

# EARTHLINK



SPRING 1978

ARBETSGRUPPEN FOR UFOLOGI  
Earthlink is published by the

**Essex  
UFO Study Group**

A non-profit making organisation

Welcome to Earthlink! This is the first issue of what we, the Essex UFO Study Group, hope will be a magazine, every issue being dedicated to the UFO phenomenon and its many related subjects.

EARTH LINK

Volume 2

SPRING 1978

No.2.

Earthlink is a serious publication that reports on the UFO phenomenon and related subjects both home and abroad, and is published four times a year by the Essex UFO Study Group (founded 1970).

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Subscriptions:- U.K. £2.50 (adults), £1.75 (under 16) per year. Single copies 62p. Overseas £4.00/yr. Single copies £1.00. Prices include p & p. Cheques, P.O.'s, International Money Orders payable to: "Essex UFO Study Group". Please send to The Secretary at Head Office. Please always enclose a stamp with letters requiring a reply.

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## EDITORIAL

Welcome to Earthlink! This is the first issue of what we, the Essex UFO Study Group, hope will be a very successful magazine, every issue being dedicated to the UFO phenomenon and its many related subjects.

Previously a somewhat localised Group's journal, Earthlink is now a publication reaching out to those UFO-interested people who require a periodical that has more in the way of a national/worldwide image.

Although similar to recent journals in content, Earthlink has been rearranged to comply with the new image without, we feel, 'leaving behind' those people who are already local Group members, members who indeed may feel that it is a much welcomed change for the better.

The name of this new publication was chosen after countless names and combinations of names were suggested, many of the names that came to mind already being in use as magazine or book titles.

Earthlink is in a way an apt title, for it is very much on the cards that the Earth, or certain areas of the Earth, have an important part to play in the actual manifestation of UFOs. Earth, after all, is where just about all UFOs are seen (except for a few seen near the Moon, etc), and it is the Earth and all it holds that interests these objects the most, so what better a-title could we have chosen?

All this aside, no-one knows for sure just what the UFO phenomenon is all about - where they come from, why they are here and who controls them - but one thing's for certain: the whole UFO field is still wide open, and it's one subject that present day government scientists haven't got their censoring hands upon, for UFOs can be seen from virtually anywhere on Earth.

Every UFO sighting one reads about is different in its own special way and even common LITS (lights in the sky) zigzagging miles above the ground can make interesting reading. The closer sightings, of course, are more exciting - there is always a new sort of craft to read about, and, when they're seen, nearly always a different sort of occupant to feast one's mind upon. In short, this is the type of subject guaranteed to please the person with at least an open mind, i.e. you, the reader of a magazine such as Earthlink.

Editor

Note: To avoid confusion, volume and issue numbers will continue uninterrupted from previous issues.

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TEENAGE OBSERVERS ..... A CLUE? by David L. Rees,  
Manchester Aerial Phenomenon Investigation Team (MAPIT),  
publishers of SKYWATCH.

1977 certainly proved to be a busy year for UFO groups and their investigators throughout Great Britain. We experienced sightings/encounters ranging from the LITS cases (Lights in the Sky) to CEIII's (Close Encounters-3rd kind - occupants of UFOs/landings). Not since 1967 has there been such intense interest in UFOs and with the release of the US film "Close Encounters of the Third Kind" in 1978, it is hoped that this interest can be maintained. The television and media coverage was prolific and very good (I). Many sightings came to light via local TV programmes and radio 'Phone-ins'. 1977 has supplied all researchers of UFOs with a wealth of data to work on in the coming months (and years). Many of them will concentrate their efforts on various aspects of the flap, e.g. comparing 1967 to 1977 cases, locations, times, etc. It is unfortunate that only a small percentage of UFOlogists around today remember the 1967 wave. Ten years is a long time and the falling off rate in UFOlogy has always been high, groups and magazines around in 1967 have now disappeared for ever. All over Britain there must be many ex-UFO investigators from '67 that no longer wish an active interest in the subject, but who have interesting information that present day UFOlogists would find useful.

(2-Spring'78)

I myself only became active in the UFO subject in 1973, and I am sure many others have also become recently interested. One interesting point concerning UFO groups; out of the sixteen UFO groups that go to make up the Northern UFO Network, which is a liaison system for independent UFO organisations, only three can date back their formation to before 1967, these being DIGAP-1959, MUFORA-1963 and BUFORA West Yorks-1963. All the other groups began working between 1972-77. Let us hope that these new groups (MAPIT included) can stand the test of time and be around for the next flap in 1987!

One avenue of research I would like to highlight is that of the many observations by children of UFOs in 1977. One can immediately refer to the Broad Haven encounter(2) in February, but I will not go into the details as I am sure many of you will already be familiar with this case. The Ted Pratt/Joyce Bowles incident at Winchester(3) on the evening of November 14th, 1976, will be recorded in UFOlogical literature as one of Britain's most unusual cases. I ask myself: "Why have so many children and schools been witnesses/locations to alleged UFO sightings and landings?" I wish I could answer this question for you, but, of course, this is impossible. What I can do, though, is present to you the reader cases which are more than mere coincidences:-

Case No.1: This has just been investigated by MAPIT and concerns an alleged UFO landing/occupant in silver suit and beard who levitated. This encounter was witnessed by three children near and in a local primary school one Friday lunchtime in late August 1976. Also located nearby is a sewage drilling release site (4). This case allegedly took place some three months before the Winchester case (bearded humanoid), and five months before the Broad Haven cases.

Case No. 2: Pupils at Cromer Secondary School in Norfolk watched a UFO travelling fast over the sea at lunchtime on December 13th 1976. The pupils, aged about 11, said the UFO was black on top, silver underneath and looked like a flying saucer when it banked to turn(5).

Case No.3: Broad Haven case on February 4th, 1977, see (2).

Case No.4: Edenhurst School, Newcastle. Pupils spotted an object flying through the sky in a straight line between the clouds. One of the children who saw it was 9 year-old Justin Jefferson, son of school secretary Mrs. Jill Jefferson, who said: "He is convinced it wasn't an aeroplane. It was quite large but not a tremendous size. They saw it for about 15 minutes and it changed to silver and orange colours."(6)

Case No.5: Hubberston School, Milford Haven, 20 school children on the 8th Feb. reported a cigar-shaped object hovering above them during their lunchbreak. It was silver in colour and stayed for 3 or 4 minutes before it began rising behind some clouds.(7).

Case No.6: Not directly viewed by children but still worth recording, this case concerns people in the Farnworth area (nr. Bolton) scratching their heads over a mysterious red object seen hovering like a bright red ball over Cherry Tree Primary School, Highfield Road, on the 11th February. Two of the witnesses described the object as they were leaving their home: "It seemed to spark and pulse as if it was going brighter and dimmer all the time." A separate report was also received by Farnworth Police (8).

Case No.7: "A mysterious airborne spaceship spotted by nine children and their teacher" caused concern among Aviation experts. The strange object with a black dome was seen by girls playing netball at their village school in Rhos-y-bol, Anglesey, on the 16th February(9).

Case No.8: "Three boys watched transfixed as less than a mile away a strange object hovered over a school. It was one of five UFO sightings reported to police on Humberside within 48 hours." The cigar-shaped object - about 20ft. long and 3ft. high - was seen by three boys aged 13. They said, "It hovered like a grey cloud for several seconds, there was a noise like a whirlwind and it grew louder and louder before moving off." A similar object was spotted several hours later and the witness also mentioned a noise like a whirlwind (10).



References:-

- (1) The Hellicar Report - "Daily Mirror" January 31st 1977.
- (2) Flying Saucer Review, Vol.23, No 1, 1977.
- (3) " " " " Vol.22, No 5, 1976.
- (4) This incident took place in Stockport, Cheshire, and will be appearing in MAPIT's publication "SKYWATCH". Also, case submitted to F.S.R. Also see the Sunday Mirror, 20th Feb. 1977: "Going round the bend - Visitors from outer space." This report told of over 50 UFO sightings over a giant sewage works at Telford, Shropshire. Alan Knight, an investigator for BUFORA, said: "I believe most of the sightings to be genuine!"
- (5) The North Norfolk News, Dec. 17th 1976 and Aquarius Viewpoint No. 57.
- (6) Stoke-on-Trent Sentinel, 7th Feb. 1977 and Aquarius Viewpoint No. 57.
- (7) South Wales Evening Post, Western Mail - Cardiff and A.V. No. 57.
- (8) Evening News - Bolton and A.V. No. 57.
- (9) Daily Mirror, 17th Feb. 1977.
- (10) Daily Express, 28th May 1977.
- (11) Sociological Study Report on Positive Northern UFO Sightings - compiled by Mike Dean (WUFOS). July 1975.
- (12) Skylink, Vol. 3, No. 1, 1975.
- (13) See No. 11.
- (14) The Humanoids by Charles Bowen. Neville Spearman/London 1969.
- (15) Flying Saucer from Mars by Cedric Allingham. Frederick Muller Ltd. 1954.
- (16) The Scoriton Mystery by Eileen Buckle. Neville Spearman/London 1967.
- (17) Northern UFO News, June 1976.
- (18) F.S.R. Vol.22, No. 6, 1976.
- (19) Personal correspondence.
- (20) Write to: 92 Hillcrest Road, Offerton, Stockport, Cheshire, SK2 5SE, England.

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Comments by the Editor

David Rees's very interesting article certainly gives much food for thought, and I would like to mention here a few thoughts of my own.

Too many UFO sightings have been made in the vicinity of schools, lately, for there to be much doubt that this is mere coincidence, as David suggests early on in his article. For a start, just about every one of these sightings has been made during the daytime - many around midday - when UFO sightings are at a minimum compared to those made between sunset and sunrise - and these 'School visits' are still going on.

The much published Broad Haven, West Wales case, and MAPIT's yet-to-be published Case No.1, are both very notable because of their humanoid aspects, as is another case that has just come to light, for humanoids are quite rare and they are also not usually seen during the daytime.

From considering aspects such as these, it seems fairly clear that UFOs have at least a mild interest in children and their schools, an interest that has persisted for some years now.

Perhaps the intelligencies behind the UFOs are studying children as part of a pre-set programme, along with all the other things that they seem to show an interest in, i.e. military bases, airports, power stations, reservoirs, sewage works, etc., the list being quite long. Then again, one might ask: "Could there be something about children that attracts UFOs?" It may well be that there is a certain type of brain wave that young people emit as they pass through a particular phase of their lives from children to adults, and it is this wave that UFOs detect and lock onto. Concentrations of children in schools would naturally intensify these waves, thereby making schools prominent 'landmarks'.

David's article also brought to mind a letter I had received about a year ago from a woman in Chelmsford, Essex, who had noticed a number of children around the country had totally disappeared over the last few years, all of them being about 11 years of age. The implication here is obvious, but there is no real

evidence to back up her abduction supposition for thousands of people of all ages disappear every year, very many of them for reasons other than abduction by UFOs. Certainly, I wouldn't be surprised to learn that some people are permanently taken away, but boiling this down to a certain age group cannot really be accomplished.

Notes - 1. Judging by the many humanoid reports coming in lately, this isn't, perhaps, such a valid statement as it was two years or more ago.  
2. By coincidence, or, perhaps, more by design, there is a sewage works very near the Broad Haven school as well as there being one nearby in MAPIT's Case No.1.

I had never checked out the possibility before, but an area of Essex where abnormally high numbers of UFOs have been seen also turns out to have major sewage works present - Barking Creek/River Roding in East London (see Nov.'77 Journal, p.2 & pp.4-8 for comments and details on some of the sightings made around here).

Could UFOs be checking on pollution levels at these places? This is certainly a reasonable question in view of the numerous messages given to contactees regarding the dangerous pollution levels that man is creating throughout the world, pollution that in some unknown way affects the very existence of these 'other world' beings.

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### THREE HUMANIDS SEEN IN NORTHERN SWEDEN (A CEIII made on 18th October, 1977).

Kurt Nilsson (35) is the owner of a short wave radio transmitter which he has installed in his car, and in order to achieve a better communication than he was experiencing in Trehörningsjö, he drove up to the TV and Radio transmitting station that lies about 10km. to the north and is situated on a mountain known as Hemliden (which is a lonely, isolated area).

400 metres from the top of the mountain he noticed heavy radio interference, and a distant colleague with whom he was in contact could hardly hear him, although Kurt could hear his colleague clearly enough.

At 8.00pm Kurt reached the transmission station's mast, but found communications there so bad that he had to break off the radio conversation with his friend.

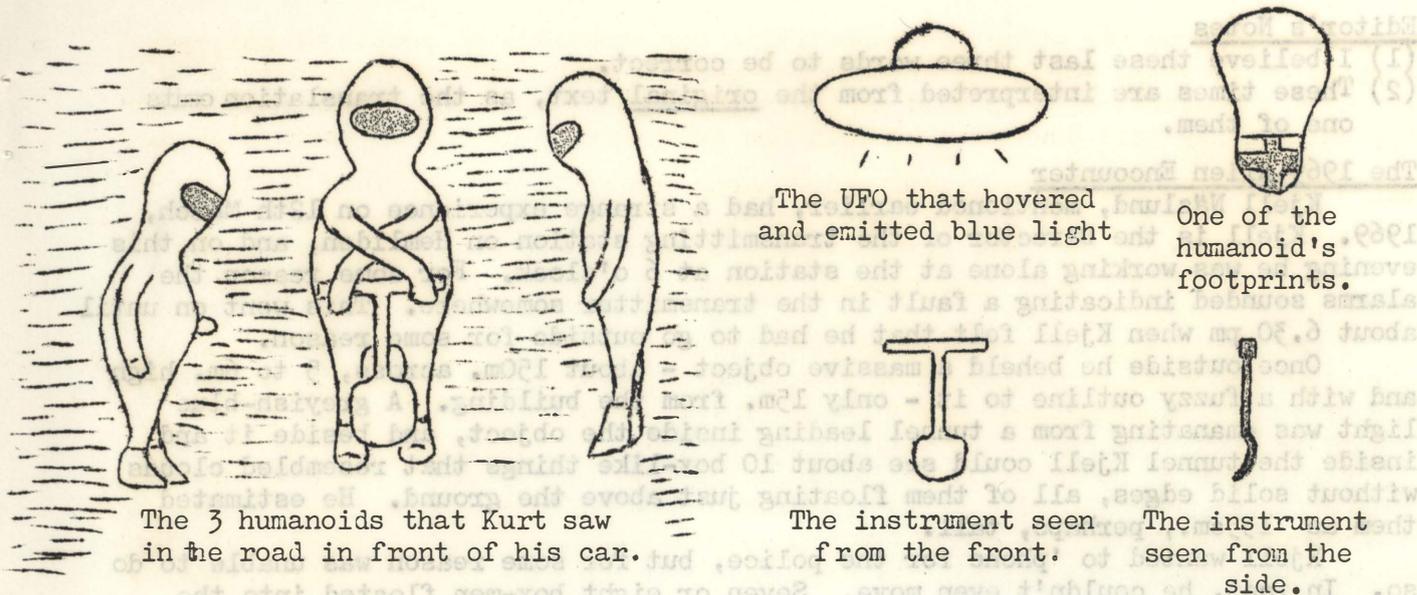
Kurt's attention was then caught by a pale blue object outlined against a hillock down in a hollow. He realised after a few moments that it was a machine with a dome, and although difficult to estimate, it was about a couple of metres in diameter. In front of the object there were three figures dressed in "spacesuits", each about one metre tall and of a greyish colour - all at a distance of a little over 100m. They could clearly be seen in the light emitted by the machine, and Kurt was so surprised that he switched on the car's headlights to see them more clearly. Everything then went "black" and the figures and the machine could no longer be seen. (Kurt explained that although the car's lights worked alright, the figures and the machine were no longer visible.) Kurt sat rooted to the spot looking at the emptiness for about one minute, after which everything again returned to as it was with the machine shining again!(1)

Kurt was really frightened now and so he began to drive away, but only 50m. on the car stopped and there in the middle of the road were the three figures - either the same ones as before, or a different team. Kurt thought they were crossing the road, but didn't know if it was he or they who stopped the car.

The figure in the middle had a spade-shaped thing in his hands, which was then turned completely around causing the figure to cross its arms, the convex side of the 'spade' now facing Kurt. At the same instant the car's lights and engine died. (Just before the figure rotated the 'spade' the other two figures had focussed their gaze on it - significant?)

It was now pitch black, and Kurt thought: "This is the end." However, he switched off the light switch and attempted to start the engine - which fired at once! Feeling greatly relieved, Kurt reversed 10m. into the darkness and then waited two minutes before turning on the headlights, which also worked. However, the little figures were nowhere to be seen, so Kurt rushed back home.

(6-Spring'78)



When he got home, Kurt told his wife, Eva, all that had happened. They then noticed that Kurt's watch was losing time: the house clock indicated 8.50pm, while his watch said 8.30 pm.(2)

Kurt is acquainted with a man named Kjell Näsrlund, who had also experienced something similar to Kurt's in 1969, and so he called him up at once. Kjell said that he had been having some bad interference on his T.V. that same evening.

It was also noticed that Kurt's dog was acting strangely for he was barking madly. Usually the dog greets him with a welcoming leap, but this evening was different. The dog finally laid down huddled up in a corner of the kitchen. He also reacted in a strange way two days later when they all went up to Hemliden mountain. The dog kept behind Kurt all the time when usually he runs and jumps all over the place. Kurt, though, was still deeply affected by the UFO experience and was stopped by a police-car on his way home from the mountain for not dipping his car's headlights when they passed him. Kurt told them he was so upset that he'd forgotten to dip them.

An on-the-spot investigation of the area by Reinhold Carleby revealed that something had happened. A birch tree had the bark removed from a part of it where the object was seen. This damage is situated about 2.8 m. above the ground, and it seems that the craft never landed and that the three (or six) figures descended to the ground in an unknown way. Some moss was missing from the area, but very puzzling was the finding of some moss that doesn't even grow in the immediate surroundings where the craft was seen, but was eventually located where the figures were seen crossing the road, i.e. they were collecting some plant specimens.

An important find was the footprints that the little figures made, these being short, relatively wide and with a heel measuring 4 cm. x 4 cm. that had a cross on it (see sketch).

Together with Kurt at the sighting point, the machine's diameter was estimated more accurately as 5 to 5.5 m. The bluish light emitted by this object only illuminated out to about 5m., the little figures which were first seen being lit up by this light. There was no noise at any time.

Kurt described the "spacesuits" as being grey and resembling plastic. The figures were wearing short white boots that fitted them as tight as gloves, and seemed to be part of their suits, which were one-piece. Their helmets were like those of astronauts with an opening at the front for the eyes.

Reinhold Carleby, the investigator, found Kurt a reliable person, as did the two policemen who stopped his car, for they know him personally!

### Editor's Notes

- (1) I believe these last three words to be correct.
- (2) These times are interpreted from the original text, as the translation omits one of them.

### The 1969 Alien Encounter

Kjell N slund, mentioned earlier, had a strange experience on 12th March, 1969. Kjell is the Director of the transmitting station on Hemliden, and on this evening he was working alone at the station at 6 o'clock. For some reason the alarms sounded indicating a fault in the transmitter somewhere. This went on until about 6.30 pm when Kjell felt that he had to go outside for some reason.

Once outside he beheld a massive object - about 150m. across, 5 to 6m. high and with a fuzzy outline to it - only 15m. from the building. A greyish-blue light was emanating from a tunnel leading inside the object, and beside it and inside the tunnel Kjell could see about 10 box-like things that resembled clouds without solid edges, all of them floating just above the ground. He estimated them as 135cm., perhaps, tall.

Kjell wanted to 'phone for the police, but for some reason was unable to do so. In fact, he couldn't even move. Seven or eight box-men floated into the station, and although they passed right next to Kjell, he couldn't touch them for he was immobilised. He had the feeling that inside these 'boxes' there were creatures and that they were protecting themselves - possibly from the environment. He also felt that he should stay calm, for his visitors were not dangerous. The box-men didn't move quickly and floated along at the same speed as a walking person.

Five to ten minutes later the creatures completed their inspection and were sucked into the tunnel which closed behind the last one. The craft then disappeared to the north.

After the craft's disappearance, Kjell was free to move again. He then called a policeman - Hans H ggblad in Treh rningsj  - who took the report seriously. However, personnel at the Sundsvall Transmitting Station only laughed at Kjell's report to them.

Reports taken from: UFO-Information, No.1, 1978, pp.4-8,  
(Swedish publication)

Translation: Roger Ersson - UFO-Sverige.

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### LATEST TRIANGLE MYSTERIES

#### Bomber vanishes in Triangle of Death

A missing U.S. bomber is the latest victim of the notorious Bermuda Triangle. It vanished from radar screens while over an area of sea where six planes have disappeared. Pilot Paul Smyth's last words were: "Wait a minute ..... we have a problem." Seconds later the U.S. aircraft carrier John F. Kennedy lost contact with the plane. A radar operator said: "It vanished with just a flash."

Ships and planes searching the triangle off the Florida coast have failed to find any traces of the KA-6 bomber or its two-man crew.

Lieu't commander Smyth's last words echo those of the lead pilot of five US Navy torpedo bombers that vanished in December 1945. They, too, were flying into the so-called Bermuda Triangle. The flight leader's last message was: "We can't tell where we are ... we can't make out anything." A rescue plane with a crew of 13, that went to look for the missing planes also vanished. There has never been any satisfactory explanation for their disappearance.

Smyth and his navigator Lieut. Richard Leonard were flying from Virginia to the John F. Kennedy which was on patrol 100 miles off the U.S. coast. What adds to the mystery is that the exact spot where the plane vanished was known and could be pin-pointed.

At the time the sky was overcast, the seas were high and there was a strong wind. The bomber had an ejection system, but the U.S. Navy said that winds and the cold ocean temperature limited the men's chance of survival. That is assuming it was a conventional accident.

Cr. Mr. G. Shadrake, Dagenham. "Evening News", 2nd March 1978.

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### THREE PLANES LOST IN U.S. 'CRASH TRIANGLE'

Military and civilian investigators were trying to determine yesterday what caused three planes to crash in the space of five days over an area of Nevada known as the "Sagebrush Triangle" north-west of Las Vegas.

Four Air-Force officers were believed to have died in two of the crashes - both involving propellor-driven C.2 Skymasters - but an off-duty officer and his son survived in the third.

The wreckage of all three planes was found on Saturday after a massive search by dozens of planes and by ground search parties over 2,000 square miles of Nevada wasteland that is named after the "Bermuda Triangle".

Cr. Mr. G. Shadrake, Dagenham. "Daily Telegraph", January 1978.

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### MYSTERY BOOMS OFF NOVA SCOTIA

#### Boom, Bang - Canada blames the Concorde

Canada has persuaded Britain and France to change Concorde's flight path to New York because the supersonic plane has been linked to mysterious Atlantic explosions. As from last Friday, Concorde will fly no closer than 45 nautical miles to the Canadian coast. It had previously been reported flying as close as 18 miles to the shore, despite a Canadian Government regulation that supersonic planes should stay at least 30 miles out. The move has been forced by a campaign from Nova Scotia residents alarmed by loud and constant booms in the atmosphere.

Although the cause of the explosions - initially reported last November off the coast of South Carolina and New Jersey - has still not been determined, there is mounting evidence for the theory (described in 'The Observer' of 8th January) that Concorde creates a kind of reflected secondary sonic boom, different and apart from the noise of it breaking the sound barrier. However, researchers here still feel that there may also be some unknown atmospheric condition which is exacerbated by the plane.

The booms heard off Nova Scotia seem to be much more frequent and disturbing than those along the eastern seaboard of the United States. They were first noticed last summer, when Concorde was regularly flying from London and Paris to Washington, but in this sparsely populated area most people dismissed the sound as thunder or local blasting. Last November, when Concorde flights to New York began, the noises intensified, frightening children and animals and causing cracked walls and shattered windows.

In her role as president of a local environmental association, Mrs. Hattie Perry, a retired schoolteacher in the village of Barrington, on the coast of southern Nova Scotia, began to gather information about the booms. Now she receives scores of telephone calls every day from people along the Nova Scotia coast who are disturbed by them. It was Mrs. Perry who discovered that Concorde had been flying only 18 miles from the coast and her crusade which pushed the Canadian Government to request the change in the plane's flight pattern. Mrs. Perry's observations indicate that the booms, which are heard in her neighbourhood several times a day, are coupled with atmospheric disturbance. 'At first we heard only explosive noises and rumbling, but now something also seems to be happening to the air waves,' she told me. 'A couple of days ago a woman in the

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(10-Spring'78)

village was sitting reading her newspaper when a boom happened. She said that the windows rattled, her whole house trembled and she experienced a sensation as though she was being lifted up from her chair. Immediately after that the bangs occurred.

Nova Scotians have reported the same phenomena noted in South Carolina and New Jersey: noises that are very loud and seem immediately overhead in some neighbourhoods but are not heard a very short distance away. 'Some say it sounds as though a car has hit the side of a house. Others think that some missile has landed on the roof. One woman, lying in bed, was terrified to see the tiles on her ceiling pull apart, then close together again,' said Mrs. Perry.

Many of the booms coincide with Concorde flights. But there are just as many which don't - and Nova Scotians have been assured that there are no other supersonic flights in the area. The Canadian Government is taking the booms so seriously that it has sent a team of environmental experts to investigate.

Cr. Mr. M. Hands. "The Observer", 19th February, 1978.

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### THE GREAT SIBERIAN COMET

Yes, it was a comet.

Two new studies have confirmed that in 1908 the Earth had its first observed collision with a comet. The comet hit the Earth in the valley of the Stony Tunguska river, 800 km northwest of Lake Baikal, Siberia, exploding with a force equivalent to a 12½ megaton bomb.

Scientists were baffled at first because expeditions to the site could find no sign of a crater, although trees had been flattened for up to 30 km around by the blast. Siberian eye-witnesses said the object appeared like a blue-white fireball, brighter than the Sun, as it descended to Earth, burning reindeer to death with its fierce heat.

Some reports spoke of strange radioactivity at the site and in the atmosphere after the blast, although these have been denied by the other researchers. One controversial theory for the so-called Tunguska event was that it was caused by the crash-landing of a nuclear-powered spaceship which burned up in the atmosphere. This idea has sparked off several recent sensational books.

But results announced during 1977 from the latest Soviet expedition have provided vital clues to the Tunguska object's true identity. Investigators from the Soviet Academy of Sciences found microscopic particles in the soil consisting of a crumbly type of rock from space known as a carbonaceous chondrite. Thousands of tons of this material are believed to be scattered around the area of the fall. Cosmic dust of similar composition has been collected from the upper atmosphere by rockets.

The Soviet astronomers conclude that the Tunguska body was a normal lump of rock from space, probably the head of a comet, which is believed to have such a crumbly carbonaceous chondrite composition. This confirms a previous suggestion about the nature of the Tunguska object (Hermes, July 1976).

The same conclusion is reached in an independent paper jointly authorised by astronomer John Brown of Glasgow University and physicist David Hughes of Sheffield University, and published in the scientific magazine Nature. They note that the comet, which was about 40 metres across, was far too small to have been seen before it hit the Earth, particularly since it was arriving at high speed from the same direction as the Sun.

Brown and Hughes show that if any associated radioactivity actually occurred, it would have been produced in the hot gas as the comet burned up in the atmosphere, creating temperatures of millions of degrees and literally turning the air blue before it shattered explosively at a height of 8 km or so. The fragments found by the Soviet scientists are all that is left of the first comet that has been observed to hit the Earth. But beware, similar objects are expected to hit the Earth every 2,000 years or so. We might not be so lucky about where the next one lands.

"Hermes", Vol.25, No.1, Jan.1978, pp.24-25.

## MYSTERY ON THE FRENCH MARSHES -

Why she can't talk about the horror on the marsh.

It was just after daybreak when attractive Claudette Souchon, 31, rode out from her farm deep in the heart of the wild Camargue marshes in southern France. Riding her favourite horse Lucky and leading a spare horse, Tommy, while her dog Spot trotted alongside, she was off on a two-day tour of her land. It was the beginning of a bizarre mystery which is baffling police. For Claudette simply disappeared somewhere in the area of about 400 square miles which is sparsely populated and mainly famous for its wild horses. Police reckon that somebody lost in the lonely marshes could wander around for days without meeting another person.

When she had not arrived back by the morning of the third day her worried mother asked neighbouring farmers to organise a search. A party of 30 mounted men rode out to try and pick up her trail. Their first discovery came a day later. Beside a copse, several miles to the north of Claudette's farm, they found her horse Lucky. It was dead and its body had been savagely ripped open. The next day the other horse, Tommy, was found a few miles further on. It bore no injuries yet was very frightened and hardly able to walk. But there was no sign of Claudette. Was she still alive. Or had whoever killed the horse also killed her and buried her body?

The police were called in and patrol cars started combing the lonely trails of the area. But it was not until the fifth day after Claudette had been due back at the ranch that they came across another strange clue. In a burned out glade they found some of Claudette's clothing... 100 miles away from her farm. The next day passed without anything being sighted. But on the afternoon of the seventh day a woman telephoned the police to say that she had seen a strange girl near Rodez. It was Claudette. The police found her just sitting on the ground, covered in mud, not moving, unable to speak and numb with shock. Her dog Spot was lying exhausted beside her. At first the police theory was that she had been attacked and raped. But after examination at the hospital, doctors declared that there were no signs that she had been physically assaulted. What could have happened to turn a beautiful and sensible young woman into a near zombie?

The police chief for the area, Commissioner Jean Dinard, said: "We have no idea what has happened to her or her horse Lucky or what frightened the other horse. But something mysterious went on out there. The wounds on the dead horse were horrific. But it was not attacked by an animal. For there are no claw or bite marks. And we do not have an explanation for the burned out glade where we found some of her clothing. She has suffered some evil and brutal shock. She was confronted with something outside her experience." This weekend Claudette is sitting in a private ward at the hospital and has still not uttered one word.

Cr. Mr. G. Shadrake, Dagenham.

"The Sunday Express", 12th March 1978.

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## CASES FROM AROUND BRITAIN -

Kidnapped - by blue aliens from a UFO

Such was the title given to an abduction story in the 14th February 1978, edition of the Daily Express, which described how a woman, who was hanging out her washing in the back garden of her house in Ermington, near Plymouth, Devon, was approached by a mysterious floating blue light and then abducted by "three beings" who were dressed in bluish metallic-like clothing. This lady said she felt the beings were friendly, and suffered no ill-effects from the experience.

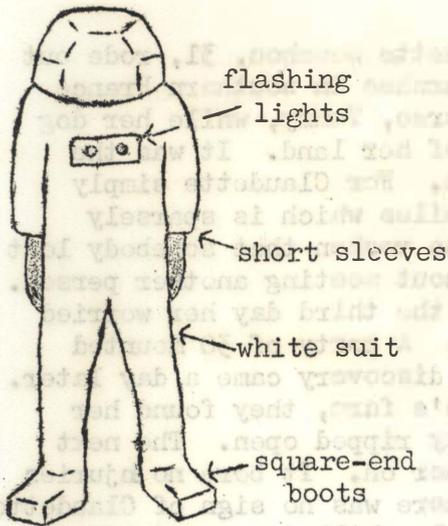
Although one may have got the impression from the paper that this case occurred recently, we are reliably informed that it took place as long ago as 1957!

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Twinkle, twinkle little UFO

Mother of three Mrs. Susan Stovoid was singing "Twinkle, twinkle little star" to three-year-old Dominic in the family car when she happened to look up

(11-Spring'78)



The monster seen near Kirkby (taken from BUFORA Journal, vol.6, No.6, March/April, 1978, front page).

into the clear night sky. And there - hovering at less than 1,000ft. - was what looked like a huge, twinkling flying saucer. "I was absolutely flabbergasted," said Mrs. Stovoid, 27, whose hairdresser husband Brian was driving in the New Forest near Fordingbridge, Hampshire. At first I didn't say a word to Brian - he has always poo-pooed any talk of UFOs. But this big stationery object in the sky was so positive I said to him, 'Look Brian, what on earth do you make of that?'"

The UFO had red and blue lights flashing around the rim. "We counted about seven lights altogether and we could see a tank-like turret on top. It looked big - about the size of an airliner as far as we could judge." The Stovoids stopped their car to have a better look. Mrs. Stovoid went on: "It remained up there above us for about 10 minutes and then began to glide away - not very quickly but steadily across the sky in a horizontal line." Soon afterwards they reported the sighting to a police officer.

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In the North, four men have told police of a 'UFO'- unidentified frightening object.

The faceless monster lurched towards them as they were driving down a lane at Kirkby. The driver later had an asthma attack. The seven-foot creature with flashing lights started off a big police hunt. Last night Merseyside police said: "We are treating the incident seriously. We established that the men were not intoxicated. It is an unexplained occurrence which could have been an elaborate practical joke or something more sinister."

One of the men, Steve Simpson, 21, said: "It was horrible - a square head and no features - and dressed in a sort of white asbestos suit. It had white boots, dark hands, and red and white flashing lights on its chest. It was just like something from a science fiction film."\*

Cr. Mr. J. Mills. "Daily Express", 4th January 1978.  
\*This sighting took place on Monday, 2nd January 1978, at 11.20 p.m. (Ref. Northern UFO News, Feb.'78, p.8.)

#### Workers are quaking in the quarry

Strange goings-on have rocked night workers at a quarry. The men now prefer to shelter inside site buildings rather than face weird happenings like:

- \* Red balls hovering around the workings,
- \* A green object crawling through stacks of blocks.

According to the men these spooky objects are UFOs. Previously none of them believed in such things. But now between one and three in the morning, especially if there is a drizzle or mist, the men do their best to stay indoors in the warm. One of the workers, Chris. Angel, 34, said, "I saw a red ball which came down from the sky and started going round the stone blocks. It made no noise at all. I've never seen anything like it."

Derek Drew, 36, who also works at the Yeomans quarry near Yeovil, Somerset, has seen two strange objects. "One of them was a red ball roughly two feet across, glowing on top of the blocks," he said. "It scared me to death. A bit later on that same night I saw a long green object moving towards me. I ran indoors out of the way."

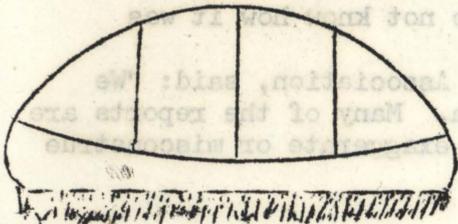
Mr. Don Yeomans, 41, sales manager of the firm, said that a couple of his workers have now refused to drive forklift trucks after one of them "decided to go where it wanted to". In the past six months five of them, all sensible chaps, have seen strange things. "This is a well-known area for UFOs. It could be to do with the Army on Salisbury Plain. All I know is my men are terrified."

Frome is becoming a tourist centre for UFO spotters. One hotelier in the area provides UFO package weekends complete with trips to likely places where a UFO might be seen. And 10 miles away are the "sighting grounds" of Warminster, Wilts. For nearly 20 years people have gone there each weekend in the hope of seeing a UFO.

"Reveille", 20th January 1978.

### Women in fear after 'saucer visit'

Two Purfleet women got the shock of their lives when they looked out over the Thames near the Kent coast last week. Two balls of fire collided and revealed an unidentified flying object.



Miss Ferguson's  
sketch of the UFO

clouds parted and revealed a large object the shape of a child's spinning top.

Miss Ferguson said: "We could clearly see windows in the side, a light at one end and what seemed like flames along the bottom. Suddenly we realised we were looking at something out-of-this-world, and fell back in fright. June got her head caught in the curtains in her excitement to get away. Then we rushed round to my brother's in Chieftain Drive to get him to look."

Miss Ferguson's brother, John, 27, a packer at Van den Berghs and Jurgens, scanned the sky carefully. "I was not able to see the details of windows and so on," he said, "But I did see a big red flashing light which was moving and stopping. It seemed to be too low for a plane. There was a strange white shadow too, but I can't describe it any more clearly than that."

Miss Ferguson wanted to phone the Police, but her brother persuaded her not to. "I didn't want her to make a fool of herself," he said. "And in any case I couldn't see what they could do. It wasn't as though there was anyone in danger."

Miss Ferguson said: "If I'd had a camera and got a picture no-one would have laughed. Now I'm nervous about telling people. I never believed in UFOs before, but now I'm convinced I've seen one." Mrs. Rees is equally sure it was something from outer space: "I even got the impression it was looking at us," she said.

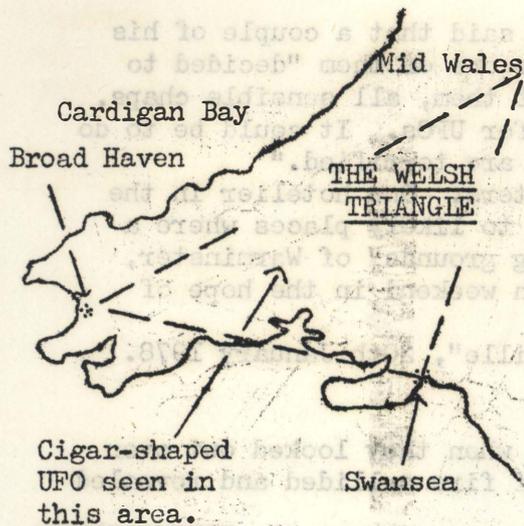
Miss Ferguson was so shaken by the experience that she was unable to sleep in her usual room facing on the river. Instead she went round to her mother's in Hall Avenue for the night. "I was so scared I just had to get away," she said. "Now I keep looking each night to see if it's there again."

Cr. Mr. R. Tomlinson,  
Stanford-le-Hope.

"Thurrock Gazette", 3rd February 1978.

### Big UFO mystery in the Welsh Triangle

Flying saucers are circling in the mysterious Welsh Triangle. And the latest "spot" has excited investigators from the British UFO Research Association.



After more than 50 positive sightings in the Triangle - formed between Swansea, Mid-Wales and Broad Haven - they regard this one as the most factual yet. It was "experienced" by company director Peter Bevan, and Elvet Dyer as they drove between Carmarthen and Newcastle Emlyn on a bright morning. Mr. Dyer said: "A huge cigar-shaped machine at least 20ft. long crossed our path 100 yards ahead. It was flying so low it would have taken the top off a double decker bus. It made no sound and we thought it was going to crash. We braced ourselves for an explosion as it passed out of sight into a field, but when we looked into the field there was nothing there at all." The two men, non-believers in UFOs, were shaken and unnerved.

Mr. Dyer said: "I have never seen any flying machine like it in my life. It had no wings, tail fins, cockpit or any protrusions. I do not know how it was flying at all."

Mr. Randall Pugh, regional investigator for the UFO Association, said: "We know there is something very strange going on in this area. Many of the reports are from intelligent, educated people who are not disposed to exaggerate or misconstrue what they have seen."

American Astronomy Professor J. Allen Hynek has called on NASA to reopen investigation of flying saucer reports. He said: "The solution to the mystery of UFOs remains one of mankind's greatest challenges."

Cr. Mr. J. Mills.

"Daily Express", 13th February, 1978.

#### UFO photographed over house



Sketch of the UFO in the photograph.

This picture was produced yesterday by Contact UK., the ever-resourceful group of enthusiasts who study Unidentified Flying Objects. Mr. Derek Mansell, a technician at Oxford University and an executive member of Contact UK., says of the flying saucer picture: "After considerable investigation we believe this to be genuine." Mr. Kevin Dudley, in his back garden in Glendon Road, Erdington, Birmingham, had managed to take several pictures of the object. His negatives had been checked, and, said Mr. Mansell, "They are not faked."

He said Mr. Dudley told them: "I didn't know just what it was I was looking at. I just pointed the camera and took the pictures. Then it moved off at a very fast speed and was out of my sight in seconds." Mr. Mansell added: "We have studied many pictures which turned out to be elaborate fakes. We are confident this is genuine."

Extracts from the "Daily Express",  
15th February, 1978.

#### The Tall Visitor

A gang of boys rushed past schoolgirls Fiona Morrison and Karen McLennan. They shouted: "A flying saucer's just landed." The boys pointed to a wood opposite the building site where the two girls were playing. Just at that moment, Karen's mother, Mrs. Caroline McLennan, was in the front garden of her home in Elgin, North-east Scotland, when she heard a loud, whirring noise. Her next-door neighbour joked: "Sounds like a flying saucer."

Fiona and Karen found the boys were right. Terrified, they stared across at a mysterious object hovering in the wood. Fiona, 10, says: "It was like a silver-coloured saucer, with a bump on top. It flashed with a reddish-orange light. It looked just like something out of Dr. Who." Karen, who is also 10, says: "There seemed to be someone standing beside it. He was tall and wore a silver suit. The figure disappeared when the saucer shot off into the sky. We were frightened. But when the saucer took off, it was as if it had been a dream. I forgot about it until the next morning when I told my Mum."

Mrs. McLennan said: "I remembered the whirring I'd heard. It was such a weird noise. A patch of grass in the wood had been flattened as if something had landed on it. The tree beside it had dry, scorched leaves."

"The Sun", 20th February, 1978.

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#### Silver giant from 'outer space'

Mr. Kenneth Edwards, 39, a service engineer, contacted police after seeing a strange 'man' near the Manchester University reactor and the British Nuclear Fuels centre, Risley, Warrington, Cheshire, late Friday night.

Mr. Edwards, of Barnes Avenue, Fernhead, Warrington, said that as he was driving along a motorway approach road he picked up an object in the car's headlights which was 7ft. tall, had a head, two arms and two legs and wore a silver suit. The arms, though, seemed to come out from the chest and not the shoulders. In place of eyes were two beams of light.

The giant figure, which was stooped over and very stiff-legged, clambered down the grass motorway embankment, crossed the road, climbed the embankment the other side and stood in front of a high security fence. It then brought its arms up to waist height and "seemed to walk through the fence." When Mr. Edwards went back to the spot with the police, there was no sign of a hole or break in the fencing.

The police, who were investigating further, said that Mr. Edwards was sober, genuine and in an obvious state of shock. Mr. Edwards swore that he had seen a man from outer space.

Amalgam of extracts from the "Sunday People", "Sunday Telegraph" and "Sunday Times", all dated 19th March 1978.

Cr. Mr. R. Tomlinson, Stanford-le-Hope.

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#### THE CHELMSFORD UFO MYSTERY

The last week in January 1978 saw considerable UFO activity in and around the town of Chelmsford, Essex. Bill Eden, the Essex UFO Study Group's Chelmsford investigator, was deluged with reports following his local Newsman Herald's account of a strange craft sighted over the town on 26th January. Amongst others, he received numerous phone calls from people who claimed to have seen a similar object, many having come within 250ft. (76m.). First, though, the main sighting.

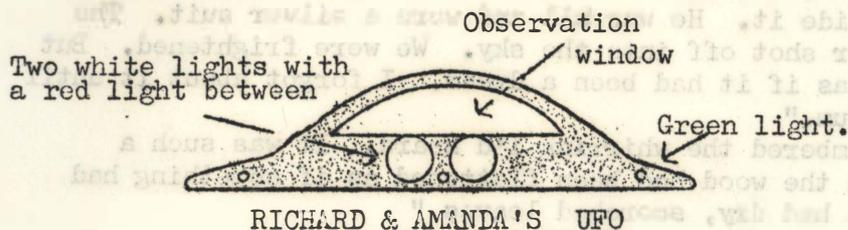
#### Close Encounter over Park Way, Chelmsford (Case No.1978-1-9)

Richard Wilson, 22, was driving south along Park Way, on the evening of Thursday, 26th January 1978, when at 10.35 p.m., he noticed two bright lights in the sky over to his right. He quickly pointed them out to his companion, young Amanda Prowse, (whom he was taking home), but she thought that they might be the flood-lights at the nearby football ground. However, Richard pointed out that the grounds had been passed by a very short while before, and so, now fully aware of their location, they just sat there in their slowly moving vehicle, wondering what-on-earth these lights could be.

The lights, which appeared to have been hovering, then moved towards their car and stopped some 100ft. (30.5m) above the road ahead. They could now both see that the lights were part of a craft that had a lit-up dome and a very dark body with a flat base, and although Amanda couldn't be positive, she believed that she

(15-Spring'78)

"saw shadows at the lit-up observation window." In the middle of the base was a red light and on both sides was a green light.

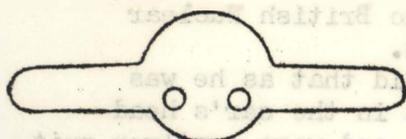


Their car, which Richard was driving at less than 15 mph, (24 Km.hr.), then passed under the object - without any adverse effects - and very soon the object was visible out of the nearside window, where the four lights on the base could be seen. On winding down both windows, only the low engine noise of their car and those behind could be heard. People in those cars behind must have also been watching the object, for no-one overtook anyone else or sounded their horns.

A little further on, the object, on looking back, was seen to have moved over from the left-hand side of the road to the High Street/Springfield Road area. Not for long did it remain here, though, for it suddenly took-off when the car reached the Army & Navy roundabout - a well-known Chelmsford landmark - covering a distance of, in Amanda's opinion, 10 miles in 2 or 3 seconds, i.e. 12,000 mph (19,300 Km.hr.). This is obviously just to indicate, though, the extreme rapidity with which the object disappeared. In all the object was in view for about 3 minutes, 2 minutes of this through the windscreen.

Both witnesses possess normal vision and although they observed the object from inside a moving vehicle, they made far better observations than many witnesses to similar encounters out in the open.

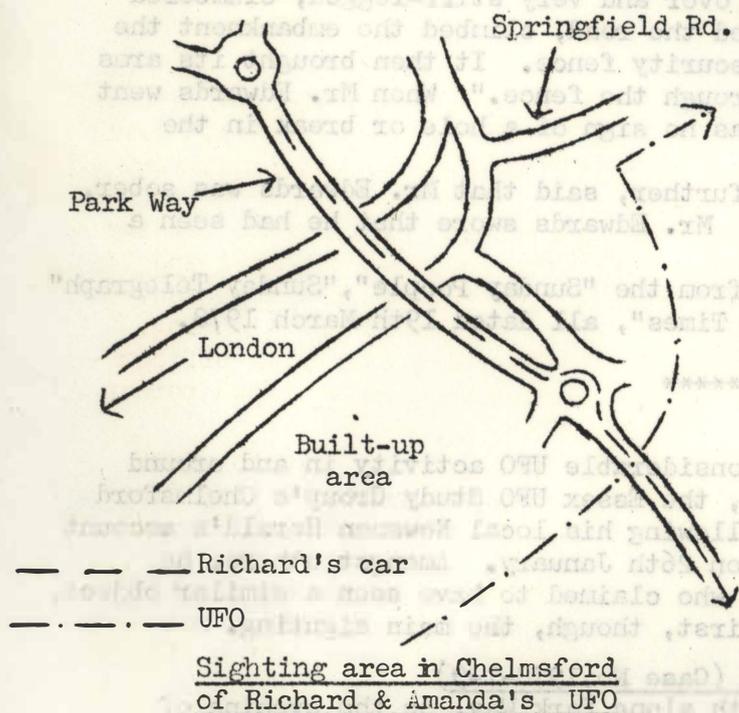
Two other Chelmsford sightings at about the same time.



UFO seen by Mr. Moore in Rainsford Road.



UFO seen by Mrs. Bright in North Avenue.



Was it an aircraft?

The sky was very clear that evening and Bill Eden discovered that an aircraft destined for Stansted Airport could have been over Chelmsford at the time of the sighting. The object seen by our two witnesses had two bright lights in the front, as do many aircraft - including this one, but it's felt that our witnesses would not have erred so badly in their observations for their object to have been an aircraft. Stansted and Southend Airports thought the same, for they were not aware of anything that could have caused the sort of reports received for that evening.

Other sightings for 26th January 1978

At about 10.30 pm an ex-flying-officer, who was driving back to his home at Rettendon, a village about 6 miles (9.6 Km.) south-east of Chelmsford, reported: "I noticed a very bright light in the sky to the N.W. I thought this unusual although the sky was clear and the stars were prominent. I stopped my car in the lay-by just west of Rettenden Village and saw that the light was 'hovering'. I got out of my car to get my camera from the car boot and was just focusing when the object shot N.N.W. at what could only be lightning speed - I saw the trace of a faint (blue) vapour for a few seconds."

He added that the object was elliptical with a "rather hazy aura," and that in all his days he had "never seen such a phenomenon. (Case No.1978-1-11).

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Those other witnesses who claimed to have seen a similar object to the one seen by Richard and Amanda would appear, when plotted on a map, to have witnessed the same object as it went along its course. However, the times given by these witnesses were not accurate enough to enable any definite correlation to be made, and many witnesses were situated in moving vehicles. Amazingly, though, all witnesses but one said that their object approached to within 250ft. (76m.), and was less than 90ft.(27m.) across. This is rather unusual, for with so many witnesses (8) one would normally expect a wide scatter in distance, especially. Also, all witnesses reported that their UFO had a dome on top, two very bright lights in front and made no noise.

The 7/2/78 edition of the Newsman Herald carried a follow-up story of a Mr. Samain, who said that the sightings were definitely due to an aircraft. Bill Eden spoke to Mr. Samain who fully described the aircraft he saw. At least four other people saw the aircraft the paper reported.

Nevertheless, although there seems to be an alternative explanation for the bona fide UFOs, it is more reasonable to assume that there was an aircraft and something else present that evening. If one looks deeply enough into any case, there is always something that a sceptic can find to explain away the sighting. Do we have to ask, then: "Were these witnesses - including the ex-flying-officer - really watching an aeroplane?" Judging by their descriptions, an unbiased person would say very unlikely.

Finally, going back to Richard and Amanda's sighting, it is perhaps worth mentioning that Mr. Bernard Gowing, a Group member, found his car's battery flat the morning following the sighting, and his control box burnt-out. The car was fine the day before, and it is interesting that he lives in Oakland Crescent, which is in the same general area where Richard and Amanda first saw their object hovering! Since no-one from this area reported seeing the object, and no-one else in the road mentioned any similar effects, this could have been due, after all, to a fault in the car (1974 Hillman Avenger).

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After looking at the reports more closely, it would appear, in summing up, that there were four, perhaps five, Close encounters of the First Kind that evening, with the possibility of a Close encounter of the Second Kind - plus two or three interesting nocturnal light sightings.

If the shadows that Amanda saw at the "observation window" had only been of a recognisable (human) form, then there would have been a Close encounter of the Third Kind to add to all these others.

Chelmsford definitely seemed to be the target for attention during the last week in January, and one can only wonder if low level passes over a large town is a new phase of the UFO phenomenon (for Essex, anyway).

MEETING OF THE ESSEX UFO STUDY GROUP held Friday, April 7th, 1978, at the Brewery Tap Hall\*, Barking, Essex.

Guest Speaker: Mr. J.B. Delair. Chairman for this Meeting: Mr. R. Rider (Treasurer).

The Chairman introduced a packed hall to internationally renowned ufologist Mr. J.B. Delair, past Editor for CONTACT (UK) and present researcher of the UFO phenomenon.

### "UFOs - The tip of the Iceberg"

Mr. Delair began his talk by asking if there was anyone present who did not believe that UFOs exist. Fortunately, perhaps, no-one admitted they didn't, for the content of his talk was for believers only! So, with this 'difficult' question answered, Mr. Delair commenced with a basic description of UFOs, followed by a description of their related phenomena.

In general, UFOs are rounded in shape - in one way or another - and perform aerial manoeuvres that most people believe are impossible, i.e. sudden changes of direction, 'emergency' stops and colossal accelerations. These aerial acrobatics are common throughout the world. UFOs sometimes change colour and shape, they have an average size of about 25 to 30ft. and they have the ability to go into and out of water!

UFOs can have occupants, generally termed humanoids, and there are three main types:- (1) Large heads and spindly bodies, about 3½ft. tall. (2) Generally human in size and appearance. (3) Very tall - 7 to 11ft. (rare, but seen quite regularly and over a long period of time).

UFOs, said Mr. Delair, can stop all kinds of electrical gadgetry, cars and their radios being common victims. UFOs seem to be rather interested in places such as nuclear power stations/receivers, farms of all kinds and animals, specimens of which are frequently collected. Human activities are also watched with interest.

UFO Waves - These often precede sunspot cycle maxima by 7-8 months, but with some deviation. UFOs mirror sunspot activity, which averages 11.1 years between maxima, although this varies as well. However, UFOs definitely show peak activity when sunspot activity is high. (Note: Mr. Delair has done considerable research into this aspect of the phenomenon.)

When UFOs sometimes land they usually leave marks on the ground. Some UFOs have legs, windows, etc., which indicate a real, physical object and hence mass. As to their origin, there are three main theories: (1) Extra-terrestrial (another solar system). (2) Another space/time continuum. (3) From our own Earth.

UFOs coincide with animal mutilations in time and/or the sighting of strange animals. They also coincide with sonic booms, falls of frogs, etc. Sasquatch and strange animals may be some sort of breeding experiments which may be connected with a much larger, overall experiment.

Regarding Skyfalls, Maurice Jessup - a famous American ufologist and scientist who died under mysterious circumstances - once said that they are the left-overs from breeding tanks. Skyfalls usually consist of the same sort of object (fish, frogs, etc.), and so when UFOs enter our seas, lakes and rivers they may well be harvesting our marine life.

Mr. Delair then spoke about animal mutilations. These often occur in high quality stock such as the cattle breeding ranches in North and South America and in the sheep breeding season on sheep farms in Australia. Mutilations have occurred in numerous other countries and are not always confined to cattle and sheep. In the U.S.A. there is deep concern over these unsolvable slaughters which began about 10 year's ago and are still going on.

There are some people who have claimed to have received medical examinations from UFO occupants, and this, said Mr. Delair, appears to us to be a logical step to an alien civilisation surveying us.

Some people study strange acoustic noises, others study animal mutilations, the paranormal, UFOs, etc., but, Mr. Delair ended, we should study these and related subjects as a whole, for UFOs on their own are just the tip of the iceberg.

Following a short break, Mr. Delair answered numerous questions from the audience, many of whom had experienced their own UFO sightings.

As the time to end the Meeting drew near, Mr. Delair left everyone with these important words:

"We've got to find out who (or what) we're sharing this planet with..... our future may depend on it!"

Following a round of applause, the Chairman thanked everyone for coming along and then closed the Meeting. We thank Mr. Delair for coming all the way from Oxford and hope that he will be able to return again some day.

\*Unresolvable problems with Council hall booking arrangements necessitated a sudden change of venue from that originally intended - Harts Lane Hall. Apologies for any inconvenience caused.

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ESSEX UFO STUDY GROUP UFO EXHIBITION held at East Ham Library, London, on Sat. 29th April, Tues. 2nd and Wed. 3rd May, 1978.

This three-day display of drawings, photographs, maps, world-wide publications and slide shows proved to be a considerable success.

Manning the Exhibition was not easy and thanks go to a handful of Group members who put in many hours to ensure that visitors' questions were answered, the slide show was kept going and various publications were made available for the many people who wanted them - to say nothing, of course, of the hours they spent in preparing and setting up the exhibits. Naturally, many of our visitors were sceptics, but even they had to admit that they had no idea "all this" was going on, and left us with at least a more open mind. Other people had their own UFO sightings to relate; some had their own theories as to where UFOs come from, etc., and yet others had different things to tell us, like one young and very intelligent Indian gentleman with whom I spoke. His father, it appears, had been told of a remarkable sighting of a Yeti near (or at) the India/Kashmir border in the Himalaya Mountains. The person who saw the creature was considered a very trustworthy man who sought no publicity and (I believe) was a government employee. The Yeti was described as being about  $7\frac{1}{2}$  ft. (2.3m.) tall and covered from head to foot with coarse, brownish hair - similar, in fact, to a UFO occupant drawing that we had pinned to a wall and which my informant pointed out to me. The Yeti, this man thought, fed on Yak, and there was no doubt in his mind that these creatures existed, but surprisingly he very much doubted the existence of UFOs!

Another gentleman, who gave his name as Professor E. Somes-Blunt, told me that he was one of two private UFO investigators who had worked together for the past five years piecing together the evidence. Of recent interest to him was the mysterious ball of light that had landed in Ashdown Forest near East Grinstead, Sussex, on 5th April 1978, at 10.30 p.m.\* He had visited the site with his colleague, it appears, and found a large burnt area where there were a number of evenly spaced depressions in the ground which suggested to them the distinct possibility of a touch down by an object having some sort of landing gear. Army flares were ruled out completely, he said, as the possible explanation for the cause of a fire which covered about four acres around the landing site. The police, who had searched the area thoroughly and used a geiger counter to check for radio-activity, were unco-operative, he added.

Apart from one rather heated discussion that developed on the last day, the Exhibition went fairly smoothly, and it was thought that another might be worthwhile at a later date.

Editor

\*See the Daily Express, 7th April 1978, for a more detailed double-page spread on this case.

## LETTERS

The following (edited) letter is in reply to an article printed in the Nov.'77 journal entitled "Some thoughts on the Extra-Terrestrial Hypothesis" by Ian Ridpath.

Dear Sir,

29th March 1978.

In answer to Ian Ridpath's E.T.H. article, it becomes quite apparent that his study of ufology is somewhat scant. He is very unscientific inasmuch as he only accepts the two extremes as possible by stating that a planetary visit would either be obvious, or we'd know nothing about it. Even with new scientific discoveries, a few know at first (often disputed and unaccepted by other scientists, e.g. Einstein's theories), but eventually most get to know and accept. Certain cut-off primitive tribes of Earth, never having made contact with advanced races of this planet, might well often send out tom-tom messages and smoke signals inquiring: "Is there anybody there?" For obvious reasons we do not reply, though we violate(?) their airspace with our aircraft, and, often as not, without dropping any fragmentary evidence. Should we show ourselves in person, or make our aircraft invisible?

Since scientists admit to Unidentified Flying Objects (unidentified in terms of man-made articles or natural phenomena), one wonders how they can state that they're not of the E.T.H. variety. Of course, it would be strange if space beings were not arriving and departing here, for the universe is not as limited as the minds of many scientists, and it becomes apparent that the most highly evolved entities would do just about anything other than meet us in open communication.

What constitutes proof? Science accepts much as fact which has never been 'caught'. When a UFO is observed by thousands, photographed (our astronauts have photographed UFOs with ground radar tracking stations as back-up evidence), found to interfere with animals, electricians and affect landing sites, to say nothing of the effects on witnesses, then surely we possess evidence other than hallucinations?

The general public are led to believe that scientists are cautious, sceptical folk who issue statements only based upon undisputed, proven, back-up evidence. We have evidence to the contrary. Scientists were prejudging witnesses during the past by calling them nut-cases because of their 'witnessing' rocks from the skies, fireball plasma, ghost/poltergeist phenomena, etc. Incidentally, Mr. Ridpath should have felt embarrassed in mentioning ball lightning - recorded for over 2,000 years, scientists said it was a myth without evidence, a common scientific failing. Relatively speaking, answers given to certain types of UFO phenomena by scientists were far more ridiculous than the E.T.H.

More people have observed UFOs than ball lightning and scientists still have not learned anything from their past erroneous judgement, thus never will so many have been proved so wrong for so long. They'll never live this one down and surely some heads must roll?

If a UFO crashed in the U.S.A. we'd never be told, if only to keep the Russians from hearing. On the assumption that intelligently controlled UFOs have never existed, it seems odd that the USAF studied them for so many years and admitted initially that they were craft from other systems, only to say nothing later about any landings, etc. Even more odd, the U.S. military has specific instructions to obey when confronted by UFOs. 25 years ago, scientists were hypothesising that UFOs were a secret weapon of Earth; they were wrong again because our ancestors knew of them.

Mr. Ridpath thinks there are so few witnesses to any single case, yet there is a case where a million witnesses were involved in a sighting. Should Mr. Ridpath think the UFO display at Fatima in 1917 to be ball lightning, we might well ask him how ball lightning can inform us to be at the same place, same time, in the following months. At Fatima the UFO appeared on the 13th of each month from May to Oct. 1917. During the last appearance, 75,000 people saw the 'craft' fly in.

(20-Spring'78)

I cannot list 30 years of study into the phenomena here, but can only suggest Mr. Ridpath starts looking into it and does not neglect thoroughly documented cases to which the answers elude science. Here we might again mention disappearances (Russians suspect 6 Hz frequency, yet Bermuda Triangle disappearances were explained away by the western world as being due to bad weather and errors in navigation).

Look also into the religions of the world involving technical accounts way ahead of their time, and holographic projections by aliens portrayed in our skies, e.g. Cottingley Fairies, 1917, Angels of Mons, etc. Check out the 'miracle healings' on the spot down through the ages, and the current cattle mutilations (N.B. you'll hear no more from the authorities about the Dartmoor ponies incident!) Check out also the Spring-Heeled Jacks of Britain, 1838-1904. Investigate all such phenomena by suspecting everything, rather than like the scientists who suspect nothing and infer there are no baffling mysteries.

UFOs have been and are involved with advanced technologies, some only recently discovered by science.

Ron Markwick, Ilford, Essex.

Mr. Ian Ridpath replies:

Ron Markwick is right that remote tribes know of the existence of other civilisations through observation of their craft - either ships sailing past or aeroplanes flying overhead - in the case of civilisations on Earth. And so if UFOs really are extra-terrestrial spacecraft, we should be able to identify them, even if we can't understand their propulsion mechanisms. Yet one thing I feel it is possible to conclude about UFOs is that they are not interstellar spaceships. This is the most popular hypothesis, and as such it has been tested repeatedly over the past 30 years, but we still await confirmation. As I attempted to illustrate in my article on the UFO cover-up in the Sunday Times on March 19th, there is not a major 'extra-terrestrial spaceship' case that has not been severely compromised by evidence that is usually withheld when the stories are recounted.

Ron confirms my point in his reference to ball lightning. The existence of ball lightning is now well established, even though we don't understand it. But the existence of extra-terrestrial spaceships has not been established even by UFOlogists, despite the fact that we should presumably understand such objects far better than we do ball lightning.

I am clearly not anti-spaceship, for I have been writing and lecturing on the subject of extra-terrestrial life and interstellar travel for several years, and will continue to do so. I would make more money at it were I to abandon my principles and deliberately set out to write sensational material - which, in my judgement, is what several fellow writers in the field have done. I referred in my initial EUFOG article to the conspiracy to defraud the public, and Ron's reference to 'astronauts have photographed UFOs...ground radar stations as back-up evidence' shows he has swallowed one of the most enduring and popular fictions without having checked the evidence. Let's have chapter and verse, Ron. I'm sure you read James Oberg's critique of astronaut UFO reports in Official UFO, October 1976.

As a matter of interest, while preparing my Sunday Times articles on the press handling of UFOs, I spoke to reporters on the Daily Express and The Sun who had covered UFO cases. Both people agreed that perhaps one per cent of all sightings referred to something unknown, but neither of them believed the people they spoke to who said they had met extra-terrestrial beings. The Express man told me that as far as the idea of interstellar spaceships went, he was more sceptical now than when he started on the UFO Bureau. So at least give some weight to a journalist's 'nose' for the truth.

Ron eventually gets on to angels, fairies, and the Bermuda Triangle (and for an interesting comment on that, see New Scientist, March 9th, page 641). To quote Ron: 'Never will so many have been proved to be so wrong for so long. They'll never live this one down...'

(21-Spring'78)

Incidentally, I'm no bookies runner, but I checked with Ladbroke's and they are offering 40 to 1 that alien life will land or crash on Earth in any given year. So you've got 40 years in which to at least break even. Just as well nobody started betting in 1947...

Ian Ridpath

Although a little dated, the following letter - the majority of which is printed here - includes some sightings that date before the first recognised flying saucer sightings of June 1947.

Dear Sir,

13th January, 1977.

....In 1939 (I was 12 years old at the time and attending the village school) on a bright-clear day (I cannot recall time of day or time of year), I had just come out of the village shop - um-Post Office opposite the school, when I became aware of a small group of village people about 30 to 50 yards away looking up at the sky, some of them pointing excitedly.

When I joined the group I could see a cluster of what looked like pearly-white balloons in a tight formation rising rapidly, their apparent size that of a marble at arm's length. The number of 'balloons' was not easy to count as they were constantly changing position relative to one another while remaining within a close grouping. I remember counting 12 - a recount gave me 8 - but soon they were so high it was not possible to attempt another count. The whole show was over in about 10 minutes.

There may still be some of the old residents of East Tilbury who can verify this account, but I cannot help you there as I have been out of touch with village folk for many years now.

One other incident worth a mention happened about six or eight year's ago. This particular time I had worked late and although the sky was slightly hazy - it being late autumn and about 7.30 p.m. - I was sky-watching while cycling along. Passing over the Low Street level crossing and crossing Low Street Lane there was a clear view over the fields to my right. Suddenly, there appeared a fast moving, copper-green oval blob making a long orange-green trail across the sky at a height, relative to my point of view, of 25 to 30 degrees. I felt rather pleased at seeing such a spectacular meteorite (it was travelling east to west with the tail away from the Sun, as is usual).

But the following night the same thing happened again, at the same time, place, angle of sight, colour, everything. Ever since I have had doubts as the chances of such a meteorite coincidence must be very remote indeed.

Since beginning this letter to you, I have been told of a war-time event you may find interesting. As told to me, this young chap mentioned that his father was in the Royal Observer Corps, and one day the particular post his father and some others manned received (by mistake) a certain War Dept. signal. The signal mentioned the hurried burial on Canvey Island of a corpse (or corpses) found there, and of such gruesome (or horrific?) appearance that some members of the public who saw or discovered them became mentally unbalanced. Well, that is the story - it could be true.

Yours faithfully,

Mr. D - , West Tilbury,  
Grays Thurrock, Essex.

Editor's note: In subsequent letters, Mr. D. related that he had spoken to the man who had intercepted the war-time message - and the story is true! Although Mr. D gave this man my address - for he wished to tell his story direct - I have heard nothing from him, but I do know that he has been (and may still be) very ill. The corpse, or corpses, as I had suspected, were, Mr. D confirmed, believed to be alien to this world! (More on this next issue).

Worth quoting from Mr. D's letter of 1/2/77, is the passage:

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(8-Spring'78)

"An elderly uncle of mine, now dead for some years, spoke once of a newspaper report, circa 1935-1939, of an object landing at night on Salisbury Plain leaving a depression in the earth where it had rested for some time."

(Names and addresses withheld upon request).

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## O D D S      A N D      E N D S

### UFOs in the news

The Daily Express and The Sun national newspapers certainly went to town in late February by allocating whole page/double page spreads to UFOs for at least a week. All this was brought about, of course, by the imminent release of that spectacular film, "Close Encounters of the Third Kind".

Especially worthy of mention was the February 21st edition of the Daily Express, which had on its front page in banner headlines, "FLYING SAUCERS GALORE" - something we don't remember having ever seen before on the front page of a British national.

Not only in newspapers did UFOs figure prominently but on TV and radio as well. L.B.C. (London Broadcasting Company) radio in particular deserves a special mention, for they broadcast on the evenings of 18th and 19th March, a two-part programme, "We are not Alone", produced in conjunction with Radio CJFM of Montreal, Canada.

Overall, this programme lasted three hours and was the finest UFO production that I and many others had ever heard (it is a great pity that it was not made for T.V.). Included were famous UFO witnesses like Betty Hill and Travis Walton, both of whom were abducted (Sept. 1961 and Nov. 1975 respectively). Many other folk who had had good UFO sightings also had their say, including astronaut James McDivitt, who saw something strange while in outer space. Dr. J. Allen Hynek figured prominently and was consulted throughout. Others who gave their opinions were Dr. Stanton Friedman, Walter Andrus - Director of the Mutual UFO Network (MUFON), and John B. Musgrave.

Together with the phone-in programmes that followed on both evenings, there was a total of 8½ hours of UFO material! On the second evening's phone-in, Monty Modlyn, the well-known T.V. personality, was joined by Alan West, of Spacequest magazine, Martin Heath, Planetary Biologist, and Rex Dutta, famous personality and expert on Esoteric Ufology. Attempts were made to answer many caller's questions with Monty, being his usual blasé self, creating more than just a smile at times on everyone's faces! All-in-all an excellent double evening's entertainment.

Editor

### Enticement for UFOs

Next Friday a Japanese short wave radio station will illuminate the sky above Tokyo hoping to attract the attention of unidentified flying objects circulating in the periphery of the Earth with blue, white and red rays.

At the same time as the luminous signals are being sent, there will be a phone-in broadcast to which people having seen UFOs will be invited to contribute. The organizers even hope that they will receive an ..... extra-terrestrial call. Why not?

Cr. Mr. W. Ager, Belgium. "Le Soir", 18th Feb. 1978.

### Those two planets again

During late May and early June 1978, the planets Venus and Jupiter will appear to be very close to each other in the western sky shortly after sunset (closest on May 29th).

In the latter parts of July last year, the same two planets appeared close together in the early morning sky, and were mistaken by many for a UFO.

In a sufficiently clear, dark sky, both of these planets can be very striking and, due to a subjective effect, can appear to be relatively nearby, instead of being, in reality, many millions of miles away.

Editor

### Cosmos 1,000 launched

The U.S.S.R. have now put into Earth orbit 1,000 satellites in the Cosmos series, spanning a period from March 1962 to March 1st., 1978.

Extract from Novosti Press Agency Bulletin No. 7947, dated April 3rd, 1978.

### Crystals from space

Weird crystals which change colour when held fell from the skies during a fierce storm at a school near Haverfordwest, West Wales, where many pupils recently reported seeing "a spaceship."

The crystals are about a quarter of an inch long and reddish-brown in colour, but changed to a light fawn when they were picked up by Baker, Henry Evans, who collected about 25 of them. Some people thought they were salt crystals from snow clearance operations, but they were found to be made of a quartz-like material and did not melt. A local BUFORA investigator has handed them over for analysis by his organisation.

Extracts from "Reveille", 17th March, 1978.

(25-Spring'78)

## CELL in Georgia, U.S.A.?

Tom Dawson is a 63-year-old retired automobile dealer living in a Georgia caravan park with his wife and seven year-old daughter. He prefaces his story with the words, "I don't care what they say, this is the honest truth, It DID happen and it's the first time I've experienced anything like this....."

It was Saturday, 6th August 1977, a beautiful day and he went for a stroll with his two dogs, calling on a neighbour - Mrs. Kolbie - on the way. Around 10.30 am he walked down to a fishpond behind some pines and crossed over the pasture with the two dogs romping at his heels: about forty cows were grazing nearby. He stepped inside the gate to the field and before he could close it a strange circular shaped 'space-ship' set down in front of him hovering two feet off the ground: he found he was unable to move a muscle as were also the dogs and cattle - they all 'froze' in whatever position they were in when the ship landed.

As it stopped a hatch opened and five strange-looking 'humans' marched out - two women and three men. Their skin was "white as a flour sack." Their noses were sharp and turned-up and they had pointed ears "sitting right on their shoulders." One man and one woman were completely nude and hairless. The first one out, apparently the leader, 'tested' the ground, then motioned the others to join him. Two more men then emerged from the craft, seemingly to guard the hatch entrance. Clothing worn by the 'non-nudists' was "extremely beautiful," male and female alike. Shoes were made of a silky material and were turned up at the toes and pointed.

The aliens approached cautiously and gave Tom what he thought to be a form of medical. A 'skull-cap sort of thing' was placed on his head: attached were several cords connected to a large ring something like a hula-hoop on which was a set of dials. His clothing was removed, but as examination was in progress a loud voice came from the ship, calling, 'I am Jimmy Hoffa': this was repeated three times, a fourth shout being cut short. Examination completed, the cap was removed, the aliens walked away about ten feet and went into conference. They had high-pitched voices - very shrill and at one time Tom thought he heard the name 'Jupiter' and wondered if they intended taking him aboard the craft.

Apparently they did not, for the aliens then returned to their ship, closed the hatch and it took off. Tom got a glimpse of it about 75 feet off the ground, then it was out of sight in a wink and he and the animals were free to move around again. He dressed and ran back to Mrs. Kolbie and tried to relate his experience, but was too excited to talk. He was taken to hospital and treated for hysteria, but the hospital stated he had been taking nothing that might have caused hallucination, nor was there any trace of alcohol. Something had definitely 'given him a big scare'. Three days later when talking to the reporter he was still excited. Mrs. Kolbie confirmed his condition when he had rushed into her and all enquiries made by the reporter indicated that Tom was not normally an excitable person, nor given to 'telling the tale.'

\*Jimmy Hoffa was an American labour leader who disappeared under mysterious circumstances.

Originally published in the "Panam Georgia Journal", 11th August, 1977.

Cr. Lucius Farish & BUFORA Journal, vol.6, no.5, Jan/Feb.1978, pp.18-20.

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## UFO from heaven?

In A.D.674 a sudden plague beset a group of nuns in a Barking, Essex, convent, leaving many dead. The nuns were troubled where to bury the bodies - until they received a message from God, that is. The account goes: "One night when the Psalm was ended, a sudden light from heaven came down upon them all.... But the light moved to the south side of the monastery and withdrew itself up again to heaven."

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This, according to the nuns, was a sign showing them where to bury the victims.

The same burial place was the scene of another heavenly happening, witnessed by the Abbess Ethelberga. She reported seeing an earl's wife cured of blindness as she prayed at the burial place.

The convent also claims a vision of heaven. A nun called Tortgith, who had been suffering with the plague for nine years, saw a vision of a human body wrapped up in a sheet, "drawn up by cords brighter than gold and entering into heaven." Tortgith died 15 days later.

Taken from the "Barking & Dagenham Post", 12th April 1978, under their title: "Heaven sent help for the plagued nuns."

### "Around the world in 60 minutes"

According to an article in the April 25th, 1978, edition of the Daily Express, flying-saucer-maker John Searl is about to pilot the first in his series of revolutionary "levity discs." He expects, the report says, to be setting out on the maiden voyage before the end of 1978, or during the first half of 1979.

Apparently Mr. Searl has had flying lessons totalling £2,000, just "to get the feel" of being airborne."

People in New Zealand who are interested in the project are giving Mr. Searl's organisation - the National Space Research Consortium - good financial backing - £8,000 so far. Mr. Searl therefore plans to make Auckland, New Zealand, his first stop in the epic 30 minute flight.

However, there is an article involving John Searl in a certain magazine dated May 19th, 1973, that is very similar to that printed in the Daily Express, except that the saucer to be launched "soon" (during 1973) is to be unmanned. In the same article it appears that Mr. Searl has many shareholders throughout the world, and if this is so then there is a lot of money being poured into the project. There are photographs in the magazine article to prove that Mr. Searl is building 'something' (besides numerous small models), but it has since been rumoured by some people that he has made over £25,000 out of his UFO-interested backers and doesn't really have any new propulsion system at all - just some small experimental programme. Are these mere rumours?

Editor.

### U F O signals?

.....Since Dr. Constantin Raudive hit the headlines with his mystery voices recorded on tape, many others have claimed to have achieved similar phenomena. Now the 'voices' are also being picked up on radio. According to a report in the Middlesborough Evening Gazette two Norwegian radio enthusiasts listening late at night suddenly heard a 'gabble of voices' break in on a little used frequency. One of them taped part of the 'conversation' and took it to a phonetics expert in Oslo. He pronounced that the words belonged to a Lapland dialect that had not been used for hundreds of years.

Now', says the Evening Gazette, 'there is a growing belief that this experience, and others like it, points to the possibility of worlds from the past trying to communicate with us.....by radio.'

A conference is to be held (or has been held) in Italy by the Voice Phenomena Association which will concentrate on the mystery of taped voices. It is said that the conference will be attended by Russians. Raymond Cass of Bridlington, who is a collector of taped voices, told a reporter: 'Some Russian experts claim to have in their possession recordings of voices which they say are beings from another planet carrying out space research.'

Extract from 'Prediction', Vol.44, No.5, May 1978, p.17.

(27-Spring'78) 8-85)

Mexico UFO sighting

Culiacan, Mexico (UPI) - Three farmers say they saw an unidentified flying object land in their fields near this northern Mexican city. Ismael, Candelario and Fernando Jacobo, three brothers, said they were driving a tractor at night across their fields when they saw a round disc that gave off a green-copperish light and a roaring sound. The farmers told reporters that when the disc came towards them they turned off the tractor's lights and hid. The brothers said the UFO landed in the field for a few minutes and took off again.

"The Edmonton Sunday Sun", 16th April, 1978.

Cr. John B. Musgrave, Alberta, Canada.

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The same UFO?

The May 1978 edition of Spacequest cites a close encounter of the third kind which occurred near Bournemouth, southern England, one night in September last year. The humanoids, the witness - Mrs. Ethel Field - claimed, were human-looking and their craft had approached to a distance of something just over 70ft. (21.3m.).

According to Mrs. Field's description of the craft, though, there is an extreme similarity between this object and the one seen by Richard Wilson and Amanda Prowse over Chelmsford, Essex, earlier this year(1).

Ref. (1) See "The Chelmsford UFO Mystery", pp.15-17, in this issue.

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A farewell note

It is with this issue that we say farewell to the active services of Doug Canning, for two years the Public Relations Officer for the Group and through whose efforts the EUFOSG has really become what it is today. Doug's last contribution before he left to get married was the artwork on the front cover of this and forthcoming issues - an impressive scene, we're sure you'll agree - and one which depicts a saucer-shaped craft not far above the Earth.

Editor.

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The opinions presented in this journal are not necessarily those of the Editor or the EUFOSG.