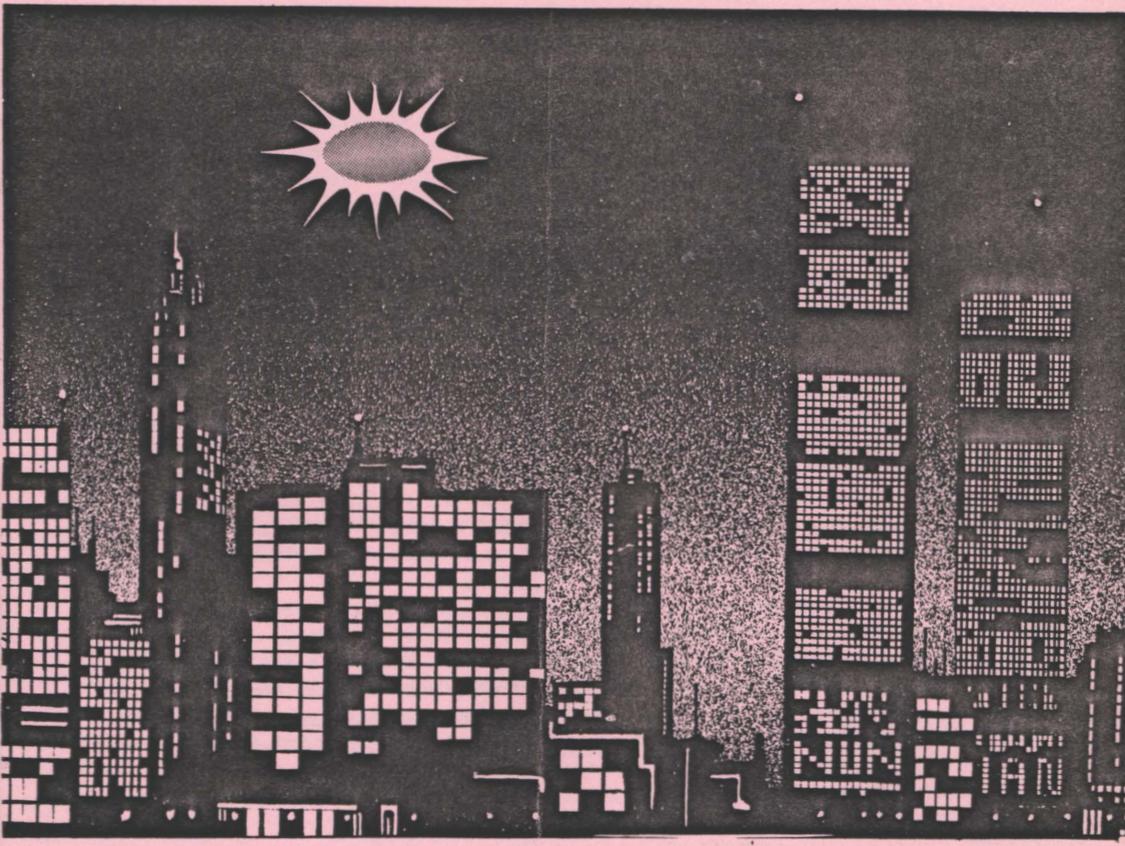


NORTHERN NEWS



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IN THIS ISSUE:-

"UFOskis" (pages 2-3), Yorkshire Dales conference (Page 3), News & Reviews (page 4-6), Media matters (pages 7-8), Brief cases from: Cheshire, Cumbria, Merseyside, Warwickshire, N & W Yorkshire. (Pages 8-10) Case History:- CE3 from Warwickshire (Pages 11-12)

JR Comments ...

In late May a news story about UFOs managed to find its way into both the Morning Star and the Times (amongst others). Anything which achieves this memorable feat must merit an editorial all to itself. It seems that in UFO terms we had better look out - the Russians are coming!

On 29 May 1984 the Soviet trade union newspaper (TRUD) revealed that the Kremlin had launched an immediate UFO study project. This dramatic news produced articles in most of the British highbrow press and none of the page-three style of literature.

The Times of 30 May (Russia Prepares for a Close Encounter) was easily the most informative, explaining how TRUD (meaning "Labour" in Russian) had long campaigned for the setting up of a commission into "close encounters of the third kind" (sic). They quote Pravda's 1960's stance on UFOs "all objects that fly over the territory of our country are identified either by scientists or by those who stand guard over the security of our homeland" (especially - one might think - when they are civilian jumbo jets homeward bound). But allegedly, continual features of "strange light" sightings by TRUD began to make their mark. But the incident which finally convinced the Kremlin that there was something to these "UFOskis" occurred on 27 March 1983.

Gorky (a town closed to foreigners - unless they come by UFO) was the venue. Air traffic controllers here observed a light-grey cigar-shaped object, apparently metallic, and flying towards them through the evening skies. It was apparently the size of an airliner but had neither wings nor tail-fin. The ATC men saw it clearly. The craft failed to respond to radio signals but maintained an erratic flight path at a height of 3000 feet and at an average speed of 125 mph. It flew 45 miles SE of Gorky, then flew back towards the airport and finally vanished 25 miles north - according to radar tracking. On this occasion the "intruder" (for reasons which would be very interesting to learn) was not shot from the skies like the unfortunate Korean Airlines jumbo, six months later. Perhaps the Russians know better than to try firing at UFOs - which if some of the CIA documents retrieved in the USA are to be believed is knowledge gained by experience and at a price!

The Kremlin has given the job of heading the commission to a most interesting man. Was he a psychologist - or a sociologist? No. He was Pavel Popovich, one of their best respected, but now retired, cosmonauts. Popovich said of the Gorky close encounter that it had been sighted by reliable and well trained men, both visually and on radar, for a full forty minutes. In view of this it had to be taken seriously. He admitted that the Russian authorities received "hundreds of reports each year" but that most could be explained away. Anatoly Logunov, of the Academy of Sciences (long term subscribers to Flying Saucer Review, incidentally) supported this but added that "Soviet scientists take the subject seriously" and accepted that there were "occasional well-documented sightings".

The Morning Star's interest obviously stems from their labour links with TRUD. Their "Spaceman heads Soviet UFO Probe" was a lovely headline for a straightforward article. The Daily Telegraph (who readers of SKY CRASH will see refused to attend a press conference on the case, because they claimed to be totally disinterested in UFOs, only to then print a story made up out of fresh air the same day as the conference ~~had~~) also featured a small piece on the Russian announcement. But their Science Correspondant, Adrian Berry (who made an ass of himself regarding the Rendlesham case last year) fought straight back on 31 May trying to imply that all the "hundreds of reports" referenced above, were illegal space launches or weapons tests. He quoted James Oberg, who has indeed explained a couple of spectacular "UFO" sightings this way. But Oberg, I am fairly sure, had no intention of providing the blanket solution which Mr Berry was so willing to pronounce.

James Oberg was almost certainly quoted out of context, just as I was. The Sunday Mirror were the only popular paper to follow the story up and I spoke with their Andrew Golden for an hour or more about GEPAN, the British MOD and work in other countries, to explain the reason why the Soviet decision was so significant. Out of which their "Look Comrade! It's a UFO-ski" (3 June) quoted me only as saying "UFOs have become a major defence problem. They suddenly appear on radar screens and planes are scrambled to chase them." All true enough - but scarcely the point.

The story did not end here, however. The so-disinterested Daily Telegraph carried two more articles! Which is going some for a paper who have no interest whatsoever in UFOs. On 1 June an un-named correspondent (certainly not Adrian Berry I would say!) quotes journalist John Miller about his days as Moscow correspondent for the paper in the sixties. Here the Russians announced a commission headed by a General (whose name was I think Stoloyarov, according to Jacques Vallée, who followed this up at the time). However, Miller tracked down the Commission and the General and paid them a visit eager for a story. The "secretary" at the office, by the Soviet Air Force Academy, said the General was out for the day. So Miller made an appointment for the following day and duly turned up. He found, guess what, no general, no secretary and the office stripped bare! Asking an official elsewhere in the building about the "abducted" UFO commission Miller was told with a shrug, "You are imagining things, comrade. Everybody knows UFOs do not exist."

Miller's tale is fascinating, in view of the discoveries of Vallée, and others, about this commission. Stoloyarov was allegedly told to set it up and then go back for the "tens of thousands" of reports the Kremlin had in their possession. But when he did so he was told - "Sorry - the UFO problem is too big and you are too small".

On 13 July the Telegraph told how the new Popovich commission was now underway and how a box number at Moscow's main post office had been set up to receive incoming reports.

We await with interest (but not too much anticipation) the results of this study. Don't hold your breath!

**** CONFERENCE NEWS****

A WEEKEND IN THE YORKSHIRE DALES

Up to date information is now available on the first NUFON Conference for four years (being organised by the West Yorkshire UFO Research Group).

The conference is in two parts and it is hoped that as many of you as possible will set aside the weekend for what should be an interesting event in very pleasant surroundings.

On SAT 13 OCTOBER 1984 at the Victoria Hall, Saltaire (near Bradford) the lecture and public facet of the programme will take place. This is opposite the brand new Saltaire railway station, operating BRs new trains from Leeds and Bradford twice an hour (during the morning). Or it is easily accessible from the M1/M62 motorway complex. Doors open 12noon and the conference lasts until 5pm with lectures by Harry Harris (on regression hypnosis) and Jenny Randles (on the MOD/UFO "cover up"). WYUFORG will also present local close encounter cases and there will be an open discussion on NUFON's future. Admission is just 50p and refreshments, exhibitions and a book/magazine sale is included.

On SUN 14 OCTOBER 1984 at a nearby hotel a BUFORA National Investigations Committee meeting will be held. This is open to all interested in investigation and will not be concerned with BUFORA, or policies, but with specific cases and their follow-up, discussed at leisure and length under informal circumstances. It should interest any serious field ufologist.

On the Sat night/Sun morning the plan is to continue the discussions about NUFON, and UFOs in general, on a more convivial basis at one of the hotels. With the scenic attractions of the area it should make for a great weekend out and the cost will be much less than most weekend conference (BUFORA members even get free admission to the Sat lectures and so only need pay for transport there and overnight stay).

Why not make it for the weekend and participate fully in the event? Hotel rates are £18-£20 single room, or £24 twin room, but some cheaper inn accomodation is available.

FOR FULL DETAILS, programme, travel map, hotel and inn accomodations, etc etc, CONTACT:-

Nigel Mortimer 33 Green Lane Addingham Ilkley W Yorks LS29 0JH [Tel: Add 831264]

Northern date for the "Anamnesis" Project Investigators course...

The "Anamnesis" project has been set up by BUFORA under the auspices of Dr Alex Keul, the Austrian psychiatrist who initiated the concept. Ken Phillips, the BUFORA training officer, is implementing it on British cases and witnesses as part of a coordinated experiment. The project requires the assistance of field investigators and involves gaining deeper insight into the psychological profiles of witnesses. To this end; ie to explain the project, offer training in its concepts, and to give a fun shared - experience testing of its principles, BUFORA is organising training workshops.

The first workshop was held in London in July and the only other one scheduled (aimed principally at northern investigators) will be staged on SAT 27 OCTOBER 1984 between 1.30 and 5.30pm. The venue will be:- The Patten Arms Hotel, WARRINGTON.

NUFON has held meetings here before and the venue is very convenient being immediately opposite the Warrington Bank Quay station on the West Coast mainline. Warrington itself is at the junction of the M6/M62 motorways and so easily accessible to most ufologists.

The workshop is open to all people (you do not need to be a BUFORA member) and you will find its novel "witness-centred" training useful whether you intend to participate in the project or not. A minimal charge will be levied to offset costs (probably under £1)

Details and pre-bookings from:- KEN PHILLIPS 13 Falcon Ave Milton Keynes Bucks MK6 3HJ

NEWS ROUND-UP

!! The Fund for UFO Research have sent a copy of their annual report for 1983. The Fund accepts donations and these, plus sales of government released documents, are used to pay researchers who submit research proposals (especially on close encounter, abduction and cover-up orientated work). If a proposal is accepted payments up to \$1500 are possible. Any ufologists wishing to submit detailed research proposals for grant aid, or indeed willing to contribute much needed funds, should write to:-
FUND FOR UFO RESEARCH PO Box 277 Mt Rainier Maryland 20712 USA

In 1983 income was \$10,397 and just over \$5000 was granted to various ufologists for accepted research proposals.

!! Stephen Hart of WYUFORG (whose article "The Birth of a New UFO Group" was published in the May/Jun NUN) was asked to print the following... "One sentence in the article suggests that the WYUFORG and the Yorkshire UFO Society are working together, viz '... Together with its fellow ufologists, who form the Yorkshire UFO Society...' This is not the case and I apologise for the wording of that sentence." (EDITOR - YUFOS also wrote direct to me and point out that they have no desire to work with WYUFORG, who they consider to be too young and inexperienced to be worthy of this. My experience of WYUFORG and their excellent case reports, see issue after issue of this journal, suggest to me that this is a most regrettable and unwarranted attitude. NUFON: does remain open to any group capable of field studies to the level WYUFORG produce. This includes YUFOS, whose investigators are excellent.



FOR YOUR PERUSAL:-
Major articles elsewhere

BUFORA BULLETIN 013 (In BUFORA Sub c/o 30 Vermont Rd London SE19 3SR)

Another bumper 42pp issue in what is taking over from FSR as our best national outlet for middle-road ufology. Cynthia Hind reinvestigates Hilary Evans reinvestigation of the 1977 South Wales wave. John Barrett analyses in depth the photographic evidence obtained in the amazing Hessdalen "window". JR defends the reality of Pennine UFOs.

FSR Vol 29 No 5 (£7.50, 6 issues, FSR Publications, West Malling, Kent ME19 6JZ) Little improvement sadly. Yet Jaques Vallée further dents his credibility by agreeing to be a consultant! As the consultants list is now so eminent (and includes NUFON associates Janet & Colin Bord) isn't it about time they got together and made the editorial team aware of their views? A mass walkout/boycot threat might work? Come on the Bords, H. nek, Vallée, Haines et al (some of whom I know read these lines) - can you truly be satisfied with what you see??? We can do nothing - but have you tried? This issue there is an interesting analysis of the 1980 Kirtland Air Force Base Close encounters (inc the released USAF files). However, even this could have been more objective.

MAGONIA July 1984 (£2.50, 4 issues, 64 Alric Ave, New Malden, Surrey KT3 4JW)

A fine antidote to the above. Ian Cresswell compares dreams with the subjective UFO reality state, among the usual fare of reviews and notes with a sociological flavour.

YUFOS QUEST Jul/Aug 1984 (£5, 6 issues, 68 Buller Crescent, Leeds LS9 6LJ)

For all their desire to disassociate themselves from other Yorkshire groups, and their sometimes abrasive techniques, YUFOS and QUEST are excellent examples of British ufology. 48 pages packed with detailed Yorkshire case studies, plus general articles. This issue sees Graham Birdsall start a major series on RPVs (Remotely Piloted Vehicles), the technology of which he clearly believes has much to do with the UFO phenomenon. This is a most significant piece of research well worth a look. However, on page 47, without checking their facts (as sadly occurs too often with some people these days) NUFON is chastised because a supposed associate group (the Lancashire Centre for UFO Studies) wrote YUFOS a letter with a couple of grammatical mistakes in it! Aside from the silliness of this (Quest itself has one or two mistakes in it!!) (what doesn't?) and the fact that they dismiss the Lancashire group, totally without justice, purely because of grammar, any glance at the back page of NUN (this issue and all others) would demonstrate to YUFOS, and anybody else, that the group are NOT associated. They have never asked to be. Despite this Quest is worthy of your close attention. Hopefully time will mellow their independence.

WAUFOIC Mar 1984 (\$7 Aus Lot 113 Kenmore Rd Mahogany Creek 6072 Australia)

Produced as a duplicated magazine by this local Australian UFO Centre it contains interesting case reports. A fascinating one in this issue concerns a UFO which allegedly caused a microwave oven to switch itself on despite not being plugged in!

OVNI Présence No 29 (20FF, AESV boîte postale 324, F-13611 Aix Cedex FRANCE)

The premier French language magazine. This is a special about Jean-Pierre Petit and his experiments to develop a UFO technology. He recounts his struggles with the French government and GEPAN to conduct his research. If you can read French - don't miss it!

BOOK OF THE MOMENT:



In September Orbis publish a £6.99 lavish semi-hardback called "The Age of the UFO". Credit is given to Peter Brooksmith as editor. If you collected the excellent series "The Unexplained" do not be fooled into buying this as something new. It is merely a

reprint of some of the best of UFO pieces from the 156 issues. A goodly percent were penned by Hilary Evans and myself, and many other respected ufologists contributed too. But the credits offered are pathetic (small print by-lines hidden out of sight) and have been deliberately extracted from the chapter heads themselves. None of us are being paid for this book either, of course, as Orbis bought all rights with the original articles. Several journalists have already asked me about Peter Brookesmith's views on such and such, genuinely unaware that I, or another ufologist, was the real author. Obviously I think Orbis have been less than fair about this book (I did not even know about it until a journalist rang me and it contains a number of factual errors reprinted direct from the magazine, although I told Orbis of these errors at the time). But I am more deeply concerned about the blatant attempt to hoodwink the public into buying it as new material, when it is nothing of the sort. Orbis have already reprinted articles in bi-weekly "bumper issues", carefully designed to look like something new. Now this book tries the same trick a third time. I am all for the basic concept, since it provides a super cross-section of opinion to the book-buying public. But I do feel that it ought to be much more obvious it is a reprint from "The Unexplained". I feel part of a "cheat" on the public and I simply wanted to express my concern.... Jenny Randles.

Visions Apparitions : Alien Visitors by Hilary Evans 320pp, 1984 Aquarian £9.95

On a much brighter note it is good to be able to turn to this marvellous book. Easily Hilary Evans most important contribution to the subject, this is so unique and yet simple it will probably become hailed as a classic.

Following the trend of the ASSAP concept the idea is to devote a chapter each to every kind of entity you can think of (The Entity Enigma was Hilary's original apt title for the book). So we build from dream figures, via hallucinations, ghosts and then hauntings, onto demons, UFO aliens and even "Men in Black". In short space a good summary (with example cases) is offered for each, with Hilary pointing out along the way clues to his developing thesis.

In the second section he looks at experimental work and it does seem at first strange to find summoning entities by magic, the Philip "fake ghost" experiments and Lawson's imaginary abductees work in the same volume! But Hilary manages to justify it.

Finally he considers half a dozen possible theories to encompass the key features of entity experiences which he has isolated and carefully set down. These are all complex versions around an essential physical/subjective interactive theme. Any rational thinker would have to agree with Hilary that this must be the road to follow, but I found some things glossed over rather more quickly than I (personally) felt necessary. Rupert Sheldrake's trailblazing "morphic resonance" theory gets a mention. But I have a deep suspicion that this will turn out far more significant to ufology and entity study than any of us realise at this moment.

In conclusion Hilary lucidly outlines a hypothesis involving the "percipient" (ie the one who has the experience), the "apparant" (ie the entity which appears) and the "agent" (which could be either one of the two, or something else altogether). This idea, plus his video-film analogy which he develops through the book, is probably the best feature. Like all good ideas it is simple and terribly obvious once you see it set down. Of course, it still begs the question of whether the experience comes from within the percipient (ie a deeper subconscious level with access to "psychic" information) or from some outside source. Hilary seems to believe the latter must, at least sometimes, be the case.

I have some reservations about the book. It is very anecdotal and speculative. I would have liked to see some hard quantitative results to try to answer questions such as: do alien entities and apparitions involve the same average witness numbers per sighting? do they differ in sociological profile? do they follow the same temporal and spatial distribution pattern? This is work that must be done, but it was perhaps

expecting too much for Hilary to do it all. I am less happy about his work on abduction cases too. His points about the stressing of door and window motifs seems rather strained and I still think Lawson's work (important as it is) gets more consideration than it ought to on its present level of development.

More significantly though is the basic problem as to whether it is a brilliant insight, or a misleading presumption to lump all manner of entities together. Hilary sees this point, of course. But it must be realised that all types of entity are filtered by the consciousness of the percipient, which may be the only common denominator needed to explain the similarities. After all clouds, cuckoo clocks and carnations all share things at the conceptual level where they are perceived by consciousness in its "normal" mode. Aliens, ghosts et al may be just as unique, with comparisons emphasised by the decidedly "abnormal" mode of consciousness (the Quasi-Conscious Experience) in which the percipient finds himself at the time. This possibility must be held close to one's heart.

Even so this is an enjoyable, lucid and perceptive read which ought to establish Hilary's reputation as a leading researcher in paranormal investigation. Buy it.

MEDIA MATTERS:-

A look at UFOs in the public eye



With UFOs finally making "Coronation Street" this had to be an exciting time for us! Actor Kevin Kennedy (who plays binman-astronomer Curly Watts) admits (Evening Gazette, 11 June) to a personal fascination with UFOs. "I have read all the different theories about them", quoth he, and seems to have a predilection for "the theory which states that they come from openings into the earth situated at either pole"! It seems the lurid headlines in the "Weatherfield Recorder", belittling poor Curly in character, may have been poetic justice for his real beliefs! Actor Bill Roache (Ken Barlow), the fictional editor who published the tale, had to play dumb about UFOs on the show - an added twist to the plot because Bill is a keen (and very sensible) UFO enthusiast. He regularly read Northern UFO News, when MUFORA held its meetings in the Granada TV boardroom some years back, and I recall one NUFON conference he attended. When he stood up and asked a question of one speaker I never saw 200 pairs of eyes switch so instantly from poor Raymond Drake (who had lectured) to the "chap in the audience", whose voice must have sounded so familiar. For me it was the highspot of the conference!

But there has been much else to enjoy, including The Sun (30 June) "I met space aliens" cop quits"; where PC Alan Godfrey explained how he had been forced from the force "on medical grounds". There is much more to this story than the Sun got wind of, but more of that anon when Alan gets round to telling how he was so shabbily treated for his 'crime' of undergoing a close encounter in the line of duty.

Those wretched circles returned yet again to give me a near-relapse in hospital when a nurse came waving the Daily Mail (4 August) at me. Their full-page "Healey's Comet" story was a pathetic misleading of the public once again. It claimed that Shadow Foreign Secretary Dennis Healey (who just happened to be a guest photographer for the Mail at the time!) had initiated a "space-age mystery". A five circle pattern, just like those from last year, had coincidentally materialised in a corn-field at Alfriston, Sussex (rather dutiously labelled as Healey's back garden because he owns a house nearby!) No mention of it having happened last year, or the year before, and everyone was suitably "totally baffled" (to quote Mr Healey). Local villagers were also "convinced" a giant UFO had landed. One supposes the TV serial "V" (doing the rounds at the time) had absolutely nothing to do with this silliness - no, of course not!

Ken Phillips for BUFORA told them (again) about the whirlwinds idea. The farmer was rightly angry, both at the vandals he was sure had done it as a hoax, and papers like the Mail whose way-over-the-top reactions are directly responsible for his lost crops. Mr Mossop ought to seriously consider suing the press and daring them to print such twaddle again next July/August when (I safely predict) some other moron will fake more "landing pad marks" to get his name in the papers.

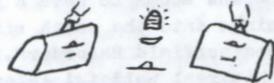
Naturally the Mail, anxious to maintain the pretence (lie is the real truth) of an exclusive story - told nobody that the affair began three weeks earlier when circles appeared by (guess where) "Cley Hill", Warminster! The farmer told the Southern Echo (16 Jul) it was "A lot of tripe" and caused by stationary whirlwinds. They often got them locally in the summer... as we ufologists now know all too well, or most of us do.

More circles appeared over the next few days and the whirlwinds, plus hoaxers with chains, explanations got most local coverage (which was generally excellent). But the press in Hampshire and Wiltshire, where the circles appeared, soon got fed up of the (now boring) repeat performance. Then along came the Sussex circles, first reported in the Brighton Argus (30 Jul). This and all subsequent pieces never even mentioned the proximity to Dennis Healey (in whose garden the Mail insisted they were!) But two days before the Mail went to press (2 Aug) the Argus carried "Expert solves riddle of the rings". Philip Taylor, BUFORA's regional coordinator, had inspected them and decided quite clearly they were deliberate hoaxes. He said he got suspicious as soon as he saw that the hill on which they turned up just happened to be called "Cradle Hill" - same name as the infamous Warminster ufocal.

I have a feeling that these circles will keep coming back to haunt us every year unless the supposedly sensible British press stop making absolute asses of themselves. It ought to have been obvious to any follower of the Daily Mail that the circles were created by Zola Budd, running round and round, whilst tied to the lead that newspaper had so thoughtfully provided for her.

BRIEF CASES

Some Current Investigations

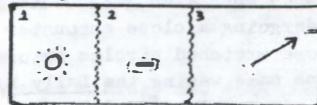


NB: It seems the Cadishead CE3 case on ppl9 of the Jan/Feb 1984 issue is a hoax. I chanced to look at Issue I of "The Unexplained" the other day and this carries a sketch of the Socorro UFO. It is stylised and somewhat different from Officer Zamora's own drawings. But it (and its markings) are identical with that offered by the alleged witness to the 1983 landing beside the Manchester Ship Canal. So the odd talk stacked.

On the other hand... see the CE3 case referenced on page 11 of this issue!!!

Case 5002 July 1950 14.00 Middlewich, Cheshire MUFORA (J. Randles)

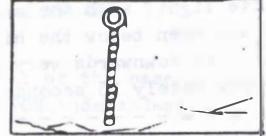
Mr LF was a contracting electrician, one of 3000 people on a site building a salt works. It was a lovely sunny afternoon and on going outside LF was puzzled to see a large group staring at a silvery ball (somewhat less than the full moon in diameter). It hovered quite still and was reflecting the sun strongly. For 20 minutes it stayed in one place as the crowd discussed options. Then, in total silence it turned on its side, now looking like a coin on edge. It also grew dull and a small puff of vapour surrounded it, which dispersed inside seconds. Immediately it did this "flip" it shot off east and vanished inside 1/2 seconds at amazing speed. The site checked with both Manchester Airport and the police. Nobody else outside the site had seen it! The Airport said there were no balloons or aircraft in the area. There seems no obvious explanation for what LF says is "the only strange thing I have ever seen".



Case 6005 Jul/Aug 1960 06.00 Settle, North Yorks WYUFOG (Iain Johnston)

WB was a bus driver, taking the Kendal-Leeds night service through the Dales. The sun had just risen when he saw "a large chain of circles" hanging high in the sky. He was so excited by this curious apparition that he stopped the bus and urged the passengers (around 15 or so) to get off with him and watch. They all did and stared at it in total astonishment. He recalls one lady saying "Well - it isn't the aurora borealis!"

The effect of the stationary object was like a "watch", with a large upper circle and about 12 smaller rings dangling below. The "watch" was deep golden and the rings yellow, all backlit by the sun. It looked like a solid object. LF claims that he and other passengers all felt strange. He talks of being "inspired - almost spiritual" and of "feeling very warm inside" and also that "time was somehow different - it seemed to stand still." These are, of course, classic OZ factor effects which, if genuine, tend to suggest there may be rather more to this case than seems obvious. The OZ factor implies a close encounter "UFO", whereas the event description strikes one as a very bizarre UAP type (although no other identical cases spring to mind - so what kind of UAP could it possibly be?) A weird one, for sure. Case 7477 Summer 1974 20.00 Liverpool, Merseyside MUFORA (J. Randles)



Mrs DD was playing an organ in her lounge when through the bay window she saw an object hovering over the cemetery. It was a big orange ball, like the sun when setting. For a few seconds she was so amazed she could not speak, then she cried out and her son and nephew rushed in and saw it. After about 2 minutes the ball moved away very fast and was lost behind a house. Certain it was crashing to earth all three ran outside and down the road where an open view of the area was offered. Nothing was visible.

A MODERN-DAY FOO FIGHTER

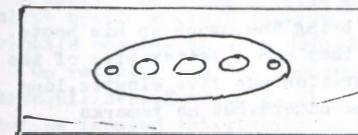
Case 8089 ??? 1980 Afternoon Shipston-on-Stour, Warwicks Kevin Owen.

We hear a lot about "foo fighters" pacing aircraft during WWII, but these UAP events did not end with the hostilities. In May 1969 I observed through a telescope a small silvery ball rushing in the wake of a civilian jet. I was not a ufologist at the time and put it down to a balloon caught in the slipstream of the plane (a Viscount). Kevin Owen, a young newcomer to MUFORA, relates his own 1980 observation. He had just watched a lightplane fly over his head when something (he does not know what) made him turn round and spot an object coming from behind the apple tree in his neighbour's garden. Just like what I saw it was a small silvery ball following the aircraft (though quite a way behind), about the size of a halfpenny at arms length. Kevin also had a telescope handy and he too studied the object as it sailed silently over. He saw it as a smooth round ball. One of his brothers rushed out at his call and had chance to see it through the telescope also. In my sighting (JR) I just lost track of the ball. Kevin saw it shoot off suddenly at 90 degrees to its original course and zip out of sight, in a manner that many previous sightings of this kind relate. This is clearly an impressive and consistent type of UAP and I am beginning to wonder now whether my 1969 balloon idea was correct!

THE SMUDGE WITH PORTHoles

Case 8173 February 19 1981 20.07 Baildon, West Yorks WYUFOG (Nigel Mortimer)

PE, 29 at the time and a heavy goods mechanic, was making a cup of coffee in his kitchen when he saw what he took to be a yellowish smudge on the window, which looks out over the Aire Valley and Shipley Glen. Continuing to make his coffee, but now with curiosity aroused, he looked more closely and realised it was a yellow light outside, moving W-E towards Ilkley Moor.



So he went out and was amazed to find the light resolve into a structured object as it came closer. It was rugby-ball shaped, around 80 feet in a diameter, and he estimates at a height of no more than 500 ft. It was golden/yellow and had a line of round windows or portholes along the middle. The brightness was similar to the full moon and it was clearly outlined. When it passed over it was totally silent, despite the quiet surrounds. He called his wife but as he only saw the object for about 1 minute it had gone before she came outside.

Case 8172 June 1981 22.00 Gowthwaite Moor, Cumbria NLUFOIG (S.Wrightson)

Mr and Mrs S and a family friend were crossing the moor when they observed a bright white light, with the appearance and apparant size of a tennis ball, to the north. It was seen below the hill line, with the sky still partly light, and climbed upwards and then downwards very fast, crossing the hill-line out of sight. It was in view approximately 15 seconds. NLUFOIG were unable to evaluate the case. Investigation level C

IT MADE MY HAIR FALL OUT!

Case 8253 April 1982 early am Aintree, Merseyside MUFORA (J.Randles)

Mr JL and his wife were woken from sleep by an eerie blue light flooding into their bedroom. After a few seconds JL went to the window and here observed a small round object projecting a bluish/white beam down towards the ground. This seemed to spread out for a mile as it reached downwards. The phenomenon was moving across the sky on a E-W course towards the Wirral peninsular and as it approached there was "a hell of a roar", like a very loud jet. JL also says he detected a sudden rush of wind. The visual phase of the sighting lasted no more than a few seconds. JL claims that a friend at work the next day told him there had been a radio report of a UFO having landed on the Wirral. However, checks have found no evidence to substantiate this story - which is not known to MUFORA. JL further asserts that later that day all the hairs on the back of his hands fell out, for no obvious reason! These grew back and there were no other ill effects. Unfortunately, the case was not reported to MUFORA until late 1983, following a radio interview. By this time no real follow-up was possible, but it remains very feasible that the object seen was a military aircraft on some sort of low level exercise, heading back towards North Wales by cutting corners and crossing the Wirral. However, MUFORA have no answer to the allegedly hair loss - if, of course, it is true. Investigation level B. +

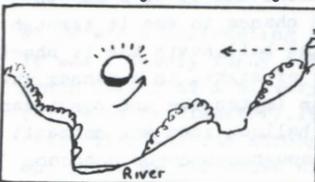


MUFORA have conducted a limited study of this case adding much new detail. This will be reported in the Sep/Oct issue.

BALLOON, BIRD OR UAP?

Case 8252 August 22 1982 10.40 Sowerby Bridge, West Yorks WYUFOIG (N.Mortimer)

Mr JB lives in a house which offers a marvellous view over the Norland Moor area and the River Ryburn valley. On this morning he was enjoying this view when he saw the object in question directly over the river and roughly at eye-level, or just below. This means its real height above the river-bed was not substantial. He watched it 'drift' north and pass out of view temporarily, to reappear still moving in the same way. It was a round shape with a slightly flattened underside. Colour was silvery and it seemed to be self-illuminated rather than reflecting the sun. The underside was a brownish/orange shade. After a couple of minutes he called his wife and she at first did not see what he was pointing at. The object was now further away and she presumed it to be a bird catching the sun and riding the air currents. But they are used to such phenomena, being country dwellers, and she soon realised that the movement of this object was different. JB also called his 18-year old son Phillip and asked him to bring his telescope. He came, and saw the object, but did not bring the scope in his haste. The three witnesses then retired to Phillip's bedroom where they had a better view of the object following the valley north and out of sight. Total duration was five minutes, long enough for JB to have photographed it with his nearby loaded camera. But he remarks that he just "never thought of it". The area has generated numerous UFO events before and Soyland Moor/Todmorden lies a couple of miles west (see PERMINE UFO MYSTERY). But WYUFOIG point out the possibility that it might have been a hot-air balloon following the river course. The sighting was reported too long after the events to check on this.



CASE HISTORIES

A MEETING WITH THE ALIENS: ASSAP report by Geoff Bird (also of PROBE)

Date: Feb/Mar 1966 01.00 Shipston-on-Stour, Warwick

NB: The location of this event just happens to coincide with that of the case of the "foo" fighter (see page 9 this issue). Both were submitted to NUFON independantly.

This incident came to light via a Devon newspaper, who had reported local activity and subsequently received a letter from witness DW concerning his 1966 encounter. Geoff Bird was the closest ufologist to the present address of the witness.

DW is now aged 48, registered as permanently disabled (for reason see later) but an ex member of the police force and latterly a cabaret musician. This was his profession at the time of the experience and he was driving home from a show at a club near Walsall towards his then lodgings at Reading. At just after 01.00 he was on the quiet A34 near Shipston-on-Stour. He had decided to stop here for a small snack. He was in open country with a bridge on his left and ground sloping down from that towards a meadow. The road on which he had temporarily parked was also on a slight downward incline.

It is important to note that with him in the car was Phillip, an 11-year old boy. In view of the lateness of the journey this seems curious. The exact role of Phillip was impossible to elicit because the witness became highly distressed when it was raised. He claimed that Phillip (who seems to have been a family member) was killed sometime after the events in a motoring accident which also killed DW's sister's boyfriend. The investigators decided it was prudent not to push the matter further.

With DW eating his snack by the bridge he and the boy spotted a brilliant light in the meadow beyond. He had travelled this route before and knew the stopping place well enough to realise the light should not be there. So he suggested to Phillip an investigation, but the boy was too scared to leave the car. However DW stepped out and peered over the hedge, where he saw a strange object either on the ground or hovering just above.

The object was shaped like a bullet and was silvery metallic. There was some sort of vertical band or marking centrally located. Also a blue light revolved on top of the object, cutting a path through the fields. It rotated slowly and when it reached a certain point in the revolutions it illuminated two figures that were by the side of the "craft". These were human-like, tall & dressed in all over suits which shone or reflected. They seemed to be staring at the ground by the side of the object. After observing for a few minutes the witness could no longer contain himself from descending the slope into the meadow,



determined to cross the approximate 100 metres between him and the object.

At this point Phillip, having become concerned at DW moving from proximity to the car, got out and looked over the hedge. He too saw the object and his only companion heading straight for it. Phillip screamed. Immediately the rotating beam swung onto them and brightly illuminated both witnesses and their car. Phillip became hysterical. DW panicked and fled back to the car, pushing the boy inside. The boy clung to him, making driving difficult. But DW released the handbrake and the car free-wheeled away down the slope until he could manage to start the engine. He drove in blind panic and he next recalls passing through Oxford at 02.45, very relieved to see "civilisation" at last.

On reaching Reading a doctor was called, as Phillip was still in shock. He prescribed tranquilisers. Even so Phillip begged DW not to go to the club that day by the same route, but DW ignored this, saying he would be safe as it would be daylight. At the location DW discovered a large black circle in the grass with faint traces of what looked like silvery powder. The grass seemed scorched.

DW had a hazy memory and showed much distress during retelling (eg about Phillip). Psychologist Rob Gilbert was allowed to meet him to assess this. It transpired that an

