

PART ONE OF AN EARTH-SHATTERING SERIES

UFO QUEST WRECKED OUR LIVES

UFO investigator Brenda Butler admits now: "If I had known what this case would involve I would never have set things in motion."

Brenda, colleagues Dot Street and Jenny Randles, are all convinced they have proved their case of a Ministry of Defence cover-up over a UFO crash.

But they have paid a heavy price, both financially and personally, for investigating the mystery crash in Rendlesham Forest, Suffolk, over a period of five years.

It has led to:

- A marriage break-up
- A broken long-standing romance
- Threatening phone calls
- Bills of thousands of pounds
- Frustration that many vital facts still remain hidden behind the Official Secrets Act.

Widowed mother of two Brenda, of Leiston, Suffolk, who was the first of the trio to learn of the UFO crash, says: "I wish now that I had never acted upon what I was told by an American Air Force security officer.

"Pursuing this UFO case has cost friendships and the job of one American serviceman. Over a two-year period I had quarterly phone bills of up to £500, and weekly petrol bills of £25-£30.

Brenda, a home-nursing help, adds: "I had to take a lot of time off work which, with two children

A NEW book *Sky Crash* (Grafton, £2.95) by Brenda Butler, Dot Street and Jenny Randles poses intriguing questions: Did a UFO crash in Rendlesham Forest, Suffolk, near an American air base in 1980? And, if so, why have the authorities persisted in keeping it secret?

The authors embarked on a quest to uncover the truth amidst a welter of contradictions, hearsay, eyewitness reports and official denials. Now they tell *Weekend's* TONY WILMOT what their truth-seeking has cost them in financial and personal terms.

then at school to clothe and feed, I could ill afford."

But her co-investigators, Dot Street and author Jenny Randles, say that their personal problems and financial hardships have been worth: "getting to the truth through a wall of official silence."

For Dot, who has a daughter 13 and a son, nine, penetrating that wall of silence has been traumatic. She says: "This case broke up

my marriage of seven years. My husband simply got fed up.

"But from the first moment I set foot in that forest I just knew something extraordinary had happened there—and that feeling wouldn't leave me alone."

She made several trips a week by moped from her home in Oulton Broad, Suffolk, to the USAF bases at Woodbridge and Bentwaters, which border Rendel-



Jenny Randles: Sifting the UFO evidence

sham Forest. And the bills for the 80-mile round trips mounted.

She says: "My quarterly phone bills were often £900."

One anonymous caller threatened her children.

Jenny Randles, director of investigations for the British UFO Research Association, says: "This case has been so costly I had to sell my house in Warrington; and I estimate it has cost me between £5,000 and £10,000 in expenses.

"It also came between me and the man I had lived with for two and a half years."

She was also warned she was "messing with something so serious you could end up at the bottom of the Thames."

"We don't know what it was... but we do know that it has caused high-ranking people in a Government ministry to consistently evade, deny and lie," says Jenny.