



**THE  
ESSEX  
UFO  
STUDY  
GROUP**

**JOURNAL**

# THE ESSEX U.F.O. STUDY GROUP

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

NOVEMBER - 1976

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## Next Group Meeting:

A Meeting of the EUFOSG will be held at Harts Lane Hall, Barking, on Friday, 3rd December 1976, 8-11 p.m. U.F.O. cases from the Essex area will be presented and discussed.

## Chelmsford Public Meeting - 17th September 1976, 8-11 pm.

The Group's first Public Meeting, held at the British Legion Hall, Chelmsford, pleased most of the visitors who attended that evening, although it must be admitted that the programme did not go exactly as we wished, and a Speaker was unfortunately unable to attend.

The Meeting began with a slide show (of famous UFO photographs), shown together with the soundtrack of a short UFO documentary by Dr. Frank Stranges.

Our former Chairman, Mr. Roy Lake, then gave the audience an introduction to the Group, and answered one or two questions, before handing over to the Group's Technical Advisor Mr. Ron Markwick, who delivered a simplified technical paper covering much of the UFO phenomenon. Some people believed that Mr. Markwick's paper was a little too complicated, but it must be added that it is difficult to write such a paper with a view to pleasing everybody.

Following a coffee break, an open discussion continued for the remainder of the evening, with Mr. Ron Markwick attempting to answer a plethora of questions put to him by an audience who were adamant on receiving satisfactory answers!

Near the end of the Meeting a raffle was held with three UFO books as the prizes.

Just prior to adjourning the Meeting, Mr. Lake mentioned that another Meeting would be arranged in the Chelmsford area when the possibility presented itself.

Group Meeting, 18th October 1976 8-11 pm, Harts Lane, Barking.

This Meeting was very well attended and by all accounts was the finest that the Group had ever held, despite one or two mistakes in the presented material.

Three slide shows were given, the first being a repeat of the Chelmsford Public Meeting, introductory slide show/soundtrack presentation (for members of the Dagenham area who couldn't attend).

Mr. Ron Markwick, the Group's Technical Advisor, then showed a wide display of slides of many famous UFO cases throughout the world, and briefly described them.

Following a long and very social coffee break, a slide show coupled to a soundtrack (especially recorded for this Meeting) and entitled "Moon Mysteries", was run. This was the first ever EUFOSG "production"; Mr. D. Goring providing the story, music and slides, and Mr. Ron Markwick the narration.

Unfortunately, a date for the next Meeting of the Group could not be given then, as one had not been reserved in time, although a date would be given in the next (this) Journal. The Meeting was then adjourned.

General News

Recently there have been a number of resignations and appointments to the EUFOSG's Committee. Mr. Roy Lake has resigned as Chairman, Mr. Ron Rider as Vice-Chairman, and Mr. Christopher King as Paranormal Investigator. Mrs. Jean Easton is now the Membership Secretary.

Other news outside the Group:- The "Dagenham Paranormal Research Group", headed by Mr. Barry King, has recently been dissolved; "UFO News" edited by Mr. David Procktor, was (Spring '76) handed over to new publishers, but no new publication seems to be forthcoming; Mr. Andy Collins has resigned as BUFORA's R.I.C. for Essex, and Mr. Bob Easton has been appointed the new R.I.C.

INVESTIGATIONS:

June '76 was a peak month as far as UFO activity was concerned, with the following three months showing a gradual falling off of reports. Some interesting cases have been received from the Basildon, Chelmsford and Colchester areas, lately, with the most recent cases (mid-October) emanating from the East Dagenham area, where witnesses, at a football game saw UFO's hovering high above the ground, perhaps attracted by the bright floodlights?

Please remember that if you see a newspaper report of a UFO having been seen, please inform us, and if possible send us the clipping with the name and date of issue of the newspaper. Alternatively, if you happen to hear of a sighting yourself, this is even better, and please inform us immediately so we can follow this up as soon as possible.

REPORT No. 1. (Case No. 1944-8/9-1)

U.F.O. inspects V-1's

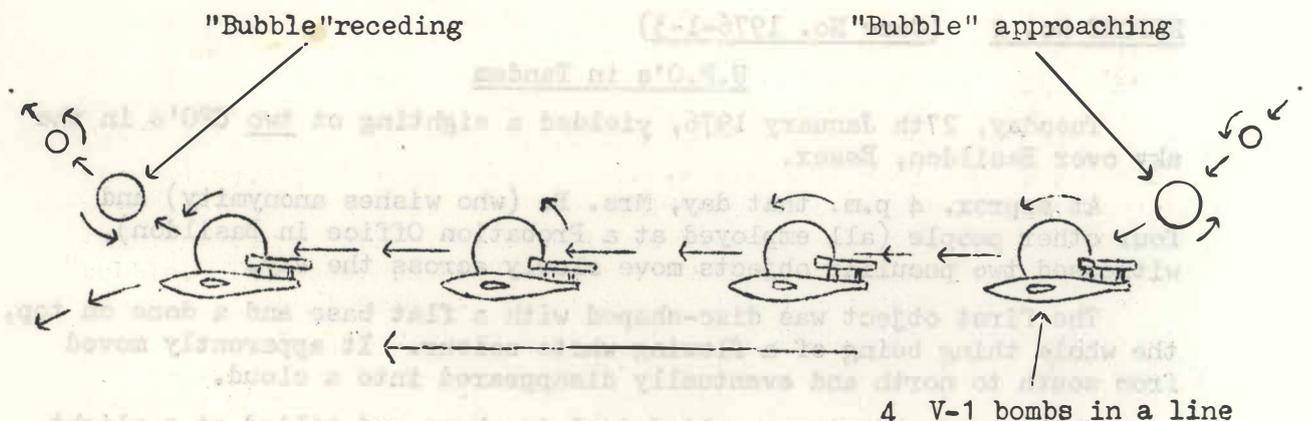
This first account of an UFO is the oldest we have on record, the witness only telling the story to her own family, as she had never heard of any UFO Groups covering the Great Baddow, Chelmsford area of Essex, until she heard about the EUFOSG.

-3-Nov '46)

The year was 1944, and World War II had been raging for five years. Mr. and Mrs. Smith, then in their early 30's, were living in a 2nd floor flatlet at 49, Elgin Avenue, Maida Vale, London.

One sunny Autumn afternoon (the exact date is forgotten, although it could well have been a Sunday in August or September), sometime between 2 and 4 p.m., Mrs. Smith, who was at home with her husband, heard the air-raid sirens begin. Rushing to the veranda, she quickly looked around the sky, but instead of seeing enemy aircraft, heard the throbbing engine noise of a "buzz bomb" (German V-1 flying bomb). Then she saw - not one, but four of them all in a line, one behind the other, (a rare sight indeed, Mrs. Smith remarked). She promptly called her husband (who hadn't seen a V-1 before), but he was taking a bath at the time and couldn't come out. It was immediately after sighting the V-1's that Mrs. Smith caught sight of a fifth object, which at first was just a speck in the Eastern sky (and at a far greater distance than the V-1's). The speck rapidly grew in size and closed on the V-1's with incredible speed. Now she could see that the object was a rapidly turning, large, spherical object, looking for all the world like a soap bubble. The "soap bubble", as Mrs. Smith affectionately called it, approached the fourth V-1 (last in the line) and decelerated to a velocity that was equal to that particular bomb. It then paced this V-1 on its far side with the lower portion of the "bubble" eclipsed by the body of the V-1. After a short while the "bubble" accelerated until it caught up with the third V-1, and then it slowed down to pace this bomb also. This sequence of manoeuvres was carried out on the second and first bombs as well.

The "bubble" had only paced the first bomb for a few seconds when the bomb's engine cut-out and it began to glide earthward. Mrs. Smith immediately sunk to the floor of the veranda and covered her ears with her hands and waited for the inevitable explosion. The "bubble" had started to move away when the V-1's engine cut-out and after the explosion Mrs. Smith looked up to see the "bubble" rapidly moving away towards the north.



It has already been stated that the "bubble" was turning. Whether it was actually rotating or not Mrs. Smith couldn't say for sure, although she described it as: "Rolling across the sky like a ball".

Additional Data

Length of time object visible: 2 minutes approx.

Estimated altitude and distance (of object and V-1's): Unknown.

Estimated velocity (when pacing V-1's): Unknown, but thought to be not very great.

Greatest apparent size: Roughly half to three-quarters the length of a V-1 in diameter.

Elevation of object when first and last seen: 30° approx.

Audible emissions: None (other than V-1's engines).

Other anomalies: The object had a hazy outline. The object presented the same colours as would an ordinary soap bubble glistening in the sunlight. Mrs. Smith commented that the surface of the "bubble" could have been metallic in colour, but she wasn't sure.

A V-1 (officially known as an FZG-76) would have had a velocity of some 400 m.p.h. (644 km/hr.) when over London, and an altitude of 2000 to 3000 ft. (610 to 914m.). The overall length of a V-1 was just over 25ft. (7.6m), and so this puts the "bubble" in the region of 12 to 19ft. (3.6 to 5.8m) in diameter.

The story of this "soap bubble" has been told many times over the last 32 years, and Mrs. Smith's son, now in his late 20's, has verified that this is certainly true. Only during the last fifteen years or so had Mrs. Smith heard of the term "UFO", a title totally unknown during the last War. At the time, and for some years afterwards, it was believed that the British Intelligence had sent up an unknown craft to inspect the V-1's at close range and while operational.

Did anyone else see this object on that Autumn afternoon in 1944? Chances are someone else did, but, of course, we are very unlikely to hear about their story.

(Credit to Mr. Doug Canning for obtaining this report, and to Mr. D.Goring and Mr. R. Easton for their investigations).

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REPORT No. 2 (Case No. 1976-1-3)

U.F.O's in Tandem

Tuesday, 27th January 1976, yielded a sighting of two UFO's in the sky over Basildon, Essex.

At approx. 4 p.m. that day, Mrs. B. (who wishes anonymity) and four other people (all employed at a Probation Office in Basildon), witnessed two peculiar objects move slowly across the sky.

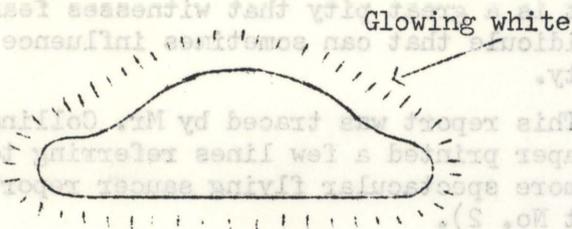
The first object was disc-shaped with a flat base and a dome on top, the whole thing being of a flowing white colour. It apparently moved from south to north and eventually disappeared into a cloud.

The second object was cylindrical in shape and tilted at a slight angle to the vertical. This object's colour was orange and it was estimated to be about half as far away as the disc-shaped UFO. This cylindrical UFO was moving away from the observers, but after a short while it made a change of direction to their right, and faded away into the distance also towards the north.

During the sighting the witnesses telephoned through to the "Basildon Recorder" newspaper offices. Personnel there immediately noted details and then they too tried to see these objects for themselves, but as luck would have it, there were large buildings in their way and they saw nothing.

Mrs. B. initially gave details quite freely to BUFORA Investigator Mr. Andy Collins when he telephoned through to her office on a number of occasions. However, a personal interview was flatly refused by Mrs. B, and after that he could not get in touch with any of the five witnesses. The drawings that follow are therefore Mr. Collins' own impressions of what they must have seen that afternoon.

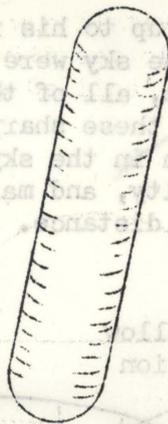
The first UFO  
witnessed by the 5 people



Additional Data (for the disc) :-

- Length of time object visible: - half an hour.
- Estimated altitude and velocity: Unknown.
- Estimated distance from observers: 2 miles (3.2 km).
- Greatest apparent size: Equivalent to a 5p coin held at arm's length.
- Object first seen in the South.
- Object last seen in the North.
- Elevation of object when first seen: 30°.
- Elevation of object when last seen: 30°.
- Audible emissions: None.
- Weather conditions: Cold, dry, with scattered cloud.
- Sunset: 16.37 G.M.T. (4.37 p.m.)
- Moon: not visible.

The second UFO  
witnessed by the 5 people



Additional Data (for the cylinder) :-

- Length of time object visible: quarter of an hour.
- Estimated altitude and velocity: Unknown.
- Estimated distance from observers: 1 mile?
- Greatest apparent size: Equivalent to a cricket ball held at arm's length.
- Object first seen in the West.
- Object last seen in the North.
- Elevation of object when first seen: 45°.
- Elevation of object when last seen : 40°.
- Audible emissions: None.

Both objects were seen through an office window situated high up above the ground, the window facing due West (approx.)

Working from the information available, the disc was in the order of 330ft. (100m.) across, and the cylinder 600ft. (183m.) long. (Note - a Jumbo Jet is 'only' 200ft. (61m.) across). These dimensions, of course, are only rough approximations, but certainly the objects must have been hundreds of feet in size.

At the time of writing, this is the only report existing alluding to these objects. Other people must have seen them, but obviously they have not come forward with their information. It is our belief that perhaps only one person in twenty reports their sighting to the newspapers.

A sighting concerning two or more objects is not common in Essex, and it is a great pity that witnesses fear (as these people no doubt did) the ridicule that can sometimes influence their important positions in society.

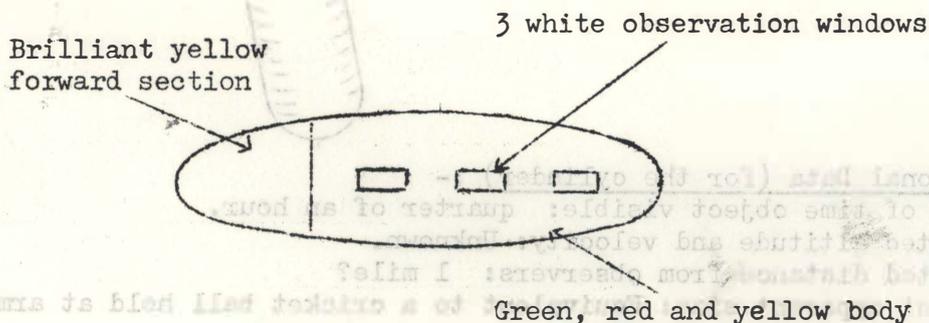
This report was traced by Mr. Collins after the "Basildon Recorder" newspaper printed a few lines referring to the case at the foot of another much more spectacular flying saucer report (see March 1976 Journal, Report No. 2).

REPORT No. 3 (Case No. 1976-6-6)

U.F.O's Illuminate Garden

On the evening of Sunday, 6th June 1976, Mr. John Poole, of Hereford Road, Colchester, Essex, was watering the flower-beds in the front garden of his bungalow. The time was between 10.15 and 10.30 pm, when he heard a throbbing noise "rather like a somewhat labouring diesel engine". This immediately made him think that an aircraft was in distress - at the same time he also noticed that his flower-beds were being quite brilliantly illuminated by something just behind the bungalow.

Mr. Poole looked up to his right and received a most hair-raising surprise. There in the sky were three cigar-shaped objects hovering side-by-side in a line, all of them displaying coloured lights. For three or four seconds these sharply outlined and very clear objects just "hung" there high in the sky - then all of a sudden they moved off with staggering velocity, and maintaining their formation, disappeared very quickly into the distance.



One of the three UFO's observed by Mr. Poole

Additional Data:

Length of time objects visible: 3 or 4 seconds.  
Estimated altitude: Unknown, but thought to be many thousands of feet.  
Estimated velocity: Witness gives Mach 3-5 (much greater than Concorde's maximum speed). Although only a vague guess, it does indicate extreme rapidity.  
Estimated distance from observer: Many thousands of feet?  
Greatest apparent size: Equivalent to a thumb extended at arm's length.  
Estimated real size: 40ft. (12m) long, (probably too small an estimate).  
Object first seen in the N.N.W.  
Object last seen in the N.N.E.  
Elevation of object when first seen: 40°. <sup>o</sup>  
Elevation of object when last seen: 20°. <sup>o</sup>  
Audible emissions: Deep throbbing.  
Weather conditions: Clear sky with excellent visibility, warm, no wind and very dry.  
Sunset: 21<sup>h</sup> 11<sup>m</sup> G.M.T. (10.11 p.m.)  
Moon: First Quarter.

The story and the technical data given above were extracted from a number of UFO report forms and a telephone call to Mr. Poole by myself (Ed.) Although the objects were only visible for a matter of seconds, the illumination of the flower-beds, and undoubtedly himself, by a white light that seemed to light up his front garden, lasted for anything up to two minutes, as Mr. Poole is such a keen gardener that nothing is allowed to interfere with his work!

As to the colours of the body of each UFO, he is vague as to exactly which part was which colour, but this is understandable as some UFO's appear a mixture of colours.

After the sighting, Mr. Poole remarked that he was seized with a strong desire to return indoors, but he carried on with his work. He also learnt that there was "an alert over the region" that night, which made him feel rather nervous considering what he had seen. It is interesting to add that he experienced for some days after the visitation, an excruciatingly sore tongue which rendered swallowing difficult. (After effects similar to this are not uncommon following a "close" UFO encounter).

Fifty-three year old Mr. Poole, a self-employed artist and gardener, who has a general interest in space matters, reported his sighting to the Colchester "Evening Gazette" newspaper, who published his story (9/6/76).

It has been said that Mr. Poole only witnessed a bright fireball! Indeed, a brilliant fireball was witnessed by many that evening (see the Fireball of 6th June 1976 report, page 11, September Journal), as it passed over southern England. However, this fireball was not the only object passing through the heavens that fine June evening.

June 1976 yielded over 2600 reports of UFO's, which were received by authoritative bodies throughout the U.K. Various coloured balls of light were seen to land in different areas - some hovering, changing direction and joining together. There were formations of different coloured lights and many reports of metallic craft-like objects meandering around the skies.

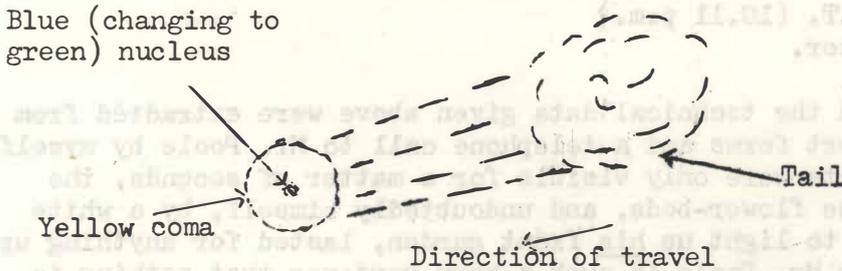
\* On 6th June, the R.A.F., police and coastguards took part in a great UFO hunt over parts of Essex and Suffolk when hundreds of people reported seeing something in the skies. In North Staffordshire a trio of UFO's were spotted hours before a "burning object" fell from the sky, but a search by police revealed nothing. These are only some of the many objects seen that night.

Was there only one fireball over England on the evening of 6th June 1976? I very much doubt it. Another sighting of the fireball of 6th June, comes from a Fellow of the Royal Astronomical Society (and Lecturer in Astronomy), Mr. Pieter Weston, of Chaney Road, Wivenhoe, (south-east of Colchester), Essex.\*

(Case No. 1976-6-10)

\*Mr. Weston was in the rear garden of his house when he spotted an incandescent object moving rapidly through the sky. The time was 21.37 U.T. (10.37 p.m.) when the object appeared and lasted for just four seconds. In those four seconds the nucleus of the fireball changed from blue to green and was surrounded by a yellow coma.

The Fireball seen by Mr. Weston



Since Mr. Weston saw this object in the south, it appears to be the same fireball that was seen by Mrs. Warne at Westcliff-on-Sea, south-east Essex. Mrs. Warne, though, saw this object in the north, and so it seems that the fireball passed directly over the land somewhere in between Westcliff-on-Sea and Colchester.

It is peculiar that so many aerial objects were seen around the country that night, and it makes one wonder if certain fireballs are used as a sort of "cover" under which bona fide UFO's can appear, and which, if seen, can easily be said to have been the fireball by the authorities. Perhaps some fireballs are not a natural phenomena at all, and could even be probes of some kind.

Editor.

(Credit to Mr. D. Goring, Mr. J. Saville, Mr. R. Easton and Mr. A. Collins (BUFORA) for these investigations.)

ANOMALIES: "UFO from Germany?" (Report No.1, Case No. 1975-7-2, September 1976 Journal).

One or two interesting developments have occurred recently concerning this case. On a recent visit to the actual site of the incident, it was found that a vehicle could in no way be parked on the grass verge as near to Gerpins Lane as the Datsun van was shown to be in the drawing. A ditch at the side of the road would have prevented this, although a car could be parked some 75 yards (68m) before Gerpins Lane on the grass verge. Also, along this particular stretch of Warwick Lane, there are no trees or large hedgerows. Although these facts do not really damage the validity of the story, what was found to cause a little concern was the amount of traffic present in Warwick Lane. Unless at the time of the incident the traffic there was very much less than it is now (14 month's later), and this seems unlikely, then it would have taken a miracle for Mr. H. to have driven along this road for the necessary length of time without coming across another vehicle.

Worthy of mention is that only half a mile (0.8 km) or so from the Gerpins Lane/Warwick Lane junction, is a field where model aircraft and the like are flown. It would seem that the evidence points to a model of a flying saucer being the answer here, because of these two extra pieces of information recently obtained.

On a recent Skywatch, a gentleman who lives in the Romford, Essex, area, recalls seeing in a local newspaper, approx. one year ago, an article relating to a man who had a revolutionary type of flying saucer shaped craft. Efforts to trace the article have proved fruitless so far (anything to do with John Searl?).

In addition, a Government owned company in Northern Ireland made their own "two-stroke engine" powered, three foot model of a flying saucer shaped craft, in early 1975. Known as the "Flying Doughnut", the British Army rejected an option to buy it, but the United States military seemed quite interested in purchasing the model for use as a spy-camera. No-one knows, though, where the craft was tested, but it is believed that the craft must have been tested in England somewhere, as civil unrest in Ireland would have prevented its testing there. Could this be the "flying saucer" that Mr. H. saw in July '75?

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"UFOLOGY IN 1976" by Miss Jenny Randles (NUFON - Northern UFO Network)

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Giving such a broad title to such a short piece might be viewed as somewhat risky. Obviously, one cannot hope to cover the whole range of 'ufology' in a few lines. Nevertheless, there are clear indications of the way that things need to go in the future, and signs in 1976 that they are beginning to go that way.

There are many types of people involved in UFO's. Some take an esoteric view and find it developing a religious significance. Others like to read all the 'juicy' books about abductions and hostility and take in (with utter gullibility) almost everything that is mass produced on the subject. Then there are the very few who maintain an open mind and investigate and research the subject with rigid scientific scruples. It is sad to say that these are very much in the minority - and consequently it is small wonder that Ufology is often misrepresented by the media.

The formation of a local UFO Group can help this situation - but on the other hand it can work adversely. It really depends on what the Group sets out to do. For example there are Groups who exist simply to 'sell' a magazine (which invariably contains false information or sensationalised rubbish - otherwise it would not sell). There are Groups who cling like leeches to one theory - most often the extra-terrestrial one - and their work, therefore, fails to encompass the true depth of the phenomenon and is often very biased in its outlook (and consequently worthless). The real crunch comes when a Group has to face up to the question "Do we exist to proliferate ourselves or to study the phenomenon?" In modern times there is a growing trend for some Groups to firmly decide upon the latter and throw overboard all attempts to secure membership 'in double figures'. It is often a very true fact that a 'Group' of two or three people working informally, if really dedicated towards the subject, does far more of a positive value to Ufology than a twenty or thirty strong one. The reason is of course simple. The latter drags in all manner of person - some peripherally interested, some into extreme aspects of Ufology. The Group's energies become dissipated, therefore, and Meetings tend to be something akin to a morning coffee break.

I am not saying that Groups of this latter nature are not needed. Indeed they are, because they help to secure the interest of the public and allow a medium for free discussion of the subject. Often this is the only way sightings reports are brought to attention. It is becoming apparent, however, that it can often be profitable in major urban areas to promote a Group of this type AND an informal Group consisting of the dedicated few working in concert. This is the way that the situation is going in parts of the north. It is the way that I would see NUFON developing in the future. This two tier level of organisation, causing those who want to, being involved in Ufology to the degree that they want to. As a preliminary to this some Groups such as UFOSIS (in Birmingham) and MUFORA (in Manchester) are 'vetting' membership and only accepting those who can show that they have something to offer to the Group in its work.

Given that the organisation of Ufology is changing what can we say about research? This has always tended to be more the prerogative of individuals who 'have an idea' and try to make it work. This is still the case. There are individuals up and down the country working on some exciting lines of approach - most notably in the field of automatic detection of the phenomenon (which has long since progressed from the magnetic field detector era). I am no scientist and I do not propose to try to explain the work involved. However, there is a place for joint research - especially in the field of data collation. An example of this is the compilation of a catalogue of historical cases in Northern England being undertaken jointly by NUFON and CONTACT, with the backing of BUFORA. Already this is proving the enormous wealth of data that does exist hidden away - and when produced this catalogue will reference many, many sightings from ancient times to the present day which might otherwise have been lost. Clearly there is a case for projects of this nature to continue. There are other regions of the country sitting waiting. However, on a large scale it can only be attempted by co-operation - or it will be inadequate in its content.

A further example of such a joint venture is 'project Pennine' which is a programme involving several closely related geographic groups which is analysing a 'flap' area from all its many attributes - physical, geographical, social. This allows all of the various talents - such as correlation with ley-lines - to be brought into a useful study.

On a wider scale the way ahead has to be through science. There are moves at the present time to initiate a British equivalent to Prof. Hynek's UFO Center - which would give the scientists an unrestricted atmosphere in which to conduct work of a UFO nature. Free from the drawbacks amateur Ufology has to their reputation they can utilise the work of the amateurs none the less. The idea most certainly has potential for the future - but it is doomed to failure unless we 'the amateurs' can come up with the goods for science to use - that is well documented and researched data - and plenty of it.

The final aspect in which Ufology is changing that I should like to mention is in speculation about what it really represents. A few years ago nobody would have argued against the 'visitors from space' idea. Nowadays there are many challengers, and even so there is a new realisation that much more must be involved in Ufology than lights floating about the sky. It goes much deeper, and one is almost forced to examine cases with 'psychic' attributes which would formerly have been avoided like the plague.

To summarise, I will show how my opinions have altered over the six or seven years of active interest. In truth I have never put much credence in the ETH since there are so many factors arguing against it. I do not say it is impossible. In Ufology you quickly realise that nothing is impossible (its just that we have not got round to doing it yet!) However, I tended to favour the view that UFO's were either inter-dimensional (whatever that meant) or temporal visitors. Now I find myself confronted with open evidence that the UFO phenomenon is coexistent with us - and was probably around when we were swinging in the trees. I also find that this phenomenon interferes, very subtly, in what we do. It controls the way in which we view it (by presenting itself in guises that it knows we will accept) and if one thinks about it, it controls the development of human history. (Those airship reports must have had some effect on airship designers - and I know for a fact that 'spaceship' sightings today are causing scientists to look at their possibilities) I would go so far as to say that the phenomenon also controls individuals - maybe you and I. Would we know it? The phenomenon, then, clearly has a vested interest in us. Probably, I think, because it is contemporary but in a different mode of perception. Our senses are very limited. We are not aware of the contemporary existence of this thing - normally - because it is outside our normal levels of awareness. For certain people it occasionally is not - for others it is (or its counterparts manifesting as psychic phenomena) is made obvious more frequently.

I hasten to add that this is my view and mine alone. I might be wrong. Certainly, I am convinced that 99.9% of all people - at least - are wrong about what UFO's are. Maybe we all are. Maybe we always shall be, but that does not stop our trying to find the answer.

Miss Jenny Randles,  
Secretary, NUFON.

BERMUDA TRIANGLE STRIKES AGAIN !

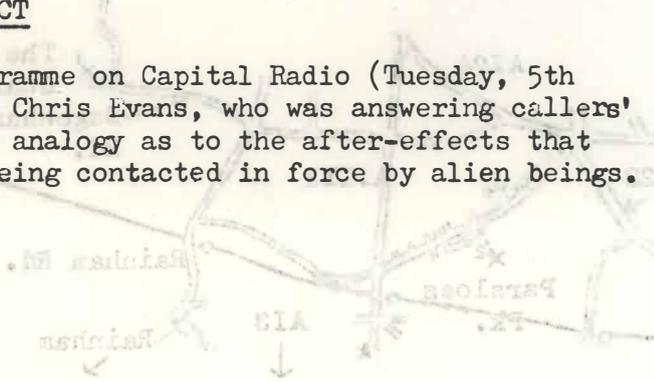
"Searchers last night held out no hope for a ship and its 37 crew missing in the notorious Bermuda Triangle. The 590 foot Panamanian freighter "Sylvia L Ossa" was carrying iron ore from Brazil to Philadelphia when she disappeared. No Mayday messages were sent. Many ships and planes have disappeared without trace in the Triangle, which is bounded by Puerto Rico, Bermuda and Norfolk, Virginia, U.S.A."

"The Sun", Tuesday, 19th October 1976.

THE AFTERMATH OF ALIEN CONTACT

During a 'phone-in programme on Capital Radio (Tuesday, 5th October 1976, 8-9 p.m.), Dr. Chris Evans, who was answering callers' questions, gave an excellent analogy as to the after-effects that mankind could expect after being contacted in force by alien beings.

skyscraper points:-  
x1 = 210 861  
x2 = 483 850



He briefly related the shattering consequences that the first Europeans had upon the Indian civilisations of North, Central and South America (and in the latter country, is still having). The difference between the Europeans and Indians in "technology" could be measured in only thousands of years.

Just imagine the incredible and far worse impact that a civilisation 1 million, 10 million, or 100 million years ahead of us would have if they openly made contact!

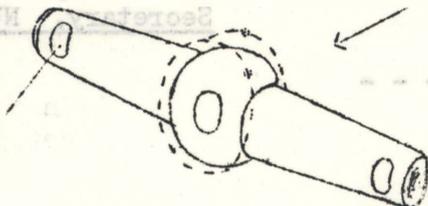
We, like the American Indians, would be totally disrupted, only much more so. Of course, this will probably never happen, as there would be no reason for them to contact us in such a way, because for them there would be nothing to gain from a civilisation so far behind.

SKYWATCHES

The Skywatch of Saturday, 21st August 1976, was undoubtedly the best that the Group had ever held. The Skywatch, at Westley Heights, Langdon Hills, Basildon, Essex, attracted well in excess of 30 people. Many strange objects have been seen near here, and the site was therefore a good place to watch from. However, nothing that exhibited any unnatural behaviour presented itself in the sky.

Skywatches have yielded UFO sightings, albeit not very often. On 11th May 1974, a fine UFO was seen from Pole Hill, Chingford, and during August 1975, two more UFO's of the lights in the sky variety were witnessed, again from Pole Hill.

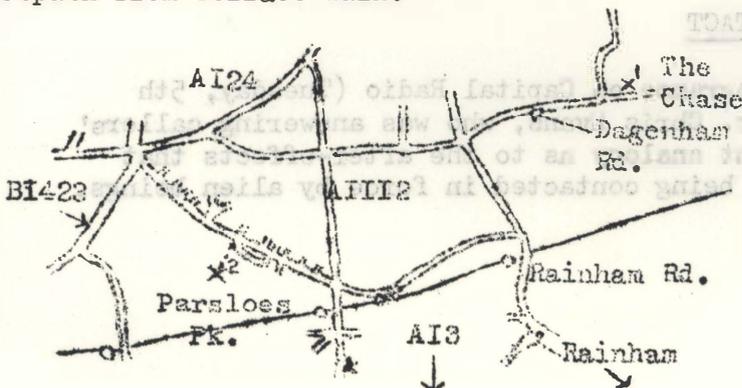
6 coloured flashing lights (3 each side)



The UFO seen (for 1/2 hour) from Pole Hill, Chingford, London, E.4., on 11th May, 1974. (Estimated size: 50ft. (15m.) across)

A further Skywatch, that of Saturday, 9th October 1976, held at Coalhouse Fort, East Tilbury, Essex, attracted over 20 people. Unfortunately, an overcast sky (undoubtedly) prevented many other people from turning up. Nothing unusual was seen.

Two more Skywatches will be held before the end of the year. The first will be in The Chase, Dagenham Road, East Dagenham (see map x1) on Saturday, 11th December 1976, at 9.00 p.m. The second will be held in Parsloes Park, Dagenham, on Saturday, 18th December 1976, at 9.00 p.m. (see map x2). Access to skywatch point in Parsloes Park via footpath from Terrace Walk.



Ordnance Survey Map Sheet 177.  
1:50000 series.  
Grid ref. of skywatch points:-

x1 = 510 861  
 x2 = 483 850

Our thanks to Mr. Doug Canning for the excellent newspaper publicity coverage of Skywatches and Meetings.

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BOOKS :

Have alien civilisations left their calling cards on Mars, its satellites, or on Jupiter's nearest Moon? Convincing evidence that this may be so can be found in "Destiny Mars" by M.W. Saunders. Postscript by Duncan Lunan. £1.00 net. Obtainable from: Downs Books, Caterham, Surrey.

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"The Devil's Triangle" by Richard Winer 70p; "Is Anyone Out there?" by J. Stoneley and A.T. Lawton 70p; "UFO's the Whole Story" by Coral and Jim Lorenzen, 80p; "Flying Saucers & The Inner Earth" by Kurt Glemser 67p; "The Men in Black Report" by Kurt Glemser 67p; "Subterranean Worlds of Planet Earth" by Gene Duplantier 68p; "More Things" by Ivan Sanderson 95p; "Worlds Beyond" by Ian Ridpath £3.40; "The Utah UFO Display" by Dr. Frank Salisbury £5.00.

Obtainable from:- Miss Susanne Stebbing,  
87 Selsea Avenue,  
Herne Bay,  
Kent. CT6 8SD.

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SPECIAL MEETING: Early in the New Year the EUFOSG hope to have the pleasure of a visit by Mr. Rex Dutta, a noted Ufologist and author, who will lecture at a special Meeting to be held in the Main Hall at Harts Lane Hall, Barking. Further details in the January Journal.

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CHELMSFORD ANNEXE: Mr. Kevin Matthews, of 41 Rothbury Road, Westlands, Chelmsford, Essex, is the elected EUFOSG Co-ordinator of this new Chelmsford Branch. Anyone living in the area who is interested in helping Mr. Matthews in this enterprise, please contact him for further details.

LETTERS :

In the last issue of the Journal, a letter received from Mr. B. Crawford, of Manor Park, E.10, was printed. Mr. Crawford enquired into the star map drawn by Betty Hill (who together with her husband Barney Hill, were abducted by alien occupants on the night of 19th September, 1961) while under post-hypnosis in 1964. This is the continuing story of the struggle by various dedicated researchers to identify the region of space that the star map supposedly depicts.

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Before we continue with Marjorie Fish and her attempt to identify Betty Hill's star map, let's look at the two other possible interpretations. These are: 1. Betty Hill's own interpretation of her original map, and 2. Charles Atterberg's map.

Unfortunately, Betty Hill's interpretation of the constellation Pegasus as being similar to her own map falls down on far too many points. That leaves us with the maps of Atterberg and Fish.

Charles Atterberg set out to identify the star map in 1966. He began by looking through a star atlas he had at hand to see if the dots coincided with stars in the constellations visible in our sky. He soon gave this idea up, though, as he reasoned that star patterns useful for navigational purposes by an interstellar space traveller would not appear the same as they do when seen from Earth. Atterberg therefore decided to seek out the answer by studying the three-dimensional (3-D) layout of all nearby stars.

Atterberg began plotting these stars on paper in the various different patterns that they would appear in when viewed from different points in outer space well away from the Sun. Untold hours were consumed in this study, but he finally detected a very similar configuration to the Betty Hill star map when viewing the stars from an indefinitely far point on the celestial equator at 17 hours Right Ascension. This was later refined to 17h.30m. R.A. and  $-10^{\circ}$  declination.

The final map bears a strong likeness to Betty's map and includes three important stars: Epsilon Indi, Epsilon Eridani and Tau Ceti - the latter two being the candidates picked for the experiment undertaken in 1960 called Project Ozma - a radio telescope search for life in the universe.

I think it worthwhile briefly mentioning Project Ozma as it contains some interesting facts. The programme was initially announced by Dr. Otto Struve, Director of the Radio Astronomy observatory. He stressed that it was vital that we should try and contact extraterrestrial civilisations by listening for their radio broadcasts, while the Director of the project itself, Dr. Frank Drake, hinted at the great benefits we could receive from advanced races.

Early in 1961, Drake and his colleagues focussed their attention on Tau Ceti, a nearby star. In less than 2 minutes, strong radio signals were heard of an intelligent nature. Shortly after the signals faded out leaving everyone flabbergasted. The discovery was kept quiet for a while, but the story leaked out - only to be quickly debunked by the Pentagon.

Suddenly Dr. Struve announced that Project Ozma had been closed. Not only that, but he took back everything he had said regarding its importance. He said that it was ridiculous to listen for alien space signals and anyway, to reply to them might prove unwise. No-one since has been able to find out what made him contradict his original announcement.

Tau Ceti on Atterberg's map is not one of the two major stars that appear on Betty Hill's map, but is one of the stars only visited occasionally. The aliens' home base (presumably indicated by the two largest circles or stars on Betty Hill's original map) on Atterberg's map is Epsilon Eridani and/or Epsilon Indi.

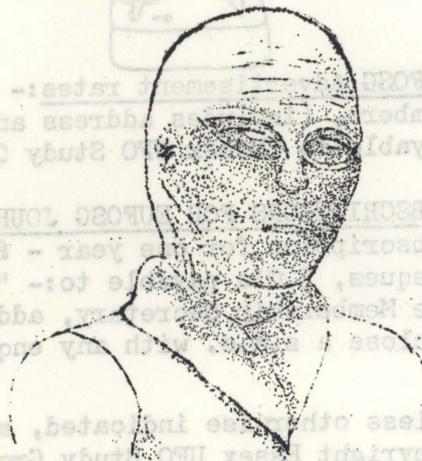
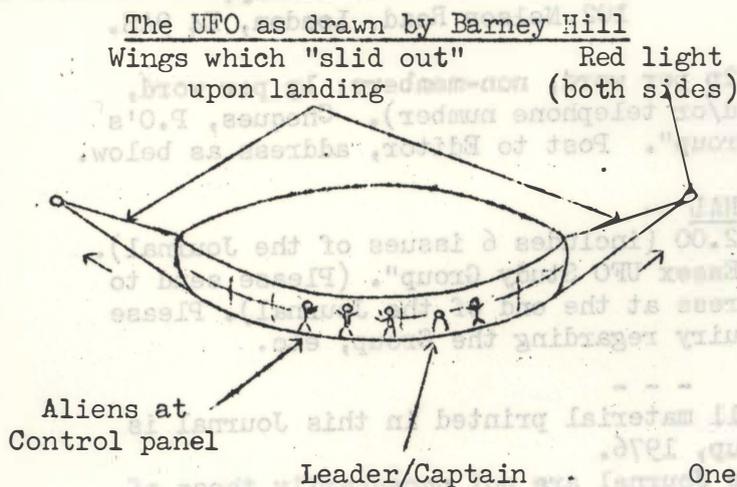
Returning now to Marjorie Fish's interpretation of the Hill map. Ms. Fish began her search in 1966, but it was two years later before she had gathered enough information to begin building 3-D models of the stars' positions in space. During 1968 she built two models - the former contained over 250 star systems, but there was no resemblance to Betty Hill's map. Her next model was different - she enlarged the volume of space and eliminated stars that were unlikely to support life bearing planets. This time a suspicious alignment presented itself, but most of the stars could not be identified - hardly surprising as there were

considerable discrepancies between star catalogues (which were the best available at the time) regarding stellar distances especially. July 1969 found nine of the stars in good agreement with Mrs. Hill's map, and others were soon found to tie in.

Still Ms. Fish worked on. Although Betty Hill's original map contained some 26 stars, only the ones joined by lines and a small triangle of stars off to the left could be said by her to have been definitely present. These 15 "definite" stars were the ones searched for by Ms. Fish. 1972 saw the map finally completed, with the help of the updated 1969 edition of the Gliese Catalogue of Nearby Stars. The home base this time is indicated as Zeta 1 and Zeta 2 Reticuli - two faint stars as seen from Earth.

The result is a marvellous piece of detective work.

There are many people who have since attacked the validity of Ms. Fish's map, but there are many who stand by her. Atterberg's map is said to resemble the Hill map the best as it "identifies" 25 of the 26 stars, but since Betty Hill is unsure about 11 of them, this statement is somewhat invalid.



One of the occupants of the UFO as reconstructed by "Universal Studios" in the making of the film after the title of the book: "Interrupted Journey".

(Above drawings are non-copyright EUFOSG).  
Continued next issue

LETTERS to the Editor are very welcome, and every letter received (for those who wish it) will be printed in this journal when space permits.

A VERTISEMENTS :

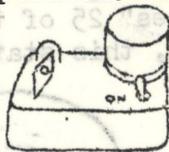
"SKYWATCH MAGAZINE" :- Have you something to say about British Ufology? Seen an UFO? Contributions always welcome. "Skywatch" includes general UFO news, letters, articles, advertisements. Published by the Manchester Aerial Phenomena Investigation team. Information sheet on request. Magazine copy 10p. Back issues available. Write to:- "Skywatch Magazine", 92 Hillcrest Road, Offerton, Stockport, Cheshire. SK2 5SE, England.

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Contact: Mr. Malcolm Jay,  
102, Nelson Road, London, E4 9AS.

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The opinions presented in this Journal are not necessarily those of the Editor of the EUFOG.

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