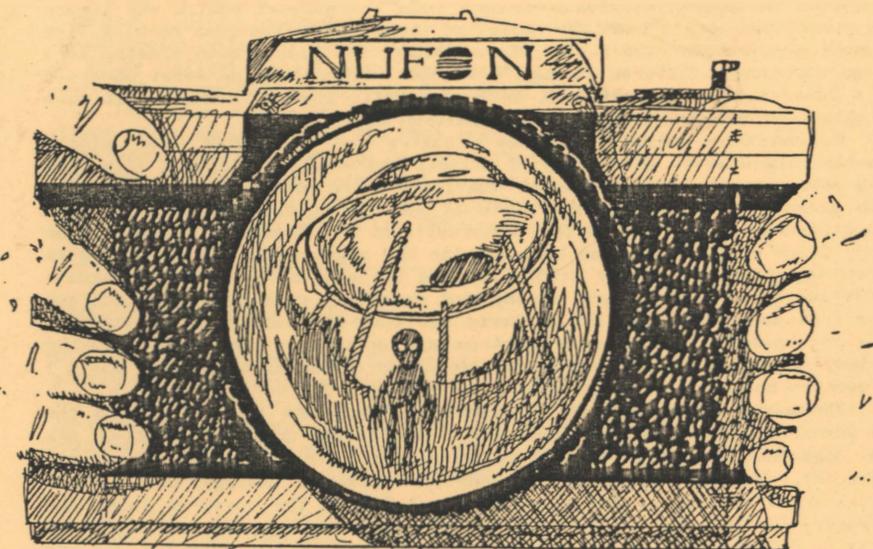


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NORTHERN UFO NEWS

138
AUGUST
1989



STEPHEN A. GRAHAM 089

37 Heathbank Road Cheadle Heath Stockport Cheshire SK3 0UP

NORTHERN UFO NEWS SUBS: £6 for 6
EDITOR: JENNY RANGLES COVER: STEPHEN GRAHAM

CONTENT: American UFOlogy - the truth ...pp 2-3... Powerful Circles...p 2-3
.Brief cases including an American classic, plus reports from Lancashire and Staffordshire...pp 9-10...Case Histories...Scottish Heather landing ... P. 11... 'The Heywood Lights'...p 12 - 13...Circles cases from Cheshire and Nottinghamshire...p 13 - 14...And finally an amazing case from Lancashire - Did Tornado fire at UFO?...p 15 PLUS FULL CONFERENCE LINE UP FOR AUTUMN 1989

J. R. Comments...

In recent months there has been a lot of criticism about the UFO scene in America. Why has it seemingly reverted to the 'dark ages' of the fifties and sixties where the ETH (extraterrestrial hypothesis) rules? Lessons we have painfully learnt across the decades seem to have been largely forgotten. Yet are things quite as bad as some people paint them?

There is no doubt that there are major differences between American UFOlogy and virtually the rest of the world (especially Britain, Europe and Australia). The success of Whitley Strieber's "Communion" and Budd Hopkins elevation to super-star status amongst even the general public has turned the phenomenon on its head. The impact of these things has been nothing like as noticeable outside the States, where UFOlogy has always been treated more as an experience filtered through a witness rather than an event observed by a human recording instrument on a simplistic level. All the latest wave of attention has done is focus this position more closely.

However, one cannot see any country as following one single line. Britain has its fair share of voluble and erudite believers (Tim Good is a prime example of a respected 'American' style researcher working here with great public success). The state of American UFOlogy is not all doom and gloom either. In my view IUR (International UFO Reporter) remains under Jerry Clark's editorship the best regular UFO magazine in the world and is in no way effected by the stance adopted by much of its parent country. MUFON Journal (still a very worthy and essential read mark you) suffers more from an ET bias but IUR reflects all that is good about our subject, debating issues across a broad spectrum and including pieces from debunking to believership and all shades inbetween. Allen Hynek (its founder) would I am certain be proud of its role within the modern UFO world.

There are other beacons of light on the common sense front in the USA. You read reviews on them regularly in NUN. Caveat Emptor and STRANGE are two magazines that treat UFOlogy responsibly from a more humanistic viewpoint. Orbiter always speaks out for rational UFOlogy (and is not unlike a US version of Northern UFO News). And on the cover-up front not everybody swallowed MJ 12 with a glass of wine or accepts any old story fed to it by 'a friend of my friends father'. Just Cause (from Larry Fawcett and Barry Greenwood) does sensible, objective research looking behind the government facade without losing sight of the need for credibility.

Whilst British conferences tend to be a mish-mash of every sort of UFOlogy you can imagine the Americans go for different conferences approaching specific areas in their own fashion. If you want ETH all the way then the MUFON congresses are not to be missed. Elsewhere you can find contactee gatherings or meetings of psychiatrists discussing abductions. My one regret is that the Center for UFO Studies never stage conferences any more as these would be very worthwhile (and mainstream) ventures.

Jacques Vallee kindly sent me a copy of a paper he presented to the Society for Scientific Exploration in Boulder, Colorado this June. Its title speaks for itself: - "Five arguments against the extraterrestrial origin of UFOs". Jacques, very much a European adrift in America (both literally and theoretically) has alienated himself from that mainstream somewhat but I predict will re-emerge as a leading figure when his new book (this time it is truly new) appears in March 1990 ("Confrontations" - Ballantine Books).

Vallee's paper is impressive. He summarises a number of the telling points why a simple extraterrestrial solution to the phenomenon (as favoured by many of his American compatriots) just does not fit the evidence. One simple example concerns the medical examinations occurring in abductions. Our late eighties earth-based technology has now advanced beyond the methods being employed (eg genetic fingerprinting) and an advanced civilisation would surely not use such anachronistic, not to say archaic and time/resource wasting tactics.

However, in the end Vallee reaches the same conclusion that I did in my book "Abduction". Neither pure IFO plus hallucination nor straightforward ETH works successfully as an answer to the close encounter phenomenon. We may have to face a choice between an exotic natural phenomenon triggering 'waking lucid dreams' (or 'lucid nightmares' as Vallee calls them, appropriating my terminology in a rather interesting manner) or else a truly 'alien' intelligence communicating in a non-standard (virtually psychic) manner. That said - the ETH cannot be said to be totally dead.

For this reason, if for no other, research and theorising along ETH lines (such as is rife in the USA) cannot be said to be worthless. As I have just shown American UFOlogy is not filled with only 'wide eyed believers' but has several good sides and I contend that there is room for both approaches. Indeed, I contend both approaches are *essential*, because at this point in time nobody within the UFO community has a monopoly on the truth.

NEWS ROUND UP:



:: The Royal Photographic Society is to stage an exhibition of paranormal photographs ("everything from ghosts to UFOs, and levitation to the Loch Ness Monster"). It will be opened by Uri Geller (groan) and is masterminded by Lynn Picknett (erstwhile of 'The Unexplained'). The event will be in the ancient city of Bath and opens on 8 December... For details of a very full conference line-up this autumn see page 16.

:: You will also notice a couple of new recruits to the ranks of the NUFON affiliate groups (see page 16) from the Wirral and Worcestershire).

:: Finally, it was nice to spot a little UFO quip on the Scottish TV 'soap' "Take the High Road" (episode transmitted south of the border on 27 July). Discussing a story about a local landowner and a pop star in a romantic liaison who were trying to get an estranged baby back, the local "Auchtarne" news aces debated headlines. "Pop star in lady laird love nest" suggested Sheila, who was then congratulated by her editor as obviously "aiming for the Sunday papers"... She paused, thought carefully and added; "No - If I was then the headline would have to be 'Carrot headed alien stole my baby'"... Bet you can't guess which paper that story would appear in!

:: Dramatic late news from the USA concerning those amazing MJ-12 files. It seems their status is now being questioned by many leading UFOlogists after astounding revelations at Las Vegas in July during a MUFON lecture by Bill Moore (the Roswell case investigator and one of the key MJ-12 proponents). He reportedly admitted to having helped spread disinformation through the UFO community on behalf of the US authorities; but not (he says) recently or in connection with MJ-12... More on this no doubt to come.

UFO CALL PHONE LINE

Don't forget this service still operates to bring you weekly news and updates on events within the UFO world. Charged at 38p per minute (25p evenings and weekends) the 24 hour service is available from any phone in the UK... just dial 0898 - 12 18 86 and stay in touch.

FOR YOUR PERUSAL:

Major articles elsewhere

UFO TIMES Jul 1989 (BUFORA Sub, £16.50: 16 South Way Burgess Hill RH15 9ST)
Police capture UFO on motorway surveillance cameras, Dave Clarke on Project Pennine's progress, the Discovery space shuttle UFO - full story.

MAGONIA Jul 1989 (£3, for 4, 5 James Terrace Mortlake London SW14 8HB)
Stewart Campbell criticises critics of the critics... Pennine ghost/UFO case

IUR May/June 1989 (\$35, for 6, 2457 W Peterson Ave, Chicago, IL 60659 USA)
Bruce Maccabee compares the analysis of the Billy Meier and Gulf Breeze photos... a new CE 3 with traces and a psychiatrist reviews the evidence linking abduction cases and child abuse syndrome. Unmissable as usual.

MUFON Journal (\$30, for 12, 103 Oldtowne Rd Seguin Texas 78159-4099 USA)
Everything from Dr Michael Swords on life in the cosmos to Dr Kenneth Ring (the renowned near death researcher) providing an important 'imaging' theory for abduction cases (May)... a first rate issue full of good UFOlogy.

UFORAN May 1989 (No price quoted, BOX 229 Prospect South Australia 5082)
Always worth waiting for an issue of UFORAN... a detailed update on the Murrabilla (Jan 1988) case that shook the world's press, plus new close encounters (bedroom visitor, car stop etc)... Is David Rees STILL consultant?

ORBITER June 1989 (No price quoted, 43 Harrison St Reading MA 01867 USA)
Most notable for a bizarre piece submitted anonymously attacking all those who criticised MJ-12 in the USA with sound-alike medieval names... Weird!

JUST CAUSE Jun 1989 (\$15, for 4, PO Box 218 Coventry CONN 06238 USA)
More critical news on 'cover-up' research, plus comments on above article!

AFU NEWS 1989 (UK Price unknown PO Box 11027 S-600 11 Norrkoping Sweden)
The English section has a review of latest news on the 1946 'ghost rocket' wave and an interesting sign of Glasnost - review on Soviet UFO congress!

THE LEY HUNTER 108 (£6, for 4, PO Box 5, Brecon Powys LD3 7AA)
All the latest on earth mystery sites, leys and earthlight research

UFO AFRINEWS June (£2 for 1, PO Box MP49 Mrt Pleasant Harare Zimbabwe)
42pp of latest in depth cases from Cynthia Hind and her team in this much neglected UFO territory. Great for the reader wanting a global perspective.

Finally, the second issue of 'Rattler's Tales' is now in - with 40pp of easily digested stories and comments (£10, for 6, BCM Keyhole London WC1N 3XX)

POWERFUL CIRCLES

The summer of 1989 will surely go down in the annals of UFOlogy as the time when the 'mystery of the crop circles' suddenly hit the big time.

Readers of NUN for the past decade will know this is no new phenomenon. As long ago as 1983 we reported in detail about how the national media 'discovered' the (even then not new) fact that strange circular patterns were appearing in Wessex cereal fields. They put the blame squarely on bizarre energy forces from invisible UFOs (often with the help of FSR and its consultants, who have truly taken the subject to their hearts).

In 1986 BUFORA staged the first of two debates on the theme in London and launched its 28pp booklet, 'Mystery of the Circles' (authored by Paul Fuller and myself). This sold out two editions and prompted (at last) some serious publicity for the matter in highbrow newspapers highlighting work begun in 1980 between Ian Mrzyglod, a local UFOlogist, and Dr Terence Meaden, a physicist who proposed that novel weather phenomena were to blame.

Since then the controversy has increased with FSR continuing to allege that stranger forces are at work and ridiculing incessantly all those who favour a natural (though fascinating) source for the marks. BUFORA has continued to try to offer a balanced picture of the situation.

This year the battle lines were really drawn when FSRs Colin Andrews and Pat Delgado chose to publish their work of the past five or six years in a book entitled "Circular Evidence" (£14.95 from Bloomsbury Press). This is heavy on pretty photos but very thin on text and answers. Indeed they seem to go out of their way to retain the image they have built up of being objective scientists and downplay the more esoteric mutterings that they have penned elsewhere concerning "unknown force fields" engineered by "unknown intelligences". Very successfully they have kept the subject in the public eye with an amazing barrage of articles in leading media sources that have been provoked by press releases hinting at health problems if you eat cereal from effected crops, royal interest in their book and so on. Sincere they evidently are, but are they right? That is open to doubt.

Dr Meaden fought back with his own self-published tome "The Circles Effect and its Mysteries" (a 114 page book at £9.95 plus post available from him at:- 54 Frome Rd Bradford-on-Avon Wilts BA15 1LD). This reviews his meteorological hypothesis (an ionized spinning vortex akin to a cross between ball lightning and a tornado). It offers surprising clues about the possible UFO-relatedness of his work.

BUFORA decided to update its work and offer the public another comparative perspective. A 112 page book entitled "Controversy of the Circles" was released (completely new and fully updated by the authors of the original 1986 work). This covers a much broader range than either of the others, looking at the social context of the circles in great depth, with extensive pro and con discussion of the hoax, UFO and weather-based theories and some UFOlogical insights into the Meaden research. It also features the views on circles from a host of leading meteorologists and world UFOlogists. Retailing at just £4.20 (post inc) this has been a huge success, selling out its first edition in just a month, but copies are available through the NUN address (cheques and POs to BUFORA Ltd, please). Bulk rate discounts are on offer to UFO groups or booksellers, on request.

The events of summer 1989 circles-wise (over 200 patterns, some new designs, plus circles at interesting new sites) will be revealed over the coming months. Meanwhile for two fascinating tales from the NUFON region you will find a full report towards the rear of this issue... Stay Tuned!

BOOKS OF THE MOMENT:

Another BUFORA publication now out is the national investigation committee investigation of Britain's most famous photographic case (the movie film taken on the Oxfordshire/Buckinghamshire border by surveyor Peter Day in January 1973). For the first time you can see all the facts (including much never published before) and a startling new hypothesis that MIGHT explain this case...or, on the other hand, MIGHT cause it to be one of the most dramatic UFO events on record (leading to the crash of an F-111 jet!). The case history is entitled "Fire in the Sky" and is available from the NUN editorial address for just £1.50 (post inc) - again cheques/po.s payable to BUFORA Ltd (bulk discounts on offer to groups and booksellers).

LINES ON THE LANDSCAPE 1989 Nigel Pennick and Paul Devereux 288pp
£15.95 Hardback published by Robert Hale Heavily illustrated

It is a decade or so since we have seen a new book on leys and this one certainly makes the wait worthwhile. If you have read a bit about the subject inside potboilers cashing in on the increasing popularity of earth mystery research during the eighties then you will more than likely have been misled. How many still talk (erroneously) about 'ley lines'? (since a ley IS a line this is grammatical nonsense).

Anyhow, you could scarcely want for better authors than these - probably the two most knowledgeable men in the field. Nor could you want a better book, because it is logical in constructive, infinitely informative yet wonderfully comprehensive terms and bereft of crazy theories. Here is the history of linear alignments, the basics of earth mysteries laid bare and a no-nonsense survey of the facts, fictions and fantasies.

If you have the slightest interest in leys or think they are related to UFOlogy in some way this book is a must for your shelves. There probably won't be another like it for a further decade. However, we are promised more excellent 'earth mystery' works in coming months - including a new one on earthlights of special relevance to UFOlogy and another on the 'earth mind' hypothesis. Even my next book ("Mind Monsters" - due from Aquarian early next year) is on a not unrelated theme - so the subject looks set to be at the fore of UFOlogical thinking during the coming twelve months. If you buy this seminal book on leys then you will off to an excellent start.

ALTERNATE STATES OF CONSCIOUSNESS 1989 Hilary Evans 256pp
£6.99 Softback published by Aquarian Press

A new book from Hilary Evans is certainly an occasion. This is no exception. Britain's best theorist tackles the increasingly relevant subject of altered states of consciousness (or alternate states as he terms them) and seeks their relationship with the 'entity' phenomenon.

In some respects this is like a series of research notes that might have been used by Hilary whilst he compiled his two recent epic books on the 'entity' phenomenon. Indeed he seems to suggest that he put it together because such accumulations were otherwise very hard to come by. As might be expected he does a splendid job of providing a sourcebook of all you need to know about everything from hypnosis to hysteria. In that regard it is a book that will be of long-term value to the dedicated UFOlogist.

I must admit that at times I was sorry the UFO phenomenon did not get more of a look in. Of course, this isn't meant to be a UFO book as such, but can (and does) provide much food for thought for the serious UFOlogist. But I was disappointed that such things as the Oz Factor state and the way witnesses to close encounters clearly enter interesting asc's during an experience did not emerge very forceably. In fact the only real references to UFO research came in rather hackneyed reliance upon the Alvin Lawson 'imaginary abductee' data which contributes something to our knowledge but is, I fear, greatly exaggerated in its importance by Hilary. It is wise to recall that Lawson's work used a very small number of people and was not really of any statistical significance. Also that, whilst there was some overlap with real abduction cases when people were hypnotised and asked to 'imagine' events by him, there were very marked differences as well.

The article by Dr Kenneth Ring on an 'imaging' hypothesis for UFO states (MUFON Journal, May 1989) contains much comment and speculation that I would have liked to see addressed in this title... Perhaps next time!

Yet, for all I personally might like to see that is not included, it cannot be denied that what is actually in here must be worth your time and money. This is a book I will use for reference in the future, and there are not many new titles about which I can honestly make that statement. Possibly this is the best recommendation I can offer to a prospective reader.

MEDIA MATTERS:

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A look at UFOs in the public eye

Northern UFO News got an unexpected plug in a detailed article "UFOs: They do exist" featured by the Staffordshire Newsletter (28 Apr). You will be pleased to know that NUFON "aren't a bunch of spaced out space freaks, but a group of serious people who want to solve the UFO mystery once and for all". The piece was, in fact, a nice review of the spate of UFO sightings in the county and the connection between them and military aircraft (viz Stealth, air refuelling exercises etc). One of the best local newspaper features on UFOs I've seen recently... which may have had something to do with the number of NUNs they've been reading of late!

I was also contacted some months ago by an advertising agency planning TV ads for "Singapore Airlines". They wanted to screen UFO photos plus a shot of one of their jets and use the line 'which flying object are you least likely to have sighted over Britain?' Fine - except that when I pointed out that virtually all 'genuine' UFO pictures were merely fuzzy blobs and lights (showing them a few) they quickly lost interest in their stated intention only to use 'bona fide unexplained UFOs'. They had some cases already - which I advised were either certain hoaxes or highly dubious. That mattered none and they used them anyway (the Alex Birch ADMITTED hoaxes, the Stephen Pratt very doubtful picture and the recently unmasked Peter Beard pix from Barnsley)... All these cases (by odd coincidence) come from South Yorkshire, prompting the local Barnsley Chronicle (2 Jun) to do a feature (ie free plug for Singapore Airlines).

Chris Thornton of the ad agency admitted he had "contacted UFO societies" and "we included the Barnsley UFO picture because there are not many pictures of UFOs in existence which have not been explained. It has never been proven conclusively that the Barnsley UFO photograph was a fake"... Nice try, but a load of cobblers. They certainly knew the facts.

Speaking of photographs, thanks to Janet and Colin Bord for copy of the 15 Jun issue of the *British Journal of Photography*. This carries a lengthy piece by Stuart Campbell under title "UFO: hoax or mirage?" in which he discusses the famous Trindade Island case from January 1958. A sensible review is followed by the news that "there is no evidence that the pictures are faked and the circumstances make it extremely unlikely." Stuart endorsing a genuine UFO? Will wonders ever cease? Reading on, you then find his attempt to prove (because) "It cannot seriously be considered that the object was a flying craft" the truth lies in an optical mirage of the planet Jupiter. Anyone who has seen this series of daylight photos of a saturn-like object moving in an arc around a rocky island (see cover of "Science and the UFOs" for instance) may find such an idea hysterical. Jupiter is not even visible in daylight, let alone as a large object that flies from one horizon to the other in front of witnesses! Surely a joke?

On a brighter note there was plenty of attention for the International Congress in London. Freelancers cashed in with pieces eg *South Wales Argus* (10 Jul) using the line that UFOs have been around for 100 years. The best headline was the ridiculous "UFO buffs from around the world gather in park" (*Camden Chronicle*, 13 Jul)...although the weather was hot enough and it might have been fun! Otherwise a serious interview with Ken Phillips.

During the congress three 'reviews' appeared on 15 Jul. Calibre varied greatly. *Chat* (complete with obligatory photo of ET) headed "Is ET for real? - This week world experts gather in London to find out..." stretching truth about as far as you can and followed by a serious short interview with your editor on IFOs. Then (presumably to fulfill its need to print trash) it tacked on the paper's own version of 'Five fantastic alien facts' (ie that aliens "speak in croaky, garbled voices" and "space visitors reassure earthlights by saying "We don't want to harm you."")

This sort of garbage makes you wonder why you bother, as did the great white hope of the conference - a big feature in the supposedly responsible *Independent* (who have favourably plugged the Aetherius Society!!!) Their headline "Nutters and sceptics have close encounter of a terrestrial kind" said it all. Obviously lighthearted, it totally misrepresented the serious debate into a battle between the 'nutters' (ie those who believed in the ETH - and championed by Walt Andrus of MUFON) and the 'sceptics' (everybody else - into which category John Spencer and Jenny Randles were slotted). Hilary Evans article was dismissed with a joke about 'balls' and he was merely insultingly termed "a man with a Shakespearean haircut". Clearly the reporter just wanted to exercise her creative juices and even included (as the only quote from me) a joke Paul Fuller and I cracked to her over lunch as we tried to talk sense about the crop circles... 'We have to watch for the nutters' I said, referring her to some twit from the *Sunday Sport* who had sneaked in as a paying member of the public and was skulking behind columns leaping out at unsuspecting passers by desperately trying (and failing) to get UFOlogists to talk to him and so resorting to candid photos instead!

However, the one good spot was a nice smallish piece in the *Daily Mail* "Taking an alien view of close encounters" which focused on the Friday debate into abduction cases and quoted Walt Andrus summing up the US position "I contest that UFOs when they land on earth are nuts and bolts devices" and Jenny Randles, batting for Europe, with "The people who claim to have been abducted are deeply traumatised by it. But that does not prove that there is some sort of intergalactic cavalry out there. Reports of the different types of aliens in different parts of the world show that the whole thing is culture-dependent."

BRIEF CASES:

Some current investigations

A few odds and ends

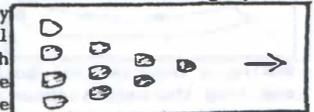
Thanks to reader Robert Moore for referring to NUN 136 (Case 8828 from Frodsham, Cheshire) there evaluated as a sighting of the planet Venus. He gives details of one of his own cases from Musbury, Devon (at 21.15 GMT on 10 October 1986) which he says features an "almost identical" phenomenon. A man and wife saw a reddish light in the SE that was stationary but then approached on a 'jerky' path, hovered again, moved sideways and eventually disappeared due SE (total duration several minutes). Object described as like two flattened spheres joined top to bottom with hazy edges surrounded by luminous mist. Another man and wife saw same phenomenon as a shape changing 'ring of light' that became 'figure eight' shape then back to 'ring of stars'. Robert finally concluded (with Stuart Campbell's help and data from *Journal of Meteorology*) that this was a superior mirage (possibly of Jupiter but more likely a lighthouse 30 miles away or a hypothetical untraced helicopter). Any comments on this diagnosis?

Two recent letters from the USA (details passed to CUFOS). The first comes from a police sergeant in Franklin, Kentucky. He describes his own sighting (21.40 local on 22 December 1987) of six objects in a tight formation looking like 'the bottom of an iron' and 'metal grey' in colour. He watched them through binoculars as they flew south and then banked away. Personally I feel virtually certain this was a flock of birds with lights reflecting from their underbellies (as we have seen in many similar previous cases). Of more interest is the fact that Franklin is the town where the famous Captain Thomas Mantell air crash occurred in January 1948. The sergeant quotes a friend (who wouldn't be interviewed but whom was named). He was a police officer at the time and says the wreckage that he saw, that it was 'full of holes' and "looked as if the plane had been shot hundreds of times with a shotgun". Possibly this is merely disintegration effects on the structure?

The other case comes from a retired USAF communications officer (who before then was an electronics flightcrew member on civilian aircraft in the heyday of early postwar flying). He was a primary mover in the development of the VHF omnirange equipment that revolutionised aircraft communications. Being from Hawaii we might call this his 'Magnum Opus' (!)

Mr B saw nothing until 1950 when "enroute from Wake Island to Honolulu red lights in a pattern came up on the port side and spun the medium frequency ADF (ARN-7) so fast that I thought it would be destroyed and turned it off. I discussed this effect with some very smart people and never got a clue."

Around the same time he was awoken by a brilliant green light that shone through palms above his Hawaiian island home. Fearing a fire that might threaten his young children he ran out into the open (with bare feet on iron thongs showing him he was wide awake!). Now he saw a randomly pulsing light as bright as the sun (in the middle of the night) aside sheer cliffs on the northeastern coast of Oahu island. Fantastic shadows were cast onto cloud bases, but the green glow was not penetrating this low cloud.



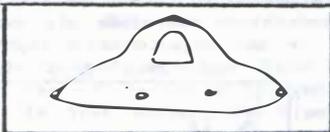
He rushed in for binoculars but returned outside to find the sky dark ("perhaps it is fortunate as I could have burned holes in my retina with the brilliance of the object.") Reports then started to flood into Hickam AFB where he was communications officer, until a 'spook' (NSA agent) saw him reading and discussing the files with friends and "had the distribution list changed". But before then Mr B followed up one of these reports.

It came from a pilot of a C-54 transport plane incoming to Wake Island from Hickam on Oahu. When relating it to B he was still "so shook up I had to help him hold his whisky glass" (!). The pilot had been cruising at 8000 feet when suddenly "8 UFOs" flew straight at his windscreen at "a terrific closure rate of about 1000 mph. But just before impact they split, with 4 going under the belly and 4 going over the top." Mr B was warned by 'operations' not to discuss cases like this with anyone.

Mr B added a lot of other stuff that I can't print about various UFOlogists he is convinced were/are 'moles' and the inner workings of MJ 12 (he claims to have picked up clues regarding a UFO photo case that involved secret experiments by ex-Nazi scientists under US government control!)

CASE 8904 MUFORA 17 January 1989 Prestwich, Lancashire P. Hough C5-5

25 year old woman was at bus stop waiting to go to work at 05.50 on cool morning with clear, dark sky. Object approached from the north which was



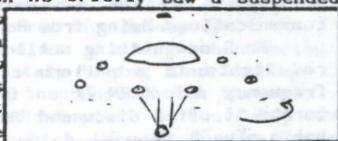
a mass of bright white lights. She thought it a plane in trouble. It seemed to be dropping so fast. However, despite the quiet surrounding area it made no noise, so she ruled this out. A distinct rounded triangle base was visible as it flew straight over (very low) possibly now making a faint engine noise. It then flew off between two factory chimneys and from the back took on the description in the drawing (ie a domed object with white inset, red, green and white lights round rim and steady red light on top. After a few minutes it disappeared towards the Pennines (south east) but was briefly seen further away before vanishing.

CASE 8905 UFORM 10 March 1989 Tamworth, Staffs Ashley Jones A5-7

Compare this case with the (independent) one above. At first sight they seem to be the same object some weeks and miles apart. In this second case there are two sets of witnesses (both in Tamworth although seeing similar things at the same time apparently not over the same part of town).

KJ was walking to the pub at 21.00 when he briefly saw a suspended white light (then obscured by buildings). A few moments later he spotted an array of lights in the NW that were 'hanging' there for some few seconds before moving away NW retaining angles of presentation. The central oval was brilliant white, the top light was steady red (as on the base) but the others (red, green, white) were flashing on and off giving impression of rotation. No sound was heard at all. The other witnesses were the investigator (friend of KJ) his mother and a driver of a taxi they were travelling in. They saw a triangular array of white lights (with some flashing red and green) that was very large and drifted slowly across sky.

Both cases sound like they may be some type of unusual aircraft (eg a military airship perhaps?) But neither group found hard evidence of this.



CASE HISTORIES:



A SPRINKLE OF SCOTTISH HEATHER (Part 3) SPI Report by Malcolm Robinson

Case 8754 features a close friend of the investigator, WH, who was walking his dog near Clackmannan at 19.27 hrs on 22 December 1987 (same date as Kentucky sighting on p 9). He saw a brilliant red/yellow light (brighter than venus) which was stationary in the north for 13 minutes (under regular observation) then moved off in zig zag to south making a faint engine noise. Malcolm claimed personal involvement and asked Stuart Campbell to investigate but witness refused to cooperate with SC judging from the tone of his approach letter that he would try to prove what he had seen was a star or planet. Inconclusive... but possibly a helicopter?

We move to 22 April 1988 for a very promising Case 8835 into which Malcolm and colleague Sandy Craw put a lot of effort. The local press reported that a 17 year old girl in the valley town of Newmilns, Ayrshire was attracted to her window at 21.15 when her radio set suddenly grew louder. Outside was hanging a bright white light. It was over Windyhill Farm. It then dimmed to be replaced by a line of red lights and subsequent to this a circle of red and blue lights. The full series of events lasted an hour. Next day she saw three semi-circular 'landing marks' at about the right spot on the hillside and her eager father who found them with her insisted these were 'tripod landing gear marks'. The case was in the local Kilmarnock paper by the next week with photos of these landing marks included.



After months of frustration (with little in the way of witness cooperation) the investigators travelled to Ayrshire and in their surveys learned a good deal of importance. The father took control of proceedings and made known that his 13 year old son had seen the lights too (not letting him be interviewed without telling him what to say!). The ground traces (from all the evidence) were formed by cattle cutting a shelter into the hillside (as the farmer later confirmed). A local farmer owned up to causing the UFO by driving his lighted tractor up and down the hillside at the correct location (being above the town these would appear to be in the air from the valley). The investigators concluded that the whole affair was a combination of various misinterpretations and wishful thinking. The father, however, disagreed and insisted he was drinking with the tractor driver that very night... The tractor driver says no - it was his brother!

Briefly the last case, 8836, made the national dailies and refers to 23.00 on 5 May 1988 when many witnesses in the Aberdeen area reported orange lights drifting over the city. Several cars stopped to watch them and one crucial witness examined one 'light' that fell to earth. He and at least one of the other witnesses accepted the solution (reported by an anonymous caller to the press who claimed responsibility). He described a simple physics experiment and game with some friends. They tied a 'lighted wick' by string to plastic bin bags, these filled with hot air and drifted skywards.

Congratulations to SPI on a series of first rate case investigations.

THE HEYWOOD LIGHTS MUFORA-IUN report by P Hough, J Randles & A Walmsley

Case 8903 19 May 1989 Heywood, Lancashire Level A (SP 4-9)

Last issue I summarised some of the press accounts which started from a front page banner story in the *Manchester Evening News* mid morning on the 19th and grew to national dailies and the incredibly inaccurate *Sunday Sport* coverage over the weekend. Steve Balon was not uninvolved in most of this trashy hype - and well into June was still trying to persuade the local press that the case was unexplained (or rather 'explained' in spaceship terms). Judge for yourself with a full rundown on the facts.

At 02.45 hrs on 19 May Peter Hough was called by Rochdale Police. They described the events that had occurred during the last hour and a half and asked for his advice. Peter arranged for a MUFORA team to interview witnesses as soon as they were back on shift later on that day. This was to be Peter plus Phil Powell and David Yates. A brief account of what had occurred was immediately secured, but the case was merely LITS and the delay seemed justified... But both the media and Steve Balon had other ideas.

By 09.00 Jenny Randles was being swamped with media calls about it and the pace of investigation had been stepped up. Discussions with Jodrell Bank affirmed they had no reports and centred on possible astronomical solutions (eg auroral effects as the lights were known to have been seen in the northern sky). Jodrell agreed to run a computer interferometer programme that had operated during the sighting (which was about 20 miles north east of here). This took some hours, and although the media were informed they did not want to await results and quoted Jenny in several sources as saying aurora were to blame. In fact the interferometer could not prove any unusual ionization that might have given rise to spectacular auroral effects.

By 10.00 Jenny had also spent some time discussing the case with the senior air traffic control officer at Manchester Airport who had been on duty some hours earlier (solely thanks to working with Jodrell as Ringway were already sick of the calls from 'journalists and UFO spotters'). This man confirmed that he had nothing on radar, looked at the correct part of sky several times during the sighting and had seen no aurora or other effects and our discussion then focused on weather data and the possible relevance of this. In the end it was mutually agreed that any bright stars or planets in the area could have been effected by the extreme humidity, a potential temperature inversion layer and an optical mirage effect magnifying them at ground level. In subsequent media quotes Ringway used precisely this line so obviously paid heed to our conversation. Andy Walmsley was then brought in to run the IUN computer programme in order to find any candidate stars.

At interview that evening (on site) the full story emerged from the eyewitnesses in Heywood. Most of the media details were to prove completely wrong on this score and most journalists interviewed no witnesses. The incident began at 01.30 hrs, or just before, when two ambulance drivers SG and WG were returning to base from Bury and dropped off a patient on the large housing estate at Darn Hill, Heywood, on the western edge of the Pennines (OS Map 109 835102). Here they saw several people in a block of flats apparently on the balcony looking north. Three lights were spaced out across the horizon and one seemed to 'fall' to earth as they watched.

Thinking the lights might be reflections they stopped several times on their drive and the lights ALWAYS kept pace (ie stopping and starting). A few minutes later they reached the station in the centre of Heywood (half a mile or so east - ref 855105). As a joke they turned on the flashing blue light on their ambulance and the now single 'big' light on the horizon responded, flashing colours (red, blue, green, white) - as it did for some time afterwards. The affair lasted well over an hour and the light basically stayed in the same place moving very slowly if at all. The ambulance crew boss (without telling the men) phoned Piccadilly Radio - the 24 hour station in Manchester, who called back for an interview. The men were more interested in watching the lights and when some minutes later decided to phone the police to report them found the phone dead. It should be noted this worked during nearly all of the sighting before and after this brief period and none of the other equipment in the station was effected (including radios and other emergency telephones). The men themselves suggested and clearly believe (despite media claims otherwise) that this temporary cut off was due to Piccadilly Radio trying to retain their live link with the witnesses and simply not replacing the phone at their end.

Eventually (around 02.30) one ambulance man walked the few hundred yards to the police station and a woman PC (AB) and a Sargeant (GM) arrived at the ambulance station at 02.35. Only one large light was seen in the north possibly as far away as Ashworth Reservoir or even the Rossendale Valley (about 10 miles). Sargeant GM estimated elevation as 35 degrees. On site reconstruction estimates were similar. The woman PC thought all along it was just a brightly twinkling star and said so repeatedly. GM said the colour flashes were puzzling. Another policeman (NM) and a taxi driver arrived. They all watched until the object faded away (possibly obscured by the noticeable haze). All descriptions match very closely and offer little to contradict and much to support the idea of a star through atmospheric distortion.

After the sighting ended Sargeant GM and an inspector from Middleton drove up to Ashworth Moor Reservoir (830155) and watched the dawn come but saw nothing except a few 'stars' in the south. This seems to be the source of false media allegations that the police 'chased' the UFO over the moors!

Andy Walmsley's computer shows there was a star around 45 degrees in the north, but only + 2 magnitude. The most likely star is Capella, much brighter and around 14 degrees elevation. It is possible that a temperature inversion/humidity magnifying effect could have distorted the sizes and positions of these enough - or, just possibly, made ground lights bend by the humidity inversion. Either way MUFORA and IUN are certain this case was vastly inflated by an ill-informed media and is NOT a UFO. It is worth noting that Heywood has generated other very similar cases in the past and may be prone to this star distortion due to local geographical factors.

SOME CIRCLES REVELATIONS FROM THE NORTH

Two brief reports follow on events that will no doubt feature in more detail in future publications about the circles. Occurring as they do in the NUFON region they show that these wretched rings are not just a southern phenomenon. MUFORA is also monitoring a site in Cheshire where circles have appeared for several previous years; although sadly not (it seems) in 1989.

1988: Marple, Cheshire

A local cutting from a 'Controversy of the Circles' reader took Roy Sandbach and I on the trail of this event. It occurred on 15 June 1988 at Marple, on the Cheshire/Derbyshire border and just 4 miles east of the Stockport town centre. It had been partially noted by Dr Terence Meaden at the time and cited in his *Journal of Meteorology* (April 1989) as a six line item. However, the full details were much more interesting and Roy and I prepared a comprehensive case file with site photographs.

At 11.00 BST children at the All Saints Primary School (OS Ref 109 - 962881) were observed by the deputy head with hay rising up around them. Going out of his office into the fields to tell them off he realised it had stopped and the hay was in a field *beside* the school fencing. The pupils said it rose on its own. At 12.45 BST other children and this teacher were engaged in a game of rounders (akin to baseball for US readers!) when the hay (discarded on the field by a farmer from Strines who keeps cattle here) was seen to rise in a tight spiral (anti-clockwise from above). This created an oval of hay above the field (OS Ref 963882). At the top this was around 5-8 metres in diameter and was solid looking. This climb took about 10 seconds to reach a height of estimated 30 metres. After a momentary hover the 'disc' of hay moved laterally retaining this height and travelling in a steady path towards the west south west.

As it passed over the witnesses (who had now abandoned their game) a strange force pushed down on them from above - described as "funny...like a soft wind". This is near identical to the effect described by UFO close encounter witnesses; eg at Bolton (Jan 1976) and the two men in the Nelson car-stop case (March 1977). As the oval of hay disappeared behind a church steeple bits were beginning to fall off the edge as if losing energy.

What follows was known to Dr Meaden. Moments later at a row of houses (OS Ref 960880) the hay was dumped like rain. Witnesses here saw the cloud spreading out to cover a width of several rooftops with the remains gently drifting westward down a lee slope towards Stockport; visible as separate 'bits' like a flock of birds. Some hay clumps that fell resembled birds' nests with the hay spiralled together into a twisted shape. One eyewitness examined the grass field from where the hay was sucked up and said this was bent and swirled in a rough approximation of the crop circles effect.

1989: Mansfield, Nottinghamshire

A local UFO group discovered a single circle south west of town on 16 July 1989 and reported this to Ralph Noyes (who in turn notified Dr Meaden). On Dr Meaden's behalf I visited the site to take detailed photographs and measurements. This was on 28 July, when the site was already badly damaged by the investigating UFOlogists. It is worth noting that a multiple-witness UFO sighting had occurred in this area just 60 hours before my visit; although I was unaware of that fact at the time.

The field concerned is formed of oats and is on a hill sloping to the north east. The circle itself was markedly elliptical with a bare centre, a clockwise rotation and measured 17ft 4 in (north-south axis), 18ft 3 in (west-east). A large path was cut through the oats from a convenient gap in the hedgerow some 35 feet from the circle. A number of significant discoveries were made about this circle, the site and its precise location which are still being checked out. However, there was certainly more to it than was first evident or inevitably made that initial group report.

UFO ATTACKED BY TORNADO OVER BLACKPOOL

Case file 8906 Report by Joseph Dormer and June Reynolds of FUFIOG A8-5

A rather incredible debut case in these pages for the newly renamed Fyldie coast group. The incident occurred on 5 July 1989 at 23.10 hrs and was reported on the group's hotline by Mr B, a local taxi driver.

He alleges that he was driving down Grasmere Rd towards Central Drive in the bustling tourist town of Blackpool when he spotted a red-orange ball over the sea in the south west. It was approximately a half the size of the full moon and then it moved 'faster than the eye can see' to another part of the sky. It hovered for a further couple of seconds before shooting off again. It finally disappeared for good in the north east.

Just a few seconds after this final vanishing trick an RAF Tornado fighter jet appeared flying very low and fast (estimated as BELOW the 519 feet height of the famous landmark of Blackpool Tower). It approached from over the sea (to the west) and flew in the direction where the UFO had last been seen. The jet had no navigation lights even though the sky was mostly dark (being light only over the western horizon out to sea). This proved a canopy to silhouette the jet. The aircraft also appeared to have afterburners alight but was reputedly SILENT! Mr B then noticed a flash and a faint puff of smoke at the front and at the rear of the plane which he interprets as an air-to-air missile being launched! He does stress that he never actually saw such an event but says he is 90% certain it did happen. Although later he saw people apparently looking at the sky nobody else seems to have observed the incident at all. Mr B went straight to South Shore police and reported it that same evening - a fact confirmed to the investigators by the police.



What does one make of this case? The investigators are well aware of just how absurd it sounds to propose a Tornado jet firing on a UFO over a busy seaside resort in high summer. The witness himself makes no bones of these problems either (especially as plenty of people were admitted to be around at the time). In addition, he mentioned the silence - which is very hard (if not impossible) to explain if a real jet was below 500 feet with afterburners blazing. The witness knows that and relates the incongruity. The investigators were forced to conclude that he seemed totally sincere.

Blackpool Airport had no radar coverage operating at the time. Manchester Airport (50 miles south east) who would cover the area cannot detect anything at the reputed low height of this jet. Warton - a British Aerospace base inland near Preston builds and flies the Tornado (which the witness - being an aviation student even says, he recognised as an F.3 type). They showed interest in the story and checked it out but insisted later they had no planes in the air at the time.

On the other hand Mr B's immediate report to the police must be in his favour as must the fact (discovered during the investigation but never mentioned by the witness) that he radioed his taxi base with the sighting as soon as it occurred. This case is a real puzzler... any ideas???

} P I N A L {
} WORDS {

This autumn sees the biggest line up of UFO events in Britain for a long time and many of them are in the region too. There seems to be something for everyone and this seemed an appropriate place to outline just what is going on. You can't say you didn't know about it!

CALENDAR

2 Sep BUFORA lecture London Business School (near Baker St tube) 6.30 pm
Jenny Randles on the link between abductions and inner space

7 Oct BUFORA lecture London Business School near Baker St tube) 6.30 pm
Manfred Cassirer on the investigation into the Bromley poltergeist

14 Oct SPI/BUFORA Scottish UFO day English Speaking Union Atholl Crescent
Edinburgh 2pm (Details:- SPI address below)... *speakers include Jenny Randles and Malcolm Robinson, with a heavily illustrated Lionel Beer thing*

21/22 Oct Planned Open University seminar on UFOs at Port Talbot, Glamorgan
(Open University students get priority details via:- 126 Grange Road
Guildford Surrey GU2 6QP)... *seminars/debates involving Paul Fuller, Gordon Millington and Jenny Randles*

21/22 Oct Residential UFO conference at Hourne Farm, Crowborough, Sussex
£29 visitors, £43 residents - inc meals:- write Highland Glen Gravesend Rd
Shorne Kent DA12 3TW... *speakers inc Margaret Fry and Norman Oliver*

28 Oct From the USA Stanton Friedman -on MJ-12, crashed UFOs etc at
Sheffield Library Theatre from 1.30 pm Tickets £3 (£2 for OAPs, students
etc - 10% reduction for parties of 4 + booked in advance) Organisers IUN

18 Nov MUFORA/BUFORA Manchester UFO day at Central Library, St Peters Square
Starts 1.30 pm (David Clarke on earthlights, Jenny Randles on Rendlesham
Forest - the solution... plus Britain's three UFO movie films) Ref: MUFORA

MUFON Regional Groups

SPI	(Scotland)	4 Woodlea Park, Branshill, Sauchie, Alloa	FK10 3BG
NLUFOIG	(Cumbria)	89 Bare Lane, Morecambe, Lancashire	LA 4 6RN
HSVL	(Nth Lancs)	63 Devonshire Dr, Clayton-le-Moors, Lancs	BB 5 5RH
FUFOIG	(Fylde Coast)	293 Devonshire Rd, Blackpool, Lancashire	FY 2 0TW
WAPIT	(Sth Lancs)	20 Duncan Place, Pemberton, Wigan, Lancs	WN 5 6RP
EARTHQUEST	(Wirral)	22a Croxtheth Grove, Toxteth, Liverpool	L 8 0RX
MUFORA*	(Cheshire)	6 Silsden Ave, Lowton, Lancashire	WA 3 1EN
IUN	(Yorkshire)	1 Woodhall Dr, Healey Lane, Batley, W. Yks	WF17 7SU
CUFOSC	(Shropshire)	117 Earle Street, Crewe, Cheshire	CW 1 2AG
SSPR	(Derbyshire)	17 Old Quarry Ave, Wales, Sheffield	S 31 8RW
PARASEARCH	(W. Midlands)	79 Sandringham Rd, Stourbridge, W. Mid	DY 8 5HL
LUFOIC	(E. Midlands)	31 Grove Rd, Highfields, Leicester, Leics	LE 5 3HJ
MUFORC	(Northants)	46 Occupation Rd, Corby, Northants	NN17 2EF

* MUFON archive files held, at University Chaplaincy, accessible c/o MUFORA T: 0942-604265