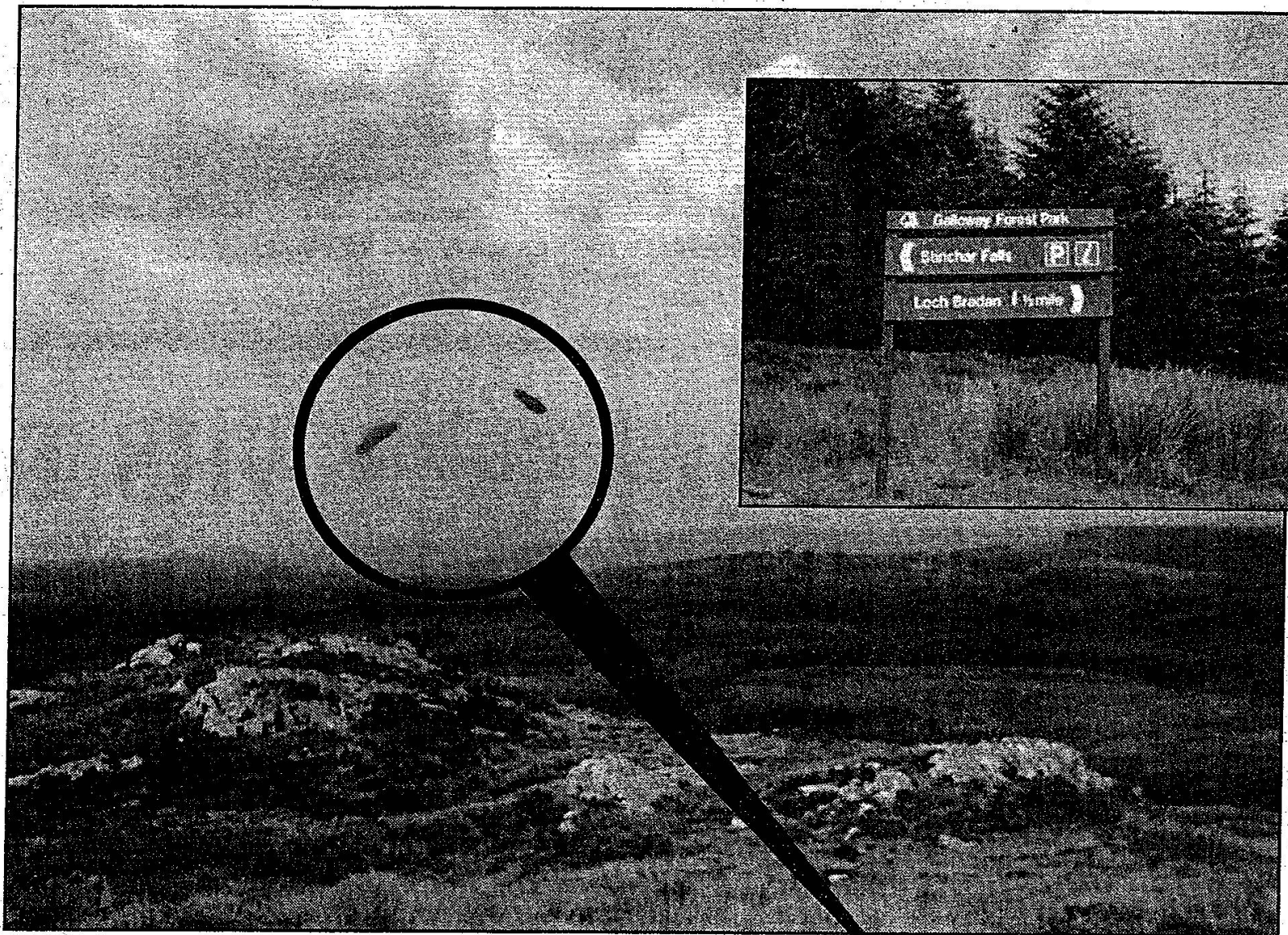
Dr Filippone has tested some aspects of his design using the experimental TRIGA reactor at the University of Maryland, and in computer simulations. But to prove that it will work he has to demonstrate a self-sustaining reaction in uranium-238. Working with Ivo Vasa of the Nuclear Research Institute in Rez, in the Czech Republic, he is now looking for the money needed to perform such an experiment, which is expected to take about two years and cost around \$2m. With luck, his new design will generate a favourable reaction. ■

set the record straight. "We've never seen anything that even suggests that there are UFOs 'out there'," they say. The strange marks on the photographs are either planets, cosmic rays, debris, software glitches or defects in their detectors that have been modified by UFO proponents. The scientists show how a picture of a cosmic ray can be smoothed (see picture) to make something that looks very much like a glowing flying saucer and exhaust fumes. Only it isn't. Details for making your own UFO can be found at <http://sohowww.nascom.nasa.gov>



The truth is out there

ENCLOSURE
145



Hillwalker's UFO mystery in Carrick Forest



The mystery objects in the Carrick sky.

A SENSATIONAL new photograph of UFOs in the Carrick Forest has been discovered, the *Carrick Gazette* can exclusively reveal.

The amazing image was taken by a walker near Loch Braden in 1997.

Michael Barford, 61, had been a regular visitor to South West Scotland's forest parks, before moving to Newton Stewart in 1999.

It was during one of these excursions that the remarkable UFO photograph was taken.

Michael told the *Gazette*: "I was up there and I just had a cheap

camera with me at the time. I was on top of a hill and to use up the film in the camera I started taking panoramic views. So I went round taking one photograph, then two, then three and when I got to the fourth shot I saw these two objects hovering in the sky."

"I watched them for about five minutes and they didn't move, then they just took off together in perfect unison, and then all of a sudden they were away. It was like 0 to 4,000 in two seconds," added Michael.

Michael never reported the incident and only came forward after a *Galloway Gazette* article on UFOs highlighted the growing number of encounters in South West Scotland in recent years.

Michael who lives in Albert Street, Newton Stewart, said: "I used to laugh at all this. I thought it was a joke. But something like that really shakes you."

● Have you seen something you can't explain? Contact the *Gazette* with the details.

CARRICK GAZETTE 22 JAN 03

UFO sightings on the increase

UFO sightings are on the rise in Galloway, with the region fast becoming a hot spot for perceived extra terrestrial activity.

Since the first recorded sighting of an unidentified object in 1955, sightings have become more and more common.

In recent years so much so that suspected alien activity is recorded in the region almost every year.

Although details are sketchy of the 1955 incident, the sighting is contained in several books cataloguing the history of UFO appearances. Occurring on a deserted road somewhere in Galloway, the first sighting saw a disk shaped object, illuminated with blue lights slowly manoeuvre above a car, before moving on at incredible pace.

Only two years after in April 1957 an even more convincing sighting was recorded.

Recently declassified data about the 1957 UFO sighting came from the most reliable of sources, the MOD (Ministry of Defence).

This UFO encounter involved the tracking by radar of three 'massive objects' moving against the wind and flying over West Freugh Airbase.

Described as "the size of battleships" by an MOD official, the objects stopped at 30,000 ft, directly above the airbase, then moved on as quickly as they had appeared.

Although the MOD carried out a full investigation the mysterious occurrence has never been explained.

In 1965 a family waiting for a ferry in Stranraer saw a 'brilliant, orange red object, shaped like a large soup plate'. The object flew directly over the family's car landed just 20 metres from them, then suddenly vanished.

Following on from these early sightings a wave of UFO encounters were recorded in the region in the late 1970s and early 1980s. Including reports of a 'cigar shaped object' seen at the Mull of Galloway in 1979.

And again an MOD sighting at RAF West Freugh in 1980, when three MOD police officers saw an 'orange oval' fly out to sea from Luce Bay.

In recent years there have been sightings in Stranraer, Dumfries, Newton Stewart and Kirkcudbright.

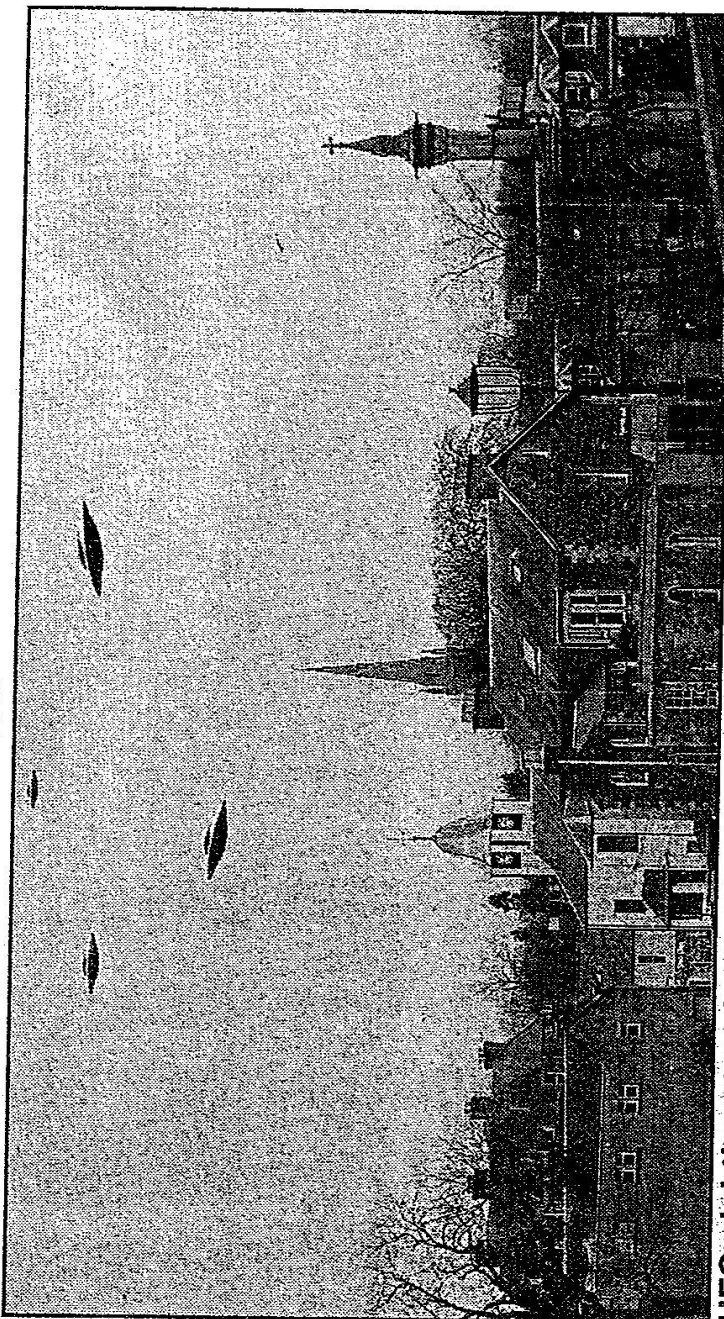
The most convincing a sighting by three tourists travelling near the region's Artist's town, witnessing a bright, blue, shape changing object, traverse the skies over

Kirkcudbright early on an August Evening in 1998.

In Stranraer there have been sightings of UFOs as recently as 2000, and in Newton Stewart, in 1998 when two hillwalkers were 'buzzed' by a large, low flying, illuminated object.

With the MOD itself confirming the existence of unidentified phenomenon in the region, Galloway is fast garnering a reputation for UFO sightings, not quite rivalling Bonnybridge, but certainly outstripping most other regions in terms of UFO encounters.

● Have you seen something you can't explain? Contact the *Gazette* with the details.



UFO sightings are increasingly commonplace, but scenes like this are destined to remain acts of trick photography. (Image: Adrian Braddy)

The Galloway Gazette

3 JAN 03

Daily Mail, Wednesday

UFO investigators claim th

A Super

THE object is certainly unidentified and appears to be flying.

Whether the enlarged image on the right really shows a UFO piloted by aliens remains to be seen.

But, according to the people who released it, this photo - and hundreds like it - is the best evidence yet of the existence of spacecraft from other worlds.

UFO investigators say the image was captured by the Solar and Heliospheric Observatory (Soho), a Nasa satellite which was launched in 1996 to observe the sun.

Since then, it is said, the satellite has beamed back hundreds of images of UFOs travelling along a kind of alien super-highway.

A variety of 'spacecraft' can apparently be seen against the 'background of deep space.'

They fail to navigate a straight course, which observers believe is evidence they are being steered by some sort of intelligent life form.

The satellite is stationed in space one million miles from Earth with its camera trained towards the sun. The objects photographed are likely to be only hundreds of miles from the satellite's lenses, say experts.

The images from Soho - a joint project by Nasa and the European Space Agency - are due to be made public at the National Space Centre in Leicester in a presentation by Mike Murray, 54, the owner of an electronics company in Manchester.

The images were shown to him by a Spanish businessman who picked them up from Soho through a huge satellite at his home outside

By **Tim Utton**
Science Reporter

Barcelona. Mr Murray said: 'I thought these pictures were astounding. The photos appear to show spacecraft passing in front of the sun.'

'When we asked Nasa about it they originally said it might be a fault on the camera, but by digitally enhancing the images we proved this wasn't the case.'

'Nasa then told us it could be asteroids or comets, but when we pointed out that the objects appeared to move independently and make turns they stopped answering our questions.'

'The very fact these crafts appear to be the same shape as other UFOs spotted in our stratosphere is very exciting.'

Nasa has refused to comment, but Graham Birdsall, editor of UFO magazine, said he was excited by the images.

'The images are irrefutable. In that they are from official satellites owned by Nasa,' he said. 'They resemble the kind of spacecraft we used to see in sci-fi films like Star Trek.'

'To all intents and purposes here is evidence of anomalous objects in space that appear structured and seem to have intelligently controlled movements.'

'I'm excited at the prospect of seeing authenticated images coming into the public domain that have taxed a considerable number of people at Nasa.'

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ENCLOSURE
194

What is the second sign of madness?

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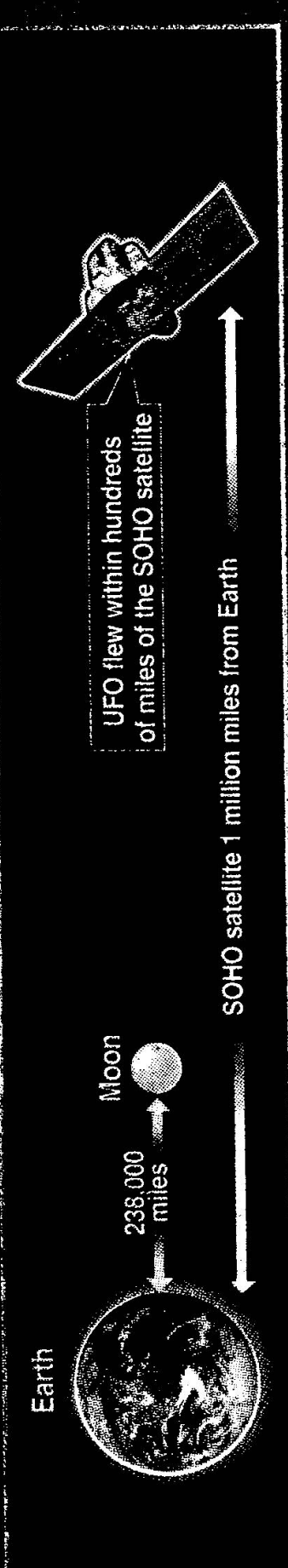
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image, from a Nasa satellite, is the best evidence yet of flying saucers

highway for aliens?



As Steven Spielberg's new £25 million TV blockbuster about alien encounters,



by Geoffrey Wansell

ON A hot, sticky July afternoon in 1987 Jason Andrews is celebrating his fourth birthday at his family's cottage near Slade Green in Kent when the heavens open.

As the thunder crashes all around, there is a single flash of lightning. Suddenly, a stream of numbers starts pouring out of Jason's mouth: fantastic numbers, complex mathematical equations, even algebra — all from a boy who struggles to count to ten.

Seconds later the windows and doors begin to shake violently and the four-year-old announces to his mother, father and elder brother: "They're waiting for me. I have to go."

Jason's father, Paul, grabs his son and stops him from walking out into the downpour, but the boy struggles violently, and as he does so the house shakes to its very foundations — until, finally, he seems to wake from a trance and the shaking stops.

It is the first sign that Jason Andrews is no

ordinary little boy and, in the eight years that follow, that is dramatically confirmed.

It wasn't until 1995, when he was almost 12, that Jason told his astonished parents exactly what had been happening to him — aliens had been abducting him from his bed at night.

'It's always the light that comes first,' he confessed to his mother, Ann. 'Then I see the tall one rise up at the foot of the bed.'

'Suddenly there's lots of little ones everywhere. They're fuzzy and indistinct, and they move very fast. I can't move or speak, but I'm awake and I can see and hear and feel. I want to scream and run, but the sound doesn't come out and my body doesn't move.'

'I hate them. I hate them,' the boy sobbed. 'I have to go with them.'

'They take me to an operating theatre, like at the hospital. It's all white and shiny. Some-

times it's a circular room with a metal floor. It's always cold.

'They're there. The big one touches me but I don't feel it, like as if I've had an anaesthetic.'

Then he added poignantly: 'But you don't believe me, you just think I'm making it all up.'

In fact, Ann *did* believe him, and went on to explore the phenomena affecting her son's life in a book, *Abducted*. This decent, uncomplicated wife and mother came to the conclusion that we may not be alone.

Now, the rest of the world may be about to agree with her. After five decades of ridicule, official denials and alleged cover-ups, the possibility that aliens may have visited Earth is beginning to be taken seriously — and not just by sci-fi fanatics and UFO freaks.

Scientific researchers are increasingly convinced that thin, grey-skinned beings about 4ft tall, with large almond-shaped eyes set in an oval, hairless head, may not only have landed on earth, but have also abducted human beings for bizarre experiments; while all the time there has been an official conspiracy to keep their visits secret.

Tonight American filmmaker Steven Spielberg, the man who brought the world *Close Encounters Of The Third Kind* and *ET*, will bring those convictions — and aliens — to life in his new mini-series, *Taken*, on BBC2.

magazine, Graham Birdsall, points out: 'Sixty years ago, 90 per cent of the population thought the idea was "absolute rubbish".'

'Now every single opinion poll on the subject shows that millions of people firmly believe in UFOs.'

Last June, for example, when it was announced that Bonnybridge in Scotland boasted more UFO sightings than any other place in the world, a Sky News poll showed 65 per cent of its viewers believed in UFOs.

Five years earlier — in one of the biggest telephone polls ever conducted on TV — 100,000 viewers phoned ITV to answer the question 'Have aliens already visited Earth?' and 92 per cent voted 'Yes'.

'There's strong evidence to suggest that Earth has been visited by extraterrestrial intelligence,' insists Birdsall.

And after my own research I am prepared to admit that it is no longer possible to dismiss people such as Birdsall as 'cranks'.

Spielberg, whose film *Close Encounters Of The Third Kind* dramatically raised the issue of alien encounters for a global audience, is certainly convinced they've happened.

Fascinated by the possibility from childhood, he's devoted part of his life to discovering the truth and has become an authority on the subject as a result.

But there is a striking difference between Spielberg's approach in his TV series *Taken* and the one he took two decades ago in *ET*.

This time the aliens he is depicting are not trying to phone home — they're here to subvert, and ultimately control, the human race.

And the new TV series, his first since the award-winning *Band Of Brothers*, is not only about the arrival of 'aliens' it's also about 'alien abduction'.

'I thought I couldn't do justice to this genre in a two-hour movie,' Spielberg explains.

'We would need a lot more time to do justice to the history of alien abductions, starting back in 1947 — right through to today.'

Watching the first episodes, it's clear that Spielberg has done everything in his power to create a fictional series on the edge of fact. This is no sci-fi comic book, no *Invasion Of The Body Snatchers*, but a compelling — and all-too-plausible — drama.

British UFO expert Mike Soper, of Contact International, is as convinced as Spielberg that alien abductions have happened.

THE TELLING fact is that there are features common to all the people's stories,' he maintains. 'They all remember being taken to a craft, and often talk about being "examined".'

'Many talk about something being "implanted" in their bodies, and when they return they often have triangular marks on their bodies and aren't wearing exactly the same clothes they were before the abduction.'

Ministry of Defence civil servant Nick Pope, 37, agrees.

'Abductions most definitely do occur,' he says. 'And although the phrase "alien abductions" is a gift to those people who want to deride it, these are genuine, ordinary people who believe that they have been in extraordinary situations.'

Pope isn't a man with an anorak and a slightly weird look in his eye. He is a down-to-earth civil servant who had no interest in aliens at all until 1991, when the MoD asked him investigate reports of UFOs, alien abductions and other strange phenomena.

'The 100 or so people I interviewed about being abducted by aliens weren't publicity seekers merely after their 15 minutes of fame,' he explains.

'I came to the conclusion that some of these people had to be telling the truth. And if just one of the abductees' reports is true, the implications for the human race would be profound and disturbing.'

One person who helped to convince Pope was 37-year-old British-born make-up artist Bridget Grant, whom he met seven years ago.

She addressed an audience of 750 people at the British UFO conference in Leeds in 2001, where she talked about her own abduction. She

ACUNNING mixture of fact, conjecture and fiction, based on the latest research, it tells the story of how aliens affected the lives of three American families over the past half-century.

A massive hit in the U.S., where it was broadcast on consecutive nights last month, Spielberg's series is the most expensive TV science fiction drama ever made — with a budget of more than £25 million — and it's certain to re-ignite public debate on this forever-contentious subject.

But surely all this talk of aliens is far-fetched? As a natural sceptic, I've always believed so, but over the past weeks and months of reviewing the evidence I've come to the conclusion that it does, in fact, warrant the closest investigation.

There certainly seems to have been an official conspiracy to keep the facts secret.

In the past few months, for example, firm evidence about unexplained events connected with Unidentified Flying Objects (UFOs) and extraterrestrial phenomena has begun to appear for the first time as governments around the world have released previously secret documents.

And, for the first time, politicians have started to admit that evidence on the possibility of extraterrestrial life has been concealed.

In October last year, for example, former White House Chief of Staff John Podesta, who worked for President Clinton, called on the U.S. government to de-classify 'records that are more than 25 years old' and 'to provide scientists with data that will assist them in determining the real nature of this phenomenon'.

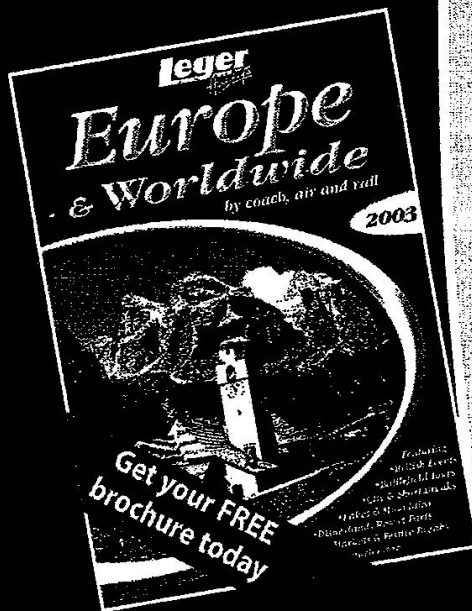
Only four years ago, former Prime Minister Baroness Thatcher hinted to British UFO researcher Georgina Bruni that there was considerable secret information on the subject, adding mysteriously: 'You can't tell the people.'

BRUNI was so struck by the remark that she used it as the title for her 2001 book on alien sightings in Suffolk in 1980. Shortly afterwards, former Tory Secretary of State for Defence Michael Portillo also confided to her on the subject: 'I know a lot, but I tell a little.'

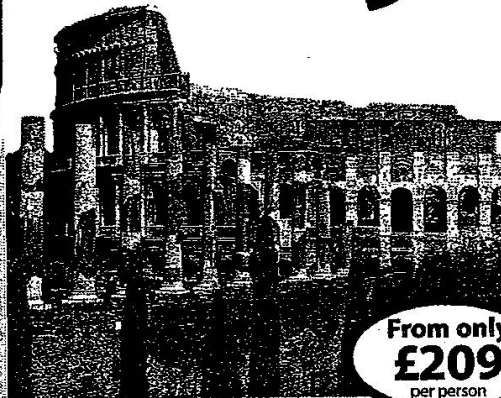
After a campaign by Bruni and other researchers, the Government last month released scores of secret files on UFO sightings in this country, all of which suggest that aliens can no longer be dismissed merely as the product of fevered imaginations.

Certainly the majority of the public now seem to believe that aliens do exist. As the editor of the British UFO

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Taken, hits our screens tonight, a Mail writer reviews the mounting evidence

After 50 years of ridicule, denial and cover-up, is the REAL truth about alien abductions about to be revealed...?



she said she saw looks uncannily like many of the other descriptions of aliens that have surfaced in recent years.

However, as sceptics point out, there have been so many depictions of 'space creatures' with dome heads and large oval eyes that it is hardly surprising that this has become something of a stereotype.

When Spielberg was researching the aliens for *Close Encounters*, he held lengthy consultations with the veteran American astronomer Dr J Allen Hynek — a once-fierce critic of UFOs and alien phenomena who changed his mind completely after he became a consultant on the subject for the United States Air Force.

Hynek assembled the authoritative American dossier on alien encounters, *Project Blue Book*, and advised Spielberg what aliens looked like.

But the idea that little grey — rather than green — men, with elongated fingers, legs and neck, may actually have visited this country still sounds incredibly far-fetched — until you talk to Georgina Bruni.

'When I interviewed Lady Thatcher a few years ago,' Bruni explains, 'I was describing to her the fact that U.S. military personnel here in Britain had reportedly had contact with aliens, and an alien spacecraft, in Rendlesham Forest in Suffolk in December 1980.'

'I expected her to tell me that I'd been watching too many episodes of the X Files. But she didn't look shocked at all. She just said, twice: "You can't tell the people."'

WITH Bruni's encouragement, in the wake of this conversation Lord Hill-Norton, a former Chief of the Defence Staff, tabled 16 Parliamentary questions in the House of Lords — as a result of which the Government released more than 200 previously secret files concerning UFOs and aliens.

One of the files revealed that then Prime Minister Sir Winston Churchill wanted the matter investigated in 1952.

He sent a memo to his scientific adviser, Sir Henry Tizard, asking: 'What does all this stuff about flying saucers amount to? What can it mean? What is the truth?'

After several months, Tizard reported that all the sightings were 'explicable by natural events', although shortly afterwards the Government explicitly banned RAF personnel from discussing sightings with anyone not from the military.

The U.S. Government had adopted a similar policy of official secrecy five years earlier, in the wake of a spate of incidents near the U.S. Air Force base at Roswell, New Mexico, in July 1947 — incidents that Spielberg uses as his starting point for his TV series.

And so the modern history of UFOs, aliens — and official cover-ups was born.

British UFO researcher Jenny Randles, who has spent more than 20 years investigating UFO and alien phenomena, maintains that in more recent times alien kidnapping has become much more common.

'An ever growing tide of people suspect that they may be alien abductees,' she says.

So is it fact or fiction? I'm not certain, but the evidence of witnesses such as Jason Andrews and Bridget Grant is hard to ignore. And it's clear that, as the 21st century begins, opinions are changing.

The Government announced recently that it was 'open-minded' about the 'existence or otherwise of extraterrestrial life forms' — a markedly different official position from the one taken half a century ago.

Perhaps the politicians are beginning to accept that we are not alone. Steven Spielberg certainly does.

over her head, she said, and away to the west. Her friend Jane, sitting in the passenger seat, saw it, too.

Grant was so disturbed by the experience that in September 1998 she went to see the American UFO researcher Budd Hopkins, of the Intruders Foundation in New York, to undergo four sessions of 'regressive hypnosis'.

She wanted his help to remember the exact details of what happened on that afternoon in 1993 — because she thought she had

forgotten something. It appeared that she had. For when this pale young woman, with shoulder-length dark hair, addressed the Leeds audience she told them she'd not just seen the spacecraft but had been abducted by it, even though she thought she was in her car the entire time.

'There is often a time shift element in the stories of abduction, where the individual doesn't realise that time has passed,' explains Nick Pope.

'My hands were gripping the

steering wheel,' Grant explained to the conference. 'But then I felt a pressure, like my body was being sucked. It felt like all the atoms of my body were going through the steering wheel.'

'Then I saw this being. I was fascinated by its appearance — it was transparent, had white hair and was carrying a baby.'

Hard though it may be for some to believe, and Grant is reluctant to discuss the events further, there is no doubt that the artists' impression of the being which

explained that in February 1993, when she was living in Los Angeles, she was driving with a friend in the Brentwood area at 5.50pm one bright, sunny day when she drew up at a set of traffic lights.

'I suddenly saw this silver tip out of the corner of my eye,' she explained. 'Then I saw that it was a solid silver craft, with a red-orange colour underneath it, about 35-45ft in diameter. It came right above the car and I leaned towards the steering wheel and looked up.'

'The craft 'flew really, really low'

Investigation

SIGNS

OF THE TIMES

THEY SEEM to appear from nowhere and their origins are shrouded in mystery – are they hoaxes or are they for real? It was the riddle of the Nineties and now a Hollywood blockbuster is set to start the great crop circle debate off again.

Signs, the new thriller directed by M Night Shyamalan that opened in America this weekend, has re-ignited interest in the unexplained phenomenon. Internet reports suggest that Touchstone Pictures have commissioned hundreds of circles to be produced in rural locations across the world in a marketing ploy for the film, in which Mel Gibson plays a Pennsylvania farmer defending his family from aliens who signal their arrival with a display of cornfield art.

For the record, Gibson is not convinced of the existence of extraterrestrials but is fascinated by crop circles. "I'm inclined to think it's all kind of a hoax, something made up for the tourists, but I'm willing to concede that there's something you can't explain with the board-and-rope theory," he has said.

The "board-and-rope" theory sprang from British artists Dave Chorley (who died in 1996) and Douglas Bower, who are viewed by many crop circle fanatics as pioneers of the hoax art. They got the idea from a mysterious reed bed sighted in 1966 in Queensland, Australia, where they lived at the time. "It started as a joke after drinking one night in the pub in 1978," reveals Bower, "but people's reactions encouraged us to perfect the circles. We'd sneak into farmers' fields, armed with planks and bits of rope and string, to create geometric patterns we had designed the night before."

Bower confirms that he and Chorley have been responsible for at least 250 circles – although he now says he wishes they'd never started as it has become the bane of his life. "I'd always been interested in UFOs, so I thought I'd make it look like one had landed. But it all got out of hand," he ruefully explains.

However, there are some, including eminent biophysicist and crop circle investigator Dr William Levengood, who insist there is "definite proof" that not all crop circles are hoaxes. The findings of this revered Michigan-based researcher over the past two decades remain the most conclusive with regard to the alien theory. In 1995 he reported in the *Journal Of Scientific Explorations* that he had found a natural "iron glaze" in Cherhill, a famous crop circle site in Wiltshire. "The glaze was composed of meteoritic particles traced shortly after a meteor

Mel Gibson stars in a new Hollywood movie about the phenomenon of crop circles – but who really makes them? Kevin Lewin and Angelique Van Engelen examine the evidence



GOING ROUND IN CIRCLES: Mel Gibson and Joaquin Phoenix star in the new film Signs

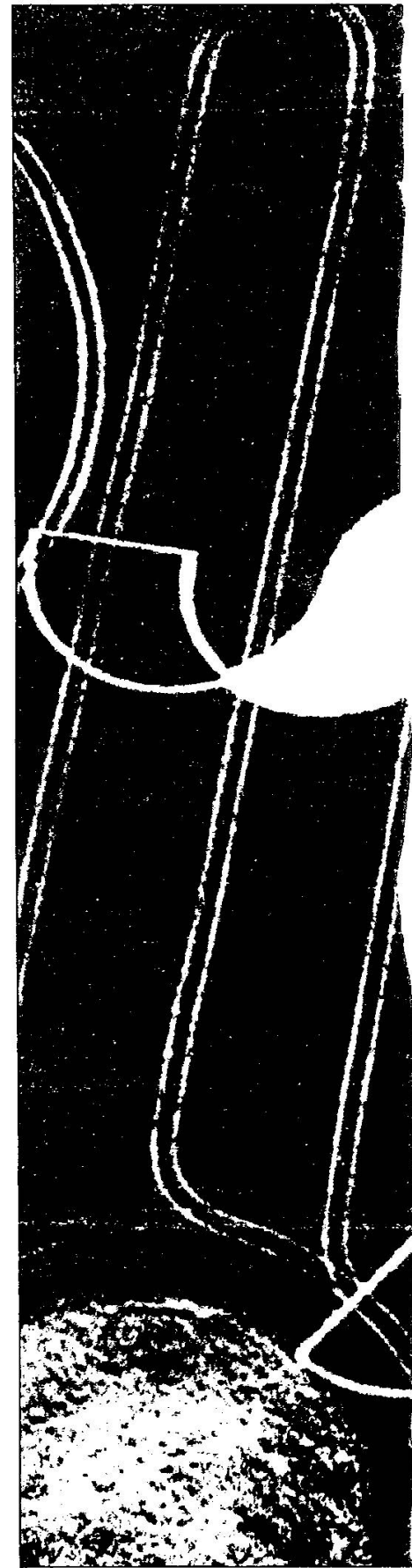
shower in August 1993. It cast considerable doubt on this being an artificially prepared formation."

His findings prompted further scientific research into crop circles. George Bishop, a journalist-turned-circle specialist at the Centre for Crop Circle Studies in London, believes that, despite the claims of Bower and Chorley, only 3.5 per cent of all circles are man-made and adds that possibly as many as 60 per cent of crop circles are never discovered.

British researcher Colin Andrews insists that 20 per cent of all found circles "defy reasonable explanation",

but this is an estimate without substantial proof. Andrews conducted a four-year study in which he measured the Earth's magnetic field in and around crop circles. He asserted that there was a magnetic flux present in the circles he researched and claimed they were not man-made. Andrews also said he was convinced something unresolved lies behind the many cases of "anomalous magnetic phenomena" such as spinning compass needles inside crop circles, unusual failures of electronic equipment and radio frequency interference.

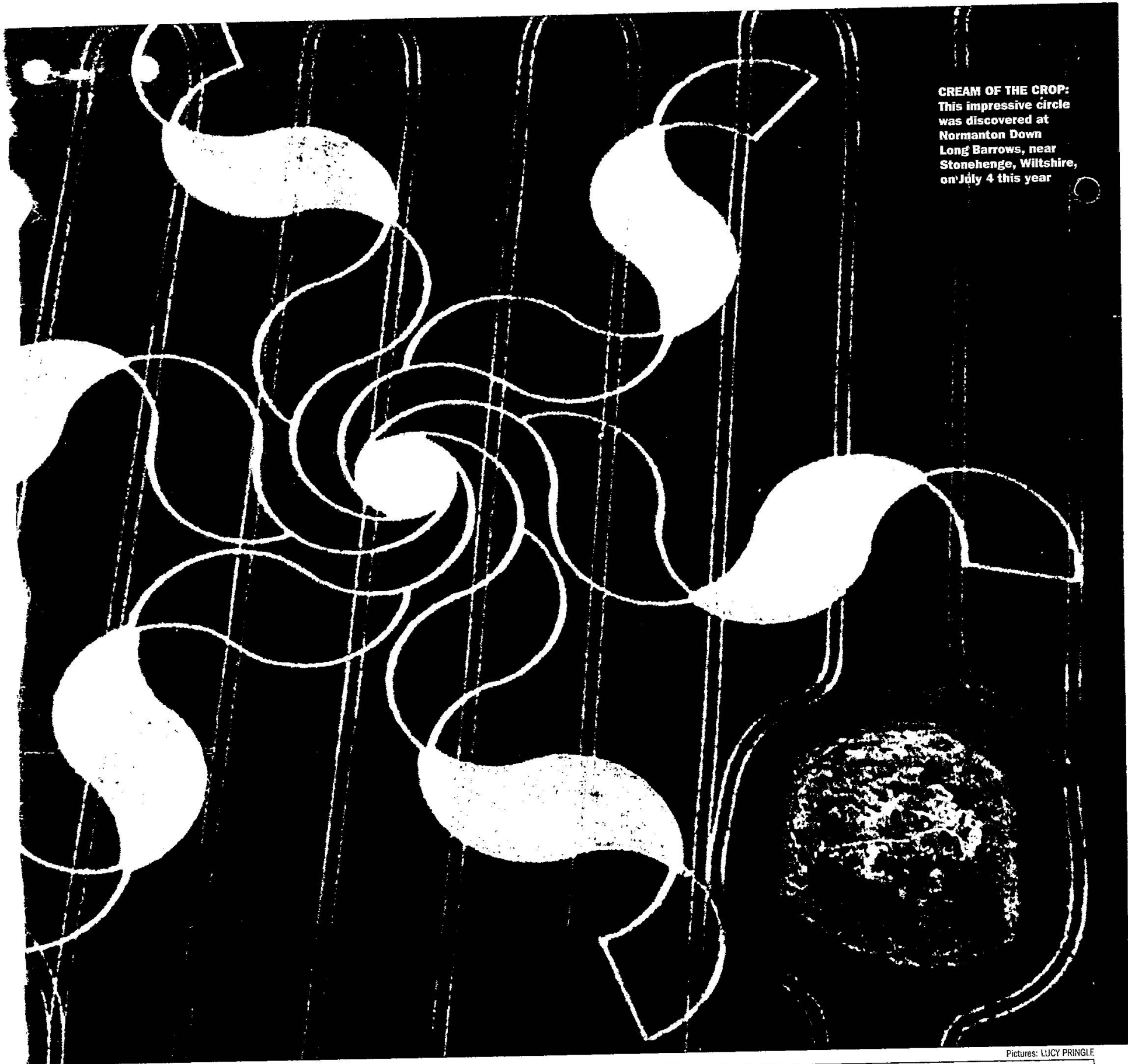
The circles created by the hoaxers are



severely undermining the work being carried out by the likes of the BLT (Burke, Levengood and Talbot) crop circle research team in Cambridge, Massachusetts, which is dependent on 700 volunteers worldwide.

According to director Nancy Talbot, "The hoaxers' work and talk about UFOs is threatening to deter scientists from concerning themselves with the circles. There are clues here that we need to take seriously."

Colin Andrews is waging his own war against the hoaxers, having launched a campaign to hunt them down. His methods include detective work, site inspections, physical evidence, aerial photography, personal experiences and information from members of the media who have paid to have artificial circles created by groups such as the three-strong Circlemakers, who are



CREAM OF THE CROP:
This impressive circle
was discovered at
Normanton Down
Long Barrows, near
Stonehenge, Wiltshire,
on July 4 this year

Pictures: LUCY PRINGLE

based in London. Ironically, the Circlemakers became circle creators themselves after having pursued a mission similar to Andrews's campaign. Rob Irving, a Circlemaker, says they were contracted by a daily newspaper to track down a gang of Wiltshire hoaxers and expose them.

"We could never catch them in the act and they were having far more fun than we were, so we decided to join them," he says. Now the Circlemakers run an award-winning crop circle website (www.circlemakers.org) complete with a detailed "How To..." guide and reports of new sightings around the world.

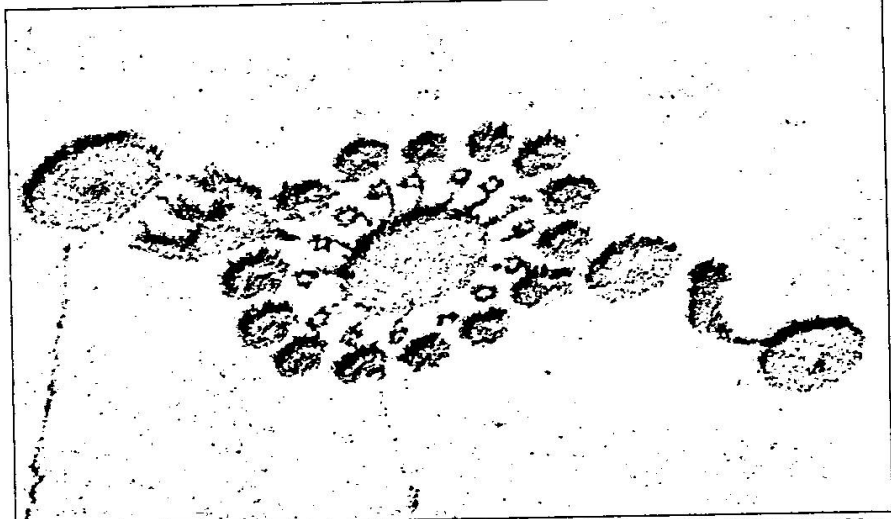
Creating a formation is at once simple and deft, depending on the complexity of the design. The Circlemakers tend to first set up a central point out of which their creation evolves. They stick a pole in the ground and attach a string to it,

the length of which is half the diameter of the formation. The vortex is created this way and perfect circles emerge. The artists measure exactly where each of them has to start and then work their way toward each other.

The flattening technique is as follows: "Place each stem between thumb and forefinger and stroke until it starts to bend. When the stems are bent at a right angle about two inches from their base, place each sheaf at the centre of each proposed circle. If this service is not performed, a greater ratio of breakage will occur.

"Cerealogists who find a sheaf of sharply-cut stems within the finished formation tend to see this as a sign of genuineness," say the Circlemakers.

Once they've completed their handiwork, the makers just have to hope that it gets spotted within a few



FLOWER POWER: This formation was found on May 2, 1999, on Milk Hill in Wiltshire

Daily Mail

Monday July 29 2002

ENCLOSURE
141
NUMBER

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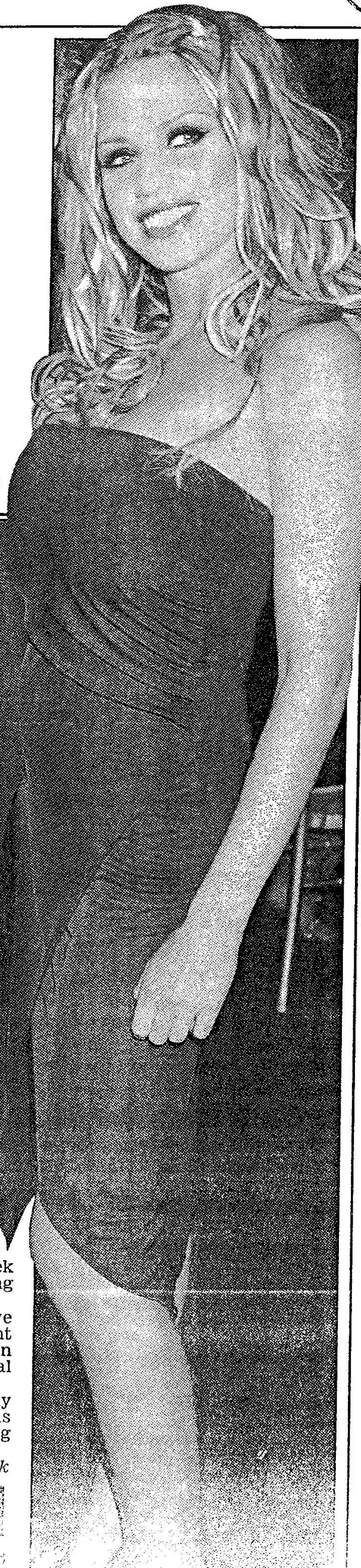
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Page 17

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Fighters 'beaten by UFO'

TWO F-16 fighter jets armed with air-to-air missiles were scrambled to race across Washington in pursuit of a mysterious blue object travelling at 'phenomenal speed'.

The jets lost it somewhere over Waldorf, Maryland, about 30 miles from the capital.

Military spokesmen said radar had detected an unknown object and two fighters from Andrews air force base were sent up to investigate.

They refused to speculate and would not describe it as a UFO.

Renny Rogers, who lives in Waldorf, said: 'I saw this light blue object. There was one jet right behind it, chasing it, but the object was just leaving him in the dust.'

£1½m Picasso found in raid

POLICE have uncovered a stolen Picasso oil painting and 40 other valuable artworks at the home of a jobless man in France.

They were found under blankets in a broom cupboard at the flat in Ecully, near Lyon.

All were stolen from the Krugier Gallery in Geneva in 1993 and 1994. The Picasso, Ace of Clubs, is worth around £500,000.

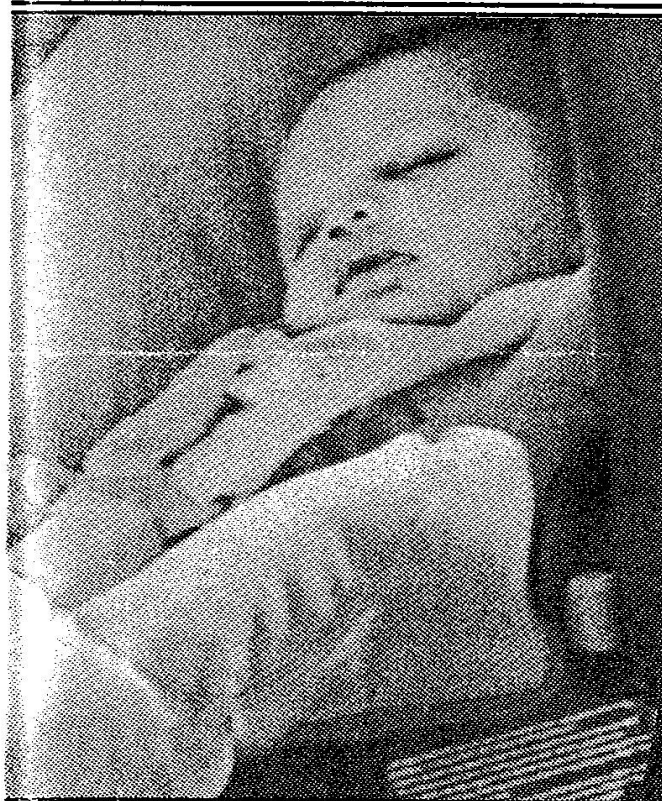
Police raided the 45-year-old man's flat after the gallery told them someone had phoned trying to sell the paintings back.

Quads born to gay couple

A LAWYER and beauty salon owner are believed to be the first gay couple to become parents of quadruplets - three boys and a girl born to a surrogate mother.

Attorney Michael Meehan, 36, is the biological father of the quads, who were born nine weeks early.

He and his partner Thomas Dysarz intend to raise the babies at their home in Lexington, Kentucky. The unidentified mother became pregnant by IVF.



10-week-old Harvey may never be able to see

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of alcohol there is a risk of organ damage and the baby's facial features may have a particular appearance.

'I am not aware of alcohol being problematic in relation to eye development. There is some research which suggests this but the link is not clear by any means.'

Pregnant women are advised generally not to drink but the Department of Health guidance is that up to four glasses of wine a week can be consumed without harming the foetus.

Other studies, however, have concluded that even a tiny amount of alcohol during pregnancy can affect a baby's brain and central nervous system.

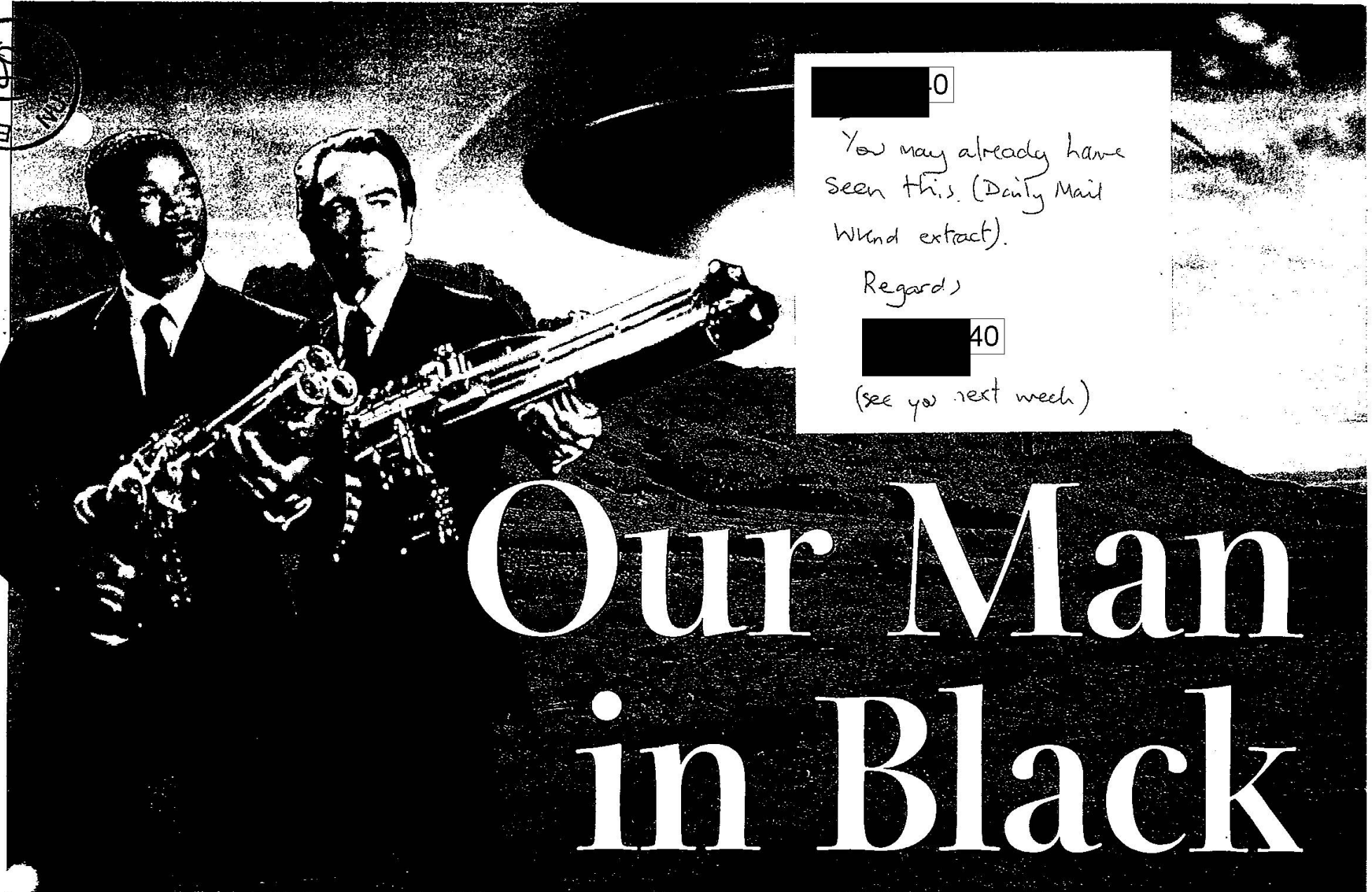
Studies have shown that only a third of mothers abstains from alcohol completely during pregnancy.

b.marsh@dailymail.co.uk

... one tragedy

... the use, hormonal imbalances and

ENCLOSURE
001



0
You may already have seen this. (Daily Mail Weekend extract).
Regards
40
(see you next week)

Our Man in Black

A Mr Templeton from Carlisle has a strange tale to tell. Fifty years ago, he went to a lonely marsh; there he took a photograph of his young daughter in her best party frock. But when the photograph was developed, standing behind the girl was the figure of what seems to be an alien, in a spacesuit.

A little later, two men called on Mr Templeton. Dressed in black, they drove a new, black Jaguar car — a rarity in Carlisle back then. They questioned him; he asked their names. 'You do not need to know our names. We are government employees. You refer to us only by numbers. I am Number Nine; he is Number Eleven.' Then they drove away.

It sounds like a scene from *The X Files* — that's how Mulder and Scully pursue extraterrestrials. As did the *Men in Black* who, in the blockbuster and its sequel, fight ceaselessly to stop aliens invading the planet. Those men in black, for those who didn't see the original film, were government agents whose existence was officially denied. That was Hollywood fantasy, but shouldn't there actually be a real-life equivalent? What if UFOs really do threaten our world: is any government agency doing anything?

In fact, it now emerges that back in the 1950s, when flying saucers first gripped the public imagination, there really was a Man in Black. He was the head of a small, secret team investigating flying saucer activity. The rumour was that he worked from a room so secret that no lift reached it. Yet his mission, the reports he wrote, even the existence of that room from which he worked, were all officially denied.

But there *was* an official report written — the Flying Saucer Working Party Report Number Seven — and since then UFO believers have spent close on 50 years seeking it out. It has been their Holy Grail, the one official confirmation — perhaps — that UFOs exist. Nonsense, said the men from the Ministry of Defence. Any such reports, claimed the Ministry, had been destroyed, shredded, burned, or thrown out with the wastepaper long ago.

So was the Ministry of Defence incorrect, not quite accurate, or lying? Choose your own way of putting it. For the report has now surfaced. Other things have

Government UFO hunters are all the rage in films, but the authorities have always denied their existence — until now. As JULIAN CHAMPKIN reports, the recent release of confidential documents has revealed the identity of Britain's UFO hunter — and his secret mission...

surfaced too — such as our mysterious Man in Black's centre of operations, that room so secret that its existence was denied. When one single newspaper report, back in 1951, mentioned Room 801 as the centre of government UFO investigations, the best traditions of Whitehall disinformation went into action. The lift in that building, they said, goes only up to the seventh floor.

Yet there was a Room 801, and it is still there. You can see it for yourself. Stand in Northumberland Avenue, near London's Whitehall, and look up at the rather Parisian-style building that was once the Metropole Hotel, before being taken over by the War Office. Its roof has one of those curved, slate-hung, pseudo-Baroque-style half-domes at the end. The room inside it is Room 801.

The Ministry of Defence was, in one sense, telling the truth. No lift reaches

'You do not need to know our names, only our numbers. We are government employees'

Encounters of the weird kind: In *Men in Black*, Will Smith and Tommy Lee Jones played agents tracking down aliens, a job held in real-life by Myles Formby, below

Room 801. The lifts *do* stop at the top floor, the seventh. That room under the curved eaves is reached only by a back stairway, and then by an open-air gangway built out across the roof. So private, so out-of-the-way, so hard to reach — but why?

Two investigators have discovered all this. Dr David Clarke and Andy Roberts are the men whose perseverance extracted Report Number Seven from the Ministry of Defence. 'It was the forthcoming Freedom of Information Act that finally produced it,' says Clarke.

'It comes into force in 2005, but evidently they have been told to begin acting in its spirit ahead of time. Even so, it took months.' Why? Embarrassment at previous denials, reluctance to admit they had once taken flying saucers seriously? 'All of those. But as well, I think they just didn't want to face the search through dusty files that it involved,' he says.

Now they have read the report; and it proves one thing. The British government, back in the days of the Cold War when flying saucer reports made newspaper headlines regularly, really did have a UFO hunter — and now, after 50 years, we know his name.

Wing Commander Myles Formby was the man who was told to research UFOs for the government. He had to investigate sightings of aliens, to find out what they were, and to establish

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PHOTOGRAPHS: RONALD GRANT/SCIENCE PHOTO LIBRARY/COURTESY OF DAVID CLARKE

FROM PAGE 21

what threat, if any, they posed. That is why he and his small band of colleagues toured the country, interviewing men with strange stories such as Mr Templeton, who took the photograph in Carlisle.

Now, 50 years of cover-up, 50 years of denial have crumbled in the face of a couple of dogged investigators and an impending change in the law; and the evidence is there, in the form of a six-page report and a man living in frail retirement on the coast of Northern Ireland. For Myles Formby is still alive, though in poor health. Clarke and Roberts have tracked him down. So who is he, and why was he given the job?

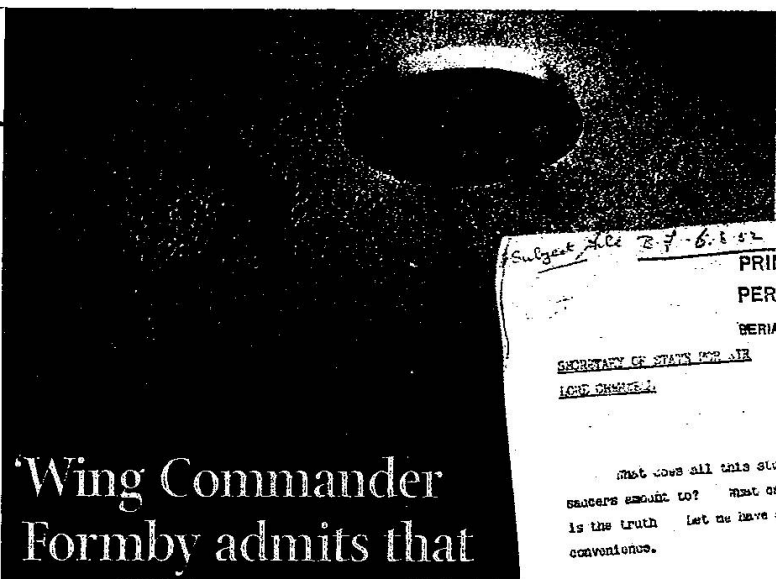
Myles Formby, our Ministry of Defence flying-saucer-hunter-in-chief, was, and is, a fluent linguist, proficient in Chinese. A career RAF officer, during the war he worked in intelligence, and flew small planes with secret dispatches in the Far East. After the war he became an expert on Russian aircraft — which was why he was chosen to track down flying saucers.

The first time the words 'flying saucer' were used was by an American pilot in 1947, who reported seeing strange shapes skimming across the sky in front of him at remarkable speed, 'like a saucer would if you skipped it across the water'. Soon everyone was seeing them, in Britain as well as America. And when RAF officers started seeing them too, the authorities had to start taking an interest.

'The Cold War was at its peak,' says Clarke. 'People expected a Russian attack daily. And they did not know what new sorts of planes the Russians might have. There was a real fear that the Soviets might have captured German experimental planes from the last days of World War II. And some of the experimental German rocket-plane designs really did look like round circular saucer-shapes — who knows what their performance might have been?'

So when reports of strange, fast-moving saucer shapes in the sky began to appear, military authorities did not fear it was aliens from outer space: they feared it was the Russians. Which accounts for the choice of Wing Commander Formby to investigate them. There were not only strange lights and shapes in the sky; strange objects were appearing on radar screens as well — and radar was our first line of defence should World War III break out.

'There were all kinds of hair-trigger incidents,' says Roberts. 'In one, a warplane was scrambled and ordered to fire all its rockets at a UFO that suddenly appeared on radar screens over Suffolk. The pilot, with the target in his sights and his radar locked on to it, was seeking final authorisation to



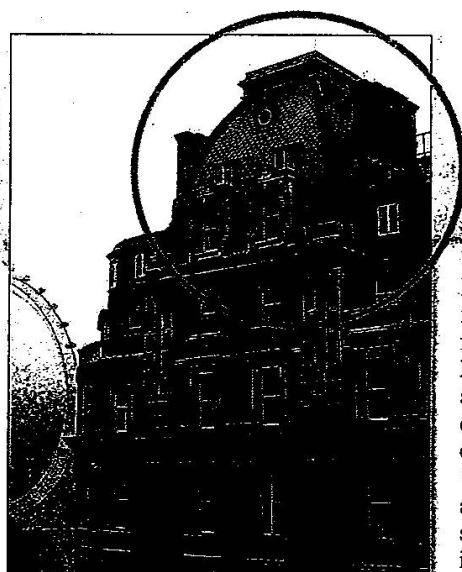
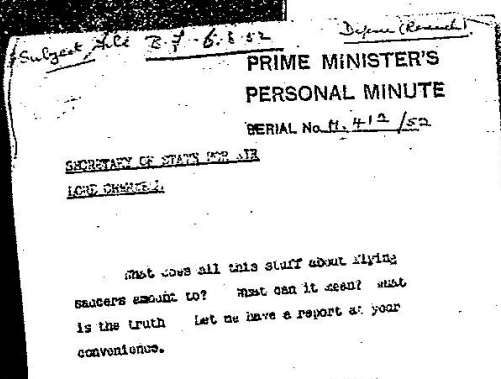
Wing Commander Formby admits that one or two cases still intrigue him

fire when the object, whatever it was, shot off too fast for him to catch.'

No wonder they wanted someone like the Wing Commander to work out which UFOs they should worry about, and which they should not. Here was a man who knew as much as anyone in the West about the different sorts of Russian military aircraft. But instead of looking at wonderful aircraft with revolutionary means of propulsion he found himself — a bit to his disgust, it appears — talking to people who had seen lights in the sky on their way home from the pub, and victims of photographic hoaxes. 'In general, the members of the Flying Saucer Working Party are not very enthusiastic,' said one internal memo.

Formby and the Flying Saucer Working Party were never convinced about the existence of flying saucers. Their Report Number Seven, the one that UFO believers hoped might show proof of a government cover-up about UFOs, is actually scathing on the subject. They found nothing that could not be explained as a weather balloon, an optical illusion, or a hoax. In 1951, after months of investigation, the report concluded, 'We recommend very strongly that no further investigation of reported mystery aerial phenomena be undertaken...' The MOD decided that the Russians had no terribly new sorts of planes, and that there were no aliens from space; Formby was stood down; and that should have been that.

However, just a few months later, a whole new spate of UFOs were seen over Washington, DC, and at a NATO exercise, and there was massive publicity. Presumably, had there really been aliens, their first words would have been 'Take me to your leader'. Our leader at the time was Winston Churchill, who



High level inquiry: After a spate of UFO sightings, Winston Churchill sent a memo asking to know what was going on. The matter was looked into at the mysterious Room 801, above

wrote a memo to the Secretary of State for Air, asking, 'What does all this stuff about flying saucers amount to? What can it mean? What is the truth? Let me have a report at your convenience. W.S.C.'

So the Ministry had to recall Formby and he had to spend more years investigating things that neither he nor the Ministry really believed in. Which perhaps accounts for the strange location of Room 801. Was it out of the way, at the top of the building, not for security reasons, but because the Ministry resented having to devote space to UFOs, and this was the nearest they could come to shutting it all up in a broom cupboard?

Clarke and Roberts found Wing Commander Formby in Northern Ireland. Despite his frailties, he could still speak fluent Chinese. 'When we found him, he came clean straight away. Everything that we had discovered, he confirmed, without reluctance,' says Roberts. 'But he knows much more; and about those things, he would not speak. He was unable, or unwilling, to say more.'

'He knows, for example — he must know — the truth behind that Suffolk incident. Did a pilot really come within a whisker of shooting at something, or at nothing, or of accidently setting off World War III, over East Anglia? He says he is still unconvinced of the existence of life from other planets — but admits that one or two cases still intrigue him.'

But Wing Commander Formby is of that generation, that style of man, who took their duties to the nation seriously. Flying saucers might be old news now, and UFOs might no longer have the national importance or pose the national threat that they once seemed to; but the Official Secrets Act still applies. He has signed it, so he will stick to it and he will not tell. Old age and decency forbid that he be harassed. So some things we shall never know...

Britain's Men In Black is on the Discovery Channel on Wednesday at 10.30pm.

THE

DAY OF MY LIFE



Writer and broadcaster **NED SHERRIN** tells **RAY CONNOLLY** about the day after the first night that was

It would have to be the morning after *That Was The Week That Was* started, Sunday, November 25, 1962. I was 31. The show had gone out at about ten o'clock on the Saturday night and David Frost and I met in a coffee bar in the King's Road the following day to go through the papers and think about the next week's show.

We weren't expecting any notices at all, but we got to the back page of the Sunday Telegraph and a woman called Pat Wallace had written the review we would like to have written ourselves.

From then on the feeling of that day was euphoric, because I got a call from Roy Kinnear who'd heard from his agent who'd said, 'Oh Roy, I'm so sorry. It was awful, I shouldn't

have let you be in it. But I've talked to some very high up people in the BBC and they say they'll be taking it off very quickly, so you needn't worry about your future.'

Roy had gone out feeling a bit depressed and bumped into Tom Bell, the actor, who'd said, 'That was fantastic last night'.

The programme had been about 18 months in gestation. I'd been directing the Cliff Michelmores

Tonight programme when the BBC had realised nothing really happened on TV late on a Saturday night. On the first show we had Frostie, Bernard Levin, Willie Rushton, Lance Percival, David

Kernan, Timothy Birdsall, the cartoonist, Kenneth Cope, and Millicent Martin, for whom Caryl Brahms and I wrote the lyrics to her song at the beginning of every show.

There was a very funny sketch by Keith Waterhouse and Willis Hall. They'd discovered that if you stood for parliament you could get out of the Army, so they had Roy Kinnear as the leader of the Army Deserters Party doing a party political broadcast. The satire label became attached to us, but satire had actually become fashionable again with *Beyond The Fringe* a year

or so earlier. I remember I had a wonderful letter from a lady who wrote, 'When my son grows up I want him to be a satirist. Which school would you recommend I send him to?'

I don't suppose one did quite realise immediately that things were going to change, but you've only got to look at what BBC Light Entertainment felt they could do afterwards, programmes like *Steptoe And Son* and *Till Death Us Do Part*, to see how they did. The thing we tried to do was to make our programme researched and responsible and not just yah boo stuff.

Ned Sherrin presents Loose Ends, Radio 4, Saturday, 6.15pm, and edited the Dictionary Of Humorous Quotations, OUP.



Music man: Ned Sherrin with singer Millicent Martin

PHOTOGRAPHS: FORTHEAN PICTURE LIBRARY/PUBLIC RECORDS OFFICE/SCIENCE CHANNEL/BBC ARCHIVE

**Traveller of the week**

An illegal immigrant who decided he didn't like British life has been jailed after trying to smuggle himself back home to Albania. Besim Elezi, 30, was caught with a false Italian passport at Dover as he tried to leave the country on a coach. He arrived last month hidden on a lorry, but after 10 days decided that Britain was not as nice as he had been expecting. At Canterbury crown court he was jailed for six months for possessing false documents. At the end of his sentence he will be deported.

Oddballs of the week

"I've met about 16 alien varieties, from those who look like the Pillsbury Doughboy to ones that look like a blue Big Bird," said Bonnie Meyer, a presenter at the annual UFO Daze event in Dundee, Wisconsin. Her first encounter came during a camping trip in 1976 when a craft landed on a nearby road. "A ladder dropped down and an alien in a silver suit waved me over," she said. "At first I wasn't going to go, but I figured I'd never have that opportunity again." Since then aliens have visited her at home on

several occasions, always putting up a force field so that her neighbours don't notice. Meyer was speaking after 150 spectators at the annual rally watched mysterious lights moving across the sky. "Aliens have always been friendly and kind," she insisted.

For info:



3/7

Daily Star
29 June 2002

UFOs SPY ON AIR BASES

ENCLOSURE
138

Dr Clarke looked at material that has been in the PRO for years. There was nothing newly released.

UFOs have been spying on British air bases for 60 years, according to an astonishing new report.

by ADAM KENNET

Researcher Dr David Clarke claims a Secret Service cover-up kept the evidence hidden

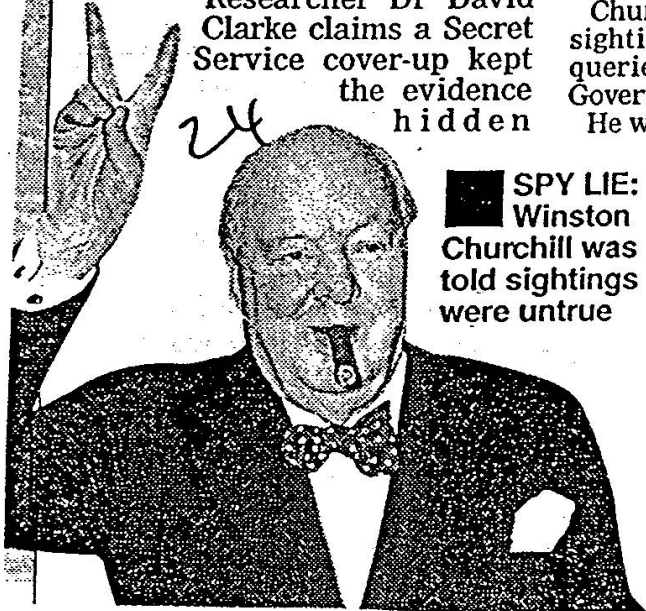
from wartime Prime Minister Winston Churchill and his many successors.

Churchill heard of flying saucer sightings during air battles and queried them, recently-released Government papers reveal.

He was told that tales of sightings over the UK were "a myth" but, then and since, security service agents interviewed RAF pilots who reported sightings.

Retired Wing Commander Ron Hubbard twice saw disc-shaped craft flying over the RAF base at Farnborough in 1950.

The former flyer, then an RAF test pilot, told Dr Clarke: "The spinning and hovering were incredible. There is no technology on earth even now which could make such things."



SPY LIE: Winston Churchill was told sightings were untrue

The Sun

29 June 2002

Page 2

RAF fun run un-bear-able

From ANTONELLA LAZZERI at Bagram Airbase

AN RAF helicopter squad went on a 40-mile run with a 2ft teddy bear yesterday in the scorching 40°C Afghan heat.

Fourteen members of 27 Squadron made the dash from Bagram Airbase to the capital Kabul to raise cash for the Marie Curie cancer charity.

The bear — known as Flying Officer Teddy Bear — was sent out to Afghanistan by the charity bosses to lend a helping paw with a variety of fund-raising duties undertaken by the Chinook squadron.

Since then he has flown on combat missions and even done sentry duty. When he returns to Britain with Our Boys next month he will be auctioned off to raise more cash.

RAF girl Abigail Ellis, 30, who has been in charge of Flying Officer Bear, said: "He's been an outstanding team member."

● AT least 10 people died yesterday when an ammunition depot blew up in the southern Afghanistan town of Spin Boldak. Some witnesses claimed it was hit by a rocket fired by al-Qa'ida fugitives.

BBC

CATEGORIES TV RADIO COMMUNICATE WHERE I LIVE INDEX

SEARCH

Go

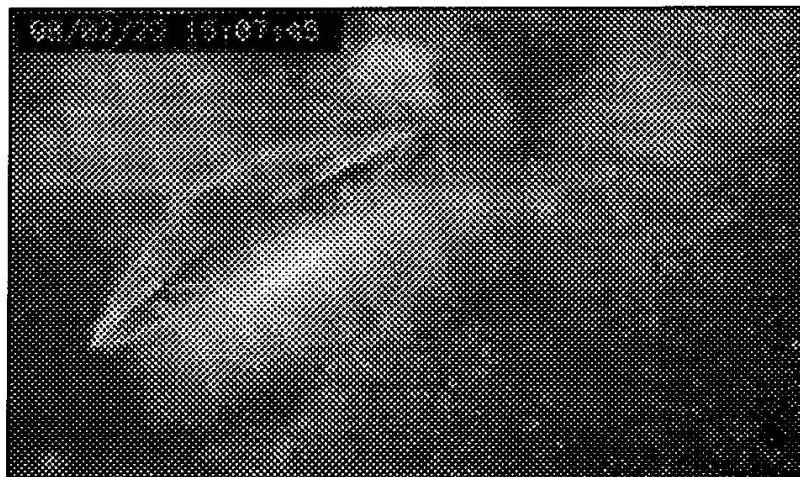
BBC NEWS

You are in: UK: **Scotland**

Monday, 24 June, 2002, 10:16 GMT 11:16 UK

Scotland dubbed 'top alien nation'

Northern



Bonnybridge tops the list for reported sightings

Scotland can rightly lay claim to being the "Costa Del Sol" for aliens, according to tourism officials.

They are pointing to a survey which says that Scotland has the highest concentration of reported sightings of Unidentified Flying Objects (UFOs) of any country in the world.

The results have been published to coincide with International UFO Day and refer to 300 reported UFO sightings in Scotland a year.

According to the study, Scotland also recorded the highest number of reported UFO sightings per head of population.

The researchers said Scotland had 0.004 reported UFO sightings per square kilometre and one sighting per 17,000 inhabitants.

The research was commissioned by VisitScotland, the national tourist organisation.

A spokesman said: "This confirms that Scotland is the nearest thing there is to the Costa del Sol for aliens."

The village of Bonnybridge in Stirlingshire has become a hub for UFO enthusiasts following

In 90% of UFO reports, a bit of diligent research will produce a simple explanation, but that still leaves 10% remaining unexplained

**Graham Birdsall,
UFO magazine**

WATCH/LISTEN
ON THIS STORY

✱ **Author Ron Halliday**

"People have seen all kinds of things in the Bonnybridge area"

✱ **BBC's Huw Williams**

"So far this morning, no bright lights in the sky"

✱ **Stuart Campbell, author and UFO sceptic**

"I have never been stumped"

See also:

14 Nov 00 | Scotland

First contact for UFO mecca?

04 Jan 00 | Scotland

UFOs lure Japanese TV firm

12 Jun 98 | UK

They came from space ...

01 Jul 98 | Sci/Tech

UFOs mystify scientists

25 Jun 98 | Entertainment

Roswell space alien breaks its silence

Internet links:

VisitScotland

International UFO and Research Centre

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Fiery reaction to 'private' brigade

Scotland dubbed 'top alien nation'

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Libya 'not to blame' for Lockerbie'

Man accused of biker murder

Union makes nuclear site plea

Links to more Scotland stories are at the foot of the page.

numerous reports of sightings.

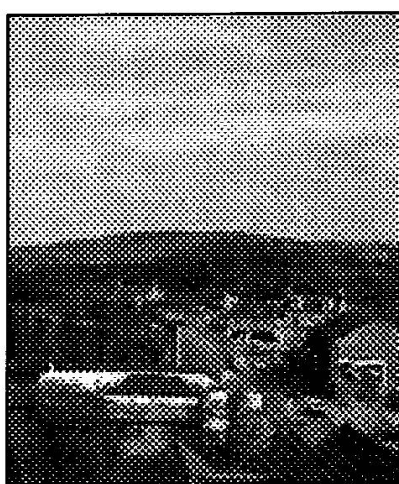
Visitor centre

The area became known as the "Falkirk triangle" and other "sightings" have been recorded in neighbouring West Lothian.

Bonnybridge councillor Billy Buchanan has called for a UFO visitors' centre to be built in the village.

Stirling-based UFO writer Ron Halliday said: "When you think of the number of sightings in Scotland compared to the size of its population, it is phenomenal."

Of the Bonnybridge "phenomenon", he said: "One theory is that the area around Bonnybridge is some kind of window into another dimension.



Bonnybridge: Another dimension?

"That would explain why some people see a UFO and others don't - because a UFO is some kind of paranormal phenomenon rather than a nuts and bolts spaceship.

"People are not so much seeing little green men as little grey men, tall grey men and different varieties of types."

Mr Halliday said it was important to emphasise that although there had been many reports of sightings, it was impossible to say that every one was an alien entity.

"But it does seem to be a bit of a mystery why Bonnybridge should be a target of spaceships from other planets."

Alien concept

Graham Birdsall, editor of UFO magazine, said: "UFOs tend to be attracted to regions that are fairly remote.

"Plus, if you have a remote area, look out for airbases - Scotland is littered with airbases.

"In 90% of UFO reports, a bit of diligent