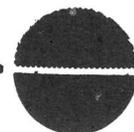
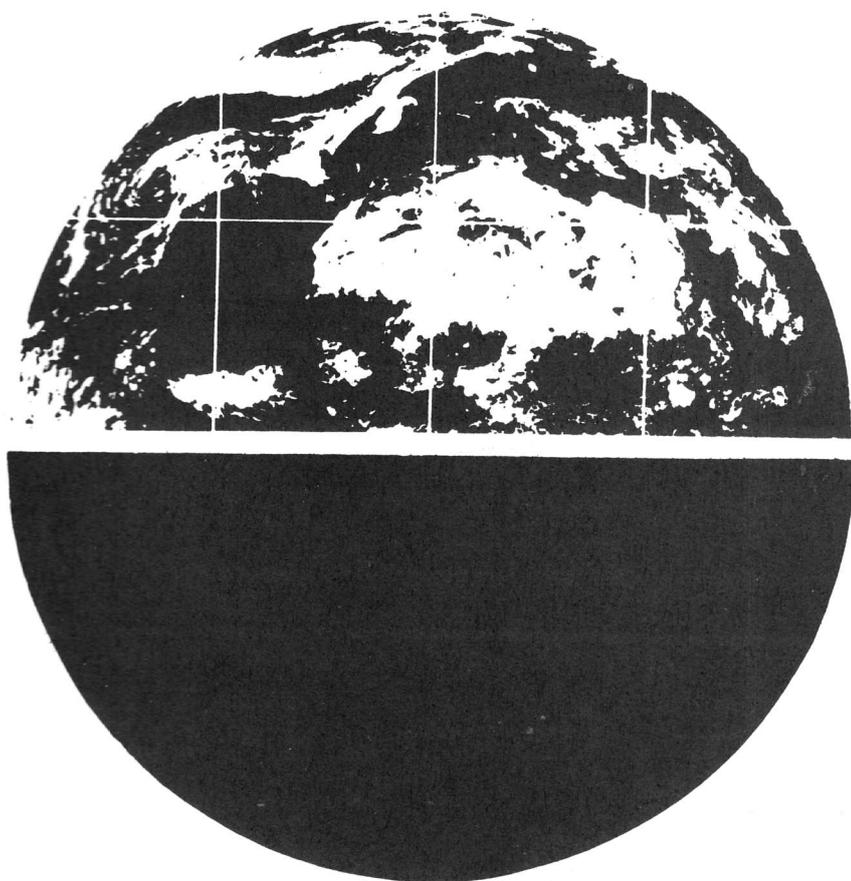


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EDITORIAL

HOW DEEP SHOULD ONE DIG ? - PART TWO

S.J.Gamble, Director of Research.

I started my previous editorial (1) by stating "one of the objectives of JTAP was to encourage the application of scientific methodology to the study of UFO phenomena." I also went on to ask "But how far can this go ? Are we in danger of turning over too many stones, and would we like what we saw under them ?". This is a theme which I would like to expand further.

The normal scientific process is to make an observation, design a theory to explain this observation and then to design further experiments to test this theory. Part of this process is to present your theory together with its evidence for examination by the wider scientific community. Colleagues may have further evidence which either supports or refutes a given theory. This may help in refining a theory to better fit the facts or help in viewing the data from a different angle.

It should be that this spirit of examination and comment is viewed as a collaborative effort between individuals with a common interest towards an eventual solution for a given problem. In the fields of conventional science this unfortunately does not always apply. It applies even less in the fields of UFOlogy and the study of other transient phenomena. All too often matters disintegrate into highly personal battles between groups and individuals. All this energy spent in fighting each other is doing nothing to advance the cause of research. Indeed it may be doing a great disservice. There are those both within and without of the

field who use this kind of bickering as examples of the unprofessional conduct of the so-called UFOlogists.

The view of somebody else may put a different interpretation on a case. In the field of UFOlogy it is a very brave person who either comes forward with a radical new theory or an explanation for a long established case. Such people have to be brave because if you try to explain somebody else's pet case you risk not only a stream of verbal abuse but in one or two cases actual physical abuse. This just is not on. We need people to come forward, present new theories and then have them discussed in a rational way. There should be no room for the closed mind people in serious research.

The last issue of JTAP carried two controversial articles. Roy Dutton (2) presented his evidence for alien visitations. Stuart Campbell (3) presented evidence to explain the Livingstone case. Both of these may have touched the sensitivities of some readers. At the time I made it quiet clear that these were open to reasoned discussion. It is of no use to me to know that you don't like either Stuart's or Roy's paper. What I (and anyone else interested in serious

(PLEASE NOTE : This issue completes volume 4 of JTAP)

Editorial cont

research) needs to know is why they are wrong or why they are right. It is only on this basis of feedback that we can hope to make any significant advance.

Both the articles by Steuart and Roy have resulted in some correspondence. This means that this issue of JTAP has a larger that usual Correspondence section. This in a way is a good development. Many professional journals, such as Nature or the Lancet, have a large correspondece section which gives details of experimental work or comment on previous publication. These letters to the editor pass on important packages of information which are of great use to researchers but not large enough in themselves to fill a full blown paper. This is a trend I would like to encourage.

I should stress again that I am interested in facts and will avoid publishing anything that is unnecessarily critical of individuals or organisations. It will be unavoidable to mention some people or groups in discussing any investigation. These may not always be seen to have acted in the best way possible.

This issue will also continue to advance evidence for new theories and solutions to older cases. There is an update by Ken Phillips on the Anamnesis project (4). The Anamnesis is one of those areas where a number of people tell me they don't like it, but nobody can tell me what is wrong with it. I am prepared to listen to any reasoned argument either for or against Ken's work.

Andy Roberts also presents (5) the West Yorkshire UFO Group's

work on the Cracoe Fell photographs. This case has been investigated extensively by the Yorkshire UFO Society who come to a completely different conclusion. We are publishing Andy's article to provide a forum to exchange ideas. I first came aware of this case when it was shown on a TV-AM programme on 28th April 1984 (5). Tony Dodd, a member of the YUFOS and Bob Digby, a past BUFORA chairman were interviewed by Henry Kelly about a number of reports from Yorkshire. The WYUFORG explanation does seem to fit the facts, but as usual I invite reasoned and factual comment.

Slightly changing the subject, I would like to thank both Steuart Campbell and Anthony Pace for their comments on the 'computerised' JTAP. For the technically minded, it is prepared using a Sinclair Spectrum computer with Tasword Two as the wordprocessor. Text is stored on Microdrives. The March 86 issue was prepared using a Brother M1009 printer. This did not give as good a result as expected. Later issues have used a Silver Reed typewriter with a computer interface as printer.

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THE ANAMNESIS PROJECT - A STATE OF PROGRESS REPORT.

Ken Phillips

16 Wedgwood Walk, Lymington Road, London, N.W.6.

INTRODUCTION

Ken Phillips and Alex Keul have been using the Anamnesis method, developed by them, to study UFO reporters. Some of the earlier results of this project have already been presented in the pages of this journal (1).

The Anamnesis project is continuing and this paper is presented to report recent progress. BUFORA has made a research grant to assist with this project.

ANAMNESIS LIVES.

Up to the time of writing this report, the Anamnesis project continues to be applied in the field of UFO (and UFO-related) investigations; mostly by the author himself. This means that the project is very much concerned with percipients living in south east England, although sporadic Anamnesis reports have originated from such diverse areas as Greater Manchester, Scotland, County Durham and East Anglia. Dr Keul, on the other hand, is virtually running the project single-handedly in Austria and, due to the inevitable problems of geographical spacing, this means that only the provinces of Lower Austria and Upper Austria can be adequately covered. However, this lop-sided sampling of cases is not as unfortunate as it might first appear, since percipients tend to originate from all areas; prosperous and non-prosperous alike.

Given these geographical conditions, one would reasonably ask why the project has not been adopted by the majority (or even a sizable minority) of investigators. The reason for the luke-warm reception has its roots deep in our western technological culture; for our education based as it is on Newtonian

and Cartesian philosophies, has little scope for such a revolutionary concept as a relationship between the percipient and the perceived. Surely, what is being perceived is, in most cases in any event, totally objective, and that what is being reported is an accurate translation of "something" out there. Unfortunately, forty years of total mystification casts doubt on such a simplistic observation. If we are to get to the heart of the UFO stimulus, we must begin to search beyond Descartes and Newton into the realms of "connectedness" and the "universe nextdoor"(2).

Putting this idea more simply, the Anamnesis is investigating the Unidentified Witness - who is it that appears on the stage of the "hard-residue" case, the "abduction", the "mis-identification" report and the "hoaxer"? Is he (or she) to be found in the normal span of the socio-cultural spectrum or is he (or she) residing in a segment that, hitherto, has remained entirely unknown? It is with this unknown segment in mind, that the Anamnesis is searching and comparing a whole range of demographical data residing in the archives of the Austrian and English censuses.

Anamnesis cont....

PRELIMINARY RESULTS OF THE ANAMNESIS PROJECT

The first thing that must be said here is that the UFO-percipient population is, in general, a psychologically stable one, with virtually no manifestation of psychopathological impairment. This finding is in direct contradiction with that of the Vienna Pilot Study, funded by the Vienna Board of Education (3). The latter results were found to be an artifact.

So, if we are dealing with normal, healthy individuals, has the Anamnesis found anything extraordinary about them? The answer to this question is most definitely yes. In fact they are very intelligent and artistically motivated people, who, in almost every case, possess moderate to strong E.S.P. faculties. But before anyone raises his voice in indignance exclaiming that the author is explaining one unknown with the aid of another, let us take a look at the pilot sample. To quote from an earlier paper "In the British alleged close-sighting group (n=10), nine had reported E.S.P., five more than one E.S.P. phenomena category, six had stated that E.S.P. had happened before the alleged UFO event and eight claimed repeated to frequent E.S.P. occurrences."(4) A subsequent revised Anamnesis project reinforced the findings of the pilot study. All other demographic results remain within average boundaries. (It is, perhaps, pertinent to mention here that even the photographer of the celebrated McMinnaville case [used in the Condon report] was a "repeater" witness [5]).

Later results of the Anamnesis-Rorschach revealed an even

interesting result when compared with a US sample of 37 normal and 48 disturbed adolescents (6); the conclusion running as follows :-

"Therefore one can safely say that Austrian and British alleged UFO sighters show a markedly higher number of developmentally lower (regressive) object-relational contents in their Rorschachs compared to US normals, increasing from distant to close sighters, and an increasing similarity with US psychotic inpatients Rorschachs (4, p13)"

What is being said here, in plain English, is that the closer the UFO event the more likely is the percipient to be overwhelmed by an experience akin to "visions".

As to why perfectly normal specimens of the psychosocial spectrum should suddenly exhibit characteristics of a visionary nature is the subject for future cryptoreligious and folkloric studies; since it is only by such a multidisciplinary approach we can ever hope to isolate the UFO kernel. (Remember that the omnipotent US Air Force was hopelessly confounded by the UFO phenomnon for twenty years!)

FUTURE DIRECTIONS OF RESEARCH AND INVESTIGATIONS

In the light of the Anamnesis results obtained so far, should Research and Investigations drastically modify their approach and techniques in the field ? The answer to that question is both yes and no. On the one hand, we simply cannot ignore the CE II (7), radar-visual and the multiply witnessed events, small in number though they are. For example, it simply is not

Anamnesis cont.....

pertinent to go along to investigate a "corn-circle" with an Anamnesis form since, as far as we can determine, neither UFO nor witness are involved! At the other end of the reporting spectrum however, we have those low to zero data yield cases (some of which are many years old) which, within the context of physical sciences, are virtually worthless. Moreover, even when cases are satisfactorily attributed to known phenomena, it still does not explain the UFO experience i.e. why "Mr X" reports his observation of the planet Venus as a "metallic object with windows and which scared the hell out of his dog". Putting it bluntly, we are looking at the UFO kernel through an unknown instrument; the unidentified human witness. Consequently, the past forty years of data gathering has produced a bewildering jungle of results (e.g see 8), simply because the instrument through which we have been looking (the witness) has no standardization or criteria.

The future role of research and investigation is now quite clear. We must examine the instrument as well as the event. This means that after carrying out a full technical appraisal, we must execute a one hundred and eighty degree turn and look into the eyes of the witness. For unless we do this, another two generations of UFOlogists will pass who, with great effort, expense and frustration, will collect another forty years worth of meaningless results. The author of this paper hopes that the current generation of UFOlogists will not allow such a gross dissipation of effort to occur.

CONCLUSIONS

In this year, the fortieth anniversary of the Arnold sighting we have to think long and hard about the UFO percipient and the signals that he/she is transmitting through the Anamnesis. It does not mean that we must discard any of the hypotheses developed so far, since the author knows of two falsifiable hypotheses developed over the past decade (these are 1] Tectonic strain, "Earthlights" theory of Deveraux et al, and 2] the UFO waves Vs sidereal time theory of Dutton [9]) which to the best of the authors knowledge have not been tested by the respective scientific disciplines at all. But whatever ones preferred hypothesis is, the mind cannot be left out of the equation because it interacts with whatever material the universe is made. And who knows, there might just be other minds "out there". Hence, for the first time in the UFO story, UFOlogists now have a time-invariant, culture-free apparatus with which to listen to the mind, and indeed, to give it full expression without interference from UFOlogists (or others!) value judgements, yet at the same time having criteria with which to make essential comparisons.

"New experiences change existing method and a change in method changes man"

Bill Dillon
UFO Percipient

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(continued on page 128)

THE CRACOE FELL CASE

West Yorkshire UFO Research Group

84 Elland Road, Brighouse, West Yorkshire, HD6 2QR.

ABSTRACT

On 16th March 1981 two off duty police officers observed and photographed bright lights south east from their location at the north Yorkshire village of Cracoe.

Cracoe is approximately eight kilometres north of Skipton and lies on the B6265 road. The Skipton to Grassington (freight only) railway line passes close by.

The case has been extensively investigated by the Yorkshire UFO Society who have published a detailed report of this work. This paper re-examines the evidence and suggests a possible solution.

INTRODUCTION

This article is an adaptation of one appearing in the November/December 1986 issue of UFO BRIGANTIA (available from 84 Elland Road, Brighouse W. Yorks, HD6 2QR), and has been written for BUFORA at the request of the BUFORA Council. It provides an update on West Yorkshire UFO Research Group's (WYUFORG) line of research in this case and is written for BUFORA readers to clarify the confusing situation which has arisen between the Yorkshire UFO Society (YUFOS), WYUFORG and ultimately BUFORA.

For those readers unfamiliar with the Cracoe case brief details are given below, but WYUFORG wish to make it clear that we were not involved in the main body of research. The Cracoe case has been extensively investigated over a number of years (investigation is still continuing), by YUFOS, who have published many articles on the case and it has formed the 'highlight' of many of their lectures and conferences. WYUFORG wish to make it plain that we are in no way attempting to 'poach' a case or anything of that nature. Our sole objective is to make public a major piece

of evidence which has been, until now, unpublished. This evidence is the statement of one of the few prime witnesses to the phenomena. Evidence which has not appeared before in respect of this case and evidence which has stood up to rigorous scrutiny. We leave it's veracity up to the judgement of the reader. WYUFORG strongly advise anyone with the remotest interest in this case to obtain the Cracoe Package from YUFOS (address given at the end of the paper). YUFOS were offered any (unedited) right of reply alongside in the article in UFO BRIGANTIA, that they wished, an offer which remains open, but sadly declined to answer all communications addressed to their President. There is no speculation in this article. Everything in it is a fact that can be verified by the relevant documentation.

THE CRACOE CASE

On the morning of March 16th 1981 an off duty police officer saw, from the window of his police house in the small north Yorkshire village of Cracoe, bright lights on a rock face, some distance away to the south east. After he and another

Cracoe Fell Case cont...

officer had observed the lights for a time they decided that they consisted of three intense white lights with some form of 'finned' structure behind them. Six photographs were taken during the observation, which lasted about one hour. The lights were not seen to 'arrive' and they did not move off at the end of the sighting but altered in light intensity before fading out. The lights were described by one of the witnesses as 'brilliant' and 'varying in intensity'. Other witnesses were present, one of whom's testimony will be considered later.

NOTE:

This is a very brief account of the events of 16/3/81, WYUFORG think it includes all the salient facts but don't take our word for it, please obtain the YUFOS report, which includes a colour photograph of the phenomena.

THE PHOTOGRAPHS AND YUFOS (PUBLIC) CONCLUSIONS

This section is included to 'set the scene' for the new evidence and is in no way intended to de-bunk YUFOS' conclusions, rather it is necessary to give an overview of the published research. But for the photographs this case would have gone down as 'just another LITS', but photographic evidence is rare and YUFOS rightly had the pictures analysed at four establishments, the now defunct Ground Saucer Watch (GSW) in the USA, Klaus Webner (affiliated to CENAP) in Germany, a 'police source' and at Leeds University. Full results of analysis from the first two have been released and we quote from them, again very briefly but encapsulating we think, the major points.

GSW's conclusions were that 'there is no evidence that the AI's (anomalous images) are 'objects' hovering between the witnesses and the distant mountains (hills)'.

Klaus Webner's conclusions include 'I have found no evidence that there was anything in the air between Cracoe Fell and the eye witnesses'.

Neither report mentioned a 'fin' or craft of any kind. Obtain the report and read the analysis for yourselves if you are in any doubt as to our portrayal of the data. Obviously, in an attempt to be concise, we can only pick out certain portions of GSW's and Webner's analysis and it will be seen by some as a biased selection at this. We accept this and for this reason we urge the reader to make himself aware of the facts.

YUFOS incorporated this analysis in the 'Cracoe Package' which also contains details of their (extensive) research along with details of the case events. The exact location (grid reference) of the event is not mentioned but our research leads us to believe that it occurred on quartz bearing gritstone crags (not limestone as per the report) at GR 965579 (approx) (Sheet SD 85/95), some one and a half miles south east of Cracoe village (not three quarters of a mile as in the report). The farmers evidence or statements are not mentioned anywhere in the report, nor have they been published in any issue of YUFOS' journal Quest. YUFOS come to no firm conclusions as to the nature of the 'object' but it is stated in Quest Vol. 2, No. 5 that 'an unknown structure lies behind the lights, this is covered by

Cracoe Fell Case cont....

a stream of white light' and 'for the record the Cracoe UFO is undoubtedly solid' and members of WYUFORG have also been told by the heads of YUFOS at lectures that it depicts a 'structured craft of unknown origin'. It is classed as an UNKNOWN.

WYUFORG INVOLVEMENT

WYUFORG, in the form of Nigel Mortimer, first became involved after the Cracoe case had become 'public' via a Yorkshire Evening Post (YEP) article of 22nd August 1983. Nigel lives very near the Cracoe area and decided to have a look on behalf of NUFON and WYUFORG. Shortly after the YEP article (the following week in fact), a smaller piece appeared in the Craven Herald (see Figure One for text) offering an explanation for the phenomena.

Nigel contacted the farmer by 'phone and obtained brief details (which were concurrent with both the Craven Herald piece and with Mr. Carlisle's subsequent 1986 statement - Nigel's original notes from the 'phone conversation are still extant) but was unable to follow the case up as he shortly afterwards ceased active UFO investigation for family reasons. This brings us up to the present saga which is as follows. In early 1986 Andy Roberts (editor of UFO BRIGANTIA) was asked by Paul Deveraux, editor of the Ley Hunter (TLH), to write an article on the Cracoe Fell phenomena for the back page Earthlights (EL) spot in TLH. Andy said he would do this if the evidence available supported the EL theory, one which he admittedly has a penchant for. Andy wrote to YUFOS stating the foregoing and requesting a copy of the

Cracoe package so he could consider all the available evidence. The package was denied to him as 'You would not agree with YUFOS' conclusions'. Andy wasn't sure about this as he hadn't read them yet! Requests for copies of slides of the Cracoe phenomena for use in WYUFORG lectures (full credits offered to YUFOS) were also refused, on similar grounds. In the end he decided (based on many other factors also) that a phenomenon which lasts for one hour in one spot was unlikely to be an EL and so the article was not written. In the late spring of 1986, Nigel Mortimer, having returned to active UFOlogy and WYUFORG, decided it was time he followed up the farmers lead, and an article was published in the June issue of UFO BRIGANTIA detailing his research into the phenomena and his tentative thoughts. Nigel also wished to see the Cracoe Package, but it being denied to members of WYUFORG had to obtain it in an unusual fashion. According to YUFOS advertising in Quest, the Cracoe Package is available to ANYONE on receipt of £5. This is clearly not the case and so Nigel asked a relative to obtain it by post. This was done and Nigel acquired the report. These methods may seem unconventional but due to the circumstances it was the only way to obtain the Cracoe report. This action has been sanctioned as expedient by BUFORA Council. It was this action and Nigel's article in the June issue of UFO BRIGANTIA which drew the extensive interchange of letters between Andy Roberts and Phillip Mantle (YUFOS) and the many letters Nigel received.

THE FARMER'S TESTIMONY

WYUFORG contacted the farmer, Mr.D. Carlisle, again and he

FIGURE ONE

TEXT OF THE CRAVEN HERALD ARTICLE AUGUST 1983

UFO RUBBISH !

Reports that a shiny object seen on Cracoe Fell were conclusive proof of alien visitors to the Earth have been dismissed as 'rubbish' by a local farmer.

Hetton farmer Mr.D. Carlisle said the phenomenon often occurred on dull days when the sun caught rocks on the fell. 'It's quite spectacular, but that's all there is to it' he explained.

He was present on the morning two years ago when two policemen photographed the shining fell and recognised it as the same optical illusion he had seen there before.

Last week, the Yorkshire UFO Society hailed the photograph the policemen took as the most conclusive evidence they had of alien visitors to this country.

was only too pleased to be interveiwed. This took place on 28th September 1986. WYUFORG members spoke to Mr Carlisle for an hour at his large farm in the village of Cracoe. The main points of the interveiw were written down and Mr Carlisle was then asked if he disagreed with anything that had been written, or had anything to add. He did not and signed the statement (see Figure Two). Mr. Carlisle added later that although the phenomena seen on 16th March 1981 were in his opinion a sunlight reflection he like many Cracoe villagers, thought there was, and is, 'something' going on and he went on to say that a few weeks previous to our interview bright lights had been seen at night high on Cracoe Fell.

Mr Carlisle's view of the Cracoe Phenomena is then, that it is the product of an uncommon sunlight reflection on damp quartz bearing gritstone, and one that he and

others have seen three or four times a year when the weather is changeable. He and his wife and son (amongst others) have seen the phenomenon both before and since the March 1981 event. It is also worth noting that on the three occasions Mr Carlisle has been contacted over the Cracoe Phenomenon (by the Craven Herald and WYUFORG) he has had to be sought out, he has never gone out of his way to make his views known, and that his version of the event is unchanged from the 1983 UFO RUBBISH article. Had Mr Carlisle ben unsure of events, or even lying in his 1983 statements he could easily declined to be interviewed. In our opinion his credibility as a witness is excellent.

LAST WORDS

In closing this article we would like to stress once again that our sole reason for writing it was to bring out the evidence of a prime witness to the event, evidence which,

FIGURE TWO

FARMER CARLISLE'S
STATEMENT CONCERNING THE CRACOE 'UFO'.

I was present outside Cracoe police station on the 16th March 1981. I observed the lights for not more than 15 minutes. The lights were on Rylestone Fell. People present were (names confidential as they are serving police officers). The weather conditions were overcast with outbreaks of sun. The lights I observed were as portrayed in the photograph and in that location. I have seen these lights both before and after on many occasions, as have my wife and son. The lights appear when the rocks are wet (the rock is Yorkshire Gritstone) and when the sun shines on the wet surfaces. It does not occur on bright sunny days. Only on cloudy days with outbreaks of sun. My attitude towards the UFO phenomenon is one of an open mind and in my opinion the lights I saw were nothing else than the sun shining on the rocks. On the day in question the lights were brighter than I've seen before. I did not notice any structure whatsoever behind the rocks.

although known about, has not been presented before by the investigating body, and evidence which, until new and conclusive evidence is forthcoming, provides a possible resolution to the Cracoe Case.

The sun on the morning of 16th March 1981 was (according to computer simulation) in such a position as to be shining obliquely on the rock face. According to weather records the sun was shining and rain had fallen in the days previous to the event. The manner of the phenomenon's disappearance was concurrent with that of a light reflection, in that the light was seen to 'pulse' before fading altogether, no 'object' was actually seen to move off. The rock type (Yorkshire Gritstone) is notorious for light reflection, due to it's quartz content and tendency to retain surface moisture, and members of WYUFORG have seen (and photographed!) similar

effects as the Cracoe phenomena in the same area although for shorter periods of duration. WYUFORG do not however hold this explanation up as being the definitive conclusion to the Cracoe Case but feel the facts valid and that it is important in a case classified as unknown that all the facts should be made known, and we question why they were not revealed in the past. It is WYUFORG's opinion that we have conducted this research and investigation correctly and that it is our responsibility as open minded UFOlogists to have done it in this way. A UFO case is no ones 'property' and can and should be commented on by anyone with something serious to add to it.

WYUFORG NOTE :

Readers are advised yet again to obtain the YUFOS Cracoe Package which makes interesting and essential reading. It is available from YUFOS, 68 Buller Crescent, Leeds, LS9 6LJ,

Cracoe Fell Case cont....

Price £5. WYUFORG would like to state that our use of YUFOS views and quotes are in no way meant to be seen as inflammatory, nor are WYUFORG attempting to 'steal' a case or anything like that. WYUFORG feel that all the evidence in a particular case should be brought forward for consideration. We have been informed by YUFOS that the next issue of YUFOS Quest will reveal exactly what the Cracoe 'object' is and that it is not a light reflection. WYUFORG will only be too pleased to support any FIRM evidence, whatever the nature, of the 'object' behind the Cracoe photograph. All the statements made by WYUFORG in the forgoing article are statements of fact and we will be pleased to enter into correspondence to answer any queries. Copies of the farmer's statement, newspaper articles, photographs WYUFORG have taken, and other documents and statements referred to in the text will be made available to interested parties on request (A5 SAE please).

This article has no copyright and may be reproduced anywhere providing quotes are not taken out of context. A statement of WYUFORG's reasons for involvement in this case and a position and future policy statement regarding our actions is also available. We find it sad that a UFO group should have to produce such documents but in this case it is necessary.

STOP PRESS

Since this article was written YUFOS have withdrawn the original Cracoe Package. A revised version is available from the same address, Price is now £7.50.

EDITORIAL NOTES TO THE CRACOE FELL CASE.

These notes are offered as additional explanation to the WYUFORG article.

1) WYUFORG are a member group of BUFORA. They have, however, been shown no special privilege in the reproduction of their article.

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PAM KENNEDY, MBE

As this issue of JTAP closed for press, I learned of the sad news of the death of Pam Kennedy. Pam passed away peacefully on 16th February 1987.

Apart from the many administrative jobs Pam tackled over the years for BUFORA, Pam will be remembered by many as the lady who, together with Betty Wood, had the unenviable job of serving a hundred cups of tea to the hungry hoards at BUFORA's Kensington meetings.

A full obituary will appear in the May BUFORA Bulletin.

RESEARCH NEWS

Steve Gamble, Director of Research.

This short article discusses what is currently going on within BUFORA's Research Department and liason with other sections both within and outside of BUFORA.

RESEARCH MEETING

A meeting of the Research Committee was held in London of 3rd January 1987. Some of the projects discussed are documented below.

We were pleased to be able to welcome to his first research meeting Manfred Cassirer. As stated in a recent article (1) Manfred has been recently appointed to Council. He is an expert in the field of psychic explanations of UFO reports and will be well known to JTAP readers for his articles on the PSI/UFO Interface (2).

References

- 1) Council Changes. BUFORA Winter Newsletter, January 1987, page 1.
- 2) Cassirer, M. (1984) Towards a PSI/UFO Interface. JTAP 3, pp 119-125.

CIRCLES SURVEY

Work is continuing on the project to investigate the cause or causes of circle formation within cereal fields.

Paul Fuller has recently started work, in conjunction with Dr Meaden on a survey of cereal farmers in Hampshire and Wiltshire. This work is supported by a research grant from BUFORA and a larger grant provided by Dr Meaden.

The survey is confined to Hampshire and Wiltshire as these seem to be the two areas most effected by the circles

problem. About four hundred questionnaires have been sent out. It is hoped to bring further reports of this work to readers in future issues of JTAP.

Copies of the original reports into this work "Mystery of the Circles" are still available (see elsewhere in the Journal)

COMPUTER INDEXING OF REPORTS

Mike Wootten is heading this project. Cataloging of all cases from 1980 to 1982 is completed.

Paul Fuller has recoded about 500 cases from 1977 for entry to the system. Mike Lewis has finished entry of the 1979 cases, whilst Robert Clarke is working on 1976 cases.

Mike Woottem has obtained a copy of M. Verga's data on Italian cases and hopes to be able to carry out some comparisons with our own reports.

ANAMNESIS

Work is continuing collecting control data for this project. A fuller report on this work by Ken Phillips can be found elsewhere in this JTAP (pages 99-101).

COMPUTER SURVEY.

This project is ongoing. Recently one additional form has been received. For further details see BUFORA Winter Newsletter, page 6.

TOWARDS A FORUM FOR THE SCIENTIFIC DEBATE OF UFOs AND RELATED PHENOMENA.

Robert S. Digby

In early July 1987 the Fourth International UFO Congress will be held in London. The Congress will provide a forum for the exchange of ideas between members of different organisations throughout the world.

This paper looks at the case for creating a regular forum to permit a broad based international debate on the whole spectrum of UFO related phenomena.

Bob Digby is currently organising the Fourth International UFO Congress under the name CONGRESS '87. Mr Digby is a former chairman of BUFORA Ltd., and has been involved in the study of UFO related phenomena for twenty two years.

It has been some time since I last wrote for JTAP and I remember a very early contribution, co-authored by my colleague Steve Gamble in which we sought to justify the need for a publication like JTAP (1). On that occasion we used the word forum again and I would like to refer to my dictionary definition :-

"n. A market place, especially in Rome, where public business was transacted and justice dispensed."

This brings me on to the question of what forum do we have for our subject ?

Of course there are many groups who hold regular meetings and invite speakers. Members will be well aware that BUFORA has always held regular lecture programmes that have given a free platform to a wide range of views.

It would seem logical to extend the field in which the debate is held and also to find some way to initiate action rather than have the emphasis on passive debate.

In 1979 it seemed as though we

had cracked it ! Our first (London) International Congress had attracted delegates from several countries and was held over a three day period. The peak attendance was for a paper by Dr. J. Allen Hynek at which there were over four hundred people.

Successive International Congresses have attracted participants from further afield and now we are approaching our Fourth International Congress (2), that situation is repeating itself.

Perhaps the biggest difficulty, apart from the obvious 'mechanics' of organisation, is that of striking a 'happy balance'. If I may quote from the press release issued for the Second International Congress :-

" (The Congress)... provides a unique forum for scientists, UFOlogists and enthusiasts to further techniques of research and investigation from a methodical scientific base.

...Delegates representing 21 countries (were) in attendance. It is anticipated that this

Scientific Forum cont....

international base will be widened yet further.... providing even greater co-ordination and co-operation between nations."

If you think about it, a broad spectrum of outlooks and attitudes is covered in that statement..... SCIENTISTS, UFOLOGISTS and ENTHUSIASTS. In fact it would seem there was, surely, a conflict of interest between the outlooks of these 'interest groups'.

So what of compromise ? Inevitably you can only please some of the people some of the time. I feel that as the various conferences and International Congresses have occurred, we have experimented with format and content and from this I have deduced the following, which has guided my thinking in the organising of this International Congress :-

A) There need to be events of a participatory nature, for example workshop sessions.

B) There is not really a 'passing trade' of participants. None of the previous conferences has attracted many people 'off the street'.

C) Popular speakers and popular themes do not go to make a 'meaningful' event for those who are active in the subject. These are subjects that have often been well aired and offer nothing new to active researchers. For example, in the mind of the general public UFO's are equated with the reports of George Adamski, this material has been already extensively

discussed over the years.

D) The UFO market is segmented. The classic example of this is that different people are interested in different theories of UFO origin, e.g. The Extra-terrestrial hypothesis, psychic phenomena etc.

E) The 'market' is depressed. It has long been known that the membership of organisations like BUFORA is proportional to the number of UFO reports. There has been a low number of reports for several years.

F) The event should be seen as 'non-partisan'. Unfortunately, there is still a great deal of inter-group competition. In order to encourage wide participation, the event should not be seen as the province of any particular group (2).

G) The event should be geared as an 'industry' Congress for people in the (UFO) 'trade'. This is the most effective way to draw together active researchers rather than just passive people who seek to be entertained.

H) (OR) The event should be geared to the mass public if it is to be staged on 'popular' lines, but not mixed (with term G above). Nothing illustrates better the old adage about pleasing some of the people some of the time, overseas delegates would be unlikely to travel just to hear the old 'popular' material.

I) There should be a broader based participation

Scientific Forum cont...

and preferably from as many new quarters as can be encouraged. It is important to know what is going on throughout the world, and our knowledge needs to be kept up to date.

These then are some of the main points which I hope will explain the logic in the way things are being done. Extra time has been allocated for 'behind closed doors' work for both ICUR and MUFON (3).

I do not pretend that I have the formula for a successful Congress. Indeed, I would welcome a little debate on the matter. I have tried to include something for each of the loosely defined interest groups.

I firmly refute that participants are 'UFO spotters' indulging in the start of the 'silly season' and I regret that there are still some quarters of the popular media who insist on taking that line. I do not really understand how anyone can view an event like this in that way when one only has to listen to the quality and content of the presentations.

Having spent some time setting the scene, explaining the logic etc. my message on 'the case for a regular forum' is simple and brief. In fact, it is more a plea from the heart, from someone long involved in the subject and yearning for real progress.

A) We need common international objectives. There is simply no point in each individual national or local group re-inventing the wheel. This would be a total waste of valuable

resources. We all need to pull together.

B) We need common international standards and definitions. These will facilitate working together and establish a commonality of approach.

C) We need regular communication, but especially the face to face sort. In the end this is the most effective way of getting things done and helps to avoid misunderstandings and delay which can occur with other methods of communicating.

D) Just as the scientific disciplines have organised themselves so we should do the same, maintaining a high standard. This is an essential pre-requisite to effectiveness and efficiency.

E) We need to train and educate. This applies just as well to investigators as to members of the public. This is essential to maintaining standards, we now need to adopt a more professional approach to our research and investigations.

None of these things or any of the other desirables can be achieved without periodic meetings and step by step international co-operation.

London has turned out to be a recognised international crossroads. I no longer live there and recognise what I thought was a desirability to get out to greener pastures. That is exactly what we did in 1983, but it was several of my international colleagues who stressed the need to be based in London for ease of travel.

Scientific Forum cont....

Several overseas delegates seem to feel that international delegates are less likely to trek to more exotic locations in their own countries than, say, London. Cost and ease of access are important considerations.

Whatever else happens, support is needed from all quarters and I would therefore appeal through these pages for just that, by taking the trouble to attend.

I do not suppose there will ever be quite the right time, cost package or venue to suit everyone, but at least an effort is being made. If this event is a success it can be built on as a means to facilitate regular international meetings - say every two years or maybe a regular annual event. In my case, surely our needs are obvious?

FOR FURTHER DETAILS OF
CONGRESS 87

Congress Update (next page)

cut here for booking slip

CONGRESS 87 URGENT BOOKING SLIP

(A) (B) (C) (D) (E) (F) (G) (H) (I)
() () () () () () () () ()

Sorry, I can't wait to make my booking. I have marked (X) the options I want and enclose my cheque (£) made out to CONGRESS 87.

PLEASE MAKE OUT ONE SLIP PER DELEGATE.

(Copies on plain paper or photocopies are acceptable)

Congress Organisers:

EYECATCHERS AUDIO VISUAL

REFERENCES

- 1) Gamble, S. and Digby, R (1979) Why Journal of Transient Aerial Phenomena? JTAP 1, pp 25.
- 2) CONGRESS 87 to be held 10th to 12th July 1987 is being jointly sponsored by various parties including BUFORA Ltd but it is privately organised this time.
- 3) Associates of the International Committee for UFO Research (ICUR) and the Mutual UFO Network (MUFON) will have separate meetings outside the scheduled Congress.

INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS HISTORY

Congress 79 - Mount Royal Hotel London

Congress 81 - Mount Royal Hotel London

Congress 83 - Lorch Foundation High Wycombe

Congress 87 - see next page

SEND TO:

Mr.R.S.Digby,
Director, CONGRESS 87,
c/o 16, Southway,
Burgess Hill,
West Sussex,
RH15 9ST.

PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY:

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

POST CODE: _____

C O N G R E S S U P D A T E

CONGRESS 87 - FRIDAY 10th JULY to SUNDAY 12th JULY 1987.

VENUE - The London Business School, Sussex Place,
Regent's Park, London, NW1 4SA.

(Please note : This event is privately organised and is not connected in any way to the official work of the School. All enquiries should be sent to the organisers address on the booking form.)

As we closed for press, work on compiling the programme for the Fourth International UFO Congress was continuing. To quote Congress Director, Robert Digby "The organisers have received offers of papers from around the world! Every effort will be made to include more papers of shorter duration, especially from speakers who have not spoken at our Congresses before."

The Congress will form the core of a number of UFO related activities. Before the Congress the regular meeting of the International Committee for UFO Research (ICUR) will be held in London. The discussions which lead to the formation of ICUR were held at the very first International Congress.

This year as an additional bonus MUFON will be holding a meeting of it's European representatives in London following on from the Congress.

As with previous occasions, a wide variety of speakers are on offer. This year they include Walt Andrus (MUFON, USA), Jenny Randles (UK), Mr. Odd-Gunnar Roed (Norway), Phillip Mantle (UK), Prof. Alan Tough (Canada), Harry Harris (UK) and Dr. Willy Smith (USA). There will be a number of seminars and workshops for delegates to take part in. These will include such topics as the Investigators Code of

Practice.

HOW TO BOOK

A booking form can be found at the foot of the previous page.

There are nine bookable components for the Congress. Letters in brackets correspond to the boxes on the form.

ITEM	COST
(A) Day attendance Friday 10th July	(£10)*
(B) Day attendance Saturday 11th July	(£10)*
(C) Day attendance Sunday 12th July	(£10)*
(D) Congress Dinner (Friday night)	(£12.50)
(E) Film Evening (Saturday night)	(£1)
(F) Overnight Stay Thursday 9th July	(£40)@
(G) Overnight Stay Friday 10th July	(£40)@
(H) Overnight Stay Saturday 11th July	(£40)@
(I) Overnight Stay Sunday 12th July	(£40)@

* Price includes morning coffee and afternoon tea. Delegates who book for all three days get a £5 discount i.e £25 total instead of £30.

@Single rooms only are available. Price includes breakfast. Few rooms left, so book early.

It is expected that most delegates will want to make their own arrangements for meals and accommodation. All bookings will be acknowledged.

CORRESPONDENCE

USE OF COMPUTERS BY BUFORA LTD
- CORRESPONDENCE JTAP
SEPTEMBER 1986.

Dear Editor,

I was suprised to read James Danby's letter in JTAP (Vol 4, No 3, p95) as I had not intended to provoke such an outraged response from BUFORA's membership, I merely hoped that my bombastic style would encourage a few more respondents to my questionnaire! However, since I have over stepped the mark I must aplogise and I hope you will allow me the opportunity to do so.

I am glad Mr Danby has found most of my comments to be satisfactory, in particular he is suggesting that the Association would benefit from the purchase of a centralised computer to handle research data and possibly bibliographic references. This must be one of BUFORA's prime objectives as the current inaccessability of the Association's reports and their current format must present a very real deterrant to would be researchers.

Mr Danby has also taken the opportunity to clarify my remarks about the problem of RAM memory, which is extremely limited at present. I would hope that if BUFORA was considering the purchase of a personal computer the available RAM memory would be at least 500 Kbytes as this seems to be the lower limit for most statistical packages currently available.

Finally, Mr Danby has claimed that I have implied that 'computers are going to discover the solution to the UFO problem'! This is not so. I have simply stated that a

proportion of BUFORA's members are not interested in analysing (or investigating) UFO reports. If they were interested, why is it that BUFORA only has 21 investigators? It must be stated that the prime reason for BUFORA's failure to solve the UFO problem (IF it can be solved) is the apathy of it's members, most of whom prefer to believe they already know the answer. I could not agree more when Mr Danby states that such an assertion would be 'plain nonsense'. Computers simply allow a more efficient and cheap method of analysing vast amounts of data.

Once again, I'm glad that a small section of BUFORA's members found the time to respond to my questionnaire and I look forward to the day when their expertise will be put to good work by BUFORA,

Yours sincerely,

Paul Fuller,
Winchester,
Hampshire

20th November 1986.

Editorial note : I too must take some of the blame for upsetting James Danby. The article was published in the style and tone it was in the hope of generating a better response to the survey. In the event a number of additional replies were forthcoming.

The information from the survey has been very helpful in discussion of future computing policy. A number of the points raised in Paul's orginal article have been put into practice.

The survey is intended as an ongoing project.
Steve Gamble.

Correspondence cont....

GLOBAL DISTRIBUTION OF
REPORTED CLOSE ENCOUNTERS AND
OTHER EXTRAORDINARY EVENTS
(1868-1973) - SEPTEMBER 1986

Dear Editor-in-Chief,

Having read the T.R.Dutton article "Global distribution analysis of reported close encounters and other extraordinary events (1868-1973)" in JTAP Sept 1986 (pages 67-76), I would like to point out that it is impossible to draw any conclusion taking as a basis only these results. By doing so one falls into a serious methodological error (just recall "orthotenic" lines) because of the lack of contrast data for comparison.

A control experience should clarify how difficult it is to find similar results within an arbitrary set of equal number of uncorrelated events with a distribution in time and space similar to the one of the sample used in this study, using the same curve matching techniques and permitting the same tolerances in the results.

Yours faithfully,

Manuel Borraz Aymerich,
Barcelona,
Spain

15th January 1987.

Dear Sir,

In reply to D. R. Dutton (Sept. 86')

The idea was to match the location and date/time of UFO incidents (reports) to the possible trajectories of alien spacecraft in Earth orbit (in fact date was not mentioned, except in the table listings). It is naively assumed that all UFO reports describe objects travelling as if in Earth orbit, but this is far from the case. There appears to have been no attempt to select reports that do appear to describe such orbiting craft. Moreover Dutton carelessly accepts all reports (or if reports have been selected he does not admit it) whether or not they have been explained. In consequence his database is a rag-bag of assorted objects and stimuli that cannot possibly have a single cause.

The geographical coordinates can only be those of the UFO reporter and they tell nothing (necessarily) about the location of the object seen (if any). If any of the stimuli were astronomical objects (and some must have been) the location of the reporter is completely irrelevant. Even if the objects were orbiting spacecraft (say 150 km up) the observer could be far away (1300 km in this case, nearly 12 degrees of latitude).

The failure to correct times of events outside the UK will result in a 1-2 hour error in some cases. Since a satellite in low Earth orbit takes about one and half hours for each orbit, an error of this order makes nonsense of the data.

It is not suprising that a plot of 150 cases was 'unenlightening'. What is suprising is that Dutton should

Correspondence cont....

Global distribution cont...

then arbitrarily select (only?) 24 cases on the basis of whether or not the objects were reported to enter or leave water. No explanation was given for this extraordinary choice. It is obvious that by reducing the number of data points the plotting of a great circle (GC) route is made easier (with a mass of points one does not know where to start). Indeed, as Dutton states, only three points are necessary to confirm a GC. But how many GC routes (as determined by three or more points) can be found by chance among 24 scattered at random over the face of the globe? And what margin of error would be selected? Dutton does not say. Did all the points on each GC have the same date and was the time difference between them consistent with an object in orbit? Dutton does not say. Nor did he exhibit a single plan of such a GC.

It is true that the track of an orbiting craft on the Earth's surface cannot be a GC (unless it orbits in the plane of the equator). Nevertheless it was not necessary for Dutton to refer the supposed orbits to the celestial sphere. He could have tested them against the tracks that satellites do follow, viz. a sine curve with amplitude proportional to the angle of inclination of the orbit to the equator.

To plot a point on the celestial sphere one needs either the altitude and azimuth (at a known date and time) from a point on the Earth's surface or the declination and right ascension (or hour angle) of the object. It cannot be

plotted from the latitude, solar time and date alone. By 'solar time' (sundial time) he must mean the local standard time, which conventionally differs by one hour per 15 degrees of longitude (near the boundary between two time zones solar time can differ by half an hour from zone time). Necessarily solar time is related to the position of the Sun, not to the positions of the stars. Even if the latitude were taken to be declination (and right ascension was calculated from the local zone time) there is a huge margin of error. Since an orbiting craft must move against the stellar background it's celestial coordinates cannot remain fixed, and an observer could be looking in any direction within the hemisphere available.

Dutton then makes absolute nonsense of the results by allowing huge margins of error on the data. Having chosen 10 arbitrary test dates he allows an error of plus/minus 18 days to the focal dates (so allowing any date of the year to be accepted). For some additional dates he allows an error bound of plus/minus 9 days (so allowing half the dates in the year to be accepted). There seems to be little point in fussing over a time error of one hour if a date error of this proportion is acceptable. There is no reason to believe that most (or all) UFO reports have the wrong date.

Dutton's satellite orbits in a time about half an hour too fast! This is actually impossible; any attempt to accelerate the spacecraft in the direction of motion would merely push it into a higher orbit (and increase its period). An attempt to accelerate it towards the centre of the Earth would lower

Correspondence cont....

Global distribution cont...

the orbit and decrease the period until it met the outer atmosphere (when it would begin to burn up). An orbit with a period of 65.4 minutes actually lies inside the Earth!

If there is a whole book full of this pseudoscience it is likely to await publication for ever (and justly so).

Yours faithfully,

Steuart Campbell,
Edinburgh,
Scotland

1986 November 02

Editorial note :

Roy Dutton will be given the right to answer both these letters in a later edition of JTAP.

LIVINGSTON : A NEW HYPOTHESIS
- JTAP SEPTEMBER 1986.

Sir,

I read with interest Mr Steuart Campbell's paper in Vol 4 No 3 of JTAP entitled Livingston : a new hypothesis. It is clear that Steuart has much factual data to back up his explanation of the Livingston incident. I think that his astronomical hypothesis is one of the most plausible rationalist explanations for the "UFO phenomena" that has ever been expounded. It would be nice to see all of Steuart's notes on his astronomical hypothesis appear in print (perhaps in JTAP?), so as students of the "UFO phenomena" (like myself)

can be fully aware of all of his concepts. For if the Livingston incident was caused by inversion-distorted images of Venus, Mercury and Antares, any "UFO" incident could have a similar cause. When one notes that the Livingston incident is one of the best documented and most believable high strangeness cases on record (regardless of what some people may say!), this is far from being a rash statement!!

I feel that Steuart deserves praise by the UFO community for his astronomical hypothesis, and for his explanation of the Livingston incident, but, of course, he will never get it ! It is clear that certain influential people within the UFO establishment are far from overjoyed by Steuart's theories! Is it because his UFO explanations are not mystical enough ?

Robert Moore
East Huntspill
Somerset

19 November 1986.

Dear Editor,

Re - Livingston : A new Hypothesis - JTAP September 1986.

In the Editorial of the September edition of JTAP I was pleased to read that Steuart Campbell, who had produced a creditable investigator's report on the Livingston event, had had second thoughts about his rather unsatisfactory ball-lightning solution to the puzzle. This led me to begin to read his latest thoughts on the topic with great interest and anticipation. But what a disappointment was in store! Steuart's new ideas were so

Correspondence cont....

Livingston cont...

outlandish that, having reached the bottom of the first page, I suspected that a roguish joke was being played : perhaps to test whether anyone ever read JTAP carefully. However, on reading through the article several times, it seemed to be in serious vein, so I will respond in a serious manner, as requested. Using BUFORA Case History No. 1, 'Close Encounter at Livingston', as my reference document, I will deal with Steuart's arguments one-by-one.

Let us first refresh our memories of the report given by the 'victim', Mr. Robert Taylor. In Appendix 5 of the report we read :

"As I cleared the trees and entered the clearing I saw this object in front of me. I can describe the object as follows. It was about 30 feet high, but not as high as the trees. It was grey in colour although I got the impression that the top of the dome shape changed from grey to translucent continually. The top of the object was dome shaped and had a flange around the middle on which were situated (sic) several antenna (sic) with objects similar to rotors on top. There were also several round porthole type aperatures on the dome above the flange. I do not know what the bottom of the object was like.

As I stood and watched the object I saw two smaller objects appear from underneath it and come shooting over towards me at a fast rate of speed. These objects were shaped like sea mines with about six legs attached thereto. These spheres rolled

towards me from one leg to another and they arrived at my side. At this time I was aware of a strong and pungent smell which was overpowering. Although I was lapsing into subconscious (sic) I was aware of being grabbed on either side of my legs at the top of my thighs. I also felt pressure under my chin and a burning sensation on my chin. I fell forward but was not conscious of being dragged forward. The next thing I knew was a whooshing sound and my dog, which had been running in the trees, barking. I do not know if this happened before I lost consciousness or after I came round."

All this, Steuart Campbell now suggests, was a hallucination which occurred during an epileptic fit brought on by a hypothetical mirage of Venus in close association with that virtually invisible object, Mercury. What utter nonsense! Surely, in such clear conditions the Sun would have been a more likely predisposing candidate. Judging by rough measurements taken by me on November 8th this year (1986), at 1030 hours GMT that brilliant celestial object would have been on a bearing of about 160 degrees True and at an elevation of around 15 degrees; but for Steuart the cause of the trouble had to be in the alignment of those two tine (and invisible) planets! In such circumstances one begins to suspect a fixation with that variant of the AH (astronomical hypothesis) known as the Venus hypothesis (VH). Too often the VH provides a fall-back position for professional debunkers when they find themselves devoid of any plausible explanation. But in this case it is clearly a non-starter. Ask me to believe that a hallucination of great

Correspondence cont....

Livingston cont...

luminosity had been induced in a witness who had been dazzled by a low Sun and who was a known epileptic, and I would find it credible: but that was not the nature of the Livingston event. The object described by the witness was not even luminous and, further had structural form with technological features.

Next, referring to Para 24 in the Case History, we read : "Robert is not an epileptic; he had never before suffered such an attack, and has not suffered one since." Despite this statement, Steuart Campbell insists that the witness had a fit, yet he presents no new evidence to support this assertion. Mr. Taylor's subsequent medical history is surely relevant in this respect.

Let us refer next to that section of the Case History which dealt with the ground marks. In Para. 22 the following discussion occurs : "The holes were simply 'opened' ground similar, though on a smaller scale, to that caused by ground lightning strikes.

The irregular disposition of the rings of holes may be explained by the fact that the ground slopes gently to the east and north-east. The holes are nearer the centre on the higher side and further from the centre on the lower side. It may be presumed that on perfectly flat ground the ring of holes would have been symmetrical and more nearly circular on the outside. From this it may be concluded that the object was hovering in a horizontal mode despite the slope of the ground.

It may be that the marks were

caused by the 'mines'. It is remarkable that there were two 'mines', two tracks and two rings of holes! This can hardly be coincidental, and does point to some relationship between the 'mines' and the ground marks. Insofar as the rings of holes each surround the 'track' marks, there is a relationship between the two types of mark. But there is no evidence that the 'mines' made any holes when they approached the witness."

Steuart Campbell is now telling us that there was no 'object', there were no 'mines' and the Mr. Taylor's trousers were torn in some ordinary way, perhaps by a fall before the incident, or by a fall after the incident or by the efforts of his dog to revive him. We have only the witness's word that the first suggestion has no truth in it (as, indeed, we have for the whole account of the happening!) but it surely significant that the forensic examination found no traces of dog saliva or other traces which might have been associated with the cause of the tears at both hips. In my view, the words of the Case History (Para. 23) still apply: "We have little alternative but to accept the witness's evidence that the two 'mines' attached themselves to his trousers. The positions of the tears are consistent with the account and (sic) that they were caused by the 'mines'".

By quoting liberally from the BUFORA Case History, I hope that I have been able to demonstrate that the Livingston event is by no means satisfactorily explained by ball lightning, Venus mirages, discarded machinery or epilepsy. We should not allow ourselves to be content with trite explanations for mystifying and complex events of this kind, not least because they impugn the integrity of the witness.

Correspondence cont....

Livingston cont...

Suppose for a moment we take the evidence as related in the report by the 'victim', and regard it with the same objectivity as we might apply to a description of a road accident. The description is of an object which appears to have been a vehicle of some sort. Since the object is reported to have been hovering in a woodland clearing, it is not unreasonable to think of it as some kind of VTOL flying machine, such as the Harrier jump-jet or a helicopter. Unfortunately, it's description does not fit our stereotyped images of such a device: it had no rotor or jets or wings. It is beyond our comprehension but that may be a result of our limited knowledge of what is possible for such a role. But if we are informed on latest technology developments and still find ourselves at a loss to explain the mode of operation, we are left with only two possibilities: either we are being hoaxed or the machine is not of this world. In the Case History we read testimonies to the long-established integrity of the witness and, therefore, we are not entitled to jump to the former conclusion. (I have already dealt with the 'fit' hypothesis). We have no option but to conclude that the object, if real, is the product of an alien culture.

Since there were no corroborative statements from other witnesses and the object was not seen to fly into or out of the wood, this conclusion must be regarded as a provisional one: nevertheless, the possibility has been established.

This brings me to my final 'broadside' against Stuart

Campbell's arguments and general approach to this event (but not, I emphasise, against the man). In his JTAP article Stuart writes, "I never rated the extraterrestrial hypothesis". The simple logical argument given above prompts me to ask, "Why not?" The Livingston event is not altogether unique. It is typical of a kind of experience which is shared with all kinds of people in most parts of the world. Furthermore, some of these happenings have been circumstantially linked with the activities of alien creatures not of this world. Surely the informed UFO researcher must have a mind which is open to all the possibilities, especially in this case, an ETH solution.

Yours sincerely,

T.R.Dutton
Poynton, Stockport,
Cheshire.

10th November 1986.

Editorial note:
Stuart will be invited to
reply to these two letters.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY.

BUFORA meetings will be held at the London Business School. Except for the Congress all meetings start at 18:30 hrs.

Sat. May 2nd
"We are definitely not alone"
Speaker: Roy Dutton

Sat June 6th
"Circles update"
Speakers: various,
Chaired: Jenny Randles

July 10th - July 12th
4th International Congress.

THE WITNESS AS A SUBTLE AND COMPLEX INSTRUMENT OF OBSERVATION.

Robert S. Digby

In many UFO cases, the witness is the only source of data relating to the event. There has been much work into just how reliable the witness is (1). It has been shown that a vast majority of these witnesses are unexperienced observers (2).

Robert is a former chairman of BUFORA and has often given lectures on the subject of UFO's. At these lectures he has repeated the experiments of some of the pioneers of witness perception studies and now presents some preliminary findings by way of sounding an alarm.

INTRODUCTION

Something that police officers and insurance assessors have long known is that witnesses to robberies, accidents or whatever, frequently give conflicting accounts of what actually happened. Recent technical advances mean that various types of measurement data taken from the scene of a road accident say, can mean a very accurate picture being built up as to what exactly occurred.

We are rarely presented with 'scene of the crime' opportunities within the field of UFO investigation; and events of the past call into question the resources and abilities available to conduct complex technical investigations.

The late Dr. Hynek made it clear to his audiences that we were not studying UFO's but the UFO reports (3). The significance of such statements is very easy to overlook. I work within the Data Processing industry and there is a well known phrase 'GIGO' meaning Garbage In; Garbage Out. If our raw data (reports) is suspect, how can we get out meaningful results?

THE EXPERIMENT

I present two sets of drawings from two different audiences

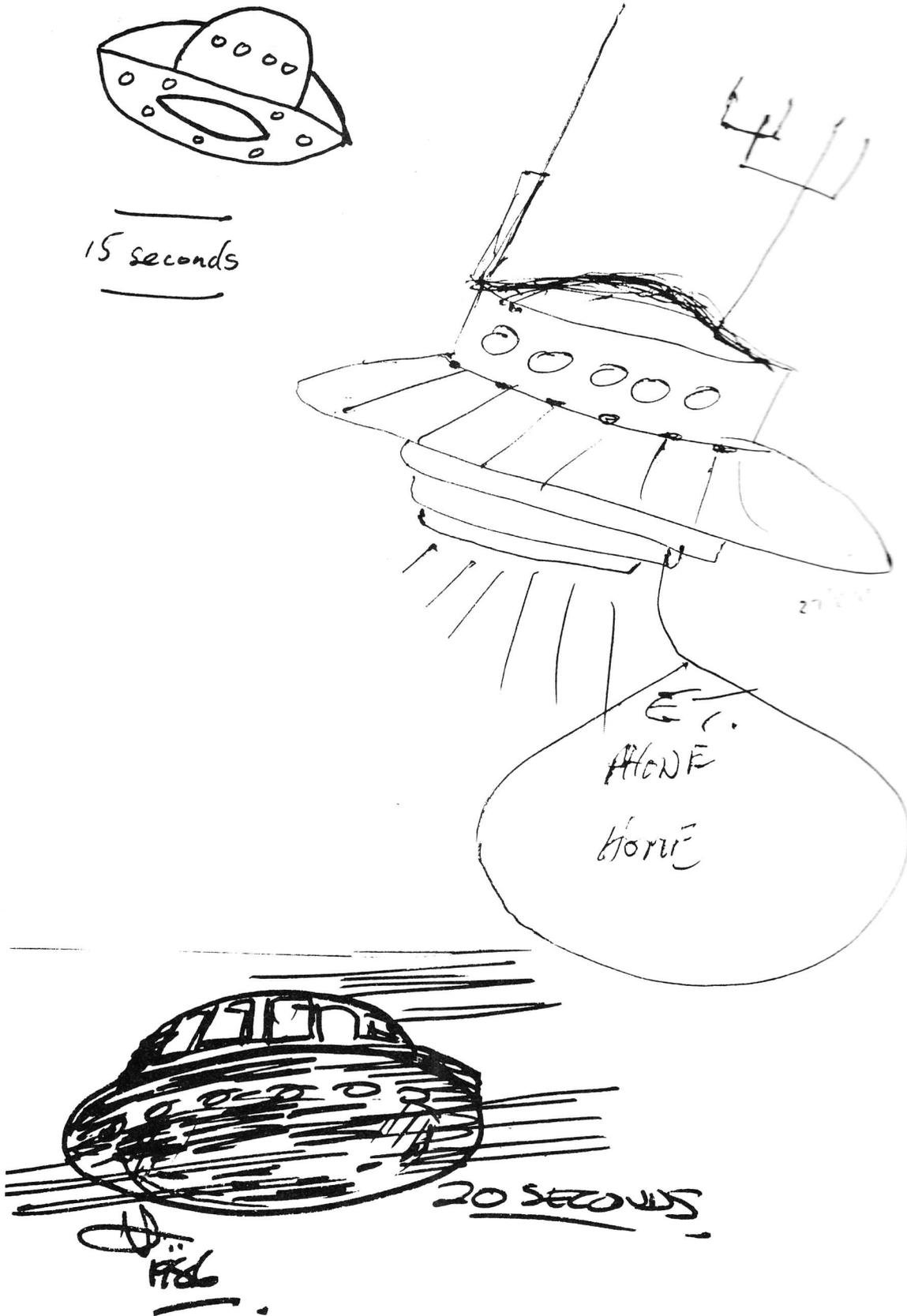
that I have lectured in the recent past. They were, broadly speaking, middle class/professional people from the same residential catchment area.

The audiences were roughly the same size and were either all male or all female. The experiment I conducted was to show, unexpectedly, a slide of a 'Flying Saucer' in graphic detail. This event was of carefully timed duration and was exactly the same in all respects as the experiment conducted by Ken Phillips when he gave a presentation last year at a BUFORA meeting (4).

THE RESULTS

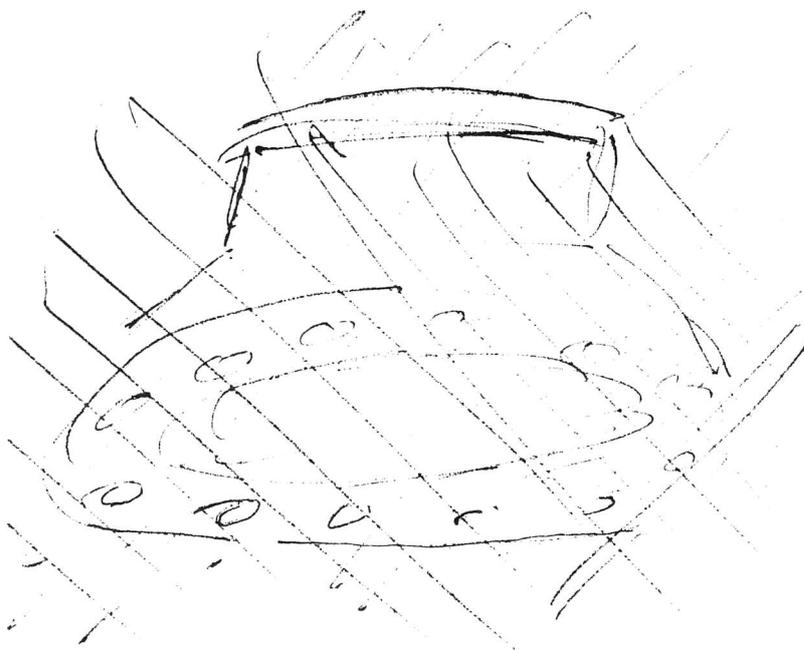
The results really speak for themselves, but I will draw attention to the aspects I would like readers to 'take on board'. I would also like to confirm or refute some implied aspects of the results. For example, in the male sample there is evidence that the subject matter was not taken that seriously by everyone present and indeed I would confirm this. In contrast, my female audience felt they had been given food for thought and asked quite 'interested' and 'searching' questions.

All participants were given pieces of paper of the same size and quality. The males tended to use most of the available space, but a lot of

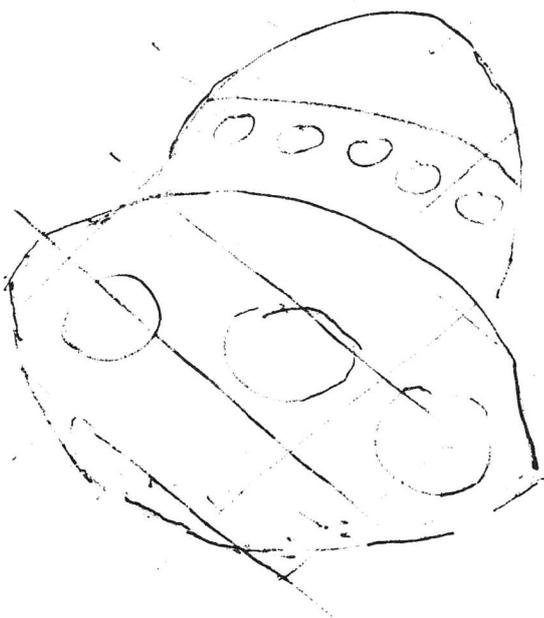


EXAMPLES OF DRAWINGS BY THE MALE AUDIENCE
(Times shown are witness's estimate of how long slide was shown)

Witness observation cont....



20 seconds

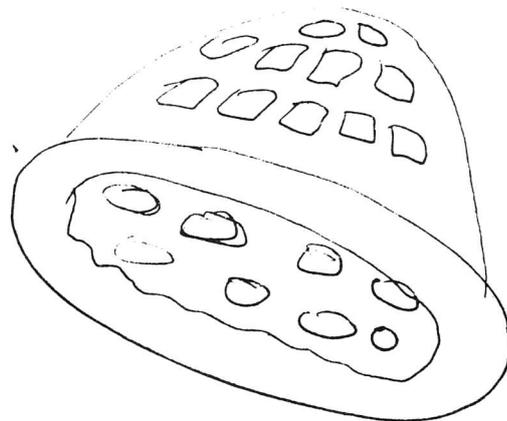
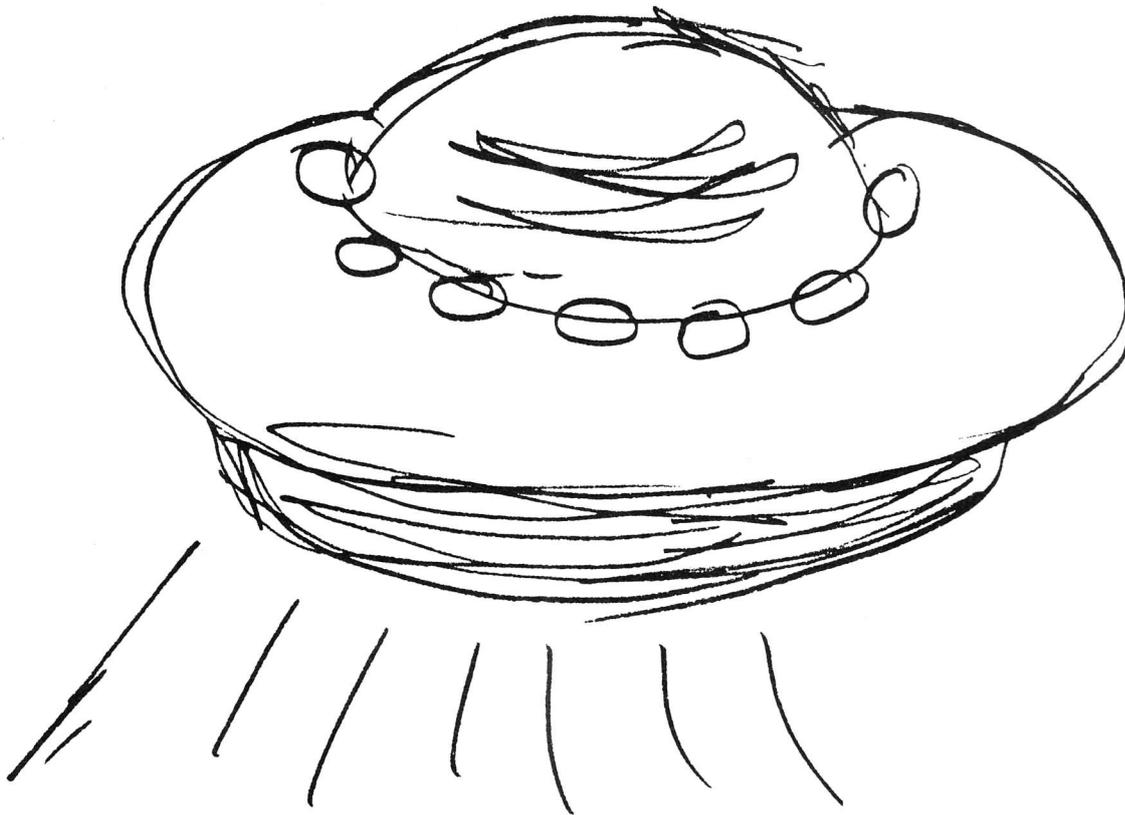


Coloured

15 seconds.

EXAMPLES OF DRAWINGS BY THE MALE AUDIENCE
(Times shown are witness's estimate of how long slide was shown)

10 seconds.

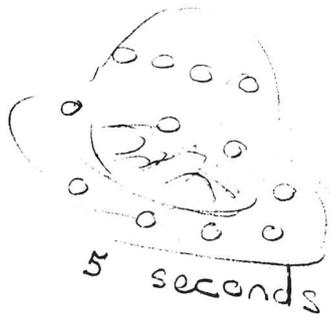
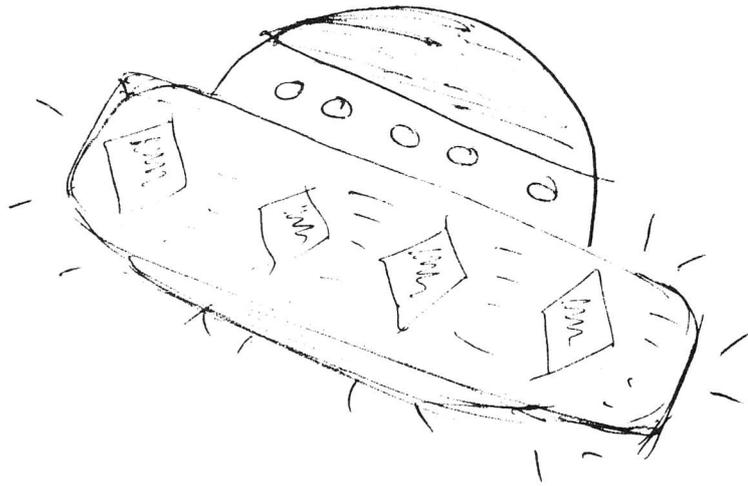


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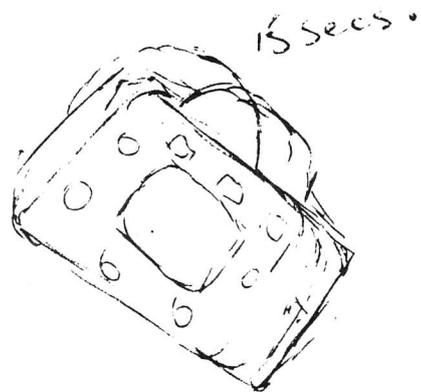
EXAMPLES OF DRAWINGS BY THE FEMALE AUDIENCE
(Times shown are witness's estimate of how long slide was shown)

Witness observation cont....

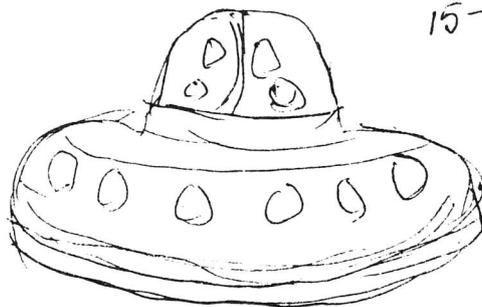
10 seconds



5 seconds



15 Secs.



15-20 seconds.

EXAMPLES OF DRAWINGS BY THE FEMALE AUDIENCE
(Times shown are witness's estimate of how long slide was shown)

Witness observation cont...

the female participants drew tiny, almost 'timid' drawings. It could be argued as bad form to read too much into such an experiment.

The alarm bell I wish to sound is this : look carefully at both sets of drawings and notice what detail there is - really observe. Think about duration, orientation, shape, size. Think about the sort of detail requested by an investigator 'sighting form'.

Now consider this : BOTH PARTIES WERE SHOWN THE SAME SLIDE FOR EXACTLY THE SAME DURATION OF TIME. Both parties even felt embarrassed at being asked to draw what they had seen. Nevertheless, which one would you take to be closest to the 'real thing'?

I have seen investigators get excited when a particular shape is very similar to one they have encountered elsewhere and who could blame someone for suspecting it to be the 'same' type of object or stimulus?

Sorry, can I just repeat : The drawings are of the same thing!!! Think about it, and while you do, look at the spread of error on the duration estimates in Table one. I hope readers will not feel cheated if I make it impossible to calculate the spread of error - I am simply not going to say how long the duration of the 'event' really was, after all you would not know for sure when investigating the 'real thing' would you ?

Other issues you might think about include whether the word and drawing of the bank manager is likely to be better than that of the car salesman's wife.

TABLE ONE.

ESTIMATED TIME UFO OBSERVED		
GROUP	MALE	FEMALE
TIME	20	15-20
(in seconds)	15	5
	20	10
	15	10
	15	10
	45	15
	5	15
	20	25
	60	12
	15	10
	30	10
	12	10
	5	20
	30	10
	30	20
		20
		10

DISCUSSION

I am anxious not to appear totally negative in outlook and so I will examine the approach outlined by others in taking a structured approach to non-physical evidence (5). I hope then that the overall context of approach to dealing with witness data will not be seen in isolation.

One of my audience, at a lecture I gave in Stevenage, asked me what it would take to prove to the world that UFO's are real. In the context of the extraterrestrial vehicle I stated that one would probably have to land in Hyde Park for the Prime Minister to inspect!

The stress upon the importance of physical evidence is self evident and part of the scientific method. However, the bulk of our data is non-physical or 'soft' data. This data would be of interest to those concerned with psychology, history, statistics, sociology, anthropology and

Witness observation cont...

folklore.

'Soft' evidence means the psychological and sociological processes in experiencing a UFO event, the generation of this experience into a report, the generalisation and categorisation of the experience into a phenomenon and the mythification of the phenomena into folklore.

The four levels of analysis are:-

- 1)the witness
- 2)the report
- 3)the phenomenon
- 4)the myth

Each aspect of this model of approach poses separate and unique questions. I only want to explore the level of the witness for the purposes of this paper. This is an area where there has been a lot of mis-understanding.

The psychologist is primarily interested in the witness, their psychological profile, perceptual abilities and personality.

The sociologist is more likely to be interested in the report level of the phenomenon - societal factors that motivate an individual to report their experience and the likely factors that would introduce bias into the account.

At the phenomenon level we find the interest of the historian and statistician maybe documenting factors associated with UFO waves.

The social anthropologist and folklorist come in at the myth level particularly in respect of symbolism and cultural needs.

At level 1 it is not what is

described so much as who is describing it, particularly in cases where there is no other tangible evidence (except our witness). In an ideal world we know such things as history of mental health, status in the community, educational level, perceptual abilities and psychological profile determined from tests and interviews.

It is suggested that as the level of strangeness increases so too, in proportion, does the importance of this information. It should be noted that it is usually the high level close encounter cases where such data is collected e.g. Betty and Barney Hill.

There are legal and ethical questions about the gathering and release of such witness data which we will not go into here. The point is that the information has value beyond making a judgement about whether the witness is a liar or fool.

We might ask 'Is there a selection effect?' Why do some people never see anything, while others have multiple sightings/encounters? Do we believe or disqualify 'repeaters'? Is there a correlation between UFO experiences and 'PSI' abilities? Are there significant sociological and psychological differences between those who have had a UFO experience and those who have not? What about factors such as hypnotic suggestibility and belief systems?

Unlike research into physical factors, research at level 1 can be carried out today.

I must add that I have found the results from my recent studies disturbing. We tend to

Witness observation cont...

have to rely mostly on witness data in the absence of anything else to go on.

I hope I can be forgiven for viewing witnesses somewhat dispassionately - I know they are people with feelings. However, also understand that in the days when I worked in a research laboratory I could not afford to simply trust the equipment I was using. I needed to test it, calibrate it and generally know something of its reliability.

REFERENCES

1) Gamble, S.J. (1985) The assessment of witness reliability. JTAP, 4, pp 16-19.

2) Wootten, M.R. (1985) A statistical overview - 1980-1982. JTAP, 4, pp 20-27.

3) Hynek, J.A. (1972) The UFO reported, p16 IN: The UFO Experience. Aberlard-Schuman.

4) Keul, A.G. and Phillips, K. (1986) Draw what you see - A simulated UFO sighting. BUFORA Bulletin No. 21 May 1986 pp 24-26.

5) Johnson, D.A. A structured approach to the analysis of non physical UFO evidence. The Journal of UFO Studies (USA) Vol. 1 No. 1.

NOTE: There will be further discussion of these results in the next issue of JTAP.

IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENTS

- * This Journal finishes Volume Four.
- * New Lecture season starts September 5th.
- * Congress see page 113.

Anamnesis cont...

(continued from page 101)

References cont....

2) Bell's theorem. p 155 in Mind Over Matter - A Scientist's View of the Paranormal.

3) Keul, A.G. (1980)

4) Keul, A.G. and Phillips, K. Psychosocial study of alleged UFO witnesses p9.

5) Klass

6) Blatt et al

7) Hynek, J.A. (1972) Close encounters of the second kind. Chapter 9 IN: The UFO Experience. Aberlard-Schuman.

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9) Dutton, T.R. (1986) Global distribution analysis of reported close encounters and other extraordinary events (1868-1973). JTAP, 4, pp 67-76.

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Research and investigation into unidentified flying object (UFO) phenomena has progressed from the early days of wild speculation into an area where scientific analysis and evaluation methods can be applied to a number of specified areas.

It is realised that ufological research is subject to a great deal of speculative comment, much of which lies on the boundaries of current scientific thought. Many existing scientific institutions accept limited discussion of UFOs and related phenomena where it has some bearing on their discipline. The Journal of Transient Aerial Phenomena (Journal TAP) offers a forum for scientists and researchers to present ideas for further discussion, results of investigations and analysis of statistics and other pertinent information.

Journal TAP aims to meet a wide range of discussion by incorporating an approach with breadth of scope, clear and topical comment conducted with scientific rigour. It intends to offer a truly international forum enabling researchers throughout the world to publish results in an authoritative publication which should serve to further knowledge of the cosmos and benefit mankind in so doing.

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Manuscripts should be typed double-spaced on one side of A4 size paper with wide margins and submitted in duplicate. While no maximum length of contributions is prescribed, authors are encouraged to write concisely.

The author's name should be typed on the line below the title. The affiliation (if any) and address should follow on the next line. The body of the manuscript should be preceded by an abstract of around 100 words giving the main conclusions drawn.

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- (1) Jacques Vallee: 1965. *Anatomy of a Phenomenon*, vii, Henry Regnery, Chicago.
- (2) David Haisell: 1980. Working Party Report, *Journal TAP* 1/2, pp36-40

With the exception of dates which should be presented in the astronomical convention viz : 1977 August 06, no rigid rules concerning notation or abbreviation need be observed by authors, but each paper should be self-consistent as to symbols and units, which should all be properly defined. Times however should be presented in astronomical form using the 24 hour clock and Universal Time (UT) where possible. If local time is used, this should be specified viz 19h 15 GMT.

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