

A woman in my home town of Paignton, Devon, claimed a close encounter at her home about midnight on 21 March. She described three circular objects like hula hoops of light, which came very close to her house. They flew in a random manner for 4 to 5 minutes before shooting off over Torbay. Certainly an uncommon type of UFO event?

During March and April there were reports from the Berkshire area, including one from the Upper Heyford Air Force base, which was later denied.

But not publicised in the UK were reports from South Africa on the night of the 19/20th April. The SABC and Johannesburg Planetarium switchboards were said to be jammed with calls about sightings from all over the Republic, lasting from 10 pm to 6 am. Animals were said to be very disturbed. One witness reported an aerial firework display producing a pink glow which hummed at about 4.30 am. A witness in Pretoria described an elongated symmetrical craft in three sections, but without windows and flying silently, whereas another in Maritzburg said he saw a blue round object passing over his house. Two green lights were said to follow a train for some distance between Beaufort West and Touws River. A Met. Office employee at Beaufort West Airport was convinced that the twin green lights had caused his 'bakkie' to speed up to 160 km/hour despite having his foot on the break. Opinions varied as to what the causes were of this long duration of sightings.

It was reported that the Royal Australian Air Force had begun an investigation on 24 May after hundreds of people had seen four cylindrical shapes hovering over Bendigo, a manufacturing town in Victoria, Australia, the previous weekend.

The DAILY MAIL of 22 June carried an item about Ruth Norman who runs a group called URANUS. She is preparing a landing site for ETs on a 67-acre hillside at El Cajon, California. She claims to have visited 32 'planets' and that the spaceships are controlled by the mind. Her 'space brothers' will land any day now and build a space city of which she has a model.

Lord Clancarty's speakers seem to be mainly contactee orientated. On 5 July, the House of Lords All Party UFO Study Group heard Knut Aasheim, from Bon, Norway, leading light of UFO NORGE talking about UFOs over Norway, and "Star People living amongst us".

On 19 July, the Lords Group was addressed by Louis Jose Griffol from Spain, whose English is not so hot, but who showed ^{UFO} slides said to have been taken near ancient standing stones. Depending on Parliamentary business, attendances average at 20, and Major Stuart Greenwood from the USA is lined up for late October.

Week commencing Monday 11 July, the DAILY EXPRESS ran stories about flattened circles appearing in a field of barley (not corn!) near Westbury. The main circle was about 50 feet across with the stalks flattened close to the ground in a swirling circular manner. It has been suggested that the heatwave had caused localised whirlwinds. An alternative theory was animals larking about and mating. But four more circles, each about 14 feet across, and some 60 feet from the centre of the main circle, were found equally spaced around it. Tractor wheel lines go through the main circle (relating to spraying) but there were no marks to the smaller ones, as would be made by a hoaxer, unless on stilts. Army helicopters have been known to land in cornfields, (farmers being normally reimbursed promptly) but could this explain the smaller circles? Lt.Cdr.Henry Bruce was apparently convinced his field was vandalised by hoaxers. In 1981 a trio of circles was found at the Devil's Punch Bowl near Winchester.

An early edition of THE GUARDIAN on 15 July carried a Reuter report to the effect that CAUS, Citizens Against UFO Secrecy, had filed a demand that Mr Vernon Orr, the Air Force Secretary, respond within 60 days, and release the remains of extra-terrestrials held by the USAF. Strangely this item was missing from later editions, and a less interesting item about a travel ban on Bishop Tutu of South Africa had been shuffled into its place. The DAILY MAIL of 16 July gave more detail, and said that CAUS had a recently declassified document revealing how the USAF removed three bodies of human shape but only 3ft. tall, dressed in metallic cloth of very fine texture, from several craft which came down in New Mexico in 1950. Sounds like an old story disinterred...?

Saw a UFO myself over Highgate (the Archway side) on Sunday 17 July. It was very small, sort of a dark-edged oval with a hole of hollow in the middle. It stayed overhead in a bright hazy sky for two hours until dusk. Calculating against passing jumbo jets, I figured it could have been a kite at between 600 - 1000 feet being flown from Parliament Hill, Hampstead, although it looked to be higher. But do kite flyers use lengths of nylon wire over a mile long?

Ends L.B. 21.7.83,