

THE
ESSEX
WFO
STUDY
GROUP

JULY 1976

(27 July '76)

we arranged if they would be kind enough to publish a small article upon the Group. Also, we asked if they would be kind enough to interview the Group. The Group's name is THE ESSEX UFO STUDY GROUP

THE ESSEX UFO STUDY GROUP

A non-profit making Organisation, dedicated to the investigation of Unidentified Flying Object phenomena & related paranormal occurrences.

We were recommended to learn that the subject of UFOs was practically unknown in the core systems of groups being known by the newspapers.

JULY - 1976

Content:

There were a number of important towns that we could not visit that day due to the rain but there was a very good turnout.

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INVESTIGATIONS

Film "Chariot of the Gods"

The above film was shown to a large appreciative audience at Harts Lane Hall, Barking, on Friday 21st May. The entire evening's entertainment, which began at 8.00p.m. was a great success.

The film itself was concerned with the World's ancient mysteries and took one to many countries on our planet in an effort to convey convincing evidence of a superior, perhaps under extra-terrestrial guidance, prehistoric civilization.

The 16mm colour film was shown in three parts, the interval between parts two and three being an excellent time for refreshments.

During the intervals and at the end of the film, Mr. Ron Markwick, the Group's Technical Advisor, answered questions and gave explanations for various points raised concerning the film, and in addition, gave various accounts for the existence of UFOs.

At 10.45p.m. the evening was brought to a close by Mr. Roy Lake (Chairman) who thanked all those present for coming along and promised more film shows for the future.

"EUFOSG" News and Activities

Since the Group's inauguration in 1970, it has remained somewhat confined to the south-west parts of Essex. However, the decision to enlarge the Group's territory was recently made, and to that end we decided that it would be a good idea to visit the more remote parts of Essex in an effort to gain more members and possibly form annexes.

Upon Monday 17th May this year, Mr. Roy Lake (Chairman) and myself (editor), visited the local newspaper offices of Clacton, Colchester, Chelmsford and Maldon. The purpose of our visit was explained to them and

we enquired if they would be kind enough to publish a small article upon the Group. Also, we asked if they would include a request for interested persons who might wish to become members and possible investigators to write to us. Fortunately, every office that we called upon were more than helpful, and each one promised us that the EUFOSG would be mentioned in their paper in due course.

We were astounded to learn that the subject of UFOs was practically unknown in the more eastern regions, no UFO reports or groups being known by the newspapers.

There were a number of important towns that we could not visit that day due to lack of time, but these will be covered eventually.

Response to the duly published articles has been most interesting and the desired results should certainly transpire.

Committee members of the Group have, over the last six months, been busy contacting other groups and organisations in our attempt to expand. We have received replies from such notable people as Mr. J.B. Delair (Contact U.K.) and Ms. Jenny Randles (Northern UFO Network), to name but two. We are also exchanging magazines and advertisements with other groups and thank them for their co-operation.

INVESTIGATIONS

Apart from a few "fragile" UFO sightings at Pitsea and Dagenham, Essex, of the "lights in the sky" variety, no new reports have been received by ourselves or BUFORA for the Essex area. Please remember that if you see a newspaper report of a UFO having recently been seen, please inform us, and if possible, send the clipping with the name and date of issue of the newspaper.

Case Numbers

All reports will now receive a case number. The number will be made up of the year, month and order of being received.

Journal Reports

There exists a backlog of fine UFO reports awaiting entry into the Journal. Considerable UFO activity has been present in our area since late 1974 and most reports will be found to originate from this period onwards. Only earlier reports of a detailed or interesting nature are considered (Case No. 1968-1-1 in this issue for example). In these journals I try to give a cross-section of reports from the recent to the not so recent.

Eventually, the Group hope to make a collective study of all the available data to discover if there exist patterns of UFO behaviour, relationships between UFO shapes, periods, etc. etc. All findings will be published. Editor.

Report 1

The Roding UFO

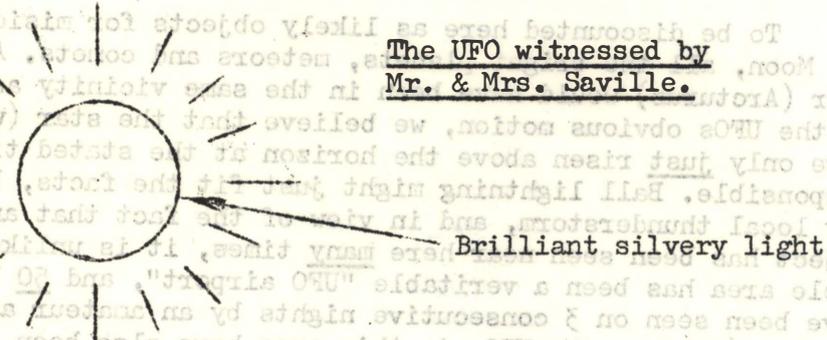
Case No. 1974-12-3

The first case that is reported here is special inasmuch as it concerns a sighting made by Mr. John Saville and his wife; Mr. Saville being the Group's "Equipment Researcher and Supplies Co-ordinator", and Mrs. Saville; Secretary.

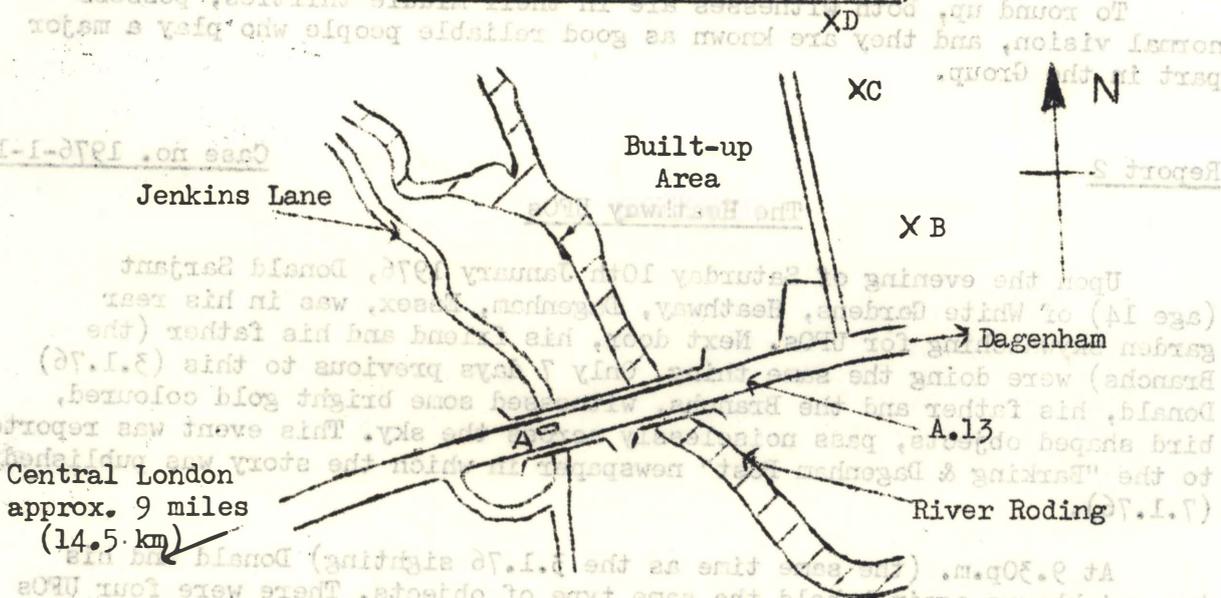
However, at the time of the sighting our Group was unknown to them, until they happened to see an advertisement mentioning the Group's display at the July 1975 Dagenham Town Show. After visiting us there they decided to join. Now to their story.

Mr. Saville and his wife were returning from Central London (by motor car) to their home in Dagenham, Essex, at a very early hour one Saturday morning (21st December 1974). At approximately 12.30a.m. they approached the bridge that the A13 Barking By-Pass makes over Jenkins Lane and the River Roding (a tributary of the River Thames). Mr. Saville (who was driving) happened to notice on the left hand side of the road a brilliant ball or sphere moving slowly over the high-rise blocks of flats. He then pointed it out to his wife who confirmed his observation. Intrigued by this strange object, he decided to stop the car and have a longer look. Parked on that part of the bridge over Jenkins Lane, Mr. Saville promptly wound open his car window to obtain a clearer view, and perhaps eliminate a possible reflection from the car's windscreen. The object was definitely real and was seen to hover for a while before continuing its right to left motion, while in addition, slowly descending. They shortly lost sight of it altogether behind the blocks of flats. There was very little traffic about at that time of the morning and no-one else has come forward since to add weight to this particular sighting.

The UFO witnessed by
Mr. & Mrs. Saville.



Ground Plan (Approx. to scale)



Key

- A - witnesses in car.
- B - object when first seen.
- C - object when in hovering position.
- D - object when last seen (descending).

However, at the time of the sighting our group was unknown to them, until they happened to see an advertisement mentioning the Group's display at the July 1975 Dagenham Town Hall. Visiting us there they decided to join. Now to their story.

Additional Data

- Length of time object visible for - 5 minutes approx.
- Estimated altitude - unknown.
- Estimated velocity - unknown, but thought to have been quite slow.
- Estimated distance from observers - 1/3 mile (.54 Km).
- Greatest apparent size - equivalent to a pea held at arms length.
- Object first seen in the east (approx.)
- Object last seen in the north-east (approx.)
- Elevation of object when first seen - 15°.
- Elevation of object when last seen - 10°.
- Audible emissions - none.
- Other anomalies - none.
- Weather conditions - somewhat cloudy (but a few stars visible), cold, dry, no wind and with clear visibility at ground level.

If we accept that the apparent size and estimated distance are correct, then a figure of 30 feet (9.1m) is derived for this UFO's diameter.

To be discounted here as likely objects for misidentification are - the Moon, all the bright planets, meteors and comets. A first magnitude star (Arcturus) would have been in the same vicinity as this UFO, but due to the UFOs obvious motion, we believe that the star (which would probably have only just risen above the horizon at the stated time) was not responsible. Ball lightning might just fit the facts, but in the absence of any local thunderstorm, and in view of the fact that an identical type of object has been seen near here many times, it is unlikely. Actually, the whole area has been a veritable "UFO airport", and 50 UFOs have claimed to have been seen on 3 consecutive nights by an amateur astronomer who lives nearby. (Landings by UFOs in this area have also been reported).

To round up, both witnesses are in their middle thirties, possess normal vision, and they are known as good reliable people who play a major part in the Group.

Report 2

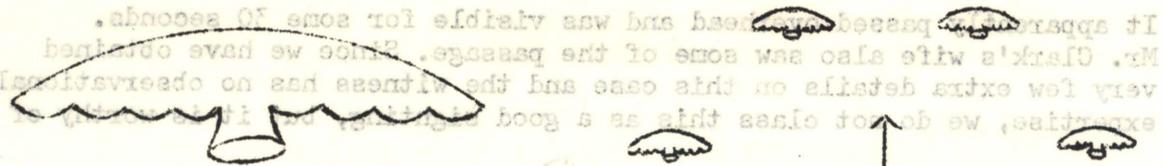
Case no. 1976-1-1

The Heathway UFOs

Upon the evening of Saturday 10th January 1976, Donald Sarjant (age 14) of White Gardens, Heathway, Dagenham, Essex, was in his rear garden skywatching for UFOs. Next door, his friend and his father (the Branches) were doing the same thing. Only 7 days previous to this (3.1.76) Donald, his father and the Branches, witnessed some bright gold coloured, bird shaped objects, pass noiselessly across the sky. This event was reported to the "Barking & Dagenham Post" newspaper in which the story was published (7.1.76).

At 9.30p.m. (the same time as the 3.1.76 sighting) Donald and his two neighbours again beheld the same type of objects. There were four UFOs which approached from the south-west flying in a rigid 'V' formation (see diagram). Passing overhead, the objects suddenly executed a 90° turn and headed towards the south-east, still maintaining their 'V' formation. Donald rushed indoors and quickly brought out his father, who had gone inside some little while beforehand. All four observers then watched the things depart and fade away into the distance. These objects were orange coloured, but the ones seen the week before were of a bright gold colour.

-5-July'76 (1)-2-



One of the 4 Heathway UFO's

Direction of travel
of the 'V' formation

Although the objects were described as bird shaped, they appear to be more in the form of mushrooms. The extreme edges were not as clear-cut as is depicted here, but blurred or fuzzy. Our witnesses also report that the objects pulsed or changed brightness during their passage.

Additional Information

Length of time objects visible for - 5 minutes (?)
Estimated altitude - 1 mile (1.6 Km) when overhead (?)
Estimated velocity - very great (comparable to a jet aircraft).
Greatest apparent size - equivalent to a $\frac{1}{2}$ p coin held at arms length
(each object).

Estimated true size - ?

Objects first seen in the south-west.

Objects last seen in the south-east.

Elevation of objects when first seen - 40° .

Elevation of objects when last seen - 30° .

Audible emissions - none.

Weather conditions - clear sky, cold, dry, light breeze.

It is possible, of course, that real birds, perhaps sea-gulls, were responsible, but the evidence seems to be heavily against this explanation. Bird shaped UFOs are not unknown, but are quite rare, and to see two groups of these in one week!! By the way, the boys had not skywatched at all between the 3rd and 10th of January!

Donald and his friend often scan the skies for UFOs, but this is often considered detrimental evidence for dismissing such cases. How many times have you read in UFO reports that the witness or witnesses had no knowledge or interest in the subject before their sighting? This is stated in an effort to strengthen the validity of the case.

The fact that the boys had an interest in, and some knowledge of UFOs, can only worsen matters where officialdom (Ministry of Defence, U.S.A.F.) is concerned.

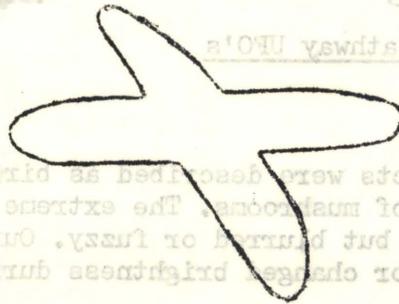
Finally, it is interesting to note that at an altitude of 1 mile, (1.6 Km) each of these objects would have to be approx. 170 feet (51.8m) across to appear the same size as a $\frac{1}{2}$ p coin held at arms length. In passing, a $\frac{1}{2}$ p coin held up to the sky would subtend an angle of $1\frac{1}{2}^{\circ}$, three times the apparent diameter of the Moon or the Sun!

An additional case should be briefly mentioned here, as it involves another bird shaped object seen only $\frac{3}{4}$ mile (1.2 Km) from the Sarjant's house.

Case No. 1975-8-1

Mr. David Clark of Verney Gardens, Dagenham, spied an amber coloured object from his rear garden at about 11.30p.m. on Saturday 2nd August, 1975.

It apparently passed overhead and was visible for some 30 seconds. Mr. Clark's wife also saw some of the passage. Since we have obtained very few extra details on this case and the witness has no observational expertise, we do not class this as a good sighting, but it is worthy of note.



Mr. Clark's UFO.

Additional Data

Greatest apparent size - Equivalent to that of a football held at arms length. (?)

Audible emissions - none.

Weather conditions - clear sky, warm, dry, no wind.

Report 3

Case No. 1968-1-1

The Garboldishan UFO

This is another good UFO sighting. Unfortunately it took place some 8 years ago (January 1968) and has only very recently been made known to us. (I (Ed.) discovered this case quite by accident, when I happened to meet Mr. Barron on holiday in Majorca).

Mr. Barron and his wife (who has since become his late wife) of Loughton, Essex, were on their way home by motor car from Long Stratton, Norfolk, after visiting Mr. Barron's sister-in-law. The time was between 10 and 11 p.m. one Sunday night in January 1968 (exact day not recalled), when their Ford Anglia car was approaching the small village of Garboldishan in Norfolk, from a north easterly direction. Suddenly, their car was caught with what they at first thought was a violent gust of wind, which took Mr. Barron (who was driving) by surprise and pushed the car over to the grass verge at the side of the small country road. After regaining control of the steering, Mr. Barron spurted, "What the devil was that?". Mrs. Barron gave an immediate answer to the effect that there was a large object following them above the cable carrying pylons on the right hand side of the road. Mr. Barron looked to his right and also saw the object which was cigar shaped (the true shape was not that of a cigar, but a circular UFO seen from the side) and of approximately 100 feet (30.5m) in length (or diameter). The object was most eerie looking because of the many large portholes that crossed its middle and the 'power source'; a terrific glow emanating from an area in the lower centre (see sketch). Mr. Barron compared this area to the view one gets when looking into the seething cauldron of a volcano, where the colours range from red to white. The colour here, though, was of a non-descript nature, but similar to orange. The object's altitude was around 100 feet (30.5m), but this was about as low as it could safely come and still remain as close as possible to the car, without hitting the pylons. Great beams of light illuminated their car, apparently emanating from the object.

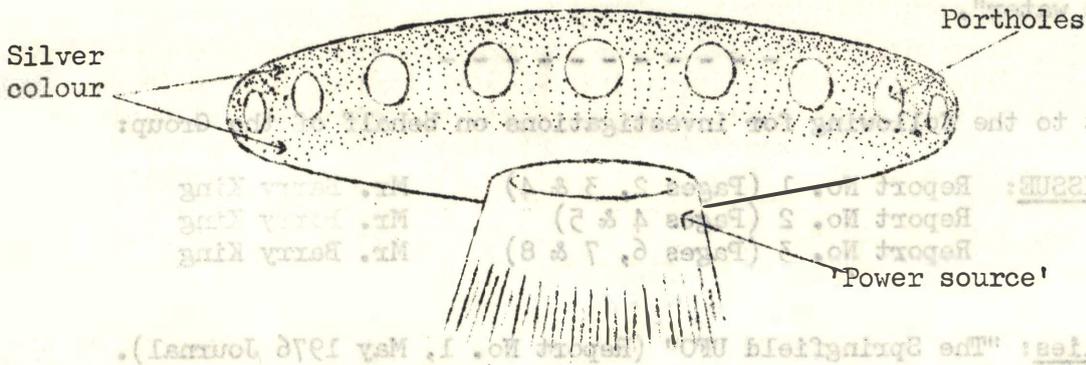
Initially, Mr. Barron did not feel too comfortable being followed by this weird thing, so he tried to outrun it by speeding up and at times touching 60 m.p.h. (97 Km/hour). Considering that the road was not straight and was also devoid of any street lighting, this sort of speed was rather

dangerous. After a mile or so of erratic driving he slowed down, as it was apparent he could not outrun the thing which was still in the same relative position, and as it seemed, trying to get closer. Mr. Barron told his wife that he would take the next turning on the right so that they could face the object and note all available details. Unfortunately, he could not find a suitable right-hand turning (actually, there are a number of right-hand turnings that exist along the route taken (see ground plan), but Mr. Barron does not remember seeing them, or seeing them in time to slow down enough to execute a safe right-hand turn. The object's enormity may have made him think twice, perhaps, before braving a head-on confrontation). However, a little way past Garboldishan it departed - "as quickly as a shooting star".

They arrived home in the early hours of the morning and after careful thought the incident was reported at Enfield police station. (Mr. Barron lived in Enfield at the time), where a UFO report form was filled in.

A little later on that (Monday) morning, Mr. Barron received a telephone call from the Ministry of Defence in Whitehall, who inquired into his sighting. A number of calls were made to him that week and a letter finally arrived from the Ministry explaining the object away as a possible helicopter on exercise. This explanation was not agreed with, but the matter seemed closed, so the subject was dropped.

A month later the sighting was brought up at Mr. Barron's sister-in-laws. The whole thing was ridiculed and Mr. Barron was rather upset by this and would accept no apology from his sister-in-law until some time later, when she too saw the object (reported by other people) on an Anglia Television News programme.



The UFO that the Barrons witnessed for some 20 minutes.

Additional Information

Object first seen in north-west.

Object last seen in north-west.

Elevation of object when first seen: 15°

Elevation of object when last seen: 25°

Audible emissions - none.

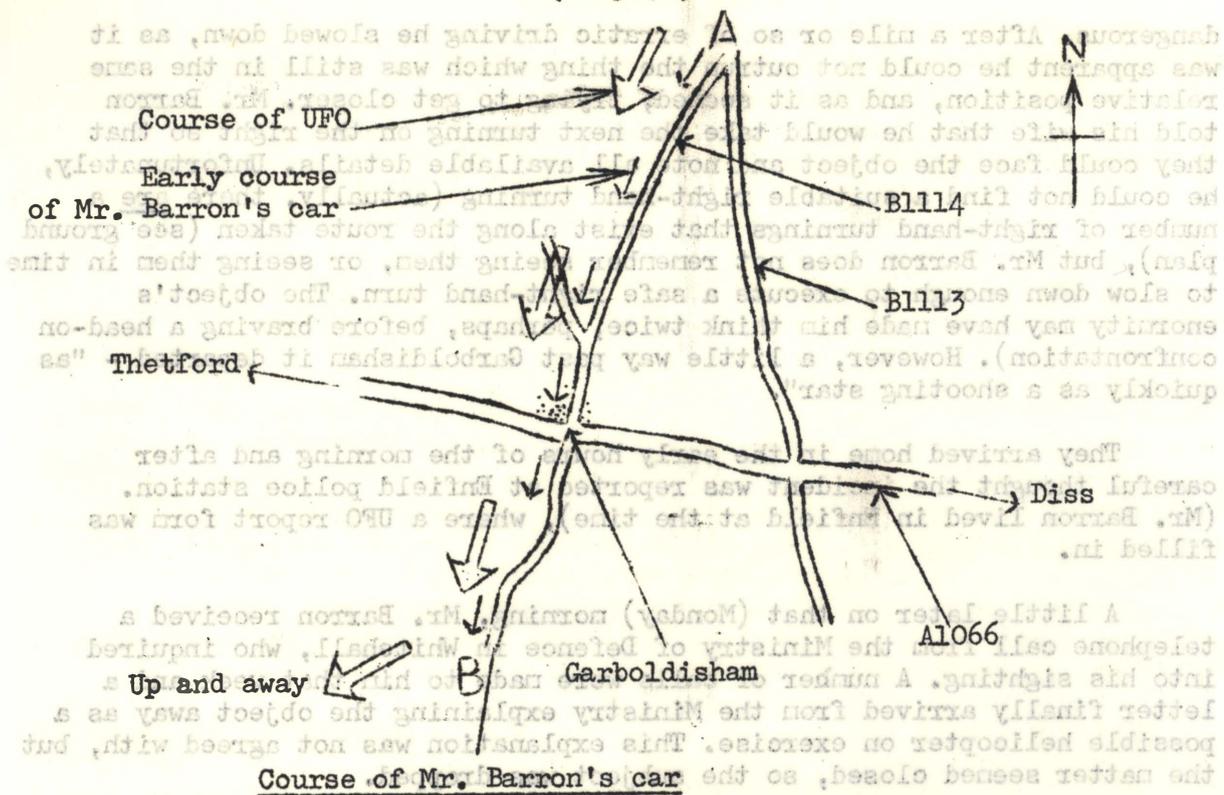
Weather conditions: clear sky, cold, dry; no wind.

No other witnesses seen that night.

Both witnesses were in their middle forties.

Anglia Television was asked regarding the news programme on which the subject was mentioned, but they informed us that - "news scripts dating back 7 years or more are no longer available".

Despite this negative reply, there is a chance of some confirmation in this direction being obtainable in the future. The Enfield police, however, do confirm Mr. Barron's initial report.



Course of Mr. Barron's car

Mr. Barry King informs us that the craft the Barron's encountered was rather similar to the UFO witnessed by Kenneth Arnold in Washington, U.S.A., on 24th June 1947. The reporter who interviewed Ken Arnold by the way, was the one responsible for coining the term "flying saucers", after Arnold told him that the UFOs he saw moved - "like a saucer would if you skipped it across water".

Credit to the following for investigations on behalf of the Group:

- | | | |
|--------------------|-------------------------------|----------------|
| <u>JULY ISSUE:</u> | Report No. 1 (Pages 2, 3 & 4) | Mr. Barry King |
| | Report No. 2 (Pages 4 & 5) | Mr. Barry King |
| | Report No. 3 (Pages 6, 7 & 8) | Mr. Barry King |

Anomalies: "The Springfield UFO" (Report No. 1, May 1976 Journal).

Mr. Andy Collins, BUFORA Regional Investigations Co-ordinator (R.I.C.) for Essex, recently visited Stephen Wheeler of Springfield, Chelmsford, Essex, in an attempt to extract additional information and clear up some peculiarities regarding his sighting. Mr. Barry King, former R.I.C. for Essex, conducted the original investigation.

The facts of the case newly extracted from Stephen Wheeler contrast sharply with those obtained by Mr. King. Stephen now states that there were only five boys playing football. The time of the sighting was about 7.30 p.m. and the UFO was seen in the east. In addition, Stephen took Mr. Collins to a totally different place from where Mr. King was taken! He also states that he has forgotten many facts including the appearance of the U.F.O. Another eyewitness, Paul McGregor (age 12), ran away from Mr. Collins when he visited his home! The incredible changes in Stephen Wheeler's story make it quite clear that for some undisclosed reason he is trying to throw us into a state of confusion. Mr. King, by the way, spoke to and was accompanied to the original sighting spot by nine of the eyewitnesses (including Stephen Wheeler). The initial report is, therefore, considered to be the true account.

METEORITE OR UFO?

by Mr. Daniel J. Goring.

An expedition from Tomsk University (Central Siberia) and the USSR Astronomy and Geodesy Society is being sent to continue a survey of the soil at the site where a great meteorite fell on June 30th 1908.

Upon that date a tremendous explosion rocked the inaccessible forests along the Tunguska River in Siberia. Trees were blown flat for more than 50 Km from the blast centre. People were knocked over, window panes blew in, and 650 Km away the engine driver of the Trans-Siberian Railway brought his train to a shrill halt as the track heaved and quaked before his eyes. The roar was heard many hundreds of kilometers away and the pressure of the blast affected barometers as far away as England. All over northern Europe for the whole of the following week, sunsets were lengthened and enhanced because of the pall of smoke and dust which had been blasted into the upper atmosphere. Several people even witnessed the meteorite's blue trail through the sky, despite the bad daylight conditions prevailing. Miraculously, no human lives were lost, although a herd of reindeer perished in the explosion.

What had caused the explosion long remained a mystery and 20 years passed before an expedition reached the area. However, no sizable crater and no fragments could be found. The whole area is of a marshy nature and it could only be surmised that the original crater had been swallowed up. Trees as much as 30 Km from the centre had been found knocked radially outward and evidence exists that the explosion was nuclear in nature as the natural rate of change in heredity in this region has been accelerated about twelve times.

A meteorite or some type of celestial body, possibly a small comet, has long thought to have been responsible for this catastrophe. However, some incredible ideas have been offered as alternative explanations and some by Soviet people in rather eminent positions.

Dr. Zigel, Director of Science (Technology) at the Moscow Aviation Institute, has claimed that the object was not a meteorite but a UFO. Dr. Zigel gave two reasons why a manufactured alien craft was quite probably responsible -

1. Residual radio-activity. 2. Prior to the explosion, the object described a great arc of 600 Km in extent (a controlled manoeuvre).

In 1964 two Russian writers, G. Altov and V. Zhuravleva, examined the evidence and concluded that the blast was caused by a signal ray coming from a planet associated with the star 61 Cygni, and believed it to have been sent in reply to a flash of light emitted by the Earth in 1883, the emitter being the exploding volcano, Krakatoa!

Yet another theory suggested is that of Jackson and Ryan's who theorize an impact of a mini-Black Hole with the mass of a large asteroid. A Black Hole is a bizarre, theoretically possible region of space formed by a massive object which has, because of its massive pull of gravity, crushed itself out of existence, with the space which surrounds it twisted inside out. The massive gravity field remains even though there is nothing to be seen visually, the original material having disappeared into God-knows where! A very dangerous species of object to be steered well clear of by future interstellar travellers!

The Black Hole postulated here would be less than one millionth of a centimeter in radius, but the gravity field would be very strong. It would have produced a shock wave on passing through the atmosphere which would have created a violent streak of radiation and the explosion on the ground. The Black Hole would have then passed right through the Earth to re-emerge in the North Atlantic Ocean (with detectable consequences).

These then are just a few of the theories that abound - all attempting to fit the facts. Personally, I prefer the meteorite/small comet theory, but the new survey of the area may be able to finally clear up the mystery.

Credit

U.S.S.R. expedition information: Novosti Information Service,
3 Rosary Gardens, London, SW7 4NW.
Bulletin No. 36762

Ley Lines in Essex.

To help in the Group's study of the UFO phenomenon, it is desirable that we obtain knowledge of the location of ley lines in Essex.

As many of you will know, ley lines are identified when ancient sites fall upon a straight line. UFOs have been found (in many cases) to follow these lines. The origin of ley lines is lost in history and many of them await rediscovery.

To help in this interesting project we require ley line hunters and a central co-ordinator. Please write to me, the Editor (address at rear of journal), if you think you will be able to assist.

SKYWATCHES

Instead of publishing a separate skywatch schedule, as was mentioned in the May Journal, the Group's Committee have agreed upon definite skywatch dates which will be given in each Journal. The first skywatch will be on Saturday, 21st August in the Langdon Hills. The skywatch point will be at the rear of the Crown Public House on the B1007, Langdon Hills, Basildon, Essex. Meeting time - 9.00 p.m.

BOOKS

The Mothman Prophecies by John Keel £4.80. Frontiers of Knowledge by Gatland & Dempster £2.75. Gods of Air & Darkness by Richard Mooney £3.95. Miracles of the Gods by Erich Von Daniken £4.25. Mysteries of the Ancients by C. & E. Umland £3.70. The Magic of Findhorn by Paul Hawkins £4.00. The News: UFOs & Fortean phenomena 62p. The UFO Controversy by Prof. David Jacobs £8.10. Symposium on UFOs £6.50. Flying Saucers Serious Business by Frank Edwards £3.60. Mysterious Places by Daniel Cowen 65p. The Sirius Mystery by Robert K.G. Temple £6.00. The Invisible College by Jacques Vallee £4.80 0/o in U.S.A. Strange Creatures from Time & Space by John Keel £3.40.

11-(July'76)

Books obtainable from:-

Miss S. Stebbing,
87 Selsea Avenue,
Herne Bay,
Kent CT6 8SD,
ENGLAND.

LETTERS

Dear Mr. Goring

The first letter printed here was written in reply to the Group's Secretary.

April 22nd, 1976

Dear Mrs. Saville,

Thank you very much for your letter. I am pleased to hear that the Essex UFO Study Group is progressing so well. No doubt you will form a very active part of the new Southern UFO Network. I begin to lose track of WHO is supposedly co-ordinating that. First it was Alan Fossey - then Barry King - and now Alan Fossey again! All I hope is that it does get off the ground eventually. It will not be easy (co-operation schemes never are), but I think NUFON has shown that it is worth the effort.

I understand that NUFON did try to forge links with some of the southern groups, yourselves included (even to the point of a cassette tape link I believe), but the response was fairly dismal from most sources. However, we welcome any contact with the rest of the country and I would be more than pleased to arrange an information exchange process (ie publication for publication). If you have any influence with some of the other southern groups maybe you could persuade them also, since I think that data exchange is very important in Ufology.

As you can see NUFON publishes a monthly newsletter, chiefly to keep up to date with all investigation work. It does not pretend to be superb in quality since we deliberately kept costs low to encourage as many as possible to participate. Hence the only amount that a group pays is: £2 p.a., and this covers a years newsletters and also has to offset other admin costs etc. (eg meetings). Aside from this we do, from time to time, publish more detailed reports on cases of interest and have also issued several special research publications based on work done by local groups. We also brought out a 1970-74 report, with a statistical survey appended, and one for 1975 is planned in time for our convention in May.

NUFON functions as a liaison medium. All participant groups or individual researchers are absolutely independant. Administration is conducted by means of a representative committee (which meets three-four times a year) and allows all groups with five or more members to vote on policy issues. Individuals have no vote but can attend and speak out. At each meeting an executive is elected (Chairman, Secretary & Treasurer) to run the day to day affairs. They have no vote or authority, but can put recommendations before the rest of the groups. At least two groups must form this executive (ie it cannot be dominated). By circularising agendas beforehand to allow discussion by the groups as a whole, before presenting a decision via their representative, the system seems to work very well.

About 16 groups are associated to the network, and the files are open for research work use by them. We have fairly complete coverage of the period 1972-1976 (about 125 cases on file for last year alone) and are working with CONTACT UK on an extensive historical catalogue of the regions cases. We have held a convention each year since 1974 and next months promises to be our most ambitious. We also have other events planned for 1976, n other centres, since one of our policies is to encourage UFO events in various parts of the region.

By all means you can mention NUFON, and quote from the n/letter (please

give credit to the group or individual) - but we exist as a northern agency primarily and hence do not wish to attract individual subscribers to NUFON from outside. Most of the content is relevant to the north only, and by encouraging southern or national organisations to use it we avoid the need of individuals in the south subscribing.

Jenny Randles,
Northern UFO Network.

Dear Mr. Goring,

Thank you for your letter of 24th May 1976, and the Journal; I must say that I am impressed with the progress you have made with your publication in the past year.

The Southern UFO Network was, indeed, my idea (although I do know that others had thought of it before me). I had initially planned to set it up myself, following my resignation from BUFORA Council. However, this proved impossible, owing to other pressures, and Barry King offered to take over the plans for its establishment. Unfortunately, Barry suffered a number of personal problems all at the same time, and which precipitated his almost total withdrawal from ufology. As you can see, SUFON - not yet even in existence - has incurred a great many pitfalls! I had hoped that SUFON would parallel the success of NUFON. However, I have given it considerable thought (and observed the problems which NUFON is beginning to encounter) and come to the conclusion that a Southern network would be extremely difficult to establish and just as difficult to operate. I say this because of two things: 1. the much larger geographical area that must be covered; 2. the apparent lack of enthusiasm and will in the South, coupled with the scarcity of groups here. However, maybe it could be done with perseverance and courage, and I have been looking around for someone with the guts to carry it through. I am inclined to think that your group is very much stronger and better organised than it used to be (when I was Liaison Officer for BUFORA and had contact with Roy). Do you feel that the Essex UFO Study Group is now capable of injecting a little enthusiasm into Southern ufology? I hope you can. I would be most willing to offer what assistance I could. In answer to your question, NO I am not involved with SUFON. Unhappily, it does not exist.

I notice in your Journal a reference to Dr. Hynneck's new Center in Toronto. This is, of course, a branch and not a full science centre. You ask when it will happen here. I can answer that; it already has happened! It is early days yet, but an announcement will be made when we are better organised, and our scientists have begun work.

Yours sincerely,
Alan C. Fossey,
British UFO Documentation Centre,
London.

Dear Mr. Goring,

Thank you for your most interesting letter dated 9th May 1976. Your journal's presentation is one of the best I have seen for a long time. One day I hope (When money available) Skywatch will be produced on similar lines. At the present time I feel SW's presentation rates as high. Find enclosed the latest issue of SW No. 19. Also enclosed back issue No 16, which I hope you and your members enjoy? You will see that the quality of content from 16 to 19 has improved and I am hoping it continues in future issues. I look forward to receiving contributions from EUFOSG for inclusion in Skywatch and the exchange of Mags and adverts will I hope build up a welcome friendship between our two groups. I found your Journal a very good read and I enclose a contribution which introduces MAPIT and one or two other interesting items. Also enclosed advertisement for your journal.

I hope to hear from you soon,

I Remain, Yours faithfully,
D.L. Rees,
Secretary and Editor (Skywatch Magazine),
Manchester Aerial Phenomena Investg. Team.

