

EUFOSG

The Official Journal



WINTER 1978

Essex Unidentified Flying Object Study Group

A non-profit making organisation, dedicated to
the investigation of the Unidentified Flying Object phenomena

Content

Editorial page 1
 Next Group Meeting page 2
 Group Meeting 27/1/78 page 2
 Investigations page 3
 Related Mysteries? page 10
 Mystery of the Sylvia L. Ossa page 11
 Mysterious Aerial Detonations page 12
 Southern T.V's Alien Broadcaster page 14
 Odds and Ends page 19
 Stars and Planets page 21
 Letters page 22
 Advertisements page 22
 Notes on 'Earthlink' page 24

THE EUFOSG DIRECTORY

Head Office: 16 RAYDONS ROAD, DAGENHAM, ESSEX RM9 5JR.

Editor: Mr. Daniel J. Goring (Jr.), 5 Carlton Terrace,
Great Cambridge Road, London N18 1LB (01-807-6170)

General Secretary: Mrs. Gloria Saville (Head Office)

Public Relations Officer: Mr. John Saville (Head Office)
(Temporary position)

Technical Advisor: Mr. Ronald Markwick, 58 The Drive, Ilford, Essex

Field Research Equipment: Mr. John Saville (Head Office)

Treasurer: Mr. Ronald Rider, 16 Mayflower Close,
South Ockendon, Essex (700-2960)

UFO Research: Mr. D.J. Goring

Journal Production: Typing & Printing - Mr. and Mrs. J. Saville
Cover - Mr. D. Canning and Mr. T. Gough

Subscriptions: Per year U.K. £2.50 (adults), £1.75 (under 16) Single copies £0.62.
Overseas £4.00/yr. Single copies £1.00. Cheques, P.O.'s payable to
"Essex UFO Study Group". Send to the Secretary at Head Office.
(Enquiries - please enclose stamp). All prices include post & packing.

EDITORIAL : Things to come

Welcome to the first 1978 issue of the Journal. For a year it has remained very much the same, but now our magazine is undergoing a transformation. Due to a variety of reasons - mainly the time available - the Journal is now being published quarterly instead of bi-monthly. Consequently the number of pages has been increased, but the yearly subscription will remain unaltered.

This is also the last issue that will have the now, all so familiar front cover design and title of "Journal", for a new cover design and magazine name of "EARTHLINK" will be seen on our next issue due for Spring 1978. Because our publication will no longer be a true Group journal, Group affairs will be allocated their own section near the end (except for investigations). The contents, therefore, will be very similar to those you have seen in the past issues, but rearranged to comply with the new image, which will be aimed at a much wider audience.

NEXT GROUP MEETING

The Group's next meeting will be held on Friday, 7th April 1978, at 8.15pm. The venue will be Harts Lane Hall, Cowbridge Lane, Barking, Essex. Guest speaker will be Mr. J.B. Delair of CONTACT (UK), who will speak on the UFO phenomenon. Until recently, Mr. Delair was the Editor of CONTACT's journal "Awareness", and is a well-known and respected ufologist.

GROUP MEETING held Friday, 27th January, 1978.

Guest Speaker at this Meeting was internationally-known psychic consultant and medium, Gay Muir. Gay is a Psychic Consultant/Clairvoyant for the Spiritualist Association of Great Britain at their London headquarters, and also a modern wife and the mother of three children. Gay is a Spiritualist, and also believes in reincarnation, and in UFO's.

At our Meeting, she commenced her talk by telling us that as a young child she sometimes "saw" spirit people living and moving around her, and although she knew they were spirits, they looked almost as real to her as flesh and blood people. (Note: most famous mediums had these early experiences also). When she told her parents about this, she was severely reprimanded. Later, in her early teens, she became very aware of this gift and decided to consciously develop it. This she did and she has now been studying and using her ability for twenty years, and says she is still learning all the time about the spiritual world.

During our Meeting she saw a spirit person standing beside a lady in the audience, and passed on a message to the lady from the gentleman in spirit form, and the lady delightedly confirmed that the message given her was very personal and comforting.

However, Gay's purpose in giving this talk for us was to remind us that the spiritual/psychic world is very closely interlinked with our physical lives, as is the vital air we breathe but cannot see. She stressed that there is an evil side also to the psychic life, as there are many evil and dangerous souls who pass from this life into the next planes. She warned us of the very real dangers of dabbling in this for amusement, and says she is often frightened herself, but can now call upon her spirit "helpers" to strengthen and assist her. She told us of one interesting experience she had to illustrate this, which happened to her in Canada, whilst assisting the Police there with an investigation on the Ku Klux clan.

Gay and her husband, who was also present, have seen a couple of UFOs themselves, and Gay described these sightings to us - one of which was very interesting.

She described the "third eye", which we all have located in the centre of the forehead, but which remains undeveloped in most of us. This eye looks very similar to our normal eyes, but with this we can "see" psychically. Many psychics can see this eye in certain people and this can be of a different colour to the other two eyes on a person!

Gay suggested that some UFO witnesses could be seeing UFOs with their third eye, psychically, without knowing it. It is a well-known fact that in some of the most interesting sightings and contactee experiences, the people concerned are psychic by admission. This is not to say that all UFOs are psychic in origin.

Gay also told us of a fascinating experience she had a short time ago when she was in a small circle of professional mediums. They went into their usual meditation state and all related the following stories when they came out of this psychic state. One lady found herself strapped to a seat in an ultra-modern control room or power source room, with a panel of strange controls etc. in front of her and when she described these to the others present none of them had seen anything like it - even in fiction. Another lady saw a human type man, dressed in a tight-fitting one-piece suit, with a crew neck. (This is a common description of "space-men" by contactees). Another lady seemed to be inside a strange craft, and saw several different types of "beings" going about their duties. Some were creatures a few feet high (like dwarfs) and others were "human-like" in appearance and size. All the mediums present recounted having experiences of visiting a spaceship. Gay assured us that this was a fact and really happened. It seems they were all taken to visit a space-ship and crew and the lady who was strapped down, assumed she must have been a bit reluctant to go, but suffered no ill-effects and did not feel frightened at the time either.

After a social coffee-break, and book raffle, Gay answered some questions from the audience. Unfortunately, time ran out before many of our questions were answered, but we are pleased to say that Gay has offered to come back at a future date and give us an evening of clairvoyance, and to answer some more of our questions.

Ron Markwick, the Group's Technical Advisor, then spoke rather briefly - as time was short - on the space message which was broadcast illegally over Southern I.T.V. on 26/11/77. He also mentioned the strange "boom" noises heard over the east coast of the U.S.A. (see the articles further on in this issue).

Ron Rider, the Acting Chairman, then closed the Meeting.

(Meeting report by Gloria Saville)

INVESTIGATIONS

Lead-in: From November 1977 until late January 1978, we received virtually no reports from the Essex/East and North London areas. This certainly contradicted past graphs of UFO activity for the same time of year, and may be indicative of a change in the UFOs' patterns - for the Essex area anyway.

The big wave of UFOs that we've mentioned so much in the past issues was computer predicted in the U.S.A. to manifest itself most strongly near the Aral Sea in southern Russia for December 1977. Although we have no news of the outcome of this prediction, there is always an "overspill" to other parts of the world, Great Britain generally experiencing high UFO activity. Essex is noted for its higher than average number of sightings, which is why we were confident of receiving - but never really got - the reports we predicted.

Big waves of UFOs occur every five years or so and the pattern so far seems to have been: June '47, north-west U.S.A.; July '52, midwestern U.S.A.; August '57, South America; September '62, Mid-Atlantic; October '67, England; November '72, South Africa* (Note the progressive easterly movement of the phenomenon).

At this moment in time (early Feb.) there appears to be a little activity in our own county, and in the next issue it is hoped that an interesting sighting from the Chelmsford, Essex, area can be included.

Editor

*See "Ufology" Vol.2, No.1, 1976, p.27.

Report No.1 (Case No. 1977-7-12) Level B

The Spaceship of the A13

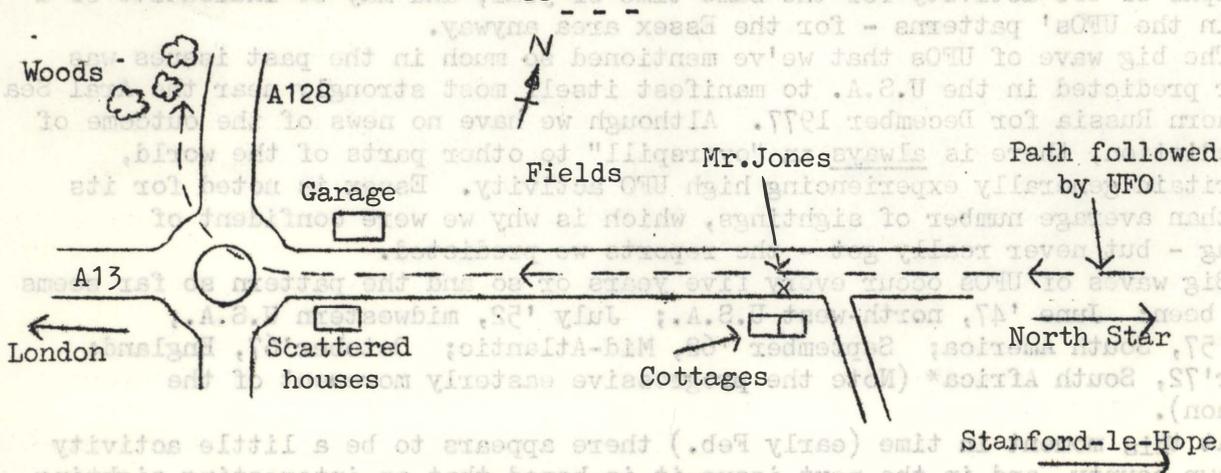
It was 2.30 a.m. on Saturday, 9th July 1977, when Mr. Paul Jones* (35), a bowling-alley mechanic, was having to push his 90 cc Honda motor-cycle along the road, for it had run out of petrol.

Mr. Jones was on his way home to his lodgings in Dagenham, Essex, after spending an evening at Southend-on-Sea's bowling-alley. He had been coming along the main A13 London to Southend road when, a mile or so past Stanford-le-Hope, the engine of his motor-cycle spluttered and cut out. Mr. Jones dismounted and tried to restart the engine, but to no avail for he didn't know that he had run out of petrol. Well, there was only one thing to do and that was to push it to the 24-hour service station that he knew was a little way up the road. To avoid being struck by a passing vehicle, though, he switched on his offside amber indicator lights, for the road isn't very wide, and although there are street lamps he wanted to make sure he'd be seen.

After a short while he felt that he'd just have to stop and smoke a cigarette. So he put the machine on its stand next to the kerb, left the indicator lights on and sat down side-saddle on the bike's seat, facing the other side of the road. After removing his safety helmet and placing this on the seat next to him, he lit a cigarette.

Apparently, he was the only person using this road at the time, for there was not one vehicle to be seen, a situation that existed throughout the whole sighting.

It was a fairly warm night and the sky was very clear with the stars shining brightly, which despite the street lamps could be seen fairly well. There were two bright stars in particular, though, that attracted his attention, these lying nearly side-by-side and about half-way up in the sky towards the east. For some reason he believed that the star on the right was the North Star (although he never did tell us why), but then he thought to himself, "Well, you can't have two North Stars," and a short while later, as he was watching them in between puffing away at his cigarette, he suddenly thought that the star to the left "moved a fraction, to the left and to the right, as though it was hovering." Then all of a sudden this "star" came tearing down out of the sky and approached the ground in an arc - like an aircraft landing. The "star" - clearly some type of craft - came along the centre of the road as though it was using it as a runway, and by the time it had reached Mr. Jones it had slowed down to no more than 35 mph (56 Km/hr.). Its height above the road was some 35ft. (10.7m.), lying just above the street lamps. From where Mr. Jones was, it couldn't have been much more than 35ft.(10.7m) from his view; one of the closest approaches that we have on record.

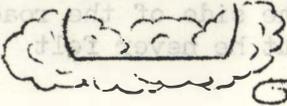


THE SIGHTING AREA
(Not to scale)

Editor

*See "Ufology" Vol. 2, No. 1, 1976, p. 27.

Without altering its velocity or height the craft passed by and followed the road down to the A13/A128 roundabout, about 1/2 mile (0.8km.) away. A garage is situated on the other side of the road just before the roundabout, and its lights were visible from where Mr. Jones was, and using these as a guide he saw that the craft gained height here, turned right and dipped down towards a forested region a little way north of the roundabout. It then disappeared in this general direction. In all, the sighting had lasted, he thought, about 10 minutes - but this was only a guess, and five minutes might be nearer the mark.



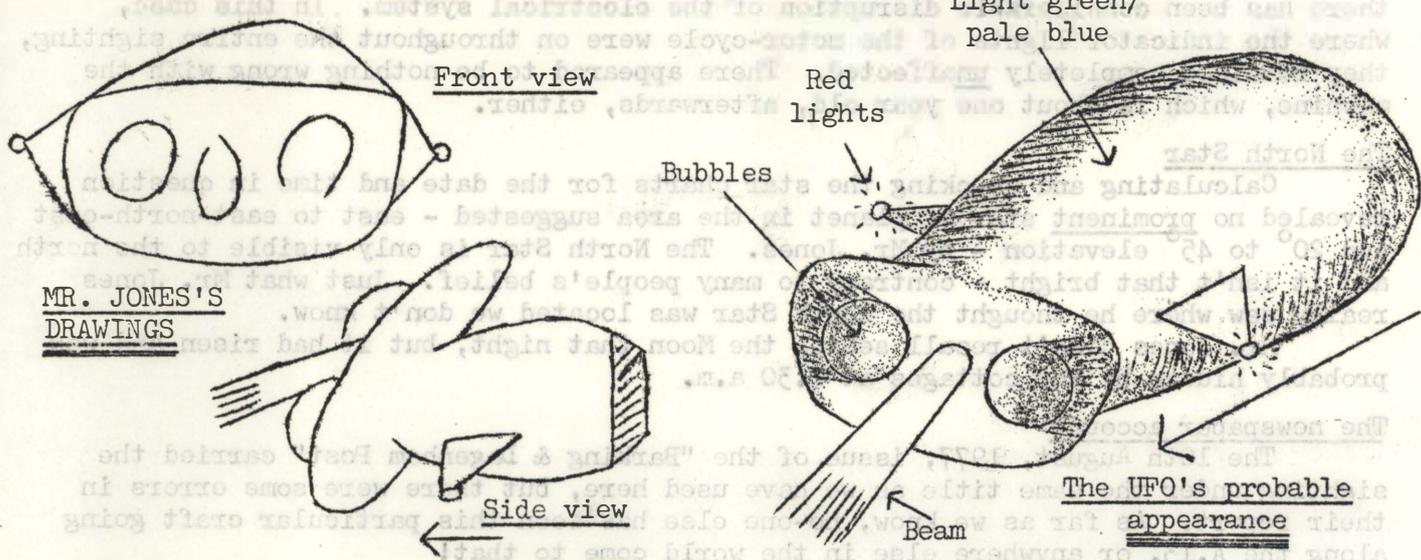
(Not to scale)



The craft lay just above the street lamps. Subsequent investigation attempts by myself (Ed.) and Mr. Saville were not quite so easy, however, and it was obvious that Mr. Jones was no longer so interested in talking about the experience, but we did see him on a few occasions.

The craft

Mr. Jones produced two sketches of the craft, one of the front and the other of the side. From these somewhat awkward-looking views, an isometric projection (a 3-D picture) was made, but with some difficulty.



MR. JONES'S DRAWINGS

As the craft approached Mr. Jones, he noticed that from the front face there was a shaft of white light projecting downwards, which he compared to a car's headlight, although the craft was too high for the light to illuminate the surroundings. Situated on each side of the light, and partially illuminated by it was a bubble-like protuberance. Mr. Jones felt sure that these were observation chambers and that he was quite possibly being observed through these by whoever was inside the machine.

The general shape of the machine was likened to that of one of the Thunderbirds craft in the T.V. series of the same name, being short and "bulky". There seemed to be two parts making up the craft, a head and body, the general colour

of these being light green or pale blue. The back end of the body was flat, as was the underside, and protruding from the sides of the body were fins, one each side, and attached to the ends of these was a red non-flashing light. The rear and underside of the craft revealed no discernible details and appeared black. It was interesting to hear that swirling all around the craft was a greyish mist, and this hampered observation of any more details. Also noticed was a swooshing, sucking noise similar to a vacuum cleaner or a hovercraft, but this was very quiet and nowhere loud enough to awaken anyone in the cottages lying near the side of the road. He also believed that the craft was riding on a cushion of air, but he never felt any rush of air. There was nothing to be smelt, either.

Sizes

Mr. Saville and myself interviewed Mr. Jones in the bowling-alley where he works, as this was the only place where he would let us see him. Amongst other things, we got him to estimate the sizes of the craft - length, width, etc. - in relation to the pillars, ceiling, etc., in the bowling-alley, as he wasn't good at estimating sizes in so many feet. If he said the length of the craft was about the same as the distance between two suitable pillars, then we estimated this distance for him. I don't feel that we're that far out using this method, and the following sizes were deduced for the strange machine.

Length: 30ft. (9.1m.) Width: 15ft. (4.6m.) Height: 10ft. (3m.)

After effects?

Mr. Jones never noticed any abnormal symptoms after the sighting, and he isn't a psychic person. He had been wearing a wind-up wrist-watch at the time of the sighting, and this was unaffected as well.

The motor-cycle

In the majority of cases where an alien craft has come near a motor vehicle there has been considerable disruption of the electrical system. In this case, where the indicator lights of the motor-cycle were on throughout the entire sighting, they remained completely unaffected. There appeared to be nothing wrong with the machine, which is about one year old, afterwards, either.

The North Star

Calculating and checking the star charts for the date and time in question revealed no prominent star or planet in the area suggested - east to east-north-east and 20° to 45° elevation - by Mr. Jones. The North Star is only visible to the north and it isn't that bright - contrary to many people's belief. Just what Mr. Jones really saw where he thought the North Star was located we don't know.

Mr. Jones didn't recall seeing the Moon that night, but it had risen and was probably hidden by the cottages at 2.30 a.m.

The newspaper account

The 10th August, 1977, issue of the "Barking & Dagenham Post" carried the sighting under the same title as we have used here, but there were some errors in their report. As far as we know, no-one else has seen this particular craft going along the A.13, or anywhere else in the world come to that!

What the Police said

It is a pity that Mr. Jones left it nearly one month before reporting his sighting to the newspaper, for the delay, we feel, damaged our chances when we visited Dagenham East Police Station to see what they had to say about Mr. Jones' report to them. We found the Officer in Charge was a little unco-operative, and would not even look through the log book to find the notes of the sighting that Mr. Jones told us had been made out while he was there. The officer certainly remembered our Report No. 2, though, and the ridicule that followed, and this is one reason, we feel, why they didn't want to get involved in any more sighting reports.

Mr. Jones' thoughts on the craft

Mr. Jones compared certain parts of the craft to those he had seen in the T.V. programmes "Thunderbirds" and "Star Trek". Some people may feel that he was making it all up using such comparisons, but this should not be considered detrimental to the case. If parts of the craft did appear to be very similar to certain parts of the craft in the T.V. programme, then these comparisons are quite valid.

What are the chances, though, that what Mr. Jones saw was really an aircraft or a helicopter? Well, he seemed to know all about these and gave good reasons why this object couldn't have been either. Further, he felt that the craft was "well advanced as far as engineering goes compared to what they've got down this end." There is no doubt in his mind then that this was a machine belonging to another civilisation. Mr. Jones has absolutely no interest in UFOs or science fiction, and is only reporting this sighting because, like so many other witnesses, he felt the need to tell someone who would take notice.

Conclusions

We didn't feel that this case was in any way a hoax, and felt that Mr. Jones was reporting the sighting as best he could.

The craft witnessed in this case is very strange looking indeed, and resembles a giant ant or similar insect. Just about every UFO seen, though, seems to have its own special shape, etc., and this aspect of the phenomena certainly poses a problem.

Surely no one civilisation could produce all the various shapes and sizes of UFO that are being seen? Can we assume, therefore, that there is virtually an infinite number of civilisations? Or is there a supreme intelligence, or intelligences, engaged in moulding these objects - perhaps out of pure energy - for some unknown purpose? The real answer, though - if we ever discover it - may well be a different one.

Finally, why did the craft come down at all and pass so close to Mr. Jones? Well, remember what we said in our last issue about a constant flashing light? I wouldn't be at all surprised if it was because of the flashing indicator lights on Mr. Jones' motor-cycle that the craft came down to see, perhaps, what was going on. Do they, the UFOs, recognise such lights as distress signals? Or do flashing lights have some other significance in the UFOs' opinions.

Inv's. S. Chuter, J. Saville, D. Goring.

Report No.2 (Case No. 1977-7-8) Level A

Police observe "UFO"

The early hours of the morning of Friday, 29th July, 1977, found Mr. and Mrs. Day (pseudonym, real name on file) journeying home in their Ford Prefect car. The Days had just attended a family reunion, and having taken home Mr. Day's sister to her home in Barkingside, Essex, they were now heading for their own home in Rush Green, Romford, Essex.

The time was about 3.00 a.m. when, at a point roughly halfway along Forest Road, Hainault, Mr. Day spotted two bright white lights in the sky over to the left-hand side of the road. He emphasised that these lights just appeared out of nowhere; one minute there was nothing, and then suddenly there they were. Mrs. Day, who was driving, also saw them, and they appeared to be motionless in an "eleven o'clock position", with respect to the car's wind-screen, and without doubt lying somewhere over the recreation grounds that abound in this particular area. The lights continued to remain in the same configuration and position relative to the car, and consisted of a very bright white light and a fainter white light to the upper left.

Well, our witnesses were naturally very curious as to what they were actually looking at. Half-a-minute later, perhaps, they reached the small roundabout where Forest Road meets Hainault Road, and it is here that the mystery really begins.

Mr. Day's drawing of the two lights

Mrs. Day was watching the road as she drove around the roundabout, but Mr. Day had the opportunity to watch the lights. By rights, the lights should have 'swung round' to the rear of the car, had they been due to satellites or celestial bodies, but they swung round to maintain their original position through the wind-screen.

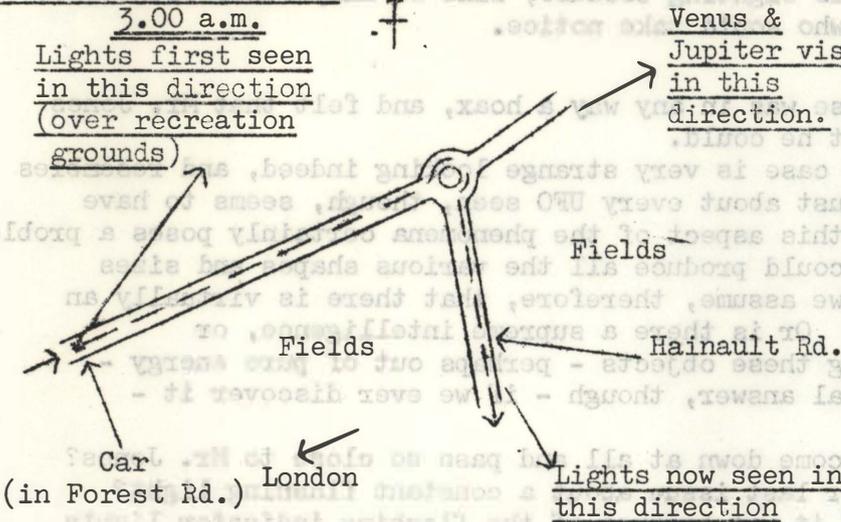
MAP of area where the lights were first seen at about

3.00 a.m.

Lights first seen in this direction (over recreation grounds)

Venus & Jupiter visible in this direction.

Mrs. Day drove on down the Hainault Road, over Eastern Avenue, down Chadwell Heath Lane and ended up stopping outside Chadwell Heath Police-Station. The lights were still visible, but now through the driver's door window and over the roof-tops of the houses on the other side of the road. Mr. Day wanted to go into the Station and report them, but his wife didn't want him to make a fool of himself. So they drove east along the High Road, turned south along Whalebone Lane South and then south-east along Rainham Road South. It was only now that they decided to go into Dagenham East



Police Station and report the lights, for they were now both convinced that the lights, which were still following them, were part of an UFO.

Mr. Day went up to the Officer in Charge, Sergeant Tulloch, and said, "I hope you're not going to think I'm nuts or something, but I've just seen an unidentified flying object, and the wife and I are quite scared by it; would you like to come outside and have a look at it?" The officer told him that it was quite alright, for they often received reports of UFOs. Going outside, the officer was quite startled to see the lights over the rooftops of the factory, "May and Baker", opposite. Mr. Day was then told to hold on for a while, for the officer had the telephone number of a man who deals with such objects.

At 3.10 a.m., Mr. Sam Chuter, an EUFOSG investigator, was alerted and told that a police-car would pick him up and take him to the police-station (about 3 miles (5 km.) away), where the witnesses would be waiting. Mr. Chuter stepped outside his own front door to meet the car, and he, too, saw the lights shining brightly towards the east!

Observing the same lights at the police-station, Mr. Chuter was unable to offer a decisive explanation for them, although he had the feeling that Venus might be the answer. Before long there were six policemen and one police-woman gazing at the lights! One officer said that he had seen the same sort of thing one month earlier, another in a black maria said that he had seen it all the way from Mitcham, Surrey, and one officer thought that Venus was the answer to the problem - or two Venus', perhaps!

At 4.30 a.m. the Days went home, the lights gradually fading by this time as dawn was breaking. Our investigator left somewhat later, and I (Ed.) received news of his adventures at 7 o'clock that morning.

The following week, newspapers in every surrounding district carried the story of the sighting in bold type headings. The story also appeared in the "Weekly News", a national paper.

Mr. Chuter, accompanied by Mr. John Saville of Head Office, visited the Days and made a tape recording of the interview. I (Ed.) also spoke to Mrs. Day after this to clear up some other points that came to light.

The findings of the EUFOSG

This sighting can really be split into two parts: the observations made up until Chadwell Heath, and those made following this.

Taking the latter part first, there is no doubt whatsoever that the lights seen from Dagenham Police-Station were, in fact, the planets Venus and Jupiter, which appeared close together in the latter parts of July and early August '77. Mr. Day gave a detailed account of the journey from Barkingside to Dagenham, giving the direction, as seen from the car, that the lights appeared in along the way. From Chadwell Heath Lane to Dagenham Police-Station, the lights were undoubtedly the two planets, but before this we are not so sure.

The initial part of the sighting

Mr. and Mrs. Day said that the lights were over to the left of Forest Road when they first saw them, (approx. N.E.), but at 3.00 a.m. the two planets were directly in line with the end of the road, and only 6 to 7 degrees above the horizon - very low indeed. Forest Road is lit along its entire length with sodium street lamps (as is Hainault Road), and when one is driving along this road with dipped headlights (as the Day's were), these bright planets would have been difficult to see or unimpressive to say the least. Even allowing $\frac{1}{4}$ hour either way would not alter the situation much, and therefore a mystery exists here. The elevation, according to Mr. Day, of the lights was some 30 to 45°, and even allowing for some error in these figures, it is far from that of the two planets.

Turning right into Hainault Road, the lights apparently swung round to the right as well, and here we are stumped. Even if the Day's were watching the two planets along Forest Road, there is no way that they could have seen them through the front wind-screen while going along Hainault Road. The sky in this direction (south) was quite barren with only one brightish star very low down, and it is unlikely that they would have even noticed this. The only problem here is the fact that although the real Venus and Jupiter would have been situated low down and to the left, they would have nevertheless easily have been visible through the near-side door window, there being very little obstructing the view along Hainault Road. There was no mention at all of the real planets, though, until they saw them from Chadwell Heath onwards, albeit unknowingly.

Well, even if the real planets weren't visible, the Moon certainly was, and this lay to their right being nearly full. Were the lights a reflection in the wind-screen? No. for Mr. Day opened the window and looked at the lights on several occasions. There was no noise discernible, either, and we think we can eliminate aircraft and the poor old helicopter here.

Weather: The Meteorological Office informed us that the sky was clear that morning, visibility was 12 km. and the temperature 11°C.

Conclusions

The Day's were so baffled with their sighting that they even built small 'models' in an effort to explain the lights' movements through the sky with reference to their moving car, but the outcome was always the same.

It appears from our investigations that we are dealing with an object that was able to imitate the appearance of the two planets that morning; any other morning and the lights would have been in a different configuration, for the planets are constantly changing their positions in the sky.

This would not be the first time that strange objects have been seen along Forest Road and the surrounding Hainault area, and this business of UFOs imitating common objects is by no means something new, either.

Other sightings

There were quite a number of objects seen in late July/early August that would fit the description of the two planets, and most investigators would have immediately logged them as such - especially those objects seen in the same vicinity as the planets. Under these circumstances UFOs can come and go as they please, knowing that natural explanation will be found for them.

Inv's. S. Chuter, J. Saville, D. Goring.

RELATED MYSTERIES? by David L. Rees.

The following item appeared in 'Skywatch No.2' October 1973:

"When we hear a light aircraft crossing the skies at night, showing its lights and sounding its engines, we take it for granted it is an aircraft. But need this be so? Perhaps it is a UFO. For one reason nobody takes second notice of this form of travel nowadays, and so aircraft are taken for granted. It would provide an ideal way for exploration or invasion by an Extra-Terrestrial Force. They could well have instruments capable of giving off sound effects beyond our ken - so why not simulate aircraft? When you look at the Stars does it ever cross your mind that one of those stationary points of light MIGHT be a UFO which arrives at dusk and leaves at dawn? Not a bad way for undetected observation."

With regard to the above it might be worth noting that John Keel has recorded in his books many cases of UNIDENTIFIED aircraft, seemingly normal in all ways but with no origin. So who knows? The same year I wrote that item, the mystery helicopter reports around Cheshire and Yorkshire began and went through into 1974 and more recently 1976. The helicopter would fly around the countryside at tree-top height and below in total darkness; it left grass in fields flattened and was not picked up on radar screens. Cheshire Police refused to give details of how often the machine had been spotted. A police spokesman commented: "The whole thing is a mystery." Besides unusual machines from nowhere we also see unusual animals. In the "Weekly News" dated 30th May, 1974, the following animal was seen on the shores of Hatchmere Lake and on the Main Road between Kingsley and Oakmere in Cheshire. (Also spotted around the back-wood paths of Delamere Forest, also in Cheshire.) It was described as being "about two feet tall with a tail like a fox and the appearance of an Alsation dog". The local residents labelled the animal the "THING". In "The Sun" of September 5th, 1974, a monster bird was featured which walked like an ostrich, flew like an eagle and had been mistaken for a horse. It stood five feet tall, had a seven foot wing-span with black and white wings. The monster bird was first seen buzzing around London's Heathrow Airport. A police spokesman said "We have no idea what it is, but I don't think it is a danger." All available men at West Drayton Police Station, Middlesex, searched for the monster bird but without success. More recently we had the Nottinghamshire Lion reports during the summer of 1976, which still remain mysterious. So where do these mysterious machines and animals that appear normal yet have no origin come from? I wish I could tell you.

Note: If you have any thoughts on these topics or have heard of any sightings, please contact the EUFOSG, or MAPIT.

David L. Rees, Manchester Aerial Phenomena Investigation Team

(See 'Advertisements' for MAPIT's address).

MYSTERY OF THE SYLVIA L. OSSA

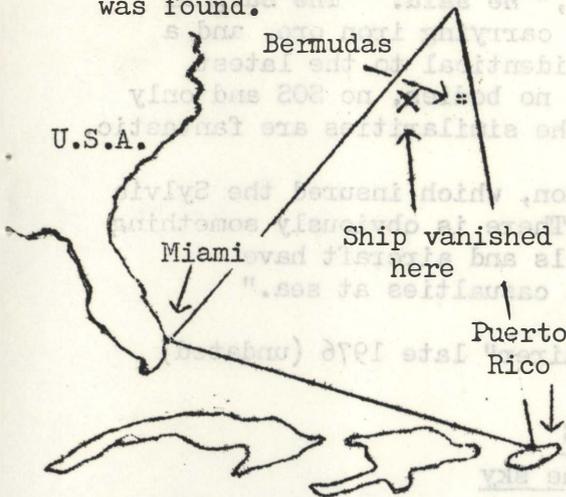
(A 1976 Bermuda Triangle disappearance)

Expert U.S. Navy and Coast Guard investigators are baffled by a bizarre new mystery in the notorious Devil's Triangle - how a huge ship with 37 crewmen suddenly disappeared.

The 590-foot-long Panamanian ship Sylvia L. Ossa was headed for Philadelphia when it vanished October 13. The Ossa's fate has mystified the experts who have ruled out all normal possibilities. Their investigation has concluded that:

- * An explosion didn't sink the ship. If it had, searchers would have found considerable wreckage scattered over a large area. Only a few pieces of debris were discovered.
- * Rough seas didn't swamp the ship. Other vessels, including a small 28-ft. sailboat, were in the area at the time of the disappearance and they all reported no danger from stormy weather.
- * The ship didn't split apart or develop a hole. If it had, there would have been plenty of time for crewmen to use one of the ship's two radios or its automatic distress signal. But no messages were ever received.

Whatever doomed the ship in the dreaded Devil's Triangle, it happened swiftly and unexpectedly. Life jackets neatly bundled together and an uninflated life raft from the ship - indicating that the crew never had time to use them - were found floating in the area days later. A single overturned lifeboat also was found.



"We don't have any explanation for the disappearance of this vessel. The circumstances are mysterious," admitted Petty Officer Dale Tuckett, spokesman for the Coast Guard Rescue Coordination Center in New York City. "First, we didn't find any bodies. It's also puzzling that no Mayday signal was transmitted. All a crewman had to do was push a button and a beeper would've started to broadcast." Cmdr. Alan Kyle, a Naval Reserve pilot who scoured the area during a five-day U.S. Navy and Coast Guard search for the Ossa, told The Enquirer: "It was as if all trace of human involvement had been wiped away. There was no sign of anything that could relate to human life at all - no survivors, no bodies, no debris that could tell us what happened. We found some life-saving equipment, but it was obvious that nobody had attempted to use it. The life jackets we found were still bundled together and a life raft hadn't even been inflated."

Map showing Bermuda or Devil's Triangle and where the ship vanished.

The Coast Guard said it has no evidence that rough seas or an explosion claimed the Sylvia L. Ossa. "We know from experience of explosions in World War 2 that wreckage is usually scattered over a large area but this wasn't the case here," said Coast Guard Petty Officer Bill McMurray. "If bad weather was involved, we would have heard from the ship by radio."

The Sylvia L. Ossa, manned by an experienced captain and crew, steamed regularly through the Devil's Triangle, carrying iron ore from Rio de Janeiro to Philadelphia. In the pre-dawn darkness at 5 a.m., October 13, Capt. W. El Bakh radioed that the Ossa was 140 miles west of Bermuda. It was the last message the Coast Guard received from the doomed ship.

Petty Officer Larry Wright said the captain reported heavy seas but made no mention of any problems. "Other ships in the area reported only a small isolated storm in the area. He had sailed through such seas many times before. Besides, a tiny 28-foot sailboat went through those same seas at the same time and arrived safely in Bermuda. Even if the freighter did break up, we don't think it would sink in less than three to five minutes. It's surprising that no radio message was sent during that time."

However, the ship's captain may have had a premonition of danger, according to Petty Officer Francis Eyre. "The day before the ship disappeared, the captain put his vessel on a computerized Coast Guard rescue service right in the middle of the voyage. This service records the speed and course of a ship so that if it gets into any difficulty we can call other ships in the area to help out. What's so strange is that I've never heard of a captain using our service in the middle of a voyage. Captains either use it or don't use it at the start of their voyage.

"Another strange thing is that we haven't found a single survivor or body. Normally after a drowning, a body will float to the surface after two or three days."

The sea tragedy has baffled not only the Navy and Coast Guard, but experts of the Devil's Triangle as well. "What is most intriguing to me is that no message was sent out. This seems to conform to the almost unbelievable pattern of ships that are victims of sudden disappearances in this area," said Charles Berlitz, author of "The Bermuda Triangle" and investigator of the Triangle for more than 30 years.

"It's just incredible. Even during the war, when ships were torpedoed, they had time enough to radio their locations."

The Sylvia L. Ossa's disappearance is a mystery that chillingly follows the fate of a similar ship that unexplainably vanished 13 years ago, said John Wallace Spencer, author of "Limbo of the Lost." "This latest tragedy bears amazing similarity to the mystery of the Marine Sulphur Queen, a tanker that disappeared in the Devil's Triangle off the Straits of Florida in 1963," he said. "The Sulphur Queen was almost the same size as the Ossa and was also carrying iron ore, and a crew of 39. The weather and sea conditions were almost identical to the latest disaster. Nothing was heard from the ship. There were no bodies, no SOS and only a minimal amount of debris, including a life jacket. The similarities are fantastic, unbelievable!"

Said Roger Lowes, a spokesman for Lloyds of London, which insured the Sylvia L. Ossa: "The loss of the ship is a complete mystery. There is obviously something to the Devil's Triangle. Over the years too many vessels and aircraft have disappeared in that area to be explained as just normal casualties at sea."

"National Enquirer" late 1976 (undated)

MYSTERIOUS AERIAL DETONATIONS

Riddle of things that go bang in the sky

A series of mysterious explosions - shattering enough to disturb furniture and crack windows - has been happening along a 500-mile stretch of the eastern United States. The atmospheric blasts, which apparently originate over the sea and defy scientific explanation, have been felt in coastal communities from South Carolina to Massachusetts. "All we have discovered, collectively, is what the bangs are not," said Mr. Ernest Jahn, a scientific investigator for the National Investigations Committee on Aerial Phenomena, an independent group of researchers based in Maryland.

"We know it is not earthquakes or anything else seismic in nature. We know it is not sonic booms from aircraft. It does not fit the airways pattern for the re-entry of man-made satellites. It does not appear to be meteorological in nature. We talked to many people in the Government and were assured that there had been no military exercises or upper-atmosphere experiments in the area. We have considered all kinds of theories but we cannot come up with a satisfactory explanation." Mr. Jahn's tentative conclusion: "It is some kind of physical phenomenon which we simply don't understand, something which could have happened in the past without being recorded."

The first booms were heard along the South Carolina and New Jersey coastline at about 10.30 a.m. on 2 December '77, followed by others at 3.45 p.m. the same day. "These were the most powerful so far as we could determine," said Mr. Jahn. "They were estimated to have an equivalent energy release of between 50 and 100 tons of TNT."

"It was a cool day with no sign of a storm, but people heard this very, very loud rumbling noise coupled with a tremor which had the same effect as a high-intensity explosion in the atmosphere. In some cases it broke windows and knocked objects from shelves." Successive explosive noises were reported on 15, 20, 22 and 24 December. On some days there were as many as five blasts, not all in the same place. The later bangs occurred further north, and although every one was heard in a wide area, they were localised to the extent that noises reported in Connecticut and Massachusetts were not heard in New Jersey. The 2 December explosions caused unusual shock waves to be recorded at Columbia University's geological observatory, just outside New York City.

One explanation which was considered, but rejected by most scientists, is that deposits of methane gas under the continental shelf or along the shore ignited in the atmosphere.

It has also been seriously suggested that beings from other planets may be responsible. But Mr. Jahn, who has investigated many of the reported sightings of unidentified flying objects, said, "I cannot see anything in the blasts that is related to that type of phenomenon."

Another suggestion - that the bangs are precursors to earthquake activity - was described as "highly unlikely" by Mr. Richard Golob, Director of the Centre for Short-lived Phenomena - an international clearing house for environmental information set up by the Smithsonian Institution. He noted that two of the explosions roughly coincided with Concorde flights and speculated that the others might have been caused by military fighter planes, despite the Pentagon's denial.

He felt that the explanation was most likely to be "a combination of different causes, coupled with some atmospheric conditions which could channel the sound to a particular area", but he added, "This is only speculation. So far we just don't have enough data."

Extracts from the "Daily Telegraph", late Dec. '77.

Credit Mr. G. Shadrake,
EUFOSG Member.

Answer to the bangs puzzle?

The mysterious bangs out in the Atlantic which have been puzzling scientists could be caused by aircraft manoeuvring at supersonic speed. The bangs have been reported by coastguards in south-west England and have also alarmed residents of the Eastern seaboard of the U.S. in the past month. Until now scientists who have studied the blasts have dismissed Concorde and other supersonic aircraft as a likely cause. But work done by scientists reporting to the Department of Trade has discovered a possible mechanism which depends on the bending of the supersonic shock wave high in the stratosphere, and the focusing of the wave by an aircraft's manoeuvres. Together the two effects produce a "secondary" boom which may be focused on a single point on the ground, producing a bang loud enough to be frightening.

Reports from Britain are scantier, but a coastguard serving in the south-west of England, Mr. Peter Baker, said last week that one explosion he had heard had been loud enough to rock his look-out.

The possible explanation given by the Department of Trade goes like this. The "primary" boom from an aircraft travelling at supersonic speed fans out in the shape of a cone, which means that some of the shock waves travel upwards away from the earth. These waves normally disappear harmlessly. But under some atmospheric conditions, which occur between late September and April, the waves can be "bent" high in the stratosphere 30 to 60 miles above the ground. The bending appears to be caused by strong winds and a reversal of the normal temperature gradient. The "secondary" booms which as a result are bent back to earth are usually mild, no more than a loud rumble. When an aircraft makes a turn at supersonic speed, however, the boom carpet inside the turn is "folded" and the secondary boom focused towards a particular point. The result is a much louder boom, local in effect.

Whether the effect is great enough to explain the American explosions is not yet clear. The scientists believe it does explain why secondary booms from the French Concorde are so much louder in Britain than they are in France. The Air France Concorde route involves a turn towards the U.K., thereby focusing its secondary boom away from France and towards the south-west of England. So the possibility exists that the series of explosions heard in the U.S. resulted from manoeuvres by Concorde or other supersonic aircraft combined with the right meteorological conditions, producing a secondary boom.

Mr. Ernest Jahn, an investigator for the Maryland-based National Investigations Committee on Aerial Phenomena, is unconvinced. He says: "According to calculations over here, an SST (Supersonic transport plane) would need to be as big as a battleship to make a boom as loud as those we have heard. Even a meteor falling through the atmosphere wouldn't have done it. These noises are in a class of their own."

Extracts from "The Observer", 8th January 1978.

Credit. Mr. M. Hands.

Comment : Mysterious bangs in the sky are by no means something new - remember all those aerial explosions that were heard over Southern England, the Channel Isles, South Wales (and Ireland) in late 1976? These were supposed to have been due to Concorde as well, but supersonic aircraft cannot be blamed for creating similar bangs before such aircraft existed - even as far back as the eighteenth century, and probably long before that. In the Channel Isles, for example, these bangs have long been known as "Les Canons des Iles". It is also a fact that even some of the old North American Indians knew about these explosions - usually in the sky - and called them the "Moodus" sounds (1). In the old days, of course, there were fewer explanations and distant cannon fire would be their best answer.

If these bangs are not caused by distant gunfire and supersonic aircraft, what else is there? Could they really be due to unknown meteorological phenomena, or are they the by-product of earthquakes? Well, there are always these possibilities, but here are a few others that we feel may be nearer the truth.

Ron Markwick, the Group's Technical Advisor, postulates that alien craft switching from one dimension to another, leave a void where they had previously existed, and nature abhorring a vacuum quickly fills this with air, the filling action creating a bang - the bigger the craft the louder the bang. Another possibility is that these bangs are indeed due to nearby cannonading, but not guns being fired during the same period of time, but instead perhaps years or even centuries before. There are many stories of recurring ghost ships, towns, people, etc., so why not recurring audible noises as well as the visuals? Or is it really UFOs which are deliberately causing these bangs just to keep us confused, or (more likely) is it something to do with their "workings"?

Editor

Ref. (1) "New Lands" by Charles Fort.

SOUTHERN T.V.'s ALIEN BROADCASTER by D.J. Goring.

Many of you will have heard of the remarkable "space message" which was superimposed over Southern Television's News programme at 5.06 p.m. on Saturday, 26th November, 1977.

The next day the News of the World contained a fair account of this very rare event.

Thousands of TV viewers were stunned last night by a broadcast claiming to be from another planet. The mysterious transmission came as Ivor Mills was reading the national news on Southern Television. It lasted for about four minutes. Mill's voice suddenly faded, and another man was heard warning that beings from outer space would take over unless the world pursued peaceful policies. The voice added: "This is Gillon representative of the Ashdown Gallactic Command speaking to you."

Worried viewers jammed the telephone lines to Southern studios. ITN promptly flashed an apology on the screen saying the mysterious interruption was being investigated. A Southern spokesman said later: "We've been flooded with calls. Our Engineers are trying to discover exactly what happened. We're assuming it was a rather sick hoax. We can't imagine how it was done, but it appears that someone must have managed to transmit a signal over ours. The equipment used would need to be fairly sophisticated and expensive."

The mystery broadcast frightened people like the Harbour family who live in Pilgrim's Way, Andover, Hampshire. Mr. Rex Harbour said: "It was a heck of a shock. I didn't know what was happening. The voice was deep and scary. My children were terrified and I was upset myself. It certainly didn't seem like a joke. If it was, it was in disgusting taste."

Another viewer, Mrs. Sheila Campbell, said at her home in Reading, Berkshire: "The voice said his people would destroy the world if we didn't stop war. And he said money would be abolished. It petrified my young son and our neighbours."

Viewer David White, 31, of Andover, said: "I assumed it was a message from outer space. It scared the wits out of me and my wife."

- - -

From the Essex area Southern T.V. is not readily receivable, and for a while we were unaware that the broadcast had taken place. However, I was fortunate to be listening that Saturday evening to LBC Radio (261 m.) where an Open Line 'phone-in programme was in progress and the message from space was being discussed. Numerous callers asked whether the broadcast could have been genuine, but David Basset, who was answering callers' questions, assured them that it was a hoax - for obviously, real alien spacemen don't exist! Some people were convinced, though, that it was genuine, and the scene was one of disbelief and bewilderment, but it certainly made a change from all the usual humdrum subjects; so much so that it formed the basis for just about all the 'phone-ins on LBC the next day!

Frightened People

As the News of the World related, and the 'phone-in programme verified, many people were sorely frightened by the message, and one woman must have felt the anxiety that these people were going through, for she 'phoned in to LBC around midday to say that she had heard from her friend in Southampton that the culprits had been apprehended. This was untrue. Anyway, the debate continued on LBC (who gave the best 'coverage' via these 'phone-ins) all through Sunday, and many people were dismayed to hear the broadcast denounced as a hoax - but there was no proof that it was. As far as I know, local T.V. never even mentioned it in their news programmes

The tape recording

LBC was very fortunate in securing a full tape recording of the space message - 5½ minutes - dropped into them by an anonymous person. This recording was played on a few occasions, but it certainly didn't sound like a TV-taped copy, but an original copy. A few people who were fortunate to have tape recorders at hand when the message came over the T.V. recorded various parts of it and played these over the radio, but they were poor reproductions for the T.V. message faded a little at times and there were background sounds from their rooms interfering. The LBC copy was perfect, however, and included not only the voice of the spaceman but the peculiar beginning and ending to the message as well. The initial sounds were an evenly spaced series of drumbeat-like noises, but with a curious metallic and reverberating tailing off to each beat. The ending lasted ½ minute or more, and sounded reminiscent to a West Indian steel band drumbeat! These latter beats were evenly spaced at first, but they gradually speeded up and finally merged into one long continuous tone. Very strange you'll agree! If we assume the message is genuine, then it seems probable that these strange sounds have a psychological purpose behind them. A number of abduction cases in the past have had a similar beginning and ending, such sounds possibly having a 'conditioning' effect upon the witnesses.

Anyway, I taped the initial part of the message itself and this was played back to those present at our Group Meeting of 27/1/78, but many found the words impossible to interpret (probably due to the lack of volume on the tape recorder). After you've listened to the tape under more suitable conditions, however, you'll find that most of the words can be picked out.

The Voice: The voice sounded rather deep and spoke rather slowly, and sounded as though it was being reverberated in addition to suffering a variation in volume, a few words spoken at minimum volume being difficult to decipher. It is as though the voice was virtually being spoken through water. There is no doubt, though, that it would be quite feasible for a recording studio to duplicate the voice.

The message itself: Since no-one had released the full space message, I wrote to Southern T.V. who replied:

"Dear Mr. Goring,

Thank you for your letter of 3rd December. If you read the SUNDAY TIMES last weekend you will have discovered that our mysterious broadcast was a student hoax. I very much regret that we have neither a recording nor transcript of it.

Yours sincerely,

Simon Theobalds,

Head of Press & Public Relations."

It seemed that the official 'lid' had been brought down on this case, and a few other avenues of approach left open to me yielded nothing.

Then, in the Jan.'78 edition of "Viewpoint Aquarius", all was revealed - the complete space message. Their interpretation of the words differs, I feel, in just two places: that of the spaceman's name and the particular command centre he is representing. I interpret his name as Gi-lon or Ki-lon, and not Gramaha, and his Organisation the Ashtar Galactic Command, not the Asta Galactic Command.

The Space Message

"This is the voice of Gramaha the representative of the Asta Galactic Command speaking to you. For many years now you have seen us as lights in the skies. We speak to you now in peace and wisdom as we have done to your brothers and sisters all over this, your planet earth. We come to warn you of the destiny of your race and your worlds so that you may communicate to your fellow beings the course you must take to avoid the disasters which threaten your worlds, and the beings on our worlds around you. This is in order that you may share in the great awakening, as the planet passes into the New Age of Aquarius. The New Age can be a time of great peace and evolution for your race, but only if your rulers are made aware of the evil forces that can overshadow their judgements.

Be still now and listen, for your chance may not come again. For many years your scientists, governments and generals have not heeded our warnings; they have continued to experiment with the evil forces of what you call nuclear energy. Atomic bombs can destroy the earth, and the beings of your sister worlds, in a moment. The wastes from atomic power systems will poison your planet for many thousands of your years to come. We, who have followed the path of evolution for far longer than you, have long since realised this - that atomic energy is always directed against life. It has no peaceful application. Its use, and research into its use, must be ceased at once, or you all risk destruction. All weapons of evil must be removed. The time of conflict is now past and the race of which you are a part may proceed to the highest planes of evolution if you show yourselves worthy to do this. You have but a short time to learn to live together, in peace and goodwill. Small groups all over the planet are learning this, and exist to pass on the light of the dawning New Age to you all. You are free to accept or reject their teachings, but only those who learn to live in peace will pass to the higher realms of spiritual evolution.

Hear now the voice of Gramaha, the representative of the Asta Galactic Command speaking to you. Be aware also that there are many false prophets and guides operating on your world. They will such your energy from you - the energy you call

money and will put it to evil ends giving you worthless dross in return. Your inner divine self will protect you from this. You must learn to be sensitive to the voice within, that can tell you what is truth, and what is confusion, chaos and untruth. Learn to listen to the voice of truth which is within you, and you will lead yourselves on to the path of evolution.

This is our message to you our dear friends. We have watched you growing for many years as you too have watched our lights in your skies. You know now that we are here, and that there are more beings on and around your earth than your scientists admit. We are deeply concerned about you and your path towards the light, and will do all we can to help you. Have no fears, seek only to know yourselves and live in harmony with the ways of your planet earth. We of the Asta Galactic Command thank you for your attention. We are now leaving the planes of your existence. May you be blessed by the supreme love and truth of the Cosmos."

From Jan.'78 issue of: "Viewpoint Aquarius",
c/o Fish Tanks Ltd.,
49 Blandford Street, London, W.1.

Hoax or not, the message is extremely well composed.

How was it done?

The Sunday Express (28th Nov.) said that "a transmitter or some kind of link into land lines was used by someone and they managed to get access to the transmitters at Rowridge and at Hannington." The Sun of Monday, 28th November, said that the Post Office had "tracked down the hoax transmission to Hannington, Hants." They had to confess, though, that they still didn't know how it had been done or who was responsible. The Daily Mail of the same day published the best report of all, and here are some extracts from this paper:

'Last night investigators from the Post Office were seeking Gillon. And if he drops his guard he is likely to be taken to the very down-to-earth Newbury magistrates' court and fined £200 under the Wireless Telegraphy Act. Gillon, who gave his name to ITN viewers amid a hollow drumming noise, struck at 6 minutes past 5 on Saturday, as newsreader Ivor Mills was beginning to read the early evening bulletin. After the initial confusion, the police, the Independent Broadcasting Authority and the Post Office agreed that Gillon has succeeded in perpetrating a splendidly elaborate hoax.

The Post Office is now trying to establish how Gillon managed to over-ride the news broadcast and put out his remarkable space message through Southern's remote transmitter at Hannington, near Newbury.

At the moment it is unclear whether Gillon had managed to break in on a television land line or whether he over-ruled the official broadcast by localised, powerful signals from his own transmitter.

A spokesman for Hampshire police said: "We had reports from Winchester that some television sets went black, and that the message was accompanied by a sort of bopping noise you associate with "Doctor Who".

The Post Office investigators are working closely with technicians from the Home Office Communications Branch. "Clearly the android must have known his onions," said one official, "I mean, you can't go addressing the air waves unless you have a fair amount of technical knowledge."

The IBA's monitoring unit, which keeps a "waking hour" check on the ultra high frequency channels used by commercial television stations did not pick up the hoax. The IBA were yesterday being secretive about the exact location of their monitoring station in case Gillon or one of his henchmen strikes again. "We don't want every transmitter freak in the Kingdom homing in on us," said the spokesman.

For the record, astronomers at the Herstmonceux, Sussex, headquarters of the Royal Observatory confirmed that no hovering space ships had been spotted in the area on Saturday night."

The Sunday Times of 4/12/77, said that students in a van using £80 worth of equipment running off a car battery sneaked up to the base of the Hannington transmitter and beamed their pirate signal into it. Even if this were so, why didn't the I.B.A.'s sophisticated monitoring systems detect this and 'switch them off'? All the T.V. systems failed to record it - and this is rather strange. "Viewpoint Aquarius" says that there were not just 2 transmitting masts over-ridden, but five! (Five lots of students in vans?!!!) Then there was the pirate radio station, Radio Jackie, operating in Sussex, which claimed that they broadcast the space message. A London Weekend programme screened one Sunday afternoon over Christmas filmed the pirates with their scanty equipment in a field, their aerial being just a wire strung around the field using the trees, etc., as supports. This was just a publicity stunt. Even if the pirates could defeat the monitoring systems, which operate in case revolutionaries, etc., break into the TV programmes, they would need considerable power to broadcast over such a large area - Reading, West London, Winchester, Oxford, Andover, Southampton - and drown the TV signal as well! In some areas, as the Daily Mail reported, the TV picture was also affected. On numerous occasions in the past, witnesses' TV pictures and sound have been affected - many times the UFO responsible being sighted some little distance from the home in question. Some witnesses have even received the full alien transmissions - a spaceman talking to them on the TV screen!

Alternatives: Even a foreign power would find it extremely difficult, if not impossible, to pull this one off - and for something as banal as this? However, there are a few other possibilities: someone working for the TV company, i.e. an inside job, or an extra-terrestrial force. Again, going back to "Viewpoint Aquarius", the radio and TV networks were advised from 'higher up' that some engineer who monitors our spy satellites had cut into Southampton ITV, and that he had now been sacked. It is peculiar that this person has not been named; one would think that whoever was responsible would have appeared in the press; someone would have found out. Even a group of TV employees would have trouble arranging such a stunt - and for 5½ minutes? (Not 4 as the papers said). Finally, although we've been told via the news media that TV transmission masts were over-ridden, there is no other proof of this. A UFO wouldn't need to use these masts - it would have its own.

As yet there is no answer to who was responsible, nor to how the broadcast was technically achieved (assuming the TV transmission masts were over-ridden). To assume that the message was genuine, though, would immediately introduce two reasons to contradict this view. To start with, why did the voice come over in such a strange and difficult to understand way, and secondly, why was it broadcast over such a relatively small area? One could argue that if the space peoples wanted to pass on an important message such as this by way of TV, then surely they would speak as clearly as possible. Then again we could say that if the voice sounded as a normal human's would, then it would be condemned by all as a hoax for certain. Who can say, though, what real alien voices sound like? In answer to the second question: too large an area might be too much for the public to accept as a hoax, and panic would result. Quite the opposite to what is intended.

Other Messages: It might be added here that messages similar to this one have been given to many contactees and mediums in the past, usually with the emphasis on banning nuclear power/weapons. Contactees have also been given quite an assortment of entity names and origins but the names "Ashtar" and "Galactic Command" have been knocking around for a long time. Usually there is a variation of some sort in the messages, which can be true, false, or a mixture. One never knows quite what to believe.

Conclusions: This is the first time to our knowledge that the "Galactic Command" - either genuine or hoaxed - has used British TV to get their message across. According to our Ron Markwick, it won't be their last attempt, either. Ron even goes so far as to say that if his life depended on a genuine or not verdict over

the space message's authenticity, he would choose the genuine alternative! If it is genuine we could indeed hear more from the Galactic Command, and, who knows, we may see them as well! Let's see the authorities explain that as students-in-a-van! After that.....

O D D S A N D E N D S

Abduction in Essex

Abduction by alien beings is not the exceptionally rare event that one might imagine. The best known example of this is probably the Betty and Barney Hill case, which took place in New Hampshire, U.S.A., in September 1961. Now comes news of another abduction, this time in our own county, to add to the steadily growing number occurring throughout the world.

Mr. X, his wife and two young children were travelling along in their car one day in 1975*, when on the road ahead of them they saw a very peculiar-looking greenish mist. They drove on into this mist but once inside the car's engine cut-out and the radio went dead. Anyway, the car came out of the other side of the 'mist' and everything returned to as it was, although it is thought that the radio was giving off smoke. Unbeknown to Mr. X and his family, a little more had taken place than they could remember. In actual fact an abduction by alien beings in a craft no doubt concealed by the mist occurred (you can get a good idea of this sort of thing if you think of the TV advert where the flying saucer hovers over the Toyota car). The reason why this family recalled nothing of the abduction, though, was because their memories were suppressed by the aliens, hypnosis being the only way to reveal these either true, or falsely-planted facts.

Nevertheless, Mr. X had at least an inkling that this mist could have been something to do with UFOs, and so in early 1977 he contacted the EUFOSG.

Let it be known that wherever this case may be published in the future, it was the Group's P.R.O., Doug Canning, who first learned of its existence. As the situation stands at present, we have no additional information to present, for an outside investigator who agreed to forward a copy of the case when complete has given it (without our knowledge) to another, bigger publication, with monetary gain in view later on. If this is the level that ufology has slumped to, well.....

*possibly 1975, and the location probably near South Ockendon, Essex.

An American scientist, "rational and conservative," declares that he is convinced of the existence of flying saucers.

The study of "flying saucers" can become a difficult task for a scientist especially if he has acquired the conviction of having found what he was looking for.

"It has completely changed my life," declared Mr. Harley Rutledge, head of the Department of Physics at the University of Missouri, a man, according to his colleagues, little inclined to exaggeration.

Mr. Rutledge, who began the study of the matter in 1973, was very sceptical when he was entrusted with an inquiry on a series of sightings of non-identified flying objects in the south-east of Missouri.

At the end of four years of research and precise observations, he found that he was obliged to admit that it was now impossible to deny the existence of UFO's.

The information gathered by Mr. Rutledge and comprising more than 700 photographic documents, is the fruit of hundreds of nights spent in the open air in fields and on hills, always in the company of other observers equipped with material consisting of telescopes, cameras and of a spectograph.

At 51, father of five children, he is putting his reputation and his career at risk and declares that there really exists something that conventional logic cannot explain.

"Now I know that they are there. What they are and from where they come, I have no way of knowing, but they exist," he assures us.

The researcher has personally witnessed 140 phenomena, which appeared either in full daytime, or at night. He qualifies at least 25 of these sightings as "incredible". Three of the most convincing sightings were made in May 1973, at two weeks interval.

The first lasted 45 seconds during which ten luminous balls appeared near the little town of Piedmont (Missouri). The two other sightings that Mr. Rutledge thinks are conclusive because he was very near the objects, took place near Farmington (Missouri) about a fortnight later.

During the night of 24th May, whilst he was with other observers, he saw an object with a luminous triangle which passed above them. Mr. Rutledge thought at first that it was a 'plane. But ulterior observations eliminated this hypothesis.

The following night he observed with his collaborators, an immense object that had passed above them nearly without being noticed. He explains that "the object had four lights: two red and two white. It was sufficiently close for me to observe certain parts with my telescope. It had a metallic exterior, and in the red lights, I could see sorts of veins."

Because of his delicate situation, the physicist hesitated to talk of these phenomena. But now he thinks he can face sarcasm and considers that it is his duty to reveal all he knows to the public. According to his colleagues, Mr. Rutledge is a lively, but rational and conservative man. "He puts himself wholeheartedly in his work," declared Mr. Ronald Fromsdorf, Dean of the Faculty of Science of the University of Missouri. "He does everything conscientiously and in a scientific way. I have no doubt in his professional integrity or in the manner in which he sees things. But he had undertaken a monumental task."

A great part of his work has been financed by subsidies from the university and by a special donation from "The St. Louis Globe-Democrat". Mr. Rutledge examines sightings made by "lay" people, but he does not take them into account in his files. He also refuses to associate with clubs of amateur UFO "hunters".

"In reality I did not ask for my present post", he says. "But now I must do my job and I think that this consists of preparing people for various possibilities."

Mr. Rutledge does not know the origin of the objects that he has observed, but he indicates that he is in possession of documents proving that these objects accomplish air acrobatics far beyond anything that a man-made 'plane could do.

"I have not only observed, night and day, strange machines and lights," he specifies, "but they appear to be guided intelligently and in function of human beings."

To the question of whether these observations frightened him, he answers, "I do not like the term "frighten"; they made me uneasy. When I came back from Piedmont after the first conclusive observations, I felt depressed during about a fortnight. But I got a lot of encouragement from the university and my family. All that has changed my life. I have practically no social life because research takes up all my time. I think that I cannot stop now. I feel I must help people to understand a little better what it is all about."

(Credit to Mr. W. Ager for article and translation) "Le Soir", December 1977.

A U.F.O. is reported to have abducted two children in Brazil
Cuiaba (Central Brazil) 22 January (A.F.P.)

It is reported in Cuiaba that two young Brazilians, Manoel Roberto and his cousin Paulo have been abducted by an unidentified flying object. According to Manoel Roberto, last Friday, whilst playing football near his home with his cousin, he saw a large luminous object appear. Frightened, the two children tried to run away, but Manoel, who was found along at Rondonopolis, 500 kilometres (312 miles) from his home, says "My cousin and I were attracted by this object." Manoel, who

cannot say where his cousin is, declared that eight little men dressed in red were inside the machine."

(Credit to Mr. W. Ager for article and translation). "Le Soir", 22/23 Jan.1978.

STARS AND PLANETS
Star Wars over Bethlehem

Such was the title of an article in the Daily Mail of 23/12/77, telling of the arguments that were taking place over the discovery of some ancient records relating to a nova, or 'new star', that is thought to have been the Star of Bethlehem. However, if you read the article in our November '77 issue, which considered every likely astronomical possibility there is to explain away the Star, you'll know that the mystery is by no means solved. Unless additional evidence relating to the Star itself and emanating from Middle Eastern countries is uncovered, there is little hope that an acceptable, scientific explanation (if one exists outside Ufology) will be forthcoming.

Editor

Beware of the planets!

There are currently some rather bright planets visible in the evening sky, which the unwary may believe to be UFOs. Jupiter, Mars and Saturn are all visible spread out over some 60° of sky from south to east. Jupiter is the brightest object, appearing like an exceptionally bright star high up in the sky, with Mars and the less bright Saturn bringing up the rear - but lower down.

These planets can generally be recognised as such because they don't appear to twinkle like the stars do. This is because they have an appreciable size to them (a small disc when seen with optical apparatus) while the stars are to all intents and purposes points of light which the unsteady atmosphere of the Earth causes to oscillate and change brightness slightly, thereby making them appear to twinkle. Stars lower down in the sky twinkle more than those higher up because they have more of the Earth's atmosphere to pass through.

For those who might like to try and spot the three planets mentioned, their colours might help. Jupiter is white with just a tinge of hellow. Mars is reddish and Saturn a dull yellow. For those with reasonable binoculars, Jupiter may well appear to have a string of 'stars' to one or both sides of it. These are its satellites, and when they are all visible will total four (the remaining nine satellites are not visible with binoculars). Mars, however, will only appear as a red blob in binoculars, and Saturn as a tiny yellow globe.

Although all planets slowly shift their positions against the background of stars, the above do not move so quickly that one would not be able to see them in very similar positions a few nights, or even a week, later, and at about the same time in the evening.

Editor

Sasquatch news

Since early September there have been 28 sightings of Sasquatch in the area around Little Eagle, South Dakota, on Standing Rock Indian Reservation. Some residents have left the hamlet from fear of encountering the beasts which have been seen lurking about. "I couldn't stand its shrieking all night," said the Rev. Angus Long Elk. "It was doing it all the time. And about two weeks ago my wife saw it at night while she was down by the river. She's been afraid ever since and wanted to leave." Tracks have been found measuring about 6 to 7 ft. between strides; and, three creatures are believed to be involved (two measuring between 6 and 9 ft. tall and a smaller specimen about 6 ft. tall). A hoaxer would be quite daring to put on

a charade for so long in this area, for many of the residents have armed themselves with rifles and have been joined by Sasquatch hunters with tranquilizer guns.

"Minneapolis Star", 28th Nov. 1977.

Credit Res Bureau Bulletin No. 27.

Note: A Sasquatch is the North American equivalent of the Abominable Snowman.

TRY READING "UFO TREK" by Warren Smith & "THE SECRET FORCES OF THE PYRAMIDS" by Warren Smith also - Published by Sphere Books, P.O. Box 11, Falmouth, Cornwall.

LETTERS

This first letter is in reply to the article: "Some thoughts on the Extra-Terrestrial Hypothesis" by Ian Ridpath, published in our last issue.

Dear Editor,

28th December 1977.

Re- Ian Ridpath (E.T.H.) Nov'77.

Whilst I agree with Ian Ridpath that the E.T.H. is far from being proven, I also believe that the hypothesis should not yet be dismissed - its implications are too far reaching.

I also agree that there are more reports of UFOs from unqualified people than from qualified people, but numerically that still means that many qualified people have seen UFOs.

Mr. Ridpath's views on our future behaviour towards other civilisations seem to me to be extreme. I believe that successors would not adhere to either of his ideas. I believe that they would be more likely to observe discreetly at first, gradually making their presence more evident up to the point where they make the planet's inhabitants fully aware of their presence. This would be far less damaging to the people, their religion and their way of life. I'm glad that it won't be Ian Ridpath's space-boots that tread on our neighbour's life-style.

As for inter-stellar travel, well who knows what they'll be doing with black holes and Einstein's theories millions of years in the future? And with that in mind, radio waves could end up positively snail-like in comparison.

In answer to the old question 'Why visit us?'; if an ant could muster the intelligence to talk it might ask 'Why pick on me to study when there are so many other life-forms in the garden?' But an ant cannot communicate on our level, so no-one who studies them tries to explain their motives to them.

I'm not saying that I agree with the E.T.H., but it most certainly has to be considered as being as feasible as any.

Yours sincerely,
Bill Eden,
Marconi Road, Chelmsford, Essex.

ADVERTISEMENTS

SKYWATCH is full of national and international UFO news, sightings, readers' letters, Group news, articles, advertisements, contributions/paper clippings are always welcome. Full credit given. Membership and subscription to MAPIT and 'Skywatch' is £2.30 (6 issues). Single copies 29p inc. postage. Back issues available. Write to: 'Skywatch', 92 Hillcrest Road, Offerton, Stockport, Cheshire, SK2 5SE.

'FORESIGHT' - A bi-monthly magazine concerned with the spiritual aspects of man's being. Do you seek a purpose to life? Meaning to the events that happen around you? Spiritual guidance in this New Age, and a general knowledge of psychic phenomena, mysticism and UFOs? We can indicate the way to this knowledge and awareness, in the true spirit of this New Aquarian Age. Single copies 15p plus 7p postage; yearly subscription 90p plus 42p postage. Apply to: FORESIGHT Organisation, 29 Beaufort Avenue, Hodge Hill, Birmingham, B34 6AD.

'RES BUREAUX BULLETIN' - A frequent Newsletter telling of UFO sightings, Fortean phenomena, world events, etc. For details of subscription rates write, enclosing one International Coupon, to: Mr. X, Box 1598, Kingston, Ontario, K7L 508, Canada.

'PULSAR' - A bi-monthly litho publication of UFOs, ghosts, leys, magic, etc. £0.37 incl. p & p. Write: PULSAR, 29 Bairstow Street, Preston, Lancs. PR1 3TN.

'SPACEQUEST' - A new bi-monthly magazine dealing with UFOs, astronomy, s-f, cinema releases, etc. Single copy: U.K. 75p/U.S.A. \$2.00 (incl. p & p). Annual sub: U.K. £4.50/U.S.A. \$13.50 (air mail). Write: SPACEQUEST, P.O. Box 400, Kings Langley, Herts, England. (Recommended)

PAGE RESEARCH LIBRARY - Publishers of a bi-monthly Fortean news and UFO (24-page) newsletter. Also a comprehensive booklist. We carry the most complete line of new, old and rare UFO & Fortean material in the field. Catalogue available on request. Sub: One year (6 issues) \$15.00 (air mail). Write: Page Research Library, Newsletter, 6708 Colgate Avenue, Cleveland, Ohio 44102, U.S.A.

ESSEX HEALERS' ASSOCIATION - The Essex Healers publish a Newsletter concerned with spiritual healing and the fine work being carried out by their many members. Write for details to: Hon. Registrar, Mr. R. Snelling, 35A Lottem Road, Canvey Island, Essex.

'DIARY OF AN ALIEN' by Richard Spencer.

Was Moses an alien? Or did he simply have contact with an alien species? How could he have known of the planet that exploded? And how did it affect the ten plagues of Egypt? Did the voice of God actually shake a whole mountain, or was there another explanation? Find out the answers to these and other perplexing mysteries by reading this work. Order now from: Mercury Publishers, 53 Rose Avenue, Worcester, WR4 9PX. (Only 50p plus 15p postage and packing - Overseas: \$2.00).

BUFORA (British Unidentified Flying Object Research Association) will be holding their 1978 Conference at the George Hotel, George Street, Nottingham, from 11.45 a.m. on Saturday, 15th April, until 6 p.m. on Sunday, 16th April. Non-members can attend either one, or both days for a series of lectures covering most of the UFO phenomenon. Further information from: The Conference Organiser, 5 The Ridgeway, Farnsfield, Newark, Notts. NG22 8DG. (Please enclose s.a.e.).

CONTACT (UK) With BUFORA, one of the largest UFO Organisations in Britain. They publish a magazine "Awareness", which is quarterly, factual and always interesting. For more information please write to the Membership Secretary, Mrs. S. Robb, 28 Lodden Avenue, Berinsfield, Oxfordshire.

Last notes on the Group's new publication

As you will have already read in this issue's Editorial, this is the last in the current series of Group journals. A number of new publications have emerged this year, and we feel that in a way we can follow suit.

"Earthlink", our new publication, will have greater appeal to the UFO interested person, but to keep up this 'appearance' in later issues will require help, that YOU can provide in the way of newspaper clippings, national and local (home and abroad), magazine articles, etc., personal sightings, back issues of other old UFO mag's and, if possible, contributions. Remember, too, your friends who may live in other lands - ask them to keep an eye open! All material used will be credited.

Write to Head Office, address on page 1. (Many thanks to those who have already sent in material; we've still to use much of this in future issues.)

Finally, in our humble opinion, we feel that "Earthlink" could prove to be a big success; please help us try and make it so.

STOP PRESS : In our last issue, for the Editorial, I wrote about the people who witness great numbers of UFOs. Re-looking through the EUFOSG files it appears that there are one or two people who have seen well in excess of those specified in the Editorial, but the number seen was only guessed. There have been a number of people who have told me about other large numbers of UFOs seen and some of those date back to the 16th century. Interestingly, and I've only just seen this, Res Bureaux Bulletin No. 29, makes reference to November's Editorial and quotes a sighting made at Robertsonville, Quebec, Canada, on 23rd January 1978, where 150 bright lights were seen flying together.

Even this is probably nowhere near the record, but numbers of UFOs seen above this would be very difficult to count with any accuracy. The best witnesses could do would be to say that there were 'hundreds' or 'thousands' of UFOs present in the sky at once. Meanwhile, here we are trying our hardest to get some people to believe that its possible for even one to exist!

Editor.

---ooo00ooo---

EUROPEAN (British) Unidentified Flying Object Research Association
will be holding their 1978 Conference at the George Hotel, George Street,
Nottingham, from 11.45 a.m. on Saturday, 11th April, until 6 p.m. on Sunday,
12th April. Non-members can attend either on both days for a series of
features covering most of the UFO phenomenon. Further information from:
The Conference Organiser, 5 The Ridgeway, Ramsgate, Kent, TN22 6QG.
(Please enclose S.A.S.).

CONTACT (UK) WITH EUROPE, one of the largest UFO organisations in Britain.
They publish a magazine "Aurora", which is quarterly, factual and always
interesting. For more information please write to the Membership Secretary,
Mrs. S. Robb, 28 Loddon Avenue, Ramsgate, Kent.