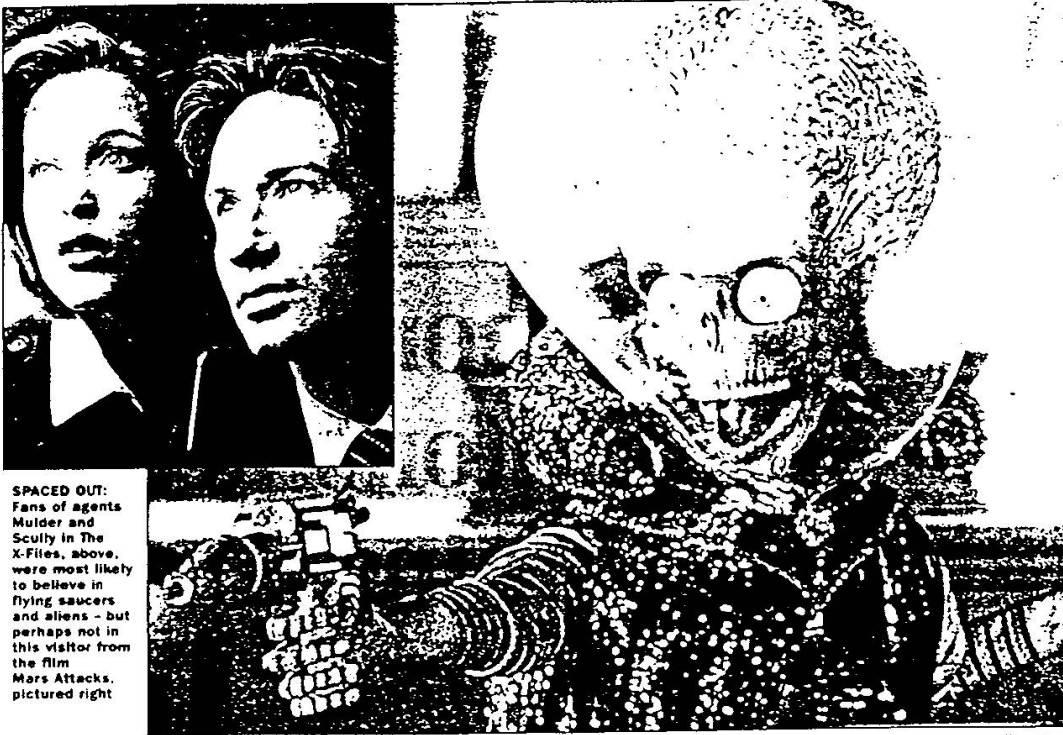


The Express
12 January 1999
Page 17

You're a little green, men

58 per cent
of males
believe
in aliens



SPACED OUT:
Fans of agents
Mulder and
Scully in *The
X-Files*, above,
were most likely
to believe in
flying saucers
and aliens - but
perhaps not in
this visitor from
the film
Mars Attacks,
pictured right

BY MICHAEL HANLON
SCIENCE CORRESPONDENT

FOX MULDER'S suspicion that the truth is out there is shared by the public, it seems.

More than half of us believe that alien intelligence exists - with more men than women showing their gullibility over little green visitors from far-off galaxies.

And nearly everyone thinks that if extra-terrestrials were visiting us our Government would do everything in its power to cover it up, according to a new survey.

Unsurprisingly, sci-fi fans, particularly enthusiasts of the TV series *The X-Files*, are most likely to assume a conspiracy, with 86 per cent expecting the Government to lie.

"Even people who do not believe in UFOs believe the Government wouldn't tell the truth if they knew there was alien life," said Paul Simpson, editor of *Focus* magazine, which polled more than 1,000 people.

Overall, more than 50 per cent of the UK population believes there is intelligent life on other worlds, while 14 per cent don't know. And while 58 per cent of men believe there is alien intelligence, the figure for women is just 43 per cent. "This was a finding we could not explain. Men tend to be slightly more cynical, so this is a bit contradictory," said Mr Simpson.

There were also marked differences in belief in aliens,

by age, and geographically. The biggest believers in alien intelligence live in the South West, where more than two-thirds think that we are not alone, while Londoners are the most sceptical. Pensioners were the least likely to accept the idea of extra-terrestrials. "A lot of scientists are coming to the view that alien life is out there," said Mr Simpson. "Our poll shows that

belief in alien life is no longer only the preserve of the lunatic fringe."

Britain's own Fox Mulder is Nick Pope, a Ministry of Defence civil servant who investigated UFO sightings from 1991 to 1994. He says that in about "90 to 95 per cent of cases" he could explain away the alleged UFO sighting. But a small number of

sightings "were really interesting, as far as I was concerned there was definitely an intelligence at work".

However, unlike agent Mulder, Mr Pope never had anyone trying to suppress his findings. "I never got anyone trying to shut me up. Never once did anyone have a quiet word with me to cover up a mysterious sighting.

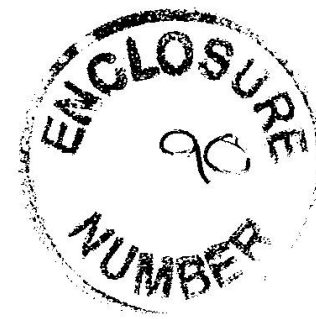
Never once did a witness say that mysterious men in black had turned up at their house after a sighting. There's a lot of paranoia out there.

"Of course, I have been accused of being part of the conspiracy myself, but you just can't win with these people."

Most scientists accept that alien life is almost a certainty, but point out that sending crewed spacecraft across interstellar space is so difficult, time-consuming and expensive that it is much more likely that aliens will choose to communicate with us using radio signals.

Meanwhile, American computer tycoon Joe Firmage has abandoned his £1.2 billion business to search for UFOs.

He believes that recent advances in technology, from silicon chips, fibre optics and lasers can be traced back to alien hardware recovered from a spacecraft which allegedly crashed near Roswell, New Mexico, in 1947.



THE TWO middle-aged likely lads used to meet every Friday at the Percy Hobbs pub near Winches-ter to sit in their usual corner, sipping ale and showing each other their latest watercolours.

But, on a lovely summer day 20 years ago, they changed the routine. Clutching their cheese rolls and pints of ale, they strode out to look at the surrounding cornfields. And that was when Doug Bower and Dave Chorley became two of the most successful con artists the world has ever seen. Doug looked at the rolling fields of corn and recalled a story he had read when he and his wife Ilene had emigrated to Australia in 1958, staying for eight years. My-terious circles had appeared like alien graffiti in a field of corn in Queensland, and it had started speculation of spacecraft land-ings and UFOs.

'How would you like a bit of a laugh,' he asked Dave. They went to Doug's picture-framing shop in Southampton, picked up the iron bar he used to secure the door and returned in the night to the cornfields. While Dave stood on one end of the 5ft bar, Doug pulled it around in a circle, bend- ing the corn carefully as he went.

For two years the growing number of cir- cles — usually 80ft across — appearing in these flat fields excited little comment. Dave wanted to quit, but Doug promised him that, one day, there would be traffic jams and hundreds of people lined up to see their crop circles while policemen tried to hold them back.

He was right. Today, there are still credu- lous people who believe that Martians have landed, leaving behind the evidence of their arrival engraved in the corn.

Some 40 books have been written about the phenomenon, notably Patrick Del- gado's bestseller *Circular Evidence*. Farm- ers have made small fortunes charging enthusiasts from all over the world entry fees to see the latest manifestation of this time-travellers have left their calling-cards. Explanations of the increasingly elabo- rate geometric patterns have ranged from spiralling wind vortices to rutting hedge- hogs tentatively running round in circles. For 13 years, Doug and Dave laughed as the experts stepped deeper and deeper into the mire, explaining the beautiful pat- terns to an ever-growing army of pilgrims.

For the first seven years Doug and Dave didn't even tell their wives that they were responsible for a craze that had gripped the nation.

Dave died two years ago and Doug, now 74, stands alone, look- ing out over the Devil's Punch- bowl at Cheesefoot Head, a 200ft green hollow in an area of out- standing natural beauty near Winchester in Hampshire.

AFTER two years of obscurity this was the turning point for us,' he says, a fond light in his eyes, his calm centre quickening with excitement. 'I realised that for people to really take note of our circles we needed a site with a viewpoint, so people could sit having picnics and look down in wonder on our work.'

One day I was driving past with Ilene and I noticed that corn was being planted here for the first time. Dave and I couldn't wait for the crop to grow. One summer night we came here and made a crop circle.

'Twenty-four hours later it was on the television news.'

Along came the experts'. It became an obsession for them, for the public and for the two likely lads. 'Eventually,' says Doug, 'we found ourselves shoulder-to- shoulder with the experts as thousands of people lay down in the circles to absorb the "cosmic energy".'

'I've been making nature record- ings at night for 25 years, so I offered to keep my eyes open for more circles. We'd make a circle at night, then I'd ring up the experts the next morning to say I'd spot- ted another one. We did 200, mostly around Warrminster in Wiltshire because it was a well- known centre for UFO sightings.'

When an Oxford meteorologist came up with a theory that down- ward-spiralling winds were creat- ing a vortex that flattened crops with its circular movement they



Confessions of the crop circle command

The Martians have landed... or have they? Many people were convinced aliens made this crop circle near Avebury



by June Southworth

were pushed into more elaborate designs, with dead straight pas- sages linking circles and decora- tive ladders that, coincidentally, resembled designs made by the Hopi Indians of North America.

Doug used to sketch them out in his studio workshop, then they would take their plank and rope around with the rope in a pas- sageway leading to another iden- tical circle.

To keep the passage line straight, Doug used a baseball cap with a hole in the visor. A wire, twisted so that it formed a circle, dangled over his left eye. He would look through this 'sight' to help him move in a straight line to where the pair would repeat the first circle.

Unlike the copy-cat pranksters who would use stilts to avoid leav- ing tell-tale access tracks, they simply moved in a high-stepping, loping course that left no trace. Any Martian watching them at work would have been sorely bemused. For Doug and Dave, they were magical nights.

It was just pure enjoyment,' he recalls, 'on those beautiful sum- mer nights for two artistic people under the stars amid all those cornfields. We were both 19th- century people really. We were in another world.'

I don't consider being on a planet for 60 years is much use if you don't leave your mark. We didn't want to make publicity. We just wanted to make fools of the

experts who were springing up everywhere.

My wife said Dave and I were like chalk and cheese, but we were a team in tune with nature.

But while they fooled the experts, they were keeping secrets much closer to home.

For seven years Ilene was kept in the dark,' says Doug, and his gentle, humorous face saddens because they've been married for 50 years and he loves her dearly. 'I was such a perfectionist you see, and keeping the secret was all a part of that.'

Doug and Ilene had met at a vil- lage wedding party in 1948 and he had wooed her with bunches of sweet peas he had grown himself and gifts of his lovely watercolour paintings.

At first, Ilene had been sur- prised, and then delighted to find the rich sense of humour behind Doug's serious face. But over the years of their happy but childless marriage, she had grown used to the twinkle in his eye and accepted those 'boys-night-out Fridays'.

SHE never for a moment thought he could be see- ing another woman, but she was his bookkeeper and became increasingly puzzled by the frequency with which his car needed servicing.

When she realised there was 26,000 miles a year on the clock at a time when their Saturday picnic excursions were getting shorter and shorter, she asked for an explanation.

It was then he confessed that he was the strictly earthbound cre- ator of the now famous crop cir- cles. She was unconvinced. It just didn't seem possible. He dumped an enormous pile of crop circle cuttings in front of her together with his original designs. When that didn't work he persuaded her to design a crop circle and took her with him while he created it in a cornfield. It became their shared secret for another six

years until Doug and Dave attempted to confess to the world in 1991 through a newspaper series.

By then he had even created a crop circle next to the home of former Chancellor of the Exche- quer Denis Healey. The great man photographed it and the picture was used in the Daily Mail under the headline 'Healey's Comet'.

The day before his confession, Doug had the good grace to go round to Patrick Delgado to warn him. It was the worst day of Del- gado's life, but he accepted defeat well.

Enough was enough, and it was time to come clean. What Doug didn't reckon on was the dogged persistence of the crop-circle fanatics. When he confessed some branded him a liar and went on looking for UFOs as imitators continued to create crop circles at the rate of 50 every summer.

When Dave was in hospital dying of cancer, Doug promised him that he would never stop try- ing to convince the world that they had been responsible for the world-famous cereal hoax.

Last Sunday, true to his word, he appeared on a BBC1 TV Coun- try Five Special on Crop Circles, telling the world once again that the only aliens, as the corn grew as high as an elephant's eye, were Doug and Dave.

Yet there is a curious twist to this engaging tale. Doug Bower, the man who debunked the UFO hunters and made monkeys out of the self-appointed experts, believes we have been visited by aliens. 'I think I was programmed

Hoaxer Doug Bower with the stick and cap he used

to do all this,' he says. 'Some force made me sit down and plan these designs. When I went to my vil- lage school as a boy in Upham, ten miles from Southampton, there was a local man who'd go to the pub every night and on his way home he'd take off every gar- den gate and leave it further up the lane.'

HE WAS known to all as a practical joker and it rubbed off on me. He was my hero. The circles were my chance to emulate him.

'But, if you ask me do I believe in UFOs, I'd have to say yes. I've seen one. I was out in the forest when I saw five lights stationary in the sky and bright as car head- lamps.'

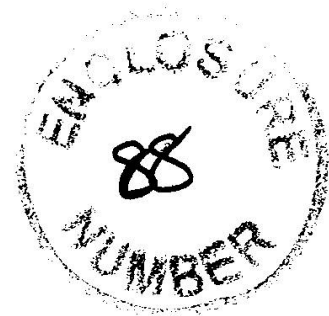
It's obvious that in all those mil- lions of planets we saw out there in the night sky there must be people out there.

'I think a planet died millions of years ago and we had a visit from its former inhabitants. There must be spacecraft buried in the sand somewhere.'

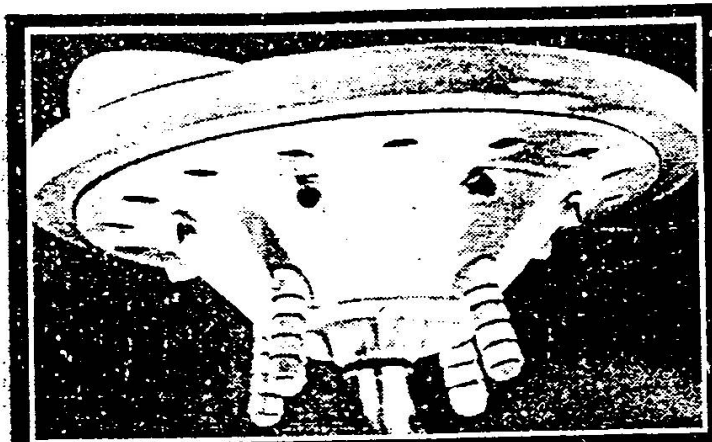
It is impossible to decide if he is joking. 'Other people made money out of the corn circles,' he smiles. 'The experts, the farmers who charged entry, but all Dave and I got really was a big laugh.'

'But it's been a wonderful expe- rience and I wouldn't have missed it for the world.'

This world and all those out there presumably.



Daily Star
13 November 1998
Page 22

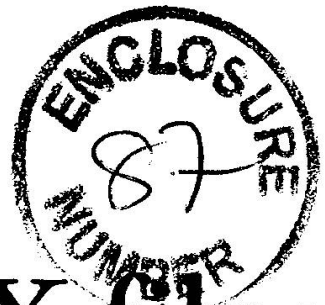


■ SEEN a flying saucer lately? Been abducted by aliens? For those of you who have, the Ministry of Defence in London has thoughtfully provided an answering machine so that you can phone in the details.

But hang on... from the House of Lords this week came a request that the machine is switched on round the clock, and not just during office hours.

The suggestion was made by none other than Admiral of the Fleet The Lord Hill-Norton, former Chief of the Defence Staff and chairman of the Nato Military Committee.

Does he know something that the rest of us don't?



Independent On Sunday

21 November 1998

Page 11

Police open their X-files on UFO encounters

A GROUP of retired and serving police officers are risking ridicule by coming forward to tell all about their alleged encounters with UFOs.

More than 20 officers have responded to an advertisement in *Police Review* inviting them to recount their close encounters of the third kind. These include stories of alien abduction and gigantic blocks of light hovering above their squad cars.

At least two former officers claim to have photographic evidence of their meetings with extraterrestrials.

Their extraordinary stories are to be collected in a new book *Policing the UFO*, to include interviews with at least 20 former and serving police officers and as many as 200 recorded incidents involving police from around the world. Many of the examples from the second category will be taken from previously unreleased Ministry of Defence papers.

The book's author, Irene Bott, has chosen to concentrate on

BY JASON BENNETTO

police officers because of their relative position of trust in society. "They are less likely to be written off as cranks, loonies or anoraks," she explained.

Others may, however, think they are boldly going beyond the call of duty and risking ridicule and professional suicide.

For this reason, many officers appear to have waited until they have left the police service before speaking out, although others who contacted the researchers feel so strongly about what they have witnessed that they are prepared to be named.

The reported encounters include:

■ An officer who claims to have been abducted and medically examined by aliens in the 1980s. The former officer, who has yet to give the full details of his case, is said to have been out driving when he experienced disturbances to his vehicle followed by memory loss. He later recalled, via hypnosis, being

taken aboard a space craft and examined by aliens.

■ A police officer says he took five photographs of a UFO while on duty in the West Midlands in the 1980s, but that the MoD confiscated them.

■ A policeman and woman were out on patrol in the countryside and saw lights and a cylindrical object in the sky.

■ An officer who saw a disc shaped object hovering 20ft above the road.

■ A police officer who, in the 1970s while on duty, saw a wedge-shaped object in the sky that was about four storeys high and 50ft long.

■ Declassified MoD papers from the 1950s to the 1970s that report investigations into reported sightings by police officers and incidents at military bases. The files name police officers involved and allegedly include accounts of helicopters being sent after UFOs.

There have also been several reports from officers in Sussex – one as recently as last month – an area

which is considered a fruitful zone for UFO sightings.

While the majority of the police officers who have been in contact are retired, some are serving and include an Inspector.

Ms Bott said: "In a court of law the person who is most believed is usually a policeman. Also, these people are out day and night observing things around them so they are excellent witnesses.

"A UFO is simply an unidentified flying object, it's not little green men.

"Many officers do not want to talk about it openly while they are

still serving because they can kiss their promotion chances goodbye."

So far she has been in touch with about 20 serving and former officers – two serving officers contacted her a couple of weeks ago and claim to have seen UFOs in the past month.

Nick Redfern, an author of several books on UFOs, who is assisting Ms Bott with her project, added: "These people are willing to fly in the face of potential ridicule, which shows how strongly they feel about what they have witnessed – these are strong, credible witnesses."

One of those to come forward

was former Pc John Hanson. His encounter with a UFO took place on the evening of 14 June 1995.

Mr Hanson, 52, who retired from the West Midlands police force in 1994, after 27 years service, was at his home near Redditch, Worcestershire, when he looked out of his bedroom window.

"I saw a silver pear-shaped ball of light hovering over a tree," he recalled. "It was about 40ft off the ground, and about 20ft long and 5ft wide.

"Immediately opposite was a red cigar-shaped object, about 30ft tall.

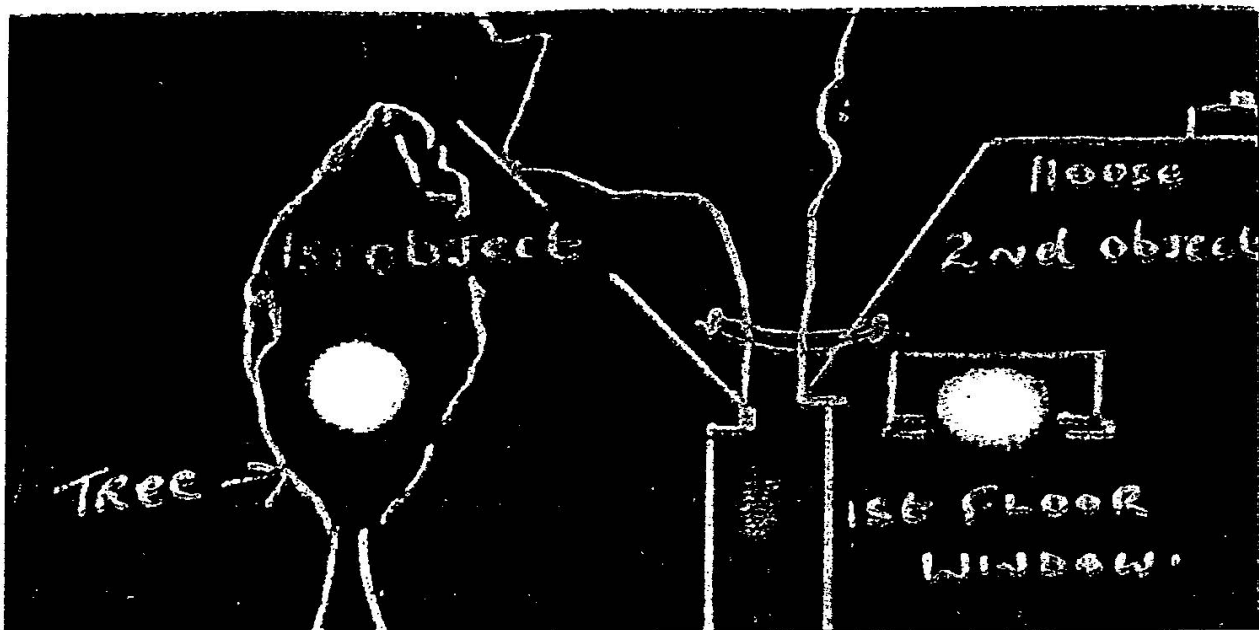
"The pear ball suddenly moved and there was a piece cut out of it like a wedge of cheese. It then changed into the shape of a jelly bean and jumped onto the cigar shaped object. The two objects then fused together, produced a rippling light and were gone."

He said the whole episode lasted about five minutes and took place at 10.35pm, and that a similar sighting took place 20 miles away on the same night.

"I am not talking about flying saucers or space men, but an unidentified object – some form of energy source," he added.

continues.

11



Flying squad: former police officer John Hanson (right) and part of the video he claims shows a UFO near his home

ANDREW FOX

ends.

A Sun CUT-OUT-AND-KEEP GUIDE

HOW TO AVOID BEING ABDUCTED BY ALIENS

MENTAL STRUGGLE

USE IT: In the first stages of abduction (symptoms: paralysis and a general feeling of terror), or when your mind is still able to function—although you may not be able to move.

WHAT YOU NEED: Confidence that the technique will work.

HOW TO DO IT: Concentrate all your energy on moving one small part of the body—preferably a finger or a toe. It comes down to willpower, patience and a high IQ.

RESULT: When movement occurs paralysis is broken and the visitor vanishes—supposedly scared off by your finger pointing.

SUN RATING: 3—Who can be bothered thinking that much at 3.30am? Probably better to go back to sleep and let the aliens do what they came for.

Besides, any ET who has travelled to faraway galaxies is hardly likely to be afraid of some toe-wagging.

PHYSICAL STRUGGLE

USE IT: Before you can't move. There is a belief that aliens travel on light and their bodies are very fragile.

WHAT YOU NEED: To feel your rights are being violated, a good left-hook, or a heavy kitchen appliance.

HOW TO DO IT: The urge to fight should be swift and instinctive. It can be used when the aliens are present or seen approaching outdoors. Get angry and lunge at them.

RESULT: The intent should never be to kill the intruder, but to warn them you like your privacy.

SUN RATING: 5—Dancing around like Prince Naseem should be enough to scare away any unearthly being.

This worked for Will Smith in Independence Day. But avoid the technique if the alien has a ray gun. Being zapped hurts, so just say sorry and offer to buy it a pint.

RIGHTEOUS ANGER

USE IT: Before paralysis sets in or combined with Mental Struggle. This technique is best used after repeated visits or abductions by aliens.

WHAT YOU NEED: To be awake, fearless and believe that all humans have a right to life and liberty—very American.

HOW TO DO IT: Take up a threatening stance and just shout strong commands at the alien like: "Go away" or "Leave me alone".

RESULT: Shows the visitor you are not going quietly. But the anger must be focused towards asserting rights rather than hating the aliens. It's a purely emotional technique.

SUN RATING: 1—What self-respecting alien monster is going to be worried about a human in pyjamas shouting: "Go away"?

Instead, blast out a few Max Bygraves hits—if that doesn't work, nothing will.

ARE you worried about being abducted by aliens? Are the ETs giving you the DTs?

Fear not. The Sun's five-point plan will help you avoid being kidnapped by a Klingon or spirited away by an outer space spook.

No, we haven't been watching too many episodes of the X Files. A flying saucer dropped off a mystical new book at our Wapping HQ called *How To Defend Yourself Against Alien Abduction*. And we feel it is our duty to pass on its message.

Yes, the truth is in there... apparently.

Author Ann Druffel has spoken to more than 250 abductees and has come up with some alien-zapping tips.

Here Sun writer DAVID GARFINKEL picks the best—with his ratings out of ten. *How To Defend Yourself Against Alien Abduction* (Piatkus, £8.99).



SPACE SPOOK... artist's impression of enemy alien

PROTECTIVE RAGE

USE IT: To protect other members of your household—children and those who cannot look after themselves.

It is even effective after an abduction, helping prevent future UFO visits.

WHAT YOU NEED: Strong assertive voice and a good knowledge of rude words.

HOW TO DO IT: Focus on the intruder. Think of the family members you love and then curse to your heart's content.

But remember the "anger" cannot be rooted in fear or despair—try and be positive.

RESULT: If you hold no grudge or hatred, then the ET should get the message—it's a bit similar to exorcism.

SUN RATING: 9—If nothing else the alien should break down in fits of laughter. Then jump in with *Physical Struggle* and give it a good bashing.

But if you use this technique after the aliens have gone, make sure your neighbours understand you're not swearing at them.

APPEAL TO SPIRITUAL

WHEN TO USE IT: Effective whether you are asleep, on the toilet, or in any kind of "altered state"—such as after visiting the pub.

The most powerful technique yet discovered, since it can be readily used by most people.

WHAT YOU NEED: Faith in a spiritual realm, after-life or angels. Basically, anything remotely religious.

HOW TO DO IT: Crouch down in front of the alien and start praying or waving the Bible.

If the sky doesn't open up and strike the alien down, call a priest to come and help out.

RESULT: As long as the alien isn't an atheist then it will get back on board its UFO and bother someone else.

SUN RATING: 6—Praying for a miracle may seem a good idea, but so is running away.

Ask yourself this question: "Have any of my prayers ever come true?" If not, quickly move onto the other techniques as someone up there obviously doesn't like you.

6415



The Times

1 November 1998

Page 1

Whitehall slow to take own advice over bug

BY VALERIE ELLIOTT
WHITEHALL EDITOR

NINE Whitehall departments and agencies will be named today as the worst prepared inside the Government to cope with the millennium bug.

Topping the "high-risk" list of those whose computer systems may not recognise the date change from 1999 to 2000, are the Department of Trade and Industry, the Home Office, the Foreign Office, the Ministry of Defence, the Northern Ireland Office, the Environment Agency, the Medicines Control Agency, the NHS Estates and the Office of National Statistics.

According to analysis of the departments' own plans, computer experts believe the nine are struggling to meet their own targets, are slipping behind deadlines and have not even started programmes of spot checks on their systems.

Delays are likely to cost a total of up to £10 billion, as opposed to the £3 billion forecast by Tony Blair last March.

But Taskforce 2000, an independent company which has analysed information published by Whitehall, fears the picture could be even worse in the wider public sector, with emergency services under threat, and possible disruption of nuclear power stations, the Post Office, broadcasting and the utility companies.

In a separate report yesterday the Audit Commission also warned that a number of local authorities and NHS Trusts were lagging behind in their preparations to deal with the bug. Andrew Foster, the director, said he would publish a league table of the offending bodies in the spring if action was not taken.

The Independent

11 November 1998

Page 8

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Defence head

The Prime Minister has appointed the businessman Tony Edwards as the Head of Defence Export Services, Defence Secretary George Robertson announced.

The Independent

11 November 1998

Page 4

Wednesday Review

PANDORA

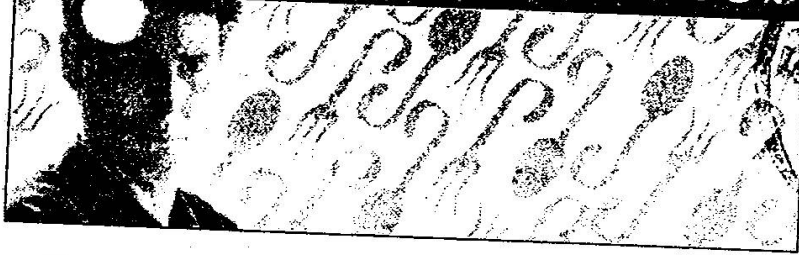
YOU CAN scoff at the House of Lords, but then a moment comes along that makes you wonder how we could ever do without the old duffers. Such a moment arrived recently when the following question was addressed to Her Majesty's Government: "Whether they will ensure that the answering-machine that the Ministry of Defence uses both to explain its policy on unidentified flying objects and to provide a facility for the public to report

sightings is turned on at all times and not switched off outside working hours."

Scoff if you want, but you'll be deriding Admiral of the Fleet The Lord Hill-Norton, one of this nation's foremost military minds and former Chief of the Defence Staff and chairman of the Nato Military Committee. He must know something.

25

Uri Geller's Weird Web



Screen out alien communications

Finally, someone has invented a screensaver that does more than turn your monitor into a virtual fishtank. The sky-watchers at SETI — the Search for Extra-Terrestrial Intelligence — are designing software to enable PC-users to analyse data from distant galaxies.

Scientists at the SETI Institute hope to involve a million computer enthusiasts by the millennium. "You can participate by running a screensaver program that downloads and analyses radio telescope data," the online mission statement explains. "There's a small but captivating possibility that your computer will detect the faint murmur of a civilisation beyond Earth."

The project echoes Jodie Foster's alien-spotting role in the movie *Contact*, and is set to begin in April. If you wish to apply, send your email address to <http://www.setiathome.ssl.berkeley.edu/> and wait for the first Arecibo radio telescope data to be released.

Arecibo in Puerto Rico is the world's largest and most sensitive stargazer. Though it sees only a small percentage of the sky at any one time, the incoming noise from space is incal-

culably deafening. Up to now, SETI's best efforts, scanning millions of frequencies simultaneously, have analysed only a fraction of the noise. What have they missed?

If 50,000 PCs worldwide combine to sift data downloads using the SETI screensaver, they will match the scale of the Institute's current megabuck experiment, Project Phoenix.

If 500,000 PCs combine, the home PC users will become the biggest scientific machine in the known universe. And who

knows, one of us may find a regular, artificial, electronic whisper, pulsing in the chaos of space.

Check out the main SETI site at <http://www.seti-inst.edu/> which features a great site for school students. And before you switch on your alien-finder, spare a

thought for Aaron Blosser. He was a US West telecommunications contractor who programmed his bosses' 2,500 computers to search for million-digit prime numbers as part of an Internet project.

As a result, says company spokesman David Beigie, US West's databases were slowed to a quarter of their usual speed. Blosser could now face a prison sentence.

'Your computer could detect civilisation beyond Earth'

File 64/5.

THE TIMES. 26 OCT 98.

FROM FROM CRO WALES

10.28.1998 11:52

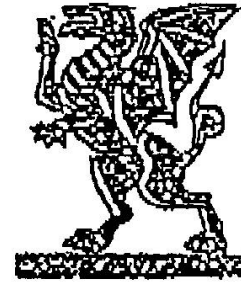
P. 1



MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
RAF COMMUNITY RELATIONS OFFICER (WALES)

Room 2-04 New Dolanog House
Severn Road Welshpool Powys SY21 7DA

Tel : [REDACTED]
GPTN & Fax: Worcester MOD [REDACTED]



FACSIMILE TRANSMISSION COVER SHEET

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[REDACTED]

SEC (AS) 26.

From:

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28 Oct 98

Number of Pages Sent (Including Cover Sheet): *2.*

Message/Subject:

[REDACTED]

This is the story you are looking for. I'm sorry it is a poor quality copy, but it reached us via many hands. If you can't read it, please let me know. Regards,

[REDACTED]

PLEASE ADVISE PROMPTLY IF TRANSMISSION IS ILLEGIBLE OR INCOMPLETE

28 OCT 1998

→ 6415

South WALES EVENING POST

14 OCT 98

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South Wales Evening Post

Mystery caller says jets involved in aerobatics

UFO sightings are blamed on aircraft

By PAUL TURNER

TWO jets doing high altitude aerobatics are claimed to be behind some of the supposed UFO sightings in Swansea.

But mystery still surrounds sightings of helicopters seen in the area at the same time.

The claim about the jets was made by an anonymous caller who said they were flying between Swansea and Cardiff.

He said the jets, which were painted silver, were practising knife-edge flying at high altitudes, where they travel with their wings in a vertical position.

From the ground this would give you the concept of something flying without wings," said the caller, who refused to identify himself.

Exercises

He said the Sea King helicopters seen in the area were on exercises from Sennybridge Barracks.

Aircraft controller at Swansea Airport, David Healey confirmed two de Havilland aircraft had returned there from Cardiff.

Their return was at around dusk last Thursday when many of the UFO sightings took place, he added.

"They are silver and they are quite unusually shaped aeroplanes because they have a short wing span and quite a large tail area," said Mr Healey.

He could not comment on whether the De Havillands had been involved in aerobatics.

The source of the helicopters remains unknown.

RAF Chivenor and Sennybridge Barracks have both denied they came from there.

one seeking was from RAF Valley, the other from RAF Chivenor. They had permission to both land at Swansea airport to swap a piece of equipment. They landed there after the airport had closed. Also in the area were old 'Vampire' planes (now for sale, out of service) + these could have been mistaken for the 'UFO'.



28 Oct 98

Date of incident: 8 Oct 98

END

ENCLOSURE
82
NUMBER

**

Look out for the night of the meteor

GAZE upwards tonight and brace yourselves for one of the most spectacular displays ever to light up the skies over Britain. Astronomers say a dramatic meteor storm should occur between 6pm and midnight as the Earth passes through debris from an enormous comet.

This band of rocky material has already produced two of the greatest shows of shooting stars this century, in 1933 and 1947. And tonight the conditions are right for another appearance of these blazing meteors, the Gacobinids. British observers may see more than one meteor a second streaking across the northern sky.

Last night Robin Scagell, vice-president of the Society for Popular Astronomy, said: 'You can never be quite sure what's going to happen with meteors. It depends whether we plough through a particular concentration of meteor particles. But the chances of it are rather better than winning £10 on the National Lottery, and it's well

worth going out to have a look in the evening. It will be clearly visible.'

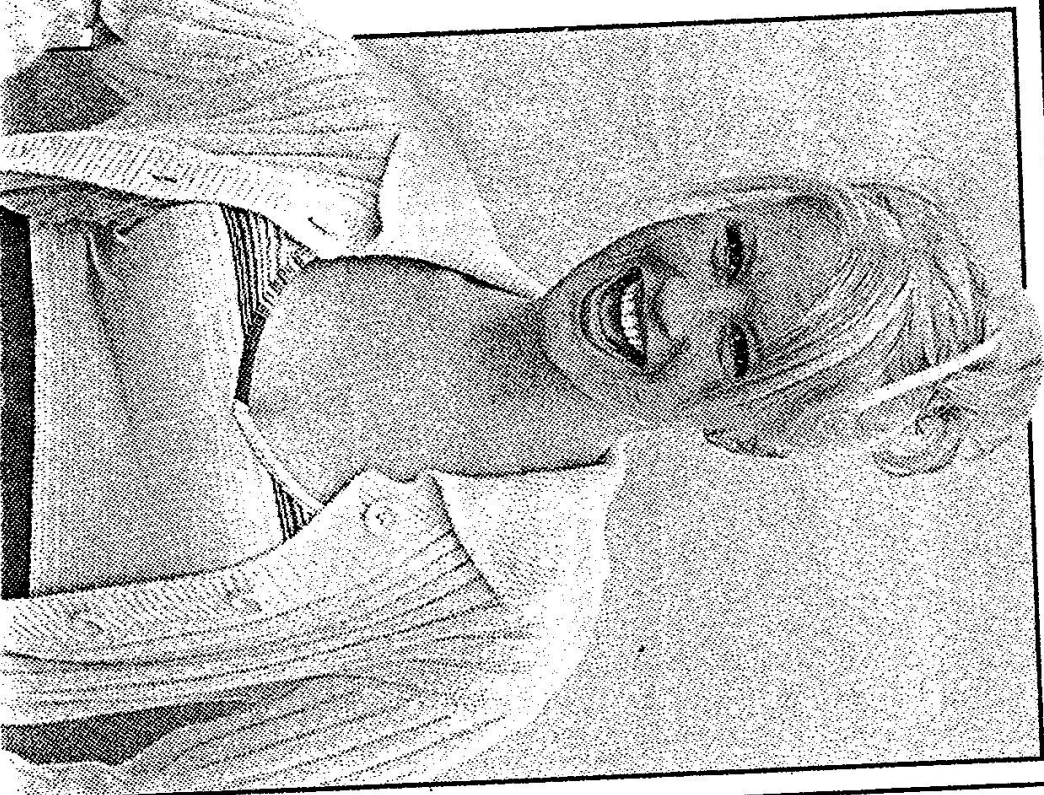
A spokesman for the Royal Astronomical Society said that if the meteors appeared, they would be seen in the direction of the constellation of Draco. The best viewing time should be at about 10pm.

'Roughly speaking, you should face north, but if it does kick off they will be streaking all over the place,' he said, adding that the display could be partially obscured by cloud. Even if the Gacobinids meteors make an appearance, they will be feeble in comparison with another meteor family, the Leonids, expected next month. They are predicted to produce a full-scale celestial storm of nearly 2,000 meteors a minute.

Unfortunately Britain is unlikely to experience the full, dazzling effect. Asia is expected to be on the side of the Earth heading into the Leonid meteor swarm. But in Britain the Leonids are expected to put on some kind of show on November 17 and 18.

64/5.

Tired Denise quits the Big Breakfast for Johnnie Chan



Threat the Do Tube li over pe

Daily Mail, Thursday, October 15, 1998

THE Millennium Dome facing a fresh crisis tonight over a vital Transport for London decision to limit the maximum 48-hour working time for its prestige project. About 500 electricians threatening to disrupt the Jubilee Line extension should carry thousands to the Dome site in South-East London.

The men, some earning a week, are demanding money in return for working longer than the maximum, laid down in the contract.

The long-delayed project is to be fully operational by September - close to the opening on December 10.

Yesterday, Transport for London experts said any more work would cost £2.7 billion. The ready-to-go project in January would cost £1.2 billion.

That would embolden the Government, and Transport Secretary Peter Mandelson all but staked his reputation on its success. Without roads would jam solid.

The electricians are putting in 66 hours, unless they get eight for seven days' work down tools after 48 hours.

Marty

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EXPOSED TOP-SECRET BASE SPIES ON ALIENS

News Of The World
13 September 1998
Page 11



WEIRD

MACON the black eagle, an RAF mascot, needed treatment after a flight from a Wiltshire base to Scotland-for airsickness.

WORLD

GS-f.i.

EXCLUSIVE by NIGEL NELSON

THIS is the top secret airforce base which a former defence chief believes is used to spy on alien activity above Britain.

Lord Hill-Norton, chief of the defence staff in the Seventies, is convinced that a United States Air Force squadron in Suffolk is tracking UFOs which may threaten Earth.

"There's something fishy at the base and I am puzzled," he told me. "I have asked a number of questions about the base and never get a satisfactory answer."

The Ministry of Defence did admit that RAF Feltwell has a special US unit "tracking man-made objects in deep space".

But it refused to answer Hill-Norton's question about how many objects remain unidentified and how many of these were transmitting a signal" citing the need for secrecy.



PUZZLED: Hill-Norton

Entitled

An MoD spokesman said: "We are entitled to refuse certain information on topics which we consider to be sensitive."

But he did admit that UFOs would be tracked if they were spotted.

"They need to catalogue everything up in space," he added.

Officially, the US 5th Space Surveillance Squadron is part of Britain's early warning system to protect against missile attack from space.

But Lord Hill-Norton will not accept that it is there purely to defend us against earthling enemies.

"For a start, there are no

man-made objects in interstellar space. So I want to know what they are really doing.

"And I want to know what the Government is doing about the UFO problem.

"There are things flying about in our atmosphere and we don't know what they are, who directs them or what their purpose might be. We ought to know."

Lord Hill-Norton believes that UFOs are the product of "extra-terrestrial intelligences".

He added: "There is overwhelming evidence that there are physical objects in Earth's atmosphere and they are not man-made."

The light way to track an alien

Scientists have a new way of contacting extraterrestrials, says Nicholas Booth

If ET is trying to contact us, he won't be phoning — he will use the powerful flashlights that are lasers to draw our attention. Like lighthouses on the unexplored seas of space, these unique flashes of laser light, which astronomers can detect with simple equipment, will soon tell us whether any stars are harbouring advanced civilisations.

That is the startling claim of the American inventor of the laser, Charles Townes, who has long urged his colleagues to look for such tell-tale signs of alien intelligence. All scientific searches to date have involved listening for radio signals from alien civilisations; now a team from the University of California at Berkeley will use a simple, antiquated telescope to try to spot the laser flashes.

At 83, Professor Townes, a Nobel prize-winner, is delighted to be vindicated. "I proposed this idea in the Sixties," he says. "Now a group of astronomers will start to make a search this autumn. I am very pleased."

This attempt is the start of a new era of astronomy. The method is, according to the astronomer in charge, "embarrassingly simple". Embarrassing because it could have been undertaken at any time in the past four decades, but Professor Townes's notion of looking, rather than listening, was largely ignored.

"If there are aliens sending us messages by laser, we will see them," says Dan Werthimer, the director of Berkeley's Search for Extraterrestrial Intelligence (SETI) programme.

Unlike the aliens in movies, who frequently speak English, the real ones would probably not use Morse code. "They would send very short, powerful pulses of laser light that would be unmistakable. It doesn't require that much energy to do," Dr Werthimer says.

Later this autumn, he and his colleagues will use a 30in telescope — modest by professional standards — at Mount Leuschner, about 20 miles east of Berkeley, to look for laser flashes. Light captured by the telescope will be split into two and fall on to photo-multiplier tubes, which will amplify the signal. If both see unusual flashes at specific wavelengths — lasting perhaps a few billionths of a second, with a power output greater than that of the stars they are looking at — they will have hit the jackpot.

Seeing signals in the two separate halves of the beam means that they could not be artefacts of the detection process.

Lasers are the only way that bursts of light could be sufficiently concentrated. As with the powerful search beams of a lighthouse, they could be directed to specific stars such as our Sun. Lasers work by exciting gas atoms and forcing them to give up their energy in the form of an intense flash of light.

"We could easily send a message into space to other civilisations," Professor Townes says. His Berkeley colleagues agree. According to Dr Werthimer, you could attach a simple laser to an optical telescope and direct it to nearby stars and send messages. "You could do that with a laser that transmits one megawatt," Dr Werthimer says. "That's about the same power as a television station."

But that is far into the future. For the moment, the Berkeley team is starting its own modest search; improbably, this opti-

cal work will cost just \$20,000 (£11,400) a year, a sign of the times for SETI research. Searching for aliens has been criticised by some as a kind of wishful thinking, a subject without a science. And American legislators certainly agree: Nasa's ambitious program of SETI research using radio telescopes was cancelled in 1993.

However, with private funding from supporters such as the science fiction author Arthur C. Clarke and the film director Steven Spielberg, SETI struggles on.

Others have said that finding evidence for alien civilisation will be impossible. A similar thing was said to Professor Townes during the late 1940s after he proposed the forerunner of the laser, the maser (which produces microwave radiation rather than light). As a researcher at Bell Labs in New Jersey, he was a world expert on microwave spectroscopy, the probing of gases using radio waves. He realised that by using molecules to amplify signals, he could generate a powerful source of radiation. After he discussed the method in a scientific journal 50 years ago, "more than one Nobel laureate said it would never work. It was viewed as a crazy, cute idea and there wasn't much to it."

Early one spring morning in 1951, while sitting on a park bench in Washington, Professor Townes had what he calls "divine inspiration" of how to make a maser work and its possible applications. "I recognised that it could be a sensitive amplifier or atomic clock," he says.

Throughout the 1950s, the wavelengths used to probe gases were made progressively shorter — so much so that he could get down to optical wavelengths. Together with his brother-in-law, Arthur Schawlow, he developed the laser. Accordingly, Townes won the Nobel Prize in 1964 (along with two Russians who had independently come across the same principle). Lasers can now be found everywhere, from supermarkets to home CD players to hospitals.

"It comes home to me when I hear of friends who have had their sight restored," Professor Townes says. "To me, it was clear that the most important uses would come from connecting up optics and electronics."

Proof positive comes from the telescope now being used by Dr Werthimer's team (it is normally used to train Berkeley undergraduates). In 1959 — the same year in which a workable maser was developed — two radio astronomers declared that detecting radio signals would be the only way to find aliens. As a result, the scientific community tended to dismiss any other wavelengths that could be used to send messages.

By the mid-1960s, Professor Townes had moved to Berkeley and was working at the Space Science lab. By then, his idea was bolstered by the discovery of naturally existing masers in space. There are vast clouds of gas between the stars which can act as masers. Their constituent molecules are naturally excited to such an extent that they amplify microwaves across the vast firmament of the heavens.

Any sufficiently advanced alien civilisation would be well aware of that and could emulate the process. Professor Townes points out that these clouds have



Is alien life out there? A simple laser can be attached to an optical telescope to transmit messages into space

been emitting intense radiation in all directions, but it was only recently that humanity has acknowledged their existence.

"If we'd have found them earlier, then we could have developed the laser sooner," Professor Townes says. "We didn't look. Other civilisations might have taken their cue from natural masers in space."

This autumn, the Berkeley group will systematically look at 2,500 nearby stars. The criterion is fairly simple: they will be Sun-like stars, around which planets like ours — and corresponding civilisations — could have evolved.

All involved agree that the search is a long shot, with truly astronomical odds against it.

But the final word goes to Professor Townes, who insists that, as with the invention of the laser, the discovery of life in space is simply a matter of looking hard enough.

"We don't know what we will find, so we must keep looking."

The Berkeley group will look at 2,500 stars

...minimum wage by insist- should follow the practice adopted
 in a rate of £4.61 instead of the by the last five Labour leaders.

re: BBC

Uncle Tom of the Archers dies at 87

By Daniel Waddell

THE actor Bob Arnold, known to millions of radio listeners as Tom Forrest in *The Archers*, died yesterday. He was 87.

He had played the part of "Uncle" Tom Forrest in the BBC Radio 4 soap opera since 1951. He died at his daughter's home in Salisbury, Wilts, from liver failure.

A spokesman for the BBC said the cast was "devastated" by the news of his death.

"They are in mourning. Bob played Uncle Tom in the series, but was also an uncle to the cast in real life. He was exceptionally popular," he said.

Vanessa Whitburn, the programme's editor, paid tribute to the contribution Arnold made to the programme, which attracts four million regular listeners.

"For nearly half a century Bob Arnold delighted millions of Archers fans with his portrayal of Tom Forrest," she said.

"Bob was an original — a true countryman who turned out also to be an extremely talented actor."

Arnold was born in Asth-

all, Oxon, in 1910, the son of a village publican.

When the series was launched on Jan 1, 1951, its founder Godfrey Baseley thought Arnold's regional accent was "too recognisable" but he relented and, three months later, Tom Forrest made his first appearance that March.

For 30 years his character preceded the show's omnibus edition with a short introduction called Nature Notes.

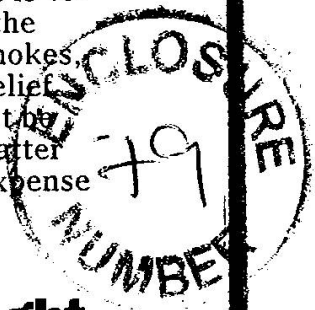
During his time in the show the character enjoyed a long and happy marriage to the formidable Pru. Her voice was featured in the programme during the Fifties but did not appear for several years afterwards until Dame Judi Dench guested as Pru in the 10,000th episode in 1989.

The Archers is Britain's longest running drama serial. People who have played themselves in the series include the Duke of Westminster, Terry Wogan, Annela Rice, Dame Edna Everage and Britt Ekland. Princess Margaret played herself in 8,715th episode in 1984, when she visited an Ambridge fashion show.

It acknowledges that in an ideal world, children would be placed with parents of the same background. But these factors should not be allowed to stop what may be the child's best chance of a happy and secure future, it says.

Paul Boateng, the

children for adoption because one of the prospective parents is 40-plus, or is deemed the wrong colour, or smokes, or because of the belief that the family must be kept together no matter what, even at the expense of the child's best interests," he said.



Sacked smoker's tribunal fight

A SMOKER plans to take his former employer to an industrial tribunal, claiming he was sacked for allegedly lighting a cigarette in his car after work.

John Dixon, 54, lost his job as a supervisor at Parkside Flexible Packaging in Leeds, which has a no-smoking policy, after managers videoed a flash in his car as he drove off at the end of his shift.

Mr Dixon, of Outwood, near Wakefield, West Yorks, said he was shown the video nine weeks later and told the "most reasonable conclusion" for the flash was that he was lighting a cigarette. He denied smoking.

RSC may demolish theatre

The Royal Shakespeare Company may demolish its theatre in Stratford-upon-Avon, which it says is unsuited to modern productions.

Adrian Noble, the RSC director, has reportedly approached an architect to design a new building to replace the 1932 Art Deco riverside theatre as part of an £80 million redevelopment plan.

Ian Rowley, an RSC

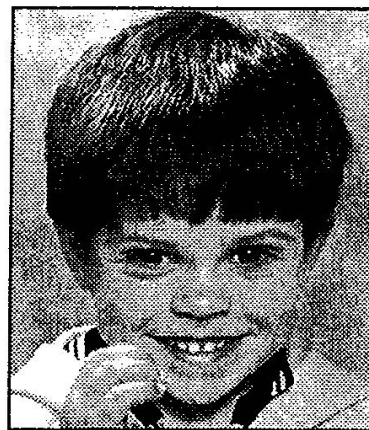
spokesman, said the brick building's stage was increasingly unsuitable for modern drama and seating and front-of-house facilities were also desperately in need of refurbishment.

However, the Art Deco frontage is listed Grade 2 starred and may be preserved in the redevelopment plan, partly funded by National Lottery cash.

Boy, four, died in holiday pool

A four-year-old boy drowned in a pool at the start of a family holiday after his parents took their eyes off him for a moment, an inquest in Woking, Surrey, heard.

Elliot Ribbi, of Frimley, may have tripped at La Manga complex, near Alicante, Spain. He was found without his armbands which he always wore in the water. Verdict: accidental death.



Elliot Ribbi: drowned

Watch out for a green sky

A spectacular auroral display was predicted all over Britain last night and tonight. The aurora is the result of a major blast of wind released after a huge coronal mass ejection from the Sun. Satellite and power line operators braced themselves for possible damage.

"You are looking for a green and reddish glow," Dr Andrew Coates, of the Mullard space science laboratory, said yesterday. "The best time is a couple of hours before midnight and a little bit after midnight."

DAILY TELEGRAPH 28/8/98.

a fatigue, poll finds

the good and she was much loved by the nation.

"I think that on this anniversary I will pray for her soul. And I would like to think now that we can get on with life and leave the kind of hype of the thing behind."

His remarks were supported by the Bishop of Birmingham, the Rt Rev Mark Santer, who said: "It is time to let Diana rest in peace."

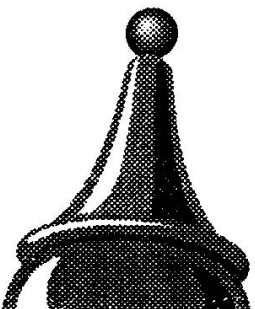
Tony Blair will attend a service of prayer with the

Prince of Wales and his sons and other members of the Royal Family at Balmoral.

A Downing Street spokesman said that his presence did not make the occasion a national event.

Nigel Evans, the Conservatives' constitutional affairs spokesman, said he believed that the public would increasingly focus on the Princess's causes rather than "dwelling unhealthily" on her death.

For a mortgage that won't go up,[†]
 come this way.



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Reports of UFOs vanish mysteriously into space

UNCLASSIFIED
78
NUMBER 64/5

By JAMES LANDALE, POLITICAL REPORTER

THE little green men from outer space have packed their bags, fired up their flying saucers and headed home. Or perhaps we have just become a little less credulous.

Reported sightings of UFOs have fallen dramatically in Britain in the past year, according to the Ministry of Defence. In 1996, 609 people told the ministry that they had seen an unidentified flying object. Last year, the figure dropped to 425. In the first six months of this year only 88 people reported sightings.

Ministry officials differed from UFO experts yesterday in explaining the decline. A ministry spokesman suggested that Hollywood was to blame. The unusually high 1996 figures had, he said, been prompted by the film *Independence Day*, with its story of aliens trying to destroy Earth. This was compounded by *Men in Black*, last year's film about aliens living on our planet. Similarly high numbers occurred after *Close Encounters of the Third Kind* in the

late 1970s, when sightings rocketed from 435 to 750.

The spokesman added that the Hale-Bopp comet and last year's 50th anniversary of an American pilot coining the term "flying saucer" had contributed to the figures. "There was a series of films and events in 1996 and 1997 which triggered off a spate of reports from the public," he said. "In contrast, this year we have had the World Cup."

His theory has a flaw: UFO sightings dropped from 600 to 250 after *ET* hit the screens in 1982. Nick Pope, a UFO expert and civil

servant who investigated sightings for the ministry between 1991 and 1994, was sceptical of the films theory: "The idea of a link is an attempt to try to trivialise the UFO project."

Graham Birdsall, editor of *UFO Magazine*, said official reports of sightings had declined because the ministry decided last year to stop taking them in person over the telephone, installing an answering machine instead. This put people off making a report.

He claimed that the official figures represented only 10 per cent of UFO sightings, most of which went unreported because observers were afraid of being mocked. Many other reports, made to the police and airports, did not reach the ministry.

The official figures were given in a written parliamentary answer to Lord Hill-Norton, the 83-year-old former First Sea Lord and UFO aficionado. His only comment yesterday was that he did not think the number of sightings had dropped.



Times
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Financial Times
06 August 1998
Page 25



Anyone there?

It seems not everyone's impressed with Tony Blair's Britain. If news of his ascendancy has reached far-flung galaxies there's precious little interest among aliens in taking a closer look.

One of defence minister Lord Gilbert's last jobs before his summer holidays was to report on sightings of unidentified flying objects. The 1996 total of 609 fell to 425 last year - and only 88 were recorded in the first six months of this year.

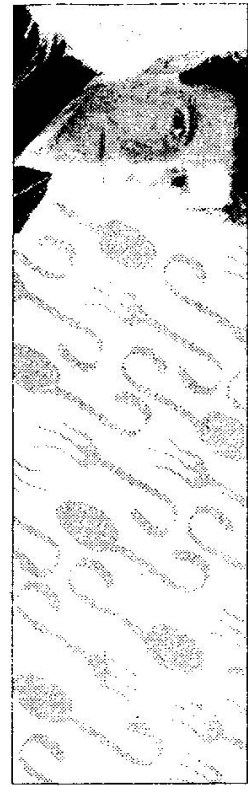
Gilbert says the Ministry of Defence has only "limited interest" in UFOs - and none at all if they're friendly. But the MoD still has a special telephone line to handle matters intergalactic. What's more, they've even installed an answering machine - presumably to make sure they don't miss any calls from Alpha Centauri while the earthlings are in Chiantishire.



AUGUST 12 1998

5

Uri Geller's Weird Web



Here's something to try at home. Take a handful of wheat seeds, and plant them. In another pot, sow more seeds — taken from a crop circle. See which grows faster.

If crop circle investigator Paul Vigay is right, the mysterious force which creates intricate patterns in fields doesn't just flatten corn — it genetically improves it.

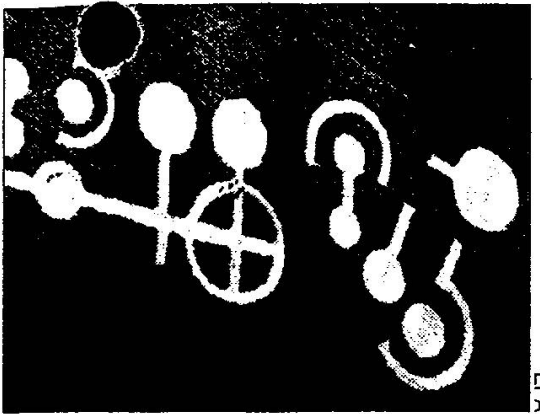
To find a crop circle near you, turn to <http://www.interalpha.net/customer/pvigay/circles.html> and get e-mail alerts to every fresh formation. You can expect your mailbox to be busy — there have been about 200 circles every year this decade. Can all these be hoaxes? Last

month a series of circles on Milk Hill in Wiltshire was blamed on the BBC's *Country File* team, and a national newspaper is believed to have commissioned another fraud at nearby Silbury Hill. But these are just two — out of scores.

How could hoaxers generate the high radioactive levels Vigay says he found at some circles? Why would radio interference increase? Why do dowers' rods start twitching inside the corn formations? Why does electronic apparatus such as mobile phones suddenly go haywire?

UFO spotters have been flocking to the East Field at Alton Barnes, near Devizes, since a snowflake design was etched into the corn last month. One woman believes she has caught on video three silver globes moving inside the crop circle. Army helicopters have been seen in profusion, and many witnesses insist they watched a helicopter chasing a sphere across the field. Crop circle researcher Colin Andrews says a Japanese film crew there are delighted — they have filmed bizarre occurrences seven nights running.

Hoax or otherwise, crop circles are great artworks. The best images online are at <http://cropcircleconnector.com/anasaki/connector.html>.



A crop circle, or a prank?

Play your cards right



Answers your computer problems

Computer questions can be e-mailed to help@dtkeyboard.co.uk or posted to Dr Keyboard, Interface, The Times, 1 Pennington Street, London E1 9BD enclosing a SAE. Dr Keyboard's fact sheets are available from the same address if you enclose a large SAE marked with the required fact sheet number(s). They are available in Info Times on The Times website (<http://www.the-times.co.uk>) or by e-mail from factsheets@dtkeyboard.co.uk

- 1 Computer Basics
- 2 Brands to buy
- 3 The Internet
- 4 Upgrades
- 5 Data
- 6 Transfers
- 7 Security
- 8 Where to buy

Q: The reader refused a refund by Dixons for Windows 98 software should contact his credit card company if he paid by card. I bought some software by mail order last year. It came without any written instructions so I loaded it and tried to run the Tour on the Help menu. This caused my computer to crash every time. I had enormous difficulty in contacting the helpdesk of the company that sold me it, so eventually I e-mailed it (several times) asking for a refund. All of my e-mails were ignored. I then wrote to my credit card provider who told me to return the software to the computer company by recorded delivery. However, the package was returned to me marked "Refused". When I told the credit card company what had happened, it refunded my money and presumably obtained a

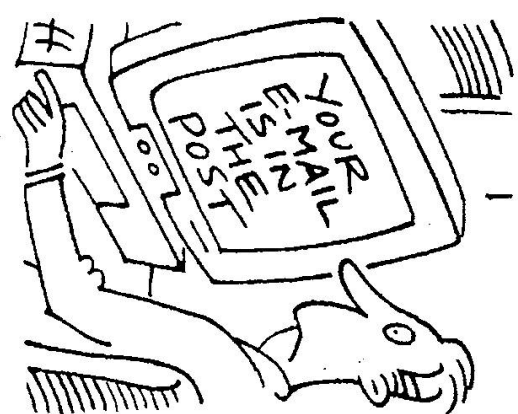
A: I assume that your Control-colon shortcut comes from a previous installation of Word. There are a number of ways to achieve this; a macro is probably the easiest. Record your Insert Date macro and assign your Control-colon shortcut to it via the Tools/Customise menu. As for your other problem, click on Tools/Options/Edit and make sure the "Typing replaces selection" box is ticked.

Q: I work for an industry-related technical magazine which needs me to interview people who work in that industry anywhere in the world and prepare copy in Word 7. Inter-

A: Unless you have some very unusual correspondents, you'll find their attachments are in some fairly standard formats (the letters in brackets show the letters which will probably come after the file names): TIFF (.tif), JPEG (.jpg), GIF (.gif) or BMP (.bmp). I recommend you start using the graphics manipulation program PaintShop Pro, which you can download from <http://www.shareware.com> and use to resize and change graphics formats at will.

Q: In answer to a question last week you suggested that an old 286 could be used for e-mail. I have a 33MHz 386 laptop with 4Mb of Ram, operating Windows 3.1 and a 28.8k external modem. How could this be used for e-mail as attempts to use AOL fail and its phone advice is that the equipment is inadequate for its service?

A: You need to find an ISP (Internet Service Provider) which provides software for Windows 3.1 which, I have to say, I thought AOL did. My mistake, obviously. Direct Connection (<http://www.directcon.net>), Demon (<http://www.demon.co.uk>), CompuServe (<http://www.compuserve.co.uk>) and others all do have such



software. Have a look at their Web pages and see which one suits you best.

Q: I am severely disabled following major neurosurgery and unable to speak. I have

FOR ABSOLUTE BEGINNERS

THIS week sees a new regular section where I look at more basic issues. Many of the questions I receive now are

Revealed — secrets of Britain's Men in Black

By PETER ALLEN

IN the comedy film, soberly-suited Will Smith and Tommy Lee Jones erased the memories of people who had encountered aliens.

But real Men In Black do exist in Britain — and they are hushing up serious UFO sightings, a conference heard yesterday.

Governments since World War II have tried to ensure that reports of extra-terrestrials are withheld from the public for national security reasons, researchers claimed.

Author Nick Redfern said sinister investigators had been knocking on doors for years making sure people kept quiet about their alien experiences.

The truth is a bit closer to home than we previously thought and it is up to us to uncover it, he told the conference in Hertford.

Specialist military groups, including the RAF's Provost and Security Services, had tracked down civilians who had experienced close encounters, he said. The authorities were happy to let 'dodgy' sightings be reported, but those by credible witnesses were invariably hushed up.

It's easy to laugh at the thought of Men in Black travelling around the country investigating these sightings but there is little doubt that they exist, said Mr Redfern, author of the bestseller A Covert Agenda and one of the most respected UFO researchers in Britain. The Government has its own high-level agenda on this matter, and all the work is being done in the utmost secrecy, he told the audience of around 300.

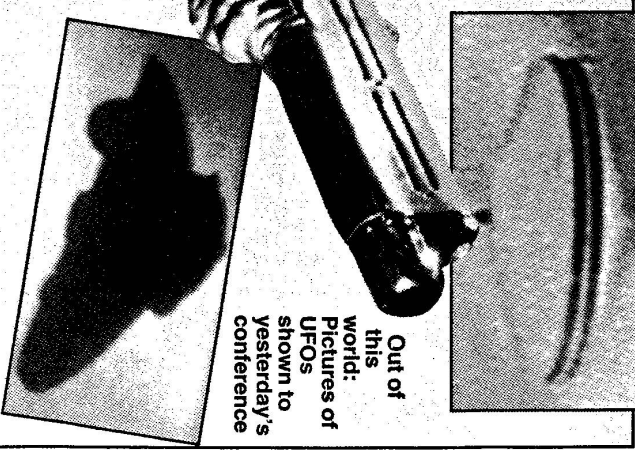
It may be that some of the sightings are of new military aircraft being developed and that is one of the main reasons for the secrecy, but that does not make it entirely justified.

Mr Redfern produced a Government document recently made public which describes how 16-year-old Anne Henson saw a star-like object shooting out red and green flames above her home near Taunton, Devon, in August 1962.

She reported it to the authorities, Mr Redfern said. 'Within a few hours a big, black car had pulled up outside her house and a man dressed entirely in black interviewed her at length. These sightings are often relegated



Fiction or fact? Will Smith and Tommy Lee Jones as the Men in Black



Out of this world: Pictures of UFOs shown to yesterday's conference

to myth but in this instance the authorities were taking matters very seriously. Anne was overawed by what happened and she was told to keep quiet. It is only recently that she has had the courage to speak.

The document about Miss Henson's sighting was made public under the Thirty Year Rule, but much of the work which is being done will be kept secret for much longer.

The Directorate of Scientific Intelligence investigates radar sightings by RAF personnel. In September 1952, Flight Lieutenant John Kilburn saw a glistening object 'swinging in a pendular motion' above his West Yorkshire base.

When RAF jets took off to intercept it, the UFO disappeared at an incredible speed, Mr Redfern said. 'There is no

doubt that there is a major cover-up,' Michael Hesseman, Germany's leading UFO researcher, showed videos of a craft circling Mexico City last August and, 'the best sightings' in the US, this decade.

Conference organiser Tony Spurrer said there were 40 UFO reports in Hertfordshire alone in 1995.

He asked: 'What else is happening in the world?'

Last week the Lords threw out New Labour's plans to lower the age of consent for gay sex. Now you have your say . . .

READERS' LETTERS SPECIAL: Page 44

The model wreckers

A MODEL village has been forced to install surveillance cameras to protect its miniature cobbled streets.

The 1.26 scale village, built in 1963 at Ramsgate, Kent, has been repeatedly vandalised and its tiny carved inhabitants stolen.

Male nurse faces deaths quiz

DETECTIVES investigating the deaths of five hospital patients are to question a male nurse.

All the patients were middle-aged or elderly and are alleged to have died at Birch Hill Hospital, Rochdale, after receiving initial treatment from the same man. The investigation follows

allegations by junior colleagues that he 'misused' drugs on people in his care.

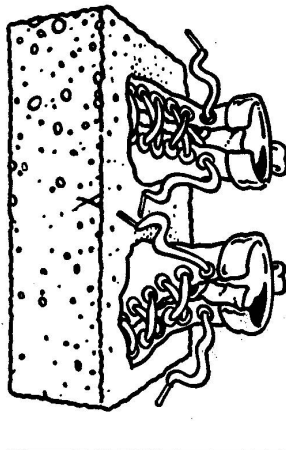
Police officers are conducting an audit of the hospital's pharmacy and the senior nurse has been suspended.

Detective Superintendent Bob Huntbach, leading inquiries, confirmed last night: 'Concern has been shown over

the deaths of some patients.' A 12-officer incident room has been set up and more than 70 medical and nursing staff so far interviewed.

Allegations against the nurse date back to January 1997. A spokesman for the Royal College of Nursing, which represents the suspended man, said he denies any wrongdoing.

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Sunday Mirror
12 July 1998
Page 22

Lights in sky leave Britain in grip of the 'Z Files'

By LEO SPALL

WEIRD "Z" shapes lighting up the sky over Britain sparked hundreds of calls in an X Files-type riddle yesterday.

People from Cornwall to Scotland reported the huge dazzling display.

One aircraft pilot called in to say he'd seen what appeared to be an explosion in the sky above the Isle of Man.

Teesside air traffic control tower, near Newcastle upon Tyne, also reported a sighting.

A Department Of Transport spokesman said: "We had sightings from the Clyde and west to Belfast and east to Leeds."

Belfast coastguard Rowston Williams watched for more than an hour when the sky lit up around midnight on Friday

He said: "I have never seen anything like it. When we first saw the object, it was not completely dark.

"Whatever it was, it appeared to be moving very slowly westwards.

"It seemed larger than the moon and higher than the clouds."

UFO researcher Ron Barrett said: "There have been numerous people who have seen these lights but not in these sort of shapes."

Defence officials at RAF Fylingdales, the Yorkshire-based early-warning station, reported no undue activity.

But a pilot flying from France to the Midlands solved the mystery when he reported a meteorite.

A spokesman for the Coastguard Agency said: "It was very spectacular but can be explained.

"The lights that so many people saw were caused by a meteorite breaking up as it entered the Earth's atmosphere.

"The big 'Z' vapour trail was hanging there for a while. It was a mystery at the time - but it was not an alien craft."

The boulder disintegrated as it entered the Earth's atmosphere, leaving a bright trail of strange shapes.

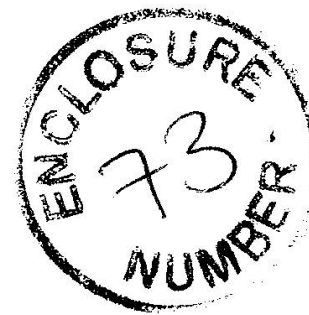


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64/5

The Independent
30 June 1998
Page 11

Scientists see serious side to UFO sightings



THERE IS "compelling physical evidence" that sightings of Unidentified Flying Objects (UFOs) have some basis in reality, an independent group of scientists has concluded - though they reckon alien spacecraft are probably not involved.

The finding was welcomed by UFO groups, despite the sceptical tone of the scientists, who hinted that natural phenomena are probably at the root of many reports.

"The fact that a number of scientists from different countries and credible backgrounds have been prepared to look seriously at the data is amazing. It wouldn't have happened 10 years ago," said Graham Bird-sall, editor of *UFO* magazine, a British publication with a worldwide circulation of 140,000.

A nine-member panel led by a physicist from the august Stanford University in California declared yesterday that some of the thousands of UFO sightings reported over the past decades merit further study.

BY CHARLES ARTHUR
Technology Editor

But Peter Sturrock, the panel's director, said: "If there is an interest in trying to get serious answers to the UFO problem, it would be sensible for scientists to focus on the physical evidence as opposed to witness testimony."

Phenomena such as "ball lightning" are believed by many scientists to be at the heart of many of the more credible sightings of UFOs. More recently, neuroscientists have found a means of recreating the sensations described by people claiming to have been abducted by aliens - such as a memory of grey visitors and a feeling of paralysis on waking up.

But the scientists added that some of the physical evidence remained unexplained and researchers might learn something new in evaluating purported UFO sightings.

The panel's report is the first independent review of UFO phenomena since 1966,

when the US Air Force commissioned Colorado University to conduct a scientific study of UFOs headed by Dr Edward Condon.

Sturrock's panel examined evidence including photographs of purported UFOs, radar data and reports of soil damage near supposed UFO landing sites. Some of the reports could have been explained by rare natural phenomena such as electrical activity above thunderstorms. Other reports were produced by secret military activities, the report concluded.

The study was the brainchild of Laurance Rockefeller, Henry Diamond and Sturrock, who felt the field of UFO study "is in a very unsatisfactory state of ignorance and confusion". The panel was financed by the LSR Fund, chaired by Rockefeller.

Comprised of astronomers, physicists and experts in other scientific disciplines, the panel met last year in New York to discuss the data and in San Francisco to finalise the report.

The Guardian
30 June 1998
Page 9

Drive for quango sex balance

David Hencke
Westminster Correspondent

THE Government is to search out 7,000 women to replace men to serve on 1,100 quangos and public bodies. David Clark, Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster, announced yesterday.

Women are to be given parity with men in future appointments for government bodies as part of a move to make the bodies more accountable and representative of society. There is also to be a drive to increase the number of ethnic minority members serving on quangos.

The ambitious target of

from 12,200 to 19,000 - and to cut the number of men from 26,000 to 19,000.

Four ministries - the Department of Education and Employment, the Scottish Office, the Department of Social Security and Department of Health appointments to NHS boards - aim to reach parity within three years.

Two other ministries - the Northern Ireland Office (45 per cent) and the Department of Environment, Transport and Regions (40 per cent) - will just miss the parity target for 2001.

The least progress comes from ministries with the worst records. The Ministry of Defence, whose quangos

woman who chairs an advisory body and fewer than five people from ethnic minorities advising the ministry.

The Foreign Office is planning to increase its proportion of women on its quangos by 5 per cent, to 30 per cent, by 2001 - but says it is hampered in making progress as only 41 appointments fall vacant over the next three years.

The Treasury aims at an increase in the proportion of women on its quangos from 20 per cent to 25 per cent by the year 2003.

All ministries have accepted the parity figure as a goal, although two - the Home Office and the Ministry

targets on how they will achieve this.

Mr Clark said the present situation was unacceptable, adding: "People will look back and wonder how on earth women were so unrepresented."

To attract the extra women to apply he has instructed officials to look out for people with non-conventional career patterns for the post, and to scrap unnecessary requirements which would discourage applicants. Appointments would be by merit and not quotas.

Ironically, both ministers responsible for women, Harriet Harman and Joan Ruddock, missed the launch of the plan at the Cabinet Office ves-

3

Scientists agree to open X-files on UFO data

TIMES 30/6/78

BY NIGEL HAWKES, SCIENCE EDITOR

UNIDENTIFIED flying objects are worth studying in the hope of learning something new, a scientific panel in America has concluded.

They are not evidence of life elsewhere in space, nor do they disprove any known physical laws. But some are accompanied by compelling physical evidence that merits greater investigation.

The nine-member panel, organised by Peter Sturrock, of Stanford University, and backed by the philanthropist and businessman Laurance Rockefeller, asked eight UFO investigators to present the strongest data they had for the existence of UFOs. The panel's report was published yesterday in the *Journal of Scientific Exploration*.

"If there is an interest in trying to get serious answers to the UFO problem, it would be sensible for scientists to focus on the physical evidence as opposed to witness testimony," Professor Sturrock said.

Such evidence includes photographs, radar reflections, traces left on the ground or in vegetation, physiological effects on witnesses and debris. Some could be explained by rare natural phenomena

such as electrical activity above thunderstorms, or "radar ducting" — the trapping of radar waves by atmospheric channels. But others defied such explanation, the panel said.

Further examination of the same evidence is unlikely to provide any fresh light. Most UFO investigations lack the rigour required by the scientific community. But new data, scientifically acquired and analysed, could yield better explanations.

The new report differs from the most comprehensive yet carried out, by Edward Condon in 1968. He concluded that further UFO investigation was a waste of time. The Sturrock panel, by contrast, says that further work would be useful, and should be carried out.

Graham Birdsall, editor of *UFO Magazine*, said yesterday: "It is clearly very encouraging from our standpoint that any group of scientists is prepared to give up time and energy to study the whole UFO question. The fact that they acknowledge there are phenomena worthy of study is something we have been arguing for years."

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Daily Mail
13 June 1998
Page 25

Blinding trail from a shower of meteors

By JAMES GOLDEN

IT started with a ball of blue light flashing across the night skies.

The dazzling flame-like phenomenon hurtled across Cornwall and Devon, then on over Sussex, the Thames Valley and Staffordshire.

It lit a trail over Worcestershire, Herefordshire and Shropshire before disappearing in a flash over North Wales.

There were 288 calls to police and coastguards in a 90-minute period from 11.02pm on Thursday night with reports ranging from a flying saucer and a blazing aircraft to the end of the world. There were even comparisons to the film *Deep Impact* in which the Earth is threatened by a comet.

But as imaginations ran riot experts dismissed it as nothing more sinister than a shower of meteors - probably little bigger than pebbles. Because of the incredible speed they travel at they create a spectacular dazzling effect as they burn up on impact with the earth's atmosphere.

'It was as if night had turned into day,' said businessman Alan Lester who witnessed the fireball on Thursday night as he walked his dog in Eastbourne, East Sussex. He said yesterday: 'My eyes are still hurting now because the light was so bright.'

Janet Troop, 50, an environmental health technician of nearby Lewes, said: 'I saw an exceptionally bright light, so large it lit up the sky. It was as if something was burning up.'

A Ministry of Defence spokesman said: 'We are satisfied this was a meteor shower which broke up on entering the Earth's atmosphere, causing the bright glow which people saw. There was no impact on the ground and therefore there is no cause for concern and no further action will be taken by us.'

'Initial reports suggest it was an

● Meteors may have carried the seeds of life to the Earth, according to one theory. An American scientist examining a meteor was startled to find it contained the well-preserved spore of a fern similar to ones that existed on Earth 100million years ago.

● An estimated 14million meteors enter the atmosphere every day weighing a total five tons but individually they are mostly the size of a grain of sand.

● Research suggests that one in 100 could come from beyond the solar system.

● On an average clear, dark night an observer will see five to ten meteors an hour.

● Meteors can be used in radio communications to bounce brief messages up to 1,200 miles from station to station.

unusually large meteor shower which takes place when material and debris from outer space comes through the upper atmosphere.

'When the material passes from a zero-gravity zone into the gravity of the upper atmosphere, it burns up because of the friction. It is not unusual on a smaller scale, but last night's shower seems to have been quite big.'

Dr Robin Catchpole, a research astronomer at the Royal Greenwich Observatory in Cambridge, said: 'The piece or pieces of rock were probably quite small in size, like a pebble or small stone.'

'But they can travel at speeds of 45,000mph and given that sort of velocity, generate huge kinetic energy on hitting the atmosphere.'

'This accounts for the vivid bright light which can be seen so clearly with the naked eye. It is almost certain the debris vaporised on contact with the atmosphere and all that would be left would be dust.'

Daily Telegraph
13 June 1998
Page 7

Speeding meteor sparks UFO alert

By Sally Pook

A METEOR speeding across the night sky prompted a UFO alert across England yesterday.

Police forces in at least eight counties received calls from hundreds of onlookers who saw bright blue lights travelling in a north-easterly direction from Devon to the Midlands.

The British Astronomical Association confirmed that the speeding object was a meteor, the result of cosmic debris burning up in the Earth's atmosphere.

Howard Miles, spokesman, said: 'It was quite spectacular, crossing the sky at about midnight and fragmenting as it burnt up in the atmosphere, causing bright sparks.'

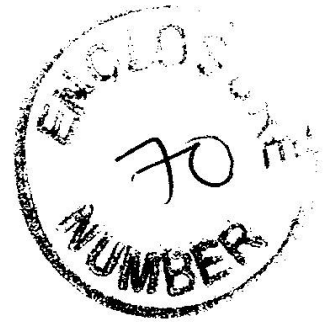
'From our reports, it appears to have been a single object, a piece of inter-planetary material called a meteor, which burned up completely before it reached the ground.'

It was seen across Shropshire, Worcestershire, Derbyshire, Oxfordshire, Berkshire, Sussex, Hampshire, Gloucestershire and Caernarvon in North Wales.

A spokesman for Staffordshire Police said: 'People told us they had seen a single, blue light that was bigger than a car. Some people described a tail behind the light, while others said it looked like it was burning or flaming.'

Callers to police in Dorset, Hampshire and Sussex described flares and a bright object breaking up and flames shooting across the sky.

'A Ministry of Defence spokesman said: 'We are satisfied this was a meteor which broke up on entering the Earth's atmosphere, causing the bright glow which people saw.'



The Sun
13 June 1998
Page 6

HELP! WE'VE BEEN HIT BY ALIENS

By ADAM LEE-POTTER

EMERGENCY services were put on red alert yesterday after hundreds of callers claimed we were being invaded by a fleet of flying saucers.

Panicking Brits dialled 999 to warn the night sky was alive with hovering UFOs.

But the mystery blue lights turned out to be a huge METEOR shower.

David Kyte, 51, saw one plunge into the sea at Eastbourne, Sussex.

He said: "I was on the beach fishing when a fireball the size of a fridge flew over my head and landed in the sea half a mile offshore."

"It was very spectacular - blinding."

"I thought it was a spaceship. If it had hit the ground, it would have caused mayhem."

Flash

Finance consultant Carl Bennett saw one flash over his head - moments after seeing movie Deep Impact, about a comet hitting Earth.

Carl, 28, of Bracknell, Berks, said: "There was a bright green flash and a huge bang like a bomb."

Sightings were reported as far apart as Devon and Staffordshire. Thames Valley Police contacted Heathrow air traffic control after receiving a call that a burning plane had been seen coming into land.

A Ministry of Defence spokesman said: "Civilian aircraft and members of the public reported a large number of blue lights in the sky."

"Initial reports suggest it was an unusually large meteor shower."

"It is not unusual on a smaller scale but this shower seems to have been quite big."

The Guardian
13 June 1998
Page 11

Phone lines buzz as meteor streaks across sky

Ruaridh Nicoll

FOR romantics wandering the hills and valleys of Wales and southern England, the air turned blue late on Thursday night when a particularly bright shooting star sliced through the sky.

"We had more than a dozen calls around midnight from people who had seen a single blue light that was bigger than a car," said Sergeant John Drake of Staffordshire police.

Many callers thought they had seen a flying saucer, but it was more likely a meteor: cosmic debris burning up in the atmosphere.

The first to see it were pilots of airliners. "It would

seem to be one very bright meteor entering the atmosphere somewhere over the Channel," said Robin Catchpole of the Royal Greenwich Observatory.

Soon after 11pm police in Cornwall, Shropshire, Staffordshire, Worcestershire, Derbyshire, Oxfordshire, Berkshire, Sussex, Hampshire, Gloucestershire and north Wales were taking calls. The fireball had travelled north-east.

Thames Valley Police contacted Air Traffic Control at Heathrow after they received a caller from High Wycombe, Buckinghamshire, who told them a burning plane had come into land. Drivers on the M4 near Reading in Berkshire quickly got on their

mobile phones when they saw the flash overhead.

"Some people described a tail behind the light, while others said it looked like it was burning or flaming," said Sergeant Drake.

A Ministry of Defence spokesman said: "Initial reports suggest it was an unusually large meteor."

Its colour suggests it contained iron, which in turn suggests it was the remains of a small planet which broke up when the solar system was formed 4,500 million years ago.

This year a meteor shower called the Leonids is expected when Earth passes near the debris-filled route of comet Tempel-Tuttle. "We might even lose a satellite," said Dr Catchpole.

face//

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LONDON FEATURES



The words to *Bohemian Rhapsody*, with its Galileo reference, came from the late Freddie Mercury, seen here onstage with May

technology has raced ahead in the past decade they have also been used at the Midi mixing stage.

May bought a Sony Digital Multi-Trax system which was used for Queen albums from *The Miracle* onwards. The original machine could mix 20 channels and was used on his first solo

album. Since then, the snooker room of his mansion in Sunningdale has been turned over to a "dream desk" capable of mixing 60 channels and recording directly on to hard disk.

"If we hadn't had digital technology, we couldn't have made the last Queen album," says May. This was because

Mercury's health was fading fast towards the end, and it was a race against time to get that last album finished. "Freddie would record scraps whenever he could, while we'd be writing at full pelt," May adds.

After spending 18 months in front of a Pro Logic machine, mixing the fragments together,

May is most proud of the track *I Was Born To Love You* because it sounds like a spontaneous jamming session. "We didn't tell anybody at the time how it was really made," he says.

● *Another World* is released this week on Parlophone. Browse <http://queen-fip.com>

Uri Geller's Weird Web



There are many strange people on the Internet. But at least most of them are human. Eddie Page says he isn't. This Vietnam veteran claims he is one of 32 extra-terrestrial hybrids manufactured by cloning technology between 1953 and 1955.

Of the 21 females and 11 males, Eddie believes three-quarters are already dead.

The experiment, he says, was sanctioned by US government officials in exchange for alien science secrets.

What makes Eddie's story stand out is not only the extraordinary detail — medical records, government documents, witnesses — but the way he tells it.

His pages at www.world-famous.com are an extended advertisement for three videos.

The first features Eddie, alone and conscious, talking to camera. The second records a hypno-regression experiment with Eddie in a trance recalling 11 days aboard a spaceship. The third, with Eddie in still deeper trance, shows him apparently communicating with the beings who created him.

He is not, it's fair to say, a totally credible character. He was accused of desertion in Vietnam, abandoned by his first wife immediately after the

birth of their child and rejected by his adopted parents. No one, alien or not, could survive all those experiences unscarred.

But I would trust his testimony still less if he was always lucid and unscrambled instead of jittery and paranoid. Being half-alien would make anyone paranoid.

He appears much more anxious to tell his story than sell his wares. After you have downloaded the four long summaries a full picture emerges.

His description of a battlefield abduction and the military investigation that followed are classics of their kind.

The details from hypnotherapy, including science fiction-style names for the aliens and their planet, are less convincing. But inevitably the imagination supplies extra information to fill gaping holes in conscious memories.

The medical reports including probes into Eddie's non-human internal organs and the removal of unknown metals from his brain are apparently not imaginary.

Can you open your mind wide enough to accept any of this? The evidence is there. Judge for yourself.

● Uri Geller's Web site is at <http://www.urigeller.com>



Aliens like this have been cloning around, says Eddie

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JUNE 3 1998

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Inter//face

E3 adds 3-D to equation ... to the power of X

The venue and the stars may have been American — but most of the talent was British. Tim Wapshott in Atlanta reports from the world's biggest gaming show

One phrase more than any other summed up the fare on offer at this year's E3 gaming trade show in Atlanta — "next generation 3-D".

The world's largest event of its kind, the three-day show attracted more than 30,000 visitors anxious for a sneak preview of 1,600 new titles.

The market is booming, largely thanks to the trend of titles being released simultaneously on several or all formats, for both PCs and consoles. But the consensus at E3 was one of disappointment at the lack of original product, with sequels and copycat titles dominating. While most

large games companies are American or Japanese, Britain still plays a vigorous part in development. Probably a third or more of the titles on show at the cavernous Georgian World Congress Center are the brainchildren of British design teams.

At American-owned Electronic Arts, it was Guildford-based Bullfrog Productions which created some of the keenest interest with its follow-up to the hugely popular *Dungeon Keeper*. Lead programmer Shaun Cooper said of *Dungeon Keeper 2*: "The sequel brings more depth and humour to the game. Now you must positively encourage rats and bats to inhabit your dun-



John Romero of Ion Storm, his *Anachronox* is hot property

geon. You can even tickle your creatures and, after you've paid them, let them go to the casino to unwind, then fix the odds and grab back your money — although this doesn't make them very happy."

At the stand for Fox Interactive, a News Corporation company, the lead title is a unique gaming episode of the cult television series *The X-Files*. The spin-off game stars David Duchovny and Gillian Anderson

as FBI agents Mulder and Scully in a specially-commissioned adventure.

But it was one of Fox's other titles, *Aliens Vs Predator*, which many dubbed the game of the show. Made by Oxford's Rebellion, this is a blast-feast where players adopt one of three roles — Alien, Predator or Colonial Marine — and one weapon is loaded with lethal acid spit.

Among many titles from Hasbro Interactive was a colourful children's game emanating from Interactive Studios in Leamington Spa. *Glover* is a 3-D fantasy platform game with two glove-like characters roaming mirrored worlds, one good the other evil.

Scotland, too, was making its mark. Affectionately nicknamed Scotsoft, the Scottish Games Alliance last year drummed up £20 million worth of development contracts and this year many of those came to fruition at the show, including the 3-D makeover of the popular Earthworm Jim series. *Earthworm Jim 3D*, developed for Interplay by Vis Interactive.

Another money-spinning 2-D platform game now back with a good-looking 3-D makeover is *Prince of Persia 3D* from Surrey-based Broderbund's games arm,



Gillian Anderson aka agent Scully with David Duchovny as the FBI's

Red Orb. The original dominated sales charts first time round on the older consoles, and the masterful update is clearly destined for massive repeat business.

The big three console giants — Sony, Nintendo and Sega — easily dominated the show with the biggest stands. The remarkable success of the PlayStation in the past few years has been put down to the extensive range of software available. Sony tipped Namco's *Tekken 3* as its winter bestseller while Nintendo is

putting its money on *The Legend of Zelda* for its N64 machines.


While a lack of software for the 32-bit Sega Saturn console has seen performance falter, the company was making much of its Dreamcast console, due to debut in Japan in November and in America and Britain next year. Promising ambitious 128-bit capabilities, it will be twice as powerful as the N64 and four times faster than the PlayStation.

Hardware peripherals were also in evidence. Nintendo will continue to squeeze profits from


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Daikatana, the latest game from Romero who designed standards such as Quake and Doom



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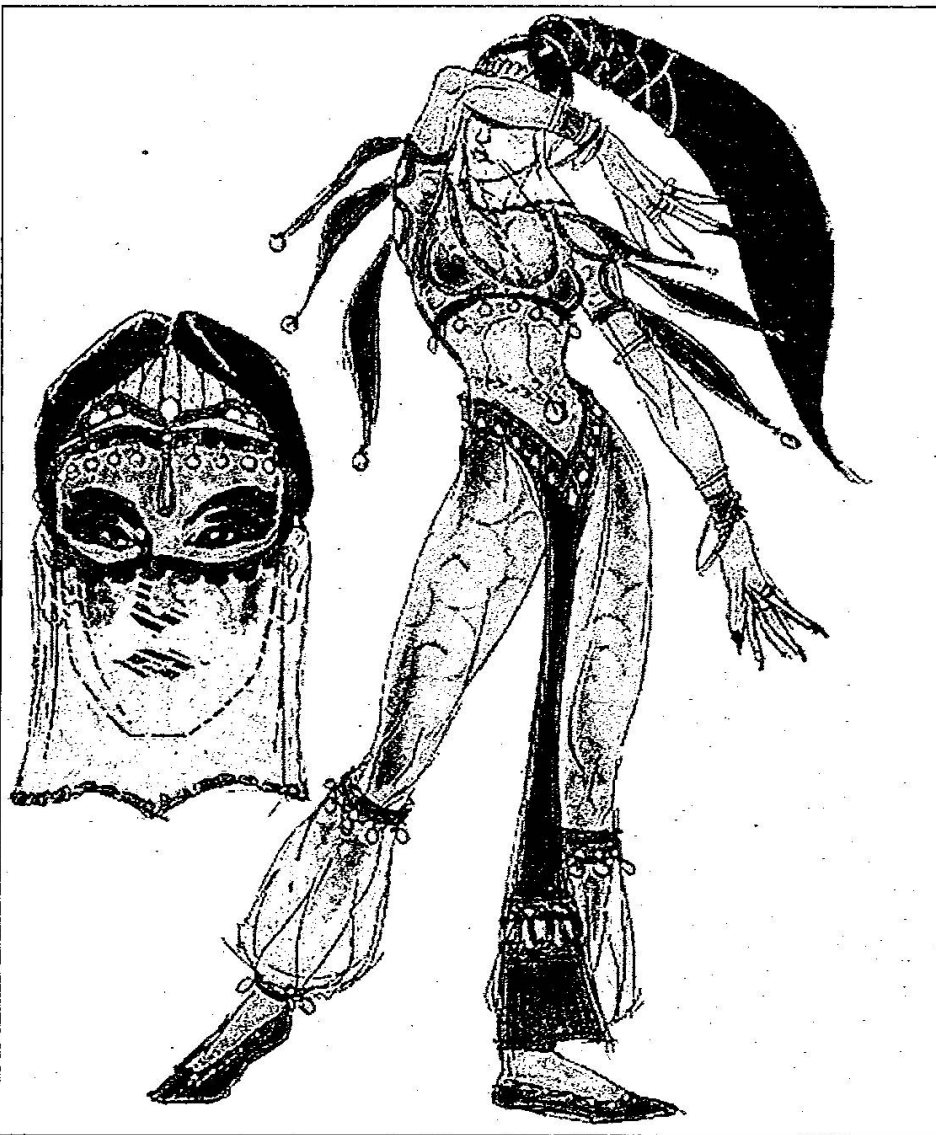


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Pro pad dire C ship a s

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11



The Bellydancer from Prince of Persia, one of many favourite titles to get a 3-D makeover

...luder. She has yet to play the new X-Files game, preferring to concentrate on motherhood

ame Boy handheld business 1 now boasts a mono digital ra that works with the al Game Boy and Pocket e Boy models, allowing to take low-resolution picthen print them out as rs with a tiny plug-in er. More innovative is the Game Boy model with a finish colour screen.

shows off the performance of the pad.

The second new plug-in is the SideWinder Force Feedback Wheel, a steering wheel for driving games which re-creates realistic driving experiences with atmospheric vibrations.

Two other software titles creating excitement at the Microsoft stand were *Urban Assault* — best described as a 3-D Command & Conquer, due to hit shops this year — and *Age of Empires II: The Age of Kings*, the sequel to the superb empire-building game. This will be released next year.

The hottest title at the show was seen by fewer than 300 visitors. In a small office inside the Eidos stand, Ion Storm's Tom Hall offered the chosen few

previews of *Anachronox*, a John Romero game in its earliest stages of development. This stunningly beautiful game to go on sale next year, will be one of the biggest titles of 1999.

Hall explained: "It is going to be very cinematic and about as non-linear as you can get. Some levels will be bigger than anything ever seen in a 3-D environment. We are really pushing the engine for this, with loads of textures."

The lucky few witnessed some of the most superb effects ever seen in a computer game, including rippling water, stunning laser lights and shadow effects.

For those who can't wait, among other Eidos titles was *Daikatana* also from Romero, who brought the gaming world

Quake and *Doom*. One of the more unusual Eidos titles is the smart and good-looking top-down business caper *Gangsters: Organisers Crime* from Bristol's Hothouse.

Director Peter Moreland explained: "It is all about control, extortion and gang warfare as four underworld gangs fight it out for domination of a Chicago-like city."

"Once you have built an empire by bullying you retire, go legitimate then run for public office by buying businesses to launder your ill-gotten gains. If you are not intimidating enough, however, the straight businessmen squeal to the police."

Another sure-fire winner is the futuristic *Omikron: The Nomad Soul*, developed by Eidos France with a decidedly naughty French feel. You have the freedom to explore every inch of the animated 3-D world — including a seedy red-light district complete with peep-show and lap dancers.

SCULLY STEALS THE SHOW

THE BRIGHTEST star to visit E3 triggered a queue of autograph-hunters stretching the length of the main exhibition hall. Gillian Anderson, better known as FBI agent Scully in *The X-Files*, arrived on Saturday to help promote Fox Interactive's spin-off game, and spoke of a lapsed love of computer games.

She said: "Many years ago I played *Tetris*, *Tortured Souls* and *Myst*. Just a bit though — I am terrified of delving into some other reality that I am not able to come out of, and forgetting I am a mother with responsibilities in my life."

"Now, the only time I take my laptop out is when we play *Arthur Goes to School* or *Green Eggs and Ham*. I have requested a lot of CD-Roms —

educational, dictionaries and encyclopedias. They are there when I have some time."

Anderson filmed her inserts for the *X-Files* CD-Rom over six days, between working on the series and the spin-off movie. Will she do another game? "If this is successful I will be more than happy to. And if the movie is successful I'll do another one." "I hope to god I'm not in a position later in life where I am praying for people to recognise me as Scully on the street. I am not Scully, and I approach life in a much more spontaneous and intuitive way than she does."

She has yet to play the finished game — and even then it won't be for long. "I will probably play it for 15 or 20 minutes," she admitted.

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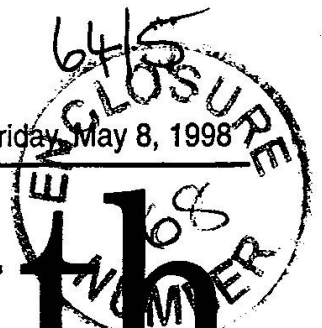
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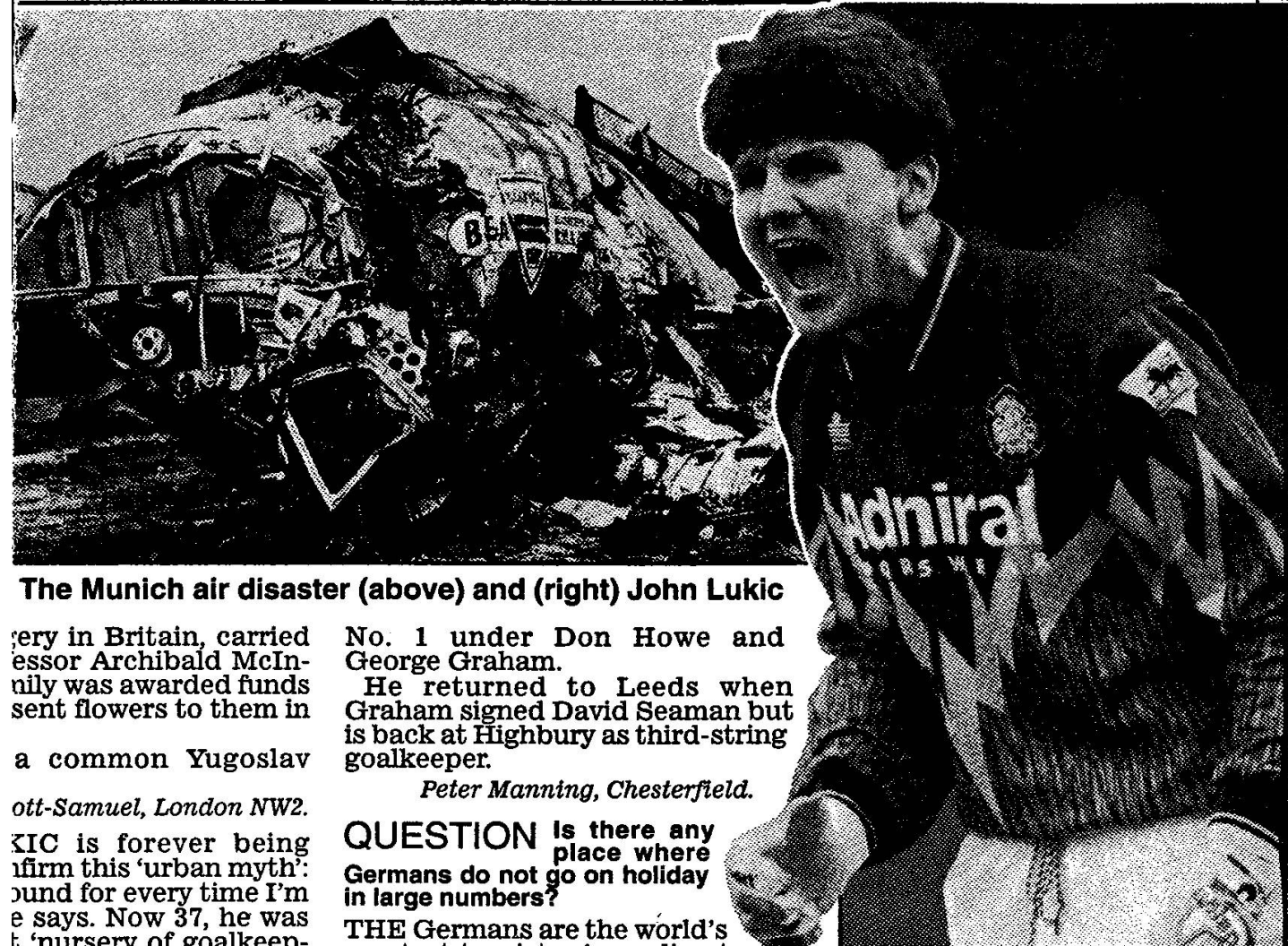
The first ^(of many) vindication of our position
re: Invasion Earth RAF
participation

COFFEE BREAK: 1

Daily Mail, Friday, May 8, 1998



It's surviving myth



ger aircraft to take action to avoid a UFO heading towards them, and a cargo aircraft has been struck and lost an engine in mid-flight.

Jenny Randles, Robert Hale Publishers, London.

QUESTION Does anyone know an example of how, by omitting a comma, the meaning of a written sentence — and therefore of a judicial sentence — was reversed?

FURTHER to earlier answers, having been convicted of high treason in a trial before three judges following his part in the Easter Rising in Ireland in 1916, Sir Roger Casement challenged the ruling in the Court of Criminal Appeal.

The appeal, heard by five judges, involved complex discussion of ancient statutes concerning treason, dating back to the reign of Edward III. Much was made of the exact interpretation of the punctuation of these statutes, and the judges scrutinised the ancient texts with a magnifying glass.

Leading defence counsel A. M. Sullivan told the court: 'If a crime depends on a comma, the matter should be determined in favour of the accused, not the Crown.' But Casement's appeal was dismissed.

Attorney General F. E. Smith, who led the prosecution, refused to allow the case to go to the Law Lords, and Casement was hanged.

Martin Maloney, Birkenhead.

The Munich air disaster (above) and (right) John Lukic

ery in Britain, carried by the actor Archibald McLintock. He was awarded funds sent flowers to them in

a common Yugoslav

ott-Samuel, London NW2.

LUKIC is forever being referred to as 'the urban myth' found for every time I'm asked. Now 37, he was the 'nursery of goalkeepers' at Leeds, and signed by the club as a schoolboy.

He had youth international honours and roots in the former Yugoslavia. Lukic left Leeds when he was relegated in 1982 and joined Arsenal.

After studying Pat Jennings, he became the undisputed

No. 1 under Don Howe and George Graham.

He returned to Leeds when Graham signed David Seaman but is back at Highbury as third-string goalkeeper.

Peter Manning, Chesterfield.

QUESTION Is there any place where Germans do not go on holiday in large numbers?

THE Germans are the world's greatest tourists. According to the World Tourism Organisation, in 1996, of the 593 million tourist arrivals around the world, 75 million were Germans.

Their most popular destination is France (13 million visitors a year), followed by Spain (10m), Austria (9.8m), Italy (8.4m), Poland (5.6m), Hungary (3.2m), the UK (2.9m), Holland (2.2m), the U.S. (2m), Switzerland (1.9m) and Greece (1.9m). Least favoured destinations include Belgium and Portugal. Even Israel gets almost 250,000 German visitors annually.

Rashid Ahmed, Flightseekers, London W1.

QUESTION If the UFO the RAF spotted over the North Sea two years ago was travelling at 24,000mph (Mail), where might it be now?

FURTHER to the earlier answer, I'm tempted to say cloud-cuckoo-land, from whence it came.

We at the British UFO Research Association have learned that this triangular object, the size of a battleship, was, in the opinion of the MoD's 'UFO desk' (known as Air Staff 2A) the invention of

an ex-employee with a grudge.

It seems too much of a coincidence that the BBC's new drama series, Invasion: Earth, begins with the interception of a UFO over the UK by a military jet. The writer did research with the RAF and MoD.

That said, there have been radar intercepts and jet pursuits over the North Sea. My book, Something In The Air, reveals radar and visual intercept cases. I interviewed the RAF crew involved, all named and on the record.

Some had kept their logs of the event — useful when the files are mysteriously missing from the Public Record Office. One senior officer who reached the rank of Air Commodore told me, on the record, that he has seen film of UFOs made by RAF jets over the UK. None of this footage has been released to the public.

Since 1991, there have been more than 30 mid-air conflicts over Britain between UFOs and civilian passenger aircraft. Several objects have been tracked on radar; some involving 'air miss' inquiries.

In at least two instances, air traffic control has ordered passen-

QUESTIONS

Q: I read 40 years ago that the Albert Hall had been booked for New Year's Eve, 1999. Does this booking still stand?

Fanny Elliot, Tonbridge, Kent.

Q: Is there an ending to the joke: 'There were two old men sitting in deckchairs...' — often started but never finished by Morecambe and Wise?

Mrs A. Stafford, Hailsham, E. Sussex.

Q: Twenty years ago, I bought a tuner/amplifier with four speakers on the promise that quadraphony was on the way. What happened to it?

Bill Robbins, Oswestry, Shropshire.

DO YOU have a question you've always wanted answered? Or do you know the answer to a question raised here? Send your questions and answers to: James Black, Answers To Correspondents, Readers' Letters Department, Daily Mail, 2 Derry Street, London W8 5TT, or fax them to 01862 871 888. A selection will be published but we are not able to enter into individual correspondence.



Newspapers Support Recycling. Recycled paper made up 41.4% of the raw material for UK newspapers in the first half of 1997.

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Daily Mail Italian shoes Offer L2062, West, Loughborough, Leicestershire LE11 5XL

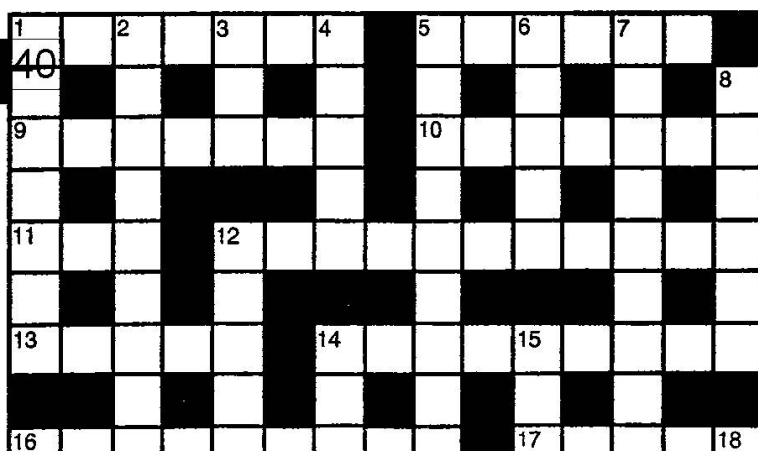
Italian Leather Mules £95 each

Italian Leather Mules £90

THE DAILY MAIL CROSSWORD

ACROSS

- 1 Ron came a cropper in Italy (7)
- 5 Lets everybody sow confusion (6)
- 9 Malign language used by Cleo's killer (7)
- 10 Correct number to be taken on by Prince shortly (7)
- 11 Vehicle with inferior reverse (3)
- 12 The old chap may stand for some time (11)



DOWN

- 1 Room to give church warning of a stoppage (7)
- 2 One can be seen to be in danger here (7,8)
- 3 Interfering input (3)
- 4 Near a break where there's fighting (5)
- 5 What nobody intends will happen (9)
- 6 Animal left with a priest (5)

News Of The World

3 May 1998

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67

ARE UFOs HAUNTING SKIES OVER SUFFOLK?

EXCLUSIVEBy PHIL TAYLOR
and TIM LUCKETT

THESE are the most astonishing UFO pictures ever taken in Britain.

The stills come from an incredible 35-minute video filmed in Suffolk and passed exclusively to the News of the World, showing:

● **THREE** flying saucers shooting past in a blaze of lights in three separate incidents.

● **A CIGAR-SHAPED** craft accelerating at incredible speed, and

● **HUGE** triangular objects engaged in a mock dogfight.

We showed the full 35-minute video to acknowledged UFO experts—and they were stunned.

Graham Birdsall, editor of UFO Magazine, said after analysing it: "It is absolutely amazing, the most striking UK footage I have seen."

Nicholas Redfern, author of acclaimed UFO study *A Covert Agenda*, agreed and added: "It's on a par with anything filmed anywhere in the world. I firmly believe this is extra-terrestrial."

Convinced

The video was compiled over five months last year by UFO spotter David Spoor, 54, who said: "I still can't believe what I filmed."

"Now I am convinced there is another life out there. I'm **SURE** they are from another planet."

His wife, Labour district councillor Jean, 49, said: "I know of no earthly craft that could have behaved in this manner."

David said he filmed the first UFO last August from his three-bedroom bungalow in the village of Oulton Broad, near Lowestoft, Suffolk. He explained:

"I was just closing my garage door about 7.45pm when I looked up and saw a bright cigar-shaped object flying slowly through the sky."

I was so excited I grabbed my video camera from the house and started filming it.

I propped the camera on the fence and filmed it as it went towards the coast.

After about 30 seconds it suddenly accelerated at incredible speed—far faster than a jet plane ever could—and just vanished. I couldn't believe what I had seen.

And when I popped it in my video to analyse it, I saw these little strobe lights flashing on either side.

The most amazing thing was they weren't attached to the craft.

Since then I have had the film analysed by experts from UFO Magazine and they say it is an extraordinary sight. They cannot explain it.

Now I've found other people who also saw the UFO that night and were equally amazed.

I am just thrilled I caught it on video because I fear people would not have believed me otherwise.

But that was just the opening shot of the extraordinary X-File film.

A month later his camera caught the first flying saucer. Recalls David: "It was just after 9pm when I looked out of the window and saw a very bright object in the sky. I grabbed the camera and rushed into the garden."

"I filmed this amazing saucer-shaped craft slowly moving from the East. It was very bright and had a shimmering appearance."

"I called Jean and she stood there open-mouthed in wonder alongside me."

Excited

"There was no sound and as it slowly moved towards me I saw a light on one side."

"We shouted out to our neighbours to witness it but they were too busy watching TV!"

Jean said: "It didn't spook me. It excited me. And it was exactly how I imagined a flying saucer would look."

On October 7 last year, David rushed for his camera again...

He revealed: "This one was almost identical to the last craft."

"I was in the garden and saw these amazing flashing lights towards the sea."

"I was so intrigued I jumped on my bicycle and rode towards the coast."

"There I saw this saucer-shaped object hover-

ing over the sea and I filmed it for several minutes. Then it just vanished as though a light had been switched off."

In December came the third saucer. Said David: "This one arrived just before 4pm."

"When I started filming the saucer—which was emitting loads of light—it looked like it was still."

"Then it slowly moved behind a tree to the west."

"I went towards the front of the house to try and pick it up on camera again and it went behind my house. Then I lost it."

Jean said: "I loved watching it. I could even see what appeared like little portholes. There is no way it was a plane."

In November David also filmed what he described as "large black triangles" flying over a decommissioned MoD site on the coast at Lowestoft.

He said: "They were doing aerobatic manoeuvres at high speed. I have no idea what they were."

"Everything I have caught on video completely baffles me."

Last month it was reported the RAF tracked a triangular-shaped UFO "as big as a battleship" off the South-east coast.

Two Dutch air force jets scrambled to intercept the object but could not keep up, it was reported.

RAF officials were themselves baffled by the bizarre sighting.

One source said: "It was definitely under control, judging by the manoeuvres it executed." But some UFO watchers believe the military deliberately releases such stories as a smokescreen to explain sightings of top-secret experimental craft.

Yesterday, as UFO experts from throughout Britain congregated in Southend, Essex, to discuss the latest findings, Graham Birdsall said: "The fact that we are having these kind of strange phenomena filmed over our shores is quite amazing."

Aware

Nicholas Redfern said: "In my opinion, David's video is the most important UFO footage ever filmed in Britain."

"It is important that people get to see it as they should know what is going on over their heads in our airspace."

The 32-year-old West Midlands author added: "I am not aware of anything the military has anything flying which even remotely resembles the ob-

jects in David's footage. And I would question the wisdom of any military agency which would risk flying classified experimental aircraft over built-up areas."

"I firmly believe that what has been filmed by David is extra-terrestrial," he added.

To research his disturbing book, Mr Redfern was granted unprecedented access to thousands of previously classified Ministry of Defence files on UFOs.

In *A Covert Agenda*, he claims: "Rationally-controlled machines from beyond Earth are routinely penetrating UK airspace."

"The military infrastructure has little or no control over the violation."

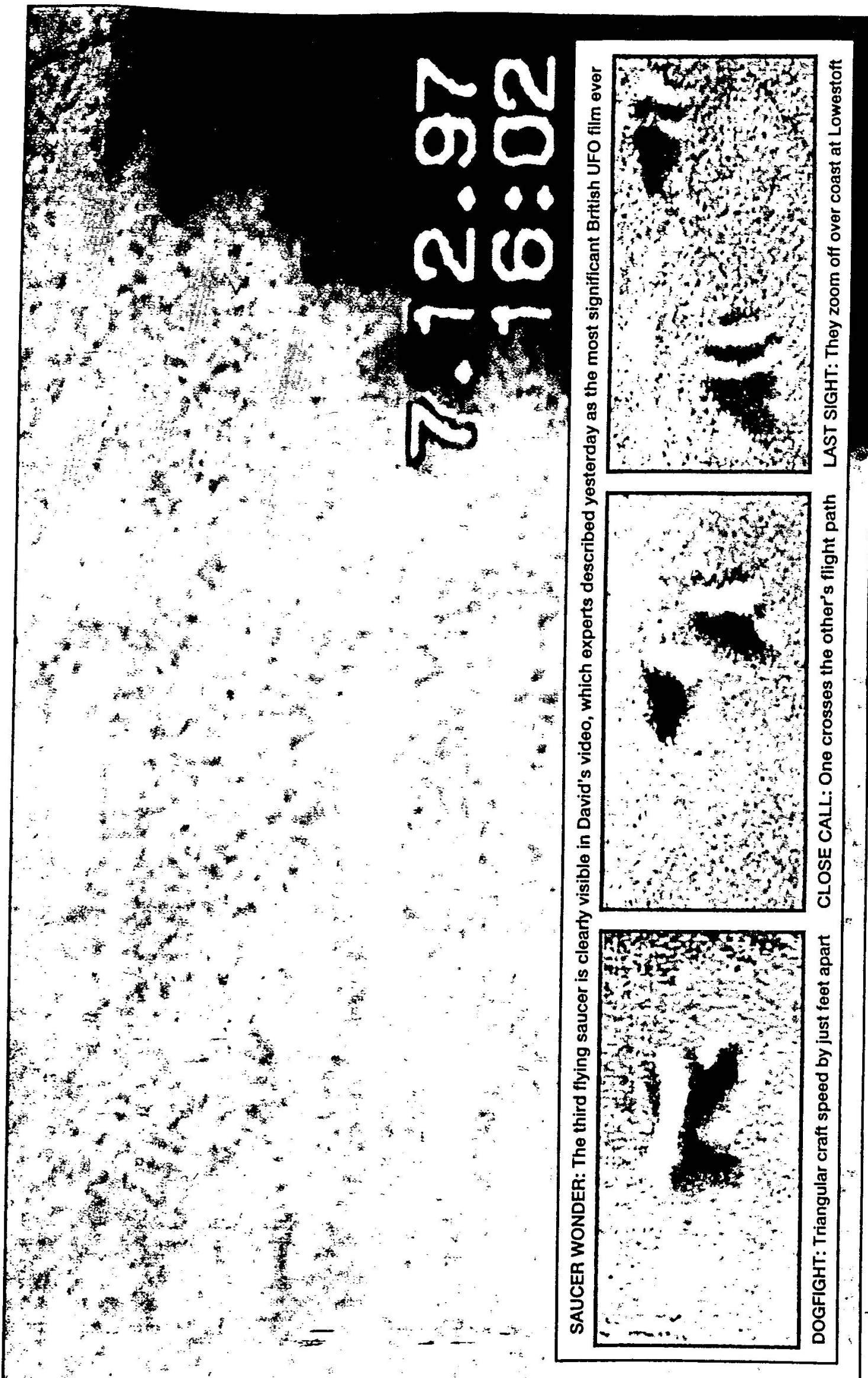
"Despite this, evidence is now being uncovered which shows that there has been an official shift in policy."

"There is now a desire to disseminate to the public hitherto top-secret UFO data collected over the past 50 years."

23

continues

continues.



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SAUCER WONDER: The third flying saucer is clearly visible in David's video, which experts described yesterday as the most significant British UFO film ever



DOGFIGHT: Triangular craft speed by just feet apart



CLOSE CALL: One crosses the other's flight path



LAST SIGHT: They zoom off over coast at Lowestoft

ends

Independent On Sunday
3 May 1998
Page 13

Ministry has those UFO reports taped

Andrew Buncombe on the official view of unexplained phenomena

IN ROOM 8245, deep in the Ministry of Defence in Whitehall, sits a telephone answering machine containing messages from the mad, the misguided and, perhaps occasionally, the privileged.

The machine, in the office of the MoD Secretariat (Air Staff), is the one conduit where the public can pass on sightings of UFOs to the Government.

Even believers admit that the vast majority of UFOs reported turn out to be IFOs – identifiable flying objects. But for some people there remain sightings that cannot be explained by reference only to the terrestrial. In 1997 the machine took 250 calls. There have been 56 so far this year.

"We check the machine every hour," said an MoD spokesman. "It is easier to have the answer machine because otherwise we would find ourselves having all sorts of people who claim they have seen all sorts of things."

The position of the MoD is that it is only interested in UFOs if they constitute a threat to national safety, as the answering machine message makes clear.

But most of the reports are made hours, days or even weeks after the alleged sightings, by which time any threat would be long gone.

In any case, the MoD remains confident that any genuine threat would be picked up by its huge pyramid radar at RAF Fylingdales in North Yorkshire, which constantly monitors the skies.

UFO interest groups say the number of sightings reported to them is steadily rising. Between September 1996 and August 1997, the British UFO Research Association (Bufora) received reports of 386 sightings.

Glenda Dixon, the association's director of investigations, said that up to 95 per cent of sightings could be explained. She said that most sightings were actually ordinary aircraft, laser lights, or even bright planets viewed through binoculars. Satellites, weather balloons, birds,

kites and reflections also accounted for some false alarms. Bufora also believes that many sightings are of test flights of new, secret, military aircraft.

The number of reports of "close encounter experiences" is also increasing, Mrs Dixon said. "The close encounter experience is a problem, as although it is interpreted as being like a UFO encounter this may not be the case. These extraordinary events could be linked to other anomalies such as paranormal events which may or may not include encounters with UFOs and aliens."

One reason for the increase in reports is the huge amount of coverage that UFO and associated matters now receive in the media and on television programmes such as *The X Files*. The opening programme of a new BBC television series of *Everyman* on 24 May will include the testimonies of people who claim to have been abducted.

Malcolm Robinson of Strange Phenomenon Investigations, which has offices in London and Scotland, said: "People are becoming more prepared to report their sightings."

He agreed that around 95 per cent of all reported sightings can be explained. It is the remaining five per cent that interest him.

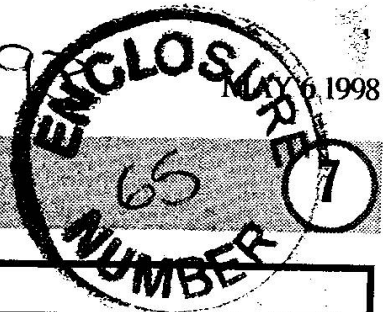
"I got into all of this in an effort to disprove it," he said, "but you realise that, once you have swept away all of the debris, there is a hard core of cases which cannot be simply explained."

He recalls the case of two men from Edinburgh who claimed to have been abducted by aliens as they drove home one evening. "They had no interest in UFOs at all," he said. "I spoke to them at length. They are genuine people. They believe they had a close encounter and I believe them as well."

Anyone else believing they have had a close encounter, or wishing to report a sighting, can leave a message with the MoD on 0171-218 2140.



TIMES-INTERFACE - WED 6 MAY 98



ancy a byte?

computer
all that.
method

Through more than the country ter sessions developed to ners their tal age. t the first e were just d 100,000 o try things n 250,000 ne. ons will be ater variety g colleges, centres, ets. e access to who have d by it, just had a bad rol Vorder-



Carol Vorderman: "Computers are very entertaining now"

t of pro- campaign. This year's is very on garden- much bigger. who like Although computers have produce a been around for a long time ople who years people have suddenly about it. become aware of just how much the BBC's they can do." Vorderman's own experience ducational of computers goes back to

school days in the mid-Seventies when she was one of the first students to take an O-level in computer studies.

An engineering degree at Cambridge and a spell trying to sell Tandys followed, which was when she first encountered technophobia.

"I think in the early 1980s some of the stuff was being overhyped. You still had to use a cassette to record data and I think that put some people off," she says.

Her own life now runs via a powerful Compaq Presario at home and a Psion 5 Organiser. "I used to have a laptop but that was too heavy," she says.

"This is really neat and fits in a handbag. It's ideal for me because I want to take notes of things all the time. My next step is to get it hooked up to the Internet."

Much of *Computers Don't Bite*, although far from all of it, is aimed at children. "Sometimes I feel like a broadcasting teacher," says Vorderman. The latest user for her home computer is her five-year-old daughter, Katie.

"She uses CD-Roms. there are some really great titles around. It's why I am so excited by it all still.

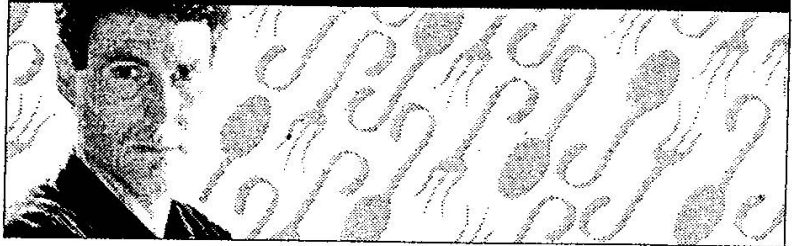
"I think we have gone through another pain barrier with computers. They are very entertaining now."

computers

doubts about. The main information is matter-of-fact but accompanied by igh colourful graphics and on-screen ctions to keep even the most sceptical tained. And after each section there's e game to prove you've been paying tion. I've never experienced multimedia, the r session is a great opportunity. It's le, witty and entertaining: apart from ing the World Cup, I helped Dr Who out of it spot and, in the cause of learning to drag 'n' drop, assembled (wrongly as it d out) a photofit picture of Grant from *Enders*. "Nearly, nearly," said Carol's on- n voice encouragingly, or was it airingly? How was she to know I prefer *nation Street*.

r details of your nearest taster sessions, earning Direct on 0800 100 900. You need l and book a session in advance. This ne will also provide details of the free uters Don't Bite magazine that includes ernet guide for beginners and help for ers. Or visit www.bbc.co.uk/education/cdb

Uri Geller's Weird Web



Official UFO

Introducing a new column in which the world's most celebrated paranormal investigator explores the wilder shores of the Internet.

EVEN the Ministry of Defence had to admit it saw the latest UFO.

The men from the ministry are mostly sceptical when inexplicable lights and craft appear in our skies. They believe any extra-terrestrials will be sighted on their pyramid radar at RAF Fylingdales in north Yorkshire, long before mere civilians see anything.

So civil servants manning the Whitehall UFO hotline (0171-218 2140) have their rebuttals ready. "It must have been a balloon, sir. Or the planet Venus. Perhaps it was a scratch on your spectacles?"

But the object tracked off East Anglia and revealed a few days ago was 300 yards long. And it did show up at Fylingdales, so it wasn't Venus or a scratched lens.

"It was definitely under control, judging by the various manoeuvres executed," admitted the ministry. "It appeared to be triangular and was around the size of a battleship (about 900ft long)."

The Dutch airforce despatched F-16 fighters to in-

vestigate but, since the object was moving fast enough to circle the globe in 60 minutes, the jets lost their quarry. So far the radar images have not been released.

Even more intriguing are the video pictures shot by UFO watcher David Spoor from the garden of his bungalow in Oulton Broad, near Lowestoft, Suffolk. He didn't see the flying battleship but did film glittering triangular craft playing tag over the North Sea.

If you want to video UFOs yourself, visit www.blackvault.com — run by a group called John Bro. Their simple method of filming into the sun's corona has generated thousands of UFO sightings from around the world.

And to make a UFO detector from an old coat hanger, a magnet and a doorbell, go to www.thealienz.com/parazone/pageunderscor1.htm

The apparatus reacts to changes in electromagnetic activity, a foolproof indicator of UFO presence. If you live in East Anglia it could be essential.

● Visit Uri Geller's web site at www.urigeller.com

Uri Geller's paranormal novel, *Ella*, is published by *Headline* at £9.99

Test for Success: Maths (DK Acacia, £19.99): This study aid for students at Key Stage 3 (11 to 14 years) was prepared by teachers and heads of department to ensure maximum relevance. The 1,300 questions are accompanied by 2,000 graphics to encourage a fuller understanding of the subject. 0171-836 5411

Snow Racer 98 (Ocean, £34.99): Snowboarders have 15 slopes to perfect the 20 or so stunts featured in this game. For the mainstream snow adventurer, a skiing component offers some tortuous slalom

Fun zone

courses. Available for the PC and the PlayStation. 0121-625 3388

Textease Multimedia (Softase, from £85 single user to £375 secondary school licence): Teachers and pupils of all ages and abilities can learn to use word-processors, desktop publishing and multimedia projects with this integrated package. The computer can read back text as it is typed in Windows 3.11 & 95 or Acorn. 01332 204911



Daily Star
28 April 1998
Page 8

Close encounter with a 900ft UFO

RAF chiefs are to open their "X-Files" to reveal new evidence that alien spacecraft regularly fly over Britain, it was claimed yesterday.

World experts will study top secret UFO tapes during a special two-day conference, it was said.

The most extraordinary discovery for discussion will be a craft spotted by both the Dutch and British military flying over the North Sea.

Missile

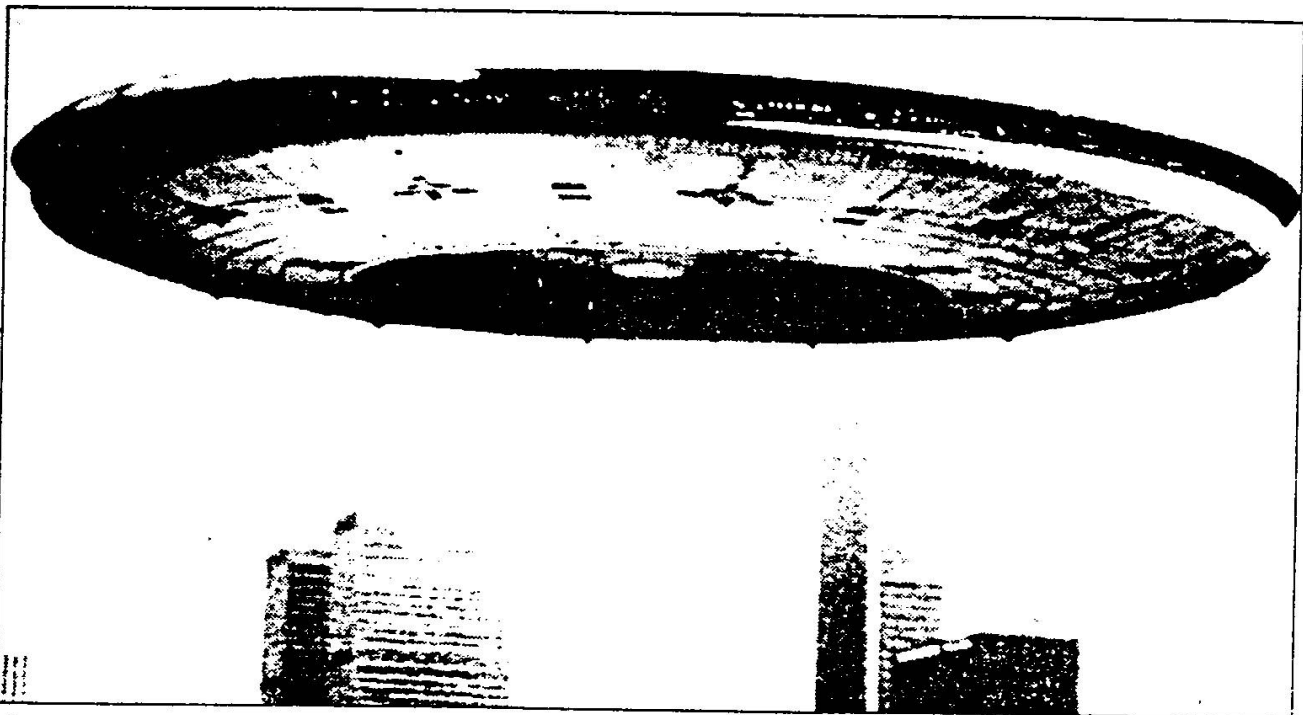
Measured at 900ft long, it zig-zagged at 17,000mph for 15 minutes before zooming off towards the Atlantic at 24,000mph.

At these speeds it could have flown the length of Britain in a few seconds.

Yesterday the Ministry of Defence denied they are hosting an international UFO summit at the RAF College, Cranwell, Lincs. in June.

A spokesman said: "There is a conference about ballistic missile defence and how warfare might be fought in the future." But a source with close links to the RAF insisted tapes of inexplicable sightings will be analysed at the gathering.

He maintained Britain's most sophisticated radar station at Fylingdales, North Yorks, has spotted several mystery craft over the



SAUCER RIDDLE: A huge possible spacecraft has been tracked across the skies

By JOHN McJANNET

past two years. Operators have watched in amazement as solid objects have been seen changing shape in mid-air and travelling at

more than 30 times the speed of sound.

The source added: "These spacecrafts do not appear to be advanced, secret weapons — they are way beyond our technical

knowledge." Two Dutch air force fighters tried to intercept the 17,000mph object but couldn't keep up.

"No man-made plane could have travelled as fast as that object — it should have disintegrated," said the source.

"It was definitely under control, judging by the manoeuvres it executed. And it appeared to be triangular in shape and around the size of a battleship."

Other tapes reportedly show 12 UFOs flying in close formation.

There's also evidence of a giant craft moving up and down the mid-Atlantic at impossibly high speeds.

[Redacted] / see P20

Do we know enough about this conference at Cranwell in June? I hope that there won't be any silliness here about UFOs.

[Redacted] informed of contents of enc. 63.



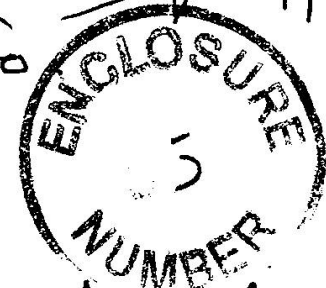
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For info



Thank you. A good minute.



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UFO ARTICLES - DAILY MAIL AND DAILY EXPRESS - 27 APRIL 1998

ISSUE

1. To provide advice following the Daily Mail and Daily Express articles of 27 April alleging a 'UFO' sighting over the North Sea.

RECOMMENDATION

2. To note.

BACKGROUND

3. On Sunday 26 April the MOD Press Office received calls from the Daily Mail and Daily Express about an alleged 'UFO' sighting over the North Sea involving an object 'the size of a battleship' travelling at around '17,000 mph' (the published articles subsequently alleged 24,000 mph). No additional information about the date of this alleged incident was provided at the time or has been since. A further 20 phonecalls from the print and broadcast media have now been received.

Source of the Story

4. The Daily Mail has said that [redacted] was the source of the story. [redacted] is believed to have left the paper under a cloud and has, we understand, been contributing material to the national Press on a freelance basis since that time. [redacted] is known to be rather inventive of the facts.

RAF Fylingdales, Yorkshire

5. The Fylingdales radar is tasked only to detect and track objects in orbit and those with a ballistic trajectory. The Officer Commanding at RAF Fylingdales has confirmed that for the

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35 years it has operated, no 'UFOs' have been tracked. It is the case that the radar is not configured to track such objects, particularly in the reported areas, and there is therefore no substance to the claim that recorded data of this nature is held at RAF Fylingdales.

6. OC Fylingdales also confirmed that the station has not been approached to provide supporting information for the Space Symposium at RAF Cranwell in June. The RAF Fylingdales Crew Commander received a call from a journalist on Sunday but was asked only about RAF Fylingdales' involvement with the Symposium. The Crew Commander denied all knowledge of any involvement and referred the journalist to the MOD Press desk.

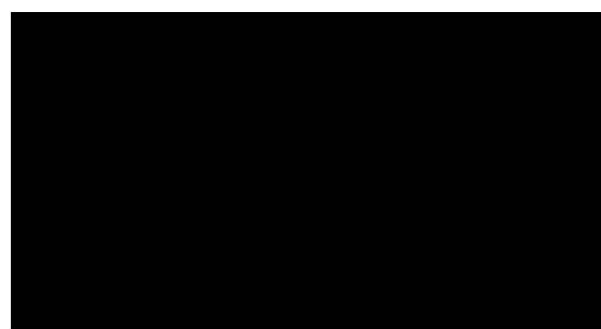
Symposium at RAF Cranwell

7. The Air Warfare Centre and the MOD branch Operational Requirements (Information & Communication Services) are jointly hosting a '*Military Exploitation of Space*' Symposium on 3-4 June at RAF Cranwell. It is open to Service and MOD civilian personnel and industrialists with an interest in this subject and is mentioned on the Internet.

8. The newspaper articles allege plans for one of the speakers at the Symposium to present radar tapes from RAF Fylingdales to substantiate the 'UFO' claims. Neither the Air Warfare Centre's focal point for this event, nor OR(ICS) staff, have knowledge of any material of this nature on the agenda and have confirmed that the Symposium has nothing whatsoever to do with 'UFOs'. A copy of a brochure about the Symposium is attached for information.

Conclusion

9. All enquiries indicate that there is nothing of substance in the claims made by the media.



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AIR WARFARE CENTRE
OPERATIONAL DOCTRINE & TRAINING
RAF COLLEGE CRANWELL
UNITED KINGDOM
NG34 8HB

COMMERCIAL
WITHIN UK 01400-261201 EXT 6474
OUTSIDE UK 44-1400-261201 EXT 6474
Internet Mail Address: ASCM@OD-T.demon.co.uk
www/raf/mod.uk/awc/asd

1998 Aries Symposium
Military Exploitation of Space

A 2-day operational and technical symposium on the military exploitation of space, sponsored by the Air Force Board, will be held at RAF Cranwell, UK, on Thur 4 - Fri 5 June. The aim of the symposium is to raise the profile of Space within the defence community, both military and industrial at 3 'levels': very senior officers, who are already well aware of MOD space policy but probably less aware of future technological trends; middle-ranking MOD personnel, whose professional knowledge would benefit significantly from greater exposure to the potential benefits of space exploitation; and industry, who wish to be informed about MOD interest in space as an operational environment and are keen to gain an opportunity to demonstrate the capabilities and concepts they may offer in support of space objectives. All the briefings at the symposium will be presented at an unclassified level; however, arrangements can be made for participants to discuss technology issues at a classified level. The symposium is being run jointly by the Air Warfare Centre (AWC) at RAF Cranwell and OR(ICS) staff from MOD. The AWC point of contact for the symposium is Mr J West, RAF Cranwell (01400-261201) Ext 6474.

Please fill in the reverse of this form and send to the above address by 18th May 1998

Sponsored by
The Air Force Board



PAGE 02

OD&T RAF CRANWELL

** CANCELLED **
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** TOTAL PAGE. 03 **

Section 40

28 APR 1997 09:03
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Section 40

TO

28 APR 13:27 FROM D E F PRESS OFFICE
PAGE 02

Section 40

Thursday 4 June

- 1030 Registration & coffee in Whittle Hall
- 1100 Welcome and Opening Remarks
Chairman
- 1110 Keynote Opening address
DGICS

Concepts

- 1125 Space Technology and Concepts
OD Space AWC
- 1215 Lunch in College Hall
- 1330 UK Space Policy and Programmes
AD OR(ICS)/

Trends

- 1415 Future Developments and Trends -
UK MOD *DERA*
- 1500 Tea in College hall
- 1530 Future Developments and Trends -
UK/European Industry *BNSC*
- 1615 View from the Pentagon
US DoD
- 1700 Close
- 1930 Pre-Dinner Drinks at The Lawns
- 2000 Symposium Dinner at The Lawns

Friday 5 June

- 0900 Introductory Remarks
Chairman

Communications

- 0905 Teledesic *Boeing*
- 0945 Celestri *MMS*

1030 Coffee in College Hall

Remote Observation

- 1100 Spaceborne AWACS
Boeing
- 1145 EOSAT *LM Space Imaging*

1230 Lunch in College Hall

- 1345 SBIRS *LM/TRIV*

Launch Systems

- 1430 TSTO/Re-usables
US Industry

1515 Tea in College Hall

- 1545 Sea Launch
Boeing/Krunichev

1630 Closing Address *ACAS*

- 1645 Discussion *Chairman*

1700 Close

(Contents may change due to the availability of speakers)

Day 1

Day 2

Registration Form

Please register the following delegate for:

The Military Exploitation of Space Symposium RAFC Cranwell 4 and 5 June 1998

Surname:

First Name:

Title/Position/Function:

Organisation:

Address:

Postcode:

Phone: Fax:

Signature:

Fee per Delegate: Non MOD employee £220
MOD employee £20

The fees include tea/coffee and buffet lunches for both days

Symposium Dinner: I would like to attend the dinner on the night of Thursday 4 June 1998 to be held at The Lawns, Lincoln and enclose an additional cheque for £30. YES NO

Because of the large numbers expected to attend you are advised to book early. All applications must be received by 18 May. Cheques will be refunded if over-subscribed.

Dress: Uniform/jacket and tie for symposium, lounge suit for dinner.

Method of payment: By Cheque(s) Sterling made payable to Messrs RAF Cranwell.

To: Astrosystems Course Manager,
OD&T, RAFC Cranwell,
Stapford, Lincs. NG34 8HB.
Tel: 01400 261201 Ext. 6474/6425/6410

Accommodation: Due to the reorganisation of Cranwell Messes there will be no Services accommodation available at RAF Cranwell. Neighbouring stations at Waddington, Digby & Coningsby will be able to offer some accommodation if requested early and booked direct, quoting Space Symposium. A list of local hotels and maps are enclosed.

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