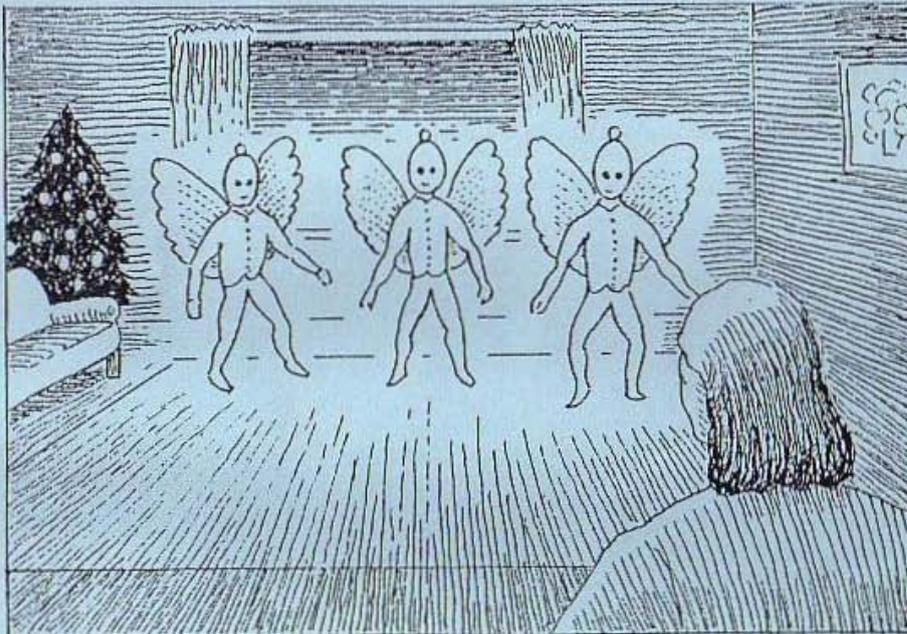


NORTHERN UFO NEWS

172

CHRISTMAS 1995

HAPPY CHRISTMAS AND A GREAT NEW YEAR TO ALL
READERS



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J. R. Comments

Since my fathers death I have travelled quite a bit with my mother to help her recuperate. We spent some weeks in both the USA and Australia and whilst (for once) I was not there for UFO reasons (not officially anyhow!) it gave me the chance to contrast the field in three different continents. Is there anything we can learn from all this?

In a way Britain, Australia and the USA are like three colours on a rainbow.

Britain is at the dull end - slow, plodding, traditionally sceptical and unwilling to make too many leaps of logic unless the facts are compelling. Think of Sherlock Holmes as an archetype. What would he say about UFOs? Probably that they seemed to come from mars, most people who believed in them accepted that idea, so - he would tell us - thats the one place we can rule out.

At the bright and cheery end is the USA - bold, dynamic, open minded to the point of gullibility and quite willing to stick its neck above the UFO parapets. I can imagine Captain Kirk (and, yes, I know William Shatner is Canadian but his 'Star Trek' role was definitely not) striding in, phasers ready, willing to blast the cover-up to shreds and see nasty klingon plots everywhere.

Somewhere in the middle is Australia - born as a British colony, now very much its own land and soon to free itself completely (unless you count the Commonwealth - which most, sadly, do not). It is tied rather more to the USA than the UK these days, although this has rather pulled it two ways giving it something of a hybrid approach.

In many ways that is the best of both worlds, because we find initial reserve and dogged determination not shackled by unwillingness to jump off a cliff when necessary. I tried to think of a national archetype (Dame Edna and Rolf Harris somehow didn't work) - so I hope my Aussie readers forgive me for choosing a kangaroo. As I found out they are slow, nose-y and unfussed when they want to be but all of sudden can spring into life and hop here there and everywhere with both speed and power.

How does all this manifest in UFO terms? Well, take the dear old Roswell autopsy footage. Stifle your groans of *oh no, not again*, as I use this for example only, not because I will be making a big deal out of it in this issue or any future one, hopefully. I think this dog has had its day.

In the UK, we began with the premise that such a film simply had to be bogus. We spent hours on the internet and in our journals debating little points that might catch the film out. To date nobody has proven it a hoax, although the overwhelming gut feeling in the ranks is that it must be. The determination we showed to shoot it down was, in a way, commendable. There were good reasons why it could reflect very badly on both the Roswell case and the growing public awareness that UFOs were a serious issue. But we all criticised those people - eg Philip Mantle - who even seemed to give it the time of day. I did so as much as anyone.

This is not a plea to back the Roswell footage. My views on it remain that I have seen little to persuade me of its validity. I merely wonder how much of the anti-Roswell autopsy venom was part of our national heritage to doubt, question and worry at the evidence? Was it really fuelled only by conviction as its dubious nature?

Over in the USA there was a curious split. Much of the UFO community reacted as we did - but I think there was a higher level of reserved judgement than here. Certainly there was a greater degree of acceptance that the film might be real, if not from the mainstream of UFOlogy then from its edges and the general public. Conspiracies and distrust of officialdom are more a way of life there and the prospect of the highest power in the land protecting secrets from its people is regarded as a fact, not a possibility.

It is hardly surprising that the idea arose within the USA that the Roswell autopsy might even be government disinformation - in other words they staged the whole thing and duped even those who purchased it for some sinister purpose. Well, maybe. The trouble is that when you argue that truth can be real truth, lies, or even truth told as lies, you end up never being able to credibly support anything.

If someone says we went to the moon and it was green, we might believe them, or disbelieve them - or maybe we were meant to believe it was green because it was really pink. Or maybe we never went to the moon at all. Before long we are swallowed up in so much information, disinformation or misinformation that the result is like a society that cries wolf. If a spaceship really did crash in the New Mexico desert tomorrow the acceptance of this may well founder on the incredulity of what has been believed in the past.

The Roswell footage garnered huge ratings in the USA. Much more so than here.

What of Australia? Interestingly, Bill Chalker and I were invited to help launch the Roswell video in Sydney at the New South Wales library. Our apathy was probably infectious, because there was no media interest, no huge queues to buy and little sign that anybody gave two hoots, frankly. Yet when Bill brought out a piece of material that was allegedly recovered from an Australian UFO crash we all crowded round the little bell jar and listened intently to his story. My BBC video camera was primed in an instant.

That this honeycomb like material is probably not from a UFO is hardly the point. Bill presented cogent reasons why, as an industrial chemist, he thinks not - even though there are those (in media circles) who disagree. What was more significant is that here was something that could be analysed and assessed and given proper laboratory tests. The outcome would be that we would have evidence that either backed, or did not back, the strength of the case. That's UFOlogy.

This is, I think, where the Roswell film fell down. Too much of it had to be taken on trust. There has been huge controversy over my (and many other peoples) disenchantment with how BUFORA handled this autopsy case (see Philip Mantle elsewhere in this issue). But I think it all came down to a wasted opportunity. For five months BUFORA had a lever on the film. They could have insisted that without proper tests it was not getting a public platform at their conference. They did not insist and the film hit the spotlight in such a way that you had to believe or disbelieve. Is it surprising that so few people did believe?

BUFORA say, and I am sure they are right, that it was not their film to make decisions about the research. But this to me is where UFOlogy needs to look forward. I recall, for example, how Peter Hough and NARO tackled the Ilkley entity photo.

Here is a colour image of an alien - the sort that could have been used to hold UFOlogy hostage and hike up a ransom from the media. Instead it was investigated, not exactly in secret, but certainly not in the glare of PR with chequebooks waving. Within six months it had been analysed by the Kodak labs, another independent lab in Rochdale, studied by a wildlife photographic expert in case it were some animal, copies were in the USA for detailed computer enhancement via an optical physicist, two British Universities were quietly studying the physical evidence and the witness was being interrogated by a clinical psychologist.

Is this not how UFO research should be done? Eventually the case did go public, but by then facts were at hand, questions could be answered, nothing much was left to trust. No hard sell hyping it to the public. To this day the witness has never made a penny.

Yet is it not interesting that UFOlogy barely gives this case the time of day? Even if our gut reaction to the grainy shot of a 'little green man' is similar to the Roswell autopsy the rapid research that was carried out makes it far stronger. So why the general disinterest? Why was the paper on this case the only one (so far as I know) cut from the MIT symposium when published? Why will a book about the Roswell film attract huge offers and the Ilkley case not even interest a publisher?

I think it comes down to marketing and hype, where evidence and strength of case take a back seat. The way in which the three countries approach UFO data each have their own merits to combat this problem and perhaps it is useful. Different methods reveal different facets of a story and allow a fuller picture to be gathered in the long run.

However, the danger is that UFOlogy is slipping from the grasp of the UFO community. We now approach the 50th anniversary of the birth of the mystery. Big movies, at least one TV series, lots of media features and a truckload of commemorative books are bound to coincide. This means that the typical cycle of interest, which ought to see the subject fade from its current peak of public awareness, may not happen with this big boost only 18 months away to revive any apathy.

Much of what will come will be mega-hyped and of little intrinsic value. It would be foolish not to expect get-rich-quick mentality and even invention not to enter into the picture. Advances for UFO books have been going through the roof. Six figure sums in the USA have been paid several times. A book here has earned a five figure sum up front because the publishers believe they can hype it into best sellerdom, I suspect regardless of content or quality. How much of this wealth will flow back into UFOlogy, I wonder?

Yet, as the difference between the Ilkley and Roswell photographic cases shows, it may not matter in the end how we do our job - or, indeed, how well we do our job. It could be that UFOlogy is now a mass market product of such a potentially lucrative nature that we have lost control of our own subject to the PR companies and the mass media.

This is the future that we should fear the most. Its why I spoke out about Roswell.

News Round Up

:: Many have asked me what has been going on with *New UFOlogist*. The third issue has appeared, after a very long delay, and I gather issue 4 is already well in process. As I understand it one of the problems was the magazines decision to have no actual editor. Whilst fine in theory this struggled in practice, especially as Mike Hudson spent so much time abroad and he did so much work tying copy together. Mike has now decided to quit his UFO involvement through pressure of work, but leaves a fine legacy of three magazines that he worked very hard to bring out. Issues 4 and 5, at least, are being compiled by Joe Dorner of the Fylde group and an old favourite (name top secret!) is expressing interest in having some future association with the journal. So there should be few fears for the magazine's survival with, hopefully, a more stable and dynamic publication schedule.

:: Also on the stands is *Encounters* - the second edition of which featured '50 Years of UFO encounters' as a free stuck on the cover giveaway. This 20,000 word book was newly penned, according to the cover, by Peter Hough and someone I have not come across before called Jenny Randles (who might be related to Jenny Randall as featured on the inside). Discounted magazine (er, sorry, that should be Encounters magazine) have evidently failed to trace this person as the vast cheque being offered for writing the book (believed to reach at least two figures, maybe three) has not yet been sent out. You may struggle to find a copy in stores as it apparently sold out very quickly.

: *Encounters* (issue 3 of which is out for Christmas) is only part of an ongoing war of the newsstand magazines set to hit Britain. A new rival journal, in the form of a British version of a German paranormal glossy, is rumoured to be headed your way in the Spring. A well known British UFOlogist has (at least, so I am told) been commissioned to edit this. Quests *UFO* bi-monthly magazine is also appearing in more and more shops and you should have no real problem finding this at any reasonable sized newsagents. But the best news is the plan by the unrivalled *Fortean Times* to expand their newsstand presence by becoming Britains only monthly serious review of the paranormal. This is a terrific boost to real research and will provide the sort of outlet for good research long needed on the high streets. Coinciding with the dreadful

slide of *Psychic News* - once a good weekly newspaper with responsible coverage of the paranormal - into presently more of a Spiritualist broadsheet - this is very welcome.

HIGH STRANGENESS COMING

News from the USA and Jerome Clark is that the third volume of his incredible UFO Encyclopedia project is due soon (possibly in January).

This one covers 1960-1979 and is titled *High Strangeness*. It will possibly be the biggest UFO book yet published with 700 pages and 400,000 words estimated! Given the superb calibre of the two previous mammoth volumes this is really awaited with huge optimism.

The total wordage of the three volumes set will be close to one million and I cannot see anybody, anywhere ever doing a better job in putting a UFO encyclopedia together. In fact it makes all other attempts redundant.

That said, those who criticise less grand projects should ponder the fact that Jerome was paid in effect a handsome full time salary to spend years researching these books. In the UK, where publishers pay authors a couple of thousand pounds if you are lucky and would have a heart attack if you suggested a book 100,000 words long, let alone one million words, that kind of offer is a dream that could never be aspired to.

Yet, even with the advantages, the project still could have been done badly. It wasn't and is a triumph. Jerome has done a fantastic job and rightly entered UFOlogy's all time hall of fame as a result. If you have some money to spend and want to treat yourself to a great Christmas present - the £50 or so it may cost to get these volumes is money well spent.

Write to:
Omnigraphics . Penobscot Building Detroit
MI 48226 Fax: (USA) 313-961-1383

I can make another special offer to readers, having purchased some brand new ex-warehouse stock of my 1994 book 'Time Travel' (looking at aspects of time anomalies from timeslips to synchronicities and considering the possibility of time traveling UFO-nauts). I can offer these at a massive discount (less than the new paperback!) - ie £5 (post inc). Copies of 'Mysteries of the Mersey Valley' and 'Mind Monsters' at £4 each are also still available cut price. Cheques to NUN address payable Jenny Randles

MR PRESIDENT ON ROSWELL

Thanks to reader Peter Talbot for the following information that was inexplicably missing from the televised news reports during President Bill Clintons recent visit to Ireland.

Peter was part of a crowd who had seen Clinton switch on the Belfast city lights on 30 November when the man from Little Rock, ARK, suddenly chose that moment to mention the Roswell case in his impromptu speech!

Clinton reported that he had recently been sent a letter from Northern Ireland written by someone asking about the recent Roswell autopsy controversy. In reply, he stated, for the record, that (and this is in paraphrase) *'I can confirm to the best of my knowledge that an alien spacecraft was not recovered at Roswell and that if any alien bodies were retrieved there then nobody has informed me about them.'*

This amazing, off the cuff remark brought a large chuckle from the multitudes (and some cheers, I gather) and it is odd that the cameras trained on him either did not record this gift-wrapped comment or the media moguls who did get on film chose to ignore it.

I am not aware of any other instance where a serving president has voluntarily discussed a UFO case in public. If one takes him at his word it begs many questions. Could the truth - if it was that a spaceship crashed and bodies were recovered - really be withheld from the president of the USA? Would he really take a risk and lie without being goaded into doing so the spot?

Perhaps this remarkable new move will set a precedent and next year - as he makes his speech at the party conference to launch the election campaign - prime minister John Major will say... 'Now about that UFO that was on TV - you know the one in Rendlesham Forest - I was talking to Norma about it the other day and she thought I should let you know that it was not really a silly old spaceship. You know, we don't really believe in that sort of thing in the Conservative party. We are much too sensible. Those who do all probably vote Labour or even Liberal Democrat. Michael told me you'd appreciate me as a bold leader if I told you the truth. I hope he's right, because Zog from Pluto warned us we might lose otherwise....oops'

PHILIP MANTLE: A RESPONSE

As you will know, in the last issue I devoted quite a bit of space to the question of the Roswell autopsy film and more general issues concerning BUFORAs handling of this matter. I also looked at the implications that might arise for British UFOlogy.

In reply BUFORA director Philip Mantle, the man most associated with the film on behalf of the group, has sent me a very lengthy response. In total this now covers 10 A4 sides - his initial reply being 7 sides.

I am reluctant to devote that amount of space again - given that I sense readers feel this story may have run its course. On the other hand it would be unreasonable of me to deny any right of reply as this might seem like I was personally censoring the content of NUN; although (as I have pointed out to Philip) BUFORA afforded no space in their journal to informing members as to why I had left the council after so many years. So I was really only using my own magazine to redress the balance a little. Presumably Philip Mantle could do the same via BUFORA.

In compromise I suggested to Philip that I should print extracts and give his key points then offer his full letter to *New UFOlogist* - who suggested they would have the space to publish this to trigger a debate. In that way I could direct readers to his full views (or, indeed, offer photocopies of the text) whilst not filling what is really a news orientated magazine with a more political argument that I fear bores many readers.

Philip Mantle has expressed dissatisfaction with that suggestion. So I can only leave it up to you to decide. Tell me if I should publish his views in full or whether you would prefer to see my other suggestion. I am obviously too close to this situation to make an objective judgement. So your majority opinion will decide, whatever that is. I hope Philip will accept that verdict too.

ALIEN IMPLANTS RECOVERED?

Thanks to reader Rod Williams for an extraordinary recent press story from Wilkes Barre, PA, USA. If verified it may prove to be a turning point in UFO research history, certainly in terms of the abduction phenomenon.

It stems from Ventura, California, but the well structured account offers no names.

The Californian surgeon quoted says he fears he might lose his licence if it was known what he had done. Which was? To operate on two abductees - one male, one female - looking for implants.

Stories of this sort have occurred before. The witness believes a small object was placed into his head but it fails to show up on x-rays. In an Australian case a dental x-ray did reveal a dark mass but this failed to appear on a later more detailed x-ray. Witnesses in such cases often feel that the aliens have returned to remove the device between times!

At the MIT symposium in 1993, a Boston physicist reported on an object that had been sneezed out by an abductee. It was studied by electron microscope and appeared to akin to a cotton ball and so was no real evidence of an alien presence.

Indeed it began to look as if implant stories would never be verified, because hospitals (understandably) were not going to make expensive cat-scans or operating time available for such a contentious issue.

Now, however, this Californian doctor has risked all to look inside the big toe of the woman and the back of the hand of the man. He allowed witnesses to be present as well as video cameras. So what has he found?

In both cases the abductees (who did not know one another beforehand) had no awareness of an implant until routine x-rays for minor injuries revealed something under the skin. A Texas UFO team persuaded the doctor to conduct the surgery in August. And out came three inexplicable objects!

He says they were encased in thick and dark coloured membranes which were not like cysts. The woman had two - one of which was T shaped. The mans hand held a bigger one about the size of a large melon seed. Both patients had apparently jerked back, despite the local anaesthetic, when the doctor first touched the objects prior to removal.

The implants were taken to Houston where a team of UFOlogists and scientists are conducting microscopic and chemical tests. The implants have been cut open, revealing minute pieces of shiny metal that is very magnetic. These are black but glow green when exposed to ultra-violet light. Everyone involved in the project is mystified as to the origin and purpose of these objects.

This story must first be confirmed - although I suspect the identity of the team involved. If it is true and the scientific results are published and prove to be as summarised we have a major new set of questions to face.

CIRCULAR LOGIC

Unless you were a crop circle magazine subscriber you probably would not know that the circles have been out in force again this summer. Of course, the usual battle of the bilge has greeted them from an assortment of experts.

Farmers Weekly kicked things off with a piece illustrated by a delightful range of colourful hoaxes with names like 'the scorpion'. This introduced their report on new findings by American biologist, Dr William Levensgood. His teams work has uncovered nodal swelling and embryo malformation on 90 out of 100 circles they studied indicating, he contends, a transient energy in the microwave spectrum involving electromagnetic radiation, swirling air and heat that descends in vortices. Sounds rather familiar to me from somewhere?

The problem with Levensgoods work is that it is not clear how many of the dazzling pictograms are giving positive results. If the scorpion, for example, is produced by a rotating vortex according to his results rather than human engineering then I'll go to the foot of my Doug and Dave style stepladder.

The Skeptical Inquirer - in the summer - were rather less impressed. *Crop circle mania wanes*, headlined Joe Nickell - citing Paul Fuller as approving: 'Over the past couple of years crop circles have taken a real beating from the skeptics. In my opinion this was long overdue and deserved. Perhaps the lack of attention will drive away the hoaxers.'

On the other hand Nickell was scathing of Fullers position claiming he had reversed this from believing most circles were real to the view that only a few were. This is unfair as really Paul has always argued that some circles were hoaxed and only the extent of this has gradually been upgraded. Nickell further claimed that skeptics (like him presumably) were utterly unpersuaded that rotating vortices created any real circles and all Fuller could offer to support this were unconvincing anecdotes.

Yet to me sceptics like Nickell still miss the key point. Complex formations that are probably hoaxed are all modern day, post mass publicity products. Simple circles have a long history pre-publicity (and pre-UFO) and even master hoaxers Doug and Dave admit they modelled their idea on such 'real' circles seen in 1966. How the sceptics can just dismiss this fact as irrelevant beats me. It seems to demonstrate an underlying reality.

The man himself, Doug Bower, also popped up in the summer perplexed that the saga goes on. He blames money made by the cerealists for this. *'We never claimed we made them all. All we wanted was to be recognised as the ones that started the whole thing.'* he told the Southern Echo. He then proved he was not progenitor by mentioning the original cases when he was in Australia. Interestingly, he never saw the Tully circles in 1966, just newspaper stories about them, which ten years later were then copied in his big jest.

Meanwhile, *The Circular* (£15 for 4 - inc CCCS membership - from Hillview Abbotts Ann Andover SP11 7BA) continues to publish a fine magazine, well illustrated and with a huge range of stories - from sober research to downright silly ideas. The four issues this year show the range.

In number 19 there is a complete tabulated review (including little diagrams) for all known 1994 summer circles. Levenshams results appear in detail.

Issue 20 is a lot more waffly with anecdotes galore about coincidences, dowsing, human effects and the like.

The next number, 21, has a colour photo of a UFO (or processing mark) - take your pick - above a Hampshire circle in June 1995. Nothing was seen when the photo was taken (which to me implies the non UFO answer). But others will disagree. Lots of data on recent US circles also feature, for this is not - and never was - simply a UK mystery.

Finally, the most recent issue, 22, has a beautiful picture gallery of the 1995 circles. The precision and skill of the hoaxers has clearly fine tuned over the years and these show their work at its best. It almost doesn't matter anymore that these are surely faked. They look so pretty these days it's worth a look. Mind you the farmers might not agree!

This set the scene for 10 November when the *Daily Mail* opened its ever illuminating *Answers to Correspondents* page with a photo of the complex spiders web formation (a real beauty) and a question as to why no circles have been reported during 1995. Was it too hot for martians, the reader asked, referring to Britain's tropical summer?

Quick off the mark was Pat Delgado - who insisted *'crop circles are as big a mystery today as when I first brought them to public notice in 1981.'* Only a few circles were real - the simple ones, he said. Much hoaxing was going on but he claimed that he knew of real cases dating back 95 years and that there were probably reports thousands of years ago.

UFOs AND CROP CIRCLE IN 1964?

Report by Nick Redfern

Nick found this story in his search through PRO (Public Records Office) air files for 1964 which were recently released under the 30 years rule. *Reference PRO file Air 2/17526 (Crown Copyright).*

The report came from T.E.T. Burbury the rector of Clifton Rectory in Penrith (now Cumbria). He had contacted the National Physical Laboratory, who in turn sent it to the Met Office in Bracknell, who (with their usual skill at foresight) contacted Burbury to say that it did not appear to be a meteorological matter so they were sending it to the Air Ministry/MoD instead - from which it reached department S4 (the forerunner of what is now Air Staff 2A).

The initial event occurred on the Saturday immediately before 23 March 1964 (date of the letter) at about 21.30 some 2 miles from the rectory. The witness was a man 'who is very short sighted and who would have been unable to see anything, except the light, even if it had been present.' This light was a column of bluish colour perhaps 8 feet in diameter and 15 feet high which then just disappeared.

Going to the site directed by the witness Burbury himself found open ground without any electricity pylons. There were no smells or other signs of burning. The grass seemed normal. However, Burbury added, *'the ground simply appeared to have been lightly raked over in an almost perfect circle.'*

The rector says that he advised the farmer who owned the land to have samples taken and checked for bacteria but - prior to writing this letter - he had not enquired whether this had been done. Perhaps optimistically the rector expected the scientists at the Physics lab to swing into action and actually take an interest in this mystery. Even though the dreaded word UFO had not entered into his communication that no doubt was in mind when this letter started giving the postman plenty to do.

Unusually, there is some evidence (in the form of an internal memo) that S4 took it seriously enough to pass on to higher staff for an evaluation. This is an act that the MoD say often happens - but we rarely get to see such deliberations, even when files are released.

The memo comes two months after it was passed on by RA Langton at S4. It came from Flight Lieutenant Bardsley and, as Nick Redfern points out, its wording is both jovial and far from bureaucratic.

Bardsley labels the report a 'corker' and patronisingly suggests that the explanation might depend upon 'the state of the investigators liver'. He contemplates the aurora borealis but says he cannot justify pestering a Professor Paton at Edinburgh on the matter.

S 4 had already mooted will-o-the-wisp (or marsh gas) as a theory, but Bardsley added the baffling comment that the Royal Geographical Society had 'confirmed that Penrith did not exist' (which must be news to the folk who live there or map makers who put this non-existent place on their products!) Yet, paradoxically, he added in evident exasperation that 'the geological structure around Penrith confirmed that there probably would not, but possibly could be, local ignitions of methane gas - absolutely no use these experts!'

Leaving aside how there can be geology around a non-existent place, it is interesting that both theories considered utterly ignore the circle and only seek to explain the light - as do other half-hearted ideas from Bardsley (eg car headlights).

He cracked an even more absurd joke about the rector, because the man had mentioned in his report that he saw no sign of any bird activity at the site. I took this to mean - being a country man - that birds might have raked the ground into the circle - but the MoDs finest questions whether the rector might think that the object was a phoenix!

He then concludes his account, which ends the case so far the MoD were concerned, not by phoning the farmer to see if he did take samples but by wasting taxpayers money cooking up a (not even very accurate) limerick!

*There was once a rector of Penrith -
who reported that one of his kith - saw blue
light in the night - got a terrible fright - and
the rector thinks its a myth.*

The implications

This case strikes me as very important for a host of reasons, not least the insight into what goes on behind S4 and presumably Air Staff 2 A today. The worrying thing is the attitude adopted by this member of RAF intelligence staff. He seemed to regard his job as an opportunity to have a laugh and there is no sign that he took this report at all seriously. It is no wonder we see few of these memos if more of them treat responsible witnesses as if they were buffoons.

Of course, it would be naive to have expected either the Physics lab or the met office to have sent an interested local observer to see this circle - even though trace evidence was rapidly reported and surely - in the spirit of science - that was not too difficult.

Yet what of the MoD? Here they get a report from a person they should presumably consider upright, who did the right things (visit the site to check for himself, advise the farmer to take samples). Had this case come to a UFO group we would have acted fast enough to investigate these options. Sadly, the rector, assuming that the powers that be would be more competent and no doubt regarding UFOlogists as crackpots, put his trust in a bunch of clowns who had no interest in finding the truth, despite having a case here where they had something real to work with.

How many big UFO cases since 1964 have they treated with similar disdain? I have been told now by three different heads of S 4 and Air Staff 2A from Pam Titchmarsh in 1983 onwards that they *never* get reports with physical evidence. At least one said to me he only wished they did. Yet this case proves the lie - although a bit of effort (like picking up a phone or asking someone at a base in Cumbria to go take a look) was involved so it probably does not count.

We presumably must read those MoD answers as - 'we never get any physical evidence (ie bits of spaceships sent by courier and delivered straight to Whitehall)'. Then they might do something (probably made a paperweight out of it)

The existence of this defence intelligence staff report presumably reflects the 'secret' departments to whom all MoD reports may go. A year or two back the MoD started to release their 'files' (ie worthless one piece scraps of paper), but for a short spell complete with a distribution list of the other departments to which they went - one of whom got sent two copies of every case. They quickly cut this list off the reports, suggesting that it was a temporary lapse and we were never meant to know about these other locations (who may therefore also have files).

These 'hidden' departments were DI55 (presumably a Defence Intelligence unit?) and DSTI (my guesstimate being department of scientific and technical intelligence). Recently I interviewed Nick Pope (of Air Staff 2A) for my BBC documentary and the only time he declined to answer fully and openly was when I challenged him on these acronyms.

Nick did insist that there is no other department that tackles UFOs. Or, at least, between 1991 and 1994, he believed he was on his own. I pointed out that he might not have had a need to know - if his department were really intended more as a public relations exercise by the powers that be (rather like Blue Book probably was in the USA).

He disputed this very fairly and his publishers strategy will surely be to bill him as the MoDs 'X-Files man' in preparation for his big book release in June. Such actions put him in an awkward position at work.

I did find Nick Pope an amiable and straight guy. I certainly don't blame him for using his interest in UFOs to produce what is a well written and entertaining book (even if it left me a bit disappointed). He told me that had another unit been involved in UFO work then they would have surely had to talk to him. They didn't. So his conclusion that they do not exist seems perfectly reasonable.

Yet - as the DSTI/DI 55 distribution list fiasco shows - and as Bardsley's key role in the Penrith case proves - in the past (and I mean here the fairly recent past) his department did rely on outside help.

Nick Redfern asked at the PRO about accessing more papers from Bardsley's unit (then known as Defence Intelligence Staff - but I'd hazard a bet that it is now DI55 or DSTI). This memo seems to have slipped through, but did they not have their own records, Nick posed? This is what he was told.

The 'overwhelming majority of all papers which originated with the DIS (Defence Intelligence Staff) remain exempt from disclosure...these records are retained because they contain information relating to the security intelligence agencies and are obviously highly sensitive.'

Quite - but how many of them contain the really interesting stuff about UFOs? Nick Pope told me that his scan of past MoD files when he was in office discovered that the first thing about Rendlesham Forest in the data is the News of the World front page story three years after the sighting! Yet I have copies of replies on the case received from the MoD before then - so there must be another file somewhere. Where, I asked? *The PRO, he hoped. When will we know? In the year 2010 at the earliest!*

At least one NUN reader out there is qualified to comment on all of this. Former MoD department head Ralph Noyes saw these things first hand circa the 1970's. If he can clarify anything for us I'll be glad to publish it.

FOR YOUR PERUSAL

Major articles elsewhere

Enigmas Nov 95 £11.50 for 5 (M. Robinson)
41 The Braes Tullibody Scotland FK10 2TT
 More good stuff north of the border. Including the latest on Billy Buchanans alien and a 700 strong crowd at an alien channeling lecture.

OVNI Sep & Oct 95 £12 for 12 via PRA
94 The Circle Sinfen Derby DE24 9HR
 Some good stuff here, too - an interview with John Mack, an Irish time slip and a weird CE4 where the abductee witnessed alien mining operations in Siberia!

EMUFORA 6 £5 for 4 to EMUFORA
8 Roosa Clse Bulwell Nottingham NG6 7BL
 Classic local group mag with letters, sightings, comments and the like.

Pegasus £8 for 4 from SIGAP
126 Grange Rd Guildford Surrey GU2 6QP
 Took me to task for saying it was 'alien' or 'visitor' orientated. They do cover other topics, but I stand by my view that it gives you the best such articles going as well. This issue has an intriguing interview with Whitley Strieber in which he reputedly suggests the Roswell autopsy film could well be genuine and says the visitors recently told him they have stopped cooperating in the cover-up and now its begun to break down in a big way.

Southampton Newsletter £5 for 12
25 Weston Grove Rd Southampton SO19 9EE
 Amazing value for this very chatty style mag which is never big but always has something good to read. Here, for instance, is a transcript of Ray Santilli on daytime TV in November.

Strange Daze 7 £1 each to DA Newton
9 Brodrick Clse Newcastle on Tyne NE3 3SG
 Stapled together in a hard to read fashion but worth the effort as it always has lively debate inside. This one is about BUFORA. The magazine staunchly defends the group and Philip Mantle (it is put together by council members). But I think there is a fallacy in their key argument that BUFORA had to go public with the footage at Sheffield to bring it to sight of UFOlogy - *what else should they have done, locked it an attic?* they ask. But the point is BUFORA never had the film to work with nor was it 'theirs' to show. They acted as publicity agents for Santilli and got nothing in return (except more ticket sales thanks to the

PR). The film was on TV within days and would have been available to all whether BUFORA stood up to Santilli's failure to let them do any research or gave in, as they did. In my opinion BUFORA were not heroes for letting UFOlogy see it at Sheffield. They were used, as two council members have been honest enough to admit. Mantle, given chance to reply to many pages of detailed criticism from two former senior officers (myself and another long term Director of Investigations and BUFORA editor - Ken Philips), gives the mag just one word in response - yawn!

TransUFO 2 £6.76 for 2 via E Fletcher
Derwent Ctge Bamford Sheffield S30 2AQ
Maintains the high standard of issue one this is a terrific but simple idea. Gather together cases from European mags, translate them into English and bingo. Good stuff here from Denmark, Sweden and Argentina. Support it!

World UFO Journal 9 No price given
16 Newton Grn Gt Dunmow Essex CM6 1DU
I upset someone yet again & should own the world record. I called WUJ the best 'old style UFO mag' in the UK. It is - duplicated, stapled, full of press cuttings and comment on the UFO scene. I like it. But Ed read that as saying he prints old news...not what I meant.

Intelligence 4 £2 each E Morris
52 Dart Walk Winsford Cheshire CW7 3JE
Interesting, if expensive, local mag. But why do we have to keep reading about historical stuff like the Belgian wave yet again? Readers wanting to comprehend this mean/ironic spirit of my review should see pp 6/7 of Intelligence.

IUFOPRA Journal 4/7 no price given
PO Box 3070 Whitehall Dublin 9 Eire
Ireland's top UFO and paranormal mag has come on in leaps and bounds and has a great professional look about it these days. Billy Meier reassessed and a great yarn from Miles Johnston about his alien hunt in Area 51.

UFO Afrinews 11 no price given
Box MP 49 Mt Pleasant Harare Zimbabwe
New sightings and abductions in Africa. Always worth waiting for. Indispensable review by Cynthia Hind of a very different part of the world where UFOs are active.

IUR Aug 95 (CUFOS) \$30 US for 6
2457 W Peterson Ave Chicago IL 60659
The GAO report assessed. Detailed article from JR on the Templeton 'spaceship' photo.

MUFON Journal Oct \$30 US for 12
103 Oldtowne Rd Seguin TX 78155-4099
Kevin Randle updates the Roswell crash case

Just Cause Jun \$20 US for 4
CAUS Box 176 Stoneham MA 02180
Barry Greenwoods cogent analysis of how the Roswell autopsy film hit the US market - even though this was three months after June!

Fortean Times 83 £2.20 in shops
Freepost SW6096 Frome Somerset BA11 1YA
Peter Brookesmith turns his wrath on Hopkins, Jacobs, Mack and CE4 research.

Strange 15 £13.50 for 4 to M Chorvinsky
Box 2246 Rockville MD USA 20847
This is a delightful read - a glossy, US version of FT which is not a clone and probably more researcher friendly as it doesn't have to sell in shops. Variety like - how to build a time machine, a detailed CE 4 case, lots of alien animals and a huge supply of mail order books

Fate Sep 95 \$29.50 US for 12
PO Box 1940 170 Future Way Marion OH
The world's only supernatural monthly (for now at least!) This issue has amidst its tales of ghosts and ESP a piece on the Hudson Valley UFO wave that was Allen Hyneks last case.

TLH 123 £5.80 for 3 to Empress
PO Box 92 Penzance Cornwall TR18 2BX
Paul Devereux's always perceptive thoughts on earth mysteries, UAP and earthlights updated. Peter Brookesmith is back again - with a long, wicked demolition of Philip Mantle's 'Without Consent'. And in case you thought I was just getting at PM (okay I was) the review of my book 'Time Travel' by Jo-Ann Wilder is not much better and implies it cheats readers.

Third Stone 22 £7 for 3 to GEM
PO Box 258 Cheltenham Gloucs GL53 0HR
A well presented earth mysteries mag. Often more UFOlogy than this issue but if you like EM then you won't regret buying this GEM.

Annals 25 £7 for 4 to G. Lovell
4G Preston Manor Glastonbury BA6 8JQ
Getting more and more UFO orientated and now very neatly presented. You'll like the Fortean snips, plus articles on Lazar, Roswell, the martian face etc.

Folklore Frontiers 26 £6 for 4 to P Screeton
5 Egton Dr Hartlepool Cleveland TS25 2AT
Pot pourri of the weirdest press tales going.

BOOKS OF THE MOMENT

Or how to spend that Christmas gift voucher

Close Encounters of the fourth kind

CD Bryan 1995 476pp no photos or ills
£20 from Weidenfeld & Nicolson

'Thanks for finding my notes' the author scribbled in his pre publication US copy that winged its way to me in the summer. I'll get back to explaining that curio later, as you won't read about it in the book.

So what do you get inside this huge tome from a highly respected mainstream publisher who would not have touched a UFO book by a British UFOlogist if you paid them a hefty ransom? If you fear (as I did) a scathing, sceptical attack on the abduction phenomenon - then think again. This is in fact one of the best books (maybe even the best) to debate the CE4 phenomenon and undoubtedly - in my view - the best from out of the USA (Hopkins, Jacob, Mack, etc not excluded). Its only rival is the vastly more expensive proceedings of the MIT symposium (which is the theme of this book too). That two of the best UFO books in history have emerged from that week long event says a lot in favour of it.

Bryan was about the only journalist invited to this week long seminar in June 1992 where abductees and researchers joined to present over 100 papers that covered every conceivable aspect of the abduction mystery. The concept, dreamt up by Mack and physicist David Pritchard, was excellent and sadly remains unique in the UFO world. Stage a conference not to sell tickets and get publicity but to invite researchers to spend a week thrashing out the evidence in minute detail.

Here you get two books in one. The first 200 pages digests and highlights key parts of the conference from an outsiders perspective. As I was there I can tell you he does that well with only occasional errors that don't match my notes. Then he spends time interviewing doctors, following through a new Budd Hopkins case and interviewing lucid abductees. The outcome in this part two is thorough, entertaining and very illuminating.

His conclusions should be followed through slowly by way of the mass of research that was aired at the conference and which he outlines and then by those things he dug up afterwards. He gives fair coverage to a wide range of theories (both psychological and physical) and certainly does not end up cajoled by any of them or - more importantly - thinking this is not a mystery worth studying.

One of the problems evident from the book is its Americanisation. But that was a factor of the conference. Aside from Keith Basterfield from Australia, David Hufford from Canada and myself there was little non US participation and anyones perception thus would be that 99% of the abduction mystery is American in flavour. He does his best to redress that balance and the book certainly could have been a lot worse without that effort but that intrinsic failing of the MIT conference understressed the global nature of the CE4 and it was not challenged as it should have been.

So, what about those notes? Well, after the final days last session Keith and I went to have dinner with Barry Greenwood - who, despite living locally, was not invited to the symposium. After an entertaining meal and chat Keith and I sauntered back through the grounds on our way to cross the Harvard Bridge into Boston. There, discarded on an empty park bench, we found a note book.

It was CD Bryans voluminous notes taken throughout the symposium. We smiled at the amazing serendipity. Having all signed waivers agreeing not to discuss what happened during this conference and not to talk with the press, here were extensive notes on all that had happened left in the street for any hack to stumble upon. Yet - by stunning fortune - Keith and I fell over them instead.

The university was closed for the night so we scribbled a note and posted the book into David Pritchards office. The note was in the quirky anglo-saxon style that has got me into trouble before (mostly because nobody beyond Britain and Australia much understands it). We wrote - 'we were going to offer these for sale to the National Inquirer but decided to hand them in to you instead'. Later we got a thank you for not selling them and an evidently concerned letter that assumed we had been seriously planning to do just that!

So, an extraordinary synchronicity saved the day for CD Bryans book. Yet oddly he never mentions this tale. I think that again shows the difference between the US and Britain. I find it a great yarn and I dare say if the roles were reversed would have told it with bells on. Here it is covered up as if it never happened - out of embarrassment, perhaps, or by just not seeing its humour and fortuity, maybe. Does the UFO cover up have a similar American reticence behind it, I wonder?

That aside, if you do have a £20 token and you have any interest in abductions visit a bookstore near you to get this. If not, wait for the cheaper paperback sure to come in 1996.

The UFO Phenomena

*Edward Ashpole, 1995 210pp inc photos
£18.99 Headline Books*

I have just been accused by one reviewer of ripping readers off for selling a 304pp book for £1 less than this volume costs (as if authors had any say in pricing anyhow). Still I guess you'd have to regard Ashpole's book as pretty expensive - certainly when you think that for just £1.01 more you would get CD Bryan's at over twice the pagination. But it has not stopped this book from selling. I've seen it in many shops and libraries already.

Why? To be honest I don't really know. The cover and title is a bit naff (and not really intended to convey a plurality of solutions - ie phenomena instead of phenomenon). Its billed as a scientific look at the evidence for extraterrestrial contacts. The blurb - getting sillier by the minute from publishers these days - professes this to be the first ever book to take a comprehensive look at UFOs. In 200 pages? Do me a favour.

Ashpole is a former science teacher. A couple of years ago he wrote a quite interesting look at the search for extraterrestrial intelligence (SETI) by way of radio astronomy - which had the distinction of taking UFOs seriously enough to devote a chapter not dismissive of them. Here he has effectively turned the book on its head and written a look at the search for extraterrestrial UFOs (SETU) which also takes SETI seriously and so mixes in loads of stuff on that.

The book's dedication sets the tone. It is made to all ETs out there! His first chapter debates Rendlesham. It must be based on the years of research into this case and the long quotes come from somewhere (and I suspect they are not Ashpole's first hand interviews). But he doesn't make clear where he gets it all from. It comes in a straight ETH style.

Later we see he is scathing and dismissive of some UFOlogists who go beyond the ETH and look for 'pseudo-scientific' aspects. I take it he means psychic and psycho-social ideas - but it's not wholly clear. What is clear is that he believes ET is the way to go to assess the UFO evidence and his book is utterly built around that premise.

Having said that it has a good chapter on Hessdalen and there is a detailed review of the Trans-en-Provence case. Ashpole knows his UFOlogy better than most non UFOlogists.

In a sense this book is rather like what that infamous UFO Quest by Alan Watts should have been - a serious and legitimate

attempt to put the ETH into a modern context. We are treated to lots of stuff about space probes, Drake equations, theories why aliens would avoid us or come here and sprinklings of UFO cases interlaced. It is actually quite illuminating to see UFOlogy in this way, compared with SETI and astrophysics from a writer who is clearly well able to accept alien spaceships but finds abductees stories often much harder to believe.

The book also scores two firsts. It is the first to devote a chapter to Roy Duttons 'how to predict a UFO sighting' theory - for which you need a degree in maths but which Ashpole takes a fair shot at explaining to you. It is also the first in print to discuss the Roswell film - although I suspect before he saw it. His views are on the fence (but mostly negative) and are coupled with a laughable, presumably press inspired, account of BUFORA allegedly analysing the film in March 1995 - when they certainly never had any film to analyse. It would have fared better if time for retrospection had been allowed.

Yet, despite its failings, and there are some, this is a book that has no obvious competitor on the market and is well worth a look for that reason alone. It probably makes the best job so far of sensibly arguing the pure ETH 'space visitors' theory. Agree or disagree there was room for a book that did that.

Aliens: The final Answer?

*David Barclay, 1995 192pp illus
£9.99 softback Blandford*

David Barclay from Yorkshire edited a UFO journal with some unusual theories a few years back, although he was taken ill and I have not seen it in a while. This is a sequel to a book Barclay edited a couple of years back which included some good chapters from fine UK UFOlogists (the pieces by Joe Dormer and Robert Moore particularly spring to mind). This time Barclay writes alone to offer his 'startling' theory about alien contacts.

You really have to follow this concept through as it unfolds to work out whether it is perceptive and feasible or the biggest load of old cobblers anyone has put in print in a UFO book. I have heard both comments from readers of this text - so it stirs up the emotions! Time travel and super intelligent dinosaurs figure in there somewhere - beyond which I will let you decide for yourself.

What it certainly can be called is different. Its an entertaining and mind stretching (not to say mind boggling) read.

MORE WELSH WONDERS

Investigations by Margaret Fry

Industrial espionage is case 9440 and occurred on 12 May 1994 at Denbigh, Clwyd. Several witnesses are involved - which required much detective work by MF to track down. But not all were willing to talk. The security manager of the industrial estate was one example, who feared to lose his job if he cooperated in public.

The events began around 23.30 and involve a man and a woman who spotted a small craft about 15 feet in diameter over the Colmendy Industrial complex. They could easily follow its slow pace above the rooftops simply by walking after it. They then called out to the security guard and all three followed the object as it passed over a timber yard. It was lost when it suddenly vanished near a quarry.

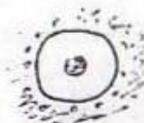
The object was described as cloudy white with lights around its rim. There was a dark circle in the centre with a mauve coloured light that turned green as it flew by. Its shape was akin to a donut and it was no more than 20 feet above their heads.

MF thinks there may be more to this case and many other witnesses from the terraced housing on the A 525. But only two further witnesses were willing to talk - a woman chatting with a friend visiting from Scotland as they washed the dishes in the kitchen. It was around midnight. They spotted a series of white ovals that flew over and dimmed as if an unseen line crossed them and cut off the glow. One by one they faded and when the final oval (of about 16) went out the first reappeared again. It is unclear whether these were separate objects or windows on an unseen craft.

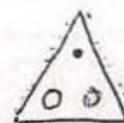
This was a potentially promising but frustrating case involving a small hill community who were reluctant to talk. I can sympathise with Margaret as I know Denbigh well. For some years my brother lived at Henllan - a village about a mile outside the town - and I spent some time staying there. It is a very tight lipped place. I also saw a UFO (just a LITS) whilst I was there (reported in NUN 18 years ago those of you with very long memories!)

Case 9441 followed on 27 June 1994 and involved a woman taking her dog for a walk around 23.00 near the quarry as above. A very large object hovered above this near Bodfari.

It turned orange, then red, and moved slightly from side to side. She watched it for 20 minutes before returning home. Apparently many locals in the area have seen UFOs.



Case 9440



Case 9443

A further report, case 9442, involved the TV mast - also at Bodfari - as seen from the village of Llandrymog. It was 03.40 on 13 July 1994 and Mr G got up to go to the toilet when he saw a big white object near the mast. It reminded him of a chandelier. His wife was woken and they watched it slowly sink and rise for about 30 minutes.

Independently reported at about 04.00 that night Miss B at Llanfair D C got up to go to the toilet and she also saw a large white oval. She left it still hovering there at 04.15 and returned to bed.

If anybody has an astronomical computer programme I would suggest they run the possibility of Venus or Jupiter being visible on this date. Sounds like an option here.

Finally, case 9443, takes us back to the A 525 at Denbigh at 18.00 on 11 October 1994. This time the visitor was our old friend the giant triangle.

Once again the object approached from the Colmendy Industrial estate and crossed the road, narrowly avoiding the roof of a Shell garage!

One witness was returning home from Rhyl where he works as a computer expert. He estimated that the object was around 75 feet in length.

The triangle was studded with blue and white lights along all three sides. A bright white light was at the top apex and there were two larger and more diffuse lights nearer the base.

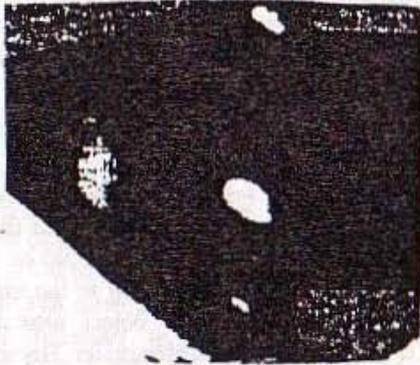
MF expresses concern about the way in which so much valuable information fails to reach the public. Witnesses are still unwilling to risk talking about their sightings, particularly in areas like this where to do so could soon diminish one's reputation in the village community.

She urges that we continue to fight to bring the truth to the public by educating them as to the realities of UFOs. Even the local librarian clammed up after her encounter, such was the lack of awareness.

BRIEF CASES

UFOs PHOTOGRAHED OVER HUMBER 9529 March 1995 Humbleton, Humberside

The image below is a representation



based on a photograph taken by Mr O to give an idea as to what it looks like. He spotted two white ovals in the sky at 01.00 as he returned home and took one quick snap before they silently drifted off in the direction of Aldbrough and the east coast. Mr O, whom sceptics will love to hear is a fabricator by profession (evidently it is a job in the chemical industry) was at first convinced that the glow, which illuminated the back of his house very brilliantly, had come from a helicopter. But the silence and the amount of light cast out as the ovals passed overhead soon removed that thought. Any ideas?

CLOSE ENCOUNTER OVER WIGAN 9530 9 April 1995 Parbold, Lancashire

Five young women were returning from a night out in Southport when they had the shock of their lives.

It was well after midnight as they took the dual carriageway near Parbold and a bright light appeared between some trees. As they approached it was evident that the light emerged from a craft hovering low above a field. At this proximity they could see that it was ringed with lights and had a translucent feel to it. They estimate it was about 40 or 50 feet across.

As they drove away the object seemed to give chase but after about 3 minutes streaked into the sky at a fantastic speed. However, moments later it accelerated back down and took station beside them yet again.

There may be more to this case, but the women (who called Manchester Airport next morning) do not seem to want to be named.

GOING FOR A BURTON

9531 13 April 1995 Burton on Trent, Staffs

Two teenage plane spotters began a UFO alert when watching aircraft from their bedroom window at 22.15. Suddenly some strange lights appeared out of nowhere.

There were four of them, forming a square, with a pulsating red glow in the middle. They hovered over the Toyota car factory and made a faint buzzing noise as they curved away, revealing the underside of the craft.

As the object began to move off towards Swadlincote the Burton police received further calls from mystified local residents. Several said the noise resembled a very quiet aircraft.

East Midlands Airport had no assistance to offer, although the idea of a powered microlight or even a helicopter seems to spring to mind.

9532 22 April 1995 Telford, Shropshire

An 82 year old retired schoolteacher from Trench - Mrs W - was puzzled by her encounter at 04.30 this day. So intrigued was she that she contacted an airport, who routed her to RAF West Drayton, who then put her onto Kerry Philpott at the MoD, who advised she talk to the Royal Greenwich Observatory, who gave up and sent her to Jodrell Bank - from whom she finally found me. Full marks for persistence certainly!

The thing she saw was not terribly spectacular - a flickering, star like light that drifted south to north across the sky, taking about 3 minutes to cross the Wrekin. I tried to suggest an artificial satellite, even a high flying aircraft, but she seemed sure it was not. She was also adamant that a policeman at Bridgnorth had seen it too but was afraid to talk.

I checked this out. Indeed, there was a sighting but it was made *to* (not *by*) a PC at Bridgnorth. It was also not connected with her sighting. Indeed, this other event happened just after midnight on 25 March.

In this case a man at Morville saw a large black oblong shape that moved at great speed across the sky from a stabbing start. The police found him credible but he was reluctant to give his name or commit himself to making a public report. By the time the Bridgnorth police officer reached the site the UFO had long since disappeared.

UFO SEEN FROM ATLANTIS**9533 15 May 1995 Scarborough, N Yorks**

A man on the esplanade at this seaside resort watched a large mass of white light float overhead and out to sea. His report in the local press provoked numerous other people to back him up.

Mr G, a security guard at Atlantis in the North Bay (!) says he heard a strange noise as the light appeared overhead.

Many others confirmed that they had at first assumed the light was an aircraft but rejected the explanation as it meandered across the sky. The local RAF base ruled out any aerial activity as a source.

9534 28 May 1995 Lymm, Cheshire

Thanks to Roy Sandbach for this report. A youth reported seeing a flashing white light at 23.45 which was later joined by two others that flew around the sky for some 45 minutes. They appear to have resembled aircraft. He claims that his radio scanner picked up strange sounding voices whilst the lights were visible.

9535 30 May 1995 Seamer, North Yorks

Two 17 year olds on a camping trip fled the site near Seamer railway station when a UFO flooded the sky. They were waiting for some friends about 22.30 when a huge white light surrounded them and several oblong shapes appeared briefly in the sky.

An independent report came from a man walking his dog at Ebberston. The witness who was a college lecturer from Brighthouse on holiday (not called Andy Roberts I trust!) said the light was shaped like a rocket. It was a brilliant fluorescent colour and sped across the sky in just a couple of seconds. He thought at first that it was a shooting star but it was too low - at no greater altitude than an aircraft he contends.

In my view it is probable that this was a bright meteor and that the open countryside and large nature of the bolide created the illusion that it was lower down in the sky than it really was.

9536 31 May 1995 Humberside

More reports on the same date (but about two hours later). These were witnessed by half a dozen independent people around Hull and were certainly not a meteor.

A nurse at Castle Hill saw a series of odd flashing lights. Others were out walking dogs or getting ready to lock their houses up.

Mrs K of Beverley had one of the most interesting sightings. She saw a long cylindrical object with a row of lights along the edge. It moved without sound.

At Skidby two bright headlights were seen drifting through the air before suddenly disappearing.

The most logical solution for these sightings would seem to be an airship. But it appears improbable that the local police and RAF Leconfield would be unaware of the presence of such an object in the area.

9537 31 May 1995 Currie, West Lothian

This Scottish case is reported by Ron Halliday of SEMR and seems to have occurred (at about 00.05) at more or less the same time as the Hull sightings.

Mrs H looked out of her window and gasped in amazement as two brilliant yellow headlights came towards her. This sounds just like the report from Skidby. Mrs H rejects the theory that it was a plane because it was too big, bright and fast. There was also no sound despite its low altitude.

As she went to train binoculars onto the thing she looked away. Upon watching again the object was moving off - with just one small light now fading into the distance.

9538 1 June 1995 Littleton, Cheshire

Eric Morris of BUSC claims that strange things have been going on at this village on the edge of Chester. Once again the report sounds rather like the ones that are described in the cases above.

A teenage girl doing her homework saw a long cylindrical object with lights on the side. It crossed the A 55.

Eric Morris claims that his car radio went dead as he drove towards the location of this sighting on his investigation. Then it began to emit weird morse code like bleeps. Afterwards it worked perfectly.

Morris adds that some circular areas of flattened crop were found in the fields adjacent to the Littleton sighting on examination. These were 'partial crop circles'. A complex pictogram formation was reported in fields at Littleton about 7 weeks later.

Readers of 'Crop Circles: A Mystery Solved' will note reference to circles in fields in this same location dating back to 1978.

Implants: A brief story

A word of caution regarding alien implants (see report earlier in this issue). It comes in the form of a fascinating (and sobering) short story (that is - as in a story about shorts) found in *Focus* magazine.

It seems that an eight year old boy from the USA claimed an abduction in 1955 - although it was many years before the full truth emerged about that awful night. This was the discovery that the alien abductors (or space *nickers*, I suppose you could call them) had implanted something beneath his underpants - actually inside his penis.

The shocking truth about this close encounter of the pornographic kind only emerged decades later when the implant fell out - allowing a *brief* analysis to be conducted.

The implant was 4 mm long and 1 mm wide. Sadly, the investigation did not reveal anything extraterrestrial. ET had not gone where no ET had gone before. The thing from outer space was in fact dead human cells that had calcified around shards of a very old piece of cotton underwear.

Undaunted, one UFOlogist informed the disappointed research team that this was not the end of the line for this piece of vital evidence. For studies of implants had already shown that the aliens were capable of disguising their devious electronic wonders as ordinary bodily detritus - of which a piece of underpants might not be out of the question.

Aside from what this tells us about the credibility of some UFO researchers - if the UFOlogist cited (whom I won't embarrass by identifying) really did say this - we also face the touchy problem of getting to the - er - bottom of any future alien implant.

Just think I can contact the media and present my very expensive metal crown - which, despite the best efforts of dental science, fell out mysteriously a short while ago. It obviously is not a crown at all, but absolute proof - as many have been saying all along - that I am not of this earth. (Well - actually they usually say - you are not all there - but it means much the same I guess). No matter that analysis will reveal it is composed of ordinary substances found in most orthodontist's surgeries. The aliens do things like that.

Now about that blister on my left toe...the one I thought I got walking around Australia...Aha - now I know the truth. Where did I put that number for Fox (well pay a fortune for any old alien rubbish) TV.

Local groups in the north

Scotland

SPI 41 The Braes Tullibody Scotland FK10 2TT
SRUFO 129 Langton Vw East Calder EH53 0RE
SEMR 35 Fountain Rd Bridge of Allan FK9 4AU

North East

NUFORI 14 Longhurst Drive Newcastle NE13 6JW
CONNECT 5 Stocks Hill Menston Ilkley LS29 6ND

North West

NLUFOIG 89 Bare Lane Morecambe LA4 6RN
LAPIS 293 Devonshire Rd Blackpool FY2 0TW
NARO * 2 Grosvenor Rd Congleton CW12 4PG
(*NUFON files with NARO- for access call 01942-604265)

North Midlands

PRA 94 The Circle Sinfon Derby DE24 9HR
GREEN DRAGON 24 Nab Hill Dr Leek ST13 8EE
EMUFORA 8 Roosa Close Nottingham NG6 7BL

South Midlands

PARASRCH 79 Sandringham Rd Stourbridge DY8 5HL
BURG 20 Ryelands Street Hereford HR4 0LB

Wales

FEDERATION Box 43 Rhyl Clwyd LL18 1YW

WINTER ATTRACTIONS

A number of coming events to keep you busy during the winter months viz:-

6 January 1996 Falkirk Town Hall

Scotland A joint SPI/Quest one day conference with Graham Birdsall and Tony Dodd of Quest alongside Malcolm Robinson from SPI. Will look at both Scottish and overseas cases. Tickets £5. Call 01758:752218 or SPI on 01259:724033

Then on the evening of 27 January 1996 Samuel Platts Centre Trafford Wharf Road Trafford Park Manchester NARO will stage an event to look at north-west activity. Doors open at 7pm. Lectures by Jenny Randles (UFOs & the cover up), Peter Hough (on supernatural happenings) and a NARO team presentation on the new well attested Rochdale poltergeist. Tickets £5 or full details via SAE to 3 Paignton Drive Sale Manchester M33 5HU. Or Tel: 01942-604265

Finally, NLUFOIG stage a 'Planetary Connections' day on 18 February 1996 Headway Hotel Marine Rd Morecambe. 2 - 10 pm - John Holman (Abductions), Mike Oram (living with ET), Jenny Randles (time travel), Hein Van Beusekom (Crop Circles). Tickets £10 (inc buffet). SAE to NLUFOIG address above or Tel: 01524: 423760

Coming up (see next NUN) April 20/21 London FT convention...Nick Pope, Dennis Stacy, etc. Details via Fortean Times.