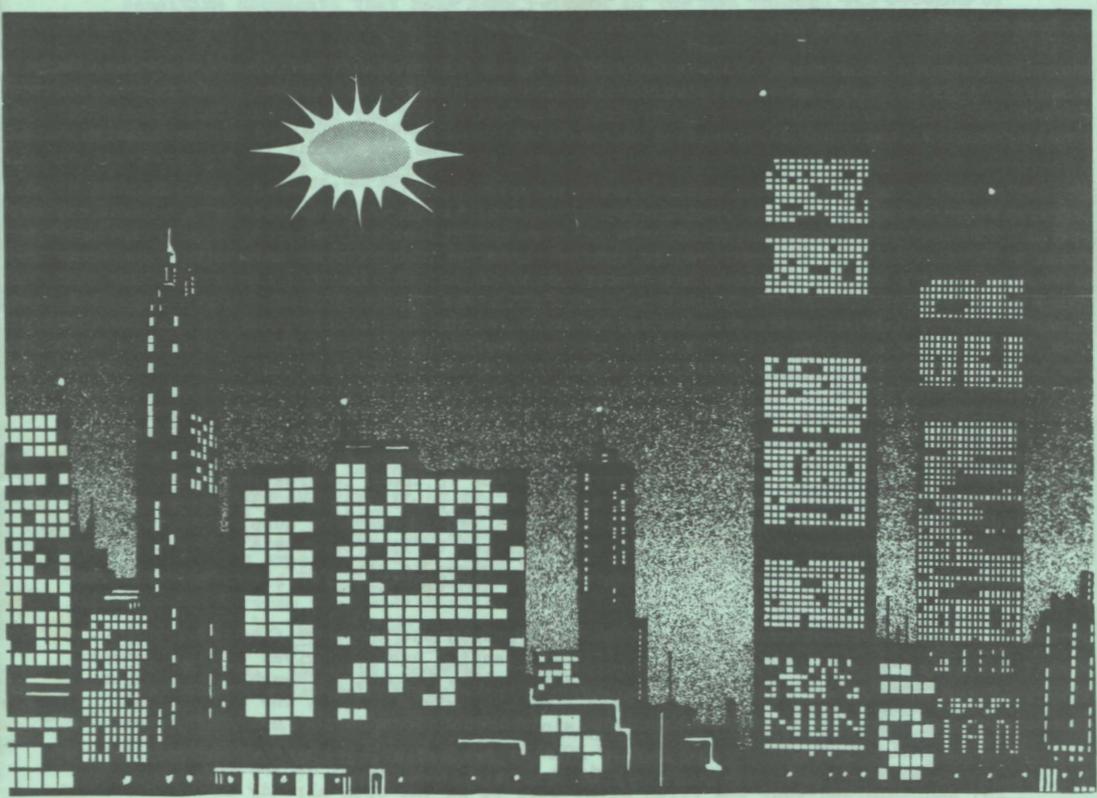


# NORTHERN NEWS



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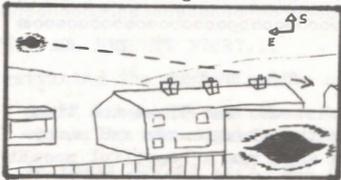
CASE OF THE RUNAWAY BALLOON...Medium Definition Possible Balloon  
Case 8240: Mid August 1982 19.30 Denby Dale, W.Yorks Inv: MUFORA

Mr GW had just said goodbye to his son and was in his garden on a pleasant sunny evening. Towards the west he saw a speck of light which seemed to be soaring upwards. He presumed it to be a hang-glider and made comment to his wife (who was in the bedroom above the garden) that he did not know such craft made flights in their area. She had difficulty seeing it until it began to move in an easterly direction towards them. As it picked up speed it took on a bubble shape and they then thought in terms of a helicopter. However, with his wife now in the garden watching too it passed the southern end travelling at some speed (in excess of 100 MPH estimated) and silently. It was so plainly in view that it was clearly not a conventional craft and resembled a 'distended stalkless mushroom'; with a diameter guessed at 40/50 feet and moving at a height of 1000 feet. The colour was bright silver, reflecting the setting sun, but the base was dark. As it moved out of sight over hills it banked to the right and changed course slightly. The witnesses half convinced themselves afterwards that it was a runaway balloon, but find this difficult to equate with the facts. This may well be a possibility, but it is impossible to tell as the exact date is unknown.



SPACE INVADERS AT THE CURRY HOUSE...Medium Definition Unidentified  
Case 8301: January 12 1983 23.10 Bradford, West Yorks Inv: Nigel Mortimer

Michael Brett, a 26 year old bricklayer, had gone for a take-away at his local Curry House on Manchester Road, near Wyke (scene of many encounters during a 1981 flap reported in Case Histories, April 1982). Unfortunately, back at the bus-stop he realised as he glanced at his watch that the bus had gone. Whilst deciding what to do he saw, in the southern sky above the hills, a very strange object. This moved steadily westwards and passed below the postulated hill-line, from 30 degrees elevation to zero in about 30 seconds. It made no sound. The object was oval shaped with a solid centre but surrounded by an aura or glow that tapered out into the sky around it. As it moved out of view this aura changed from orange to red. The edges of the oval tapered also, giving a 'classic flying saucer shape' to the image. Apparent size was that of a two-pence piece at arms length. After the sighting he rushed back to the Curry House, from where he ordered a taxi. Here he told of his experience and found a man and his girlfriend on the Space Invaders machine! They said they had seen it too and had almost lost control of their car in utter amazement. Nigel discovered that NATO had a major exercise on that night, but they claimed to have no aircraft in that area at the time. Leeds/Bradford airport closes at 22.00. A brilliant fireball meteor appeared in the south the following night which may, or may not, be relevant.



THE GREAT MIDLANDS FIREBALL...A UFO Research Midlands case which shows how the ufologist can do serious work even with an IFO.

On July 30 1981, at about 22.45, a spectacular fireball meteor passed across Britain. It was seen from many parts (sightings existing from the north-west and Kent) but the best viewing conditions were in the East Midlands where the local media carried a number of accounts. Whilst suspecting a fireball explanation the local investigative groups (later to form UFORM) appealed for and collated data, recognising it might be of scientific value. This paid off and 37 separate reports have been placed on file in papers by John Barden & David Clarke. A couple of these, widely separate in time from the known appearance, may be isolated meteor events. The majority, fairly accurately reflect the passage of the object (a greenish cone followed by a yellowy plume of light, visible for perhaps 10 seconds). Some serious errors did occur, although isolated eg one woman who reported otherwise well said the meteor was in view four minutes! Mark Brown also investigated a case where a fire was said to have been caused by sparks from the UFO. The Fire Brigade investigation found the real cause. But most

The Great Midlands fireball cont...

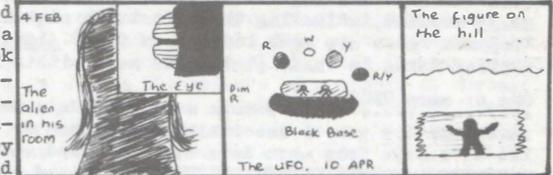
interesting was a report (drawn up by Mark Brown) of the investigation by he, John Barden & Graham Hall of an impact crater found a few days after the fireball in Coventry. The couple who found it had returned from holiday to see their garden cabbage patch decimated by it. Slight radiation traces were recorded in the crater during a very thorough site analysis and one of two heavy metallic samples removed from a dozen inches depth gave a reading on a metal detector. Impressed by their scientific endeavours the Geology Department of Leicester University were highly cooperative. Their study of the samples proved them not to be meteoritic, but (they guessed) road metal. How they impacted into the garden remains a total mystery.

This is a model scientific enquiry, and the production of data on a multi-witness identified sighting is in fact very useful as a cross-check of normal witness perceptions in an abnormal situation. For my forthcoming book UFO REALITY I did a study of 100 MUFON reports (largely collected by MUFONIG) of the December 31 1978 satellite re-entry. The results (as you will see) were instructive. I intend to do a further study of this fireball data to act as a comparison.

#### AN IRISH TALE

This account arrived anonymously from a correspondant (clearly a young man with a penchant for reading comic books, and a regular subscriber to The Unexplained and The Movie). The post address was Co. Tyrone and from the account it is evident he also lives near the border. He did not leave an address and so his story stands or falls by the information he passed on through his letter; but this was very detailed and included RI forms and several sketches. Here, for what it is worth, is his story.

(1) February 4 1982... After watching the movie Halloween on TV he fell asleep easily but awake to hear a strange noise ("like a saw sawing thin card") and noted the bedroom was different (slightly distorted) (a typical first stage OOBEE feeling). Deciding he was dreaming he fell back asleep but reawoke a while later and saw a shadowy figure in the corner of the room. As he tried to rise to view it he found he was paralysed. But with effort he did press himself up, terrified, and saw a male figure, dark, small, without a neck and yet with long hair. This came towards him and turned sideways exposing two large faceted eyes which widened and closed and had a black key hole pupil. It made a breathing sound like a cat purring. One hand was pointed towards him and as the being moved this away the paralysis began to fade. The entity blended into the wall and vanished. At this the room brightened and became normal. He recovered use of his limbs in a few minutes and found the time was 07.55.



(2) April 10 1982... At 11.45 pm he decided to attend Midnight mass. It was a clear, starry night. Looking at the sky (for UFOs!) He saw a 'planet' and above that a series of flashing red, white & yellow lights. Below these was a large, but faint, red light, silhouetted against which was the outline of two 'humanoids' (one large, one small). The object appeared to be rotating and moved across the sky in a jerky path, taking five minutes to vanish. At the base was a dark egg shape. There was no sound and he is positive this was a spaceship. Earlier he had obtained and read the issue of The Unexplained about the Maier 'hoax' photos and kept wondering if this was one of the Plaeidean spaceships. A few days later he saw it again on top of a mountain. Below was a large red patch in front of which a giant humanoid passed, raising a sail! It was so far away that to be seen the figure must have been gigantic!

(3) April 20 1982... If the foregoing was not enough then the last encounter (which he claims was the most scary) will convince you this ohap has strange fantasies. He claims he awoke between 03.00 and 05.00 to a 'silent scream' that was very loud but not there... you know' (I don't!) There were two aliens this time; a small one (stood on his bed) and a 'big lumpy one' that had his head in the witnesses mouth (which had somehow grown very large). They were chatting to one another in a sound like ringing bells. He tried to talk, but no words came out and he was paralysed again. Pointing to his dressing table he thought the word 'Camera' over and over but the obviously shy alien shook his head. The witness apologises for not taking a picture!

## An Irish Tale cont...

The witness does not seem to know how this last encounter ended. These events sound rather like dreams or hypnagogic hallucinations, but needed mentioning in view of their UFO context. He adds, "Normally I'd put these down to a dream but after what happened to me I believe these things really happened. In fact I know they did."

## CASE HISTORY

## THE CASE OF THE SILENT VULCAN

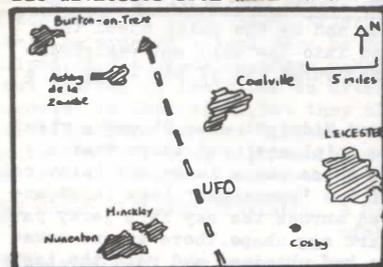
Multi-witness encounter with movie-film. Inv: Mark Brown & Graham Hall (UFORM)

Date: October 23 1978 Around 19.00 Various locations around Leicester.

This account will be a necessarily very condensed description of a complex case with which East Midlands investigators have grappled for four years. This is because of the mass of testimony to indicate that something, not immediately identifiable, was present; plus the existence of movie-film clearly supporting the event. The case naturally justified such efforts and resulted in an 83pp case report.

**Introduction** The media in Leicestershire made many mentions of this event between October 24 and November 3 and the local groups at the time made considerable efforts to follow-up the witnesses before memory and this publicity could interfere. All verbal and written testimony was collated with 10 days; most within 5 days. Altogether some 67 independently reported sightings occurred between 18.00 and 23.46 on October 23 1978; 55 within the period 18.30 to 19.00. They span an area of 425 square miles from Euxton to Whitwick and Burton-on-Trent to Kibworth. But most are in either Leicester itself or the Hinckley/Euxton area. Despite efforts to discover them, no reports were made in neighbouring counties of Nottinghamshire & Lincolnshire. And so the stimulus for this incident was clearly very local. In June 1981 a follow-up questionnaire was sent to 55 principal witnesses to gauge their memory three years on. 35 replied, indicating the effect the sighting still had (normal questionnaire response rates are much lower than this). Almost all described the incident in very similar terms to their statements made within days of the event.

**One or more UFO?** With such a wealth of data one of the principal concerns of the investigators was to ascertain whether one or more object was involved. Some of the 126 witnesses from whom data was collected were clearly in error about the time. But

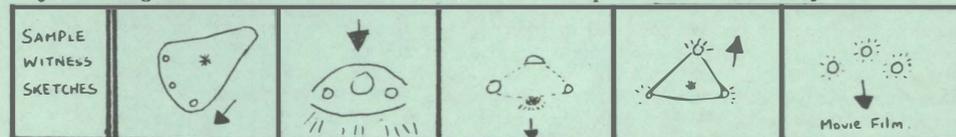


it is hard to imagine that they all were. From a very detailed analysis of locations, observed directions etc (which takes up several pages in the report) it was generally agreed that the principal object (one only) moved very slowly across the area in a SSE to NNW path around 18.45; although as several of the alleged durations indicate visibility for 10 minutes or more the whole span of 18.30 to 19.00 could reflect accurate times dependant on whether the witness was north or south along the projected route. The fact that witnesses saw the object over a very large area might at first tend to suggest that the object was very high. In fact this can conclusively be shown not to be so. The cloud ceiling that night was 2500 feet, which tallies well with the statistically estimated height of 2000 feet (from witness data). The prominence of the object is regarded as a product of (a) its unusually brilliant lights and (b) its large size at low height. The later sightings are almost all in the Leicester area, to the east of the above projected flightpath. As these witnesses could not have had a good view of the main UFO it is regarded that these events (which are mostly of assorted lights) were misidentifications (eg of light planes) dragged into the data by the extensive media coverage for the primary event. The projected flightpath of the UFO is shown above. As virtually all the witnesses referred to slow speeds, many to hoverings etc, the object would appear to have been travelling rather slowly. This matches the facts as statistically calculable and a projected speed of just over 100 MPH seems in order.

## The case of the silent vulcan cont...

**Object description** "I noticed three white lights travelling towards me. I thought at first it was an aeroplane going to land at Castle Donnington with landing lights on. As it got nearer the lights got very bright and formed a triangle. This in itself seemed an unusual formation. I slowed down to view it more safely and realised there were no other lights as on normal aircraft... as it got closer... I could see the shape as a black silhouette. It was like a Vulcan bomber, triangular and with a light on each point and large. The other strange thing was that I heard no noise at all. After it passed the lights were no longer visible... I have never seen the like before and that includes three years in the RAF when I saw aircraft night and day."

This description, from a witness almost underneath the flightpath near Cosby, is as close to the archetype as we can get from synthesising all reports. The main features recur again and again in them. Very occasionally a soft sound (humming, whining etc) was heard. Also other lights (especially a greenish/blue one) were commonly seen on the underside. There was virtually no exaggeration of an extreme kind and most witnesses seem to have faithfully reported the same thing. Only one case of close encounter effects from the primary object (that of a dog "whining and barking furiously" as the object passed over and stopping when it had gone) was collected. The Vulcan theory was proposed by many at first; Vulcans being seen in the area not infrequently. Indeed one witness called Biteswell (where one local Vulcan originates) immediately the object had gone. He was told their Vulcan was not up. And if it was they would hear it



## Photographic Evidence

With so many witnesses to a prominent UFO, visible for many minutes and moving slowly, it is not surprising that several photographic efforts were made. Three separate films were obtained and processed by investigators. All contained at least one clear shot of the UFO. Unfortunately none of these came out; which is hardly unexpected since they were all 100 ASA daylight film in poor cameras.

However, one witness was successful. He was in the grounds of a school at Burbage (under the proposed flightpath). He belongs to a group which includes his wife, some children and the deputy headmaster (who teaches astronomy). It being in view 7 minutes Mr E had time to collect his Cine camera (a Bell & Howell type 674xl with an F1.3 8.5mm zoom). It contained daylight film, with an orange filter in place, and using this hand held at full zoom (24mm) he used up the last 30 seconds. The processed results, whilst inevitably faint, do show the object very clearly. For the first eight seconds only a yellow-white mass is visible, but this seems to approach the camera and then separate into three lights in a triangle. These continue to advance for 15 seconds and then the leading light (upper in the triangle) suddenly extinguishes, leaving the two base lights to approach for the seven seconds or so until film runs out.

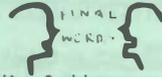
The movie film is thus in excellent agreement with the witness testimony.

**Is there an explanation?** All civil airports ruled out the possibility of a solution and both Castle Donnington and Birmingham said their radar detected nothing unusual. The low height, lack of sound, and absence of navigation lights seems to rule out any form of lightplane, as does the excessive size very widely testified to by witnesses.

Obviously the Vulcan possibility was very thoroughly examined. None of the air bases operating Vulcans admitted to having one in flight and it was said that such flights over populated areas were not allowed. The Senior Air Traffic Controller at East Midlands airport (towards which the UFO was heading) was very helpful and quite puzzled. For him October 23 was a quiet night and no military manoeuvres were reported (as they would have to have been). He is also adamant that as the height must have been below 2500 feet there is no way a Vulcan (even fully throttled back) could be inaudible. It would have been heard above a TV set indoors. Checks on Vulcan lighting systems also do not agree with witness testimony. So the Vulcan theory seems unlikely.

All other hypothesis (space debris, airships, balloons) have been fully checked and proved negative. Something was there that night, and it is captured on movie-film. At the present moment it can only be classified a genuine UNKNOWN.

FINAL WORDS



As promised in the editorial here are extracts from the letter received from the British MOD on 20 Jan 1983..."We are currently discussing the mechanics of printing and distributing the reports and once agreement is reached on those aspects it will of course take a little while before we can assemble all the material in a form suitable for printing...I can...provide a statement of our policy (viz):-

- (1)The sole interest of the MOD in UFO reports is to establish whether they reveal anything of defence interest...no staff are employed upon the subject on a full time basis.
- (2)The MOD does not deny that there are strange things to see in the sky.It believes however that there are adequate material explanations for these...It certainly has no evidence that alien spacecraft have landed on this planet.
- (3)In response to demands for publication of UFO reports Viscount Long said that he saw no objection to these reports being made public.

We must wait and see.... Meanwhile, over in France, GEPAN (the world's only funded UFO team) is being internally reorganised and transferred elsewhere.International cooperation in UFO research is also being sought.That's the story in France,where the move is seen as political by the Mitterrand government.It does conveniently tie in with all the other moves around the world and follows the curious statements and moves of Guerin,Esterle et al.I am less sure that the Sunday Times (who never did announce the formation of GEPAN,along with other British press,but who are quick to comment on its apparent demise) have it quite right in their Feb 20 1983 issue when they say..."FLYING SAUCERS SOUGHT NO MORE...In an amusing display of scepticism about extra-terrestrial life the Mitterrand government has decided to close a unique research establishment...But it has encountered unexpectedly stiff opposition from some scientists...The government...says the idea was an expensive folly...The centre's most noteworthy success was in exposing two hoaxes (sic) who claimed..that they had been 'kidnapped' and held for several days in a spaceship.The exposure took two years." One wonders what the Times might call Guerin's FSR statement,or Poher's statistics, or make of the fact that they have never claimed UFOs to be a product of extra-terrestrial life, but an earth-based intelligence.

It will be interesting to see what (if anything) these former GEPAN scientists have to say in the UFO literature. Methinks that the Times are a little hasty!

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- CALENDER... Sat April 9 7pm EUFORA lecture Kensington Library  
 'The Genius of the few' Tim O'Erien (Ancient sages & UFOs)  
 Bookings open for the International UFO Congress (Aug 27/28/29) NB The venue of this may alter to central London.More next issue)  
 Sat May 7 7pm EUFORA lecture Kensington Library  
 'The seven day wonder at Cergy-Pontoise' Hilary Evans  
 Sat Jun 25 10am Imber Court Cottage,East Molesey, Surrey  
 ASSAP Summer Fair & Garden Party

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