

29 DEC 1987

(10)

1980 UFO: THE STUDY GOES ON

IT IS a pity that Patrick Fleckney (December 19) did not check his facts before rushing into print regarding the recent UFO sightings in the Nottingham area.

He displays considerable confusion, if not error, concerning work on a case undertaken by the Nottingham UFO Investigation Society (now the National UFO Investigation Society).

The sightings he refers to took place during August 1980, not the autumn of 1981, and were not from Nottingham. All reports received were from Derbyshire, South Yorkshire or the Burton-on-Trent area.

No member of NUFOIS read "a magazine story on airships" which led to the idea being proposed that the object/s were nothing more than an airship undertaking secret night trials.

Society researchers had considered from the outset of the investigation the possibility of an airship being involved, and contacted not only Airship Enterprises but also the Goodyear Company, which owns several airships. Goodyear gave the information that the Europa, the one normally seen in Britain, was at the time somewhere over the Bay of Biscay. Airship Enterprises did not at the time have an airship operating.

Moreover, Goodyear told us it was illegal for an airship to carry an illuminated advertising panel while in UK airspace. As far as we are aware, this restriction still applies.

Mr Fleckney was not involved in the investigation of the 1980 sightings. NUFOIS published a summarised version of the report of the work it did on the case — *The Ashbourne Event, 1980* — which sets out in some detail the relevant facts and covers the various lines of inquiry and potential answers to the enigmas.

NUFOIS has not proposed any conclusions as to what was seen, and research into the case continues — for a considerable volume of new data has been received by the society, particularly our Derby branch, since the report was published.

R. W. MORRELL
chairman, NUFOIS

Meadow La, Nottingham.

Sounds familiar

I HAVE read the many letters concerning this month's UFO siting, and I and my family feel it could have been an airship.

We used to live in Bedfordshire, where airships were based at Cardington, and as soon as my daughter heard the sound when she saw it going over Radcliffe, she straight away said it sounded just like an airship — coming to the same conclusion as us here at Caunton.

MAY BROWN (Mrs)

Mill Lane, Caunton.