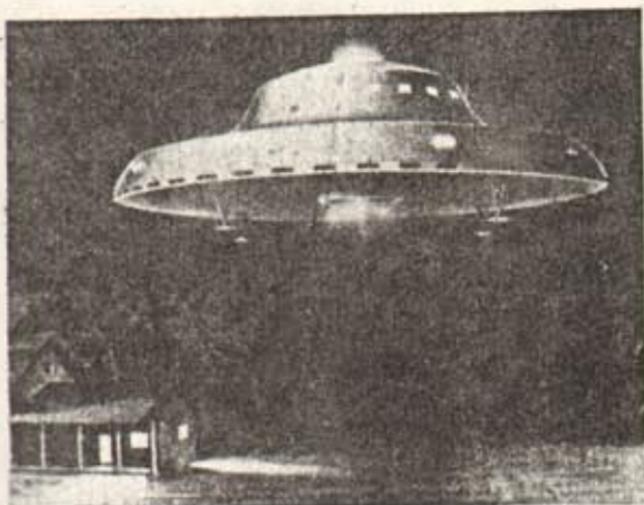


UFO every 15 minutes

GRAHAM W. BIRDSALL, Chairman of the Yorkshire UFO Society, concludes his intriguing five-part series on local sightings and tells how other countries take the many world wide sightings seriously.



An artist's impression of a UFO reported in America in the mid-Sixties.

UFOs in Yorks

The full story

THE Centre for UFO Studies, Illinois, USA, recently calculated that world-wide there are an estimated 100 reports of UFOs every 24 hours, or if you like, a UFO is seen every 15 minutes.

In this region, the Yorkshire UFO Society deals with a minute fraction of that figure, yet each report is carefully analysed by its own research team, then an evaluation is made. Often this involves up to 12 investigators gathered around a table, each prepared to add his or her own comments. An evaluation of a report sometimes does not take place until months of careful research has been carried out.

On March 25 this year, a Bradford woman observed a bright ball of light from her bedroom window at 3 a.m. The ball was red in colour, but white flickers of light shone around it. It moved slowly across her field of vision before disappearing behind some trees. On April 15, 1983 an overnight lorry driver was heading east between junctions 22 and 23 of the M62, it was 3.50 a.m. He noticed that lorries travelling in the opposite direction were flashing their headlights on and off in unison. The traffic in both directions slowed, almost to a halt.

Suddenly, away to his right, he picked out a large oval object, brilliant white, hovering over the moorland. Such was its size, and appearance, the driver came to a dead stop on the hard shoulder, pulled down his window, and gazed in awe as the object slowly began to move directly overhead. It then hovered for a few seconds, before returning back to its original position, whereupon it disappeared from view.

Inquiries revealed that no helicopters were in the area at the time, but military flights

could have been responsible, though they do not normally hover over motorways at that time of a morning, or any part of the day for that matter. It is quite possible that a number of reported UFOs could be explained away as being nothing more than military aircraft participating in manoeuvres.

Some helicopter flights, for example, have been seen to descend at night, and turn on their powerful arc lights, in an effort to pick out certain landmarks. From a distance, this can appear to the inexperienced observer to be proof positive that a UFO is in the area.

Enigma

However, the Ministry of Defence are reluctant to be drawn on this subject, and have stated that until UFOs constitute a threat to the United Kingdom, and are shown to exist, then no real interest will be shown by them. This is a far cry from the French Government, who until recently had its own official research department looking into the enigma. Their research work, and results were openly displayed, and other countries adopt the same stance.

Spain provides detailed records of radar tracks of UFOs seen by both Civil and Military radar networks. Even the United States has been forced to admit that its official interest in UFOs, far from being non-existent, is very much alive. The Freedom of Information Act saw to that.

Under the Act, American UFO researchers obtained hundreds of previously secretly held documents which revealed that UFOs had been reported by its military forces throughout the globe during the last few decades.

Air Force records detailed many of these reports, some were quite staggering, like the UFO which hovered over a silo missile base, and was then intercepted by aircraft scrambled to go to the scene. Far from departing at speed, the UFO simply remained over

the base, until at last, much to the relief of the ground crew, it shot straight up into the sky and vanished from sight.

The official United States investigation into UFOs, known as Project Blue Book, spanned many years, and sceptics are quick to point out that its conclusions were blunt, that UFOs, or spaceships, or flying saucers, do not exist. I like to point out that 10 per cent. of Blue Books cases, investigated by the Air Force's own team, remained unexplained.

There have been sightings of possible UFOs in northern England for centuries, dating back to AD91, when a "ship" was seen in the sky over Humberside. In the eighth century, "fire dragons" were reported over Northumbria, and on September 15, 1749, cattle were frightened and trees burnt by a flaming "UFO" in South Yorkshire.

Are UFOs from other worlds as some leading authors would suggest? The truth is, no-one really knows, yet until science takes the enigma seriously, the truth may be years away. Now that another solar system has been discovered, some 25 light years away from Earth, the impossible has become possible. Other solar systems will be found, the large space telescope launched by the shuttle will see to that.

The telescope will see fainter objects and scan a volume of space 350 times greater than that which was visible from the Earth, who knows what it will find in the next 10-15 years, before it becomes obsolete.

Ask yourself, when did I last look to the sky when leaving the front door at night? When did I take notice of the star clustered heavens? Thanks to the Evening Post, dozens of reports have now reached us, and more and more people ARE taking notice of what goes on above them. The Society will be pleased to hear from you...

NEXT WEEK: "The Pennine UFO Mystery"



**TOMORROW'S STARS
L'ENNEIGNE**

MADUKE