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ALIEN CROSSING

In Dreamland, Nevada, close encounters of the ET kind are an everyday event. The Pentagon denies the place exists. But the state wants to bus in tourists. What on earth is going on?

Somewhere out among the stars, the broadcast from Governor Bob Miller crackles through the galaxy. Down on Planet Earth, a crowd of UFO watchers shield their eyes, and wait and hope "ET, come home," calls the Governor of Nevada, his voice echoing in the microphone. The UFO watchers squint anxiously into a cloudless sky.

The hot, pale sun paints mirages on the desert as state highway workers put up road signs showing ET where to land. This is the world's first Extra-Terrestrial Highway. Once, it was the loneliest road in America, slicing straight as an arrow through the shimmering sand. But then it got a reputation — as a place where UFOs can be seen, and maybe even believed in.

According to those with stars in their eyes and saucers on the brain, more alien spacecraft than cars have been spotted on this lonely tract stretching into the wilderness north-west of Las Vegas, and as a result, Governor Miller sanctioned some big plans for this parened pocket of his particular universe. Unfortunately this means trouble in UFO-land.

Just over the hill from I-15's runway, camouflaged commandos sit with itchy trigger fingers. They guard a US military research base so secret that it officially does not exist. For years the spooks and five-star generals in the Pentagon have tried to keep people away from the place. In the meantime, you can't see it, but there's quite a spectacle when it covers 3,000 square miles.

There exist plenty of photographs of the base's buildings and six-mile-long, 100-foot-wide concrete runway, of the armed "camo-commandos" who guard it, and of the warning signs of the "Of Death



Joe and Pat Travis, owners of the Little A'Le' Inn, waiting for visitors from outer space as well as out of state.

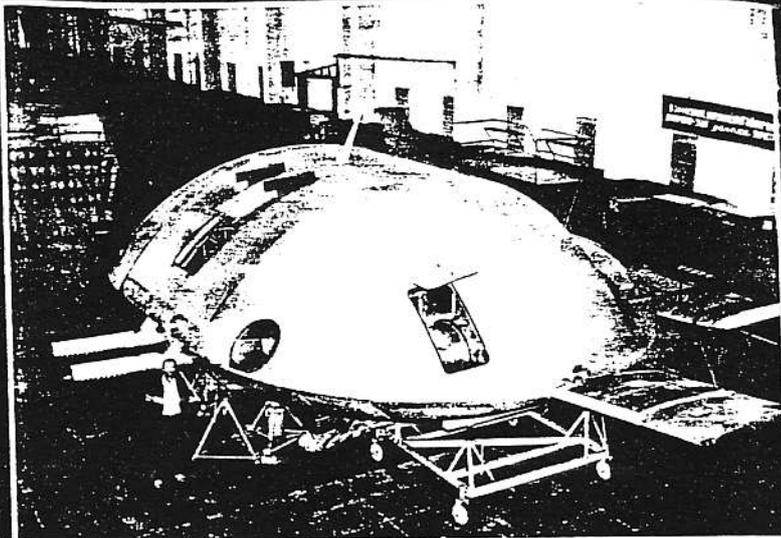
them inside this complex, some weird and wonderful experimental planes are tested. Coupled with transient spectacular lights, flares and

Shangri-la. Like forbidden sweet to a child, it attracts the most dedicated flying saucer enthusiasts. Now, in a wonderful clash of national government,

ANITA RUSSELL



'MOST PEOPLE, WHEN THEY LOOK TO THE SKIES, SEE FRIEND OR FOE,' SAYS BOB MILLER, GOVERNOR OF NEVADA. 'NOT ME. I SEE INTERGALACTIC TOURISTS'



Has this craft been seen roaming the skies of Nevada? Believed to be the world's first flying saucer, this Russian Ekip 2, nicknamed Turielka (Russian for saucer), weighs two tons and can take off and land.

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Nevada is cashing in on the territory's notoriety by opening it up to tourism. The state wants to open a UFO convention centre in the area.

The spooks in the Pentagon are unhappy. They blame Merlin, the ambassador from Avalon Sauceria, which is somewhere out near Mars. And they blame Governor Miller too, because they feel he should have both feet firmly on the ground.

Last year, Ambassador Merlin - real name David Soloman - was a constant lobbyist at the Nevada State Assembly, pushing for Route 375 to be renamed. In his dark blue polyester dress-coat he looked like Abe Lincoln reborn, and was dismissed as a nutcase. This year, he caught the ear of Governor Miller, who decided that Merlin's prediction that men from "the ancient North Star, Alpha Draconis, will land in three years" was a good wheeze to revitalise a piece of poverty-stricken territory.

For years, the Pentagon has managed to put up a pretty impressive smokescreen around the place-with-no-name, which, among other things, includes an old nuclear test site. Lawyer Jonathan Turley, a professor at Washington University specialising in environmental cases, represents a group of former workers who are trying to sue the place. They say that for a number of years it illegally burned highly toxic waste in open pits, giving many of them cancer.

Turley has been working on the case for years. "What place?" said Pentagon lawyers when the judge attempting to try his lawsuit asked them for its name. "It doesn't exist," said the Pentagon. "And if it did, we couldn't tell you what it was called - that would breach national security." The case was dismissed. Now Turley is taking it to the appeal courts to get the Pentagon to name it so that he can sue it.

Meanwhile, everyone has to make do with the nicknames the place has been given: Dreamland, the Dark Side of the Moon, or Area 51, after its first definition on the early Nevada nuclear test maps, in its maze of bunkers and hangars, some of the best brains in the world developed the U-2 and SR-71 spyplanes, the F-117 stealth fighter, the B-2 stealth bomber, and a kind of round-cornered living triangle called the TR-3 Black Manta. Most secret of all is Aurora, a plane in development which will take off and land along a runway but fly into space.

"I've seen some heavy-duty stuff flying around,

says Chuck Clark, a hardened Dreamland-watcher.

"But I've seen strange things, too, which defy earthly laws of physics." Clark is an astronomer who moved to the desert to photograph the stars... and found lots of other shiny things in the sky as well. It is these "strange things" which have given the spooks of the spyplane world such a headache, thanks to Dreamland's invasion by UFO watchers.

"There is a natural vortex here," says Glenn Kolleda, who travels the highways with his clairvoyant wife, Jan, selling handmade wares at craft fairs and looking for UFOs. "It periodically sends out pulses, inviting alien spaceships to land. That's why they built Dreamland here."

Others believe that if ET has contacted Earth, or possibly even landed, the boffins in Dreamland most certainly know about it. One suggestion is that there is a crashed UFO in there, and that's what all the secrecy is about.

Whatever... where there's mystery, there's money, and the people who cut their teeth developing Las Vegas want a piece of the action. The first step was renaming Route 375, which runs near Dreamland, as the Extra-Terrestrial Highway.

Governor Miller dreams of the nearest community to the spy base, the "town" of Rachel, a 400-strong scrubland settlement of mobile homes with a petrol station and a battered motel called the Little A'Le'Inn - alien, geddit? - becoming a UFO watchers' Las Vegas.

At a formal renaming ceremony on Route 375 in April, Miller unveiled 81st-wide Extra-Terrestrial Highway road signs complete with pictures of living saucers, spaceships, and some of the US Air Force's experimental planes. The 55mph speed limit was upped to Warp 7, and the official invitation to land there was deemed into space for UFOs to pick up. They even put up "Watch For Alien" pedestrian crossing signs along the road near the "Watch For Cattle" signs.

At the visitor welcome centres at Las Vegas airport and on main roads into the state will include maps giving directions to the ET Highway - and therefore to the Dreamland military research base. There are already two welcome guidebooks - the *Dreamland Newbie's Guide* and the *Dreamland Handbook*.

"I'll ignore the water noise, and people will come and drink," says the Governor. He knows that entrepreneurs are itching to open up concessions in the state. Las Vegas is the fastest-growing town

in the US. "I see casinos and resort hotels with moonscape golf courses," he adds. "Most people, when they look to the skies, see friend or foe. Not me. I see intergalactic tourists."

Joe and Pat Travis, owners of the Little A'Le'Inn, have stars and dollars in their eyes as well. "I see a cross between Caesar's Palace and that bar in *Star Wars* with all the strange aliens," says Pat, standing in the dust outside their ramshackle roadhouse in Rachel.

The Pentagon is quietly seething. "National security is involved here," said a spokesman.

"Where?" "I can't say."

Glenn Campbell - a local UFO watcher, not the singer - is furious as well. Campbell has produced one of the guidebooks, but to many in Rachel he is a covert spook, a fifth columnist planted among them to report to the Pentagon on what is going on. They point to his new car, his two homes - in Rachel and Las Vegas - and his apparent lack of income as proof of government financial support.

But if he is a spy, his cover has been completely blown. He has been banned from the Little A'Le'Inn's bar - the only watering hole, and source of gossip, in 1,000 square miles.

Campbell has been arrested a dozen times, along with reporters, photographers and TV crews, for showing them the locations of Dreamland's nightscope cameras, listening posts, and sniffer-detectors which differentiate between animals and humans. The guards lack customary police courtesies, he says. Tourists have been arrested for straying innocently over poorly marked boundaries. They are usually locked up overnight and fined £400 the next day.

Campbell has visions of busloads of Japanese tourists being arrested at gunpoint by the gung-ho camo-commandos. Or worse, of crazy UFO watchers being shot for taking up the challenge of trying to crack Dreamland's impenetrable security. "It's a disaster waiting to happen," he says.

Governor Miller and Nevada's tourism director, Tom Tait, are unworried. "We're going to put a few of the road signs flat on the ground," says Miller. "If ET can see them when he flies in, Who knows, maybe he likes golf."

"This is not a good idea," growled the man in the Pentagon.

BARRY WIGMORE





The Blackbird... what has taken its place in the West's secret armoury?

What IS Project Aurora?

DEADLY SECRET

DELTA-shaped aircraft are not new to our skies. The famous British V-Bomber of the 1950s and 1960s was true to its name and an acknowledged part of the British Cold War armoury. There have been others but none perhaps so startling and mysterious as the American Lockheed SR71 reconnaissance plane - the Blackbird.

Working 17 miles high at the very edges of space the Blackbird, which carries no armaments, can fly at more than 2,000 mph. Her task is reconnaissance, to gather information.

Her maiden flight was in 1964 and she was still operational 22 years later.

Two SR71s, flying out of Mildenhall in Suffolk, were created with gleaming the post-strike reconnaissance after the attacks on Libya in 1986.

That much is known but in recent years the talk was of phasing out the enigmatic black SR71. Logic led observers to assume a phasing in of a replacement - but what?

The U.S. Government will neither confirm nor deny the existence of Project Aurora - the top secret replacement for the Blackbird.

Flying at the very fringes of technology and space and driven by the need to maintain the tightest secrecy, could



UFO... or an elaborate hoax?



Stealth... the shape of the future?

Project Aurora be the source of the mysterious flying triangle?

Planes which stretch the credulity of ordinary people already exist, flying at the edge of the Earth's atmosphere at speeds it's hard to comprehend, so perhaps it is possible planes already exist which stretch the imagination of ordinary people too.

If Aurora really is flying, a new dawn may be breaking and many may have already seen her.

And, so the conspiracy theory goes, it is in the military's interests to keep the UFO intrigue going. They can even hunt at UFO existence in order to throw a smokescreen over their own experiments.

Or - and here's the really interesting double-bluff - maybe the Aurora Project itself is nothing more than an attempt to disguise the existence of UFOs with hints about experimental aircraft that don't really exist at all.

The truth is out there (or up there) somewhere.

PILOT TO AIR TRAFFIC CONTROL...

'We just had something go down the right-hand side, just above us'



ANDREW BADENOCH pursues the mystery of the Black Triangle

THE appearance of the mysterious flying wedge in the skies over Somerset may be only the latest in a long line of sightings stretching back several years. It's possible it was the same object which buzzed a day airliner over Gatwick in 1991 and which skimmed by a British ways flight inbound for Manchester in 1995.

And it could be the same unidentified triangular craft which two Belgian F-16s tried to intercept in 1990.

Their radar had locked on to the object, but it left them for dead and defence chiefs mystified, as it accelerated from 200mph to an estimated 1,000

mph in just one second and sped out over the Atlantic.

Both the civilian airliner incidents were reported as official air misses and in neither case did aviation experts come to any firm conclusions.

That 1995 sighting was in early January. A British Airways Boeing 737 inbound from Milan was making a normal approach into Manchester.

On the flight deck, skipper Roger Willis and co-pilot Mark Stewart, well into an uneventful landing, had eased their airliner through the night sky to 4,000 feet.

It was all very smooth when suddenly something appeared ahead; something travelling at very high speed towards them.

In an instant it was on them, flashing over the cockpit and barreling on down the right-hand side of the plane.

It was so close First Officer Mark Stewart instinctively ducked as it went by.

A transcript of the conversation between the Boeing's flight deck and Manchester air traffic control indicates just how sudden the incident was:

Plane: "We just had something go down the right-hand side just above us very fast."

Manchester: "Well, there's nothing on the radar. Was it... er... an aircraft?"

Plane: "Well, it had lights. It went down the starboard side very quick."

The official report said the object made no attempt to deviate from its course and no sound was heard or felt. Aircraft, like a boat upon water, create a wash as they move through the air which would certainly rock other planes if they get too close.

Captain Willis felt certain what he saw was a solid object and not a bird, a kite or a balloon.

He was also convinced the object was lit with small white lights, rather like a Christmas tree.

Could this flying Christmas tree be the flying wedge seen in the skies above Somerset?

Back in 1991, it was a 737 again but this time much, much higher.

The holiday airliner was at 14,000 feet and making its way across southern England into Gatwick.



Again something closed on the airliner front. The official report said a black lozenge object was first seen from the flight deck 10 metres ahead.

"Within the space of 1.5 seconds it passed close, less than 100 yards off, travelling in the port side of the aircraft about 30 feet above wing."

As with the Manchester incident the air reported no disturbance as the object passed unlike Manchester, air traffic control radar to a small object in the wake of the jet line crew reported what they'd seen.

And they continued to track it as it had reported 100 knots, south-east towards them and warned another flight, inbound for Gatwick, to make a turn to avoid a collision.

EVENING TELEGRAPH AND POST (DUNDEE)

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A Dundee man claims to have seen mystery lights in the sky over Fife last night.

"I was by Morgan Academy looking down Forfar Road and I saw three white lights high above the skyline," he said. "They were in a straight line and an equal distance apart."

"The weren't moving and I watched them for two minutes. They looked like they were over Newport."

After his midnight sighting the man called Tayside Police, who said they would pass the message on to their counterparts in Fife.

It was the second time the man had seen mysterious lights in the sky.

In February he also saw something strange on the same night three Broughty Ferry children ran home terrified after an encounter with weird lights in Orchar Park.

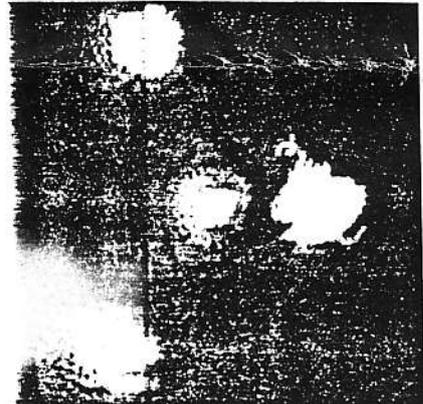
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ANDREW BADENOCH pursues the mystery of the Black Triangle

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ARTWORK: JAMES NEGUS



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feet ahead.

In the space of 1.5 seconds it passed very
close to the aircraft about 30 feet above the port
wing.

In the Manchester incident the airliner
experienced no disturbance as the object passed, but
Manchester air traffic control radar did lock on
the object in the wake of the jetliner as the
object what they'd seen.

They continued to track it as it headed, at a
speed of 100 knots, south-east towards the Channel
and another flight bound for Gatwick, to
avoid a collision.

A UFO sweeps past a British Airways 737. Could it have been the mystery Black Triangle?

Neither the report into the 1991 Gatwick incident nor the one on last year's encounter over Manchester could conclusively say what the pilots had seen.

The Gatwick object could have been a weather balloon, although they usually deliberately deflate at lower altitudes, but the official report into the Manchester incident is unequivocal: "Unfortunately the nature and identity of this object remains unknown."

Could the lozenge-like object, the flying Christmas tree and the wedge over Somerset be the same craft?

It is interesting that the two jets were undisturbed by the objects which passed so close.

It is also interesting to note the comparatively slow speeds of the lozenge, the Somerset wedge and the triangular craft the Belgian fighters had tried to intercept.

And in these last two incidents what aircrew could

withstand the forces involved in the reported acceleration?

The mysterious craft off the Belgian coast kicked from 200mph to more than 1,000 mph in less than one second while the Somerset craft, "about the size of a Jumbo Jet," shifted quickly from a hover to high speed as the onlookers watched.

As for the lozenge and the Somerset wedge; flying machines, which do not defy the physical laws of aerodynamics, are governed by a stalling speed which, according to size and weight, dictates the point at which flight is no longer physically possible.

But the Jumbo Jet-sized wedge was described as crawling through the sky at a speed which Biggles and his fellow World War One pilots would regard as uncomfortably slow while the 100 knots of the lozenge over southern England, though possible of a wind-borne balloon, would seem unlikely in a powered craft at 14,000 feet.

A balloon had been released the day of the Gatwick encounter, but was not thought to be able to reach such altitudes and nobody has explained what Captain Wills and First Officer Stewart saw from their flight deck.

It has been suggested the triangular craft, which outpaced the Belgian fighters, was perhaps a prototype hypersonic plane-cum-spacecraft - The HOTOL - built, so the explanation runs, by the Americans following an original idea by a British engineer Alan Bond.

In this explanation the Belgian interception took place as the plane or spacecraft was beginning its run into Arizona in the western United States.

Could the wedge, the Christmas tree, the lozenge and the mysterious triangle all be the same craft? There are similarities and yet is it likely a secret prototype would dawdle through the skies over Somerset showing itself off to anyone who cared to look? There also remains the nagging question of aerodynamics and the nature and resilience of the aircrew.

TOMORROW: The West 'alien abductions'

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UFO invasion

A SPATE of UFO sightings over the North-East has left boffins buzzing with excitement.

Experts say there have been at least 70 incidents reported over the last two weeks - more than 10 times the normal amount.

The Newcastle-based Probare Institute, which catalogues and investigates sightings, say they have had reports from Sunderland, Jarrow and South Shields.

UFO seen at golf club

UFO investigators are looking into reports of a bright object seen hovering over Cheltenham's Cirencester Road golf course.

Cheltenham-based Circular Forum, which investigates sightings, says the object was seen on three consecutive evenings last month and was visible for more than two hours on each occasion.

The group has contacted police, the Ministry of Defence and the Royal Observatory for information about the object.

If this film was a hoax, what really happened at



by NICK POPE

The man who ran the Ministry of Defence UFO desk for three years

IN THE first two instalments from his extraordinary new book, serialised exclusively in the Daily Mail, Nick Pope explained how the reports he received at the Ministry of Defence convinced him that UFOs do exist, and why he believes they pose a serious threat to mankind. Today, he examines the most controversial of all UFO sightings and argues that those who dismissed film footage of an 'alien autopsy' as a hoax may have missed the true significance of the incident.

ON THE evening of July 2, 1947, Mr and Mrs Dan Wilmot, living in the small town of Roswell, New Mexico, saw 'a big, glowing object' in the night sky over their front porch.

It was nearly 10pm and the visibility was good. Whatever the object was — and it appeared to be shaped like 'two inverted saucers faced mouth to mouth' — it was moving very fast to the north-west.

There was an electrical storm that night, not unusual in the desert regions of the American south-west, but Mac Brazel, a rancher who lived 75 miles from Roswell, heard a loud explosion that was clearly something other than thunder.

In the morning he found an area strewn with wreckage. The fragments were thin, foil-like metal that he couldn't crease or bend with his bare hands. The metal's surface seemed to be covered in hieroglyphics and dancing from it was a tape-like material covered in a floral design.

In Roswell the next day, Brazel visited the town sheriff, who contacted the local army air force base. It was now that events took a rather sinister turn. Brazel talked to a local radio reporter, Johnny McBowie. But the authorities threatened to remove McBowie's licence if he continued his transmission, and his attempt to relay the information to the larger radio station at Albuquerque was likewise intercepted.

Meanwhile, Brazel was interrogated at the air base and the army not only visited his ranch to collect the mysterious debris but cordoned off the area.

Although radio silence had effectively been achieved, the newspapers were less easy to control. The Roswell Daily Record of July 8 carried the screaming headline 'USAAF Captures Flying Saucer on Ranch in Roswell Region'. In view of what was rapidly becoming hysterical publicity, Lieutenant Walter Haut, public information officer at the base, issued a press release of unique honesty.

'The many rumours regarding the Flying Disc became a reality yesterday when the Intelligence Office of

the 509th Bomb Camp of the Eighth Air Force, Roswell Army Air Field, was fortunate enough to gain possession of a disc through the co-operation of one of the local ranchers and the sheriff's office of Chaves County.

'The flying object landed on a ranch near Roswell sometime last week. Not having phone facilities, the rancher stored the disc until such time as he was able to contact the sheriff's office, who in turn notified Major Jesse A. Marcel of the 509th Bomb Group Intelligence office.

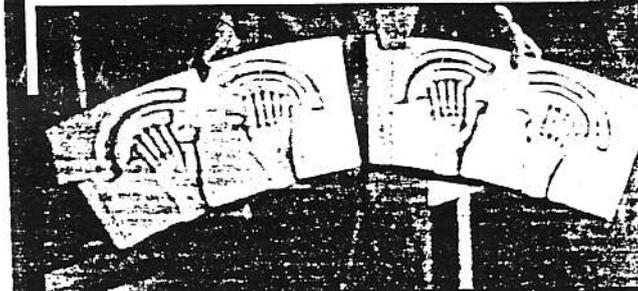
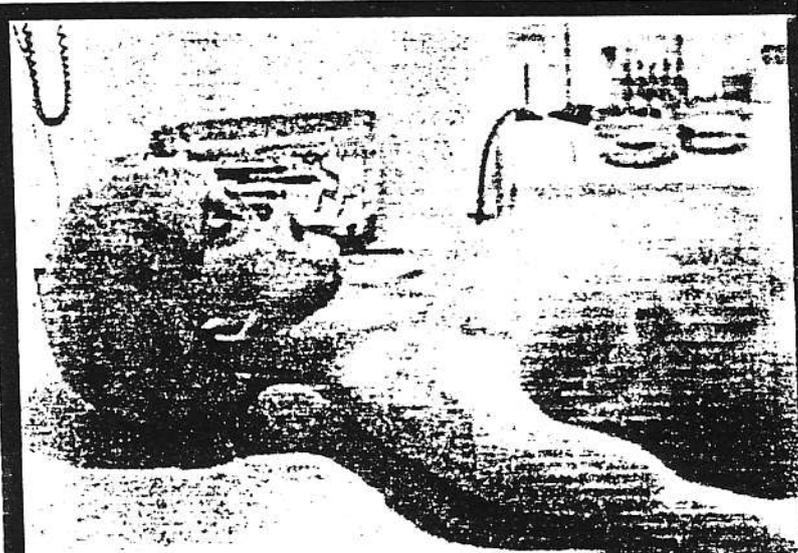
'Action was immediately taken and the disc was picked up at the rancher's home. It was inspected at the Roswell army air field and subsequently loaned by Major Marcel to his headquarters.

Haut subsequently claimed that he had cleared this press release with his commanding officer, Colonel William Blanchard. Whatever the truth of the situation, Blanchard went on to become a general. Haut resigned his commission the following year.

Most of the wreckage which Major Marcel had collected was down to Texas, where a press conference was called and newsmen were allowed to photograph the debris from a distance. A second photo opportunity allowed them even closer. The authorities then announced that the debris was that of a weather balloon. This was certainly not the recollection of the Brazels, who had kept bits of the wreckage out of curiosity. When the younger Brazel mentioned in a local bar that he still had three pieces, he was visited by the military, who promptly confiscated his collection.

This was two years after the crash. Why should the military be so concerned about what they had already said was a weather balloon? Major Marcel, who could be expected to know a weather balloon when he saw one, said he could not recognise the hieroglyphics on the metal's surface and discovered that, though weighing virtually nothing, the metal could not be dented or burned.

But much more bizarre than the compelling evidence of the crashed UFO and the subsequent official cover-up is the alleged discovery of a dead crew member.



An autopsy was performed on an 'alien' (above) from the Roswell crash. Control panels (left) for six engines were supposedly found in the wreckage

On the morning of July 3, Barney Barnett, a civil engineer working in the desert area known as the Plains of San Augustin, found 'some sort of metallic, disc-shaped object' lying in the sand. Inside the craft and scattered around it were dead creatures, humanoid, but the size of children. Their eyes were small in their oversized heads and they had no hair. They wore grey, one-piece suits without belts, zips or buttons.

BARNETT was not alone. He was allegedly joined by a group of student archaeologists from the University of Pennsylvania, carrying out a dig in the area.

The local undertaker in Roswell, Glenn Dennis, received a number of telephone calls from the air base asking about the complexities of preserving bodies in ice. He subsequently received an order for four child-size coffins. A military nurse at the base claimed to have seen autopsy reports on alien bodies.

There, with hearsay, contradiction

and denial, the Roswell story lay for several years. But the U.S. Freedom of Information Act, which became law in 1976, forced the release of many (although not all) government papers on UFOs.

Papers known as the MAESTRO-12 documents surfaced and they make it clear that a group had been set up by the government to study both the Roswell saucer and its alien crew. The U.S. government at once denounced these documents as fakes.

Was the Roswell 'saucer' an experimental craft, along the lines of dirigible balloons and V-2 rockets earlier in the century? Certainly, the White Sands Missile Base near Roswell has fired an estimated 30,000 pieces of military hardware into the sky in the half century since 1945.

Until 1964, most of these launches took place at night (which would fit the Wilmot and Brazel evidence) and White Sands admits that 7 per cent of its tests are aborted, allowing for quite a high incidence of crashes. But the unusual metal and the unexplained hieroglyphics would seem to rule out this theory.

as would, of course, the alien bodies.

Whatever happened in the sun-baked New Mexico desert in the summer of 1947, it marked the coming of age of ufology in two ways. It produced tangible evidence of a craft and crew that were at least likely not to be of earthly origin. And it produced a wall of silence from the authorities that has blocked serious civilian investigation for years.

BUT in the Roswell case something occurred which lifted it into a different category from other debated UFO stories.

A few years ago, Ray Santilli, the marketing director of a London-based firm, was researching a documentary on Elvis Presley when he heard about an American cameraman who claimed to be the first person to film Elvis on stage.

He flew over to meet the man who was then in his bus. Santilli bought film footage from the cameraman, who then offered canisters containing 1

CODE of MAIL



So what do you do when you see a UFO? Panic? Yell? Or contact Eric Marx of Balboa, the Branch UFO Society?

Marx has been accused by UFO researchers since 1977 and founded the organisation in 1984. Balboa has 700 members across the country. 50 or more of them make it to each of the three weekly meetings. They are working with the paranormal magazine Encounters, and also publish their own quarterly journal, Intelligency.

UFO journalists and government sources often claim that Balboa is the most successful and widely respected organisation of its kind in Britain today.

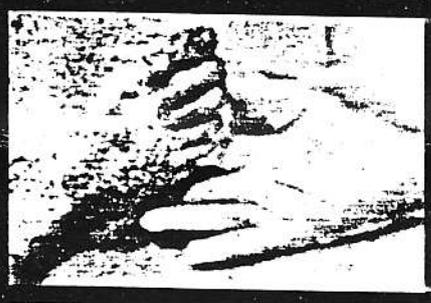
If you want to find a UFO, says Marx, all that's a matter of waiting to report a sighting and then waiting for a group of people to spread out the terrain to contain communications, particularly with mobile phones. It's like video cameras and binoculars and e! get lucky.

You can contact Balboa and other sightings on 01606 44360 or 0374 637053 by day. Fax: 0374

Why will no one tell us Roswell air force base?



The alien's face (left), frozen in an expression of horror, is definitely human-like. During analysis, the black membranes covering the eyes were removed (above)



It looks like a human foot but closer inspection reveals six toes Pictures © Roswell Footage Ltd 1995

There were 8,000 reports of UFOs — but no one wanted to know

FOR ten years Warminster in Wiltshire became the best example modern Britain has seen of how the heavy combination of sightings, media attention, local gurus and rumour can turn a place into a focus of UFO-related activity. It started in 1965 with a photograph of a disc-shaped UFO over the town, which newspapers gleefully published. Warminster is on course to become the UFO centre of the world.

There were reports of flying objects, ghosts, poltergeists, unexplained buzzing and weird smells enquiring the town. Some were exposed as hoaxes, but this did nothing to undermine Warminster's status as a place of mysterious manifestations.

Its place in UFO culture is well known. But the town that runs it closest in Britain remains a virtual secret. Between 1992 and 1994 the inhabitants of Bonnybride in Central Scotland made 8,000 reports of UFOs. And yet, despite this extraordinary number, hardly anyone has heard of these reports. When the Bonnybride local councillor, Billy Buchanan, held a town meeting to discuss the sightings, hundreds of people turned up. There were television crews from the U.S. and Japan — but the British media stayed away. I wanted to go to Bonnybride myself but this was not permitted by the Ministry.

A real and natural concern still exists in the area. Strange things were happening, but the Government did not seem to care and even the media did not want to know.

In February 1994, I received a detailed report from very close to Bonnybride. Ian Macpherson, a 43-year-old civil servant, was walking along the banks of Craighuscar Reservoir taking photographs of the landscape. Suddenly he became aware of an odd humming noise. He looked up and saw something coming low over the dark waters. It was several feet in diameter, disc-shaped and metallic, with lights on its rim. It descended until it was stationary, hovering 100ft above the water. He watched the object for 15 minutes until it began to move off slowly. Suddenly it accelerated at incredible speed and vanished. During this sighting, Macpherson felt as though he was paralysed. But as the object moved away he took possession of himself again and managed to get two photographs. The first shows a frisbee-shaped object in the sky; the second, taken only a second or two later, shows merely a dot in the distance.

For some time afterwards, Macpherson would wake up in an armchair in the night, with no recollection of how he got there. I carried out all the usual tests. No radar blips; no weather balloons; no aircraft in the vicinity. The photographs he took have been analysed and there is no evidence of fakery. The Ministry's official verdict is 'unexplained'.

extracts from the film were shown in a Channel 4 documentary made by John Firth of Union Pictures. The extracts were also broadcast in the U.S. and Japan.

In the aftermath of these screenings, the debate on UFOs reached a new intensity. Many claimed this was the final proof that extraterrestrial life exists and has visited our planet. Scientists still disagree, maintaining that it is possible to hoax virtually anything these days.

I suppose they are right, although I suspect some scientists have such a closed mind on the subject that they wouldn't accept the existence of aliens even if the proverbial UFO landed on the White House lawn happened before their very eyes.

I AM still asked by UFOloists and journalists alike what I think of the film. I have said simply that it is interesting, although there are still questions to be answered.

There were certainly some important questions: why was the original cameraman not prepared to speak out and be questioned so that details of his military background could be authenticated? Why had he held onto the film for nearly 30 years before coming forward? Perhaps most importantly, why did the aliens shown not match the descriptions given by some of those

who claimed to have seen the original entities from the Roswell crash?

As for its authenticity, I keep an open mind, but I am inclined to think it is a very clear hoax. Yet even if it is a hoax, it does not necessarily follow that nothing bizarre and very probably extra-terrestrial dropped on Roswell in 1947.

The shame of the whole business is that if the film is proved to be a forgery, the public will simply assume that the whole Roswell incident never happened. Peranos, say the conspiracy theorists, that is exactly the aim: to use a cynical piece of disinformation to discredit the whole Roswell saga.

If so, it is fooling very few people, and certainly not the local congressman Stephen Schiff, who continues to maintain that something bizarre happened in Roswell, and that someone within the ranks of the U.S. officialdom there are people who know exactly what it was.

Perhaps it is fitting to finish with a quote from Richard DeMotto, national security aide to Senator Robert Byrd. Commenting on the Roswell film footage, he said: "If it happened, it is there in every credible piece of evidence that Earth has been visited by aliens, it changes everything. It only had to happen once."

■ ABRIDGED extract from *Open Skies, Closed Minds* by Nick Pope and M. J. Trow, published by Simon & Schuster on June 3 at £14.99. © Nick Pope and M. J. Trow 1996.

what he maintained were various autopsies carried out on alien beings killed in the supposed UFO crash at Roswell.

Stallone bought all the footage already paying \$100,000. The cameraman's identity has not been made public, although he has been given the pseudonym of Jack Burner.

He claimed that he was serving in the U.S. army in 1947 and was called upon to record the aftermath of the Roswell crash, including the site and the autopsies. He somehow managed to spirit away some of this footage and kept it for nearly 50 years before deciding to sell it.

Rumours about the existence of this film had been circulating among a few UFOloists since 1980, but it was not until spring 1995 that the story broke.

A few weeks later a friend rang to write me to a screening on Friday, May 5 in the lecture theatre at the British Museum in London. There were about 200 people present, a mixture of UFOloists and sceptics from around the world. A section of film was shown for about 18 minutes.

It dealt with one of the autopsies. The journalists were in a heart-beated mood. There was lots of laughter and general tomfoolery, but once the screening began, this soon gave way to gasps of amazement and horror.

There was something funny on the autopsy table and it wasn't human. It is difficult to estimate the height, but it was probably around six feet, perhaps a little less. It was essentially humanoid, with a bulbous hairless head. The eyes seemed slightly larger than ours, although the moment had been an illusion created by the fact that they were completely black.

It had six fingers on its hands and six toes on its feet. The upper lip appeared to be seriously injured, and the left hand almost severed at the wrist. These, presumably, were injuries sustained in the crash.

Two individuals wearing hooded one-piece protection garments examined the body, and there was a third masked figure visible behind a screen. The footage we saw was edited, clearly short extracts from a fairly lengthy operation. The actual procedure (judging by a clock on

the wall) took several hours. After the examination had taken place, the black membranes covering the eyes were removed. It was at this point that the scalpels were brought out and the autopsy became a dissection. The body was slit open at the front and various organs were removed. As each cut was made, a small amount of dark, viscous liquid seeped from the wound.

WHEN THE lights went up at the end of the screening, the perplexed media turned on the unfortunate scientist, angry that there had been no introduction and no opportunity for questions. He found himself surrounded by a predatory horde of reporters and had to be escorted from the room by a minder.

On Monday, August 28, 1995,

TOMORROW: THE TRUTH ABOUT CROFT AIRBASE

DUNDEE COURIER & ADVERTISER

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False alarm for rescuers

MEMBERS OF Kintail Mountain Rescue Team and an RAF Lossiemouth helicopter were scrambled yesterday after a report of flares being seen on Ben Attow in Kintail overnight.

The team searched the area but found nothing. UFO reports came in during the same night and there was a meteor shower off the west coast.

A police spokesman said: "It seems to have been a false alarm with good intent. Better that than someone in difficulty on the hill and no-one reporting it."

LIVERPOOL DAILY POST

03 MAY 96

Page 2

Meteor UFOs

A HUGE meteorite shower over Scotland and Northern Ireland sparked hundreds of calls from worried people reporting UFOs. They spoke of bright lights leaving behind vapour trails.

What do UFOs

FOR THREE years Nick Pope was Britain's man in charge of investigating UFOs. In that time he logged hundreds of sightings of UFOs and aliens and found enough evidence to turn him from a sceptic into a believer. Now in an astonishing new book Nick Pope suggests that visits by extra-terrestrials are linked to the abduction and examination of humans and mutilation of animals and may be part of an alien attempt to create a hybrid creature. The implications for the world order are terrifying. If they are out there, where are they? It could mean that some humans are not as they seem...

WE ARE not alone. The message was clear. The weird geological formation, the luring of people into the desert and the bright white light all lent a magical glow to a Steven Spielberg film.

title introduced to a large public what had until been a technical term used only by serious students of unidentified flying objects: a close encounter of the Third Kind, one that involves the appearance of

my three years as UFO desk officer at the Ministry of Defence. I became very familiar with the reports of such phenomena as well as close encounters of the First Kind — something unidentified at close range; the Second Kind — one in which a UFO interacts with the environment, leaving tangible evidence, such as a scorch in the ground; and the Fourth Kind — one which involves human abduction by aliens.

When I began my tour of duty in 1991 as a public officer about the possibility of the existence of UFOs. By the time I left, my knowledge of the history of the subject, as well as the evidence I had received in reports of sightings and experiences from British citizens, had convinced me of the existence of UFOs and of aliens.

But I did not share Spielberg's optimism. My conclusions are far from reassuring. I believe there is a war going on, a war so secret that we aren't even aware that it is happening. We have seen examples of aircraft being shot down or disappearing in mysterious circumstances, of people being abducted against their will, of some people being exposed and subjected to terrifying pseudo-medical examinations for unknown purposes. We have seen cattle mutilated and mutilated in our fields and people becoming seriously ill with all the symptoms of radiation poisoning. If any of these occurrences could be proven to be the result of human action, their perpetrators would be caught and convicted, they would face long prison sentences. In some parts of the world, they would face death. If any of these events can be attributed to an alien presence, then that presence is carrying out what can only be described as crimes against humanity.

OVER the past 35 years, there have been thousands of reports of abduction by aliens and there is a strong vein of similarity running through them. The typical alien, known as the Grey, is about 4ft tall, with a nutty, distorted head and cadaverous arms and legs. The nose and mouth are vestigial, but the eyes burn deep into the collective memories of abductees. They are large, other like those of an insect. Many describe the hypnotic qualities or calming effect of those eyes.

The abductees feel themselves immobilised by a blank white or blue light and a sense of floating from a bed or chair in a room, while a room resembling an operating theatre. There they are subjected to physical examination when can be painful and often includes the removal of ova and sperm.

There are numerous reports of the

ABDUCTION



People who've met aliens usually describe large eyes, small mouth, nose and ears — uncannily, very like a human foetus (right)

by NICK POPE

implantation of a small metallic object into a nostril and the execution of operations using thin, delicate probes, very like what we now call keyhole surgery.

Actual communication is rare and the general memory is that the aliens have no feelings of any kind towards their human captives and regard them rather as we regard our laboratory rats.

There is a tendency among ufologists to accept that much of this abduction is related to some kind of breeding programme. Two out of three abductees are alien babies which have been conceived before birth during a subsequent abduction. Others say they were re-abducted and introduced to listless, hybrid children, presumably their own, with whom they were encouraged to bond.

However, one of the most vivid examples of this extra-terrestrial stud farming comes from a man. It happened in 1957, but the story did not reach the English-speaking world until 1965.

ANTONIO VILLAS-BOAS was a 23-year-old farm labourer living near the town of Sao Francisco de Sales in Brazil. He and his brother had witnessed bright lights in the sky twice before. But on this occasion Villas-Boas was alone ploughing his field when he was grabbed by aliens and carried, struggling, into their pear-shaped craft.

According to Villas-Boas, the only sounds the aliens made were low barks and yelps, neither very clear nor very hoarse, some longer, some shorter, at times containing several different sounds at once and at other times ending in a quaver. I can't reproduce them. My voice isn't made for that.

He was smeared with a thick liquid, some of his blood was taken and he was urged to have sex with a female humanoid about 4ft tall. She was not a Grey. Her eyes were blue and slanted, her hair almost white. Her mouth was a slit and her ears small. She had a very small body with heavy thighs and bright red hair in her armpits and groin. She grunted and bit him gently on the chin once or twice. When the others called her away, she pointed to her belly and then to the sky.

When Villas-Boas was examined by Dr Fontes of Rio de Janeiro in February 1958, there were six scars on his face and other parts of his body. The symptoms



Victims report a night-time encounter on a lonely road with a mystery craft...

seemed similar to those of radiation poisoning. Villas-Boas was interrogated quite roughly by the Brazilian military authorities. Yet he has never wavered from the details of his story.

Another famous encounter was that reported by Betty and Barney Hill in September 1961 when they were on holiday in New Hampshire in America. Betty spoke of seeing figures inside a pancake-shaped hovering object. Later, neither of the Hills could account for several hours of "missing time". But Betty's dreams seemed to continue where her conscious memories of the night left off.

She and Barney were stopped on the road by it. Then, the crew of the craft whose lights they had seen. They were taken on board the ship and each was subjected to a physical examination. In Betty's case, samples were taken of her hair, her earwax, scrapings from her skin.

A long needle was inserted into her vein as a sort of pregnancy test and she found herself discussing the universe of which she knew very little and the human concept of time with the crew leader.

Artists' impressions made to the Hills' specifications show bald-headed beings with very indentations for ears, large, glassy eyes and vestigial noses.

What is the likely truth behind so many



ILLUSTRATION

stories of alien abduction? It is inconceivable that everyone is lying. The obvious attractions of fame and fortune may well have induced a few, but the majority of abductees are not seeking to see their stories, neither do they crave publicity. In fact, a vast proportion of them insist that there can be no publicity.

Of course, some of those who claim close encounters may be mentally ill. Temporal lobe disorders can result in delusions that might explain some abduction stories. A common explanation offered these days is that many of the abductees — the females especially — are reliving an incident of childhood sexual abuse.

Perhaps. But one can, of course, stand this argument on its head. John Mack, professor of psychiatry at Harvard Medical School, whose theories have created a storm among ufologists and therapists alike, did just that.

At first highly sceptical and dismissive of abductees and their supporters, Mack is unusual among the scientific establishment in that he gave them the chance, as it were, to prove their case. Not only does he now believe that some abductions are genuine, he has postulated the theory that some cases of apparent sexual abuse are actually examples of alien abduction.

The authorities at Harvard, upset by his controversial views, launched an inquiry into Mack's conduct. In August 1995 he was publicly censured, but his job, which had been rumoured to have been under threat, was safe.

Whatever the truth behind abduction stories, America has become obsessed with them, and bizarre as it may seem, it is now possible to take out insurance cover against alien abductions. The premium is around £45 and the payout is £5 million — twice that if the insured of the first party is killed as the result of a close encounter of the Fourth Kind.

More than 35,000 people have actually taken out such insurance. Naturally, tangible proof of abduction, such as photographs and medical evidence, what will constitute medical evidence to satisfy a court has yet to be put to the test.

The year 1967 was a record one for UFO sightings. It was also the year when the animal mutilations started. In September, a mare called Lady was found dead in a field on a ranch near Mont Blanca in the San Luis Valley in Colorado.

Meteor shower shocks the Jocks

A large meteorite shower is set to sweep across the skies over Scotland and Northern Ireland, parked hundreds of UFO reports.

Police and coastguards between Stormont and Glasgow were inundated with calls when the spectacular fireball lit up the night sky with other debris.

Witnesses spoke of seeing bright lights vapour trails behind the object.

A Glasgow Weather Centre spokesman said the meteorite was about 10m in diameter and fell in the area of the city.

Apparently it was a very large and very bright shower of fireballs, with a large number of bright, white streaks.

want from us?

EXPERIMENTS



Are humans used for alien stud-farming? A Brazilian farmworker described how he was snatched and taken aboard a space-craft, examined (main picture) and forced to have sex with a strange humanoid form (above).

Betty and Barney Hill, who were 'missing' for hours, reported that aliens experimented on them

ILLUSTRATION: DAVID ACE

The animal's flesh had been ripped from the neck backwards along the body, yet there was no blood on the ground. There were no signs of a struggle and no tracks visible. Burn marks were found nearby, which shared traces of radioactivity.

An autopsy revealed that the cuts on the horse's body had been caused by something that generated huge amounts of heat, which could only have been a laser. Some of the mare's internal organs had been removed.

JUST as UFO sightings before 1967 are sporadic and the records have not always survived, so we have no idea whether animal mutilations of this type occurred earlier. Perhaps they weren't reported. Certainly, unlike the death of Lady, the Colorado mare, they didn't make the headlines.

But just as Kenneth Arnold's 'saucer' sighting in 1947 led to the public awareness of the UFO phenomenon, so Lady's slaughter created an awareness that something was going on, in Colorado at

least. Reports multiplied, reaching a peak during the seventies, not just in the U.S. but all over the world.

Horses, sheep and cattle were the most common targets. Most of the examples have certain common denominators: despite horrific mutilations, there was no blood on the ground; internal organs had been removed; and, perhaps most significant of all, so had the genitalia, irrespective of the animal's sex.

In 1993, the animal mutilation problem reached Britain. At various places across the South of England there was an outbreak of attacks on horses. Families were snocked and distressed to find their pets lying in paddocks with their genitalia slashed. The police assumed that the culprit must be a perverser, someone not unlike the strange anti-hero of Peter Schaffer's play *Equus*, but no culprit has ever been found.

The scale of the problem remains unknown. Unlike the UFO phenomenon, which has its extremist cranks and its newsworthy, and crop circles, which have a natural beauty and charm, irrespective of how they are made, the mutilation of animals is abhorrent. Most of the coverage lies in local newspaper libraries and UFO literature. There is no central

register. As with UFO sightings, it may well be that what has been reported is merely the tip of the iceberg. Where reports are made, the first port of call is usually the police. Animals are valuable to farmers and cherished by families as pets, particularly among the British, who pride themselves on being a nation of animal-lovers. In the U.S., of course, the likelihood of animals being attacked by natural predators is greater than it is in Britain.

Put to one side for the moment the possible existence of Surrey pumas and their ilk, our natural predators are the fox, birds of prey and, in remote parts of Scotland, the wildcat. A stonk horse or cow need have no fear of any of these, although sheep, and especially lambs, have been taken by all of them as well as by dogs.

The U.S., by contrast, has the coyote, cougar, wolverine, bear and a larger range of birds of prey than we do, all of which pose more of a threat to livestock.

FARMERS have lost their stock to predators for centuries, but the peculiar characteristics of these slaughters had never been seen before. Most predators go for the throat, sometimes the usual scavengers seem to have left them alone. Normally a crow, for instance, will peck out the eyes of a dead lamb before starting to tear flesh from the body, but no such damage was evident in these corpses.

Even maggot were absent. The blowflies that feed on rotting carcasses and lay the eggs which develop into maggots — hundreds of thousands of them per carcass, which continue to feed on the flesh while they develop — were avoiding the mutilated animals.

All this flies in the face of nature and suggests that some other, unknown factor is at work. So, to a much greater degree, does the precision with which the animals were mutilated and the absence of blood. A predator rips with its jaws or claws, leaving blood and entrails around the kill.

If predators were not responsible, the police surmised, what about satanic rituals? The old religion which predated Christianity involved appeasing the Lord of Darkness. The notion of animal and even human sacrifice is common to many primitive cultures and despite the growth and spread of Christianity, it has never quite disappeared.

Discovers of slaughtered animals were regarded as just another grim piece of evidence of some nauseating sect. And America, of course, has more of those per square inch than any other country. Rewards were offered, investigations launched. They yielded nothing. Not even satanists, for all the diabolical help they may have received at their sabbats, were able to stab or cut up animals without leaving blood, and no coat-clipped cult leader seemed to have access to a laser. Here police inspiration came to an end.

In their book *Alien Animals*, British researchers Janet and Colin Bord cite a number of instances in which there seems to be a link between animals and UFOs. Reports of UFO sightings in the U.S. and South Africa also mention a black dog, for centuries a sign of death or impending doom.

In a spate of animal mutilations in Puerto Rico between February and July 1975, owners heard loud screaming and that sounded like the tapping of manicured nails in the dark. In an astonishing case in the Rocky Mountains, again in 1975, just about every conceivable alien phenomenon occurred in a single

incident. Cattle mutilations were accompanied by an untraceable humming sound, in the sky and on the ground; 'entities' inside and outside ranch houses; disembodied voices; even a Bigfoot-type animal snuffling through woods nearby.

The Bords raise the legitimate question of whether blood is the real link, and whether it might be tied in with the human abduction experiences which now abound. Isn't it likely that aliens will be as fascinated by cattle, sheep and horses as they are by us?

What are we to make of the sexual mutilation of animals? Many abductees refer to medical and sexual examinations, of the navel, rectum and vagina, for instance. This has led to speculation about some alien attempt to mate with humans in order to create a hybrid creature.

But one must also draw the conclusion that, if abduction stories are simply the rationalisation of some deep sexual psychosis (notice how like an unborn baby a typical description of a Grey sounds), inevitably there is going to be a lot of discussion about genitals. On the other hand, if a genetic experiment is under way, why should it be confined to humans?

We have no evidence at the moment of human mutilations, although many who undergo the most dramatic abduction experiences tell of physical pain followed by vomiting as well as psychological trauma.

Is this lack of mutilation simply a matter of differentiation — that as a newer species we are not subjected to it, perhaps because, whether we realise it or not, we can communicate with aliens? Or is it, as some allege, that the world's governments have done a deal with extraterrestrials and are tacitly allowing animal mutilations to take place as part of whatever technological exchange has been worked out? A deal whereby animals may be mutilated and killed as long as humans are abducted only temporarily and returned alive?

BECAUSE the link between ufology and mutilations is obscure and little discussed outside the U.S., I received no reports of mutilation from the public during my three years as UFO officer, and nor would I have expected to. However, ufologists who were aware of the link did get in touch with me.

My official line had to be that mutilations were a matter for the police or perhaps the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food (MAFF).

Actually, one of the letters I received on a UFO sighting came from someone who happened to work for MAFF. We met and pushed things a little further. My contact made a number of discreet inquiries of MAFF's network of veterinary experts, who are not directly employed by the ministry but carry out various tasks for them around the country, some of them admitted to having unsolved mutilation cases on their books.

It was clear to me that urgent study of the mutilation problem was needed, first to assess its true extent; then to try to provide a solution to the mystery. The only organisation centrally involved was MAFF, and it had no database of cases. Instead, like too many UFO sightings, reports were probably filed away in the memory banks of some computer.

I found this disturbing and, what is more, I was becoming deeply concerned that if aliens could sneak onto our land and single out and mutilate animals in the most horrific way, the Ministry of Defence did indeed have a problem on its hands.

■ ABRIDGED extract from *Open Skies, Closed Minds* by Nick Pope and M. J. Troup, published by Simon & Schuster on June 3 at £14.99. © Nick Pope and M. J. Troup 1996.

TOMORROW THE ALIEN AUTOPSY THAT WAS KEPT SECRET FOR YEARS

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Pensioner speaks of close encounter after dark

A PENSIONER has revealed details of a close encounter with a UFO in the middle of the night.

Roland Joy is convinced that extra terrestrials visited his home in Beech Hill, Spencers Wood.

He decided to tell his awesome tale after three school

children in Lower Earley let the Evening Post know about their out of space sitting last week.

Mr Joy, known as Roley, had the visitation in the early hours of Tuesday, February 13.

He said: "I was woken up in the mid-

dle of the night and looked out the bedroom window and there was a flat disc like a plate and it had intermingling psychadelic colours. I didn't fear anything, I was amazed by it.

"It went round the side of the house and I ran on to my landing, looked out the

window and it was gone. I went back to bed and it came back about 40 minutes later.

"It was the most fantastic phenomenon I have ever seen in my life. I am a very very level headed person. I'm not the sort of person who exaggerates."

Trail of the Bl

Mystery craft that roams the Somerset skies



DAY ONE of a startling Press series which will challenge your imagination...

By Edward Oldfield

IT was a clear night in early summer when social workers John Higgins and Marina Hann were driving home across the Mendip Hills after a night out in Bristol. As the couple chatted in their Citroen 2CV close to the television transmitter near Wells, Marina's attention was drawn to a bright light in the sky.

John, aged 31, pulled over and Marina, 26, got out to watch as the light, brighter than a star or planet, appeared to move slowly towards them.

As the object neared from the north-west, the couple saw the light was from three or four sources, on the underside of a huge, grey-black wedge-shaped triangular craft.

The couple watched in amazement for a quarter-of-an-hour as the gigantic, shape passed almost silently overhead, followed closely by two helicopters.

John, of Grange Road, Street, recalling the sighting nearly two years ago, said: "As it came closer we could see it was definitely a triangular shape."

It was making a sort of humming noise and it flew right over us. We were quite excited at first, then we thought it was some sort of man-made aircraft rather than an extra-terrestrial craft."

The couple's story of their close encounter with the mystery ship is just one of about 20 which have emerged recently in central Somerset.

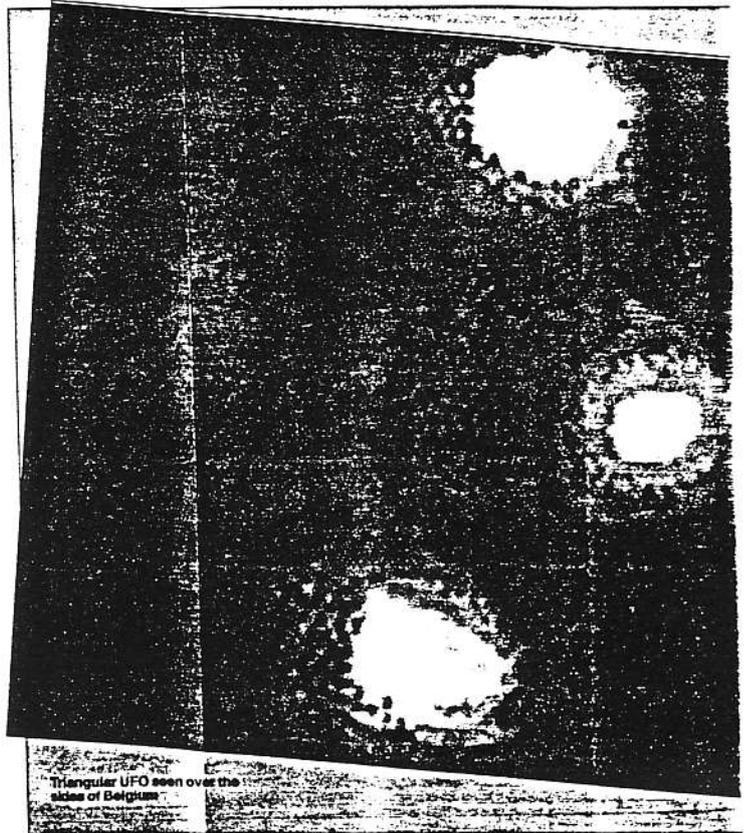
They give strikingly similar descriptions of a slow-moving, thin, wedge-shaped triangular craft, with lights in each corner and one in the centre of the underside.

Its surface is matt grey or black and featureless, with sides of equal length. Witnesses estimate it is about the size of a large passenger jet.

Sometimes red or golden lights are seen at the blunt front end of the thin edge.

But last night's reported sightings, including from Air Force and airline pilots, caused by military authorities, and aviation insiders, continue to dismiss the accounts.

Typical of the witnesses is mother-of-two



Triangular UFO seen over the skies of Belgium

Mrs Tina Dyer, aged 40, a shop owner, who earlier this month decided to go for a walk in the Dorset countryside near the ancient hill-top town of Shaftesbury.

As she strolled at dusk on Breech Common, which gives a spectacular view over the Blackmore Vale into Somerset, she noticed a strange light in the far distance.

Mrs Dyer, of East Orenard, near Shaftesbury, says she watched as the yellow light, unlike a star or planet, moved slowly towards her from the west. As it passed overhead she saw the outline of a large, black triangular craft.

Mrs Dyer who runs a craft shop in Shaftesbury with her husband, Martin, said: "It seemed to get so close I could see it was just as it seemed to come in a straight line and disappeared from view."

Terry McDonouen, aged 51, an unemployed painter and decorator, of Brooks Road, Street, was sitting in his garden at 1.45 am on a warm June night last year, when he noticed a light approaching from the south-west.

As it neared he made out a slow-moving dark triangular shape, about the size of a jumbo jet, with a bright light at each corner.

Mr McDonouen, who thought at first it stopped almost directly over me, at that point it frightened the life out of me.

I was able to get a pretty good look, smooth underneath. The noise it made was cleaner.

It stayed there for a few seconds then

Musician David Dunne, aged 40, of Upton, Reahey, who lives just a mile from the site of the sighting, says he has seen the triangular object on September 1, 1993 a friend telephoned him.

Mr Dunne watched from his home the sudden lights above a race about ten miles away. Mr Dunne said: "When it came closer it was not just a golden light, it was a bright white light."

It proceeded to come towards me at

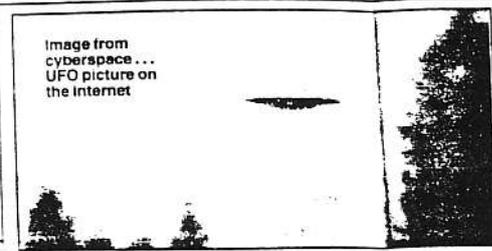


Image from cyberspace... UFO picture on the Internet

- A CLOSE encounter of the first kind is a UFO sighting. The second kind involves physical evidence such as burns or paralysis in witnesses, interference with machinery or marks of landing. The third kind is a meeting between humans and aliens.
- The first reported sighting of unidentified black triangular craft over Somerset was in the early 1970s near Wellington, when a man walking on the A36 claimed to have seen three pass overhead in formation.
- The mysterious Dragon ley line, a

UFO
reputed energy earth's magnetic Somerset. It is the site of ancient The Society's information reports a week. The first use of

THEORIES

Visitors on the galaxy... tractor lights

researchers and figures in the defence world clash on when trying to explain the sightings of the single craft.

The Ministry of Defence says there is no evidence to back-up claims of unidentified craft. It denies the existence of secret military aircraft trials.

UFO researchers, quoting witnesses, say the wedge-shaped object appears to be man-made.

They say its unconventional flying pattern could be evidence of a revolutionary propulsion system.

And some suggest the craft may be a result of technology applied by extra-terrestrials, either through friendly contact or as a result of studying crashed alien ships.

Mrs Sue Hembury-Kellow, 42, Taunton-based director of investigations for the Society for UFO Research and Investigation Network, said:

Throughout August of last year we were getting a lot of reports of the same object that is objective proof.

"It is an object as big as a football pitch which can apparently hover, can certainly go very slowly and can turn in a sixpence. All of these things it should not be able to do."

Commander Vic Sirett, aged 52, spokesman for the Yeovil airbase, puts forward a note down to earth theory. He says the most likely explanation for moving lights is headlights from tractors ploughing in the dark on far-off hillsides.

He said: "The eye does play tricks, particularly at night, when the judgement of distance and speed is very very difficult."

And a Ministry of Defence spokesman in London said: "There is no Government department that is aware of that specifically looks into UFOs."

"To date we have no evidence to substantiate the existence of such phenomena."

Mr Paul Jackson, editor of Jane's All The World's Aircraft, dismissed the theory of an experimental craft. He said it was unlikely a top secret project would be seen for a test flight over built-up areas.

Mr Jackson said: "People have seen wind and wonderful things up there. Whether they have come from outside the earth, Heaven only knows."

Space dust UFO scare
HUNDREDS of worried Scots flooded emergency phone lines after spotting strange lights in the sky on Wednesday night.

The UFOs, with their mysterious white vapour trail were spotted as far apart as Stornoway and Greenock.

But last night experts revealed it was an annual meteor shower caused by dust from Halley's Comet.

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Remote odds

WHY are perceptions of aliens from outer space (Mail) always based on beings in our own size scale? They may be reported slightly larger or a little smaller than us, but overall they have similar dimensions to humans.

The universe is so vast that the odds of extraterrestrials sharing anything like our size is quite remote. Aliens could be eight miles high or huge enough to be able to play snooker with the planets in our solar system.

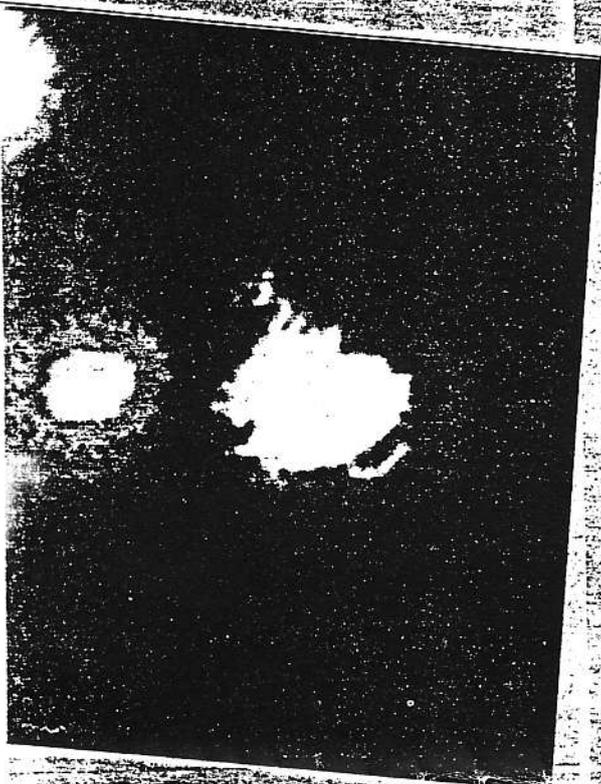
They could be so small as to be invisible to the naked eye. Their heads — if any — could be 1 per cent of their body size or 99 per cent, rather than the 10 to 20 per cent that fits our conceptions. Their UFOs would obviously have to be of a size to carry them.

All these accounts make me wonder why all aliens are around 5ft 10in tall and weigh 160lb. Do they also have 2.4 children?

NEVILLE MOORHOUSE,
Bottesford, South Humberstone.

Black Triangle

THE WITNESSES



We saw it... Tina Dyer, left, David Duhig, top and John Higgins.

ough, who thought at first it was a hot air balloon, said: "It almost directly over me, probably about 500ft up. At the moment the life out of me. I got a pretty good look at the thing. It was completely smooth. The noise it made was like a giant vacuum here for a few seconds then moved off at high speed."

When David Duhig, aged 42, publisher of the magazine UFO Reality, who lives just below Glastonbury Tor, also has seen the triangular craft. On the clear night of 1993 a friend telephoned to report a strange light in

watched from his home through binoculars as two above a ridge about ten miles to the south slowly came and said: "When it came up the valley I started to see just a golden light, it was some sort of craft. It seemed to come towards me at about 40mph, at between

150ft and 200ft high. It was really crawling. The only sound was like a glider.

"It filled the binoculars as it passed overhead, to the side of the Tor.

"I got the feeling that it was earthly. If it is military, they are really frightening people."

The description of the craft is similar to that of a mystery wedge-shaped object involved in a reported near-miss with a British Airways Boeing 737 near Manchester Airport.

An official report was unable to identify the object, which the pilots said passed the aircraft at high speed and said the incident in January last year remained unsolved.

And in Belgium in 1990 two air force jets reportedly intercepted an unidentified triangular craft.

Their radar computers locked on to the object for six seconds before it apparently accelerated away from about 200m to more than 1,000m in one second, leaving defence chiefs mystified.

UFO FILE

reputed energy channel linked to the earth's magnetic field, passes through Somerset. It begins in Cornwall and links Glastonbury Tor with Avebury, the site of ancient stone circles.

The Society for UFO Research and Information Network gets about 500 reports a week, a fifth stay unsolved. The first use of the description "living

saucer" was by fire appliance salesman and pilot Kenneth Arnold. On June 24 1947, he reported nine craft flying "like a saucer would if you skipped it across the water."

- A museum devoted to space and UFOs is due to open in Japan next summer.
- In Mexico there have been thousands of reported sightings of UFOs since 1991, which are being linked to an ancient Mayan prophecy that the Masters of the Stars would appear at the birth of the sixth sun, interpreted as the eclipse on July 11 1991.



TOMORROW



BUZZED BY A UFO. Did this passenger jet have a close encounter with the same triangular craft which has been seen several times in the Somerset skies?

Cheltenham buzz...

WORKERS at Britain's biggest spy base claim to have seen a UFO at first hand recently.

Employees at GCHQ in Cheltenham, Gloucestershire saw two bright lights flying silently over the base in the early hours of the morning. A security guard described the event as being "like a scene from the TV series The X Files."

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Strange shapes in the sky

A SPATE of UFOs have been spotted in the Clacton area, it has been claimed.

Ron West, chairman of the Essex UFO Research Group, said there were five sightings recently.

Most were made on Clacton seafront and the first was at 10.10pm on Tuesday when a person from Vista Road saw a triangular-shaped large object in the sky, and at the same time a resident from Peter Bruff Avenue saw a diamond-shaped object.

Then a person from Coppins Road saw a triangular-shaped object zig-zagging across the sky at 10.15pm on Wednesday and five minutes later a person from Talbot Avenue, Jaywick saw something similar.

If you spot anything spooky all Mr West on 01255 31391.