

# The cover-up in England

by Jenny Randles

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Jenny Randles, *IUR* contributing editor, has written a number of books on the UFO phenomenon, including *Sky Crash* (1984), with Brenda Butler and Dot Street. Her most recent is *The UFO Conspiracy* (1987).

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I have followed with great interest the story of the covertly released MJ-12 documents and naturally appreciate their importance. I understand how their premature release was necessitated by Timothy Good's decision to publish part of the material (which he had received separately) to promote his new book *Above Top Secret*. While the book has some merit as a summary of fact, fiction and rumor about the "cover-up," I am rather concerned about the willingness to accept data at face value, and the consequent situation William Moore and his colleagues were placed in by Good's hasty (but I am sure considered reasonable) actions.

My concern stems from my belief that disinformation is occurring, with sources deliberately attempting to feed out false documents. It is not possible to say who they are or why they are doing it, but one conceivable scenario is this: The authorities, worried about the need to release somewhat revealing documents under the Freedom of Information Act (and they cannot continue to refuse to release on the grounds of "national security," since too much of that would be a clear statement of the importance of UFOs), consider a plan to counteract this. That plan is to feed out patently false papers making extreme claims of sufficient plausibility to UFO researchers (i.e., about real cases such as Roswell) but yet reporting things so bizarre (e.g., autopsies on dead aliens) that they have the effect of making many objective commentators question the valid material. They also tend to make ufologists appear gullible. The reasoning presumably is that "if they buy these they'll buy anything" and consequently the entire subject is suspect.

I first saw this process in operation during the Rendlesham Forest/Bentwaters case. I have excellent grounds (too complex to discuss here) for believing that the infamous "Halt tape" (the recording allegedly made in the forest on the night of December 29-30, 1980, during which UFOs were seen by servicemen and senior USAF officers such as Col. Charles Halt) was disinformation fed out to the one man then connected with the case (lawyer Harry Harris) who was virtually certain to make it public as fast as possible. There is no question that the tape does depict the Orford Ness lighthouse and various other stray lights. Clearly Col. Sam Morgan, who released it, and

those implicated by the tape are sufficiently intelligent and knowledgeable to know that. In my view the tape was released so that it could serve as a red herring to distract attention from the events of December 27, 1980 (when the "real" sky crash happened), and, in the process, support debunkers Philip Klass and Ian Ridpath. Their version then looks sane and credible and ufologists appear to be gullible fools.

More immediately crucial to the MJ-12 saga, however, is the Ministry of Defense document received again by Harry Harris, who was also the man invited on base by Col. Halt in July 1983; this is both relevant and important. That MoD document is reproduced in *Sky Crash* with a small comment beneath it, but a fuller account is useful at this point.

In October 1983 when the *News of the World* carried the story (largely thanks to a false rumor given to Harris, indirectly by Ridpath, that the newspaper was already planning to publish) one man suddenly appeared on the scene. This man was Ralph Noyes, former undersecretary at the MoD (then retired) who had headed the department responsible for UFO data. One of the first things he did was befriend editor Derek Jameson, who had personally championed the case and was directly responsible for the prominence the paper gave to it and its consequent effect on the world. Jameson left the paper almost immediately and took a job with the BBC (the government's national television channel).

Presumably this was pure coincidence, but Jameson has since become a national figure with a prime-time radio show and regular television appearances (including hosting the most popular talk show on British television). Since then the *News of the World* has categorically refused to have anything more to do with the Bentwaters case, despite promises made in 1983 that it would "pursue the matter to the end."

Of course, I have no evidence for a plot but it is fascinating to note the way Jameson's career has risen almost in direct opposition to the way all interest in the Bentwaters case has plunged out of public consciousness...all following that Ralph Noyes session (where, as Noyes told me personally, "I invited Derek Jameson for dinner so we could chat in depth about UFOs").

Tim Good contacted Noyes quickly and he spends several pages in *Above Top Secret* referring to his assistance. I became intrigued by the man when he wrote out of the blue early in 1984 about four months after his meetings with Jameson and the dropping of the case by the press. In several meetings and exchanges of letters I became increasingly puzzled about Noyes' motives. In *Sky Crash* and my book *The*

*UFO Conspiracy* I list some of my concerns.

One of these was the question of the "Ralph Noyes" letter. This was received by Brenda Butler in August 1983...two months *before* the story appeared in the press (and only days after Harry Harris had been covertly invited onto base by Halt). While I did not see this letter until later, I do recall Brenda's referring to a "letter from an MoD source" at this time. Noyes asked for a meeting. She wanted to know what Dot Street and I felt we ought to do and we suggested caution. The meeting never took place. Indeed Brenda did not reply to the letter. But what escalates this insignificant letter into extraordinary prominence is that Ralph Noyes flatly denies he wrote it!

There is no question it contains his address and a passable version of his signature and yet looks as if it is contrived. Noyes adamantly insists on its falseness for one very good reason. He did not find out about the case, he says, until the *News of the World* story, eight weeks *after* Brenda got the letter. For this reason he tried to stop our referring to it in *Sky Crash*, although he ultimately agreed (reluctantly) provided we included a statement from him.

The real issue here is *who* would fake such an innocuous letter at a time when it was allegedly impossible for anyone to have predicted that Noyes would become interested. It was quite obvious to me that the implication being offered was that Brenda had faked it, months later after Noyes came on the scene. But again why? It certainly would have cast us into disarray at a time when we were writing *Sky Crash* had we believed this. Of course, another person who might have been able to predict his future involvement in the case, and might have reason to write a letter in such a crude way that it could later be termed "not mine," would be Ralph Noyes himself. The man who in the wake of *Sky Crash* worked covertly with Tim Good and Lord Hill-Norton, even though Hill-Norton failed to answer direct questions I put to him about the case or do anything at all specific about it. Indeed I was virtually ordered by both Noyes and Hill-Norton to "leave it to Tim." Was it a coincidence that I was openly suspicious of motivations while Tim Good was not?

Noyes later published his utterly bizarre novel *A Secret Property* (1985), in which he dismissed the case from UFO relevance even though he added a rider that the book was *not* based on real people or a real story. It is absolutely astounding that a former MoD man should write a book about his work (think of the incredible saga of the Peter Wright book *Spy Catcher*). It is equally astounding that he should speak of blatantly real people such as a Conservative female Prime Minister of "iron lady" disposition (guess who?) and a "UFO investigator from Kent who has written a book on George Adamski" (clearly none other than Good). And his fairy tale set in Rendlesham Forest, near an air base "Bentbridge" (an obvious combination of Bentwaters and Woodbridge) with a lighthouse called Blandfordness (nee Orford Ness) and a base commander who sees UFOs called Col. Hoyt (rather than Halt),

is so absurdly real he has to be crazy if he seriously expects anyone to believe that this is "just" a work of fiction.

After this book came out Noyes went to Italy to "convalesce" and, aside from occasional chats with Tim Good, has vanished from the UFO scene as assuredly as the Bentwaters case has in Britain. I am at least justified in wondering if his "job" has been done. Once in the MoD, as the *Spy Catcher* affair plainly shows, you *never* retire.

Even if this were all, I would wonder about the strange MoD letter. This arrived without a covering note, just a few weeks before Ralph Noyes wrote to Harry Harris, asking him to reveal in confidence what he had learned on the air base when invited there by Halt. Harris wisely declined and asked Noyes where he (a) learned of his visit to the base (since it was not in the press) and (b) obtained his address. Noyes said that he had been incognito at a lecture Harris had given to BUFORA three months earlier (December 1983) and had traced him through the legal register. He had not approached Harris at the lecture because he was too "shy" (although apparently not too shy to invite the editor of one of Britain's biggest newspapers, hardly noted for its discretion, out to dinner). Neither Harry Harris nor I was stupid enough to fall for that and immediately saw that the anonymous MoD letter which Harris had obtained in January 1984 (only days after his BUFORA lecture) came with a similar envelope and identical postmark to that on Noyes' approach letter.

As readers of *Sky Crash* will know, the contents of this MoD letter are extraordinary. The MoD notepaper indicated by the photocopy is correct high quality stuff, but all references to dates, codes and office sources were blocked out. Noyes, when we later asked him to comment on the letter, pointed out numerous small points which were not consistent with normal practice but agreed it was superficially plausible and pointed out that the most important feature was carried on the top and not obliterated -- although this is *not* reproduced on the photograph in *Sky Crash*. This was a security code, "UK EYES 'B,'" which, Noyes told us, was correct and would certainly be that given to a document such as the one we had -- if it were genuine.

He found this the oddest feature of all, because it implied someone who not only had access to MoD paper but knew the security codes and was willing to risk prosecution, since the forgery of MoD documents would certainly lead to that (if proven).

An alternate scenario, of course, is that the forger *knew* he was immune from prosecution, because the letter was faked with government blessing.

Incidentally, we never resolved why the security code was cut from the photograph in the book. The publishers blamed the printer, who said (very unconvincingly) that it was probably just a "technical decision." "UK EYES 'B'" means that the access of the document was only for security-cleared sources in

Britain and America, not other allies.

The document is fascinating in many respects, which I do not have space to dwell on here. It begins by saying, "As you know, OSI has completed a report on the landing of a craft of unknown origin crewed by several entities near RAF Bentwaters on the night of December 29/30 1980." It describes the entities as "approximately 1.5 meters tall," stressing they had "no helmets" and correctly noting that the night was misty (which is a key reason in my argument about the disinformation status of the Halt tape) and that this mistiness gave the illusion that the aliens hovered above ground. After referring to enclosures B through G (not included in the letter) it talked of NSA intercepts of "electronically synthesized" voices and that the craft had not crashed but was "part of a series of visits to SAC bases in the USA and Europe." It concludes by explaining that the landing was not considered a "defense issue" because of "the overt peaceful nature of the contact" and that a precautionary plan for "counter-information at a local level" was underway.

It is easy to see how, if true, this MoD letter would be as explosive as the MJ-12 documents now on offer in the United States. It seems to have been fed out at more or less the same time as Moore, Stanton Friedman and Jaime Shandera were getting their stuff. It would have been easy to imagine Harry Harris' taking this to the press in early 1984, having its failings pointed out by some anonymous source at the MoD and consequently his credibility and that of the case (and by inference *Sky Crash* when it later appeared) totally disappearing. Luckily that did not occur, but it was a close-run thing and fortunate that I got a copy the day after it arrived and instantly pointed out the suspicious fact that it referred to investigations being undertaken by "DS 8," Noyes' former department! This is an improbable location for any truly secret study.

As you can see, I have good reason to believe that official sources do try to disinform and discredit ufology by feeding it sensational documents which look plausible but have certain failings. This alone would cause me to be extremely wary of the MJ-12 paper now being promoted. But there is an even more devastating story I must report on. This directly relates to MJ-12.

In 1986 both Good and I were working on our books about UFO secrecy. This must have been known to anyone sufficiently aware of the UFO literature and may have made us both prime targets for disinformation, for fear of what our books might achieve. I suspect it was William Moore's excellent work in unraveling the Roswell case (clearly crucial to UFO history) that made him a target. It is incredibly suspicious, therefore, that Tim and I both apparently received covert approaches offering several documents at this strategic time.

Of course, neither of us knew what Moore and his colleagues had, and you know that Good chose to make public his MJ-12 file, although it is not clear exactly where he got it from.

(He told me on July 11, 1987, when we did a radio show together in London, that he felt it was probably the same covert source that sent the file to Jaime Shandera.)

My story has not been made public before now, because I took things very, very cautiously -- particularly in the light of the above MoD-letter debacle. While I have no documents to show, I do have a second witness to back me up and I did take the precaution of advising *IUR* editor Jerome Clark at the time that I was involved in some sort of secret-documents situation (without specifying details). Here is what happened.

On October 28, 1986, I received a phone call from a man who refused to give his name or number. He said that his "CO" (commanding officer) had given him my phone number and suggested I "might be interested" in what he had. He did not know who I was or why I could help, but then went on to describe some documents that had come into his possession.

He referred to six reports, spanning 600 pages. A number of specific comments about the contents of these files were made, sufficient to give names like "Wright-Patterson Air Force Base" and "Maj. Hector Quintinella" -- neither of which meant anything to him (he said) but which, naturally, were clearly relevant to me. Another name he gave was Dr. Frederick Hawser (Hauser?) -- which still remains a puzzle to me -- but which he claimed appeared in these files as a scientist who carried out biological analyses of alien bodies. He believed the report was dated in 1948 and that the term "befabs" (standing for "beings from alien objects") was included as an acronym for the aliens. There was also a file dated 11/02/1977 from Wright-Patterson, with the reference number 6061 and the frightening title "Elimination of non-military sources."

Though I was extremely suspicious, it was patently obvious that he was claiming to possess incredible files concerning the secret U.S. government UFO project (which we now call MJ-12) and that he was at least acting his part well, for no obvious reason. He promised to think over what to do, after I expressed my willingness to proceed further, and said he would call me back in two days.

On October 30 he did call back, at 8:45 A.M. The first thing he did was give me his name and his town of origin. Save that this was in Lancashire (about 15 miles from me) I will not elaborate. He clearly gave this as a token of faith, saying that he had mulled over the significance of what he was doing and wondered if we could meet. Even though this was about the most inconvenient day possible (my birthday) I naturally agreed. But I asked if I could bring a colleague, UFO researcher Peter Hough, whom he could trust as much as he could trust me. The man seemed reluctant, but when I pointed out that I did not drive and that if he wanted to meet at a venue of his choice (as he insisted) I needed someone else with a car, he at last agreed. In truth, of course, I wanted a second opinion.

About 60 minutes later he called back and set a meeting time of just a couple of hours later at a pub about 10 miles from me and even further from Wigan. This barely gave Peter Hough

enough time to travel from where he lived to pick me up and for us to drive to the venue (especially as Peter was currently looking after his young child and could not leave until his wife returned from shopping). Nevertheless, we made it a few minutes late. We stood in the bar and asked discreetly for him, since he did not come to us. Only after about 10 minutes (while we were having a drink and on the verge of going home) did a young man, in his late 20s, come up to me and sheepishly ask if I was Jenny Randles. He claimed that he had been given a photograph of me so he might recognize me, but in it I had long hair and I now look different. This was true; I had recently changed to a new hairstyle.

**W**e then spent several hours in a busy pub talking with the man. He gave us a long and extremely detailed account of the story of how he came to possess the files, sketched things from these files, related in detail their content and gave extensive replies to all our questions. Never once did he strike us as evasive or dishonest. To be honest both Peter and I sat in the car afterwards for a long time shaking our heads at his plausibility and saying to ourselves, "My God -- if he's telling the truth...."

I took these pages of notes (he did not wish to be taped and argued that the noise in the pub was important). It would be impossible to give anything but a brief summary here.

John, as I shall call him, had been in a certain branch of the Royal Army Corps until he left in February 1985. His CO had spent time on attachment in the United States and had got to know a USAF officer at Wright-Patterson during this spell. This officer was a computer technician. While investigating a fault, that officer had accidentally tapped into amazing files on UFOs. He secured copies and was then arrested for being in a secure area without permission. Despite being interrogated the officer did not indicate he had copies and during his arrest succeeded in informing his British officer friend where they were and asking him to get them out of the country. A few days later, while on "remand," the USAF officer died in a car crash, the death certificate putting it down to intoxication.

John's CO did not believe this cause of death and suspected the man had been murdered. (This all supposedly occurred in 1983 in Ohio, presumably near Dayton.)

John's CO came to England with the files and for a long time sat on these. Often he raised UFOs as a subject with his men, picking out those in whom he saw a reaction and talking with them in private. John had no idea why this was. He recalls talking to the CO about a "big case in Brazil, where the navy were involved and photographs were taken" (Trindade Island?). What would he do about that? John was asked. He told his CO that while in the army he would "do as the army do and deny UFOs exist" but privately and when out accept them. Later it became clear to John that he was being tested to insure he would follow regulations while still aware that UFOs were real.

Allegedly this process took two years and gradually John was shown reports that the army was submitting to the British MoD, then a photo of a daylight disc (later it emerged this was from the USAF files). Finally he left to become a civilian. It was only in August 1986, when John returned for a weekend training camp for reservists, that his CO told him of the files and gave him a key to a location where he kept them. John was told to take them, read them, call my number and (if he felt okay about it) give them to me.

The files were dusty and unimpressive-looking. Since John knew little of UFOs, he only really glanced at them. He first read them all through, he claimed, the day before our meeting (October 29). On doing so he saw the explosive nature of their content (some of which he described to us in detail) and then began to fear for his wife and three children. So he did a sophisticated job of splitting the documents, relocating them in a way that they would not be traced to him, and decide to see what I was like first. Now that he was satisfied he was glad to get them off his hands. He arranged a covert meeting at a country park eight days later (saying he needed this time to get the files back in order).

Peter and I waited hours, but he never showed up.

**I**t was possibly the fact that Peter and I were not willing to take his story at face value that precipitated his failure to show. While we were both impressed by him and saw no obvious motive for a hoax, we nevertheless pointed out to John that we had to satisfy ourselves this was not a setup. He might just be an innocent messenger boy, unaware of the bogus nature of the material he had. He did not think so and we agreed it was possibly genuine. But we wanted to make sure we did not end up looking like fools and we said that if he was genuine he would understand our caution.

Only after his failure to appear with the documents did we really check into his background. We had enough to go on to make a thorough check. For instance, I had covertly secured his car registration number and model (an unusual one). This gave us the option of trying to trace the garage that sold the car, finding his place of employment (which he had given us enough hints about) and so forth. Some of these things proved to be dead ends, others slightly suspicious. But at least one did agree with his tale. The car was registered in February 1985, the precise month he said he came north to return to civilian life and so when he might have purchased a new vehicle.

But this was not quite the final act. Eleven days after the aborted second meeting John posted a letter to me (to a rudimentary and partially incorrect address, clearly based on looking up my number in a phone directory and guessing the rest). This unexpected postscript, for which there seems no real point if he was somehow (for no obvious reason) trying to hoax us, "explained" his disappearance.

John claimed that "events took a dramatic turn" two days

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SPECIAL CITATION TO ACCOMPANY THE AWARD OF  
THE AIR FORCE COMMENDATION MEDAL

TO

HARRY B. COOPER

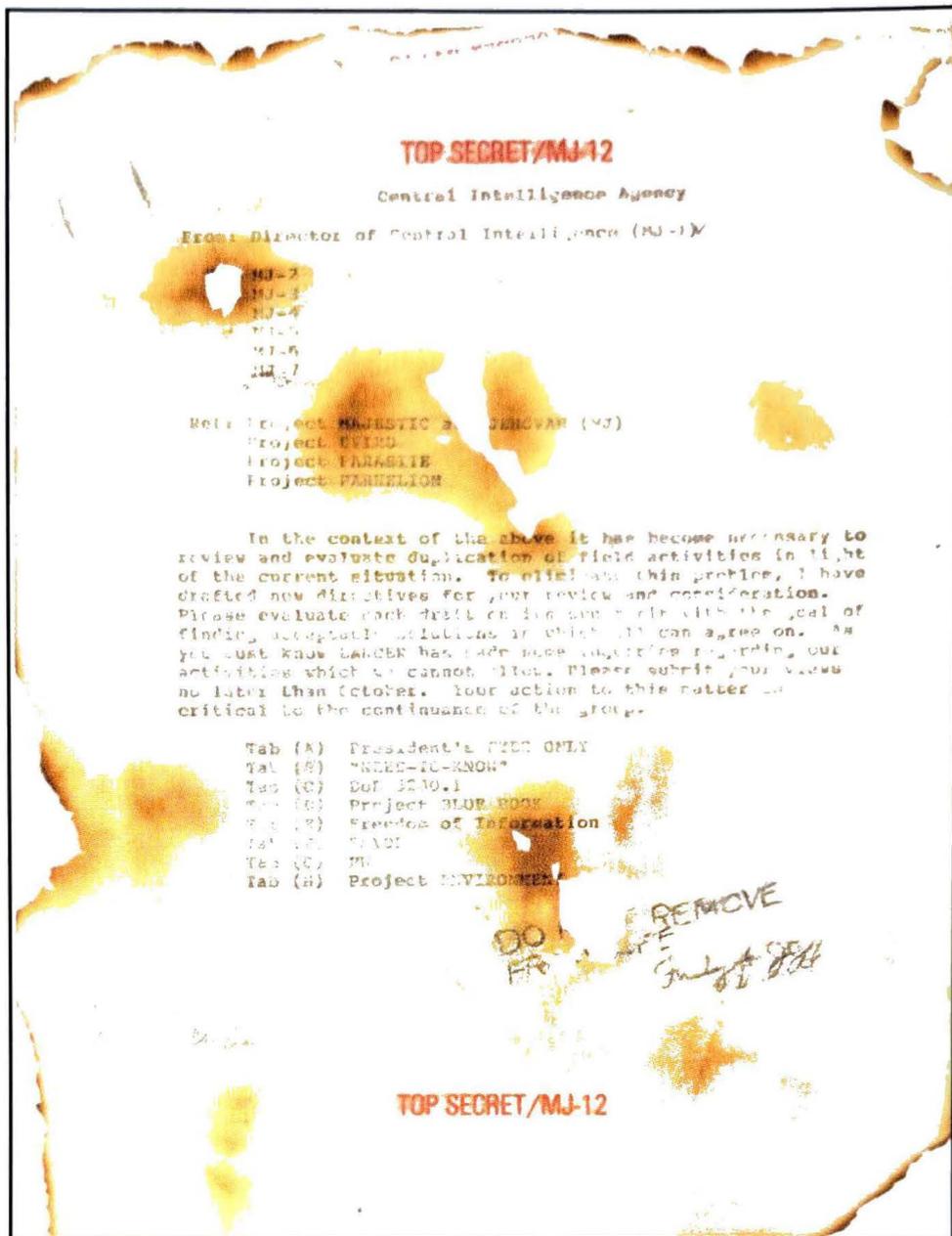
Master Sergeant Harry B. Cooper distinguished himself by meritorious service as Non-Commissioned Officer in Charge, Printing Management Branch and Non-Commissioned Officer in Charge, Camera Section, Publishing Division, Command Directorate of Administrative Services, Headquarters Air Defense Command, Mt Air Force Base, Colorado, from 30 September 1957 to 1 June 1965. His exemplary knowledge of film processing and printing techniques provided necessary aids and photographic production for intelligence evaluation of gun camera film and still photographs requested on call by the Foreign Technology Division and the National Photographic Interpretation Center in their contribution to the USAF UFO Program. His exemplary leadership as a Non-Commissioned Officer in the United States Air Force Office of Special Investigations reflect great credit upon himself, the Air Defense Command and the United States Air Force.

BY ORDER OF WALTER E. LORRY  
Chief of Staff,  
USAF



*Who would take and analyze photographs of UFOs, crash sites and related matters? This citation to Master Sergeant Harry Cooper, father of Tim Cooper who later received leaked UFO documents, specifically acknowledges his support to the USAF UFO Program.*

This draft document was “pulled from the fire” by a counter intelligence agent that once to work for James Jesus Angleton. It clearly mentions Majestic and Jehovah (MJ) and sets up several directives with profound implications. The authenticity of the document based on forensic testing is very strong.



While the SOMI-01 manual cites two species of alien beings associated with recovered craft, often discussion centers on large-eyed “grey” beings with large heads, long limbs and slender bodies. This image was reported emailed to radio host Art Bell by someone named Albert Lewis who said it was found with his father’s effects after his death. There is a badge shown at the right front of the cart that reportedly showing the word “Majestic.”

