

● confidential file which stated the British Government had solved the UFO mystery, and that we really aren't alone!

Certainly, some UFO cases have come to light through US documents released under provisions of the Freedom of Information Act. Here, ministers use secrecy to suppress embarrassing findings and to protect themselves from public challenge. But the findings about UFOs may be so powerful, governments acting in our names, may only be doing so because they feel it is the right thing to do. After all, government influence affects just about every aspect of our lives. In matters of national security, it seems obvious for governments to become mute, but I believe it is time for the curtain to be lifted and governments should become more honest with society.

**Encounters** would like to thank Jonathon Dillon for this fascinating insight into our government's guarded silence. Should you have any information relating to RAF/MOD/Military involvement etc. with the UFO subject, Jonathon would like to hear from you. He can be contacted at 176 Coal Clough Lane, Burnley, Lancashire, BB11 4NJ.

Finally Jonathon would in turn like to thank Matt Williams, of the *Truthseekers Review*, for the Photograph, Nick Redfern and Robert Gray for their help with this article.

---





*With the Compliments of the*  
COMMUNITY  
RELATIONS  
OFFICER

Royal Air Force Lossiemouth

*24th October 1996*

*The most recent locally  
reported happening!*

*Regards,*

Lossiemouth (0343) 812121  
ext 7284



RAF Lossiemouth  
Morayshire. IV31 6SD



64/5

12

## Press and Journal

THURSDAY OCTOBER 24 1996

### Couple stunned at eerie object in sky

**MORE** dramatic evidence of weird activity in the sky above the Bonnybridge area was revealed last night.

And a UFO expert said the latest video footage of a strange sighting was tremendous.

Amateur fisherman Barry McDonald and his girlfriend, Jane Adamson, were stunned last week when they saw the eerie object low in the sky above Camelon — just a few miles from Bonnybridge, the UK's UFO Mecca.

Barry, 27, and Jane, 23, were travelling from their home in Hallglen, Falkirk, at 6.40pm last Wednesday when Barry braked sharply.

Jane, who is due to have a baby next week, said: "We saw this weird object in the sky. I got such a fright I thought I was going to give birth."

Barry said: "I was driving toward Camelon. It was just still daylight. Suddenly, we saw a bright light low in the sky ahead of us. Jane said it was a UFO and we both burst out laughing. We watched it for about 20 minutes. Then I remembered I had my camcorder in the boot. I had been using it the night before when I was out fishing with my dad.

"The object was white at first and stationary. Then it changed shape into a saucer-type appearance and became an orange colour. I filmed it on tape for about half a minute. It then turned white again and vanished from the sky.

"I wasn't frightened. But we were both stunned. I've never seen anything like it in my life. I've heard all the stories about UFOs in this area and I dismissed them as the work of cranks. But now I've seen it with my own eyes."

UFO researcher Ron Halliday, of Stirling University, said: "The footage is tremendous. We can see the object clearly. It shows a orange-coloured saucer shape which then changes to white against a bright blue sky."

Mr Halliday, chairman of Scottish Earth Mysteries Research, added: "We will now do a deeper analysis of the tape. I have already ruled out the usual explanations such as weather balloons, stars, aircraft and helicopters."

● Last week, Falkirk granny Margaret Ross, 63, revealed she had captured evidence of what she believed was a UFO on her camcorder.



■ Barry McDonald and Jane Adamson, stunned by what they saw in the sky.

*11*

**MINISTRY OF DEFENCE  
UNITED KINGDOM  
PRESS OFFICE  
FAX MESSAGE**

**Fax:** [REDACTED]

**To:** [REDACTED] *SEC A/S*

**Fax:** \_\_\_\_\_

**From:** *Nylo*

**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Number of Pages (including this)** *2* **pages**

**Tel :** \_\_\_\_\_

**MESSAGE:** *for info!*

**If any part of this transmission is incomplete please ring [REDACTED]  
Ministry of Defence, Room 0389, Main Building, Whitehall, London SW1A 2H**

THE HEARST

lary for Scotland after being criticised in Lord Cullen's report.

The SRA also plans to launch an election challenge in up to 70 seats

what would happen as a result of their actions, he added.

He estimated that the loss to the industry from the Dumblane shootings

tion to stalk Europe since the reign of the Third Reich is about to be forced upon the British nation.

"This proposed law

posed legal action.

However, a statement is likely to be made by the chief constable in the event of formal notification of proceedings.

## Daylight video of UFO 'tremendous'

MORE evidence of unexplained activity in the sky above the Bonnybridge area was revealed last night. UFO experts described the latest video footage as "tremendous".

Mr Barry McDonald, 27, and his girlfriend Jane Adamson, 23, saw the object low in the sky above Camelon, Falkirk, a few miles from Bonnybridge, the UK's UFO Mecca.

They were travelling from their home in Hallglen, Falkirk, at 6.40pm last Wednesday, when Mr McDonald braked suddenly.

Ms Adamson, due to have a baby next week, said: "We saw this weird object in the sky. I got such a fright, I thought I was going to give birth."

Mr McDonald said: "We saw a bright light low in the sky ahead of us. We watched it for about 20 minutes. Then

I remembered I had my camcorder in the car boot.

"The object was white at first and stationary. Then it changed shape into a saucer-type appearance and became an orange colour. I filmed it on tape for about half a minute. It then turned white again and vanished from the sky."

UFO researcher Ron Halliday, of Stirling University, said: "The footage is tremendous. We can see the object clearly. It shows a orange-coloured saucer-shape which then changes to white against a bright blue sky."

"It's by far the best bit of daylight film of a UFO that I have seen."

A spokesman at Scottish Air Traffic Control HQ in Prestwick said they had no reports of any unusual activity in the Falkirk area at the time of the latest sighting.

## Daughter's fury at Reynolds article

THE daughter of former Irish premier Albert Reynolds broke down in the witness box yesterday as she described the "nightmare" of her father's libel action against The Sunday Times.

Tax consultant Miriam Reynolds Fogarty, the eldest of the former Prime Minister's seven children, struggled for composure from the moment she took the stand before Mr Justice French and a High Court jury.

Mrs Fogarty, who lives in Edinburgh with her husband, said she was "absolutely furious" when she saw the article in the Sunday Times.

"She told her father because she just didn't think it was right or fair that the Sunday Times should get away with it," she said.

Mr Reynolds is suing over a November 1994

report which said he misled the Dail, the Irish Parliament, by defending the President of the High Court, Mr Harry Whelehan, against criticism of his delay in extraditing an alleged paedophile priest.

The paper denies libel, pleading qualified privilege and justification.

Earlier, Mr Reynolds denied it was "bizarre" to sue only the Sunday Times and not Irish papers, which had made similar allegations. He said he had not seen the Irish papers during his "traumatic" resignation.

Mr Price said: "The fact is that your reputation has been shattered into little pieces in Ireland and you appear not to have noticed."

Mr Reynolds responded: "If I was to listen to that kind of talk, I'd have gone into exile long ago."

The hearing continues.

# Cairngorm ski centre chief resigns after row

THE man who runs one of Scotland's major ski centres announced he was quitting yesterday after a disagreement with his company chairman.

Mr Tim Whittome resigned as general manager of Cairngorm Chairlift Company, which operates the winter sports facilities on 4085ft Cairngorm mountain, near Aviemore.

In a statement issued yesterday, Mr Whittome said he was "uncomfortable" about a new style of management introduced by company chairman Hamish Swan, a senior brewery executive.

Mr Swan, 62, took over his post last March and cut the firm's full-time workforce from more than 80 to 42.

Both sides in the bitter row denied that Mr Whittome's resignation



Tim Whittome: clash with company chairman.

day by conservationists opposing the firm's plans for Scotland's first Alpine-style mountain railway.

In a statement issued yesterday, he said he fully supported the £16m funicular railway project, which involves a two-carriage service, conveying 120 people at a time, and a 250-seater

Whittome went on local radio to criticise a decision by the World Conservation Congress in Montreal, Canada, to call on the British Government for a rethink on the Cairngorm railway plan.

Objectors say an increasing number of visitors will damage the fragile plant, bird and animal life on the summit plateau.

Earlier this year, Mr Magnus Magnusson, who chairs the Government's official wildlife body Scottish Natural Heritage, announced that it was willing to withdraw its objections to the plans once a legal agreement was reached with the Cairngorm company on the management of visitors.

This is expected to be signed on November 5.

Dunbar, East Lothian, issued a statement yesterday saying he was disappointed to receive Mr Whittome's resignation.

Dundee-born Mr Swan, who lives at Inch, near Aviemore, added: "Tim has given a great deal to Cairngorm, but has disagreements with the management style and structure of the company which I introduced after taking over the chairmanship last March."

Mr Whittome said: "I am saddened to be leaving after so many years. I am exploring ways in which my expertise may still be available to the mountain railway project in the future."

The Royal Society for the Protection of Birds is still fighting to block the railway which, it claims,



Sunday Mirror  
6 October 1996

# I'm a believer ...there is something out there

33 EXCLUSIVE by ROS WYNNE-JONES

**I**T was no time and no place for a little girl to be out on her own. But at 5.20am in the wilds of Exmoor, Somerset, she was singing Three Blind Mice as she stared up at the lightning in the dawn sky.

The sound woke a family on a camping holiday, and the father checked that his own children were safe inside their tent.

Disturbed by the thought of a child out on her own miles from nowhere, he went to look for her. He wrapped himself up warmly against the morning chill and followed her voice deep into the woods. Then, suddenly, the singing stopped.

Later the family recounted their story to a local historian. Shocked, he told them that in 1858 a villager had been convicted of murder after throwing his little daughter down a mineshaft.

*The site of the mine was exactly where the little girl's singing had stopped. And when the camping family had been awakened at dawn, it was, to the day, the 137th anniversary of the murder.*

Chilling, unearthly, inexplicable — exactly the sort of case that FBI special agents Fox Mulder and Dana Scully investigate in *The X-Files* on TV each week.

*But today the Sunday Mirror can reveal that Britain has its very own Scully and Mulder, who have spent the last 20 years investigating the real-life X Files.*

She is Jenny Randles, a recognised world expert on aliens and the paranormal. He is Peter Hough, Britain's leading lecturer and researcher into unexplained phenomena.

Like Scully, Jenny's work has included briefing senior politicians at Westminster on UFOs. She has also

advised Steven Spielberg on the making of *Close Encounters Of The Third Kind* - and on *Close Encounters Of The Fourth Kind*, which Spielberg still hopes to make one day.

Jenny and Peter live close to each other in Lancashire - and when they come across the unexplained, they set out together to find the truth.

They met in 1975 through the Manchester UFO Research Association, and since then they have become increasingly convinced that there IS something out there.

*"I am a believer," says Hough. "It is as if, from time to time, another reality temporarily eclipses our own."*

"Things are only as real as we can understand them to be. I am always willing to be convinced by the evidence, not by what I believe or what other people tell us to believe."

Hough traces his fascination for the unexplained to his childhood. He became disillusioned with science at school because it couldn't provide him with all the answers.

He turned to books, newspaper articles and magazines on the paranormal which left him with more questions and even fewer answers.

"Finally, I decided to cut out the middle man," he says. "I wanted to get right to the people who were having these experiences instead of having them filtered through someone else. I became an investigator."

Randles specialises in ufology. She believes there is "an intelligence" behind some of the UFO incidents the pair have recorded.

*The truth is out there. And by investigating the cases below, Randles and Hough are as determined as Scully and Mulder to find it.*

## The Rendlesham Forest Affair

LIKE Roswell, scene of America's most famous UFO incident, the quiet woodland of Rendlesham Forest is a place of many secrets.

To the north is Sizewell, with its controversial nuclear power stations. The coastal spit, along its eastern rim, houses maximum-security American research units. Right in the heart of the Suffolk forest are two air bases which were leased to the Americans for NATO defensive duties.

On Christmas Day 1980, strange objects tracked by radar and seen by eye-witnesses appeared in the sky over south-eastern England.

One of the US Air Force security police sent to the scene told investigators that his team had found

an object the size of a car. He said small creatures with domed heads were suspended inside a beam of light and senior officers communicated with them using sign-language.

The UFO had been damaged as it fell through the trees, but the aliens had repaired it and left.

The USAF official report, by deputy base commander Colonel Charles Holt, stated that radiation of two to three times the normal background count was recorded where the object had landed.

As the investigation continued, further UFOs were seen visiting the site of the accident by officers including Holt himself.

Jenny Randles was warned off investigating the incident. A government scientist said she could "end up at the bottom of the Thames".

But she risked prosecution under the Official Secrets Act to bring the matter to public attention.

The Ministry of Defence denied everything until April 1983, when Squadron Leader Donald Moreland admitted that the stories were correct — except, he said, for the involvement of aliens.

*Verdict: MoD cover-up*

## Abduction On Ilkley Moor

IN December 1987, ex-policeman Philip Spencer took an early morning walk across Ilkley Moor in Yorkshire to visit his father-in-law.

As he passed a small overgrown quarry, he saw something move out of the corner of his eye. He turned and saw a "small green creature".

It quickly scuttled away, then stopped and made a dismissive movement with its right hand. As it did so, Spencer photographed it.

He followed the creature around an outcrop and found a "hovering silver disk". It rose into the air at a

terrifying speed and disappeared into a cloud. When he returned home he realised he was "missing" two hours. He also began to have recurring dreams of a starry sky.

Under hypnosis, he told of being drawn towards the hovering disc and then finding himself inside a white room, where he was physically examined by creatures with pointed ears and big eyes. They were about four feet tall and had enormous hands and feet with three big digits. He saw the earth through a window and realised he was in space.

He was then shown two films. The first was about how humans were destroying earth. The second he could not talk about, even under hypnosis.

The photograph, which came out under-exposed and blurred from shaking, remains one of the most disputed pieces of extra-terrestrial evidence ever to be recorded.

*Verdict: Unexplained*

## The Stocksbridge Bypass Mystery

IN September 1987, a mysterious chain of events unfolded around the Stocksbridge Bypass, then under construction just north of Sheffield.

Len Marsh was driving home from his niece's wedding when he saw pulsating lights in a clearing in the pine forest along the side of the road.

They seemed to be attached to a circular object apparently floating about 50 feet off the ground. He pulled into a lay-by, but then drove off, afraid of what he might find.

When he returned home he was "missing" one hour. After the incident he was plagued by dreams of a grey face with large black eyes and of standing in the forest looking up at a brightly lit circular object.

Just days earlier two security guards had stopped their car near to where he saw the lights. They had seen

four or five small beings, which they took to be children, dancing in a circle. But when they got out of their car the "children" had vanished without leaving any footprints in the fresh mud.

Then they saw a hooded figure on the parapet of the bypass above them. They turned the car's headlights on, but they shone through the figure.

Other sightings have continued to the present day. Investigators found that a monk had been buried on unhallowed ground close by. His grave had been disturbed during the construction work.

The bypass was officially opened on a Friday the 13th in 1988. The place where the figures were seen is now a

notorious accident blackspot where several people have been killed and many more seriously injured.

*Verdict: Unexplained*

## Mystery Of The Murdered Witch

IN 1945 a man called Charles Walton died in mysterious circumstances in Lower Quinton, a village in the shadow of Meon Hill, near Stratford-upon-Avon.

As a boy he had experienced a terrifying vision. For three consecutive nights he watched a phantom dog running across Meon Hill. On the third night the black dog transformed itself into a headless woman.

The following morning his sister died. The experience turned him into a recluse. He was known to breed toads and to talk to birds — which would sit on his head and shoulders. Villagers believed he was a witch.

The year 1944 was a bad one for Lower Quinton. Despite an early spring, the harvest was poor, livestock went missing and the beer went sour in local pubs. The finger of blame was pointed at Charles Walton.

On February 14, 1945, Walton was found on Meon Hill with a pitchfork through his neck. A cross had been carved from the back of his neck to his stomach and the bill-hook which had been used was still wedged between his ribs. A few days after the murder a black dog was found hanged

further up the hill — some said it was Walton's "familiar" or spirit.

What made the story even more remarkable to investigators was that 70 years earlier, in 1875, a woman from a neighbouring village had suffered exactly the same fate.

Her murderer had later confessed: "Her was a proper witch. I pinned Ann Tennant to the ground before slashing her throat with a bill-hook in the form of a cross".

She had been staked to the ground with a pitchfork.

*Verdict: Unexplained*

## Case Of The Highgate Vampire

RUMOURS of a vampire in Highgate Cemetery in London, where Karl Marx is buried, date back to at least the 19th Century.

Artist and poet Dante Gabriel Rossetti had his lover's body exhumed in 1869, at least 10 years after she was laid to rest.

When they opened the coffin, she was lying there with her hair as golden-red and her face as beautiful and unblemished as it had been when she was alive.

The rumours reached fever pitch a century later, and on Friday the 13th of March, 1970, locals carried out a mass vampire hunt.

Over 100 people, protected with crucifixes and carrying sharpened stakes, rampaged through the cemetery led by vampire hunter David Farrant and an Essex schoolteacher called Alan Blood.

Farrant claimed that on four occasions he had seen a dark, human-like shape, about eight foot tall, gliding over the vaults at night.

Many of the vampire hunters said they had seen "something crawling in the dark".

On September 30, Farrant was arrested climbing over the graveyard wall, armed with a wooden cross and a stake.

He left the court declaring: "I won't rest until I catch the vampire of Highgate Cemetery."

A few days later, the graveyard was desecrated. Graves had been disturbed, lead stolen from coffins and bodies moved.

Three schoolgirls walking through the cemetery had come across the remains of a woman who had been dragged from her tomb.

Farrant blamed occult groups whom he believed were responsible for releasing the vampire in the first place. "He has to be destroyed," he said. "He is evil."

And to this day Farrant believes a vampire lurks in the ancient tombs of the cemetery.

*Verdict: Unexplained*

## Morag, Monster Of Loch Morar

WHILE everyone knows of the Loch Ness Monster, few have heard of the monster of Loch Morar in northern Scotland. The monster, which locals call Morag, has been seen more than 30 times.

On August 16, 1969, Duncan MacDonnell and William Simpson were fishing on the loch when MacDonnell heard a splashing noise behind the boat. He turned to see a creature up to 30ft long with three humps powering towards them. It struck the boat and slowed down.

The creature was covered in rough, dirty brown skin and had a snake-like head about a foot wide. Simpson panicked and grabbed his shotgun, but as he fired the monster disappeared back into the depths.

Despite the fact that the area is very difficult to reach, without roads on either shore, sightings continue to the present day. Some psychic

investigators believe Nessie and Morag are parapsychical phenomena rather than ancient monsters. They say the body of water is at the centre of an energy field that responds to thought by conjuring up temporary mythical beasts.

When one team investigated Loch Morar using dowsing rods, they found regularly spaced lines of energy passing from the hills into the loch.

*Verdict: Unexplained*

## Mysteries that CAN Be Explained

MANY phenomena investigated by Peter and Jenny turn out to have scientific explanations — or to be elaborate hoaxes.

In 1986 a Warrington newspaper printed a photograph of a partial eclipse of the moon. In the corner was a Flying Saucer-like shape flitting across the sky.

The buildings and sky behind turned out to be the only genuine parts of the photo. Both the eclipse and the UFO had been burned on.

In 1984 a couple from Luxembourg were contacted by spirits advising them to disconnect their TV aerial and switch the set to an untuned channel.

The image of a dead relative appeared telling them that a communications team was being organised on the Other Side and they should do the same.

Their office also received computer, telephone and fax messages from remarkably hi-tech spirits. Investigators believe they did indeed come from the Other Side — of the office, not the psychic divide.

*Verdict: Hoaxes*

**Life After Death and The World Beyond, by Jenny Randles and Peter Hough, is published this month in hardback by Piatkus, priced at £16.99.**



The Sunday Telegraph  
6 October 1996

## Off the beat *Albany*

AMID a wealth of military pageantry, fanfares of trumpets, stars, ribbons and plumed hats, Field Marshal Sir Peter Inge was last week installed as the 157th Constable of the Tower of London in succession to Field Marshal Sir John Stanier. The appointment will not add appreciably to his existing duties as Chief of the Defence Staff. -

His Letters Patent disclose that the oldest military office in the country, established by William the Conqueror and held by, among others, Thomas à Becket, is now effectively in the hands of a usurper called the Secretary of State for National Heritage, an office founded all of four years ago.

The Tower nowadays is big business. But that splendid body of men the Yeomen Warders are all former warrant officers who value a personal link with the Sovereign far above regulation by a department of Civil Service managers.

The Constable nevertheless retains perks: a one-bedroom flat in the Tower, a cask of wine from every warship visiting the Pool of London and the confiscation of any horse, ox, pig or sheep that falls off London Bridge. | O

Independent On Sunday  
6 October 1996

## A Palace fit for a pensioner (if rich)

By Michael Leapman

A SELECT few of the richest old people in the land may soon be able to spend their twilight years in sheltered accommodation on the top floor of a royal palace with an unsurpassed view of the Thames. It is one of the options being urgently debated for the future of the space above the King's Apartments at Hampton Court Palace, empty and unused since the state rooms themselves were restored following the major fire in 1986.

The third floor, looking out over the newly restored Privy Garden, used to be divided into grace-and-favour apartments, given rent-free to the widows of distinguished military men and public servants. It was in one of them that the fire began. But grace and favour are unfashionable in the 1990s; so Robin Evans, Director of Historic Royal Palaces, the body that administers the property, is being urged by the Government to find a revenue-earning use for the space.

His options are limited by the need not to interfere with the palace's main function as a historic building that attracts 600,000 paying visitors a year. "We must not have any use that affects the visitors' enjoyment," he says.

Another inhibiting factor is the lift, which can carry only four people. Installing a new one would mean hacking away at the state rooms below. For the same reason, no major structural alterations can be envisaged. That rules out such potentially profitable uses as a super-luxury small hotel and restaurant or a suite of prestige high-tech offices - although one of the possibilities is to let out some of the rooms for small business gatherings, exploiting the palace's proximity to Heathrow airport. The rooms would make a fine suite of top-flight apartments, but anyone who could afford to rent them would demand generous parking space - in short supply at Hampton Court - and would entertain lavishly and often. That is the appeal of making flats available only to elderly people, who have few cars and do not give many parties. There would be room for up to a dozen apartments, plus any necessary medical facilities. A final decision will be taken next year.

The Sunday Times  
6 October 1996

## 'X file' warns of asteroid disaster

by Jonathan Leake  
Environment  
Correspondent

3

IT IS the X file the Ministry of Defence would rather ignore. Prepared privately by an army officer, it warns that extra-terrestrial objects should be put at the top of the list of threats to national security.

The report, by Major Jay Tate, a ballistics expert, claims the threat of a devastating impact by a comet or asteroid is real and humanity could follow the dinosaurs into extinction.

The MoD, however, has decided it will take no action, even though Tate's findings have aroused concern among some of Britain's leading astronomers. Next month a group of them, including Dr Jasper Wall, director of the Royal Greenwich Observatory, will meet at the British National Space Centre in London to discuss the threat.

Like Tate, the astronomers believe public money should be allocated to mapping the thousands of objects whose orbits cross that of the Earth.

Tate's report, which recommends a group of scientists and civil servants be set up to study the threat, is the first to analyse the work of astronomers who have studied the courses of comets and asteroids and discovered hundreds of extra-terrestrial bodies that could hit Earth. Since only a tiny section of the sky has been mapped, however, there could well be many more such objects waiting to be found - provided they do reach Earth first.

Tate, 41, said last week: "The Earth has a long history of collisions with asteroids and comets, several of which have caused mass extinctions and severe alterations in climate.

"The spread of humanity makes it likely that even a relatively small impact could cause massive loss of life and property."

He took up astronomy using a pocket telescope to relieve the boredom of night duty in Germany, where he controlled anti-aircraft missiles, and his observations are based on years of experience.

His interest in comets and asteroids followed a posting to Canada, where he was impressed by a lecture by David Levy, co-discoverer of the Shoemaker-Levy comet, which smashed into Jupiter two years ago.

That led to his research and the scientific paper which has so stirred the professional astronomers. Tate hopes it will soon arouse the same interest in the general public.

Wall said his observatory scientists considered Tate's work excellent. He added: "This is a real threat, but one that we can do something about."

An MoD spokesman confirmed it had a copy of Tate's report but said the risk of Earth being obliterated by comets or asteroids was "not a priority". He said: "Michael Portillo has written to Major Tate thanking him, but we have decided this is not something we will be taking any further."

21



Classification

Caveat

Covering

|  |
|--|
|  |
|  |
|  |

F Sigs 927

(Int S/92)

*We've seen this article. An interesting letter from the public at*

# Facsimile Transmission Cover Sheet

| Transmission Details             |                               | Document Details                             |                  |
|----------------------------------|-------------------------------|--|------------------|
| Serial Number: 1654              | Date and time of Transmission | Reference: The rear. Choleon Not v. helpful. |                  |
| From: RAF Waddington             | Fax No: 0522 720271 Ext 7729  | Subject: UFO Sightings Heaven Help vs!       | [REDACTED] on 40 |
| To: [REDACTED]<br>MOD SEL (AS) 2 | Fax No: [REDACTED]            |  | [REDACTED] n 40  |
|                                  |                               | 4 pages                                      |                  |

| Authorising Officer  | Transmit Operators   |
|--|----------------------|
| Rank, Name and Appointment:<br>[REDACTED]<br>Community Relations Officer   | Rank/Grade and Name: |
| Signature: [REDACTED]  | Signature:           |
| Message/Remarks:<br>1. Reference the last para from Neatishead. We were never contacted & did not see anything at all!<br>2. The letter refers to comments in the original report that the RAF were unable to provide any aircraft to investigate.<br>3. Our SATCO considers many points in this report are unlikely to be factual!<br>Tel no [REDACTED] |                      |

Covering

Caveat

Covering

|  |
|--|
|  |
|  |
|  |

today.

The Echo has managed to get hold of a transcript of a conversation between police, RAF officials, the coastguard and a tanker boss which gives a blow-by-blow account of the unexplained events which took place.

We have also got hold of a snap-shot taken by Skegness police which clearly shows the bright light which suddenly appeared in the sky.

The mystery flying object was picked up by radar at RAF Neatishead in Norfolk and its movements were tracked for a number of hours from 3am on Saturday.

The conversation clearly reveals the confusion and excitement the unidentified object caused on the night.

Officials at the Ministry of Defence are now carrying out an investigation into the incident.

Here is the conversation between the different parties, word-for-word:

**Skegness police:** "We can see a strange red and green rotating light in the sky directly south east from Skegness. It looks strange as it is stationary and there is no aircraft sound in the area."

**RAF Kinloss:** "Northwood have a radar contact bearing 221 degrees at 16 miles, it looks to be stationary and there is no way of determining its height but it must be quite a size to be visible from Skegness."

**Kinloss:** "Neatishead now confirms a couple of radar contacts in the area but no height, they seem to be stationary. There are definitely no military aircraft in the area and no notified civil flights should be there."

**Conocoast tanker:** "We have these lights on

by Susan Ridd

visual, now they are flashing red, green and white. Cannot identify it as an aircraft as it looks stationary and it is approximately one mile high.

**Yarmouth Coastguard:** "Did you see from which direction it appeared?"

**Conocoast:** "Not 1 just appeared and is stationary."

**Kinloss:** "Neatishead say it could be caused by the weather."

**Coastguard:** "I don't think so as we have visual contact."

Leyland who shot the video on the roof of Skegness Police Station.

# Mystery of light in sky

## Confusion at 'UFO sighting'

**Kinloss:** "Well Neatishead and Northwood report that there is no transponder on this object and therefore no means of interrogation. It is obvious that whatever it is it does not want anyone to know that it is there. Also Neatishead report its position as directly over Boston."

**Conocoast:** "It is still stationary and flashing red, green, blue and white. It looks very high, north of us, and there is no engine noise."

**Coastguard:** "Skegness, can you get video footage as the RAF are very interested and may require it later."

**Kinloss:** "Neatishead are keeping a log of what looks like clutter on the radar."

**Yarmouth Coastguard:** "Conocoast, can you give us an update?"

**Conocoast:** "We can see two lights flashing green and red."

**Coastguard:** "Give us both bearings of the two lights."

**Conocoast:** "There is one stationary light at 345 deg true and the other at 160 true, the lights are both visible with the naked eye and both exhibit the same characteristics flashing red, blue, green and white."

**Boston police:** "We can still see the light, it is towards the south east and

seems about 40-45 degrees up in the sky it is just a bright light to us."

**Kinloss:** "Neatishead are running a trace on this and cannot explain it. If they are helicopters they are fast approaching the end of their endurance as it is well over two hours since the first report let alone how long they were up there before they were actually sighted."

**Conocoast:** "We can still see the lights, and they are on their original bearings and flashing the same colours but they seem higher and dimmer."

**Flight Lieutenant McFarlane, Neatishead:** "We had a report from Northwood that a civil flight had also reported strange lights in the area. They fit exactly what was seen from the ground, multi-coloured, flashing, stationary lights."

**Flight Lieutenant George, Northwood:** "This echo is still on our screens and we cannot explain this at all apart from it being a meteorological phenomena but then again we have visual sightings also as the civilian flight that reported these lights as a flare was six miles away at the time. All very strange."

**Neatishead:** "The object still has not moved. London radar and Waddington can also see it."

**PS TOURS ORIGINAL**

Direct from Lincoln, Newark and Gainsborough

|   |   |  |
|---|---|--|
| <b>NEWQUAY</b><br>Bella Vista Hotel<br>Indoor swimming pool<br>Entertainment plus<br>Falmouth and St Ives                                       | <b>ISLE OF WIGHT</b><br>Royal Pier Hotel<br>Indoor pool/entertainment<br>Guided tour of the Island                                    | <b>BOURNEMOUTH</b><br>West Cliff Hotel<br>PACIFIC 27<br>Establishment plus<br>excursions to Weymouth and<br>Salisbury Street Market                  |
| <b>FOLKESTONE WEEKEND</b><br>Trip to France via<br>Le Shuttle<br>Dinner and entertainment<br>Saturday night<br>Garden House Hotel<br>11 courses | <b>TORQUAY</b><br>The Cornish Hotel (M 7)<br>Indoor pool/entertainment<br>Exc. Lane to Cornish  | <b>SCOTLAND</b><br>Glenquoil<br>The George Hotel<br>Local guide<br>Dinner/entertainment  |
| <b>EASTBOURNE</b><br>New Hotel<br>Royal Pier<br>Special menu, dancing<br>Dinner   | <b>NORTHUMBERLAND</b><br>The Fenwick Schloss Hotel<br>New centre - local boating<br>High Island and Borthwick<br>10 May - 10 Sept 239 | <b>COUNTRY MUSIC</b><br>THE WEDDING COURSE<br>10 May - 10 Sept<br>with South Sea Festival<br>Pleasure in Association<br>Special live dancing on boat |
| <b>WILMINGTON</b><br>Wilton Hotel<br>Indoor swimming pool<br>Entertainment plus<br>Falmouth and St Ives   | <b>WILMINGTON</b><br>Wilton Hotel<br>Indoor swimming pool<br>Entertainment plus<br>Falmouth and St Ives                               | <b>WILMINGTON</b><br>Wilton Hotel<br>Indoor swimming pool<br>Entertainment plus<br>Falmouth and St Ives  |

IT'S HERE AGAIN

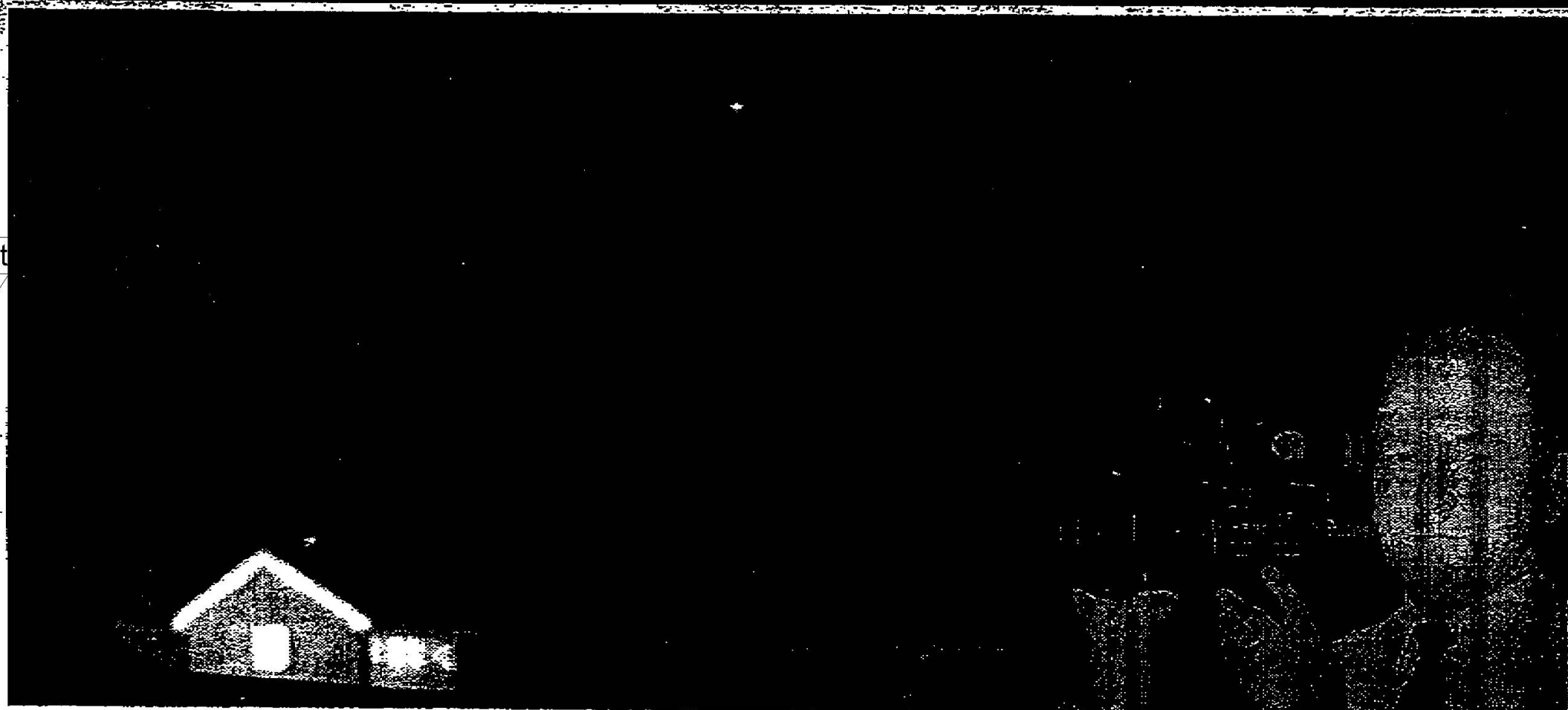
From the Aircraft Engineering Limited, Lincoln

GENUINE

5 DAY

Factory

9th, 10th, 11th, 12th, 13th



ID:

RAF WADDINGTON

FROM: C REG

14-OCT-96 11:23

**THE mystery surrounding a possible UFO sighting off the county coast deepened today.**

The Echo has managed to get hold of a transcript of a conversation between police, RAF officials, the coastguard and a tanker boss which gives a blow-by-blow account of the unexplained events which took place.

We have also got hold of a snap-shot taken by Skegness police which clearly shows the bright light which suddenly appeared in the sky.

The mystery flying object was picked up by radar at RAF Neatishead in Norfolk and its movements were tracked for a number of hours from 3am on Saturday.

The conversation clearly reveals the confusion and excitement the unidentified object caused on the night.

Officials at the Ministry of Defence are now carrying out an investigation into the incident.

Here is the conversation between the different parties word-for-word:

**Skegness police:** "We can see a strange red and green rotating light in the sky directly south east from Skegness. It looks strange as it is stationary and there is no aircraft sound in the area."

**F. KIRLOS:** "Northwood have a radar contact bearing 221 degrees at 16 miles. It looks to be

*by Susan Fidd*  
visual, now they are flashing red green and white.

• Captured: The bright light over the county coast and (right) Lincolnshire Police controller Dave Leyland who shot the video on the roof of Skegness Police Station.

# Mystery of light in sky

**Kirlos:** "Well seems about 40-45 degrees up in the sky it is just a report that there is no bright light to us."

## Confusion at



# Your letters

Readers: Letters, Lincolnshire Echo, Brayford Wharf East, Lincoln LN5 7AT. Please keep letters brief and, if typed, use double spacing. The Editor reserves the right to shorten letters. The opinions expressed are not necessarily those of the Lincolnshire Echo.

## It might have been a threat

SO, an unidentified flying object, travelling at speed "which suggested that it wasn't a weather balloon" passed down the Lincolnshire coast (Echo, October 7).

An RAF spokesman said: "The object appeared on our radars and stayed there for a number of hours."

A number of hours? Can you imagine the situation if, in 1958, a Royal Navy spokesman said: "A large number of ships, flying Spanish flags, sailed along the south coast and were watched from our mast-tops for a number of hours"?

We would by now be a nation of swarthy, bull-fighting, tap dancers.

Who knows what the UFO could have been? It could have been a potential enemy testing our defences, a steam-powered Iraqi missile.

Or even a spaceship full of love-goddesses from Venus looking for me. (Memo to all staff: If the latter, contact must be restricted to guidance).

Loan

If the RAF cannot do better than this it should return the aircraft to the Armed Forces from whom they were taken on temporary loan in 1917, and try running a garage.

E. C. COLEMAN

Bishop Norton

## Sir Peter's views came as a shock

I WAS very disappointed and shocked to hear Sir Peter Tapsell say on Radio Lincolnshire (October 5) that it would be more cost-effective to put patients in nursing homes at £400 a bed than into Horncastle hospital at £800 a bed.

Does he really believe that patients would get the same level of expertise as they would in the hospital? He underestimates our intelligence.

When someone goes into a nursing home they have to pay for themselves. That's one way of privatising the health service in Horncastle!

In January 1987 I wrote to Sir Peter opposing the closure of the hospital.

In his reply he wrote: "This hospital, for which I fought hard and successfully over the years when I was the local Member of Parliament, is now the responsibility of Mr Edward Leigh MP."

"I know that he is doing everything in his power to protect the future of the hospital and I have already told him that if there is anything I can do to help, I stand ready to do so."

I challenge Sir Peter to keep his promise!

No wonder the NHS is short of money. In a cutting I kept from the Mirror newspaper, dated September 10, 1995 the headline is: NHS Fat Cats Pocket £63m.

It states: "More than £63m has been paid to the people who run Britain's NHS Trusts - many of them leading Tories."

It gives a list of names and salaries. It also says: "The entire sum is going to fund posts that didn't exist before the Tories created the new tier of Trust boards in 1990"

ELFREDA T. PATCHETT (MRS)

North Road, Telford, Horncastle.

## Good base idea

I AGREE 100 per cent with what B. Green had to say about RAF Scampton (Your Letters, October 5).

I think it is high time that those in high places who claim to have the interests of our county and the future of international business development at heart, do just what is needed with this airfield.

I can't for the life of me see why, now that the RAF has pulled out, it should be torn up when the facilities are already in place and the potential is there for a freight airport.

If any of our MPs should read this and they want my vote at the next election, please start to do something positive NOW about RAF Scampton . . . and let's see you doing it!

S. TAYLOR

Greenhill Close, Bishop Norton.

## Aware of tide against the EU

VERONICA Hardstaff, justifying her employers' generosity (Your Letters, October 2) is obviously aware of the tide of common sense running against the EU.

She talks of large, powerful Germany "winning" and implies a threat of war if we don't acquiesce, grateful for small local handouts of our own money!

Are we seriously to accept that we owe 50 years of peace in Europe to the EU and that "no-one" wants a superstate and that, for example, the fishing and beef situations have been beneficial?

We are the biggest net contributor, after Germany - £60 for every man, woman and child in 1995-96.

Our fiscal is more expensive because of it, and in the 23 years since we joined the "Common Market" our partners have sold £90b more

to us than we have sold to them.

Most of the "little" countries she refers to have three-quarters of their trade within the EU and are paid to be members.

Most of our profitable trade is outside - in 1994 we had £5b surplus but a £6.8b deficit with the EU.

Europe needs and envies us, and there are even those who would like to replace London as the principal European financial market and worldwide centre, not to mention our dominant language and culture.

Our young people are unlikely to be fooled and will prefer to remain world players and traders, rather than "little Europeans" under the sway of costly foreign bureaucrats.

T. G. HERRICK  
Sudbrooke Lane, Nettleham.

### The cartoon feature



### HAMBONE by Mike Haugan



## ur weekend stars

with MARGOT'S



**ARIES** (March 21-April 20) Close relationships are giving you pause for reflection now since you recognise that you cannot go on as before. There have to be far reaching changes in the way you share, care and co operate. You have the passion, enthusiasm and the energy to carry you through so do not be slow about stating your terms.



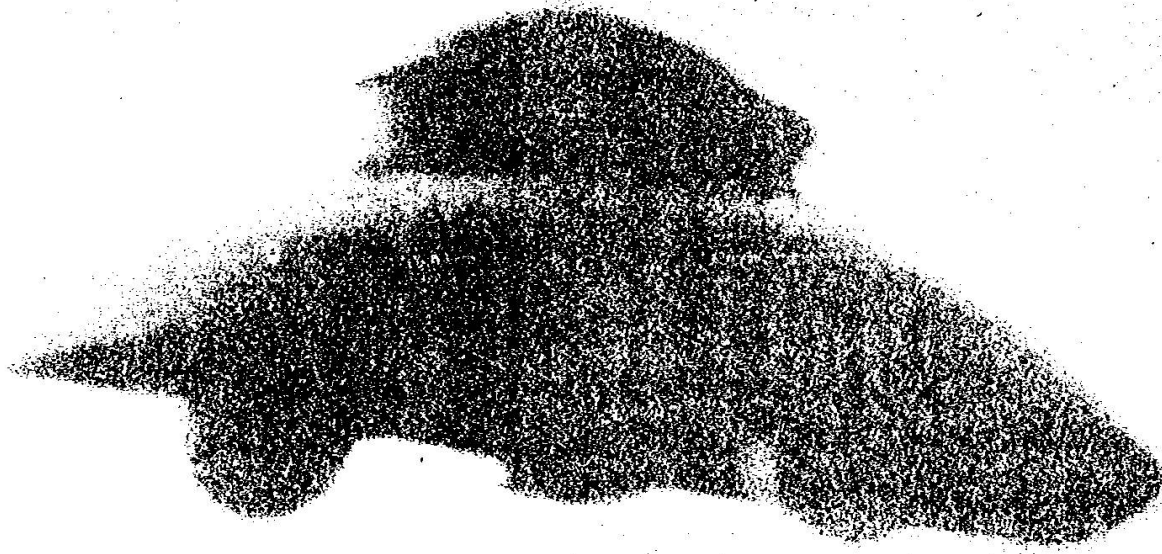
**CANCER** (June 22-July 23) Someone close is being specially comforting and supportive which is heartwarming. You do want to wrap yourself in cotton wool and shut out the outside world as much as possible. So clinging on to loved ones and familiar surroundings is making you feel secure. Push hard



**LIBRA** (Sept 24-Oct 23) The day of the solar eclipse in your own sign need not necessarily bring up significant events, it merely happens to be at the centre of an ongoing process of shaking your life down and moving it on at all speed. You have

# THE REAL X-FILES ?

TIM COLEMAN MEETS NICK POPE, AUTHOR OF *OPEN SKIES*, *CLOSED MINDS* AND ONE-TIME DESK OFFICER AT SEC(AS)2A, THE UFO INFORMATION-GATHERING DEPARTMENT AT THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE.



Alleged space craft photographed at Silver Springs, Maryland by Madeleine Rodeffer in 1965

Over the last few years something extraordinary has been happening in Britain. The trickle of interest in UFOs and paranormal phenomena, which has traditionally been investigated by a collection of so-called 'fringe' groups, and normally fills the columns of a small number of specialist magazines, has suddenly become a raging torrent. It appears that what was once considered the domain of a few enthusiastic amateurs has now become a subject of major public fascination, increasingly fuelled by the mainstream media who are falling over themselves in a competitive frenzy to feed this exponential growth in all things weird, wonderful and certainly extraterrestrial.

The reasons behind this explosion of interest are complex and multifaceted. Perhaps part of the reason lies in the fact that many old paradigms are collapsing like

houses made of straw. Revolutionary new theories are hammering at the doors of an endless list of scientific theories in physics, medicine and archaeology, to name but a few. A climate of uncertainty has thus been created which provokes both demands for change and an infectious, all-pervading curiosity at all levels of our society.

It could also be that due to the vast increase in interest in the UFO phenomenon, whether in the form of science fiction or in documentaries or media investigations, a more open atmosphere has been created in which people feel more confident about discussing the phenomenon, without fear of ridicule. With more and more scientists admitting just how limited their knowledge is, being agnostic about UFOs seems an ever more reasonable position. One thing is certain though: the actual number of reported sightings has increased enormously over the last few years.

One of the most significant changes to have occurred in the field of UFO research has been the increase in the number of respected academics who have been prepared to risk their reputations by becoming involved. This has occurred in the political arena as well, especially in America, where interest in the UFO phenomenon has become a public obsession.

Roy Lake, who heads a UFO study group in London and has been investigating the phenomenon for 43 years, states: 'There is no doubt that interest in UFOs and alien visitors is at an all-time high.' He believes part of the reason for this is to do with the flood of material coming from America. There has been a massive growth of interest in subjects such as Area 51, the notorious US military installation at Groom Lake, Nevada, where 'black budget' operations are carried out - the building of the Stealth bomber and 'Star Wars' technology research for example. Various witnesses who

claim to have worked there say the underground base is home to extraterrestrial discs, which are supposedly being 'back-engineered' for military use.

Lake also believes that: '*The X-Files* has had a remarkable effect on the British public. This programme has acted as a catalyst for many people who originally were not interested in UFOs but have now begun to get more involved.'

## Nick Pope: the maverick at the MoD

When *The X-Files* was first screened on BBC 2, its viewing figures of 6.2 million made it the channel's most popular programme. Its success has been such that it has since transferred to BBC 1 and is now showing twice every week. If you believe the characters in *The X-Files* to be pure fiction, then think again.

Although quite clearly not in the same league as the television character, Nick Pope often refers to himself as 'the real Fox Mulder'. From 1991 to 1994, Pope ran a special department at





A model of a 'grey' alien by Steve Neill

the Ministry of Defence, called Secretariat (Air Staff) 2a. This innocuous-sounding branch of the Civil Service was more commonly known as the 'UFO desk'. As its manager, Nick Pope was the government's top expert on the subject. It is possible that Nick had more access to UFO-related information than anyone else in the whole country.

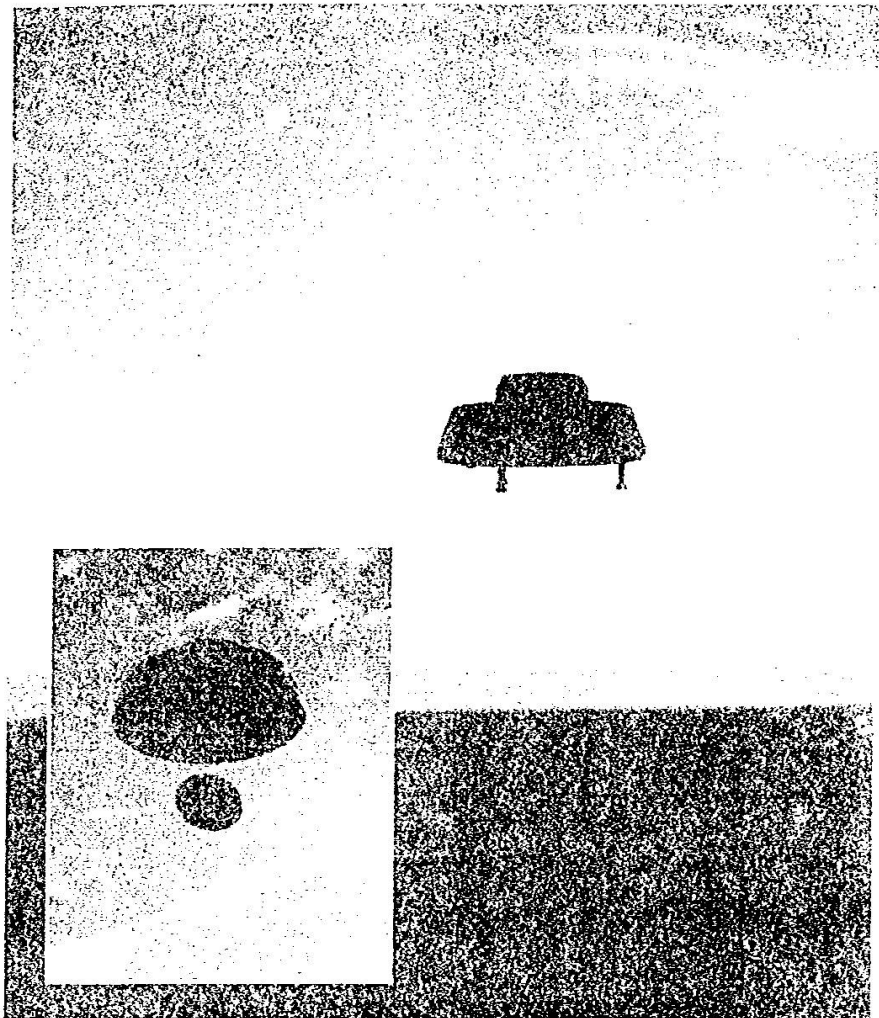
Pope says he horrified his colleagues at the MoD (and delighted UFO buffs) by publicly admitting his belief that some UFOs are extraterrestrial space craft. He has published a book, *Open Skies, Closed Minds*, which contains a description of his time on the UFO desk, as well as a detailed look, not only at important UFO cases he investigated, but also the alien abduction phenomenon, and even animal mutilation.

#### Is it a bird? Is it a plane?

If anyone reported a UFO sighting in Britain, whether they were airline pilots, military personnel,

radar operators or civilians, the reports would be investigated by Pope. He states: 'The vast majority of the 300 or so cases that arrived on my desk every year could be accounted for. There are, after all, numerous possible explanations, such as misidentification, and a wide range of natural phenomena, but that left a hard core of five per cent which are genuine unknown cases, all of which totally defy rational explanation. Five per cent is a lot, especially when you factor in the hundreds of people who never report their sightings. My best assessment is that they are extraterrestrial in origin.'

When Pope began his job, he echoed the entrenched scepticism of his sober civil servant colleagues. As time went by, though, the number of sightings reported by credible witnesses grew, (these were from men and women who, because of their social position,



Photographs of reportedly alien craft in Australia sent to our offices

were unlikely to fabricate stories of alien spaceships-airline pilots and RAF officers for example). He started to develop a genuine passion for the subject, and began to read the literature and meet all the top UFO researchers. 'The more I thought about it, the more I realised how much there was to this subject. I came to the conclusion that there must definitely be something going on'.

#### 'Spooky' Pope

Not long after *The X-Files* was released his colleagues began to draw parallels between the UFO-obsessed Fox Mulder and his real-life counterpart at the MoD. He says he even acquired Mulder's nick name, 'Spooky'. 'I would walk down the corridors and people would start whistling the theme tune from *The Twilight Zone* and say "there goes Spooky Pope". I suppose like Mulder I am a maverick and my views were considered outrageous.'

Regardless of any "evidence" to the contrary, the MoD still claim that all UFOs can be explained in terrestrial terms. Since the 1950s the MoD has accumulated information on more than 8000 UFO sightings, much of which is still withheld under the 30-year secrecy rule.

It is clear that there are still plenty of files sitting in vaults that the public will not see for a very long time, if ever.

#### Issues of National Security?

The MoD's official line is: 'Our only concern is to establish whether or not they pose a threat to the security of the United Kingdom. Unless we judge that they do, and this has not been the case so far, we do not attempt to investigate further.'

Ironically, it is exactly the issue of national security that worries Pope so much, and it is one of the reasons he gives for speaking out. Cases like the Rendlesham forest incident, where a UFO landed inside a US Air Force base in Suffolk (which happened before Pope took up his post), are of the sort that he has investigated and which are a source of great concern to him: 'We have a highly sophisticated array of air defence measures including ground-based and airborne radar. If the system has failed it is a very serious matter indeed. If structured craft of unknown origins are routinely viewed over the UK, it's a clear implication that they have



## UFOs

breached our defence system. In my opinion that poses a definite threat to the security of this country.'

But whether we could actually *do* anything about the aliens' apparent technological superiority is a very open question. Presumably, the fact that these alien beings are able to travel across the Universe and land undetected in our fields, in craft whose method of propulsion we can only wonder at, might be an indication that our technology is, in comparison to theirs, light years behind. Thus being concerned about the risk to our 'national security' might be a simple red herring, a justification for further spending on weapons of war even. All we can do is hope that their intentions are benign, because it is obvious that if they wanted to destroy us they would most likely have the capacity to do so. For them we could be just a diverting anthropological field trip.

Although Pope states that his conversion from sceptic to believer occurred gradually - 'The drip, drip, drip effect', as he describes it - he also asserts that it was particular cases arriving on his desk that were responsible for tipping the balance. 'Were I to name one day in the three years I spent as the ministry's UFO expert which convinced me that extra-terrestrial spacecraft are regularly visiting the Earth, it would have to be March 31st, 1993.'

### March 31st 1993

In the morning Pope received a call from a police constable in Devon who, along with his colleagues, described initially seeing two bright lights, together with a third, fainter one darting across the night sky. The officers were convinced it was like nothing they had ever seen before, and stated in their report that they were three craft flying in tight formation.

Pope then began to be besieged by calls from other witnesses, who described seeing exactly the same objects travelling at extremely high speed, then stopping instantaneously and hovering in mid-air.



Nick Pope, a UFO believer within the MoD.

**"The more I thought about it, the more I realised how much there was to this subject. I came to the conclusion that there definitely must be something going on."**

He co-ordinated the locations of the reports and discovered that the craft had been seen over Devon, Cornwall, Somerset, Wales and as far north as the Midlands and Yorkshire. The craft seemed to be zig-zagging at phenomenal speed all across the country. 'By lunchtime', Pope realised, 'it became obvious that I was right in the centre of the biggest wave of UFO sightings ever reported in Britain'.

One of the sightings in Wales was reported by a man with vast experience in aviation and mathematics. Knowing the local terrain extremely well, he had managed to time the UFO's passage between two points on the horizon and, knowing the distance between these landmarks, was able to calculate that the craft were ripping along at about 1,100 mph - roughly equivalent to the top speed of an F-16 jet fighter aircraft.

A group of five people in Staffordshire described seeing a huge diamond-shaped object flying so low over their heads that they could estimate its size to be about 200 metres in diameter - far larger than any man-made flying machine. As it went past them they heard a very low humming sound, so deep it was similar to the bass at a rock concert. The low bass frequency reverberated through their bodies. Utterly amazed, they jumped into their car and screeched down the road in hot pursuit, but the craft had gracefully accelerated away. They had no hope of catching up with it.

So far, the reports had originated from non-military personnel, so when Pope received a call from a meteorological officer stationed at an

RAF base in Shropshire, he became very concerned. 'The officer saw the most astonishing sight of that whole amazing night. An object in the sky, at first stationary, moved erratically towards him at a speed of several hundred miles an hour. At one point it fired a beam of light at the ground, which swept the countryside from left to right as if it was looking for something.' The officer reported seeing the object for a full five minutes - long enough to estimate that it was larger than a jumbo jet and to notice that it was emitting the same low frequency bass hum previously reported.

Pope then conducted a thorough investigation to see if any terrestrial explanation could account for some of the sightings - that was his job, after all. He could find none. He realised that there were too many visual sightings from trustworthy sources to ignore the implications of what he had heard, and wrote a detailed report for his bosses at the Ministry. This, much to his surprise, went straight to the assistant chief of the Air Staff. 'He noted my report, but there was little else he could do.'

Being a loyal Ministry man, what disturbed Pope most, he says, was the fact that whatever had zig-zagged across Britain on the night of the 30th March had invaded British air space and probed military installations without even being picked up by radar early warning systems. Its technical superiority was so great that, should it have proven to be hostile, there could have been no defence against it. If ever there was an issue of national security for the MoD,

surely this one should be given top priority. When Pope pointed this out to his superiors, he claims, they at first laughed the matter off, but when they realised he was serious, they told him to 'drop certain lines of enquiry'.

As Pope points out in his book, the 1976 US Freedom of Information Act allowed the release of many documents in the States that demonstrate the seriousness with which the American establishment views the possible existence and potential threat of UFOs. Most of the work was, and is, however, done undercover by various intelligence agencies. It could just be, therefore, that Pope's concern at his colleagues' cynicism is misplaced - few of them would know if there was top secret research being undertaken in *this* country into UFOs, and while state security agencies would have ready access to all of Pope's files (without his knowledge), Pope himself would be unable to discover the extent - or even the existence - of intelligence databases on all the various UFO phenomena.

### Takeaway food?

Although Pope was sent reports of alleged alien abduction cases, it was not in his brief to deal with them, so he passed details of the cases on to UFO experts. He was also aware of the strange animal mutilations that have been occurring on a large scale since 1967, primarily in America. In 1993 he began to receive the first reports of animal mutilations in Britain. In several places in the south of England it was discovered that horses and family pets had been subjected to an inexplicable method of mutilation where flesh is removed in neat circles, and genitals and other organs bored out. Pope was required to refer these cases on to the police or to the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food. Unsurprisingly, their 'clear up rate' was a little on the low side. Pope is now planning a follow-up book which will cover the 'alien abduction' phenomenon.

### The rise of alien chic

The current wave of interest in UFOs and other strange phenomena seems to go hand in hand with the search amongst young people for alternative belief systems. The younger generation have appropriated UFO imagery, wearing the popular SCHWA T-shirts and other paraphernalia which feature alien heads and UFOs themselves. According to *Fortean Times* editor Bob Pickard, 'It provides them with a belief system, something else to hang on to'. Young people are growing up in a world where old social norms are being undermined almost daily, but couldn't their interest in UFOs also be a manifestation of rebelliousness? After all, what could better demonstrate their disaffection with dogmatic elders than to openly embrace the idea of alien beings whose power far outstrips that of any terrestrial government?

The interest in aliens and UFOs also seems to have infiltrated the rave scene, with the appearance of a number of clubs which cater for these combined interests. Club Alien in London is a good example, where the organisers invite UFO experts to lecture at the club and to hang out with the ravers who can then ask questions about their favourite UFO topics.

### Alien autopsy film gets the thumbs down

Nick Pope has been very busy this year doing the lecture circuit and promoting his book. He recently appeared at the *Fortean Unconvention* held on April 20th and 21st in London. Amongst the plethora of weird subjects under discussion was the 'alien autopsy' film associated with the Roswell incident.

A discussion panel met following a showing of the film in its entirety, including the notorious 'tent sequence'. This involved a similar type of 'alien' body to that seen in the footage first shown to the media back in the summer of 1995. This sequence proved to be even less convincing than the footage shot in the 'autopsy room'. The



Model of one of the alien bodies reputedly recovered at the Roswell UFO crash site

quality of the film was appalling. It was badly underexposed, shot with a single camera that remained fairly stationary, and failed to show any revealing details as the autopsy took place. The story was that this autopsy had been conducted in a tent because of the urgent need to operate on the badly decomposing body.

The footage was presented by Philip Mantle, head of the famous British UFO Research Association (BUFORA), who has received a great deal of criticism from the UFO community for his 'support of and association with' Mr. Santilli, the producer who claims to have bought the footage from the US military cameraman who shot it in 1947. During the discussion on the authenticity of the footage, chaired by Mantle, the overwhelming consensus was that this was an elaborate hoax. When the audience were asked if they thought it was a fake, practically all hands shot up.

The most interesting aspect of the Santilli film is that it is still the centre of so much attention. Despite 99 per cent of the UFO community condemning it as a hoax, it continues to fascinate the public. In fact, if the footage is part of some elaborate disinformation campaign designed to discredit the Roswell crash, it seems to have backfired dramatically. Like Area 51, Nick Pope, and *The X-*

*Files*, the alien autopsy footage has attracted a huge amount of mass media attention and it has therefore succeeded in exposing a vast world-wide audience to the existence of the UFO phenomenon. It has clearly illustrated that the public (and UFO experts) are far less gullible than many expected them to be, and it has clearly been one of the major factors responsible for triggering the exponential growth of interest in many of the more serious aspects of the whole alien and UFO subject in general.

But, as one panel member observed, much of the interest in the footage probably stems from the fact that two main questions still have to be answered: Who made the film and why was it made? He also points out that, although he believes it to be a hoax, 'No one has actually come along with absolute proof that it's a fake. Which leaves the uncomfortable element of possibility that it could yet turn out to be real'.

### Open skies but a lot of closed minds

Pope claims, optimistically, that: 'When people read my book it will change their attitudes in a very profound way. A lot of material in there is very sensational and there are a lot of great cases that will make people look at this in a whole new light.' But he adds that: 'Until we have the start key of an actual UFO you are not going to be

able to convince the sceptics of the reality of the phenomenon, whether they be from the general public or from the ranks of government.'

Pope says that his three years spent investigating UFOs for the government was a real voyage of discovery, and one that has turned his world view completely inside out. He concludes that the implications of the reality of an alien presence on earth are beyond the means of adequate expression: 'It is beyond the scope of any single individual to comprehend or put into words. There's no doubt that if such a presence were 'officially' established it would change the way humanity views itself for ever.'

When I persisted in asking him where he thought the answers to the UFO phenomenon lie, he finally replied: 'If you want to know where the answer is to what is actually going on with the whole UFO and alien subject, the place to find it is almost definitely buried somewhere deep within the American government.'

Given the seemingly unquenchable public thirst for more information, and its need to be given some real answers, perhaps one day those secrets will finally emerge. ■

#### MORE INFORMATION

Nick Pope's book, *Open Skies, Closed Minds* is published by Simon & Schuster and is available in hardback at £14.99.





*Cuttings from area  
around Heister Road  
to follow.*

40

With the compliments of

*SON CON*

**Defence Press Office**

(Defence Information Division)

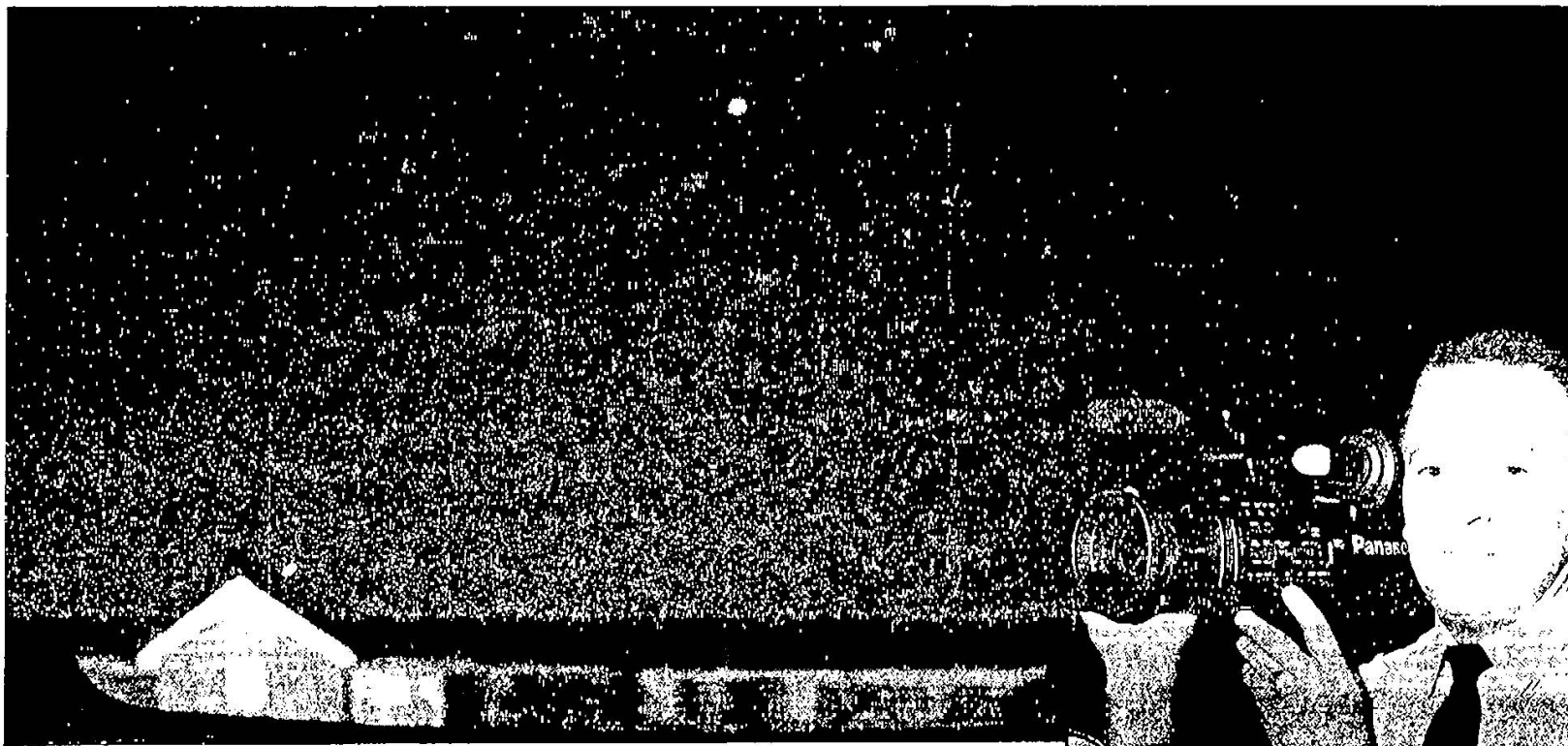
Room 0389 Main Building

Whitehall London SW1A 2HB

Telephone: 071-218

Fax: 071-218 6460

645  
6



### E mystery surrounding a possible UFO sighting off the county coast deepened lay.

The Echo has managed to get hold of a transcript of a conversation between police, RAF officials, the steward and a tanker boss which gives a blow-by-blow account of the unexplained events which took place.

We have also got hold of a snap-shot taken by Skegness police which clearly shows the bright light which suddenly appeared in the sky.

The mystery flying object was picked up by radar at RAF Neatishead in Norfolk and its movements were tracked for a number of hours from 3am on Saturday.

The conversation clearly reveals the confusion and excitement the unidentified object caused on the night.

Officials at the Ministry of Defence are now carrying out investigation into the incident.

Here is the conversation between the different parties, word-for-word:

**Skegness police:** "We can see a strange red and green tingling light in the sky directly south east from Skegness. It is strange as it is stationary and there is no aircraft sound in the area."

● Captured: The bright light over the county coast and (right) Lincolnshire Police controller Dave Leyland who shot the video on the roof of Skegness Police Station.



# Mystery of light in sky

**RAF Kinloss:** Northwood have a radar contact bearing 221 degrees, 6 miles. It looks to be stationary and there is no way of determining its height but it must be quite high to be visible from Skegness.

**Kinloss:** "Neatishead confirms a couple of contacts in the area but height, they seem to be stationary. There are definitely no military aircraft in the area and no notified civil aircraft should be there."

**Conocoast tanker:** "We have these lights on

*by Susan Ridd*

visual, now they are flashing red, green and white. Cannot identify it as an aircraft as it looks stationary and it is approximately one mile high."

**Yarmouth Coastguard:** "Did you see from which direction it appeared?"

**Conocoast:** "Not it just appeared and is stationary."

**Kinloss:** "Neatishead say it could be caused by the weather."

**Coastguard:** "I don't think so as we have visual contact."

**Kinloss:** "Well Neatishead and Northwood report that there is no transponder on this object and therefore no means of interrogation. It is obvious that whatever it is it does not want anyone to know that it is there. Also Neatishead report its position as directly over Boston."

**Conocoast:** "It is still stationary and flashing red, green, blue and white. It looks very high, north of us, and there is no engine noise."

**Coastguard:** "Skegness, can you get video footage as the RAF are very interested and may require it later."

**Kinloss:** "Neatishead are keeping a log of what looks like clutter on the radar."

**Yarmouth Coastguard:** "Conocoast, can you give us an update?"

**Conocoast:** "We can see two lights flashing green and red."

**Coastguard:** "Give us both bearings of the two lights."

**Conocoast:** "There is one stationary light at 345 degrees true and the other at 160 degrees true. The lights are both visible with the naked eye and both exhibit the same characteristics flashing red, blue, green and white."

**Boston police:** "We can still see the light, it is towards the south east and

seems about 40-45 degrees up in the sky it is just a bright light to us."

**Kinloss:** "Neatishead are running a trace on this and cannot explain it. If they are helicopters they are fast approaching the end of their endurance as it is well over two hours since the first report let alone how long they were up there before they were actually sighted."

**Conocoast:** "We can still see the lights, and they are on their original bearings and flashing the same colours but they seem higher and dimmer."

**Flight Lieutenant McFarlane, Neatishead:** "We had a report from Northwood that a civil flight had also reported strange lights in the area. They fit exactly what was seen from the ground, multi-coloured, flashing, stationary lights."

**Flight Lieutenant George, Northwood:** "This echo is still on our screens and we cannot explain this at all apart from it being a meteorological phenomenon but then again we have visual sightings also as the civilian light that reported these lights as a flare was six miles away at the time. All very strange."

**Neatishead:** "The object still has not moved, London radar and Waddington can also see it."

## Confusion at 'UFO sighting'

● PRICE CUTS UP TO £20 OFF ●

### ORIGINAL STOURS

Direct from Lincoln, Newark and Gainsborough

|  |  |
|--|--|
| <b>ISLE OF WIGHT</b><br>Royal Fair Hotel<br>Indoor pool/tennis/tennis court<br>Guided tour of the island<br>Only £55 (14 days)             | <b>BOURNEMOUTH</b><br>West Cliff Hotel<br>AA/RAC 2*<br>- Enjoy 30 mins of plus<br>- 20 mins of plus<br>- 20 mins of plus<br>Only £55 (14 days) |
| <b>TORQUAY</b><br>The Cavendish Hotel (AA 2*)<br>Indoor pool/tennis/tennis court<br>Exc. Local in Cornwall<br>Only £55 (14 days)           | <b>SCOTLAND</b><br>Bonnie Gateway<br>The George Hotel<br>- Local of de<br>- Enjoy 30 mins<br>Only £55 (14 days)                                |
| <b>NORTHUMBERLAND</b><br>The Tynes Schooner Hotel<br>- 10 mins centre - Local bonfire<br>- Holy Island and Bamburgh<br>Only £55 (14 days)  | <b>COUNTRY MUSIC THEMED CRUISE</b><br>via North Sea Ferries<br>- Live band on board<br>- Band/Line dancing on board<br>Only £42 (14 days)      |
| <b>BUTLINS GRAND HOTEL</b><br>MARGATE<br>- Top class cabaret and dancing<br>- 10 mins to beach<br>- 10 mins to beach<br>Only £55 (14 days) | <b>CUMBRIAN LAKES</b><br>The Cumbrian Hotel<br>- Local of de on days out<br>- Enjoy 30 mins<br>Only £55 (14 days)                              |
| <b>NORTH SEA FERRIES</b><br>SIXTIES CRUISE<br>- Live band on board of ship<br>- 10 mins to beach<br>Only £49 (14 days)                     | <b>BUTLINS GRAND HOTEL</b><br>SCARBOROUGH<br>- Top class cabaret and dancing<br>- 10 mins to beach<br>Only £55 (14 days)                       |
| <b>NORTH SEA FERRIES</b><br>BELGIUM/OSTEND<br>- 10 mins to beach<br>- 10 mins to beach<br>Only £49 (14 days)                               | <b>MORECAMBE BAY</b><br>The Liffordale Hotel<br>- Special menu<br>- 10 mins to beach<br>Only £49 (14 days)                                     |
| <b>YARMOUTH</b><br>- 10 mins to beach<br>- 10 mins to beach<br>Only £49 (14 days)  | <b>EDINBURGH HOGWARTS</b><br>Commodore Hotel (AA/RAC 2*)<br>- Local of de on days out<br>- Enjoy 30 mins<br>Only £55 (14 days)                 |
| <b>AS IN WINDSOR</b><br>- 10 mins to beach<br>- 10 mins to beach<br>Only £49 (14 days)   | <b>LONDON Theatre break</b><br>SUNSET BOULEVARD<br>- 10 mins to beach<br>- 10 mins to beach<br>Only £49 (14 days)                              |
| <b>COUNTRY</b><br>- 10 mins to beach<br>- 10 mins to beach<br>Only £49 (14 days)   | <b>FREE</b><br>- 10 mins to beach<br>- 10 mins to beach<br>Only £49 (14 days)  |

**LID Entertainment**  
OWGATE (01472) 349222  
DN32 ORA (01472) 267222  
LID Entertainment is a member of the LID Group

## On road to exam

ROAD workers in the county must now take a course and get a certificate before they can lift a pick.

Hundreds of gang members must get the City and Guilds qualification before a new law comes into force next August.

The guarantee of training has been welcomed by Lincoln City Council which is responsible for monitoring the safety of road work.

Deputy city engineer Steve Roper said: "I think these changes should have an impact on the standard of work."

The measures will come into force under the last wave of orders made by the New Roads and Street Works Act of 1991.

From the Award Winning Lincolnshire COUNTRY CLUB

### GENUINE 5 DAY FACTORY

Wednesday, Thursday, Friday  
9th, 10th, 11th, 12th

Opening times: 9am-7pm Daily

What's on offer: a large selection of Classic clothing are at the manufacturers cost prices

Some of which are usually

Headwear from £2 Wax  
Quilted Childrens Vests from

Find us at:  
**Magdalen House, Boston Road Industrial Estate**

FOLLOW THE SIGNS FROM  
for further information on how to find us please

All major Credit Cards and

**Heritage  
spotlight  
on three  
historic  
Brentwood  
buildings**

THREE Brentwood buildings have been chosen as sites of special historic interest.

As part of the Department of National Heritage open days, there will be tours of Brentwood School in Ingrave Road over the weekend.

Organisers say that the school complex includes many Grade II listed buildings, a Tudor schoolroom and a small 19th century chapel.

There are also Georgian and earlier buildings which can be seen from outside.

Tours will be held on Saturday at 11.30am

**WEEKLY NEWS**

*Keeping you  
informed, in touch  
and entertained*

● THE French doors of a house in Worrin Road, Shenfield, were forced and thieves got away with ornaments, jewellery and a computer worth between £8,000 and £10,000.



**Concert was out  
of this world!**

AN extra-terrestrial audience convinced some people that the music at Weald Country Park on Saturday was out of this world.

The Last Night of the Proms concert (left) attracted a huge crowd - but it seems that some on-lookers may have come from further afield.

Essex Police received reports of UFOs in the area at the time of the concert which is part of Festival Brentwood.

Two drivers phoned in to say that they had seen alien aircraft.

And claims that the strange lights were due to the laser show which was part of the concert failed to convince the mystified callers.

Festival co-ordinator Andy

Wilson said that it was not out of the question: "Well, the concert really was out of this world, so you never know!"

More than 4,000 music-lovers turned up to enjoy the concert - the first of its kind in Brentwood.

Andy said: "That's an incredible number considering it was the first time we have held it."

"Words really can't describe how good it was. The atmosphere was electric, and it was simply the best concert I have ever been to."

A grand firework finale, set to music, finished off the evening.

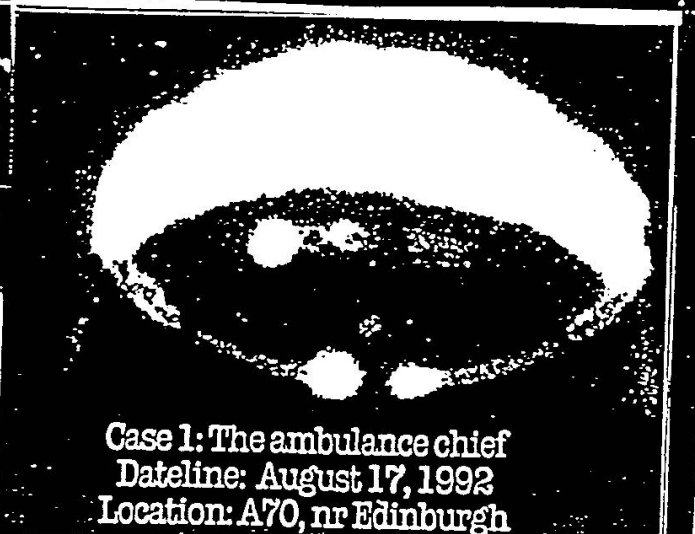
And now it looks as if the park concert could become an annual event, with two already pencilled in for next year.



Daily Mirror  
23 August 1996

**A respected ambulance chief and his friend reveal under hypnosis they were abducted by a spaceship on a lonely road. Is this the proof?**

## THE ALIEN IS AMONG US



Case 1: The ambulance chief  
Dateline: August 17, 1992  
Location: A70, nr Edinburgh

**DAILY Mirror**

DAY 2 OF 28  
A SPECIAL  
INQUIRY

**I**T TAKES only a dark road with a dip in it, or a blind corner, and Gary Wood is gripped by fear.

Nightmares shatter the four hours' sleep he has now learned to live with.

Every day the words echo in his head: "We are already here — and we are still coming."

Yet this is a man who holds down the vital job of keeping Scotland's ambulances on 100 per cent call-out readiness.

In a country pub, his drink untouched, making his story as detailed as possible, 32-year-old Gary shoots embarrassed glances at his listeners.

He shakes his head. "I'm sorry. I know it sounds nuts, but I can only tell it how it happened ... I don't want this. I would rather have my life back the way it was."

Gary tells a story of alien abduction on a Scottish road. Of beings who probed his body and mind and left him terrified that one day they will return — for him.

Of all the encounters claimed around the world, Gary's is considered one of the most authentic. For he was not alone on the night of August 17, 1992, when he was plucked from his car.

Friend Colin Wright was with him. Separately, under hypnosis, they have told the same story.

Colin has coped with it better, refusing to talk publicly. Gary talked and suffered ridicule and hostility. It took much persuasion to arrange this rare interview.

Nervous, and watching for the first hint of derision, he begins: "I was just a normal guy. All I wanted was my job, plenty of money, a nice house, a family..."

Today he shrugs as if these things are lost forever.

**A**T ABOUT 10pm that August night, Gary set off with Colin on a 40-minute journey to another friend's house outside Edinburgh.

Driving at a safe 45mph, the pair had just passed Harper's Ridge reservoir on the A70 when they approached a blind dip in the road.

Before them, floating about 20ft above the ground, was a black, domed object measuring 30-35ft across. It was a classic flying saucer shape.

A curtain of light bathed the width of the road.

"Suddenly, it was like I was in a black void," says Gary. "There I am, standing up and thinking: 'Where's my car? Where's Colin?' I wondered if I was dead."

"Another 15 seconds went by and I was back in my car on the wrong side of the road, shunting diagonally into the banking."

At their friend's home, the terrified pair told what had happened.

Independently, in separate parts of the house, they drew what they had seen. The drawings were identical.

They also discovered that somehow, they had lost an hour-and-a-half en route.

For Gary, the ordeal was just

beginning. He began to suffer severe headaches and flashbacks which left him screaming in bed. The fear was so crippling he couldn't go out alone, except to work.

Nine months after his encounter, Gary was prepared for hypnosis. Colin also agreed to undergo testing.

The regression was video-taped. Horror is stamped over Gary's face as he relives the meeting.

"I saw three creatures coming towards my car. I felt intense pain, like an electric shock. Then I was in some room."

"I saw these things like wee men moving about, doing something to me. I could only see up. Then this six-foot creature approached."

"It was white-grey in colour with a large head and dark eyes with a long, slender neck, very slim shoulders and waist."

"There were either ribs or folds of skin on its body. The arms were like ours but there were four very long fingers."

"The little ones were about three feet tall and seemed to do

all the work while the big ones did the communication.

"I felt that some of them felt sorry for me. One of them looked into my life and I looked into it — it couldn't stop me. It was hiding something."

"One of the big creatures put his face close to mine and I was so frightened I could hardly breathe."

**I**T NEVER spoke to me, but something came into my head.

"I heard a voice saying: 'I have a life like you but different things happen to us — but it's got to be done.'"

"I was crying like a baby — I wanted to get away. I must have asked what it wanted. It said: 'Sanctuary — we are here already and we are coming here.'"

"Just to the left of me I saw a girl. She was on the ground, her hands clasping her knees to her chest. She was naked and crying."

"She looked at me, but I couldn't do anything. Tears were coming down her face. She was in her early twenties, with shoulder-length blonde hair. I would recognise her face if I saw it again but it was nobody I'd met before."

In separate sessions, Colin remembered being in a different room. He was naked and sitting in a chair.

If he tried to move, one of the creatures would stop him.

In his head he heard: "Gary's all right, you don't have to get off the chair."

Hanging from the ceiling were cylinder-shaped objects which made him think of containers for people.

After the regression, Gary became obsessed with research and tracking down other people who have had similar experiences.

He now has his own page on the Internet. Along with Edinburgh author John Jenkins, he has recorded the stories of others — debunking many of them.

Every spare hour is devoted to seeking an answer to what happened to him.

"I know something is going to happen. I believe they are here



## MANY CASES INVOLVE SANE, HONEST PEOPLE

**PHILIP MANTLE**, of the British UFO Research Association (BUFORA), has interviewed many of the 80 Britons claiming alien encounters. He says: "There are too many cases involving sane, sober, decent and honest people for it to be discounted."

"The fact that alleged abductees risk ridicule when they talk publicly must deter the cranks."

**AN MoD SPOKESMAN** dismissed the threat of aliens arriving here as "negligible". He said: "We don't perceive any threat from extra-terrestrials."

"Around 99.9 per cent of cases are explained by natural phenomena like lighting, weather balloons or aircraft."

### EXPERTS' VIEW

**NICK POPE** spent three years at the MoD, investigating and researching the UFO mystery. He says: "I have absolutely no doubt that some of these accounts do happen and that some sort of alien intelligence may be involved."

"Of the MoD UFO sightings, five to ten per cent are unexplained."

"On a number of occasions, RAF jets have been scrambled to try and intercept UFOs."

● Philip Mantle's book *Without Consent* is published by Ringpull Press. You can contact BUFORA at BM Bufora, London, WC1N 3XX

Case 3: The forester  
Dateline: Nov, 1979  
Location: Scotland

**RETIRED** forester Bob Taylor will never forget that day in November 1979 when he was attacked by a UFO in a Scottish wood.

Bob, 78, who now lives in Tayside, says: "I was walking through Dechmont woods with my red setter Lara and as I turned this corner there was this 250ft spinning top thing in front of me."

"These sea-mine-type things with spikes on them came out of the back and grabbed my trousers ripping right through to my skin."

Bob passed out.

"When I came to, I heard a sound of something moving very fast away in the distance. I eventually got on my knees and crawled to my truck but it was dead."

Dad-of-five Bob



ATTACK: Bob's picture of his assailant

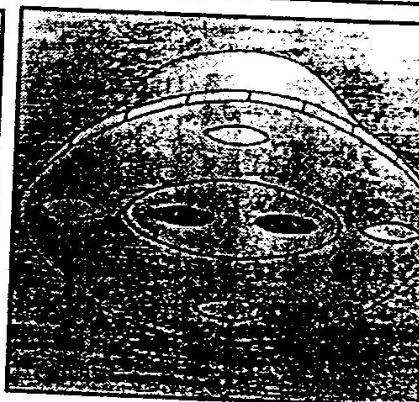
## SPIKES WENT FOR MY LEGS

crawled the mile to his home and told his wife he'd been attacked by a UFO.

The police were called to the scene and their report states: "The marks indicated an object

of several tons had stood there but no information has been gained to explain them."

But widower Bob says: "I know there is something out there."



TERROR DRIVE: Rose and Val and an impression of the UFO

## OUR LOST 30 MINUTES

IT WAS 2am and the road was deserted. Suddenly, bright lights appeared to hover in front of Vivien Hayward's car.

She, Rosemary Hawkins and Valerie Walters noted that the huge object ahead was silent.

Foster carer Rosemary, 40, recalls that night 15 years ago: "Our engine lost power. Then the object's lights dimmed and it disappeared. We arrived at a police station at 2.50 - we'd lost half an hour."

Under hypnosis, Rosemary remembered being scanned in

Case 3: The girlfriends  
Dateline: July, 1981  
Location: A5, Shropshire

a machine. Valerie recalled: "Something grabbed my shoulders and a voice told me not to be afraid."

"I was in a room with no doors and a tall, long-haired man and woman appeared. The female tried on my shoes and fell. I asked what they wanted and was told: 'There will be a time when you'll understand'."

**FORMER** policeman Philip Spencer was walking across Yorkshire's Ilkley Moor just after dawn when he encountered something incredible.

Philip (not his real name) was carrying a camera to take some snaps of the town when it got lighter.

Hearing a humming sound, he looked up to see a figure he is convinced wasn't human.

He took a photo and followed it to

Case 4: Philip Spencer  
Dateline: December 1, 1987  
Location: Ilkley Moor, Yorkshire

what appeared to be two giant silver saucers stuck together.

The craft shot upwards and into the clouds.

When he got back into town, Philip realised it was 10am - he'd "lost" two hours. He had the photos developed - to find the creature had been captured on

film. During later hypnotic regression Philip described entering the craft and being put on a table by creatures with pointed ears.

He said they showed him two films, the first containing scenes of destruction and starvation. He said he was not allowed to discuss the second.

Daily Mail  
3 August 1996

M 20

3

④

# Why would aliens want to come to our town?

**CHRISTOPHER MIDDLETON**  
visits the small Scottish valley that's  
become the scene of Britain's  
real-life X-Files

It's not immediately clear why aliens should want to come to Bonnybridge. A small, windswept town just north of Glasgow, it sits in a muddy valley, framed by electric pylons and low hills. There's a bridge (not remotely bonny), a Chinese takeaway, two pubs and 5,450 people.

There's also plenty of sky — and from the window of their seventh-floor flat, pensioners Bill and Mabel Bestall can see most of it. If they are preoccupied with the view, few can blame them. From their windows, they have witnessed UFO activity on no less than three occasions.

Bizarrely, perhaps, this small, close-knit community has become the scene of Scotland's real-life X-Files — a town where, with startling regularity, residents report evidence of alien activity.

The most dramatic of these sightings took place in the early hours of the morning last January. 'It was about a quarter to five, and I'd got up in the night,' remembers Bill. 'Suddenly, I spotted a large circular light hovering over Bonnybridge and realised it was heading towards our flats.'

'Next, two smaller circular objects came into view, spinning around the larger one. I was intrigued and called the wife to come and look. However, as it got nearer, we became scared. It was huge and it was heading straight for us. But then it suddenly rose up and over the top of the flats.'

Perhaps it was a plane. Or a helicopter. Or perhaps Mr Bestall is completely batty, and so is his wife — who, incidentally, confirms every detail. All these are possibilities. But when you look at the sheer statistical mass of sightings by people in the Bonnybridge area, then the greater likelihood is that the Bestalls are telling the truth.

For some reason, this corridor of countryside between Glasgow and Edinburgh is a UFO hotspot. Of all sightings in Scotland, two-thirds occur within it. 'To my knowledge, 3,000 people have seen something unusual in our skies during the past few years,' says Bonnybridge councillor Bill Bucharan. 'And there must be many more who have been afraid to come forward.'

Walk down the main street, and everyone knows someone who's seen a UFO. At the electrical goods shop, it's Anne Stewart's daughter, Carol, who had a night encounter with bright, flying objects while driving home. 'We were at the pub when she rang us, terrified,' says her mother. 'The whole bar piled outside to have a look, but whatever it was had gone.'

Meanwhile, at the post office, Marlene Fleming has been keeping a secret for years. It concerns an elderly friend who went fishing one night at nearby St Helen's Loch, and saw a bright

light in the sky. 'The thing started moving back and forth across the water,' says Marlene. 'Then it started following my friend, who decided to head back home. By the time he reached the house, he was running for all he was worth.'

Marlene's friend never made his ordeal public, and many others feel the same way. There is, however, someone they can turn to. And that's John Jenkins. A 60-year-old piano tuner from nearby Penicuik, John was a spaceship sceptic until one morning in 1992, when he saw an 'orange-golden ball' in the sky just outside Edinburgh.

'It was travelling in an absolute straight line and at great speed,' recalls John. 'I thought the whole city would be in an uproar, but although there was an article about it in The Scotsman, it was quickly forgotten.'

But not by him. Before long, he was seeking out others who had experienced close encounters. One was Andy Swan, a 27-year-old electric

cable layer from nearby Armadale. 'I'd been to Cowdenbeath,' recalls Andy. 'When I got home, around 11.45pm, there was a lightning storm, and as I was sitting in the car watching it, I saw this large object come crashing down from the sky — about 35 to 40 foot long, the size of a lorry trailer. I decided to drive in the direction it had been travelling.'

A mile along the road, the object suddenly came flying low over the hedgerows, straight at his car. 'I thought I was going to run into it, but it passed over the bonnet and came to a halt in a field. It just sat there, hovering silently, about 15 feet off the ground. I got out of the car and pointed my halogen lamp at it to get a better look. Immediately, the bulb blew. Then my headlights went out. I tried the car ignition, but it wouldn't start. Suddenly, the thing leapt up and reversed at incredible speed back over the top of the car.'

The police were called, as was an AA patrolman, who was unable to find any visible fault in Andy's car. No sooner had it been towed back home, however, than the electrics came back to life. In a police statement, Andy described the object as looking like 'a giant, black Toblerone bar'.

What still troubles him now, though, is that, 'Somehow, an hour of my life can't be

5

concerns what has been Bonnybridge's most distressing case so far, involving two young men who have become so upset by their experience that they no longer talk about it publicly. It happened one night in 1992, as Colin Wright and Garry Wood were taking a satellite dish to be repaired at a friend's house. Ordinary working people, they had no previous interest or belief in UFOs. Colin was a painter and decorator, Garry worked for the ambulance service.

As they drove along the A70, near the Harperrig Reservoir, they suddenly saw a jet-black, disc-shaped object 20 feet above the road. They came to a halt directly underneath the thing, upon which it released a shimmering curtain of light over them — 'like confetti', one of them described it.

Both men were catapulted into inky blackness, and remember only that there was a huge shudder. Then they found themselves still in the car, the blackness gone. Shaken, they drove on — but found when they reached their destination that the journey had taken two hours longer than the 35 minutes it should have done.

To find out what happened in those two missing hours, Colin and Garry independently underwent a dozen sessions of hypnotherapy, during which they provided accounts that not only matched each other's, but also those of previous 'abductees'.

Both claim they were transported out of the car by a beam of light, then stripped and subjected to an inspection by creatures with translucent, child-like bodies and pear-shaped heads. Both saw other men and women being examined, but not each other.

And the official response to all this? Don't panic, Captain Mainwaring, would seem to be the answer. 'If we conclude that no threat to the security of the UK has occurred, we do not attempt to investigate,' says the Ministry of Defence. And in none of the Bonnybridge cases is any such threat thought to have occurred.

In the case of Andy Swan, for example, they wonder if he had mistaken his Toblerone bar for a Harrier Jump Jet, of which there were three in the area that night.

Nevertheless, local MP Dennis Canavan and Bill Buchanan still want the Bonnybridge phenomenon investigated. 'It's a disgrace that no one has come here to look into what's going on,' says Councillor Buchanan. 'I have this feeling that something really dramatic is going to happen here. I'm just hoping that I and all these other law-abiding people will eventually be vindicated — and preferably in our own lifetime.'

accounted for.' Falkirk police confirm that they received a distress call on Andy's mobile phone at 1.20am. Yet he is sure he made it at around 12.15. So what happened in that lost time? At this point, one makes a significant leap from the world of visible, recordable fact — into the black hole of sci-fi speculation.

Suddenly, X-Files theories loom large. One theory gaining ground in UFO circles is that humankind is being infiltrated by a race of creatures often referred to as The Greys. Those who have experienced such contact tell their 'true life' stories in glossy 'paranormal' magazines such as Encounters and Alien Encounters.

Others, however, are more sceptical. One explanation for the whirling lights seen by the Bestalls is that they are fireballs — pieces of matter burning up on entering the earth's atmosphere. Other possible culprits include aircraft lights or aircraft seen from unusual angles, kites, helium balloons, weather balloons and unusual cloud formations — not to mention lightning and meteorites.

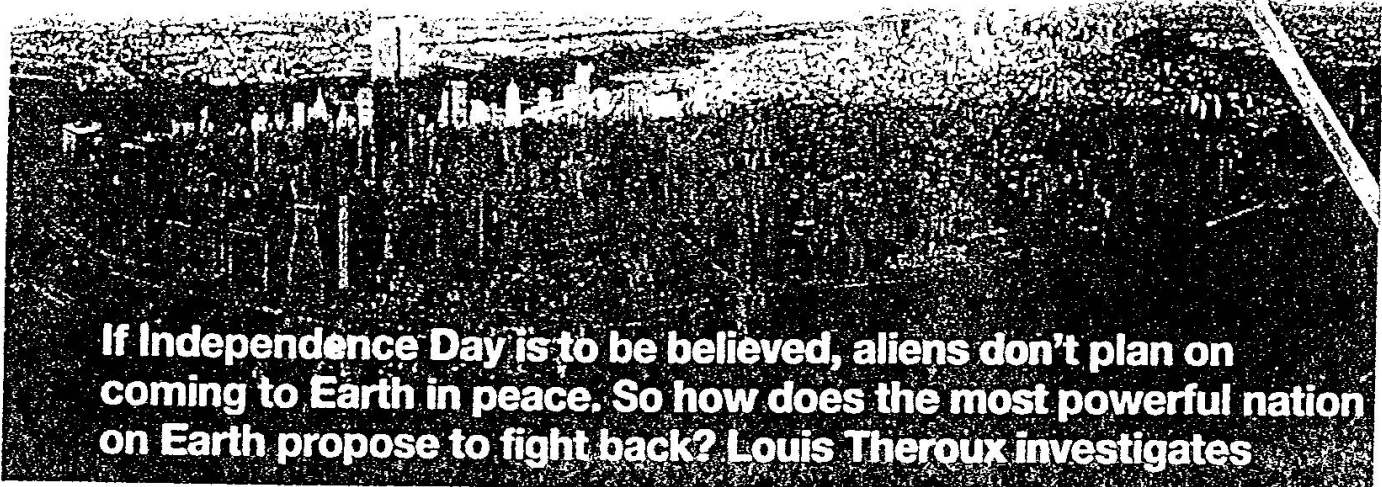
Yet there is one rather disquieting detail which may yet prove the sceptics wrong. It



6

The Guardian  
3 August 1996

# Invasion Earth



**If Independence Day is to be believed, aliens don't plan on coming to Earth in peace. So how does the most powerful nation on Earth propose to fight back? Louis Theroux investigates**

**I**ndependence Day is the mother of all summer blockbusters, looming in the sky like a huge alien spaceship about to blast us with its death ray.

You doubtless know the plot already: a malevolent race of greasy space creatures have marauded their way through the galaxy and arrived at Earth. Far from wanting to heal our children with their long glowing fingers, these ETs plan to pillage our planet out of existence; and only a ragtag band of freedom fighters stand between us and total annihilation.

Luckily, it's all fiction, and for the most part Independence Day has been treated as an engaging piece of sci-fi nonsense. But having seen it myself and having sweated through the long minutes of alien dominion, it's hard to shake the nagging fear: what if it actually happened? What if space creatures really did invade Earth? Would we be as ill-prepared as our fictional Earthling counterparts? Would we flash welcome messages at the space monsters while they proceeded to

*G.4* blow up New York, Los Angeles, and Washington DC? Or would we dispense with the niceties and go kick some space butt?

Consequently, I made a series of calls to find out the likelihood of an assault from outer space and to find out what contingency plans are in place should such an assault happen. The good news is: the chances of an alien invasion appear to be very, very small, chiefly because the space beings would have to come from such a long way away.

"Most scientists and astronomers say they do believe that there's life somewhere in the universe besides the Earth," says NASA spokesperson Don Savage. "But they think it's unlikely that they have visited here or could visit here, given what we understand about faster-than-light travel." Okay — that's encouraging. But then Savage adds: "We don't know what we don't know. So perhaps they have found a way to travel long distances. It's not outside the realm of possibility."

Worst-case scenario: the aliens reach Earth. What next? Here the news becomes rather more disquieting. In the movie, Earth learns of their arrival via SETI, the Search for Extra-Terrestrial Intelligence. This is a fictionalised version of a real-life non-profit organisation, also called SETI, but unlike its movie version, the real SETI doesn't operate much of an early warning system. In the event of actually picking up a space signal from, let's say, an alien attack vessel, SETI's policy isn't to tell the Pentagon or Congress or the UN — it's to notify its "donors", the various captains of industry who fund the project. More worrying still, it seems SETI isn't actually functioning at the moment ("We're waiting for some upgrades in equipment," says a spokesperson), making Earth a sitting duck for those greasy aliens.

It gets worse. An exhaustive probe of the US military and NASA reveals that there are no protocols in place to deal with an assault from outer space. "We do contingency planning for a whole

range of potential military options worldwide," says Pentagon spokesperson Brian Whitman. "but I don't have any information on anything in terms of contingency planning for aliens." Whitman refers me to the air force. "The air force handles UFOs," he says.

But USAF spokesperson Major Ed Worley reveals that, while the air force is "working on an airborne laser," they haven't made any plans for combating the interstellar menace. "They could be so far advanced that they're going to vaporise us all anyway, so what difference does it make?" he reasons.

Fair enough I suppose. But does the air force perhaps know more than it's letting on? In the movie, we Earth beings are ultimately able to vanquish the space monsters thanks to research being done at an airbase in Nevada — where the US military has secretly been keeping an alien vessel. In fact, the airbase is real and for years UFO kooks have indeed maintained that the US uses it to study a downed alien spaceship. So can we at least count on having a piece of alien hardware to help us?

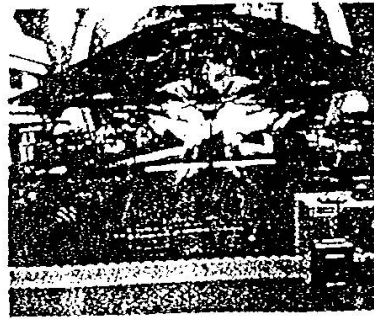
I ask Major Worley: "Totally off the record — and I mean totally, I definitely won't use this — is there an alien spaceship in that airbase

I score a small success with the air force; they like the salt suggestion. But I hit a snag when I run the suggestions for White House manoeuvres by the Secret Service. Regarding the mystic shield, a spokesperson says: "From my understanding, that is technologically unfeasible." And to the big mirror idea, he says: "That could go right up there with wrapping aluminum around your head."

My last resort is NASA again. But the "attack shuttles" idea doesn't score big points with their spokesperson. "I don't think we're interested in doing that," he says. "We're interested in the peaceful exploration and the scientific examination of space. I don't think that attack shuttles are really necessary."

It seems hopeless. Our planetary leaders are every bit as ineffectual and doubting as their fictive equivalents. I'm about ready to abandon my fellow Earth beings to their probable doom at the hands of the intergalactic marauders. But then, a glimmer of hope, in the form of the moon lookout post.

"We've been looking at possibly returning to the moon and possibly setting up a long-term facility there," says the NASA spokesperson. "That's still



Closer to home, it seems that Britain is just as ill-prepared for hostile "visitors"...

The man from the ministry was not giving much away. Sensible chap, really; I could have been a malicious alien posing as a journalist.

"We have contingency plans for a variety of scenarios," he said, explaining how the Ministry of Defence would react to invasion by a foreign army. Did any of these include the possibility of UFOs hovering over London?

"I will not get drawn on the issues," he added tersely. "The role of the armed forces is to provide defence to the UK in support of British policy."

John Major's office declined to say if there was in fact a policy on alien invasions, redirecting me to the MoD.

The Home Office were more helpful. "If the UFO crashed, obviously the emergency services would be involved. We would have an overseeing role." Good old Home Office, dispatching bobbies and ambulancemen when everyone else is running for the bunkers. "But if they declared war on us, that would be a matter for the MoD."

One senior British military figure believes the country is embarrassingly ill-equipped to deal with a UFO attack. Lord Hill-Norton, chairman of NATO's Military Committee, 1974-77, said he was certain the UK had no strategy for aliens: "Nobody in Whitehall is the slightest bit interested in the matter."

"I don't think there is a threat, but I think it entirely possible there are other civilisations flying in our atmosphere. [The MoD] should have started thinking about it. They should open a dialogue with other civilised countries and decide what to do."

ALEX BELLOS

**NASA: "We're interested in the peaceful exploration of space. I don't know that attack shuttles are really necessary."**

in Nevada?" "Not that I know of," he replies.

Despairing of finding a US governmental policy on defence against space monsters, I draw up a quick list of suggestions myself:

- 1 Invisible shield for White House.
- 2 Alien lookout post on moon.
- 3 Mirror on White House roof to reflect death ray back at space ship.
- 4 New line of "attack shuttles".
- 5 Use salt on aliens — like slugs?

somewhat off in the future. But it may be sooner than some people think."

Let's hope so.

● Independence Day is released on Friday

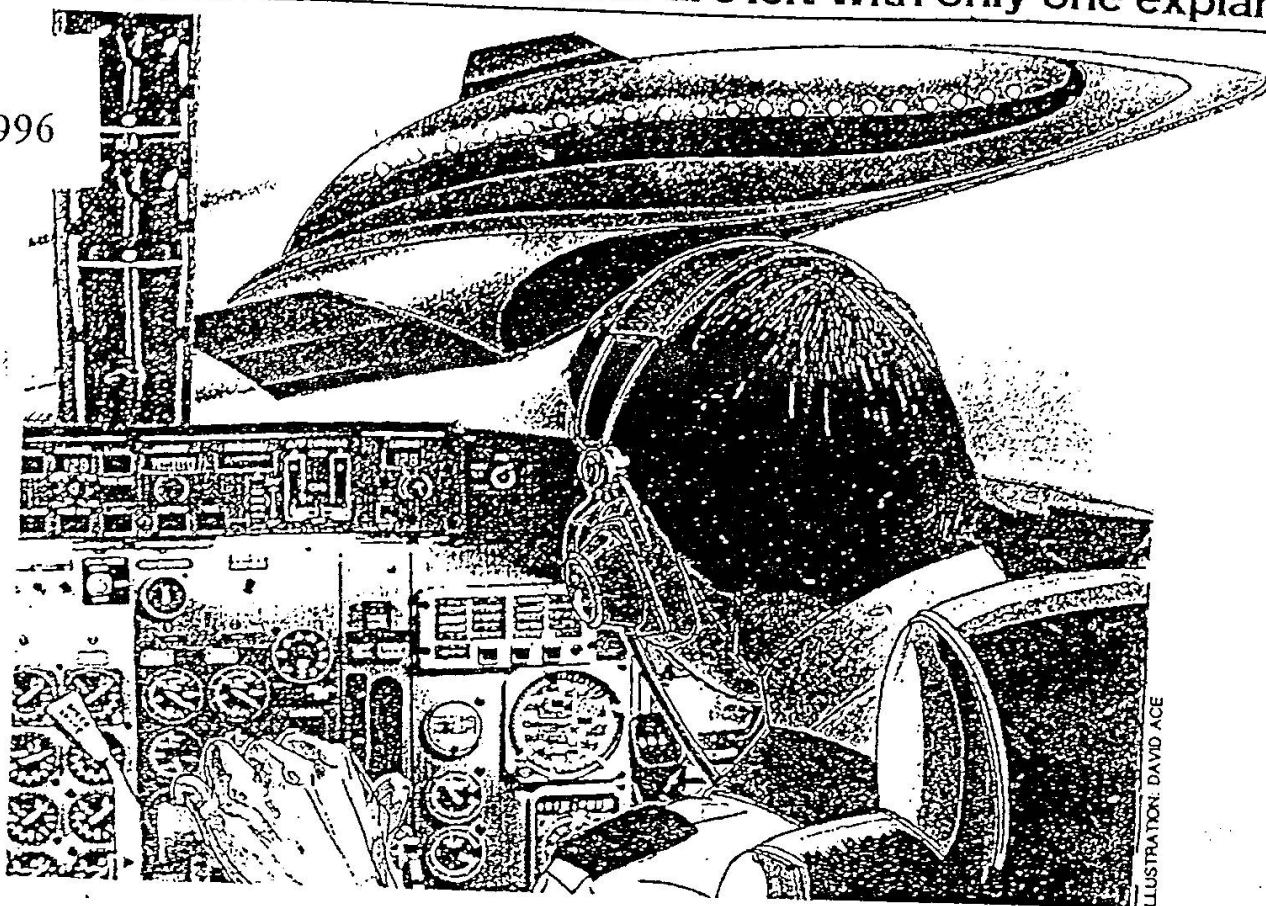


9

Monday, August 5, 1996

In January 1995, two BA pilots saw this object in the sky above Britain. After 18 months' investigation the aviation authorities are left with only one explanation...

Daily Mail  
5 August 1996



# Is this the proof that UFOs exist?



by JANE KELLY 9

**O**UT of the winter darkness, on January 6 last year, BA flight 5061 from Milan began its descent into Manchester's Ringway Airport, flying into a strong north-westerly wind. Visibility was good, stretching over six miles, and the crew and passengers were looking forward to touching down.

At 6.48pm, as the Boeing 737 cruised over the Pennines, just above the rugged cumulus cloud-cover, the pilot, Captain Roger Wills, and First Officer Mark Stuart, saw something which stunned them.

They ducked instinctively as a triangular, silver-coloured object with a dark stripe down one side hurtled towards them from the opposite direction. It disappeared down the right-hand side of the aircraft, only feet from Officer Stuart's cockpit seat.

For two to three seconds the two men were able to track the object through the cockpit windscreen and a side window. It was one of the most reliable sightings of an unidentified flying object ever to have taken place in Britain. Both men are sensible, well-trained pilots with thousands of air miles between them.

Since that mysterious incident above the Pennines, neither pilot has spoken in public about their encounter. They have spent months being teased mercilessly by their colleagues. Should they keep quiet and forget the incident, or reveal publicly what they saw?

Eventually, Officer Stuart decided that it was, indeed, time to talk about the extraordinary encounter above Manchester, and to set the record straight once and for all.

Tomorrow evening, in a television documentary, Officer Stuart vividly recreates the moment when he thought his aircraft was about to collide with a strange and fast-moving flying object.

"We were coming back from Milan and were on the last stages of approach, at about 4,000ft," recalls Stuart. "We were on a northerly course direction heading towards the airfield, just in the tops of the clouds."

"The captain was flying the aircraft. I was monitoring what was going on; my job was to keep an eye on the settings."



Shocked: Pilot Mark Stuart



and mystery that accompanies all such unexplained sightings.

Many airline pilots talk anecdotally of seeing UFOs. But very few actually report what they have seen, fearful of a sceptical response from their colleagues. And, until now, no pilot of a commercial British aircraft has ever spoken publicly about such an incident.

Although Officer Stuart still cannot explain what he and his captain saw, there are a number of possibilities.

Could it have been a craft that has become known as the Silent Vulcan, a supposedly top-secret American military aircraft, so called because its shape resembles an old Vulcan bomber?

**T**HE Silent Vulcan, a similar shape to the Stealth bomber, has allegedly been seen over Europe and North America, and was first sighted over the Hudson Valley in upstate New York in 1983.

In Britain, many of the sightings since have taken place in the Pennine Corridor, which runs from the Midlands to Yorkshire.

In 1990, an object similar to the one seen by Officer Stuart and his captain was spotted in Belgium; the Belgian air force scrambled fighter planes to try to intercept it, but it vanished without leaving radar or radiation readings.

Conspiracy theorists, who have welcomed the BA incident with glee, point to the

fact that the American F-117 Stealth bomber flew for five years before the U.S. government confirmed its existence.

Like the Silent Vulcan, it is triangular in shape, and was designed not to show up on radar screens.

Radar experts, however, do not believe that the BA sighting could have been a Stealth bomber. It is not allowed to fly in controlled airspace without being identifiable to ground control.

And even the Stealth bomber cannot explain the speed, agility and rapid acceleration displayed by the object the BA pilots saw.

The Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) spent months investigating the pilots' claims. They talked to all the flight crews and air staff involved. They examined recordings and radar tapes which would tell them whether any other aircraft was in the vicinity of BA flight 5061. They found nothing.

In April this year, the CAA agreed that the crew on board the flight had seen an unidentified flying object — or, as it preferred to term it, an 'unassessable' object.

The CAA decided that in the absence of any firm evidence or explanation for the object, it was not possible to assess either the cause of the near miss or the risk of the encounter.

It concluded that the incident didn't fit any of the normal criteria applicable to air-miss reports.

Officer Stuart was not happy with the result. 'We did not get the answers we were hoping for,' he says. 'If I can't explain it and I was there, I cannot hope that anyone else can ever explain it away.'

Despite Stuart's reservations, the CAA's response — in conducting such a thorough investigation — has been seen as a milestone in the official recognition of the UFO phenomenon.

The Ministry of Defence is still reluctant to discuss the issue of UFOs at all. Officially,

the Ministry does not investigate inexplicable sightings, because they are not considered a threat to national security.

Others tell a different story. For three years, Nick Pope headed Air Staff 2a, within the MoD. Part of his work was to investigate UFO reports.

Pope, whose book *Open Skies, Closed Minds*, was serialised by the Daily Mail, calls the Silent Vulcan 'the Flying Triangle'. 'It behaves in a way that is beyond the cutting edge of our own technology,' he says.

**B**UT could the BA pilots have seen the mysterious military craft known as the Silent Vulcan? Or must there be another explanation, that the versatility of the craft they saw simply cannot be created by humans?

Pope says of sightings like the BA one: 'Alien craft are the only logical conclusion of some sightings. The technology they display is way beyond our own.'

Although the MoD denies any special research, insiders who have worked within the Ministry claim that the Ministry base at Rudloe Manor, in Wiltshire, is being used as a centre for secret investigations into aerial phenomena.

The Public Records Office in Kew, South-West London, sheds even more intriguing light on just how seriously incidents like the BA one are being taken by the Government.

From the mid-Fifties onwards, the MoD has accumulated more than 8,000 UFO sightings, and has withheld the information under the 30-year secrecy rule. While many of these accounts are now available at Kew, others will remain sealed for decades to come.

Officer Stuart knows what he saw. He has kept the drawing of that mysterious triangular object, and he and his captain have never changed their story. They also, of course, cannot explain it.

■ *OUT Of This World* is on BBC1, tomorrow, 9.30pm.

**M**Y PERIPHERAL vision was drawn to something out of the front window. I actually saw the object coming towards me. It was a silvery-grey wedge-shaped object.

'My reaction was to reach for the control column, to try to get away from what I felt was an object in very close proximity. My hands never really went further forward than maybe an inch or two. The object passed very, very close down the right-hand side.

'I asked the captain if he had seen it, to which he replied "yes", he had.

'We decided to ask air traffic control if they had seen anything on the radar. They replied that they hadn't and asked us if we'd like to file an air miss, which would lead to an investigation.

'The object didn't alter its course. There was no deviation on the part of either aircraft. It just came down the side, making no attempt to avoid us, and we didn't have a chance to take any evasive action. It was over very

quickly, so there wasn't much that could be done.'

On landing, both pilots discussed what they had seen. 'I suggested to the captain that it would be a good idea to draw what we had seen. We both did so.

'The objects we drew were the same shape, but they differed in texture — mine was a solid object which I believed had black or grey stripes down the side.

'I didn't see any windows or anything like that. The captain drew a similar shape, but his was made up of lots of different little lights.

'I felt his drawing could be explained by a reflection from our landing lights as the object went down our right-hand side.

'We then phoned air traffic control and decided that we would file an air miss, which meant that all the traces from radar would have to be examined in further detail.'

By filing that report, the two men launched themselves on to the treadmill of rumour