

NORTHERN UFO NEWS



120

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J.R. Comments...

Summer is here again (well it is - honest!). What does that mean, in terms of British UFO circles? Indeed - you spotted the clue! Those wretched rings are here again- only this time we were ready for them!

Readers should need no introduction to the circles that appear in cereal fields throughout southern England every June/July. They have become such a part of our silly-season folklore and I have reviewed the media credulity so often in these pages that it is rather old hat. The patterns (at first single rings, then triple sets, and latterly quintuplet formations) have turned up in a range of sites in the general vicinity of Warminster each year since 1980. The popular myth is that giant UFOs are creating them. Giant invisible UFOs, as nobody ever sees them do it!

I have long championed other ideas - primarily meteorologist Dr Terrence Meaden, who thinks they can be put down to a new type of fair-weather stationary whirlwind. But the possibility of hoaxes has also been at the forefront of the list of options to anyone giving the subject more than a casual glance. Whatever the truth - the UFO idea is pure bunk and it has been our responsibility to keep pointing that out (with varying degrees of success) to an increasingly frustrating Fleet Street.

In the area itself the local group SIGAP coordinated efforts to mount a circle watch this summer, visiting the key sites at weekends during the 'danger' period to (hopefully) see a circle being created. Then speculation would not be necessary. Meanwhile, from a different (yet related) attack BUFORA decided during the winter to compile a full report on everything we knew about the circles. This 28-page publication "Mystery of the Circles" was put together by Paul Fuller and myself but with full discussion, backing and support from the rest of the NIC (BUFORA's team of field investigators). Paul, as a geographical statistician and excellent field investigator himself, lives in Hampshire - within five minutes drive of Cheesefoot Head, one of the regular circle 'haunts'. So he put together all the data we had on the rings - including summaries of the attempts to explain them. Ten separate theories were set out and points for and against listed. I gave a more detailed review of Terrence Meaden's ideas, based on his several complex articles in the meteorological literature. I also gave a historical account of the sociology of the circles - especially as they have been handled by the media.

This package was completed several weeks before the new set of circles were anticipated. Had they not turned up in 1986 we would have sat on the report for 12 months. The idea was that as soon as the circles did arrive (as we, correctly, assumed they would do) we would have the report ready for instant release to the press as an aid to education. Using the publicity generated we would spread the truth as widely as we could and put into motion our formulated plan to hold a public seminar-press conference within a week of the news first breaking.

It was an unprecedented scheme which the BUFORA NIC had worked out carefully at its Spring 1986 meetings. Naturally, it was impossible to alert readers of NUN to what we were doing...for which I duly apologise. But we counted on the media publicity alerting many of you and all groups were given a few days notice.

The exercise was exhausting and yet fascinating. The main burden fell upon the shoulders of Paul Fuller, London NIC coordinator Mike Wootten, and myself as Director of Investigations. For a week or more none of us had time to do anything but eat and sleep 'mystery circles'. The cost to us personally (in terms of lost work and anticipated huge phone bills) is yet to be counted fully. So we worked hard to ensure it was not seen as either a money-making attempt or a cash-in on the fact that circles were being seen. Indeed, if anything, we missed golden opportunities to sell thousands of copies of the report - and published only 200, chiefly to be marketed to serious UFO researchers such as you - and, of course, the media.

I think the success of the operation can be judged by the unusual quality of the press attention, compared with the calibre of the Daily Express/Mail/Star offerings in previous summers.

The first circle appeared at Cheesefoot Head early on the morning of Saturday 5 July right in front of SIGAP watcher Pat Delgado who was in the field at dawn and observed the circle manifest out of the mist. It must have occurred overnight. But no cause was noted. Immediately it was realised that this was a brand new pattern - unlike all the others. A normal 68 foot ring surrounded by a second

annular ring, making a giant formation overall. There were some suspicious circumstances about the appearance, aside from this new style which looks far from natural. I will not delve into them here as they are still under investigation, but a certain Fleet Street newspaper (who did not report the circles) knew of them before anybody else.

Much of Sunday was spent in both SIGAP and BUFORA investigation of the pattern. Paul Fuller and Dr Meaden studied it whilst Mike Wootten and I immediately put the BUFORA ER plan into action. Even as we were drawing up press releases and agreeing a London seminar for seven days hence (Monday 14 July) something bizarre occurred at Cheesefoot. In what we have now narrowed down to a remarkably short period of a few minutes, when all observers had left the site for some tea, a second circle - identical but only two-thirds the size of the first - appeared in the same field! We know it turned up in broad daylight, around 7pm on a fine Sunday evening, with the location in view of the main road. But, whilst some important information is coming to light, nobody saw it appear!

This time the Daily Telegraph (usually anti-UFO) broke the story on 7 July. Our media packs were on their way at this time and we soon had Fleet Street coming to us for information. I did the Derek Jamison show on Radio Two at 8-15am on the 8th, in which ten minutes without a record break was devoted to a demystification of the rings. Meanwhile, on 9 July, the Telegraph did a second feature and carried a photo of the new ring side by side with the first. "Circles 'caused by wind'" it was headed - and quoted Paul Fuller for BUFORA saying, "The weather seems to be the most plausible explanation, though there are a lot of unanswered questions. But we are sure there is no connection with UFOs." A Bracknell meteorologist, Dr Paul Mason, supported this with reservations; "usually there would be a trail of damage rather than a circle."

However, our purpose was not to explain the circles. The report does not do that. It offers all the facts and the theories and steers readers in the right direction. There was a fair bit of local TV and radio publicity in the south all that week. And unseen by most of us two more circles turned up in a Sussex field (reported by the Brighton Argus, 10 July). Frankly these look like crude hoaxes, and differ markedly from other patterns, having ragged edges.

Jamison had to get his own back because I refused to tell him what 'the answer' was. How could I? I would only be guessing. In Today, 12 July, he announced "Flying Circles around saucers" - stating "Monday is a big day for flying saucer buffs like myself." He then mentioned BUFORA, the meeting, and the report - without any information about where the meeting was! He concluded, "My tip is that the investigators will put it down to mini-whirlwinds descending like a vacuum cleaner."

Back at the Telegraph the letters column was trotting back the hoary old ideas department. 16 July Mrs Draycott from Wiltshire explained the circles as "military helicopters on their practice 'hovers'" - a theory our Report shows to be untrue. On the 18th someone suggested they were collapsed neolithic burial chambers, where the poorer soil causes less plant growth. An interesting new idea which seems mad enough to be possible.

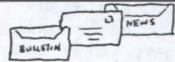
The seminar itself was attended by about 50 people and a couple of journalists only. A good thrash out between scientists like Dr Meaden, researchers such as Pat Delgado, Omar Fowler and Paul Fuller, and hoax proponents such as Chris Woods of the Daily Express, resulted in a split vote - of 3 to 1 in favour of weather induction as against hoaxes. By the end only one person verbally supported UFOs as the cause, on the basis that nothing else worked so it had to be spaceships!

The publicity rounded off with a super piece in The Guardian, 18 July, reviewing this meeting, the report and interviewing me. "Ringing the changes" spoke of how "little green eyeshades" in Fleet Street had what it called a "symbiotic relationship between the elements and Fleet Street. The British whirlwind spell coincides exactly with the silly season." The Stuart Wavell Guardian column perfectly reflects what we set out to do, summarising all the main problems involved.

Whilst I would not be dumb enough to think we have "killed off" the circles, we have, I believe, done our job as responsible UFO researchers. Not before time too.

MYSTERY OF THE CIRCLES...the 28page report (with photos) is available from BUFORA (cheques/pos to BUFORA Ltd). Cost is £1.25. Copies obtainable from-
PAUL FULLER :- 83 ALRESFORD ROAD WINCHESTER HANTS SO23 8JZ Tel: 0962-65513

NEWS ROUND-UP:



:: Raymond Broderick of Accrington asks me to include the following note for Clive Potter - concerning his report (see Issue 119) of Mrs B and the "Joseph" entity. He asks - "Doesn't Ben Kenobi work at the co-op? Really, to say that this might be an element of her own personality begs me to ask if Mrs B uses the Gents loo. Joseph, yo-yo, call it what you will, has popped up in a number of close encounters. To dismiss these reports so lightly is in my opinion wrong. It is the silly bits that make the show. So, Clive, if you hear a noise in the cellar it could be Obi-Wan or Joseph." If Clive wants to reply to that (if he understands it!) then I will publish his response.

:: A new 24pp 'thingie' came through my door the other day. Entitled TEMETI - The Terrestrial Emergent Matrix of Extraterrestrial Intelligence (any more entries for the daftest UFO 'name of the year' competition?) it comprises a printed interview between Mr G. Chicoine (of the "Alexandria Foundation" - a sort of very up-market Aetherius Society) and "Mr. T." - no not that one! This "Mr T" is (I quote) - "a newspaper reporter who writes occasionally, under another name, for UFO journals". Aha - that's got you lot stumped, hasn't it! Whoever he is then he is alleged to have said - "I am in great general agreement with the ideas of yourself and the Foundation about the need for a cosmic attitude toward UFO and ETI phenomena." And that is part of the first question! It seems to rule out 99 per cent of British Ufology (it could have been someone from Magonia if the letter 's' in Cosmic is omitted.) After that the interview is deep, philosophical, and questions the background to contact cases from a pseudo-ETH viewpoint. A lot of it seemed like cobblers to me, but a few bits struck home. I liked the comment (p.10) that in his view "impartial investigation groups" are part of what he terms "conversional public cults" and are actually aiding the cover-up! The glossy and very pretty booklet is on offer at 50p from the Foundation C/O High Burton, Masham, Ripon, N. Yorks HG4 4BS.... The search is on for Mr. T. Any ideas???

:: Another warning has also winged my way, from a Mr squiggle ('fraid I cannot decipher his signature). He lives in Liverpool, which probably explains everything. The letter begins... "This is a serious emergency. There is flying sorcers which are responsible for some of the world disasters today. These flying sorcers are at present still in a small satellite orbit in Liverpool EVERY DAY CAUSING EARTH TREMORS OR QUAKS. THEY ARE A SERIOUS THREAT TO THE CITY OF LIVERPOOL." He goes on (and on) (and on) about how the Sorcers are creating "Mass Murder. Mass Damage. Plus chemical contamination in peoples heads... Fly Sorcers were blown up in USA and southern England... cost millions of lives." A follow up letter some days later explained how "This UFO is a menous. It looks like a star object that keeps appearing and disappearing - like the Mirage fighter plane." Apparently the authorities shoot them down with missiles. It is currently reposing near the moon, where it can pass for a star. He has told "the USA government and British government." But he has been told he will be blown up if he does not "move out from Wavertree". Here was I thinking the only 'serious threat' to Liverpool was the city council. But he got one thing right... Fly Sorcers do cause "Quaks". I can think of one right now.



FOR YOUR PERUSAL :-
Major articles elsewhere

EXPLORING THE SUPERNATURAL (Aug) has duly appeared under ex-Unknown editor Lin Weiland. At 90p monthly from WH Smiths, or £15.50 annual sub from Aceville 89 East Hill Colchester Essex CO1 2QN - it is quite nice. Same format as "The Unknown" and similar content - but with a few new ideas. I am still not sure the market can cope with this and its predecessor battling it out as rivals. But at least both knock spots off that twaddle "Beyond Science" which creaks along. It is rather more of a mix of fortune telling and straight parapsychology than the somewhat less hysterical original journal, but Peter Haugh's "The Great UFO Hoax" lead to one Fleet Street story and my Soapbox on the motivations for famous people making

statements about PSI provoked another awful piece out of the Daily Star. Still check out "Exploring the Supernatural" over the next couple of issues (if it lasts). With people like Janet & Colin Bord, John Grant and Michael Goss writing, it cannot be that bad. Mind you it favourably reviews three of my books at once - so I am biased! Meanwhile, "The Unknown" are doing all they can to better their new rival. Ruth McArthur has taken over as editor and has the benefit of 14 issues behind her and a good reputation. Highlights UFO-wise at present - a three-part detailed review of the "AFEN mystery" (Jul, Aug & Sep) & a critical assessment of the Aetherius Society "Ho, line to the Aliens" (Jul & Aug) - both from JR. Peter Hough's detailed look at the Allingham hoax "All the Madmen" (Jul) and Janet & Colin Bord's discussion of "witness conditioning" in "Uncontaminated UFO witnesses" (Aug). August also sees the start of an eight-part series by JR on the validity of UFO photographic evidence. The price went up to 99p with the August issue, but at under £2 for both "The Unknown" and "Exploring the Supernatural" each month, you could do worse than stock up on Summer reading.

One new magazine, not in the stores, to record this month. EARTH. Edited by Paul Bennett, contactee and ex-editor of UFO Brigantia. It bills itself as a bi-monthly journal of "Paganism, Ufology and Mysticism". Certainly different and with Paul's unique commentary on creatures, folklore, weird goings on, earthlights, UFOs et al, it looks to be well worth the £4 for six issues (or 77p for a sample) - Cheques/ P.O.s to Paul Bennett - 61 Ranelagh Avenue Ravenscliffe Bradford W. Yks BD10 9HF

Paul is also preparing a 40pp report on the earthlights connections and the infamous 23 Jul 1984 Yorkshire sightings. It will retail at about £1 and be out in the autumn. He wishes those interested to write now and reserve a copy (same address as above) - so he knows how many to have printed.

EUFORA Bulletin May 1986 (EUFORA 34B Marylebone High St London W1M 3PF)

Stuart Campbell explains everything as stars - even Cash-Lundrum! Alex Keul and Ken Phillips give the first results of the Anamnesis tests. A detailed Clive Potter case report and JR on the LBC UFOs exist/don't exist computer poll battle with Ian Ridpath. Plus lots more. If this is EUFORA going off the rails then I don't mind crashing.

UFO Brigantia (£5.50 for 6 issues, 84 Elland Rd Brighouse W. Yorks HD6 2QR)

Jun - last issue on monthly basis, important for Nigel Mortimer's record straight - ening review of the Cracoe Fell photographs. If you want the alternative view on these pictures - which YUROS consider to be of great significance - read this. Jul/Aug - sees the start of double-sized bi-monthly issues with a "Historical" special. Bags of stuff on airships, ancient sightings etc. Fascinating material.

FATE (£19 US 12 issues, 500 Hyacinth Place Highland Park Illinois 60035)

At 436 issues still puts all the other young upstarts like "The Unknown" to shame. If you saw the movie "Ordinary People" on TV recently you might like to know it was set on and around Highland Park, the small Lake Michigan town where FATE comes from. Jun Peter Hough on the Shelley Barnes case; Jerome Clark reviews the main six UFO journals in the world... according to him anyhow. An obviously personal view, but thanks for including NUN in there. Jul Michael Persinger, of earthlights fame, has a new piece on his theories. Aug Jerome Clark pays tribute to Allen Hynek. Of course, these are just the straight UFO pieces. Each issue has 130 pages of stuff.

FORTEAN RESEARCH CENTRE Jul 1986 (£15 US, 4, PO Box 94627, Lincoln, NE 68509, USA)

Ray Beeche & Scott Colborn's second issue has an update on Rendlesham (new rumours concerning it), some new Freedom of Information Documents on the "green fireball" sightings over security bases. There is also a detailed look at a recently research - ed CE4 from Nebraska with all the usual elements and some new MIB twists. In fact, NUN reader Dave Stewart (68 Moss Rd Birkdale Southport PR8 4JQ) has made a copy of the interview tape available to me and I am sure that he would do likewise if you ask him nicely and are interested after reading FRC Journal.

IUR Mar/Apr (US \$32, 6 issues, CUFOs:1955 John's Drive Glenview Illinois 60025)

More expensive than ever I am afraid. This is about £21 for a years subscription. But undoubtedly one of the major UFO publications money can buy. Ann Druffel on a "space channeling CE4 contact" and JR summarises the military role in the April 1984 British wave. What - you didn't know there was one? Tut. Tut.

MUFON Journal (US \$30, MUFON:- 103 Oldtowne Rd Seguin Texas 78155-4099)

The other indispensable American UFO mag. This one is not glossy, but is monthly. May - has a detailed re-investigation of the Mantell death and T. Scott Crain concludes it was not venus or a balloon. Provocative stuff. Jun - A fascinating look at the UFO scene in Chile and a review of UFO teleportation events. Stuart Campbell justifies why he thinks the Cash-Lundrum case was the star canopus. Betty Cash replied and was not exactly ohuffed. "People like that are to be pitied. He said he even doubted our credibility - well I doubt his mentality." Stuart is way out on a limb with this interpretation and I should reassure overseas readers it has not gone un-noticed within BUFORAs NIC team, who are far from happy.

BOOKS OF THE MOMENT

THE MOVING STATUE OF BALLIN SPITTLE By Lionel Beer 46pp with photos 1986

In the summer of 1985 strange events captured world headlines from the tiny Eire village of Ballin Spittle. The statue of the Virgin which resides in a Lourdes - type grotto and is the source of many local visitors was said to have moved in front of witnesses. Within days news of the miracle had spread and people flocked from all over to see the effect - which allegedly continued to defy logic and the wrath of sceptics. Many even saw it for themselves! In this fascinating review of events Lionel Beer develops the story, sets it in context and examines the possible explanations. It will be a delight to UFO investigators who are familiar with the way both the media and science wrestle with the impossible. Here, though, a new factor - the church - is involved. There is some direct UFO relevance to the tale, as "autokinesis" is one of the theories put out to explain the effects; and the Virgin Mary apparitions of famous UFO contactee Pauline Coombes (the Ripperston Farm, Dyfed, case) are also discussed. Offered in two forms from Spacelink Books (15 Freshwater Court London W1H 1HS) - £2 with colour cover, £1.75 b/w cover. Nice.

THE CHARLES AND PAT LAUGHTER SHOW

Readers of that well known paragon of English news - an impregnable bastion of truth and hard fact - the gossip column of the Daily Star - will no doubt have seen your editors name feature heavily in its 28 July edition. To make one story in a Fleet Street gossip column is bad luck, but to make two is sheer stupidity. That will be my excuse, anyhow.

Story one concerns the revelations about the real author behind that 1954 contactee book "Flying Saucers From Mars". I have known for three years since Chris Allan, through his brilliant research work, enlightened and surprised me. Magonia (new address 5 James Terrace Mortlake Churchyard London SW14 8HB) blow the story in their new issue (July 1986) - the author (termed a "famous TV personality who appears nightly" by Peter Hough in his Exploring the Supernatural piece) is Patrick Moore. Arch UFO debunker and researcher turned septic (sorry sceptic). You must read Magonia to see the clues unwind.

The reason why I was quoted at length by Peter Tory in his column is not too clear. But I do know a good deal about this story from the inside. I will not elaborate here, but direct you to a full account to be published in Magonia 24. John Rimmer also suggests any other contributor who has something to say on the Moore hoax should write to him as soon as possible.

The other feature in the gossip column concerned the alleged interest of Prince Charles in UFOs and a secret party he "recently" held for freakish UFO investigators. Yes - I thought you would be surprised. So was I when I read what I am quoted as saying. The truth is in my soapbox column of Exploring the Supernatural. Anything else is an invention by the Star. Charles has no interest in UFOs, to my knowledge. The party was years ago and was not connected with UFOs but with psychio phenomena. Should any hacks who read NUN, or serious researchers for that matter (I am not saying we have any readers in either category!), consider inserting this into their latest article or potboiler - then do think again.

It is ironic that I criticised certain people for being misquoted in the Sunday Mirror recently when Prince Charles saw a UFO. Now a new myth is created all by myself. 'Nuff said. Excuse me whilst I commit Prince Harry-Karl.

((((()))



MEDIA MATTERS

A look at UFOs in the eye

Publication of SKY CRASH in paperback this May provoked a little trickle of interest. Best response came from Derek Jameson - the new BBC breakfast show radio presenter (hasn't he done well since the week after the News of the World first published the story on its front page and he left Fleet Street!) In TODAY (the rag I took to task last time over their theft of my work) he wrote "Star Wars? - A load of old UFOs" (subtitled - "I don't believe in radioactive giant rabbits") (7 May). A very nice, sensible review of the book. As he says, "(The) book raises some awkward questions about the USAF bases in East Angles in view of Mrs Thatcher's decision to allow them to be used by F-111 bombers for the attack on Libya. Quite clearly we have little control over the bases and, when something untoward occurs, lose no time in helping the US cover it up." He concludes that the UFO was - in his view - "an American military spacecraft which had been on an illegal mission."

At the other extreme Weekend magazine did a two-part feature (8 & 15 Jul). Part two was a pretty tepid summary of what the book says. Part one must vie for the title 'dapest headline of the year?' "UFO quest wrecked our lives" it screams, above a photo of me! Well - my life does not feel especially wrecked. It is true enough that the case was demanding on time, money and personal relationships for Brenda, Dot and I. We all lost something dear. The article spares now't in listing them all - prying into Dot's private life especially. But like I am quoted as saying, it was worth all the hassle. "We don't know what it was, but we do know that it has caused high-ranking people in a Government ministry to consistently evade, deny and lie."

What could possibly better than as a dumb headline? She magazine could. Their July issue has a double page spread about Tim God, the professional violinist and UFO researcher - with a huge pin-up picture too. Its a nice review piece on his life and activities with some fascinating quotes. Tim goes on at some length about the governmental attitudes to UFOs found in many parts of the world. Quite rightly I believe. It is time their lies and evasions be brought into the open. He adds that in 1978 the British government spent £11 million on UFO research. I'd love to know where he got that data from! Makes the NUFON budget of about £150 look a bit sick! The title - what else but "Little Green Menuhin". Groan. But darned clever.

One case Tim was unable to mention produced many stories. Manchester Evening News (22 May - exact day SKY CRASH was published by coincidence!) was one of the fullest. "Fighter Jets Chase UFOs". Foo-fighter like "ping pong balls" had appeared on radar screens at the Brazilian government Air Defence Centre the day before. Two Mirage and Two F-5 jets were scrambled. There was a three hour chase during which one pilot described the objects as flying at 840 MPH. Brigadier General Moreira Lima said candidly, "I can't give an explanation for this - because we don't have any." Pity it didn't happen in Britain. Ian Ridpath would have found one for them without much trouble.

The Mail on Sunday (always first with the news) had probably offered the answer four days earlier (18 May) with its story "Shaking news for UFO-lovers". This tells UFO fans the game is up. A scientist has the answer. They are all related to earthquakes. This daring 'new' theory is, of course, Michael Persinger's - and seems to have been dredged up by the Mail because it was in FATE that month. I guess we were all supposed to be shaken, upset and angry at these dramatic revelations.

Meanwhile the WYUFOG article in the Huddersfield Daily Examiner led to a delightful theoretical exchange. On 7 May Joyce Woodhouse wrote to pity serious UFO groups for their "doubt that these spacecraft exist". She tells us that they come "from advanced planets in this solar system" where money is not used. They are "making a metaphysical survey of Earth". She has not seen a UFO, but "by learning the facts concerning their mission on earth" has discovered she does not need to. Lucky lady. On 16 May JB Wilson required elaboration, suspecting that her "beliefs... are culled from the plethora of romantic and scientifically unsupported fantasies" that have grown out of government secrecy. On 24 May Mrs W gave her "proof". "He asks, how do I know these things?... Straight, factual information comes from the Space People themselves. It is received by the Aetherius Society... Mars

is the technical planet and freely supplies most of the spacecraft needed by others in the solar system." Someone ought to tell them that NASA are in the market for some new hardware right now. The monetary system has been replaced by giving "freely to others what is required". I assume this means that they will not require expenses off BUFORA when they lecture in London on 6 Sept (see p.16)

It is not just Fleet Street that descends to the depths when dealing with UFOs. Some awful thing called the "Stockport Times" did it. In late June they spoke to me, requesting all our sightings in Stockport within five minutes for a deadline they had just decided they had. I told them to stuff it. They also spoke to MUFORA member Roy Sandbach, who lives in the town. We were as helpful as we could be. But not much. Out of a few scraps of interview they actually devoted two whole pages in their 4 July issue. Including the front page banner headline - labelled a "Times Exclusive" "Red's Rocket Rumbled" - saying that "Your Times can exclusively reveal" the 31 Dec 1978 sightings over Britain were the re-entry of Cosmos 1068, a Russian satellite. The fact that they got this from me, via my books UFO STUDY and UFO REALITY published five years ago (and it wasn't even news then!), gives a clue to what they consider objective journalism. Whilst the articles themselves were OK. They did include the photo from "Pennine UFO Mystery" taken by a policeman in Rochdale. I told them that it was almost certainly a hoax perpetrated by said PC using his own helmet - and nobody else had seen it. They claimed that MUFORA rated it as unexplained (a lie) and that it was seen all over Stockport too (another lie). When challenged on this later, journalist Pat Hills chuckled - "Well that's what we call journalistic licence. Had it carried on in the same direction it was moving it would have eventually passed over Stockport. Perhaps nobody reported it, but it must have been seen." Said PC evidently had a good arm to throw his hat 15 miles!

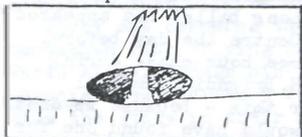
NORTH WALES FLAP (1) Margaret Fry PREDICTED WAVE OCCURS!

In late 1985 and early 1986 a wave of encounters struck North Wales, which our intrepid investigator Margaret Fry pursued with her usual vigour. Over the next few issues we will report on her findings. There are so many cases it seems the 21-month cycle I predicted in "Pennine UFO Mystery" has been validated. April 1984 has already slotted in, after the book came out. Now January 1986 centres a new wave. This leaves us looking towards Sept/Oct 1987 for the next one. Stay tuned!

Let's start with the flap build-up in late 1985. On 11 November 1985 at 17.00 two independent witnesses at Bylchau observed an object on the ground. Mr H is an agricultural sales rep. who was driving home along this isolated road across Denbigh Moors (the A543). He saw the object as a yellow egg rise from the ground, hover twice, and then disappear into clouds. He claims he stopped the car but did not get out. Margaret has duplicated this motion and thinks he must have got out to see the object. She feels he might be masking a closer encounter as he is wary of talking. The other witness, Mr W, was a farm worker at Llansannan, 3 miles north west, who saw a very similar object at the same time. They did not know of each others sighting until 3 weeks later. Also Mr H's a yellow light at about the same time from their home at Rhuddlan, 10 miles north east. A most intriguing start.

A few weeks later (early December, 05.40) three members of a newsagents at Shotton, Deeside, saw a large yellow/white light travelling in an arc. This is, of course, Sunderland family territory, and is reminiscent of the many yellow lights seen in this location. It could be an aircraft with landing lights on, or satellite.

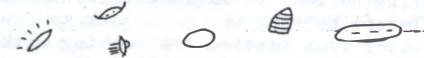
But the night of 28-29 December 1985 really began the onset of the true wave, especially in the Meliden, a Clwyd village just a couple of miles south of Rhyl. At 00.30 two female students, returning from evening part-time work, saw an object come from nearby quarries. It was a green/yellow light. It seemed to slow and enter some clouds, before reappearing and travelling lower and lower to land in "The Meadows" just off the A547. The girls turned their car round and chased the UFO, getting out and going up to the hedges. But it was pitch black and they saw nothing. When travelling over the fields the object had been low and close and resembled a domed disc with red lights on each side. Upon landing it was a brilliant white football with "a red rotation" to it.



At 01.15 the sky lit up as a disc was seen by many people in the Meliden area. Margaret has four written reports and sketches by an art student. This shows a spectacular looking disc with red/blue/green/orange strips rotating. It was passing out over the edge of the Meliden Hills towards the coast. It began to snow soon after the UFO left but was fine during the sightings. Now - if you are wondering how a remote and sparsely populated area like this can generate such cases, when you had next to nothing to follow up - believe me you ain't seen nothing yet! Wait until the wave really gets going in January 1986 - as we shall discover in the second part next issue.



BRIEF CASES:- Some Current Investigations



First - a brief note on Case 79-169, reported last issue. Stuart Campbell has taken serious issue over this case, saying that he did investigate it (by letter and phone) in 1982. I apologise if the witness statements caused me to mislead readers on this. The reason I did not know about this is that in 1982 the witnesses gave the date as 3 May 1980 (not 4 May 1979 as they said on the RI forms returned to me this year). Stuart recorded it as "Unexplained" in his then BUFORA file. His "star" re-evaluation seems to have been recent and is, I assume, what upset the witnesses enough to provoke their complaints. The BUFORA files carry no details as to how Stuart reached this conclusion - with which I, personally, still cannot agree. Despite the one year error in witness dating other details appear consistent. [A brief account does in fact feature in MUN Issue 98] [Sorry!]

WAPIT Case 78-283 April 1978 03.00 North Ashton, Wigan, Lancs Level E

Mrs W was unable to sleep and went to look through her bedroom window when she saw a strange sight. She woke up her husband to point it out. It was over the houses opposite and resembled a "fiery saucer". It was there 10 mins, moved away and came back. They then went to bed and left it there because they were cold. This sounds like the classic misperception of a bright star or planet, but there is not sufficient data to judge. SP Rating 2-3

WAPIT/WYUWFORG Case 8095 June 10 1980 23.00 Todmorden, W. Yorks Level C

This report comes via Paul Bennett, who knows the witness's sister. The date is possibly the key fact. It might have been June 11, but if it was June 10 then this was the night Zigmund Adamski died. His body was found on the coal-tip in Todmorden on the afternoon of the 11th! Mrs DK - the witness - was just going to bed when she heard an "almighty commotion". It was "a great noise, not unlike that of great water surges". It seemed close so she went out with her husband to see what was causing it. They saw nothing and the sound died, leaving this mill town still and silent. Turning round to go back indoors they were confronted by a huge "green and red mass of glowing energy". It was practically sat on top of their roof. Mrs DK was immediately struck with a sense of terror and gazed transfixed at what is called "the ominous intruder". The thing now began to rise vertically, in absolute silence. It was ellipse shaped and emitted much light. Their bodies were bathed in a red glow from it when first seen. Their house was also covered by the glow. It rose slowly and took two-three minutes to go out of sight by climbing too high to be seen. IF this case is genuine (and of course the Adamski death is well known in Todmorden) it is the first concrete story that matches the claims that many things were seen in the five days the miner was missing. Whether it has any relevance to his death or not would still remain pure speculation. SP Rating 7-5



WAPIT Case 8096 October 30 1980 00.30 Billinge,Wigan,Lancs Level C

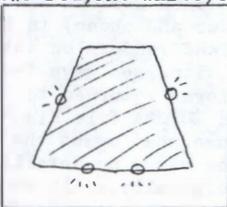
Miss W saw lights she took to be those on an aircraft moving away from her towards St Helens. Three in a triangle - the top of which kept changing from blue/red. She watched until it faded to a star-like object. WAPIT suggest it might have been an aircraft moving slowly. But duration of 30mins plus claimed by witness leads me to suggest a bright star more likely. SP Rating 2-5

TIME-LAPSE NEAR WARRINGTON?

Case 8335 September 1 1983 23.50 ?? Cheshire Inv: Jenny Campbell Level B

This perplexing case began in August 1985 when the witness (an Irishman - HL) was on a motorcycling holiday in England. Unfortunately, there was just no time to get an interview before he took the boat back to Ireland. However, Jenny Campbell - a MUFON investigator from America now working with MUFORA in the Belfast area - did conduct an interview in November 1985 (after some difficulties since she lived in a Catholic part of the city and he was a protestant). We have since tried to resolve the discrepancies between his two accounts (chiefly ones of time and of the number of lights - his original letter to MUFORA said 3, two red, one white, but he put four on the drawing for Jenny - red, white and blue.)

HL visits England most summers and stays with some friends in Blackpool. For part of the time he rides his motorcycle on a jaunt down south and back up north before heading home for Belfast. This was the case in 1983 when he had been to either Weymouth (as he told MUFORA) or Brighton (as he told Jenny). He claims he was near Warrington, having just passed through Whitchurch - where he had phoned Blackpool to tell them he would still be two hours (MUFORA - he told Jenny one hour). In fact Whitchurch is 30 miles south of Warrington and it is a little unlikely he could see the lights of the town, as he claimed in his original letter. In fact Chester (at 15 miles) is much nearer and it seems he could have mistaken that. His call was at 23.50, according to the first letter, but he told Jenny 22.45. But he also admitted to doubts over this. A few minutes after this call he claims to have seen a sign saying Warrington "X" miles (this being single figures - he thinks '6'). This is clearly not possible. Whitchurch-Warrington at night on a bike takes almost an hour. He also says he was startled because he rounded a corner & saw a beautiful lit fountain strung up with fairy lights outside an inn. Coming upon this amidst dark, desolate country terrified him. He took a picture, it was so pretty. But the picture did not come out. MUFORA can find no such inn anywhere near Warrington. A few moments after leaving here he saw some changes in a light in the sky ahead. He claims he had seen this for "a long time", even before his phone call, and it sounds very much like a bright planet or star. Now, however, it was moving - heading in his direction. He stopped in the middle of the road as this matt-black object came directly overhead. There were flashing lights on it (3 or 4 according to which version you take). He felt like he was being observed and his instant reaction was to turn off his headlights. A thing he fully admits to having been insane on this narrow country lane. Had a car been coming along the unlit stretch he would have been killed. He went to take his camera out to film it, but something in his mind said "No - don't". So he didn't. After about 3 mins a car appeared. The driver saw the thing, as he wound down his window and looked out. But he drove on by. The object was now gliding off silently (although HL had his helmet on at all times). In panic he drove off and (he thinks) ten minutes later he saw a sign that "petrified" him. It said Chester 4 1/2 miles (he told Jenny - 3 miles!). On seeing this he took out his travel alarm clock to check the time, expecting it to be about 00.10 (or 23.10 - depends again). It was 02.15 (MUFORA version) or 01.40 (Jenny Campbell version). He stripped off the 'L' plates, got on the motorway and went straight back to Blackpool without saying anything. These are rather a lot of differences considering the two versions were given just three months apart and both two years after the events. The original light is almost certainly explicable. His confusion over locations and times might be just that (at Whitchurch the A41 to Chester splits from the A49 to Warrington and it would be easy to go the wrong way). He was also familiar with UFOs - contacting



MUFORA after reading SKY CRASH. Aircraft (flying with engines throttled back at night) do pass over on their way into nearby Manchester Airport. All in all it would be easy to get carried away and perform regression on this alleged time lapse - perhaps even manufacturing an abduction memory. But MUFORA and Jenny Campbell have opted not to make this case even more confusing than it is.

CLOSE ENCOUNTER WITH OZ FACTOR WYUFORG (Ann & Darren Chanter, M. Daglass)
Case 8531 January 28 1985 20.40 Allerton, Bradford, W. Yorks Level A

This is one of those impressive cases that happens from time to time to restore your faith in the reality of something "darned strange". Mrs C, aged 52 at the time and a housewife, was out with her dog on a regular jaunt in semi-rural surroundings to the West of Bradford. It was a cold, clear night with some cloud. The dog, incidentally, was not effected - except that the next time Mrs C took it there it was a bit reluctant to go down the lane.

Mrs C first saw a white light with a red light by its side. There is some possibility that this was mars and venus, close together in the sky at the time. But WYUFORG put forward reasons opposed to this and it ultimately left (as a combination) at some pace - in the same direction as the main UFO had just gone.

The LITS attracted Mrs C to the sky. She turned back to check her dog was fine and on looking back again saw a dark object coming across the sky towards her at a very low height. It was a typical saucer shape of some kind of dark metal and had a line of square windows along the side. From these a red glow was issuing. She took off her woolly hat because she could hear a strange noise. This verified that it did indeed emerge from the object, that now proceeded to hover close by. The sound was quite unlike any she had heard from an aircraft - being a sort of whizzing/whirring. The whole thing was rotating at a surprisingly slow speed. After about 90 seconds of hovering this speed of rotation appeared to increase and the object moved off in the direction of Denholme (ie north) taking about a minute to do this. The initial LITS stayed where they were for about 3/4 more minutes, before setting off to join the main object.

WYUFORG engaged in considerable investigation of this case and were impressed by the calibre of the witness, the consistency of her story and the complete lack of viable solutions they have been able to discover. An additional feature is that the witness describes Oz Factor symptoms during the period of hovering. She lost all track of time. There was no traffic on the nearby road (a fact she found odd). She considered the experience to be uncanny - and she lacked fear. These have all been recorded in other cases and are classic Oz Factor symptoms.

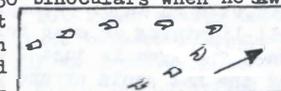
The group has no hesitation in classing this as an unexplained CEL - and I certainly have no useful explanations to offer. SP Rating 6-9 (I would go 7-9 - JR)

WYUFORG Case 8532 July 20 1985 03.40 Bradford, West Yorks Level C M. Daglass

A housewife (mother of a WYUFORG investigator) observed an irregular blob of golden light in the NNE when she got up to get a drink of water. It was said to be casting light into the house. It was viewed for 25 mins and changed shape. The witness left it still there. There are inconsistencies in the story and venus was in a similar position in the sky. It is possible this was seen through tired eyes or else a 'joke' was played on her son. IQ SP Rating 2-4

LUF0IC Case 8533 October 20 1985 23.00 Glenfield, Leicester Level C C. Potter

Witness was out looking for Halley's Comet through 8x30 binoculars when he saw an object whiz by at amazing speed. It was so fast that it was almost impossible to follow cross 70 degrees in under 10 seconds. He said that if it had been any kind of aircraft all local windows would have been smashed-



by the sonic boom. It was a V-formation of 7-9 blobs of light that were orange as if reflecting dull light. Clive Potter readily identifies this as a flock of geese or swans off on migration and advises investigators to restudy all their case reports of similar phenomena. MUFORA had several similar cases some years ago and concluded exactly the same. I, myself, saw a single orange blob of this type over the centre of Warrington on 27 December 1985 (at about 17.00 hrs). The birds have reflective underbellies which are illuminated by streetlamps, just as low clouds can be. If you do not know what you are looking at and atmospheric conditions are just right it can be very eerie. It can even be eyrie! SP 2-8

THE HARTLEPOOL LITS SDPRG Report from Tomy Feemey

Readers may note a comparison here between these January LITS and some of the North Wales cases that Margaret Fry will be recounting from the same period next issue. It seems that the flap was indeed more extensive than at first thought. But none of us saw it whilst it was happening!

On 4 January 1986 at 16.00 hrs (Case 8602) retired newsagent Jack Kramer, his wife, daughter-in-law and grandson were all in the house when these lights were seen in the north. They sank slowly and silently down out of view behind his garage. They consisted of nine white lights in three groups of three. Each was as bright as Venus and the overall formation was circular. Hartlepool police had no other sightings reported despite the location in a built-up area, it being rush hour and duration of 2 minutes.

On 22 January 1986 (Case 8604) garage boss Bill Mason was past Brown's Farm at Hart Village when he saw a slow moving light which went behind clouds and then reappeared. Sounds not unlike a bright star or planet on this basis. However, others responded to the press coverage. Mrs Evans saw it "not very high and like a car headlight" "It was definitely moving. (The motion in Mr Mason's case was potentially explicable due to his car). Mr and Mrs Potts also saw the light, "a strange glow in the sky" over Hart. Two Peterlee boys saw it too as a yellow LITS moving silently

On 24 January 1986 at 19.30 (Case 8605) two teenage girls were terrified by a white light that hovered above them then plunged to the ground (supposedly in someone's garden). It sounds like a meteor or a flare.

On 28 March 1986 at 21.25 the mother of one of the above girls saw something too. She describes it as a pink ball seen over the sea for about 15 minutes before it seemed to descend. Her story was independently verified by a Mrs Simmons who at 21.20 saw a reddish shimmering ball which she took to be a distress flare at first. But it was in view too long before fading out. (Case 8606)

There are more sightings to come from April, I believe!

MUFORA Case 8603 April 4 1986 21.50 Dukinfield, Lancs Lev: A Georgina Mills

Witness AC called Jodrell Bank, who were unable to explain the case and forwarded details to MUFORA for immediate investigation next day. He is an embosser who is in his early thirties and has read a little on UFOs. Whilst walking home from work he heard a noise like helicopter rotor blades starting up or stopping. It returned in waves of five seconds (like a "whoomph - whomph") throughout the encounter. It did appear to be created by displaced air. There was also a fizzing or sizzling noise behind it. Looking up he observed a bluish/white ball of light, brighter than the full moon with a fuzzy outline. He likened it to a "burning rock" and at first assumed it to be a falling satellite about to crash nearby. But it moved on a low horizontal path at a slow speed, remaining in view about 90 seconds. Estimates of size appear to tie it down to about 15 feet diameter. It traversed east-west to a place where waste ground and railway sidings are situated and was lost behind houses. We were unable to find and aircraft or helicopters in the area. Weather was mild, with no major precipitation, relatively high cloud and no storm cells. However, ball lightning or some form of UAP is the only reasonable conclusion MUFORA can reach. The area is just 2 miles from the main Pennine foothills, fault lines abound, and the hot spots around Oldham (eg Uppermill etc) are just to the north. Some kind of earthlight may be a real option here. OS Ref of location: 940973. SP 4-4

MUFORA Case 8607 June 17 1986 23.55 Blacon, Chester, Cheshire Lev: B

Witness CD, a 17 year old girl, reported the incident to Chester police early on morning of following day. Police unable to identify and so called MUFORA in. CD was in bedroom of her house when she heard a noise like a tractor starting up. After listening to this whirring and being puzzled by the lateness of the hour she woke her friend Maxine from next door (their bedrooms have adjacent walls and the other girl was also not asleep). "It was like a plane trying to land on the field behind - it was that loud" CD says. When going to meet her friend outside CD had seen a blinking light which she took to be a plane moving off. But the sound did not diminish and so they continued to scan the area. They saw three LITS in triangle - white at top and red and blue on left/right bottom. They were not moving but the girls became convinced the sound (which seemed to be going round and round) came from here. Because of the cold and lack of action they went indoors. At 00.15 the sound moved off. Looking out they could not see the lights anymore through the window. During the next 45 mins, whilst they stayed up talking, the sound returned and seemed to circle the house. At 01.00 it faded out entirely. MUFORA is not convinced that the sound and lights are connected and the lights may well have been stars. The weather was blustery and overcast, meaning that these stars might have become temporarily visible through cloud gaps. The wind may also have produced the fade in/out effect on the noise. No aircraft were known to be in the area. However, the police did point out that a microlite had been buzzing Chester during that week. They had no knowledge of night flying, but felt this was possible. Alternately, on such a blustery night the sound could have been carried from almost anywhere... probably a source beyond the normal range which the girls would not be used to. MUFORA decided not to investigate further; especially as the girls (whilst sincere) seemed excitable. SP Rating 3-3

CASE HISTORIES

HAVING ALIENS ROUND FOR TEA! A remarkable CE 3 case from Philip Taylor, BUFORA

The events described in this case are said to have happened in August/September 1967, but were not recounted until 1982 when the witness saw the Center for UFO Studies referenced in an issue of FATE and wrote to them. John Timmerman of CUFOs exchanged letters with the witness and received a "gift" the aliens had given to the man. After a year of such exchanges John Timmerman visited England for the August 1983 BUFORA congress and passed this material direct to Philip Taylor. The time since has been spent in interviews with the witness and enquiries into his (to say the least) extraordinary claims. The witness has written his story into book form but to date publishers have rejected it. Whilst PT saw it for evaluation he was not allowed to keep the manuscript or copy it.

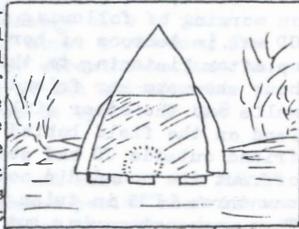
Edwin - the witness - is a retired audiologist. During WW II he aspired to the rank of Major. His specialist field of research was hearing loss. At the time he lived in an evocatively named location "Begars Roost", at the East Sussex village of Sedlescombe (about 6 miles north of Hastings). Edwin does not live there now.

Even before his 1967 adventures Edwin claims sightings. In the late fifties he observed a disc over Parliament Hill Fields in London. It was raining, but not under the disc. He also saw a light near his home in 1965. But he says that these were 'nothing' compared with the later events.

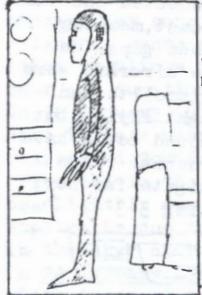
They built up in the year before, when he and his housekeeper discovered large areas of flattened grass in the Paddock behind his house. He calls these 'burn marks' but they appear to be imprints of a heavy object. They were found on several different occasions in 1966 and early 1967.

The autumn of 1967 was a major wave year in Britain - but these events centred on October. Edwin claims his nine CE3 meetings all took place between 17 August and 23 September. None of these correlate with files in the BUFORA archives. Most of the encounters were similar, the entities either entering his house uninvited or (as on the first occasion) he meeting them whilst out walking his dogs and inviting them in. No verbal communication ever took place, as the figures used only whistles, hisses or twitters. But gestures were used to some effect.

Event one took place at 00.45 (all of them began at just before or just after midnight - sometimes with the witness in bed or watching TV). Edwin saw their craft close up (as he did on three other occasions). It was conical with three 'legs' beneath it. About 90 feet tall and lighter on top than below. He was ushered away from it and on all subsequent occasions was prevented from going near (save the last one - see later). He never saw it fly. The first two entities approached him across the field and he says 'frogmarched' him away, back to his home. Living alone he invited them in and they stayed for about 20 minutes & examined the contents of the house with interest. He was rather puzzled by their distinctly odd appearance but at no time seems to have got especially frightened or emotional about their visits, which began slowly - then built up (five in the last eleven days).



The entities were make-human looking, but exceedingly thin and rising to about five feet three inches. Arms and legs were very slender. Their skin was greyish like old parchment. No hair was visible, nor eyebrows or lashes. Teeth were very small. Lips practically invisible. Ears were just a horny raised ring in the side of the head. Their faces were mostly almost expressionless. They had hands with just three fingers which seemed jointless yet flexible. He described them as like "withered leaves" to touch and akin to fleshy claws.



They were completely covered by a grey one piece suit with a balaclava helmet - like a wetsuit in the way it fitted. This is a very common description, of course. There are many similarities with the Aveyel abduction case, for example. However, Edwin seemed to display little knowledge of other CE4 or CE3 accounts. In every case only two entities entered the house. On the final visit - where he grew tired of their prevention of his witnessing

the departure, he waited after they had left and then went to the field behind his house. He noted about a dozen of the figures nearby and a blue glow coming from the craft's underside. But it vanished instantaneously and did not take off in the conventional sense.

The visitors did many different things during their visits, sometimes staying for several hours! Once they watched TV with him for a time! He often offered food. They took samples several times (especially fruit) but never ate. They did drink sips of tea, coffee, beer and whisky showing distaste (especially of whisky!) On visit eight they did not come in but stayed in the garden and took shrubs and plant samples. On visit seven one took off his helmet to reveal his head in full detail. On visit six they tried to take his dog with them! Edwin made them understand this wasn't on - so they took a couple of china doll models of dogs instead. Several trinkets were taken from the house, in exchange for things given to him on visits three and four - crystals and seeds respectively.

No real communication was ever possible, but Edwin was now well aware of their probable origin. So he sketched a plan of the solar system and showed it to them. They marked a point on it - outside the orbits of all the planets, which he took to mean they did not come from our solar system. Their main gesture was one of folded arms which he eventually took to mean "goodbye".

The gifts from these entities are his only evidence - as nobody else ever saw the aliens or UFO. The seeds he planted. From these grew a short very odd plant, not unlike a flowery cactus with a single thick stump without spikes. This long since died, so he has no evidence of it to offer save sketches. The tiny bits of crystal are another matter. He had sent one to CUFOs and PT took one for analysis. Edwin had thought these might be uncut diamonds when he saw them and sent one to a London diamond merchant for evaluation. Edwin has been open about all these things and made the Cross & Co report available, stating amongst details (such as a specific gravity of 2.64) that "The most probable identification is quartz". To make sure PT sent his sample to the Institute of Geological Studies in London and RK Harrison there concurred... "your specimen is a piece of glassy quartz (SiO₂) - certainly not extraterrestrial I am sorry to say."

Edwin cannot understand why the aliens gave him such absurd proof. But he appears remarkably sincere. Everything that could be checked out has been checked out. The housekeeper in 1966 was traced. She supports the veracity. Other references given do too. It was confirmed that Edwin, whilst never having made any capital from it, did not just invent the story in 1982 when he wrote to CUFOs. A local charity he supported had been given a talk by him some time before that. He also told a policeman at the time of the events in 1967. Whilst the policeman has not been found, the electoral roll show that a policeman of that name was the village 'bobby' in 1967.

As PT says - "I have not been able to disprove anything Edwin has claimed, neither have I been able to prove that anything unusual happened. This series of entity encounters must remain as simply a sincerely believed experience."

THE COLAN CLOSE ENCOUNTER Report by Eric Morris, PUFOIC & BUFORA

Eric reported on this case before moving north and joining MUFORA. I have left it a while in case new data came to light. It has not, so here is the summary.

Colan is a tiny village about 3 miles east of Newquay in Cornwall. It is also just 2 miles south of RAF St Mawgan - a vital strategic base. As the object's path was from that direction (heading to the south-east) it is possible it passed over the base itself at some point.

The story was originally featured in the Cornish Guardian under the title "My UFO Shock" - shaken driver." A 28-year old woman was cited, but anonymously. After some effort Eric tracked her down and a full investigation proceeded.

Mrs L, a nursing assistant, was travelling to work at about 17.45 on February 6 1985. Her first observation came as she left Colan to join the A392 at Mount Joy. A bright yellow ball of light had appeared to her right, and as she turned onto the main road she kept it in view. Indeed she slowed to about 20MPH on this pretty quiet, narrow lane, to observe the phenomenon.

It was oval and about ten feet long. It seemed to be 'bobbing' and was very low down. As it traversed the road, heading south, it turned dark and was surrounded by a greyish aura. It was also smaller. It then was football shaped and sized and began to glow bright luminous green, but with a central red section. Finally it turned purple, before vanishing - through a hedge. She finally lost it, after about 4 mins, when approaching a bridge under the Newquay railway line.

Although the object was said to be bright it did not radiate light. There was one interesting feature, however, when it passed a cottage with a white wall. It cast an orange glow onto this. Mrs L was appreciably upset by the experience and turned from her route onto a minor road to get away from it. It was reported to the local police, but they dismissed it something like a weather balloon. Mrs L is satisfied it was not. She has also seen ball lightning - it having entered the kitchen through a window and exploded as a tiny ball in front of her and her mother. Comparing this object with that she says there was no similarity. After work she refused to go home alone and had to bring her husband out and then wait until another car travelled down the lane so that they could follow it. "I was absolutely petrified", she said.

One of the main reasons for her decision not to go public was that her husband is a serving RAF man at St Mawgan. Next day she went to the hedge in daylight to see if the object had damaged it. There were no traces. But the passage through the hedge might have been an illusion on the unlit road given the low height of the thing.

Eric visited the site several times to take photographs. In doing so he attracted odd attention when near St Mawgan from a 'B' reg Ford XR3, which seemed to follow him around (containing a man with a flat cap) - and, later, a large van bristling with aerials. Search for the cottage revealed a disused one crammed with radio and some kind of monitor gear! In line of flight between the road and A392 (just off the road in fact) Eric found and photographed some ground damage. There were burnt patches on trees, stripped bark and a large burnt patch on the ground. This - it later transpired - was probably caused by something being burnt there in mundane fashion. However, a tree in the same location had the top damaged as if an object had passed through it. Height off ground, width of damage and direction of passage were all consistent with the reported object.

The area was checked with a geiger counter, but no anomalous readings (0.2 milliroentgens an hour) were recorded. Enquiries at RAF St Mawgan, without giving much away, produced a brick wall. In the Plymouth Independent on the 19 May 1985 the case was ridiculed and the witness quoted as partially retracting her story - saying specifically "I don't think any of this has to do with RAF St Mawgan" and "It was pure light - no particular shape" (not at all what she had said in the original story days after the sighting or in her interviews and on her RL form).

If any new developments occur will keep you posted.

FINAL

WORDS

:: FACT OR FICTION? - BBC Radio series. More information, and transmission plans, now to hand on this series. A lot of work has gone into it and as I write (mid August) I am finalising editing etc. BBC Radio Manchester will put the series out on Sunday evenings at (probably) 7pm. Transmission dates and programme outlines are as follows:-

Sept 28 UFOs (Including the Shelley Barnes case, a CE2 not reported here yet, etc)
Oct 5 POWERS OF THE MIND (Telepathy, OBE, Dowsing, psychometry and healing)
Oct 12 PREMONITIONS (Including an experiment with Stuart Hall to test astrology)
Oct 19 PAST LIVES (Including an experiment to test regression hypnosis)
Oct 26 GHOSTS (Doreen Sloane - Annabell Collins of Brookside, is one guest)
Nov 2 LIFE AFTER DEATH (Including a few tests of mediums and John Lennon 'live')

It's impossible to describe the full content of each 30 minute programme, but they are very objective studies of each subject. Check Radio Times just to make sure - but these plans are fairly firm.

We hope that the series might be taken nationally in 1987 - but this is by no means certain. In the meantime any BBC local radio station can transmit it. For ease, if you are thinking of suggesting to your local radio that they should consider it, you might mention that it features stories of many famous people who have had strange experiences and is available to them through Programme Services in London. However, John McManus, head of programming at BBC Manchester, tells me that any northern BBC local radio station would find it easier to come direct to him at New Broadcasting House, Oxford Road, Manchester M60 1SJ.

Commercial over - I promise! But (I hope) the programmes could have a good effect if aired - eg for getting cases in. So it may be of advantage to you.

CALENDAR LBS= London Business School, Nr Baker Street tube, London
 TP = Tufnell Park, North London Polytechnic, Nr Tufnell Park tube, London

Sept 6 LBS First BUFORA lecture, new season, 6.30pm "The Aetherius Society" (!)
 ("Dr" Richard Lawrence offers you the chance to ask all your questions)
Oct 4 LBS BUFORA lecture, 6.30 pm - "Tim God" - subject unknown
Oct 11 TP ASSAP one-day seminar - subject "Premonitions" (details not to hand but will run all day and John Grant and Jenny Randles speaking + others)
Oct 18 LBS ASSAP/BUFORA "Media Interview Training Day" - Date, venue & cost (£6 approx) not absolute. Contact Mike Wooten - 01-556-9049. (Will include video study of good and bad interviews on TV - possibly even yours!)
NOV 1 TP ASSAP - 10am to 8pm "Psychic Quests" conference. Based on "The Green Stone" and "Eye of Fire" gathers into one place for first time all main participants: Marion Gaynor Sunderland, Andy Collins, Graham Phillips

UFO RESEARCH NORTH...NUFON

Regional Groups

| | | | |
|---------|----------------|--|----------|
| SPI | (Scotland) | 4 Woodlea Park, Branshill, Sauchie, by Alloa | FK10 3BG |
| SDPRG | (N. East) | 53 Brook Trce Darlington Co. Durham | DL 3 6PJ |
| NLUFOIG | (N. Lincs/Cmb) | 89 Bare Lane Morecambe Lancashire | LA 4 6RN |
| LCUFOS | (mid Lincs) | 23 Queen Victoria Rd Burnley Lancashire | BB10 3DH |
| WAPIT | (sth Lincs) | 6 Alder Ave Pemberton Wigan Lancashire | WN 5 9PY |
| MUFORA | (Gt Mcr/Chesh) | 6 Silsden Ave Lowton Lancashire | WA 3 1EN |
| WYUFORG | (N+W Yorks) | 19 Bellmour Gardens Bramley West Yorks | LS13 2ND |
| SSPR | (S. Yorks) | 17 Old Quarry Avenue Wales Sheffield | S 31 8RW |
| LUFOIC | (E. Midlands) | 17 Grange Road Wigston Fields Leicester | LE 8 1JH |