



METAL BOXES 2



investigator does have the time to spend with the witness, does have the time to study a particular case, and does report back with any findings, in confidence.

I am sure that if the public in general reported their sightings directly to their local UFO group, this would please a number of police officers.

I am often asked very serious questions, such as, 'Where do they come from?' or 'Why haven't they landed?' I simply don't know, and don't pretend to know. Those brave enough to hazard a guess have made small fortunes by publishing books on the subject, But the truth is that they don't know either.

Surprisingly, there are strong pointers which lean heavily on the side of those who believe that a cover-up has been going on for many years, a cover-up undertaken by various governments. In 1978, a lawsuit was brought against the CIA, who for many years denied that they were involved in UFO research. The result was that 1,800 pages of top secret information on UFOs was released to the public. The most damning evidence revealed that UFOs had hovered over silo bases in North Dakota in November of '75, and that all efforts to chase and locate them had failed. One entry from the 24th NORAD region commander's log reads "7 Nov. L-1 reports that the object to their northeast seems to be issuing a black object from it, tubular in shape".

Having investigated the UFO enigma in these parts for the last eleven years, I am left in no doubt that there is something in the skies that has puzzled mankind for a long time. But the mystery goes on, with sightings ever on the increase. A short while ago, some intrepid ufologists visited the national archives because (according to the rules) on January 1 1981 some of the earliest UFO records should have been released. But guess what? They found someone had grouped them together in one document ("UFO Records 1951-1955"), which will now be due for release in 1985!

Whatever the truth, ufologists believe that to find the answer is of great importance to mankind and, of course, it may be something we have not yet dreamt of – or even something so incredible that we cannot even understand it.

the girls since they were "tiny bairns". He described them as "intelligent normal girls" and said of Mr. Harvey, "He appears to be quite genuine".

A thorough investigation by myself and the police failed to throw any light on the matter. The RAF denied that their aircraft may have been responsible, and indeed, radar observations had shown nothing to indicate there were aircraft in the area.

It is true to say however, that many of the so-called UFO's which have been reported to the police can be explained. There are hoaxes and hallucinations – meteorological balloons – aeroplanes (helicopters included) – parhelia – aurora – mirages – temperature inversions – or comparable natural effects – plants – stars – fireballs – meteors – artificial satellites – rocketry and space capsule debris – high flying swarms of birds. But in Britain 5% of UFO cases remain unexplained.

Here is a typical report. In the early hours of Saturday 13th September, 1980, several police officers in West Yorkshire observed a bright moving light in the sky. Four of them gave chase along dark, deserted roads. Two finally ended up at Fulford near York, 13½ miles away. There they were joined by two officers based at York Traffic Office. The two North Yorkshiremen quickly realised that the bright glowing object in the sky was none other than the planet Venus, a fact later confirmed by photographs taken by a police photographer.

I cite this particular case as an example to other police officers who might be fooled by this very bright planet. If one travels at night during Winter, when Venus is clearly visible, one does

get the false impression that it is moving. Only by stopping the car can you convince yourself that it is not.

If however, you do see something that cannot be readily explained, report it. It is believed that only 10% of the people who see UFO's report them. What should you do if you see a UFO? First, close your eyes, walk a few paces and open them again. Then look long and hard at what you see. Call out to attract the attention of anyone else in the vicinity and get them to look closely also. If you have a camera, take as many pictures as you can and alter the aperture and shutter speeds if possible. Use any other optical aids which are available.

As soon as the object has gone, get a piece of paper and draw what you have seen. Ask anyone else who saw it with you to do the same, but do not look at each others drawings until afterwards. Then sign your drawings. Before discussing what you have seen in detail, write a complete account of what happened. As with the drawings, do this independently of each other. Hold different coins at arms length and estimate which most nearly covers the size of the UFO. Compare the colour with something familiar or in the area. Note down directions, angles of elevation and weather conditions. If photographs have been taken do not have the film processed. It will be of much more value if this can be done by researchers (they will return it unharmed to you).

It is a fact that witnesses to UFO phenomena often contact the police, and valuable man hours are often taken up with investigating cases. As I have already stated, 95% of reports can be explained, and some would argue that all cases can be explained. Be that as it may, a creditable