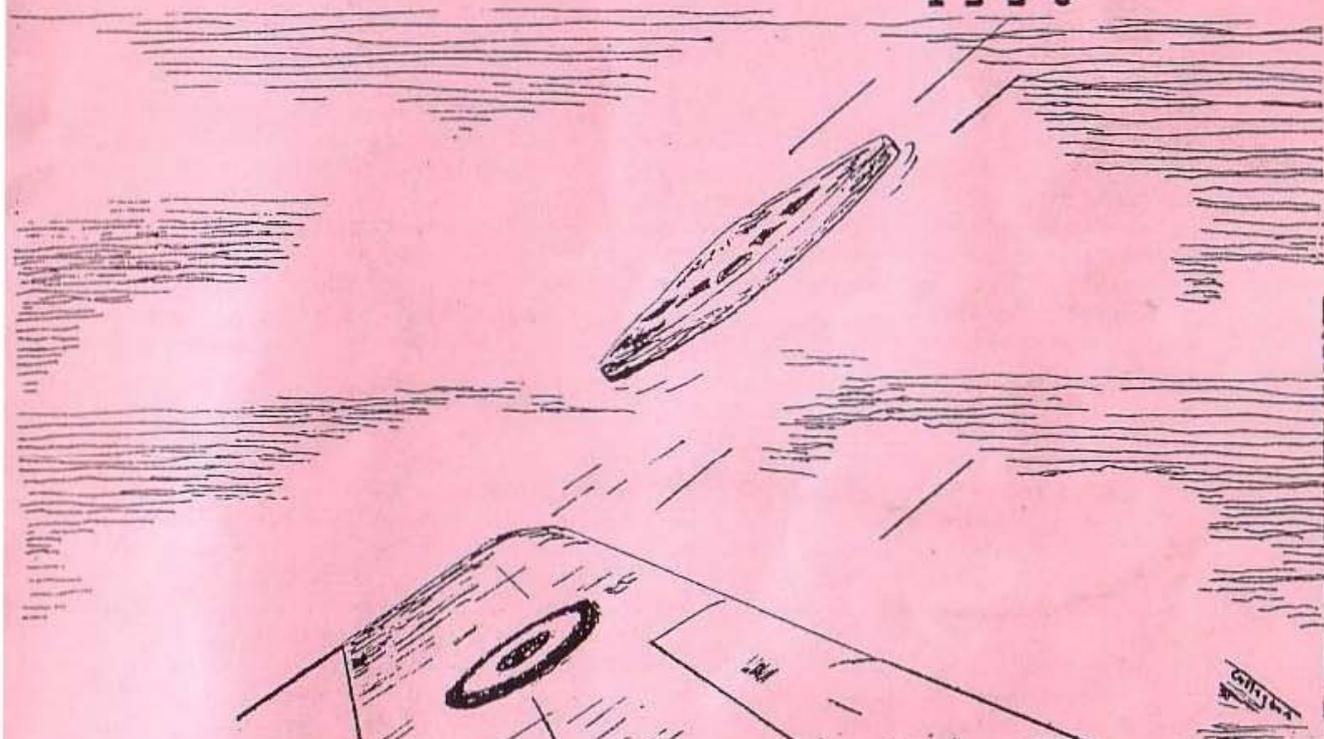


NORTHERN UFO NEWS

145
OCTOBER
1990



All the news, views and up to date cases £6 for six
Editor: Jenny Randles Cover: Bill Callaghan

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Leicestershire, Northants Scotland, S taffs...including the strange sound in
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Australian bedroom contact case .

37 HEATHBANK ROAD CHEADLE HEATH STOCKPORT CHESHIRE ENGLAND SK3 0UP

J. R. Comments. . . Apologies again for the delays; although there is hope on the horizon that next issue will be back to schedule. I can only thank all of you who have sent messages of encouragement and offered other help in the past year. This was something I will not forget and your advice was instrumental in my decision to carry on. Doubtless the full story of what took place will emerge one day, but I am legally obliged not to discuss events. However, as a general rule, and certainly meaning nobody in particular, remember this :- journalists can seriously damage your health.

In a recent letter BUFORAs investigation coordinator for North Wales and herself a long-term witness to many close encounters said the following; "Why don't certain investigators (*she named some - but I won't! - Ed*) concentrate their energies and intelligences on cases such as 9004, Skelmersdale, Lancs (last issue). They conveniently forget them. Norman Oliver is right to say that our UFO organisations were founded to investigate these 5 or 6 % of UNKNOWNs. Leave the psychological, geological, botanical stuff to those conventional experts who are qualified in these fields and concentrate on what WE are supposed to be experts on, for there are no others. I agree one has to try to eliminate what a sighting or ground traces might be, but having reasonably established the category, try to pass it onto scientific establishments or individuals. (These 'debunking style UFOlogists) are nice enough individuals when you meet them, but I honestly do not think their way of tackling the subject is what the UFO movement is all about."

I would be very interested in hearing your views on what I believe Margaret has identified as perhaps the key issue, and one we are thinking too little about. For the record here is my two penneth.

We DO have a responsibility to direct UFO evidence - when it is relevant - toward mainstream science. That is why I have been so interested in the crop circles (which, with reservations, I still believe are explained by extending the boundaries of known atmospheric physics). It is why I concede that we should belatedly acknowledge the contributions to UFOlogy in terms of phenomena such as ball lightning and optical effects spelt out by so-called debunkers like Philip Klass and Steuart Campbell.

Where they may have been at fault, and where there is danger regarding the Meaden Vortex theory for crop circles and UFOs, is in trying to use the discovery to explain everything away.

It may be that from 'Crop Circles: A Mystery Solved' Paul Fuller and I will stand accused of that. However, I stress the title was NOT our proposal (we called the book 'The Alien Delusion') and we see its problems. For the record, I think the vortex that Meaden has identified is a key to many unexplained UFO cases in various categories (especially traces, car stops and physiological effects) - but it is positively NOT a universal panacea. It reduces the 5% of unexplained cases, I believe, but it probably will NOT eliminate them altogether, because the UFO phenomenon is a catch-all term for a range of different unidentified events and experiences.

Paul and I are NOT alleging that the Meaden Vortex is THE answer - just an interesting (probably significant) part of it; although in terms of 'solving' the basic crop circle mystery things might be different. We would URGE people not to argue that we have all of the answers. My paper at the Sheffield conference did not discuss 'the death of UFOlogy' because the Meaden Vortex has killed it off. Rather I was suggesting the name UFOlogy is too tied to one theory (the ETH) for it to be other than a millstone.

Having said that, Margaret's point cannot be ignored. There remain baffling cases - of which the object seen at Skelmersdale is certainly one. IF reports like this are bona-fide (and as we all know the likelihood that they are all hoaxes is almost nil) then we need more than mere atmospheric phenomena to solve the riddles.

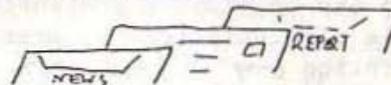
It MAY be that certain atmospheric phenomena, via strange states of consciousness, are able to offer up clues. However, none of us can rule out that something different (or stranger) lies behind a few percent of the cases and - however strongly we may disagree with that perception as an individual - we have a responsibility to examine and debate ALL options.

Readers of my work often criticise me for flitting about and looking at UFOs from so many conflicting angles. But I do this on purpose. For it is the only fair way to study a perplexing and bewildering array of divergent subjects such as ours. Each exploration offers new pieces to the puzzle and may whittle away at that famous 5% of unknowns. Whether these trips round the elephant will ever get us to 0% and full understanding - who knows?

I think it worth mentioning a lecture I gave to MUFON in Dallas, Texas, last year. A very perceptive member of the audience asked me what was the one single question I most wanted an answer to within the UFO field. My reply was - and still remains - this: *Are there any intelligences other than our own involved in ANY UFO case?*

We may each think we can answer that question in our own mind, but in truth none of us are really able to do so ... Including the abductees!

NEWS ROUND UP:



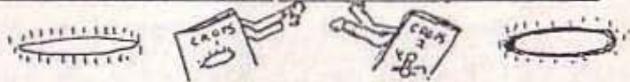
:: Reader Glynn Williams suggests that some of the triangular UFO cases might be caused by the SAAB 35 Draken - a Danish Air Force fighter that looks matt black against the sky and triangular in form at most angles. He alleges that they fly across the North Sea during NATO exercises and are sufficiently rare and unusual to possibly lead to confusion. Any thoughts?

:: News has reached me about UFO 90; an annual gathering at Hourne Farm in Crowborough, Sussex (December 8 & 9). It promises 'film, slides, close encounters, abductions and anti-gravity' (should be an uplifting experience then!). Lecturers include Margaret Fry, Norman Oliver, Dan Goring, Ron West and others and it will be ETH/occupant orientated. Day visitors (including vegetarian meals) - £39. Room included - £53. Reductions for OAPs and unemployed. Payment necessary in advance. Contact: - Alan Hilton Highland Glen Gravesend Rd Shorne Kent DA12 3TW T: 047-482-3278 (am only).

:: Further afield papers are sought for TREAT III - the conference of the 'Treatment and research of experienced anomalous trauma'. This is basically American style abductee research involving the psychology and psychiatric profession; heavy on that aspect but open to non-clinicians. This event will be at University of Kansas in Kansas City between 5 and 10 March 1991 (YES - SIX DAYS OF IT!!!) Anyone interested in presenting a paper or attending contact: - Rima Laibow 13 Summit Terrace Dobbs' Ferry NY 10522

:: New catalogues to hand are the latest from Arcturus (PO Box 831383 Stone Mountain GA 30083-0023) - with all the latest American titles... And a new service Aardvark Books (or how to get in the Yellow Pages first) at: - 8 Braddon Ave Urmston Manchester M31 1UE - with some second hand bargains

CIRCULATION WARS



As you must have noticed the crop circle phenomenon has grown like a rampant amoeba to the point where it now has an undercurrent of publicity, bickering and back-stabbing of which UFOlogy would be proud.

The inevitable result is a flood of books (several more known to be coming in the next few weeks) and the birth of a new magazine genre. No less than three have suddenly sprung to life. So what's on offer from them?

'The Cereologist' (as its name implies) is the most impressive looking, but some may find it at times a bit pretentious. It seems to treat the field as an esoteric art. Editor is John Michell, so you know up front the style and flavour, and it is well written and extremely neat in presentation over its 20 typeset A4 pages. The content is a mixture; ranging from interesting Fortean commentary by Bob Rickard, to the tongue in cheek (is he being serious?) type of piece on the 'W place name connection' which Ralph Noyes does well and onto some quite weird stuff about pendulums and hermetics. There are a couple of pieces by George Wingfield also. Plus its share of errors and personal attack against the 'weather theory' or its supporters (anyone who read Michell's outlandish Fortean Times review of 'Controversy of the Circles' will find more of the same with bells on).

An interesting journey on the outer edges of 'cereology' its not cheap (£2.50 per issue, or £7.50 for 3; from 11 Powis Gardens London W11 1JG

Middle of the road fare is offered by the neatly titled 'The Circular' - which has no visible pretensions at all. A 30 page photocopied A4 offering which is allegedly free at present in limited numbers (although I suspect a subscription may follow) this one takes no real line at all. Edited by a freelance local journalist who has formed 'the circle network' it is a pot pourri of press cuttings reproduced whole (eg the Wingfield vs Meaden debate, where each got a page in the Independent to express their case) and general items of theory, comment and reporting. The first issue doesn't have a lot new to say, but I was quite impressed with the way it managed to avoid the personality clashes that are getting in the way of the facts and focus on the 'bewilderment' of the circles. This will likely be the most objective source of all three, with no apparent axe of any kind to grind. Whether that will be an advantage or disadvantage for its content only time will tell.

Limited numbers available with large SAE from Bob Kingsley 58 Kings Rd West End Woking Surrey GU24 9LW

Finally, comes a magazine on the other branch of the tree, with any pretensions aimed clearly at the scientific side of the subject and in support of the Meaden theory. As its editor is Paul Fuller this is only to be expected. 'The Crop Watcher' is again A4, some 32 pages long and promises a bi-monthly schedule, so will certainly be around more often than the other two. It is printed similarly to UFO Brigantia and its style of presentation is akin to Brigantia again in some ways. This means you will probably love or hate it. However, it will feature meaty chunks of news, detailed reports on circle investigations (Doug Cooper writes in depth here on some new Devon circles and yours truly reviews 1990 cases outside of Wessex). There will be regular updates on the meteorological research into vortices from Dave Reynolds. Incisive comments on a supposed cover-up of a horse mutilation at a 1990 circle site in Westbury are offered by Clive Potter and there is a good deal of critical stuff about other circle researchers (we may all benefit by limiting this in future in favour of even more hard evidence).

'The Crop Watcher' costs £1.25, or £7 for six, from: - 3 Selborne Court Tavistock Close Romsey Hampshire SO51 7TY

BEHIND THE UFO CONSPIRACY?

An interesting item came to me from a woman in California who had read my book; 'The UFO Conspiracy'. Her story is as follows.

In 1986 she met a certain Dr O (full name given) for a business venture concluded two years later. After becoming firm friends coffee break discussions turned to the 'hot' subject of UFOs. Dr O was alleged 'fascinated' with the lady's ire towards the US government 'cover up' of UFO data. She knew that Dr O had a background in classified military research with NASA and was fluent in many 'enemy' languages (eg Russian). He claimed to have very high level security clearance for his CIA work.

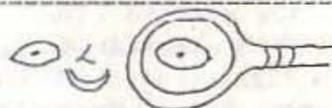
She alleges that he has confirmed to her many aspects of the secret project into UFO study and / or capture of UFOs etc. She only took him seriously when one day he was approached at the office with a military telegram and was asked to prepare for immediate departure to the Chernobyl area in the wake of the nuclear accident there; although this did not occur.

Unfortunately, after promising to tell a very great deal she allegedly learnt from Dr O (as she was not bound by any government) the woman has now clammed up. All I can tell you is that says Dr O independently advised her that the reasons for the cover-up ARE very much those outlined in my book (ie, I presume, that the powers that be are afraid of admitting their lack of control and limited knowledge and that an interactive long-term 'education programme' is underway leading eventually to a revelation).

We shall see. Meanwhile I have passed the woman's address onto bona fide sources in the USA and maybe they will get more information on Dr O.

FOR YOUR PERUSAL:

Major articles elsewhere



One new magazine to report this issue is 'The Wild Places', edited by Kevin McClure. Those of you who remember the excellent 'Common Ground' which ranged over many aspects of the paranormal until three or four years ago and for a time was a very serious part of the ASSAP output will know what to expect. This is effectively 'Common Ground' revisited, with the same editor, team of contributors and A5 format. The first issue has Hilary Evans on the modern mythology of abductions, Michael Goss on Spiritualistic messages and plenty of snips and short commentaries on current topics such as the Satan child abuse stories. Once it gets into its momentum I think this is going to be a very welcome resurrection. Payment (to Kevin McClure) is £1.75 for trial issue or £6 for a year (ie four). (US equivalent is \$5 and \$20 - but BILLS only, not US cheques). From:-

20 Trembear Rd St Austell Cornwall PL25 5NY

UFO Times Sep (6 issues, with BUFORA sub; f18 - 103 Hove Ave London E17 7NG)
Features a fascinating interview with Howard Blum; American author of 'Out There' (see books this issue). Plus a very important CE 4 hypnosis account.

MAGONIA Oct (4 issues, £4 from 5 James Terrace London SW14 8HB)

A fine issue this one. Contains an unusually lucid account by Peter Rogerson of the state of modern UFOlogy via reviews of current books, a superb justification of the failure of the psycho-social evaluation of abductions by Eddie Bullard, a counter reaction by Dennis Stillings and a perceptive (if fundamentally flawed) critique of the Meaden vortex by John Rimmer.

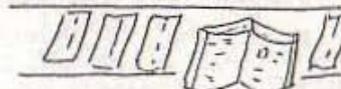
UFO DEBATE Oct (6 issues, £8.50 from 40 Stubbing Way, Shipley, W. Yks BD18 2EZ)
Now gone to A5 format like NUN (but still with maddening large letters every other word - why???) Quite a range of stuff and a fascinating read these days, especially with David Barclay's own peculiar brand of UFOlogy.

MUFON Journal (12 issues, \$30 US; 103 Oldtowne Rd, Seguin, Texas 78155-4099)
Despite the clear ET flavour of the group and their endorsement of Gulf Breeze editor Dennis Stacy ensures this is an important and balanced magazine well worth reading. The July, Aug and Sept issues include (amongst much else) easily the most detailed reports on recent Belgian sightings.

Orbiter Jul (No price quoted, bi-monthly, 43 Harrison St, Reading, MA 01867)
This hard-hitting and objective US publication reviews the controversies of the American scene in a very British way (a compliment) and unafraid to say things we'd probably be sued for if NUN were to endorse them. Excellent.

JUST CAUSE Sep (\$20, for 4, from PO BOX 218, Coventry CT 06238 USA)
Critiques of MJ-12 and detailed background to 'Out There'. The cover-up quite sensibly analysed by Barry Greenwood and Larry Fawcett whose classic book 'Clear Intent' has been republished in the USA. Worth your attention.

BOOKS OF THE MOMENT



OUT THERE Howard Blum Simon & Schuster £12.95 300 pp 1990

Another American import (this time published in the UK first!). Blum is a highly respected freelance journalist who is in no way a UFOlogist. Having made a TV programme with him for the BBC when we were each promoting our respective new books I got the distinct impression his knowledge of the field is rather superficial and his interest in it none too overwhelming.

'Out There' is actually a book about the US government funding of the search for extra-terrestrial life and UFOs crop up often, but only as a key incidental. Do not expect any significant revelations, even though the text keeps leading you to anticipate them. Also bear in mind it is par oichial American stuff where UFOlogy IS MJ-12, Roswell and cover-ups. Not that Blum necessarily believes this lot (its hard to know from the book what he does believe). But these are the pawns in a chess game which this text plays.

Although I gather yet another TV series may be in the offing (based on what I find difficult to imagine - as this is hardly a rivetting true story like Gulf Breeze or Communion) for me Blum said little we don't already know. One respected US UFOlogist has chastised Blum for errors and whilst it is always interesting to have a perspective from a non-UFO source (who claims he was approached by 'government moles' and senses disinformation at work) I found the book a bit tepid and only fitfully of interest.

THE AVELEY ABDUCTION UFOIN Case Report 40 pp illustrated A5 booklet 1990

Now here is real UFOlogy you can get your teeth into. The IUN recently took over the in-depth UFOIN files, which were very detailed studies of British close encounters made between 1977 and 1981. They came from a team of freelance workers, many then (and some still now) BUFORA accredited investigators, who had simply got together (like the IUN today) to work OUTSIDE the structure of a formal group to better investigation standards.

Most of the cases were published in FSR at the time under Charles Bowen's editorship (with a formal FSR-UFOIN agreement). The case files were housed in Nottingham by some UFOIN members and made accessible to all in a 'research centre' which even had living accommodation for long-term research work. But they became less available after UFOIN merged with BUFORA (a move these few disagreed with; although it was voted for by the other UFOIN members). So we tried to retrieve them. Despite the pleas of most of the still active UFOIN members the Nottingham group flatly refused, but promised to retain them available with open access. We tried again three years ago and went to Nottingham, but were only allowed to collect the NUFON files to re-house at Manchester University. They would NOT give up the UFOIN records.

The IUN editorial statement in this booklet disturbed me (as founder and secretary of UFOIN) because it implies that we allowed the files to (as the booklet puts it) 'gather dust' until the IUN rescued them from obscurity. They now hope to finance their availability by selling copies.

Now I do not in any way object to the IUN having these files, am sure that UFOlogy will benefit from better access and good care and do not even disapprove in principle to the IUN making money by reproducing booklets such as this (assuming they asked permission from the original investigators and FSR to do so - in which case it would have been nice to see a 'postscript' to update each case). Nevertheless, it was important that readers not be misled that those of us still proud of the UFOIN initiative simply forgot this heritage we created and did not care about the files.

As for this booklet, it is basically a straight reduction of the 100 page plus case file by Andy Collins and Barry King, as edited today by Philip Mantle and Andy Walmsley. It retells in great detail the full story of the famous Aveley CE 4 in October 1974 when a family of five suffered missing time and major trauma during a car ride, in what became Britain's first abduction case to be fully retrieved by regression hypnosis.

All you need from transcripts to witness sketches is included in the dense text. For those without the three 1978 issues of FSR which reproduced the original UFOIN file this will certainly be of both interest and value.

Despite what is said above, I do not wish to criticise the publication of this work, which deserves a wider airing - as do other UFOIN cases - and I am glad it is the IUN (not many others) who are doing this fine work.

Price £2.25 UK, £2.50 Europe, \$5 (dollar bills only) from 'Andy Walmsley': 232 Long Lane Wheatley Halifax West Yorkshire HX3 5JS

UFOs OVER HAMPSHIRE Robert Price Ensign Books £5.95 144 pp illus 1990

This book is available from Ensign (add postage) if you cannot find it in shops outside the south: - 2 Redcar Street Shirley Southampton SO1 5LL.

For the output of a small 'local interest' publisher it is very respectable indeed. A terrific cover, plenty of b & w photographs and a well typeset script. Any major publisher would be proud of it. The content is nothing to shout about; largely a collection of light in the sky type cases (although there are some more interesting ones too). They are well written up and most classics from Hampshire and the Isle of Wight get a few pages, to make this a really quite nice collection of (mainly uninvestigated) stories; although some IFOs are spotted and pointed out. Crop circles, of course, get a chapter and are treated reasonably fairly, it must be said.

The author is a UFO enthusiast with a mild ETH bias, but this does not intrude that much and the few errors are not dramatic. Paul Fuller writes a foreword. For anyone interested in this area's UFOlogy it's worth the money.

THE TROUBLE WITH THE WEATHER

Now Paul Fuller has launched 'The Crop Watcher' as a vehicle for case investigations I will not carry the excellent reports received from NUFON affiliates into local circles. A home has been found in 'Crop Watcher'.

Whilst I cannot promise not to mention circles in NUN again (they are a fact of UFO life) I think it right to concentrate on UFOs and allow Paul's magazine and its worthy competitors to fine tune their attention.

However, I could not leave the issue without commenting on a very real dilemma posed by the events of 1990. The increasing complexity and evolution into amazing pictograms has set the cat among the pigeons. CAN the Meaden vortex accomodate them (as he says, given time, it can)? ARE they aberrant hoaxes (bearing in mind they are less than 10 out of 1500 circle events - and all in 1990)? Or are we at the point where it has to be acknowledged that there is something else afoot IN ADDITION TO atmospheric forces?

I tentatively moot an idea I'll develop further as time goes by that maybe (I put it no stronger than that for now) we are at a point where belief has become self-reproductive. It is now creating circles in addition to whatever natural forces (vortices AND hoaxes) have always been present.

This stems from something I first said in *UFOs: A British Viewpoint* (back in 1979) - proposing that UFOs had a two-pronged solution; natural UAP and a sort of psychic or PK effect that was generating close encounters in their image (adding much believed-in alien intelligence properties). My 1990 book *Mind Monsters* is the most detailed of my recent theoretical discussions and extends this and helps explain what I am about to say.

What if (as *Mind Monsters* suggests from the evidence) consciousness is the hidden variable in quantum mechanics equations? What if - through this - sub-atomic reality can be moulded to respond to strong beliefs of the very people research is suggesting to be most open to close encounters?

I proposed that naturally generated energy fields (notably gaseous emissions at window area sites) could be temporarily distorted at a quantum level so that containing electrical fields are manipulated into the shape of a monster that is believed by tradition to be associated with the place. Or one created by mass public belief (as UFO aliens have now become a legitimised form because enough people at least half accept them).

The belief fixes a template in the mind. Most of us can do nothing more than imagine or hallucinate this, but those gifted at PK and ESP (the very sort that our research is showing to be abductees and the best monster witnesses) go further and briefly shape these naturally produced fields and mould their gaseous products into a temporary form that is visible (photographable) and 'real', until the wave function collapses (as physicists put it), the fields return to normal and the mist dissipates.

As *Crop Circles: A Mystery Solved* does show clouds and mists are not uncommon in connection with what we believe to be a Meaden vortex. Maybe what was once JUST a random meteorological effect has stimulated enough public interest and belief and gathered sufficient people of the 'monster reality' type to the areas of major crop circle manifestation in the past two summers. Belief and desire to disprove the weather theory has activated the latent powers of these crucial few, who use the evolving template to exercise a quantum level effect and provide new marks to defy explanation.

In other words, what we have seen in 1989 and 1990 is partly a belief generated PK effect triggered unconsciously by a gifted few and based on a natural phenomenon that was always there, but evolving and distorting it to enhance impact... as MAY have occurred 40 yrs ago with UFOs... Its a thought!

MEDIA MATTERS


A look at UFOs in the public eye

BBC Radio 1 DJ Steve Wright (a noted UFO-phile) discussed the subject in his CHAT column (13 Oct) when he asked; "why do we brand UFO spotters 'nutters'? Are they really barking mad? " He then discussed UFOs in a wholly ET fashion, reporting a "saucer shaped object gleaming in the half light" seen when he was 11 and added reports that America "recently covered-up a spacecraft landing in the mid-west for fear of panic."

But quite the most discussed matter has been the Belgian wave. On 6 Oct the Wall Street Journal had a major article. It discussed how the media had made fun of the thousands of sightings over the summer made by 'Walloons' (the unfortunately - for us in English - named local inhabitants) but that the Belgian group SOBEPS had taken it far more seriously, as had the armed forces who organised a UFO watch AND put two planes at the disposal of the UFOlogists (okay you lot order that Torndao fighter now from your local RAF base and lets get investigating these things properly!)

This excellent article discussed how some 2600 witnesses have seen the lighted triangular UFO since November last. The object is remarkably similar to recent British cases featured for some years in NUN (ie the silent vulcan type). Some of these we eventually ascribed to air refuelling exercises and others to Stealth aircraft (and indeed many of the Belgian cases seem to match). But baffling British tales remain as they do in Belgium; the most impressive being on 30 March 1990 when Ghent ground control had a radar lock on the object, two F-16's closed and the thing went 'zip' and lost them like a bullet (a 46 G acceleration was measured!). That was no Stealth bomber, unless the USAF have some pretty hardy pilots.

During the UFO watch (to be repeated in November) national publicity brought UFO reports by the truckload on the phone straight into SOBEPS who immediately called the Belgian Air Force and replayed the tape down the line to give them any promising sighting. With this 'Carry On' navigation method planes were sent zig-zagging across the skies looking for the UFO!

The British press on the whole did not treat the matter in anything like so much detail. The concensus here was that, whilst some photos of odd lights are being computer analysed by the Air Force, all official jaunts in military aircraft chasing UFOs have so far proved elusive.

However, the Yorkshire Post (12 Oct) noted a new triangular sighting on the Luxembourg border and made odd comments about "a colony of men from space." Meanwhile, a professor Brelig from Brussels Free university was now taking seriously the 'secret US plane' argument that I mooted to Belgian UFOlogists for some of the cases when they asked me for any thoughts earlier this year. Next day The Daily Telegraph dug out the long silent Ian Ridpath, in a piece by that noted UFO expert Adrian Berry, explaining (seriously?) that the 2600 sightings were the planet mars! Ridpath adds; "I don't want to say anything rude about the ignorance of Belgians..."

Finally, a hypothetical story, evidently aimed at nobody in particular but reflective of the truth about our wonderful British press, came from writer Anita Bronson in the ITV drama 'London's Burning' on 21 Oct. Discussing lack of media interest in a serious fire-related news story one character mused rather sadly; "Some American has one over the eight, dreams he's been kidnapped by martians, writes a best-seller, becomes a cult figure - front page."

Now in real life we all know that could never happen, could it?

 BRIEF CASES

Some current investigations



Just a note on the Frisbee balloon (see last issue). Having had the pleasure of meeting the man with Joe Dormer at the Birmingham BUFORA conference I would like to clarify that, although Colleen Innes provided the report to me at NUN, the investigation of this case was apparently the work of FUFIOG, the Fylde group. Congratulations on a fine case report anyhow.

OVERSEAS CONNECTIONS

(1) The first American UFO crash?

This fascinating collection of reports comes to me from a reader of one of my books from Montana who has an intriguing series of tales to tell.

In late September/early October 1925 Mr C witnessed "the probable crash of a rather sizable UFO" near Polson. Just after dusk he heard a "pulsating, roaring noise" and looking up spotted a "flaming circular object of 200 feet diameter" that descended to earth some five miles away at rapid speed. It threw bits of burning 'magnesium' off and hesitated once mid-flight, moving slightly sideways before continuing the descent. The thing was spinning at the rate of two turns per second and crashed behind a mountain to the west of the ranch. Its impact was marked by a bright flash of light. Ranch hands checked the livestock and found them in near stampede state, panicking madly. 25 years later he and his father were logging behind the mountain when they found a large burnt area. Was this a meteor fall?

In early 1958 Mr C and his boss were returning from a meeting in Billings, passing through Joliet heading south at sunset. They saw a red - orange contrail that was 'lens shaped' and barely noticed it until they realised it was growing larger. It was in line with Granite Park and Yellowstone Park and he wonders if the occupants were geology students! Over Beartooth Plateau some 25 miles away it made a sharp right angle turn and flew away east passing Mount Maurice at 200,000 feet. It did not bank like an aircraft and accelerated amazingly fast (reaching 2000 MPH estimated).

Mr C was a World War II aircraft carrier pilot with experience in airborne observation. I must say the names in this case make a romantic change from Cleckheaton, Scunthorpe and Wigan (although maybe these sound romantic to Americans!)

(2) A very funny cloud

Another reader, Mr R, a retired industrial systems engineer from a remote area of Nevada (300 people live in the 250 mile area around him!), tells of an experience a bit more up to date - on 23 July 1990.

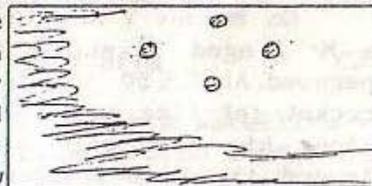
It was 18.30 hrs when he was out front looking east and reading in the shade to avoid the blistering desert heat. There were strong winds about.

Overhead was what they took to be a cloud - cigar shaped and huge. It sat there nestled between mountains. When it remained stationary for 1½ hours he 'knew' it was no cloud as the wind was not effecting it at all. As the sun set it turned orange with fluffy edges like 'misty cotton'. Then he realised; 'this is no cloud its one of those things Jenny wrote about'.

He went in for dinner and returned at about 20.30 as darkness fell. The sky was clear and the 'cloud' was gone. Mountains and air conditions all fit a lenticular cloud forming and probably being kept in equilibrium by dynamic atmospheric factors. They are fairly common in the area and it seems Mr R had moved out west quite recently so these may not be familiar to him.

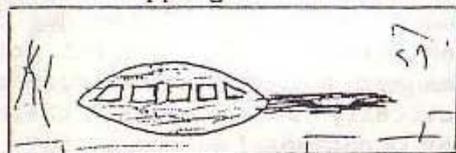
IFO NOTES: 'MASS UFO INVASIONS' - THE FIFTH THIS YEAR

Lasers are proving quite a nuisance, with mass sightings across Britain being caused by these amazingly powerful lights after use in pop shows etc. An Ernie Still investigation for NUFORC dated 29 July 1990 is typical. In the Prior Marston area of Northants a common witness description read; "flashes of white light, looking like searchlights moving at very fast speed... above or inside the cloud layer". These lights ARE powerful lasers projected skyward, and as the Met Office pointed out to NUFORC, they shone on cloud up to 3000 feet high (don't forget lasers have been fired all the way to the moon so 3000 feet is a doddle). The lack of beams often reported is a factor of clarity of atmosphere as only dust or mist will cause the shaft to appear or disappear. NUFORC finally tracked these down to a Tina Turner concert, miles away in Woburn Bedfordshire. This is another feature of lasers, they are visible for 20-30 miles around - where it could well be the locals do not know about the event that goes on at their source. Luckily I had seen this new laser machine in operation in the USA last year so when I started to get a flood of calls about sightings in the Manchester area on 15 October it clicked. Ten miles away in Stockport I had no trouble seeing the display. You get an image of circling lights that periodically swoop into the centre as if touching hands in some folk dance, then resume their circle painting the clouds eerie white. Next morning Jodrell Bank were swamped with calls, most of which they forwarded to me as they were busy hosting the launch of new astronomical postage stamps and the last thing they wanted was the media distracted by UFOs! I was able to explain what had happened to Jodrell, to bypass calls, but about a dozen witnesses got to me from as far west as Wigan, Macclessfield to the south and Bury in the north, before I enlisted the aid of the BBC (who tracked the source to the re-launch of Millionaires nightclub in Manchester centre). With Phil Sayers help I did a live demystification report later that day and successfully defused the growing panic that the north west was under alien invasion... Be prepared!!!



CASE 7238 LUFOIC Nov 1972 Mountsorrel, Leicestershire Gordon Perkins A6-6

Mrs M (who has suffered a very traumatic life) was returning home at 19.00 after dropping off a child from a childrens party at her house. The object

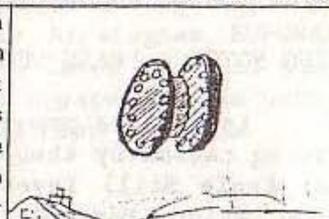


"like two saucers joined at the rim, with softly illuminated windows around the top half" was also sprouting a "long, bright orange-red flame" from its side. It hovered low over open ground near the house. After a few moments, Mrs M rushed inside and locked the door. She was too shaken to go back out and look again, but minutes later her six year old son knocked at the door. He described having seen the same object to his mother. The object was grey and the flame reputedly made a rushing sound. The nearby A6 was thought oddly quiet during the sighting. With lapse of time case left open.

A SPINDLE IN THE SKY

CASE 8842 MUFORA 6 Sept 1988 Bramhall, Cheshire Roy Sandbach B6-5

Mr M (who is a TV scenic artist) went to the loo at 02.15 and saw a bright light through the landing window. It increased in size and hovered over rooftops opposite. The shape was very unusual, as shown and was studded in about 30 bright lights on the rim (mostly white, with some red). Colour was grey metallic and it was totally silent despite the proximity. It was VERY close if Mr M's testimony is credible. He says the object was longer than several houses and says "two arms held out 22" apart would cover the width" !! After about 4 minutes it moved horizontally and then accelerated away vertically to the north east. Although Manchester Airport is in the vicinity it is hard to see how this can be explained as any known type of air traffic.



NIGHT SOUNDS: TWO IMPRESSIVELY SIMILAR CASES Investigation by Peter Hough

On Monday 7 May 1990 Jodrell Bank channeled a call to me. It came from a Mr J, aged 24 and a joiner. He lived in Widnes, Cheshire, so the case was pursued. At 03.50 (he later told Peter 04.50) on 5 May he was woken by a rocket jet-like noise ("a sort of vibrating, rushing") which seemed to sweep along his road and past his window. It took some 3 minutes to pass and caused the window downstairs and the bedroom to shake violently. After 5 minutes it returned from the opposite direction, sweeping past and again shaking the house. Minutes later it returned for a third time. He now had enough courage to sit on the edge of the bed and through the curtains saw a huge white ball of light just above the road. It seemed to hover for several seconds. As he got up to open the curtains it shot skyward and vanished. The noise ceased. The most baffling feature of the case (for which we mooted some type of road sweeping machine as a possible answer) is that NOBODY heard the object other than Mr J. Neither the police nor local press had reports. Mr J even called the local taxi firm to see if any of their night drivers had heard it. But no. This one has got us stumped, and we thought it was just 'one of those things', but then it became 'two of those things'!

The second report came into MUFORA, but was again looked at by Peter. Mr B from Wicklewood, Wymondham, Norfolk was woken at 00.18 on 27 June 1990 by his 3 year old son crying. It was a humid night, hot and dry with no wind. After settling the child Mr B returned to bed and Mrs B asked if all was well. Then they heard a "very distinctive sound that I would liken to a large object moving at high speed through the air - a sort of whooshing effect. I was also aware of a very bright light briefly illuminating the room through the curtains (much brighter than car lights". Mr and Mrs B found it hard to sleep and discussed the cause for ages, both vaguely recalling similar sounds without lights, but not knowing how or when. Mrs B told another local who admitted hearing similar noises in the past, but not on the night in question. Again, the local press and police had no reports for that night...but the police did enigmatically comment that their patrols "had witnessed similar phenomena on past occasions."

MUFORA speculated about 'gliding' aircraft from a military base (Speke airport in Widnes's case). But in truth there is no obvious answer. It may or may not be relevant that both areas sprouted crop circles nearby around or soon after these 'soundings'. Widnes is just a mile across the Mersey from the Runcorn/Frodsham area; now identified as a key circle/car stop UFOcal.

CASE 9009 MUFORA 30 May 1990 Dervaig, Isle of Mull, Scotland C3-6

A teacher on holiday on this remote western island was looking north from his cottage at 22.44 when two pale blue spheres with long tails, side by side, came rushing through the air, heading south. Total duration 4-5 seconds. He claims the birds stopped singing as they passed by and the area was briefly lit up by them. He was left feeling 'very uneasy'. Most obvious explanation is that these were spectacular meteorites; although some military rocket launch cannot be ruled out perhaps, given the location. The police at Tobermory (the main town on the Isle) had no reports and suggested the northern lights (ie auroral discharge) as the explanation.

CASE 9010 MUFORA 20 June 1990 Clifton, Bolton, Lancashire B1-4

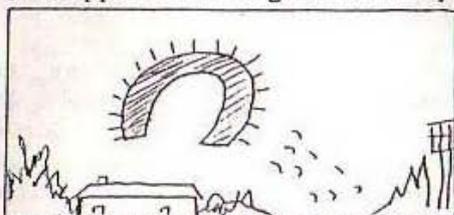
Mr F had watched a film until 01.00 then looked at the sky through binoculars and saw two lights, twinkling colours (red and green). This was low on the horizon, barely moving. He left them but his son watched 'for ages'. We had no real doubt he was observing astronomical objects.

CASE 9011 MUFORA 13 July 1990 Kettlebrook, Tamworth, Staffs C3-5

Mr W was on nightshift and at 01.15 took a break to watch a satellite fly over. Then he saw two white lights surrounded by a blue aura, so close these merged into one another. He gauged speed against aircraft seen going to and from East Midland airport and says it was higher but at least SIX times as fast, shooting across the sky from north west to south east in about 5 seconds. This sighting is interestingly similar to the Isle of Mull case above. Mr W reported it to Tamworth police a few hours later.

CASE 9012 MUFORA 29 July 1990 Coppenhall, Cheshire B4-6

Mrs W, a welfare assistant, awoke at 01.55 to stand by the window as it was a hot, oppressive night. Suddenly a "horseshoe-shaped object with sparklers all around it" appeared above houses. Mrs W opened the window and put her head out for a better view. There was no sound at all. It was at tree top height and the sparklers were gold. About a minute into the sighting it ejected some of these like quills to the ground, fading out as dying embers. When this occurred a slight 'sizzling' noise was heard and the object slowed a little. The sound then vanished and it passed directly overhead and was lost to sight. Mrs W also claims to have seen a cigar shape fall into a canal at Middlewich in about 1977. Other than note the possible connection with the lighted balloon solution reported last issue, this case is yet another that is baffling.



CASE 9013 MUFORA 13 August 1990 Knutsford, Cheshire Colleen Innes B3-5

Two people driving to Blackpool on the M6 at 04.10 (another early am case this summer - note!) saw a huge glowing white cigar (with windows), growing bigger and moving off south west above the rear of the car. Clouds were lit up by it. Given the fact that the witnesses seem not to have realised they were 'passing right by the take-off path from Manchester Airport (chock a block with holiday traffic at the time) the answer seems fairly clear.

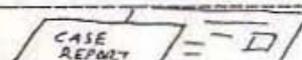
CASE 9014 MUFORA 25 August 1990 Winsford, Cheshire Jenny Randles B2-4

Another case via Jodrell Bank from a Mr L. He saw an oval with matt black base and bright silver top at 12.00 on a sunny day, so called Mrs L who watched it drifting away with the wind toward Meadowbank (north west). After 5 minutes Mrs L sent Mr L for a camera, but on looking back at the sky they lost the object. She called the local paper and the only thing they were interested in was whether there were any cornfields nearby. She said yes, but no circles. She pointed out that a man who came to fit her carpet ('he had a Wigan accent') said that being surrounded by cornfields she should watch out as a circle had turned up near him. I explained to Mr and Mrs L that the solution seemed likely to be a fairground balloon of the half silvered type that has caused so many sightings in recent years. They were not impressed. I spoke to the reporter. He admitted there WAS a fete that day and it WAS precisely in line (given wind direction) from where the UFO had appeared! He asked if I knew anything about crop circles, but he didn't like what I told him! He noted his story would carry the theory that the spaceship seen by Mr and Mrs L was looking for a landing spot and aborted plans to touch down in Winsford when it realised the corn fields had been harvested. Amen!

CASE 9015 MUFORA 3 September 1990 Chester, Cheshire Roy sandbach B3-5

Mr M (a shop worker) was watching TV at 20.30 when an object appeared in the south west over Blacon. He leapt up and drew his wives attention to it. The object was a bright white light with a red light mingled. Shouting 'It's a UFO' they watched it hover for five minutes and then move east. Mr M chased it in his car down Sealand Road ut lost it at an S bend. MUFORA can see no reason why what is described was not a light aircraft.

CASE HISTORIES



ABDUCTEE HAS NEW ENCOUNTER NUFORC Rreport by Ernie Still

Elsie Oakensen has probably taken over from PC Alan Godfrey as Britain's best known abductee, having appeared on many national TV programmes (including the game show 'Tell the Truth'). Her 1978 Church Stowe 'abduction' (or rather time lapse sighting with hazy hypnotic 'memories' of shadowy figures and messages) is outlined in detail in my book 'Abduction' and remains one of the most fascinating on record. Now a possibly very illuminating sequel is added. She has seen another UFO... Or has she?

The sighting occurred on 27 September 1990 at 22.15 hrs. Elsie was driving home from Weeden to Church Stowe (Northants) when she saw a "bright mass of orangey-yellow light" which was crossed by strips of 'cloud'. She thought it was the full moon, but was puzzled by its constant change of shape. This was effectively 'boomerang' like with variations (as below) over a five minute period. It was, as she put it, "quite a spectacle."



The local paper reported her story in detail ('Elsie spots mystery in the night sky', Daventry Express, 4 October 1990), but Elsie fairly points out that she accepts 95% of UFOs are explained, and this one may well be. She retraced the route a few days later and found the half moon in a slightly different place in the sky (as it would be of course).

It has been proposed to her that she saw the moon through layers of cloud and dust distorting and refracting the image. From the case file and checking the moons position and phase at the time I am personally convinced that this IS what Elsie witnessed. She need not feel bad, as in 'Science and the UFOs' Peter Warrington and I recount several cases of near identical misperception (one by a scientist and another by women who watched it for over an hour and were NEVER convinced by this explanation).

I think this latest experience shows that there ARE strange things in the sky to fool us all AND that Elsie is basically a good observer and an honest one. She describes the event well and is happy to accept an answer.

HOME OR AWAY?: Bedroom visitors in Western Australia

Mrs P lives in Safety (not Summer) Bay and describes what took place in 1985 (when she was age 48). In the early hours of a winter morning she "woke up". It was about 06.00 and cold so she snuggled up to her husband to get back to sleep. What followed was "in no way similar to ordinary dreaming nor what I have read of out of body experiences. It was real."

She found herself in the bathroom staring at the mirror which became dark grey. She KNEW a 'guide' was about to appear (she adds that she is normally a spiritual person but considers talk of such guides to be wish fulfillment fantasies). A figure now appeared in the mirror and out of the corner she sensed another who said; 'I'll just go and check on the other one'. This she assumed to be her sleeping husband. She found herself 'in a high of excitement', asking many spiritual questions but getting no obvious answers. Then the beings mouth became smaller and smaller until grotesque. This persuaded her that the energy to forge the contact was being lost. In desperation she asked 'Am I progressing properly?' and the being said 'Yes - just keep on the way you are. Just don't get mixed up in any hanky panky' (!) Then she asked 'When will I see you again?' and the being impatiently replied; 'Oh - I'll call in about 20 years.' Allegedly the attitude was not 'love and care', as expected of guides, but very casual.

The second guide returned and reported that her husband was 'OK'. Then they walked into the passageway, totally ignoring Mrs P and talking very loudly to each other about how best to accomplish the next task on their agenda (which she cannot recall, but thinks was due before they returned 'home'). She was worried as her husband hates being woken by noise so warned them to be quiet. They looked at her as if she were an idiot, gave a vivid scowl, went back to their discussion and walked off down the hall. Mrs P now realised they were not talking physically and she woke up in bed amazed.

Mrs P only connected this with UFOs with recent reading of 'Abduction'. Yet she was always baffled by the appearance and garb of the 'guides' and their total disinterest in her, seeming to find her a nuisance and an assigned job that had to be got out of the way. Not exactly what you expect from a spiritual entity, as she pointed out! They were tall, human with high foreheads and brown-blond hair. The one seen most clearly had a skin tight blue 'ski suit' with no badges (something she had no idea others had witnessed). The attitude was rather like a man who comes to read the meter, trapped by a gabby resident and forced by politeness to hang about.

Interestingly, Mrs P (who is keen on astrology) produced a chart for the apparent time of the experience - which may well be an intriguing first! I hope Keith Basterfield will look into this fascinating case.

WORDS

Sad news to report is the tragic death of author and UFOlogist D. Scott Rogo, apparently murdered age 42 in a senseless and violent attack on his California home during August. His fine work will be his epitaph but he will certainly be missed by those who knew his perceptive thinking and research.

On 17 November FUF0IG are hosting 'The Northern Debate' (11.00 to 19.00, entrance FREE). Discussion will be wide and open to all covering UFOs, abductions, monsters, crop circles - indeed just about everything! Venue is the Raikes Hall pub on Liverpool Road, Blackpool. If you fancy a spot of 'coasting' call the group for details on 0253-31704 or 56821.

Finally advance news of the 'Sixth International UFO Congress' (jointly run by BUFORA, MUFON and the IUN). Dates to set aside are 16, 17 & 18 August 1991. Venue the Central Library Theatre in Sheffield (scene of this summer's successful two day event held by the IUN). Prices are delightfully cheap (£6 per day, £15 for all three; plus £9.75 for a gala dinner). Cheap hotel accomodation will also be available. A £2 ticket to a UFO rock concert on the Saturday night by Scottish band CE IV is also part of the package. Speakers lined up so far include Dr Eddie Bullard, whose abduction research is amongst the best in the world, plus some star abductees from the USA (including one of the famous Pascagoula witnesses and possibly 'Kathie Davies' of 'Intruders' fame). From Europe a wide range of speakers will be presenting papers. Stay tuned for more details. This will be THE event of 1991 - and for advance booking and info contact the IUN (see address below)

17 Nov Blackpool, Lancashire - Northern Debate day (see above)

8/9 Dec Crowborough, Sussex - weekend conference (see page 3 for details)

BUFORA lecture (London Business School, Regents Park Outer Circle, 6.30 pm)

1 Dec John Spencer on his investigation of the Betty Hill 'star map' CE IV

5 Jan Lynn Picknett (ex 'The Unexplained'), paranormal expert on LBC radio

MUFON Regional Groups

SPI	(W. Scotland)	5 Tullibody Rd, Alloa, Clackmannanshire	FK10 2LL
SRUFO	(E. Scotland)	129 Langton View, East Calder, Wst Lothian	EH53 0RE
NLUFOIG	(Cumbria)	89 Bare Lane, Morecambe, Lancashire	LA 4 6RN
HSWL	(Nth Lancs)	63 Devonshire Dr, Clayton-le-Moors, Lancs	BB 5 5RH
FUF0IG	(Fylde Coast)	293 Devonshire Rd, Blackpool, Lancashire	FY 2 0TV
Ghostbusters	(Lancashire)	20 Duncan Place, Pemberton, Wigan, Lancs	WN 5 6RP
MUFORA*	(Cheshire)	6 Silsden Ave, Louton, Lancashire	WA 3 1EN
CONNECT	(Wharfedale)	33 Green Lane, Addingham, Ilkley, W. Yorks	LS29 0JH
IUN	(Yorkshire)	1 Woodhall Dr, Healey Lane, Batley, W. Yks	WF17 7SU
CUFOSC	(Shropshire)	117 Earle Street, Crewe, Cheshire	CV 1 2SG
SSPR	(Derbyshire)	17 Old Quarry Ave, Wales, Sheffield	S 31 8RW
SKYSCAN	(Staffs)	116 Repton Rd, Burton on Trent, Staffs	DE11 7AE
PARASEARCH	(W. Midlands)	79 Sandringham Rd, Stourbridge, W. Mid	DY 8 5HL
LUFOIC	(E. Midlands)	12 Unicorn C/van, Unicorn St, Thurmaston	LE 4 8AX
NUFORC	(Northants)	46 Occupation Rd, Corby, Northants	NN17 2EF