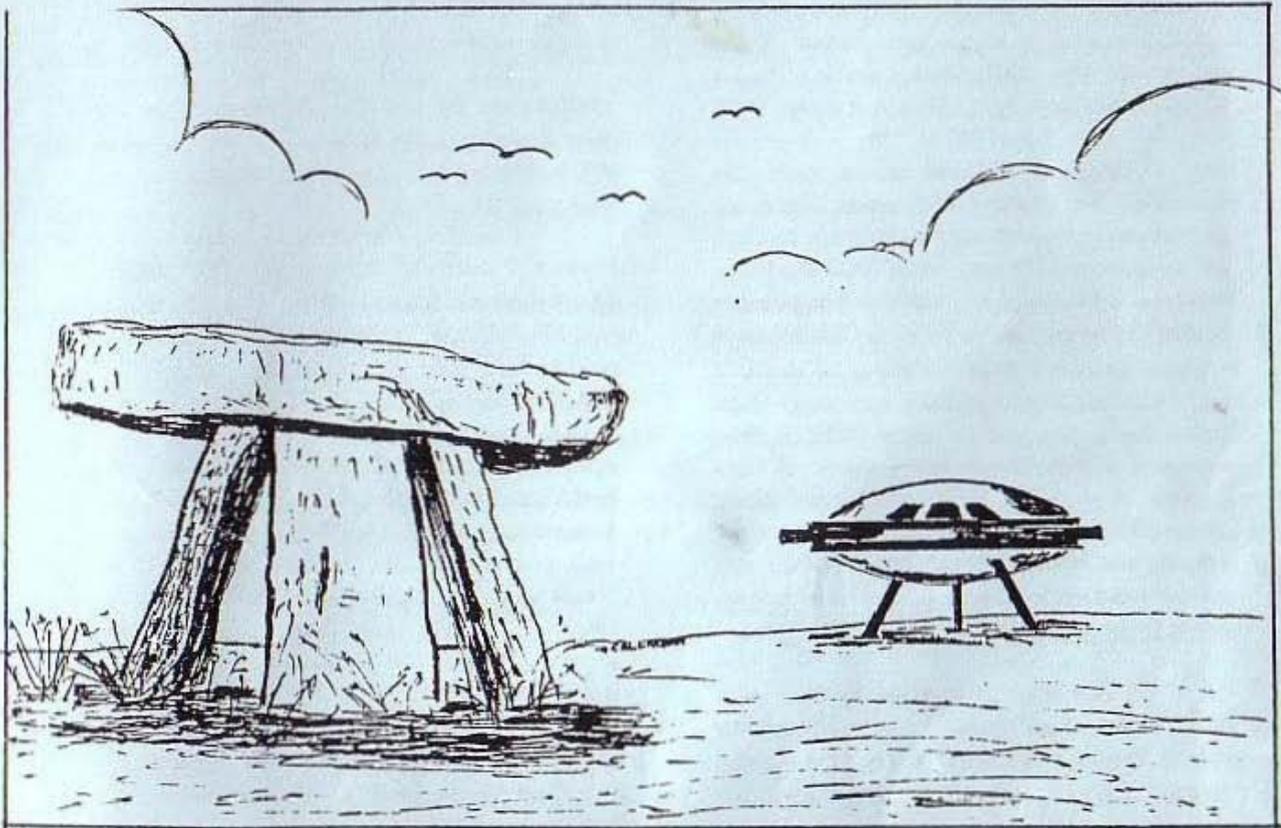


NORTHERN UFO NEWS

168

CHRISTMAS 1994

A VERY HAPPY CHRISTMAS AND GREAT NEW YEAR TO ALL



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J.R. Comments....

As you can hopefully see from the format of this edition I am beginning to get the hang of my new computer. This is no mean feat for someone who went to school when slide rules were the latest thing and computers (whilst invented in my home town of Manchester) were still unheard of at William Hulmes. For years I have used my trusty Amstrad PCW (now better described as my rusty Amstrad PCW) for producing NUN. I have had a new PC for a while but figuring out how to use its wonders has been far from easy. Therefore, mistakes are bound to be made with this first serious attempt. Please bear with me until I get the format right!

Another thing to do is issue the customary 'sorry we are late' notice. This is the August edition, which after its passage through the by now well known NUN time warp has turned into the December edition. The primary reason (ie excuse) this time is my house move - which involved some 65 miles of distance and countless hassles getting my huge office sorted out. It has proven more difficult than expected. Still, as British Rail used to say I am *getting there* - the main difference being that, unlike British Rail, this statement is actually true. Check out the new NUN address on the front page of this edition and please use it from now onward.

I still hope to produce another issue around Christmas (quite!) - so look out for that in January, but remind of my promise that no subscriber will miss out. Your £7 covers six issues - not a year of editions in real (or even *surreal* NUN) terms - so there's no need for anyone to fret.

By the time this issue finally reaches you, my latest book will have hit the stores. Or, more likely, trickled into the one or two specialist shops that think my titles are worth selling. It seems appropriate to comment on two things arising from this.

Firstly, I wanted to quell the rumours that I am attempting to emulate Brad Steiger by writing a book a month, well almost. My bank balance would very probably like to emulate Brad's, based on what I know about US publishing payments, but that's about it. I would not try to copy his own brand of literary success.

These stories have come about - not unreasonably - because I have rather seemed to be churning titles out of late. There are reasons for this, some connected with money, others not.

Certainly, I have been lucky in finding publishers for my suggested projects and given the perilous state of the publishing industry one takes whatever offers are on the table rather than assume the same companies will still be making them a few years hence.

Moreover, some publishers have started to come to me with suggestions and, whilst I do not always accept, often these are things I want to write about anyhow. So I do.

That said, I have never written anything so far just for the money. I do not deny that I earn my living by writing and so this inevitably is a factor, but I try to make my books say something.

I note, for instance, recent reviews (eg Fortean Times on *Aliens: The Real Story*) where the book is said to have been a pointless exercise, fulfilling no function. That's not what readers have said to me - perhaps suggesting that FT's reviewer is not in tune with current thinking - and it has sold a US edition, which none of my more cerebral UFO titles tend to do. So maybe there's a lesson in there somewhere. *Mind Monsters*, for instance, did very poorly and not even FT bothered to review that one, even though it does try to create a viable and original theory for apparitions and UFOs and is thus more functional.

I have a definite plan whereby I try to write each year one title that is what we might term commercial, ie it is aimed at a general reader (examples being *UFOs and how to see them*, *The Afterlife* or *The Unexplained*). But I also try to produce something that is more research orientated and will therefore not guarantee sales but will add to the literature (of which I would count *From out of the Blue* and *Time Travel* as recent examples).

My new Robert Hale title out this month is on a similar principle. *Star Children* is not going to set the bookshops alight with major sales, but it is trying to say something new and delve into what are interesting (if exotic) areas for me. That in a way may prove to be its downfall.

This leads me to the second point, where I am well aware I will be both misunderstood and criticised. For people will see *Star Children* in a wholly false light as an attempt to turn myself into an abductee. That is most definitely not what it is about.

In fact this is an extension of my pieces in NUN when I described my own experiments with hypnosis and UFO memories. I have greatly expanded upon the two or three controversial articles that appeared in late 1991 and early 1992, with plenty of examples, on the whole concept of how such cases come about. There are, I think, plenty of lessons to be learnt. I know that I learnt a good deal whilst writing the book - something I admit is often a primary purpose for choosing to write on a particular topic.

Star Children really tries to go beyond simple abduction stories to examine cases where people believe they have a task to perform because of their sightings or feel they are in some way 'alien' to the human race, often as a result of a close encounter or abduction. It is a topic that seems bizarre, even sensationalist, when put like that but it has been written with a serious intent.

I do not pretend to have uncovered any great answers. I prefer to delve into cases, summarising these for other readers and then giving ideas to play around with. However, that was what I was trying to do - not to become ensnared within the UFO mystery itself. From all I know about this field the best place to be is apart from it and not a part of it.

So - before anyone gets the wrong idea about what I am and am not proclaiming in this book, forget any suspicion I have been spacenapped: although I am convinced that something intriguing is going on that defies simple psychological explanation and which may well involve other intelligences.

Indeed bear in mind what this all might mean about countless other people whose abduction memories have come about as a result of the same sort of highly complex processes that unravel within *Star Children*.

Have we as UFOlogists made a fundamental error in the way that we sift our evidence? Are we predetermining what we want the answers to be before we go off in search of them? Do we really apply a wide enough net when it comes to seeking out theoretical explanations or are we set in a groove of our own making?

If so we may have to go back to basics in trying to understand what is happening within the strangest UFO encounters of them all, for we may not simply be studying major aspects of an alien contact we may - at least to some degree - be manufacturing them.

Over the Horizon

On Monday 28 November Horizon transmitted their first UFO related programme in over 12 years when the BBC science series tackled alien abductions. It was predictably infuriating for most UFOlogists, especially those in the UK where this piece was made.

The BBC had been given the go-ahead to cover a scientifically taboo subject because a famous psychiatrist (Dr John Mack) had recently produced a book. Mack is a 'scientist' and that is what counts so far as other scientists are concerned.

As such, Horizon decided to ask Dr Sue Blackmore, the well respected sceptical psychologist, to investigate the field - by which you should understand they meant the American approach towards it, not - as most were fooled into believing - the worldwide abduction phenomenon *per se*. Could you possibly have figured out that this programme was shamelessly aimed at a big sale to the US TV networks, not fair coverage? Course not!

Any differences (which are actually monumental and so surely vital) between US UFOlogy and the rest of the world were totally ignored. The result was that the sceptics v the UFOlogists divide was turned into a chasm.

If that were not annoying enough (for I cynically suspect they picked out easy targets) Sue then set about presenting research published for years by various sensible UFOlogists (Keith Basterfield, Hilary Evans, Paul Devereux are just some) as if it were a discovery Horizon had made. Not an iota of credit or attempt to imply that any UFOlogist believed other than in the literal reality of spacenaps. Frankly that was a disgrace given Dr Blackmore's usual fair minded pedigree.

In promotions for this show (it achieved wide media interest in Britain, the USA and Australia) it came over as if Dr Blackmore carved out a rational path that nutty UFOlogists were too befuddled to seek.

I would not blame Sue alone for the way this came over. I realise how the media functions, but some of my great respect for her work evaporated, because she made no discernible effort to credit UFOlogy with the sort of objective approach that she displayed!

Sue, predictably enough, saw false memory syndrome, problems with hypnosis testimony, sleep paralysis and the like as the keys to the mystery - very relevant things debated in many good books or magazines. It was important these were raised, but the manner of doing so was bitterly disappointing.

She expressed her ignorance on the topic, but had lectured about it to BUFORA 18 months ago and attended the BUFORA conference before working on this show. In any case, if she is making a supposedly objective science feature like this why did she not do more research to see what was published already - reading sensational abduction stories is not research and she ought to know that. Equally, why did the production team tell me the names of some of the serious UFO books they had used as a source? And if not prompted by serious UFO research what a coincidence that the show followed the same trail to the same people as UFOlogy has.

In the end what we saw was good but also not enough, in the face of the global evidence. Of course, we saw no sign of global evidence - more a suggestion this was an American craziness spreading to the world thanks to recent SF movies. This is discounted by facts, but Horizon seemingly did not look for those outside their pals - ie scientists.

As such they did nothing to explain the precise threads that weave cases together within the data. Indeed if this was an effort to show up American UFOlogy then they failed on that one as well.

This came over as the sceptics (to be fair perhaps unwittingly) claiming credit for work others have promoted for decades in the face of public apathy and ridicule from more beligerent UFO researchers. Typical of the stuffy and - in my view insufferably pompous - scientific fraternity when dealing with mysteries. If you are a UFOlogist and talk sense they probably will not listen, but if you have a Dr before your name then you will be taken seriously, I cynically suspect, even if you claim the moon is made out of green cheese.

I am sorry, Sue. I have backed your responsible scepticism in the past and admired your stance, but to do what the sceptics are so fond of doing (look at how they popped out of the woodwork to claim they were the only ones who saw the truth behind crop circles) is just plain wrong. If any other scientist did it to you, I would call it unfair. But then scientists treat each other with respect. It is UFOlogists they display contempt towards.

Indeed, you can understand why certain cults use phoney 'Doctors' in front of their leaders, names when standing in the public eye. It seems the only way to get sceptics to listen to you.

Horizon fooled themselves and the British media too, but were one-sided in their approach and an insult to sober UFO research.

I feel we were badly let down by Sue Blackmore. I trust her and expected better.

Indeed I now may even recommend that UFOlogists use doctorates before their names in interviews (lets invent some generic UFO doctorate amongst ourselves so we can give this to people who we deserve it and they can claim a daft title legitimately in public). I know its a cheap trick, but sceptics, media and science appear to respond to such things from others so we have to play the media game.

You might also think about endorsing the view that spaceships are real. Its pointless being sober with the evidence. The media will ignore you, the sceptics can hijack your data and nobody wants explanations anyway. Even Sue Blackmore at the end of the show admitted she was willing to embrace how aliens could be behind abductions, after doing her damndest to prove otherwise! In a curiously out of synch ending she even paraphrased the 'eyes on the skies' line I have closed UFO Call with every week for years!

So, lets start being tricky like the other side in a phoney war of their invention. Then - when the sceptics ask you why you have started to behave unlike responsible researchers - and they will - just tell them to go look in a mirror to see the cause.

Spacenapping:- The Debate

Despite my criticism of Horizon's mode of presentation, points raised were mostly serious and important to the subject at hand and, no doubt, had UFOlogy been treated with more respect instead of being dumped on (again) by media and sceptics than I might have felt more willing to be positive about it.

That said, the SPR (Society for Psychical Research) have shown considerable wisdom in deciding to organise a full day debate on the theme of alien abductions and have invited me to participate. Others who are hoping to take part are Sue Blackmore, of course, Kevin McClure, who will adopt a more cultural approach and look at the aftermath for witnesses, I am told, and John Rimmer, editor of Magonia magazine, who plans to argue the psycho-social hypothesis.

I guess this leaves me to try to show that there is more to all of this than psychology and sociology; although I fear maybe not as much more as some might wish.

It promises to be a fruitful day. Plans are still being finalised but the venue will be London and provisionally on 22 April 1995. More news, hopefully, in the next issue.

NEWS ROUND UP

:: The TV series *'Strange But True?'* has been getting ratings of 11 million, easily the most watched programme in its slot and better than anticipated. The prospect of a second series for autumn 1995 looks good.

:: If you cannot wait that long *'Weird TV'* on 17 December devotes an entire night (5 hours) to the paranormal on BBC-2, including some UFO witness interviews. The ITV *'Network First'* documentary on UFOs appears to have been put back until sometime in 1995.

:: A new group looking for contact from others is CUFOR (Cardiff UFO Research) who would appreciate advice from longer standing societies. You can contact them via:- PO Box 224 Cardiff CF3 8YB

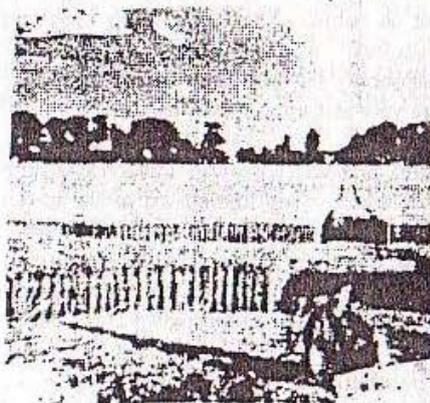
:: It seems that the announcement of the GAO (US government general accounting office) findings on Roswell (see issue 167) was premature. Apparently the 'it was just a balloon experiment' report was a statement from the US Air Force summarising what they say the GAO found in their files and not the official position from this independent enquiry. The GAO will not release their findings until late next year after trying to access more data on the Roswell crash from the CIA, FBI, etc. One wonders why the USAF were so keen to get negative statements out very quickly - which were presented as more official than they seem to have been by much of the UK media.

:: Reader Eileen Fletcher tells me that she translates into English articles from *UFO Aktuell* - the Swedish journal. She has stapled copies of two detailed reports about 1994 cases (one a landing and the other a sighting from only 4 metres away!) She is happy to make these available to readers in exchange for 4 first class stamps. Send to Eileen at:- Derwent Cottage, Derwent Dam, Bamford, Sheffield S30 2AQ.

:: Finally, the new issue of the *Midnight Books* catalogue is out with its usual set of impressive offers on new and second hand books about the paranormal. The UFO section is six pages and features rarities like Scully's infamous 'Behind the flying saucers' from 40 years ago at £6. Plus lots more. Send an SAE for a catalogue to:- The Mount, Ascerton Rd, Sidmouth Devon EX10 9BT.

CIRCULAR LOGIC

Many thanks to Mike Morley for sending a report and laser prints of his photos of a circle formation at Cusworth near Doncaster, South Yorkshire which he and his partner Sean found on 13 August. From the evidence of a fisherman they seem confident these formed overnight on 11/12 August (post 21.00 and before lunchtime next day)



From Mike's plans and detailed account this was a complex pattern of three large circles and a straight corridor linking them - being set along old tractor lines on close inspection. Two satellite circles came off at a tangent and one end circle had a sectioned interior ring. It was at the bottom of a sloping hill leading from Cusworth Hall

The farmer harvested it within a few days and was openly dismissive when the investigators spoke with him, claiming it must be down to kids. Mike doubts that, saying that if it was a fake it was very painstakingly done. He is also unconvinced that a wind vortex could have produced it, which is clearly true. This level of complexity has to be deliberately engineered, in my view.

The local paper carried a report a week later, in which they interviewed new circle guru, Reg Presley, whose pop music background appears to qualify him as the media pundit these days. Reg claimed that 75% of circles are hoaxes (I myself think it's a lot more than that). He added that it was 'very rare' for circles to be spotted in the north, which is untrue. No northern counties are without a track record of circles. Some have had dozens dating back for decades. The media trotted out the wind and UFOs explanations, adding that nobody really knew.

There were more media stories than normal this year, but many proclaimed hoaxes. Terence Meaden broke a long silence expressing doubts about a double ringed circle beside the railway line at Mersham, Kent, which formed on 10 or 11 August (ie within 24 hours of the above case).

The *Christchurch Advertiser* reported 'the worlds first nettle circle' which was just 4 feet in diameter and appeared on a council waste tip at Parkstone in Dorset the very same week again as the two cases above (those wondering about a connection might need look no further than that the big crop circle conference was scheduled to occur in Glastonbury the following weekend so circles were very much in peoples minds).

Of course, hoaxers running around in nettles presents a painful image. However, the paper added a new dimension to the in-thing of 'lets see what we can link in with circles' by noting that after finding the circle the woman who discovered it did her daily crossword in the paper and found one answer was 'nettles'.

The press story added: 'Before a meteorologist writes in to say it could have been caused by a mini-whirlwind - I know. But thats not so much fun as aliens, is it?' Quite!

Even Bob Rickard was in on the act, being asked by the *Bucks Free Press* to comment on a dumbell formation between Old Amersham and Beaconsfield, Bucks, in early August. He was quoted: 'I believe its possible for stationary whirlwinds to cause circular patterns in the corn, but the evidence for this is very slim.' He does not say why, but hopefully he'll tell us - as I feel the evidence is massive and incontrovertible. However, in this case the complexity again suggests human trickery.

However, one of the most impressive stories appeared on 4 August in the *Reading Evening Post*. A 78 year old resident remembered a discussion of crop circles in Wiltshire when she was a small child - ie in 1924. She says they were then known as 'fairy circles' and recalled a farmer at Devizes market who had found four big ones and some smaller ones in his field and would get his own back on whoever had faked them. Twenty years earlier there had been another spate in the same area and the decision to blame them on fairies seemed logical at the time.

This is, of course, not the only example of an anecdotal account of pre Doug and Dave circles but adds to the impressive body of testimony that the phenomenon is not a modern day mystery. Clearly a few simple circles have probably always been around.

FOR YOUR PERUSAL

Major articles elsewhere

One newcomer to report is *Promises and Disappointments* which is the latest from Kevin McClure, replacing Wild Places, Alien Scripture, etc. The 32pp A5 offering is not dissimilar in style - with about half the issue devoted to briefs from magazines akin to an expanded version of this column. Plus there are some crunching book reviews (eg on Without Consent) and a few articles on the cultural side of anomalies. Interesting. - £2 trial issue, £7.50 for 4:- Via Kevin McClure at:- 42 Victoria Rd, St Austell, Cornwall PL25 4QD

Awareness (Contact UK) £7 for 4

11 Ouseley Close Oxford OX3 0JS

Looks at some public records office files released from 1952 and in their annual supplement 'UFO Register' statistically analyses 127 cases dating from 1980.

Enigmas (SPI) £10 for 5

41 The Braes Tullibody Scotland FK10 2TT

As always a fine magazine, one of the best I see regularly (and I see a lot worldwide). It has lively letters, books, a rich variety of north of the border cases (from UFOs to ghosts to Nessie, etc). If you are Scottish - buy it - and even if you're not, then you wont do better.

IUFOPRA Journal IR£12 for 4

Box 3070 Whitehall Dublin 9 Ireland

The erstwhile BUFORA branch goes from strength to strength with its new broader outlook and ever improving journal. This has an exclusive on what has happened to the 'Network First' documentary on UFOs - 'indefinitely postponed' suddenly in October. Ghosts, polts, UFOs and the UN, plus lots more.

OVNI (PRA) £1 each

12 Tilton Grve Ilkeston Derbyshire DE7 4GR

In the October issue is a detailed report on the Quest conference in Leeds with Bob Dean.

Strange Days (NUFORI) £1 each

D Newton 9 Broderick CI Newcastle NE3 3SG

An A5 photocopied offering from this group which has reports on NE cases and some pretty objective UFO thinking in general too.

UFO Reporter (Connect) £7 for 6

5 Stocks Hill Ilkley West Yorks LS29 6ND

You may have seen Nigel Mortimer on 'Schofields Quest' recently. His mag is full of weird Ilkley area UFO activity and folklore.

IUR (Center for UFO Studies) \$30 US for 6
 2457 W. Peterson Ave Chicago IL 60659
 Jul: Lost piece by long dead Ed Ruppelt on his
 time with the contactees. Historically vital.
 Sep: Superb issue. A critical look at the Air
 Force report on Roswell, excellent in-depth
 response to CSICOP criticism of abductions
 from Eddie Bullard and a fascinating new
 Australian CE4 presented by Bill Chalker. The
 worlds top UFO journal by quite a long way.

MUFON Journal \$30 US for 12
 103 Oldtowne Rd Seguin Texas 78155-4099
 Glossy, punchy and monthly - so very good
 value. Only let down by a bit of an ET bias but
 always an important read under Dennis Stacy's
 fine editorship. Aug : looks behind the scenes
 at the new Roswell movie (due here in the
 Spring) ...Sep: Has a 1994 radar-visual case
 from Michigan, quite a rarity these days.

Third Stone (GEM) £6 for 3
 GEM Box 258 Cheltenham Glos GL53 0HR
 This looks really professional these days and
 for earth mystery fans quite a treat. But it also
 covers plenty of mysteries like big cats, crop
 circles and UFOs. In issue 19 there is even a
 brave assessment of the worrying state of
 BUFORA after last years debacles.

Folklore Frontiers £6 for 4
 P. Screeton 5 Egton Dr Hartlepool TS25 2AT
 A lively pot pourri of urban myths, legends and
 snippets from the media. One of a kind .

Fate £2.75 each (or \$42.50 US, 12 issue sub)
 1 Hillside Gdns Bangor N. Ireland BT19 6SJ
 Annual subs only available direct from USA
 Nov: Has an interesting series of pieces on the
 paranormal as covered by TV - US TV that
 is, nothing about anywhere else sad to say. Also
 Budd Hopkins defends the Linda Napolitano
 case (why keep calling her 'Cortille' when the
 womans photo appears everywhere?)

ABDUCTED BY A 'BALLOON'?

In NUN 166 I reported on case
 9324, an investigation by NAROs Michael
 Ross into a November 1993 Manchester
 sighting. He suggested that the woman had
 filmed a high altitude balloon on her
 camcorder and made out a strong case for that
 possibility. This infers nothing bad about the
 womans competence or integrity, she clearly
 filmed and lucidly reported an anomalous
 object that puzzled her on the day. Any
 reasonable person would have done the same.

During Michael's taped interview
 with the witness a few days later no time lapse
 was seemingly suggested. Nor was it in
 evidence on first contact with NARO
 immediately after the sighting.

However, according to the local press
 in Manchester in November 1994, the same
 sighting has now been studied by a well
 known UFOlogist and the witness has been
 regressed by a doctor. A memory of what
 seems to be a proto abduction is apparently
 emerging through that process.

There was no mention in the press
 story of Michael Ross's immediate follow up
 on this case a year ago; even though that work
 is surely relevant. He tells me he phoned the
 paper soon afterwards to discuss their story, but
 no follow up has (as yet) been published.

I assign no rights and wrongs here
 and charge neither incompetence nor intent on
 anybody's part, as this is obviously a difficult
 issue which has wider implications than
 debating anyones methodology or conclusions.
 But Michael's study (reported in NUN with no
 witness name as usual) was, I thought, very fair
 - given the facts available at the time - and it
 is to say the least intriguing if what appeared
 to have been an IFO is now turning into a
 complex hypnosis-inspired abduction scenario.

Whether Michael was right or wrong
 in his initial diagnosis, this case is bound to
 pose significant questions for UFO research -
 and the study of CE4s in particular - and, as
 such, needs to be followed with much interest.

BOOKS OF THE MOMENT

Alien Energy by Andy Collins 248pp illus
 ABC Books Box 189 Leigh on Sea SS9 1NF

Andy Collins is a whiz at self
 producing books that would shame major
 publishers. This is no exception. Although it is
 a limited edition of 250 not meant for wide
 public sale, if you can get him to sell you one
 of the few left - do it! He hopes to produce a
 commercial edition later, if he can find a
 publisher for the title. I trust he succeeds.

Andy writes in a free style that is easy
 to read and covers topics that are on the
 borderland between mainstream paranormal
 and truly avant-garde. But they are never less
 than fascinating and, however much you agree
 or disagree with their content, you know that
 you will be entertained and informed.

This book is another goodie and in
 effect a sequel to his 'Circle makers' title two
 years ago, but with more UFO content added.

The themes range from UFOs, crop circles and anomalous images turning up on photographs at mystical sites to his thesis on Orgone energy, an atmospheric force which was first postulated by Wilhelm Reich half a century ago and which Andy is championing with gusto as a potential solution to numerous UFO related phenomena.

Lest you think this makes the book another sceptics attempt to demystify, forget it. Andy describes peculiar psychic properties of this energy and - if anything - the proof of Orgone would be as big a challenge to the Oscientific fraternity as establishing the ETH.

Not content just to theorise, Andy has put his money and his feet where the theory has led him and discusses at length Orgone 93 and 94 - the two experiments carried out in the Wiltshire crop fields that have produced some intriguing results. However, he is not wildly presumptive that all things are mysterious and tempers his data with objective coverage as well.

To me this is real UFOlogy and it matters none whether you accept a word of it. I suspect you'll find parts thought-provoking, at least, but to see a UFOlogist conducting do-or-die experiments to test his theory is a rare treat and one that deserves your full support.

Without Consent by Carl Nagaitis & Philip Mantle Ringpull 204pp illus £16.99

Given recent personal BUFORA history most readers will expect me to pan this book. Vindictively I admit that I was a wee bit tempted, but resisted the urge!

It has spawned the most extraordinary range of reviews, from those hailing it as the best thing since sliced bread to others rebuking it widely. In taking a fairly middle-ground position, as I intend, then I may well upset everyone, but that's what I think.

The book was announced with order forms in many magazines last summer as having considerably more pages than it has and a missing introduction by Dr John Shaw. What it also misses is an index, hard to understand as there are no fewer than 12 completely blank pages at the back where one could have gone.

So what does it have? Reports - some shorter summaries and others full chapter length - on many British abduction cases. These are written, one assumes by the ex-tabloid reporter who is credited first on the dust jacket, in a style that one might expect of the Daily Star. This you will either find

annoying or easy to read. I actually did not think it as jarring as I had expected from what some reviewers had claimed; although it does stick out in a few cases. Perhaps the aim to sell serial rights to a newspaper was a factor here.

What did niggle me was the repeated promotion (in and out of the book) of the claim that this is 'the FIRST EVER (stressed) British investigation into...the abduction phenomenon', which is, of course, to put it charitably, a bit of a misrepresentation.

The book covers some 40 cases, which probably includes most candidates; although I reported on a slightly larger sample than that to the MIT symposium in 1992. There are, thus, a few omissions, which is only to be expected. However, whilst in the absence of an index it is hard to be sure, I could not find the classic Telford case - despite this in many respects being the most important CE4 yet to have occurred in Britain (viz 3 witnesses, each separately regressed and seeing different aliens who all act in different ways).

The stories themselves are a bit of a mix. It seemed to me that those where Philip Mantle had personally investigated, plus some others where the investigators had supplied full reports (eg Ilkley Moor) were well reported and analysed, whereas the others, where I suspect the primary source material might have been other books or written accounts (eg Albert Lancashire's 1942 case) often resort to the more extreme tabloid mode of presentation and, frankly, would be more at home in a script from a Sky TV mini-series.

There is some discussion of abduction theories, including newer ideas (even Albert Budden's) but it is haphazardly scattered throughout the case reports and, with no index, you are lost trying to retrieve any cohesion. Indeed there doesn't seem to be much of a logic to the order of the chapters either, but that's a personal gripe. You may well find one.

Many of the cases you will recognise from earlier British books on the subject (eg 'Abduction'), but there are some new ones as well and that, for me, was where the really interesting part of the book emerged.

I have to say that rave reviews greeting this title are for me a bit of a curiosity, but then you'd no doubt expect me to feel that way. But in trying to be honest, I do not consider this to be a bad book either. Seen as a gaggle of abduction stories it does its job fairly well and whilst it will not revolutionise British UFOlogy and is not cheap to buy (what book is?) I still quite enjoyed reading it.

UFO Quest by Alan Watts
Blandford Books 192pp illus £7.99

Here - straight out of a time warp, is an amazing offering that would have been quaint when I was at school - and that was quite some time ago!

Original BUFORA member Watts has a rather bullish approach to UFOlogy. Adamski spaceships are named 'leviathans', the infamous Silpho Moor model UFO is 'beyond doubt...not a hoax', schoolboy Alex Birch, who confessed how he painted blobs on a sheet of glass made the retraction up because of unrevealed close encounters. Of the 'Alien Contact' story he seems pleased that the 'space denizens', as he terms them, were open enough to provide their names and planet of origin... Most is like this.

As Watts notes: 'At last the UFOs have found an unequivocal means of telling us they are here... I refer to the wonderful designs that are yearly being drawn in the fields of the world'. He explains how aliens can do this.

To be fair, there is some interesting speculation on the physics of how to build a spaceship within these pages. Sadly, I struggled to take this book seriously most of the time. We need good writing about the ETH and some of you will like this one - but, as for me, I can only add - with relief - that they don't print many books like this any more.

Alien Encounters by Gordon Millington
145 pp £11.45 (post inc) Leonine Press at :-
8 Burnfield Drive Rugeley Staffs WS15 2RH

Gordon was a BUFORA AI for several years, organised the Swansea conference a while ago and is now editor of Pegasus, the Surrey group journal. This is his first book - a neat, but unillustrated, little jet black covered hardback (which still manages a good bibliography and an index).

It takes a personal look at UFOs in today's world, with well known cases and some of his own investigations, digesting also the approaches of various other UFOlogists and linking them into Gordon's own particular theme - familiar to Pegasus readers - the writings of Zecharia Sitchin.

Sitchin is a latter day Eric von Daniken, looking at ancient Sumerian and other texts and interpreting them in an alien UFO context. As such this may be the first new 'Ancient Astronauts' UFO book produced here in a while. But its quite well written and nice to see a fresh face entering the literary scene.

MEDIA MATTERS

The arrival of a US television crew in town seems to be delighting local newspapers countrywide. Earlier this year Bonnybridge was astir with it. Recently the West Yorkshire press went potty over a film being made about the Alan Godfrey case (yes another one!)

Because the team involved (for the US TV series 'Sightings' - aired here by Sky TV on Thursday evenings) are employed by Paramount Pictures - makers of 'Star Trek' - both this and the idea that a movie is in hand often seem to catch hold.

In August I visited the wilds of the Lincolnshire coast to film an item on the recent wave around Mablethorpe. Louth and Saltfleet and the 'Sightings' producer was being tailed everywhere by a local journalist. He even met me at the station! This was eventually reported in the *Grimshy Telegraph* under the typically (if only slightly) misleading headline: 'Hollywood film crew sighting'. Paramount Pictures is based in Hollywood and I guess they were filming!

The *Sunday Express* (9 Oct) had a fascinating big story on Russia's UFO-like aircraft, the 'Ekip'. Complete with photos of the disc-like craft, including film of it in flight, it notes how in April it was secretly flown from Saratov and captured on camcorder as a perceived UFO. Certainly, if this remarkable craft fulfills its promise we will soon have another major IFO source to worry about!

However, perhaps the most intriguing press story comes from famed columnist Jack Tinker in the *Daily Mail* recalling days at a small news agency in Rochdale in the 1950's.

As a UFOlogist I recalled the story of the 'Whitworth' UFO that had plagued this moorland village (and nearby Wardle) - I think in February 1957. I was only just starting primary school then, but even years later when I joined UFOlogy it was hailed as a classic by older members of the local investigation community. After the main sightings a mysterious explosion had rocked the moors in the dead of night and was associated with the sightings by the *Rochdale Observer*.

Now the truth has been told! It seems that, peeved at being beaten to the UFO by the local paper, Tinker and his two news agency colleagues had painted a sailing dinghy with luminous silver markings, dragged it onto the moors and inflated it with hydrogen cylinders. But their devious plan to hoodwink Rochdale and its paper with new close encounters failed when said dinghy exploded and they all fled!

BRIEF CASES

This has been a bumper year for UFO activity. The list that follows offers brief details of some northern cases featured in the local media. Hopefully, local groups and BUFORA are following these up and we will hear more:

The UFO that escaped from prison

Case 9408 15 May 1994 Alloa, Scotland

Ron Halliday of SEMR reports a case of a jail at Glenochil whose security cameras picked up a 'brightly lit object around midnight this date. It was said to resemble a largish polo mint' that darted over the wire mesh fence and back again for five minutes. Various officers saw it and two were sent outside but found nothing. Unfortunately, before Ron could follow it through the video tape was wiped by normal looping of the system, the officers concluding it was just a camera fault. Alert readers will instantly spot that this appears an identical case to NAROs investigation of two video films taken at the Birchwood Shopping Mall in 1991 by separate cameras - tapes of which were fortunately retained. There was a full report over several issues of NUN a couple of years ago and I've shown the video twice on TV (eg last year on ITVs 'This Morning') There are two different stills in 'The Unexplained' and Peter Hough and my 'Complete book of UFOs' - although the polo mint effect is even more pronounced elsewhere on the tape. We have ideas about what is happening (but it was NOT a camera fault as such). Hopefully NARO and SEMR will get together on this one.

9409 8 July 1994 Pocklington, North Yorks

A woman driving at 20.10 on the A 1079 spotted a light that grew brighter as it approached and then resolved into a cottage loaf shape. It then veered off eastwards and accelerated out of sight. Local airbases claim they had no traffic, at the time of the sighting.

9410 7 August 1994 Carnoustie, Scotland

Four young girls saw a large dark disc in the sky at 21.00. It was spinning with a light in the centre and casting off rays of light as it did so. It climbed silently upwards and vanished in the sky over Barry Buddon. RAF Leuchars was shut for runway repairs, but there is some similarity here with rotating laser displays reflecting off low cloud. Does any reader recall any in the area last summer?

The man from Snowy River Ouse

9411 10 August 1994 York, N. Yorks

A man living by the River Ouse in York went outside when his satellite TV picture became snowy and discovered a peculiar humming noise in the air, unlike any known aircraft type. He then saw a box like object with a single light moving away towards the Nestle Rowntree factory. His TV picture recovered.

Belling 'em over Bellingham

9412 21 August 1994 Bellingham, Nthumbria

The witness was disturbed at midnight when his house alarms set off. He had wrongly wired the front and back so they could not go off together if only one was touched but something had simultaneously set off both alarms. Rushing outside he saw a bright light over the golf course and took several pictures before it disappeared. As he did so he felt air pressure striking him in waves with a whump-whump-whump sensation (but no sound). Both the army and RAF denied having helicopters up at the time. The pictures show the light and have mystified neighbours. Gloria Dixon and co are hopefully investigating further. After the initial press reports some schoolchildren from Prudhoe county high and two adult relatives came forward to say they spotted the object (glowing yellow/orange) over Ovington at about 23.30 on the same night.

9413 25 Aug 1994 Bransholme, Humberside

BUFORA investigator Amanda Gibson claims there has been a wave of reports since 9 August; although many prove to be meteors. On this date a group of witnesses saw an orange egg shaped mass hovering over some open fields late at night. Perhaps jupiter?

9414 17 September 1994 Aberdeen, Scotland

Man and girlfriend walking down street saw a mass of lights in formation drifting over at 22.30. Seems to have been a military exercise.

9415 18 Sept 1994 Burton Pidsea, Hmbrside

A 19 year old woman was driving to her local pub at 19.45 when she spotted an orange mass ahead of her with a flashing light on top. It hovered, then moved away very slowly. She was deeply upset by this encounter, but it has the classic symptoms of one of the airships that are plaguing our country these days.

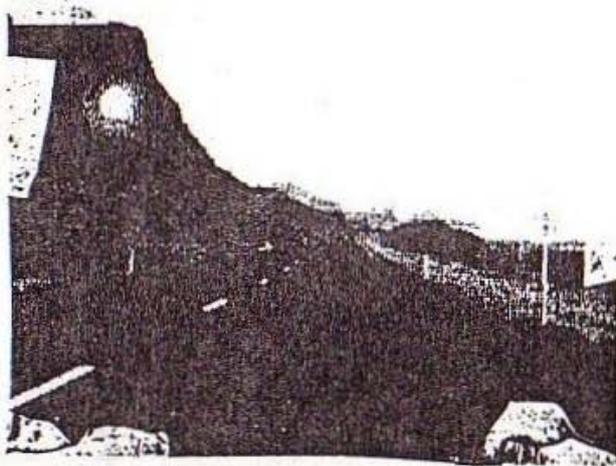
Police hunt for crashed UFO
9416 4 October 1994 Rooley Moor,Lancs

UFOs returned to the Rossendale Valley,or UFO Alley as it is known locally,when at 07.30 this morning a triangle of green lights was seen above the moor by a man in Bacup.A businessman driving through Rawtenstall at the western end of the valley saw it also.Both called Bacup police within minutes of each other,causing the reports to be taken seriously.Two of the lights vanished as if crashing and a third remained on the hillside for 10 minutes then went out.Police combed the area on foot fearing a plane had come down,but found nothing amiss

9417 22 October 1994 York,North Yorkshire

York was hit by a wave of independent sightings this Saturday,lasting all evening.At Escrick a woman was terrified by a 'whirlwind' with a yellowish light on top.Others followed it in cars around North Duffield and Wilberfoss and on the A19 at Crockey Hill a blue light was seen rotating back and forth in the sky. These sound to me like observations of a laser show from different angles and distances.

MYSTERY PHOTOGRAPH



The half tone photocopy above is from a colour still sent to me by the photographer who seeks our advice to try to understand what it shows. NARO has examined the original and can offer no reasonable suggestions,beyond some sort of camera or developing fault - although no other shots on the film are effected So now its your turn to try to come up with a solution.

The picture was taken in Iceland during Summer 1993 when the driver was travelling east on a coastal road in the south of the country just south east of Mount Hekla. It was late evening and the sun was low in the north north west,out of view behind steep inland mountains and obscured by overcast sky (confirmed by the photo original).So this is not a solar reflection from inside the car,even though it is taken through the windscreen looking forward.

There was no flash on the camera,which used Kadacolor 110.It is one of a series of 4 pictures taken close together on this stretch of road (none other of which shows anything odd).They were roughly half way into the 24 exposure film.

The object is very sun like in colour with a yellow circle in the centre,an orange circle around that and a large aura of red surrounding the main body.The whole effect is like a miniature sun, in fact.The background mountain against which it is silhouetted is partly visible through the aura,but not at all through the main body of the object.

First thoughts were of a developing fault but a photo expert who has seen the original has seen no effect like this before.

If it is a real object and at about the same distance as the road sign (as it appears to be subjectively) then it is about 10 feet off the ground and a foot in diameter.

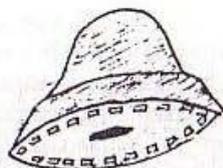
Any ideas on what this is?

MORE WELSH WONDERS (4)

Investigations by Margaret Fry

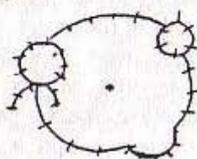
Case 9328 dates from 16 August 1993 at 20.45 and involves Ms A and Mr J who were returning by car to Prestatyn having just got a Chinese take away.Mr J got out of the car first and saw a strange object descending rapidly beside the TV mast.It was egg shaped with jagged edges and had green and white streaks down the side.He called out to Ms A who looked through the windscreen,but the object had altered shape and colour by now.It now appeared as a golden or orange ball with a reddish centre.After a few seconds it had gone to ground completely.

Ms A reported that one evening in 1970 she had experienced a close encounter which altered her attitude to UFOs.She was walking her dog on the beach at Moreton,Wirral,where she then lived,when a large grey hat shaped object appeared only a few feet above her as she stood on the sands.It was tilted to reveal small windows on the base.



Ms A had bent down to check that her dog was alright. This act took only a few moments, but when she looked back at the sky the UFO had silently accelerated away and was already streaking across the Mersey estuary towards Liverpool.

Case 9329 occurred at a mobile homes park at Moelfre in the hills inland from Abergele, Clwyd at 22.30 on 29 August 1993. Mr B observed a sequence of bright lights that came across the sky - at one time two together from the Llangernyw direction. One of these headed towards Bodfari and the other was lost over Abergele. Then one of the lights mysteriously disappeared over Moelfre Mountain.



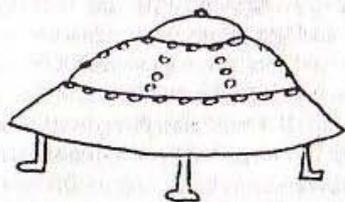
Landing track

At the site of the encounter shortly afterwards a strange formation was found on the ground. This was directly beneath the UFO flight path and was 30 or 40 feet across. Margaret has included a sketch (above) as compiled by Mr B of what is said to be 'an outline of the area where the UFO landed - and it can be seen how it slid onto its original bad landing.'

● *Children terrified by Chester UFO*
78-291 July 1978 Chester, Cheshire

One day in mid July two daughters of one family and a friend they were playing with all rushed in claiming to have seen a strange object close by. They were clearly upset.

The children were separated and asked to draw what they had seen. They did so.



The images were remarkably similar and they all spoke of a silver object studded with lights.

Even years after the encounter the memory has not gone away. Nothing is known of the third girl but the two sisters (now adults, of course) have both suffered bad nightmares and one has even resorted to having her house blessed after also experiencing an outburst of poltergeist activity.

I have checked the NUFON records and can find a case from Hoole, Chester dated 14 July 1978 in which a very similar object was reported. WUFOS - a Wirral group at the time - investigated and rated the case as unexplained. They were a very objective outfit so the sighting seems to have been one that particularly impressed them.

Pier Pressure

7929 24 February 1979 Blackpool, Lancs

Probably one of the most dramatic encounters that I ever investigated occurred on this night 15 years ago. It was reported in NUN at the time and in several of my books since.

In essence a witness saw an object appear to land in a quarry at Bacup, Lancashire, at about 2 am (calling me right away to say that he was off to get his brother's camera and film it). Forty minutes later he climbed the dark slopes and entered Rossendale's UFO haunted quarry. He met two policemen who had been lured up there by a UFO they had seen streak across the valley.

They found no UFO; although there was some evidence of a time lapse and mind control. However, across north west England the passage of the departing UFO was tracked by reports flooding separately into local groups. Later mapping showed that a second object approached the westwards rushing light from the south, but unlike that silent intruder was a loud, roaring orange ball of fire. It nearly wrecked a caravan park at Scarisbrick, south of the Ribble Estuary before intercepting the UFO's path off the coast around Blackpool.

A few years ago I received a letter from a security guard on Blackpool's central pier who described what was clearly a related encounter. I have now had the good fortune of visiting the site (near where I now live) and talking directly to this witness, who has offered further details about that night.

Intriguingly, he was concerned about the 'Oz' factor - but not as you might expect. Oz was an amusement centre on the

pier end where strange things were going on (footsteps and voices when nobody was present and bottles tossed about on their own).

Then the man heard a sound which he took to be a jet aircraft. The pier shook with the pressure waves from this and whilst low flying jets on test from the Warton British Aerospace plant do traverse the area these are never at night and avoid Blackpool itself because of traffic from Squires Gate airport.

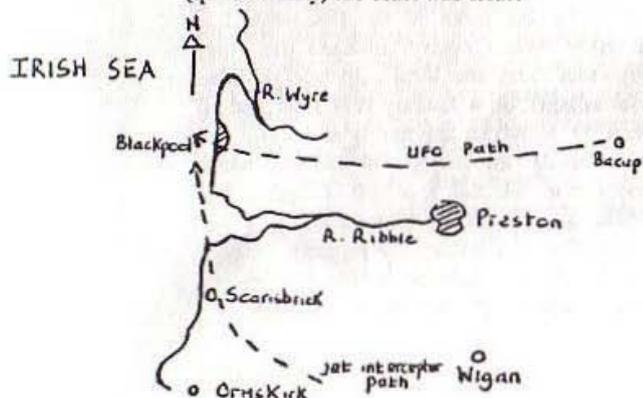
The time was around 2.30 am. He had given the wrong time in his letter to me all those years ago, something he found by later checking his logs. But he was amazed that I knew this fact already from the many other sightings - which were timed between 2.35 and 2.50 am - implying that his guesstimate of after 3 am was apparently too late; although that error itself masks an important point.

Going outside from his position in the security room, the aircraft had now gone (at considerable speed and low level heading west out to sea). However, an orange ball of light was visible over the water beyond the pier, which disappeared downwards. There was also a lingering smell. He recognised this as ozone, but it was very intense. I suggested that it might have been aviation fuel, with the light a jet using afterburners, but he says he knows the difference. He feels that the UFO ionized the atmosphere and was creating a plasma.

Then, about half an hour after the above episode he suddenly saw half a dozen white lights climb up from the sea - somewhere off the south pier area. These clearly came from under the water and spiralled gently upwards in unison, merging with the stars as they rose.

This case still has mysteries attached to it, but we did later learn that the object that roared over Scarisbrick and probably shook the Blackpool pier was almost certainly a jet fighter on a 'special mission'. I suspect it was trying to intercept the UFO that had left the Bacup quarry, but presumably failed to do so.

Perhaps this new testimony suggests that the UFO hid under the Irish Sea until (quite literally) the coast was clear!



A High Peak Practice

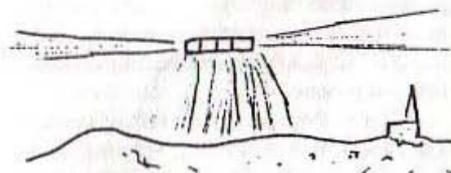
8946 27 January 1989 New Mills, Derbyshire

This case was nearly the one that got away. It was reported 48 hours after it occurred direct to me and Roy Sandbach and I drove into the Peak District a few days later to follow it up. Then I lost my notes! Luckily, I found them in the recent move so can now report on this interesting encounter.

New Mills is a pretty rustic village (a bit like Cardale in the 'Peak Practice' TV series). Mrs C was filling a hot water bottle before going to bed at just after midnight, as was her usual practice. She was in the kitchen when she spotted the light through the panoramic window which looked south east across the river valley to steep sloping hills and Chinley beyond.

Her cries of 'what's that?' alerted her two older children, who were still up. They came into the room and saw it as well. Eventually the room light was switched off to rule out a reflection effect.

Roy and I were able to talk with all three witnesses, who watched the object for about 4 minutes in total. It remained in one place, perhaps 100 feet above the hillslope and was temporarily and partly obscured by cloud (or vapour) at one point.



Mrs C (with an influential job in Manchester City centre) requested anonymity and described it as 'three defined footlight rows' which at first wavered, or wobbled, and then, before her children arrived, projected beams of light downward. These silhouetted the hills below because of their intensity. Normally, with no illumination at all, the hilly outline is invisible in mid winter darkness.

J - who was drinking a cup of tea with his sister when Mrs C called out, says that it at first resembled a car headlight in the sky but spread out into an oblong shape. His sister says that it was a row of 3 or 4 'footlights' and these were each clearly defined. They seemed to light up in sequence and that created an impression that the object was rotating.

All witnesses agreed that the illumination was immense and a large area of sky was lit by the thing. Towards the end of the sighting two beams emerged horizontally - one from each side. The object itself was about the size of the full moon (possibly slightly smaller) but these beams were sent out ten times that distance into the dark sky!

They contemplated many options whilst watching (J rationalising it in one way after another - it was his idea to turn out the light). They had seen mountain rescue helicopters before, but this was so large and close that silence would have been impossible from such a hovering craft and it resembled them in no obvious way. They thought about the moon, but as they stayed up well into the night watching the sky this appeared elsewhere later and did not resemble what they saw either. They even mooted the idea of a military airship but could not reconcile that with what they saw or why it should be there.

The object disappeared when covered by cloud or mist. Its glow was visible behind this effect for about 20 seconds, then it vanished. Although the sky was clear (eg some stars were seen later as well as the moon) the UFO never reappeared. Our thought that this was a bright star or planet (even a Stuart Campbell style mirage) was scuppered when vigils over succeeding nights showed no bright light in this same part of the sky at a similar time - Mrs C following our recommendation to look out for one.

We could trace no aircraft in the area and are left with a typically perplexing case - akin to the 'phantom helicopter' which plagued this Pennine area a decade earlier.

Case 9232 9 Nov 1992 Handforth, Cheshire

At midnight Mr W observed a bright orange ball falling out of the sky. It had sparks coming from the rear. He ran upstairs to get his wife, but when they returned outside the object had gone. Mr W estimated the duration as 2 minutes but closer questioning suggested nearer to 20 seconds. This implies the most likely explanation was a fireball meteor.

Case 9406 4 July 1994 Stanlow, Cheshire

A man and wife were returning from Birkenhead to Runcorn via the M53 at 22.20 astride the vast chemical plant of Stanlow (made famous by the group OMD in their song of that title - OMD having also specially written the UFO and space theme for the ITV

series 'Final Frontier' - see how NUN is a mine of useless information!)

The witnesses saw a 'big, smokey white oval with a white light on top' which drifted 'too slowly for a plane' along the length of the Mersey estuary north westwards. The witnesses stopped the car (!) and got out but there was no sound as the object moved away.

Suspicious aroused, checks with Speke (Liverpool airport - just on the opposite bank from here) confirmed that our old foe a virgin lightship (ie blimp) was based there. This is almost certainly what was seen.

The lights of Louth (part 5)

Peter Gregory, Mike Morley, Mike Beadle, Rosie Oakes

After the big outbreak of sightings on 9 December 1993 I contacted Nick Pope at the MoD. He told me (10 Jan 1994) that: *'I am aware of the wave of sightings that occurred near Louth... I have not spoken to any of the actual witnesses - except the officer commanding RAF Donna Nook - and have seen none of the photographs and videos. It appears that most witnesses saw three lights in a triangular formation, although people could not be sure whether these lights were separate objects or lights from one object. I understand that the lights appeared to hover before moving off at very high speed. I spoke to personnel at RAF Coningsby who had received some reports and made a few enquiries; as far as any of us could tell, there was no obvious explanation for the sightings and no military activity that might tie in. As far as I am concerned these sightings remain unexplained.'*

This was fascinating because it seems to deny any possibility of a mid-air refuelling exercise, which was still my thought. Indeed, it was a measure of how much things have changed between 1984 and 1994 to find a UFOlogist proposing a solution to a case to the MoD and the MoD not only denying this but reversing roles and saying that they regarded the case as unexplained!

In the wake of the December flap contactee Peter Gregory launched the group 'Skywatch' with the local populace of these rural villages. On 4 January 1994 this paid off when 11 members apparently saw (and one videofilmed) an object at 23.08 whilst skywatching at the spot Mr Gregory had predicted would be the 'homing point' for the objects. This is a microwave repeater tower at Trusthorpe just north of Sutton on Sea - a location where sightings had congregated.

This fact may, of course, prove of interest when one considers Albert Budden's environmental pollution concept; although the witnesses interpret it very differently.



The 4 January sighting began as a bright light in the north, but as it rushed overhead it was seen as a V shape studded with lights and as big as a house. A large steady red light was inset in the rear. Skywatch have termed the object the 'starship'.

Most interestingly, coincident with the sighting, villagers around Louth - whose TV signals presumably come from the tower - reported problems with their sets changing channels automatically over a several hour period. This was exactly the effect reported only once previously - on 9 December - the very night of the previous big flap in the area.

To date in 1994 sightings appear to have tapered off, but I doubt we have heard the last of these Lincolnshire encounters.

The dangers of taking a Leek

Case 9127 16 June 1991 Rushton, Staffs

In many ways this is a dreadfully frustrating case. However, we should be grateful for what we do have - which comes from Doug Pickford of Green Dragon, the investigation group from Staffordshire. Indeed a report will be in his book *Staffordshire Magic and Mysteries*, which I hope to review next issue.

The witness, whom he calls Bill (this is not his name) is a successful Staffordshire businessman of his acquaintance. He shared the story with Doug reluctantly and on the strict understanding there be no publicity. He has no intention of following the matter up (eg with regression hypnosis) but I hope that Doug monitors the situation carefully and will let us know of any developments, eg dreams or other odd memories that might conceivably recur without intervention.

I also hope Doug might take the witness back on the same road at night - if he feels up to it - and see what recollections this might bring. In the past that has proven effective. Hope you are reading this, Doug!

That night Bill had been to Chester on business and drank copious cups of coffee whilst his non-travelling colleagues consumed alcohol. He returned on quiet country roads and was on the back route from Congleton heading for Leek and near Rushton north of Rudyard Lake when the effects of the coffee required him to make an unscheduled stop.

He noticed that it was about 1.30 am and he was close by the Bridestones - a protected Neolithic burial chamber with standing stones. He had no interest in archaeology and had never visited it, but knew that it was there. Being almost midsummer the sky was far from dark and he could see the outlines of the stones.

But there was something else visible. A light above the stones like a giant torch that illuminated the area in a golden hue. He considered investigating, but then a shower of golden sparks like fireworks appeared and he thought better of it, deciding there might be a gang of intoxicated people in the field, possibly bent on doing no good.

Bill hastened back to his car and attempted to drive off, but the engine was utterly dead. He tried again with the same result, then got out, intending to lift up the bonnet, but before doing so he saw that the light was moving from above the stones and - in the form of a golden ball - heading straight towards him.

Bill was rooted to the spot, either with fear or some other force, he cannot be sure. Either way he could not move and he desperately wanted to do so. The ball now hovered directly overhead and was emitting an intense light which created a pain behind his eyes. It was at this point that he appears to have lost consciousness.

When Bill came around he was flat out on the ground amidst a group of trees which he later found to be about 600 feet from the road and his car. He was utterly disorientated but had a clear memory of two things - seeing the light close up and his powerful instinct to run. As such he crawled on all fours, cutting himself badly on brambles, and hid behind a tree until he had the courage to look all around and saw that the object had vanished and the area was completely still.

It was then that Bill realised how strange his situation really was. He was wearing his trousers but his shirt and shoes were missing! He instinctively brushed his trousers as he got to his feet and showers of sparks came off them like static electricity.

Bill staggered toward the road, tripping and hurting himself slightly in the process. His car was found, doors unlocked, key in the ignition and beside it in a bundle on the ground were his shirt and shoes. As he dressed he noticed how warm they were.

Climbing into the car he prayed it would work and it did - first time. Then, as he says, 'I must have reached sixty miles per hour in the space of a few feet.' As he sped off he noticed the time on the dashboard clock - 3.05 am - **an hour and a half had disappeared.**

On arrival home he told his wife he had been in a car accident. It was some days before he told her the truth, but he still does not know if she believes him or not. He was determined to tell nobody but eventually plucked up the courage to tell Doug, whom he has known for 15 years, after receiving strenuous guarantees.

Doug realises that this form of anonymity will weaken the case in some people's eyes, but he can only say that he finds the man's testimony credible. Bill is a complete sceptic about aliens and simply has no explanation to offer but the cases parallels with a few other CE4s will be obvious to most researchers.

This may be one of those countless untapped abductions that lurk in our midst, but it may forever remain incomplete and tantalising like so many others (eg the Frodsham cownapping affair of January 1978).

STOP THE PRESS

:: NARO - as you will see from the new list of regional groups below - has changed its mailing address. This does not mean that Peter Hough has quit (sorry to raise anyone's hopes). It is simply an administrative move, with Margaret Holt taking on secretarial duties. The group has quite a big library for members and also maintains the NUFON files, see details on access at the end of the list

:: With regards to the group addresses listed, these are not 'affiliates', as NUFON is not a membership association, as such, just a freelance cooperative venture. Any regional group who would like to be listed should just ask and we will try to oblige.

:: Barry Greenwood of *Just Cause* has put in a lot of effort lately to researching the genesis and development of the May/June/July 1947 wave in the USA. He

would like help from researchers here who can check their local media for these dates on microfilm. He has already accessed the *Times*, *Guardian* and *Telegraph* - but if you want to take part in this research exercise and have a local library with microfilm then contact Barry at:- Box 176 Stoneham MA 02180 USA.

:: Latest case as I close for press came via Jodrell Bank on 7 December and involves a truck driver taking cattle from Clwyd to Scotland and just outside Lockerbie on the night of 3/4 December. He saw an explosion of light which lit the clouds and an object plunging to earth. Whilst I should add that I suspect this was a fireball meteor, he was baffled and called at the first service station in town where he described what he saw unsuspectingly to the proprietor - who said looking very ashen faced, 'don't you realise what happened in the skies above this town six years ago tonight?' It was, of course, the tragic mid-air explosion of the Pan-Am jumbo jet that rained death onto the borderlands here.

Local Groups in the north

SPI (Scotland)	41 The Draes	Tullibody
FK10 2TT		
SRUFO (Scotland)	129 Langton View	East Calder
EH53 0RE		
SEMR (Scotland)	35 Fountain Rd	Bridge of Allan
FK9 4AU		
NUFORI (north east)	14 Longhirst Dr	Newcastle Tyne
NE13 6JW		
NLUFOIG (Cumbria)	89 Bare Lane	Morecambe
LA4 6RN		
LAPIS (Fylde)	293 Devonshire Rd	Blackpool
FY2 0TW		
NARO (north west)	2 Grosvenor Rd	Congleton
CW12 4PG		
CONNECT (W.Yorks)	5 Stocks Hill	Menston Ilkley
LS29 6ND		
PRA (Derbyshire)	12 Tilton Grove	Ilkeston
DE7 4GR		
GREEN DRAGON	24 Nab Hill Dr	Leek Staffs
ST13 8EE		
PARASEARCH	79 Sandringham Rd	Stourbridge
DY8 5HL		
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NG6 7BL		
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LE3 9AH		
NUFORC (Northants)	46 Occupation Rd	Corby
NN17 2EF		
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