

Is there a flying saucer morgue?

WHISPERED stories abound that governments all over the world know far more than they are letting on about the UFO mystery.

Does, for example, the American Air Force really have alien bodies and crashed flying saucers stored at Wright Patterson Air Base, as rumour has it?

Or is official reluctance to speak on the subject due to the fact that the authorities know as little as everyone else?

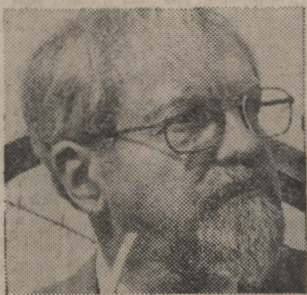
Only France has admitted real concern at UFO reports.

In a 1974 radio broadcast Defence Minister Robert Galley said: "It is certain that there are things we do not understand and that are at present relatively inexplicable..."

Reports from the general public, from pilots, from people who are heads of air establishments, and a lot of other material, are disturbing."

Public pressure for an inquiry into American sightings led to the 1,000-page Condon Report in 1969 by Dr Edward Condon.

It was based on "Project



Dr. Allen Hynek... "I often knew I wasn't being told everything."

Blue Book," an official record of sightings kept over 20 years.

But Condon disappointed the American public by concluding that no further research was needed into UFOs, as, he said, they constituted no threat and were mostly natural phenomena.

Leading American UFO expert and top astronomer Dr. Allen Hynek acted as a consultant to Project Blue Book. He later said: "I often knew I wasn't being told everything."

"They never once asked me my opinion as an

astronomer. I would be told, 'That was a balloon,' or 'That was a flock of geese.' It was obvious that Project Blue Book was just a public relations exercise."

Rumours that the US Air Force is storing alien bodies can be traced only to second hand sources.

Usually they are said to originate from a former US Air Officer, who insists on remaining anonymous and tells how he glimpsed the body of a dead alien in a tent during a clear-up operation after a flying saucer crash in the desert area of New Mexico and Arizona.

Our own Ministry of Defence is reluctant to enter into any correspondence on UFOs.

Their standard replies to letters on the subject say that sightings are referred to experts if they appear to have any bearing on the defences of the country, but "... investigations over a number of years have so far produced no evidence that UFOs represent a threat to the air defences of Great Britain."



The mother ship hovers over Devil's Tower in a scene from the Columbia-EMI film "Close Encounters of the Third Kind."



The J

Part two of a Sunday Mercury special report by Kate Faunce

A GLOUCESTERSHIRE family were driving home after visiting relatives in Reading on the evening of Monday, June 19, 1978, when they experienced what is known as a "close encounter of the fourth kind".

John and Gloria Mann, of Brockworth, their two daughters and John's sister, were driving into the Oxfordshire village of Stanford-in-the-Vale when a brilliant white light

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Mince pies for the mini-'men'

MRS. Jean Hingley had just seen her husband off to work from their home in Rowley Regis, on the frosty morning of January 4, 1979, when she heard a strange "zee zee zee" sound and three "beings" floated in through her open door.

"They glowed with a brilliant light and seemed to float about a foot above the floor. As they floated past me into the lounge I saw that they had wonderful wings. I was so terrified that I grabbed the steel sink in the kitchen. I couldn't speak. I was frozen," she told investigators.

But after a while the fear seemed to drain out of Mrs. Hingley. She watched, fascinated, as the beings shook and tugged at her Christmas Tree. They seemed to be reading her mind.

"There they were — three little slim 'men' in silvery-green tunics and silver waistcoats with silver buttons or press studs," she said.

"They were about 3ft 6in to 4ft high, all alike. Their pointed hands and feet were covered in the same silvery-green, and they had pointed caps on their heads of the same colour and with something like a lamp on top.

They had transparent fish-bowl helmets over their heads which rested

on their shoulders. There were no eyebrows or ears to be seen.

"Their faces were waxy white, corpse-like, and they had 'black diamond' eyes. I didn't notice their noses. Their mouths were very thin."

The creatures floated around the house touching objects and finally Mrs. Hingley got up the courage to speak to them.

They bounced on the couch like children and asked for water, she later recounted.

She went to get them a plate of mince pies, and they each took one. Then she offered to show them how to smoke. But at this they got frightened, and backed away into the garden, to a glowing orange space ship, 8ft. long and 4ft. high.

It had round windows and seemed to be covered in shining plastic. Still holding their mince pies the beings went aboard and took off.

The craft left an impression in the snow which a UFO group later measured and photographed.

Mr. Charles Bowen, editor of the Flying Saucer Review, in which a full report of this incident appeared last November, said: "It is possible that

Mrs. Hingley saw some kind of hologram.

"Holographic images can, after all, be made by man, so it is reasonable to think that other possible alien intelligences could do likewise. The idea has been with us for a long time, but the big question remains unsolved: who, or what, controls the projection of images?"

Since her "visitation" Mrs. Hingley has been the subject of several academic and newspaper articles and has addressed scientists and ufologists at a conference on UFOs in London.



A sketch of one of Mrs. Hingley's three visitors.

ALIENS UNDER A 'MEXICAN HAT'

AT 4.45 p.m. on October 21, 1954, Mrs. Jessie Roestenberg ran outside after hearing what she believed was a plane crashing.

Instead, hovering over her remote farmhouse home in the tiny Staffordshire village of Ranton, she saw an aluminium-coloured disc.

Inside, through two transparent panels, human-looking figures could be seen, wearing blue ski suits and transparent helmets.

Their foreheads were domed and their hair was long. They looked down on Mrs. Roestenberg and her two children who had joined her, with a concerned and sombre gaze.

"The craft looked like a huge

Mexican hat," she told investigators.

"It must have been 60 feet across and there were people looking out. They were very beautiful, with long golden hair, turned under.

"They wore vivid blue ski-type clothes and looked at us with expressions full of compassion.

NEXT WEEK: The experts throw some light on the UFO phenomenon

My car went f

MR. Horatio Penrose, of Harborne, Birmingham, was invited to the home of a Derbyshire couple who had asked him if he would sell them his car when they met the night before in a pub.

He left at 10.30 p.m., having decided not to sell it after all. On the way home a bright light appeared before him. It seemed as if he hit it, and then the car was lifted from the ground and he was moving through the air with the bright light above him.

According to a UFO "casebook" report, when he woke up in hospital he had recollections of being lifted into a large craft that

had hovered above him, by a man dressed in a one-piece suit.

Inside men and women in the same clothing, all with short hair, were operating control panels. They asked Mr. Penrose about his knowledge of radar — he was a retired naval officer — and he asked them how their machine worked. The conversation was telepathic.

The 1954 story took a strange turn when he came out of hospital.

He retraced his steps and found a signalman who had seen the car lifted by a bright light. It had ended up perched on some railings.

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For Skyscan... a lonely vigil

ON CRISP clear nights you may see shadowy figures huddling together on the Old Hills outside Worcester.

They are members of SKYSCAN, the Worcester-based UFO group, on the lookout for lights from another world.

Once a month about 10 of the members take to the hills — or to one of their own back gardens if the weather is particularly chill.

But only once since the skywatchers were started in 1975 has a convincing UFO been spotted.

"It was a year ago on the Old Hills in freezing weather," said secretary Mrs. Margaret Webb, a Worcester telephonist.

"At about midnight we went down to the cars for a drink. On the way down someone looked back and there above the horizon was an elongated yellow line which had dark spaces between a series of lights. Measured at arm's length it was about three-quarters of an inch long and was at 30 degrees to the hill.

getting het up by what is really a satellite or a piece of space junk," added Mrs. Webb.

Her interest in UFOs was sparked off by a magazine article on French sightings, published during the 1950s.

"But my real fascination with the subject started in the late 1960s when I read Leonard Cramp's 'Piece for a Jigsaw' about the propulsion of UFOs. After that I was hooked," she says.

Skyscan was formed as a discussion group in 1975. In 1978 it really took off as people who had seen the film "Close Encounters of the Third Kind" flocked to join.

Compelling

Now membership is back to a hard core of nine. But fireman Jamie Oakey and his wife Stella, a secretary, who joined after seeing the film are still staunch members.

"'Close Encounters,' made us want to know more and joining Skyscan seemed an obvious step," said Mrs. Oakey. "Ufology has become a compelling hobby for us since then."

Electronic engineer Tony Green joined when his interest in astronomy began to encompass the UFO enigma, too, and he is now building his own 7ft long telescope.

Other members currently include a receptionist, a motor mechanic and a shop assistant. Mrs. Webb's draughtsman husband, Dennis, although a confirmed sceptic, regularly helps out with transport.

Straight line

"We all dashed back to the top to get a better view and watched it travelling very slowly in a straight line towards the south."

Skyscan is not discouraged by the scarcity of skywatch sightings. "The main function of the skywatchers is to acquaint everyone with the sky — to prevent them

hovers over scene from the film "Close Encounters of the Third Kind."



The Janos encounter

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loomed up ahead of them.

As it approached they began to see what looked like the underside of a massive saucer-shaped object, its undercarriage lit by a circular rim of brilliant coloured lights.

For a while they were to remember little else of the strange evening. But they were puzzled that the familiar drive home took them along a road they had never seen before, lined by tall hedges. And

they were equally stunned to discover that they had arrived home an hour later than expected.

Days later they discovered odd bruise marks on their legs, and heat rashes on their skin.

But it was not until John and his sister began to dream of being taken up into a spaceship that they began to think something peculiar had happened.

In the dreams, and later under hypnosis, they

"remembered" having been beamed into the craft, met by men in close fitting metallic silver suits with balaclava-style helmets, and then being examined on reclining chairs.

It seemed that these apparently "alien" people were from a planet called Janos. They had fled their home after an atomic disaster and were now wandering through space looking for a home. A book has been written

Highlight of the Skyscan year is a camping or caravanning trip to Warminster in Wiltshire, the best known area in Britain for sightings.

The group first went down in 1975 and quickly made a spate of sightings. "We were camping out in tents. Everyone had turned in except myself and another member who was checking that all was safe," said Mrs. Webb.

"Suddenly we saw a flowing, swirly mass of whitish-reddish light come over the factory roofs and sit high up as if looking at us. We ran to get the others and they came tumbling out of their sleeping bags — but by then it had gone behind a chestnut tree. They thought we were having them on, but to us it was a real puzzle."

Spectacular

But Mrs. Webb says her most spectacular sighting happened when she was alone on top of Cradley Hill.

"I was sitting there in heavy rain, in my mac, leggings and wellies, when out of the cloud a light appeared just 20 yards in front of me.

"It stopped over a bush and I thought 'This can't be real' — It was not an aeroplane or a helicopter — it was just sitting there watching me.

"I crept down to the car where my husband was waiting and tapped on the window. I thought he would unwind it but instead he opened the door. The car light came on and the light on the hill blinked out."

Since 1975 Skyscan investigated 140 reports, five per cent of which they think were true UFOs.

They have never come across a "close encounter" in which actual contact with aliens was made, but some months ago a "Burns" case was brought to their attention.

"At 1.30 a.m. one freezing cold night we were phoned by the mother of a chap who had burned his hands on his car steering wheel as what appeared to be a huge spaceship passed over the vehicle."

My car went flying ...

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Then when he went to look for the couple he had had tea

with he found the house — but was told by neighbours that it had been empty for the last 12 months.

"Every time I think of these events I receive very severe headaches," said Mr. Penrose, who was interviewed by the UFO Studies Information Service in 1976 after one of their members met him in a shop selling UFO books.

UFOSIS chairman Mr. Geoff Westward, said: "We were impressed by the consistency of Mr. Penrose's story. He told us that the car had been drawn up to a point by the craft — which is confirmed by the picture of it which was published in a local newspaper."

'Titium' search

AT 3 o'clock on November 18, 1957, Mrs. Cynthia Appleton, of Aston, Birmingham, went to check that her young child was sleeping soundly.

As she stood in the child's room the atmosphere grew oppressive and soon a figure began to materialise before her.

The entity was tall and fair with long hair. It was wearing a garment like a plastic raincoat with a high Elizabethan-style collar.

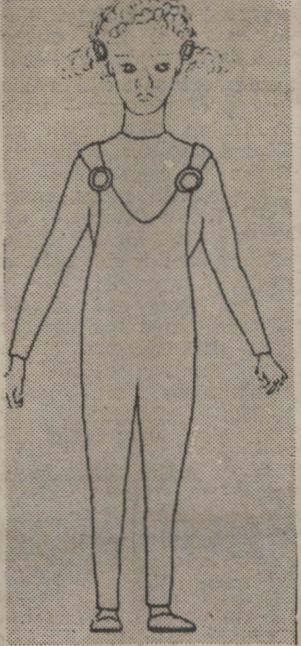
Through telepathy it told Mrs. Appleton that it was searching for "titium" — which investigators later interpreted as titanium.

Then it suddenly disappeared, leaving scorch marks on the sheets of newspaper it had been standing upon.

In the following January the figure returned, with a friend.

Jenny Randles, in whose book this story is recounted, commented:

"This event has many of the hallmarks of a parapsychical experience and can be viewed as subjective, except for the alleged physical traces which were never checked at the time."



A Janos child . . . a drawing published in the book "The Janos People."

recalling this strange experience by retired Birmingham lecturer Frank Johnson, who now lives in Worcester.

In "The Janos People" (Neville Spearman £5.25) he presents the story as a visitation by intergalactic refugees who are asking us for a home.

But other ufologists believe there could be a whole host of possible explanations or interpretations of the puzzling encounter.

They think it may have been a paranormal experience of some kind.

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● If you have a camera take pictures using varied exposures. Make a drawing including as many details as you can. Note how long you see the object for.

● Write down the time and place of the sighting, the direction in which the object was travelling, its angle above the horizon, its shape, colour and motion, and the prevailing weather conditions.

● If you ring the police, army, or local air force base they will log the time of your sighting. But ultimately the civilian UFO groups are going to show the most interest in what you have seen. Get in touch with one of the Midland groups, such as UFOSIS (Geoff Westwood, 71 Wentworth Way, Harborne, Birmingham 32) or Skyscan (Margaret Webb, 80 Comer Road, St. John's, Worcester) who will send you a sighting form.

The British UFO Research Association, to which the Midland groups are affiliated, has released statistics which show that out of 1,372 reports in their files from 1949-1969, only 145 were classified as UFOs.

A 'MEXICAN

"Then all of a sudden I felt the tension leaving me and I turned to touch the children.

"When I looked again it had gone. We watched it circle in the sky three times as if to say goodbye, and then it shot away."

Investigator Jenny Randles, co-author of "UFOs — A British Viewpoint" (Robert Hale Ltd.), in which the sightings were documented, said: "To this day Mrs. Rostenberg is adamant about what she saw. She comes across as a most impressive witness.

"Recent investigations have uncovered two similar incidents from the Midlands during the same year."

Various small advertisements on the right edge of the page, including 'Y', 'E', 'Cust', 'for', 'incl', 'tilin', 'desi', 'irre', 'Send', 'bath', 'sup', 'Cust', 'alwa', '5', 'C', 'F', 'CUST', 'FREEP', 'Please', 'NAME', 'ADDRE', 'TEL', 'SM', 'D', 't', 'b', 'p', 'C', 'Ford', 'Birm', 'or tele', '021-35', 'Cigarette', 'Many mo', 'OIL', 'Lubric', 'Beautiful', 'furniture', 'of the', '50', 'D', 'S', 'H'