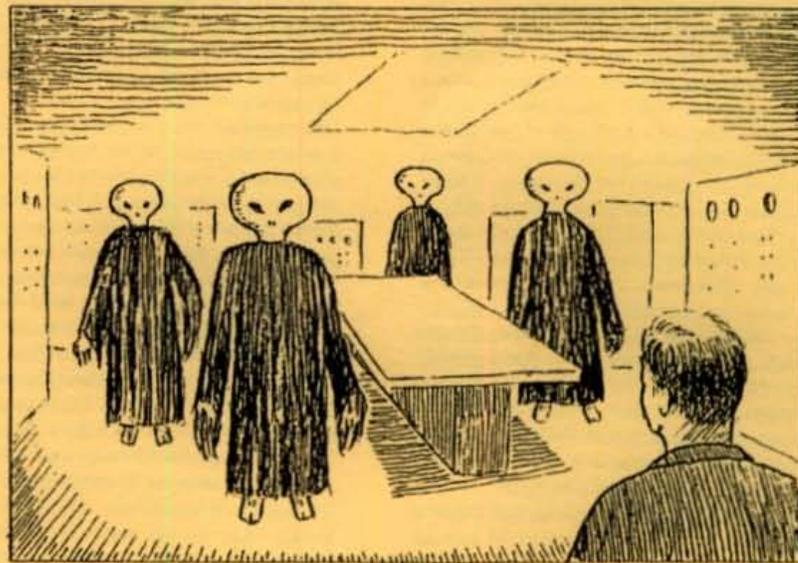


NORTHERN UFO NEWS

180

October 1998



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J R Comments:

N.B: Apologies again for the delay to this issue, I have had another set of kidney problems, then my mother became bed ridden and needed constant care. Hopefully all is well again.

I gather that Nick Pope may be seeking an alien encounter. The clue came when I got a call from my brother who had twice heard Nick on radio apparently amidst an advert for the phone company 'one to one'. It was akin to their TV ads that feature celebrities suggesting which famous person they would like to have a 'one to one' with. Footballer Ian Wright chose Martin Luther King, whilst the guy who is inventor of the wind up radio went for Sir Frank Whittle. Nick reports that he would put a call to an ET.

Not having heard this amusing spot I parody the format with my own 'one to one'.

Q: Who would you like a one to one with?

JR: It's got to be Nick Pope. I'd ask him. Nick, did they pay you to do this and what did your bosses at the MoD think when you told them of the plan? I'd also ask whether he knew how some folk would see the UFO subject as rather odd after this, or was it just a big laugh and I am taking it all way too seriously?

Should I treat this in the spirit that it was intended? After all how many of us - if offered money - would say no to the thought of an advert on radio or TV? Not many I guess. I can speak first hand and it is incredibly easy not to give much thought to how it might effect people's judgement of an already mildly ludicrous subject. Thus it would be somewhat hypocritical of me to have a go at Nick for what he no doubt saw as a diversion to his brilliantly executed career. But it raises key questions.

I have three times had dealings with the advertising industry but only once have I actually taken this to fruition. One ad agency requested my help to stage an alien landing during a shopping campaign. After seeing their plan to have a little green man come down I said no. But I suspect the idea went ahead anyway. Not long afterwards a shopping chain had an advert on TV for an 'outer space' bargain. The shopper who stood in amazement as ET landed to claim the goods was named Jenny. Whether this was done on purpose because I refused to help I don't know. But it shows you cannot win.

On another occasion I was asked to appear in an advert billed as a UFO expert so as to promote an insurance company who wanted to prove they would insure you against anything. I was supposed to endorse a spaceship crashing onto a house roof to help vindicate this wacky claim. I said no because I am passionately opposed to the rising tide of companies who flog 'insure yourself against being abducted' policies.

I don't know if that campaign went ahead but I do know my moralistic stand, turning down a welcome £1000, was pointless. Not long afterwards Michael Aspel waved his own 'insure yourself against being abducted' policy to cameras on 'Strange But True?' I knew nothing about this until the programme aired and yet moments later my name came on screen as 'series consultant'. I did briefly wonder whether I was dumb to say no to the dosh and miss my chance at TV stardom. My brother thought I was mad, just as he loves the Nick Pope ad and cannot fathom why I would say no.

But then I remembered what Allen Hynek told me once. He was asked to do a TV advert to promote beer. He liked the beer and would have loved the cheque. His sense of humour was also unsurpassed. But - rightly I feel - he did not like the idea of people linking beer swilling, drunken behaviour and the sighting of UFOs. Allen believed that forging a credible image for UFOlogy was too important to compromise in the less than subtle way of the PR hype. Of course, the US advert still went ahead. They got an abductee to front the slot explaining how whilst on the spaceship they saw the aliens guzzle down this beer called....

The one advert I did agree to do was for screening on TV and at cinemas in the USA. I did get a small fee. But I got more out of it for BUFORA in one of my last acts as Director of Investigations. The advert promoted a competition tied to release of the movie 'Fire in the Sky' in which two lucky winners got a tour of the British Isles and our major UFO sites. As I was able to plan the tour programme and it was great PR for BUFORA I saw no harm in it. But this was the only time I felt advertising proper.

Maybe Nick was quite right to just go ahead and do it. Maybe I am being too old fashioned here in suggesting a stand against commercial sponsorship when UFOlogy could do with more of it. Let us know what you think.

This issue of Northern UFO News is proudly sponsored by Washo - the powder guaranteed to make all 'grays' pure white.

When a hoax is not a hoax:

I got quite a surprise this summer when publishers Collins & Brown asked if I would speak to someone. His name sounded very familiar. It was Alex Birch. Alex had quite a story to tell me. I have been able to check it against original records dating back 36 years.

On 25 February 1962 as a 14 year old boy Alex Birch took a photo of a fleet of UFOs at Mosborough, Sheffield. In its day this case went on to have huge celebrity status but some of what follows was new to me.

In his original signed statement of 28 July 1962 Birch reports that he was taking photos of his two friends and a dog in the Derbyshire fields. One boy - Stuart Dixon - threw a stone at a tree and shouted 'look up there'. All three youths then saw 'five flying saucers' with 'white bubbles' that kept coming out. These were so bright they made the boys eyes squint and they had to look away. But Birch took one photo just before the formation left at speed heading towards Beighton.

The first point to note is that Alex was even then unsure of the date. It could have been 5 March. The time was 11.30 am. Both the other witnesses backed his story with written statements that August. 16 year old Stuart Dixon confirmed the saga, adding that the previous shot taken by Alex was of him jumping off a rock and how the objects were silent and at first moved slowly, then accelerated. The youngest boy, 12 year old David Brownlow, writes an almost identical statement. Indeed the form and structure match well.

The gap between event and reporting was partly due to a delay in processing. All the boys were interviewed separately by their teacher at school in June and in the process the negative was studied and got rather scratched. But by September Alex was big news. He and his father went to London, met the Air Ministry UFO team at their request and were star guests at BUFORA's first meeting. The media reported this event - e.g. 'News of the World' (23 Sep 1962) - who printed the photo, since reproduced in many books and magazines. In essence this shows five fuzzy dark blobs with white marks in front. They are vaguely disk shaped

For reasons that will become clear I have decided not to include a sketch of the objects based on the photo but you will find the picture in various places, including an early issue of 'The X Factor' last year.

That things have (hopefully) changed in UFO study is shown by BUFORA's early assessment of the photos. They rejected obvious causes, such as mirages, and noted them to be

'transparent' and that they should be accepted as 'fairly normal Adamski type saucers'. (!)

An extraordinary study by Ufologists followed in which all manner of speculation was uttered - from the 'blobs' being reflections, or domes, to methods of propulsion used by the alien craft that were seen. One assessment noted that the background trees were in sharp focus but the reputedly distant UFOs were not. A clue that something was very wrong? No. Apparently, 'sharp definition is not a characteristic of saucer photographs'. As a consequence it was stated that the picture was 'unfaked'.

About the only negative comments I have seen came from a John Adams a year later - evidently a London Ufologist He was sure the fuzzy nature of the images was due to the focus and not to the objects motion and was suspicious of various features, e.g. the lack of perspective that you would expect from five craft flying at differing distances from the camera.

However, on the whole the world seemed to adopt the Birch photo as genuine and even the MoD studied the negative without making public any suggestion they suspected trickery. And then it all came tumbling down. On 6 October 1972, almost 10 years to the week after the case hit the headlines, Alex Birch - now aged 24 - appeared on TV.

His BBC interview on a news show coincided with a talk by Rex Dutta, promoting his new UFO book. Sadly Alex was not about to do Rex any favours. The case was, Birch confessed, a hoax. He had painted the UFOs onto a sheet of glass and filmed the trees and sky through this, creating the impression that the discs were flying. They were fuzzy because they were much nearer the camera than the trees and consequently out of focus. What role the other two boys had in this was unclear. Apparently, even Alex Birch's father was not told the truth until the day before this TV confession. Previously he had staunchly defended his son in public citing the long grilling by the MoD.

Since 1972 the photo has appeared widely as an example both of how early Ufologists were easily fooled and of how simple it is to fake UFO images. As a photo of UFOs the Birch shot might well have been long forgotten but for this sequel. Birch himself was not heard from again

- at least not for 26 years. Then he called me.

Alex was now on trail to track down those who had used his photograph and obtain copyright fees from them. He has, I believe, secured quite a few of these to date. But the big news he offered was that the real hoax was not in fact his photo but his subsequent confession. The picture was genuine after all.

Apparently, Alex had been hounded by all manner of people since the sighting and his one to one with the Air Ministry. Such was the pressure he felt under, suspecting he was being followed around for example, that the hoax confession plan was cooked up to take the heat off. The case itself does not seem to have had much UFO world attention come 1972, save for its occasional use to illustrate features, and it is certainly fair enough that Mr Birch would now seek recompense for the wide scale use of his print after the confession. I am just not as sure as he might be that it will become as popular in future in books and on TV shows now that its main claim to being different has disappeared

As an example of how a young lad fooled leading UFO buffs, the MoD and media with a do-it-yourself technique the case is a fine object lesson to all As just another fuzzy photo that supposedly shows real UFOs, it is not really any big deal. There are many more pictures that are copyright free and that illustrators will perhaps now choose to use instead.

The newly attached sequel to this case may ensure that this 'hoax that was not a hoax' gets another lease of life and we will see it popping up in the media once again. Unfortunately, some might hesitate just in case there is another twist to the story a few years from now. So this photo that was real, and then hoaxed, is now said to be real once again. Indeed, perhaps Alex simply did react as any youngster would to the pressure he was put under and the later TV confession thus becomes quite understandable. But we also have to forgive those who are so confused by it all that they might prefer to wait and see.

As for me, I think I've got a headache trying to work all of this out I

Pro Files on the Foo Fighters

Thanks to Nick Redfern for supplying news of a recent discovery he has made at the PRO (Public Records Office). It seems that as early as 1943 they had official records of UFOs.

The data comes from 'Bang On' - the official newspaper of 115 Squadron RAF. In the issue dated 31 December 1943 they refer to sightings of "weird and wonderful apparitions' during allied bombing raids in Germany. In particular they cite one case from 11 December

when the Americans led a daylight attack on Emden. Then 'an unidentified object...the size of a Thunderbolt...passed 50/75 yards beneath the formation.' This flew level and left a white vapour trail that remained for some minutes.

This is not a typical foo fighter as the white balls of light that played tag with aircraft came to be called when seen in abundance a year later. Perhaps it was a fireball meteor or a V weapon on test from the Nazi's. But it was treated as unusual and the reference to an 'unidentified object' seems a very prophetic choice of words for 1943.

Another case is cited in which an attack on Bremen came upon 'silver and red discs above the formations'. It adds that these 'have been seen before but up to now no one has been able to decide their purpose.' It is possible that these were metallic flak used as an anti radar detection measure around this time; although Nick notes that they 'conjure up images' of 'classic frying saucers'.

Perhaps most significant is the fact that these various sightings do not seem to have been occurring in a vacuum. There have obviously been quite a few of them and it is more than possible that some form of official investigation programme was underway at the Air Ministry. If so these records have yet to be retrieved, or they have disappeared

The file for this information is AIR 14/2800.

Nick also notes the file reference DEFE 41/117. This contains information on Air Ministry studies of Nazi and Russian aircraft development during the post war period

This is the sort of material that will feature extensively in the new book 'UFO Revelation' that is written by Tim Matthews and is due to appear from Cassell around the turn of the year. Having read the text whilst writing the foreword I can promise any readers interested in the link between secret earth technology and UFOs a real treat to look forward to.

Quite a debate is brewing in the UFO world at present. It is not widely realised that Britain's premier group - BUFORA - operates two almost unique systems. They are amongst the proudest achievements of my 12 years as Director of Investigations. Yet BUFORA for some reason make little fuss about them.

Now, it would seem, both of these are under threat from some people who feel BUFORA are part of a 'nanny state' mentality.

The first principle is the Code of Practice. This was created in 1982 following a series of meetings with local groups. It was ratified by BUFORA (and later ASSAP) but hardly anyone else. By 1988 BUFORA had tightened it up and made it mandatory not just on all investigators but on all group members.

Generally, I consider the code to be a good self policing mechanism. It lays down a set of ideals for how Ufologists should deal with the public and with witnesses. Investigators can refer to it as a guide and a watchword. It cannot ever really be enforced like the law, but the fact is that it exists to remind people of the important priorities they face when investigating a case. All their actions should be taken with that uppermost in mind

I would like to see the spirit of this code better understood, explain its ethos. I also think more effort should be made by BUFORA to export the idea to other groups - both *in* the UK and abroad. Make others see its value as a set of guidelines.

One of the most difficult clauses of the code to draft was that governing the use of regression hypnosis. It eventually stressed that this controversial technique - often used to try to dredge memories of alien abduction from the deep subconscious of a witness - must only be conducted by a medically qualified practitioner. This was seen as essential when a witness suffered an epileptic attack during a session and nobody quite knew what to do.

However, even that clause was thought not strong enough when - particularly in the USA but to some degree here too - Ufologists were 'picking up' how to do hypnosis and dispensing with professionals to save time and money. Then children as young as five were being regressed in some cases. BUFORA decided to act and the NIC - our team of investigators - imposed a voluntary moratorium, effectively banning its use from 1988. We were the only group in the world to do this.

That ban is still in effect but there are moves to change the situation. Some researchers are calling for an end to the moratorium. Others are skirting round their signatures on the code of practice by doing hypnosis and then saying that the case was investigated by them via another group they belonged to (or had even set up simply to do this without breaching the rules!). Obviously this situation is heading for a crisis and a BUFORA vote will have been taken when you read this issue. I hope wise heads prevailed

In my opinion the decision is a simple matter. I can speak from direct experience. I was at one of the first ever hypnosis sessions in the UK (the Aveley abduction in 1979) and was involved in others during the early 1980's under strict medical supervision as laid down by the code of practice. I have also experienced regression several times myself so can report directly what it is like to recall a UFO sighting in this way. I was able to check out many of the 'Tacts' I retrieved Coupled with my wide reading of the medical and psychiatric literature on the subject - and my discussions with various abductees, including those who have had hypnosis and those who have not - I believe that I can offer an informed view.

- Hypnosis does not create the abduction experience. But it does confuse matters. It imposes a second 'memory strand' into the mind and there is absolutely no way to know whether this is the correct 'real' memory, just a fantasy or a mixture of both. All that you see are images popping into your head from some unknown source. They are impossible to check because nobody can establish whether the events they portray ever really occurred. However, in all experiments where a regressed memory is produced into events that can be checked at least 50% of the 'hypnotic' testimony is found to be false. At the very best hypnosis is introducing into an already confused, and controversial account a high level of non real information - the very material likely to be thought 'genuine' and to provoke fear in the witness. It will be emphasised unduly by all parties and to a real extent it is helping us forge the alien abduction experience. Whilst some of what emerges may be memory, much without question is not Hypnosis as a method of research is not valid

- If this were the only issue, then careful research would be fine. But it is not. There is mounting medical evidence that witness memories can be permanently altered by the act of hypnosis. If someone is being made to recall non real events of a traumatic nature as if they are real then this can -potentially - have a long term detrimental effect on the psychological health of that witness. The code of practice makes clear that our primary responsibility is *to* the witness. As such hypnosis can obviously work against their best interest and we should not be participating in its use. The only reason we do so is because (a) the witness asks for it, or (b) we feel it will bring out more data on the case and so make a more interesting. But the second point is a fallacy, because the data is of dubious provenance. It might make the case more exciting to the media and bring attention to the researcher. But this is clearly not our primary concern and since it conflicts with the best interests of the witness surely has to be ignored. As for the witness seeking out hypnosis this usually occurs for all the wrong reasons. They have seen it on TV or read about it in a book. Because they think it will help them feel better and remember more. Because they believe it will reveal the truth. Yet it will probably do none of these things. I have met far more abductees who felt worse alter the hypnosis than those who felt better for it. We need to be educating them about its pitfalls and not leaving them confused, with potential long term problems and moving onto the next case whilst they live with the consequences.
- There are other techniques to try to help a witness 'remember' - such as creative visualisation. This was used effectively by Northants 'abductee' Elsie Oakensen. As these are less intrusive, put the witness in control as opposed to some third party and they do not impress a magical mystique of control over their mind that hypnosis can do they are better, although they still leave the problems of making a choice between imagination and memory.
- There are too many cases brewing in which we could head for disaster. In the USA 'false memory syndrome' is provoking lawsuits by those who claim they were made to recall terrible things that never 'really' happened. It could emigrate here and enter a UFO context. Medical problems, or psychological traumas induced in a witness might lead - in a litigious society - to action being taken years later. We would be failing in our responsibility if we exploited regression for our own selfish ends without thinking of the consequences for the witness and the UFO community.

I firmly believe that UFOlogy is wrong to place so much emphasis on hypnosis. I don't think it helps in our quest for the truth. Indeed -even if it did bring forth 'real' memories of terrifying alien kidnap that were somehow blocked by our minds or some alien method -then what right do we have to dredge them forth from someone's head? We want to exorcise the story because it makes the case exciting. The witness has to live with the nightmares the process will inevitably invoke and I doubt they are ever really aware of what to expect. After all a UFOlogist will be far more eager to 'find out the truth' and move on from there to the next case. Especially those who have never seen the code of practice, let alone enforce its principles, to them the witness is a means to an end and not - as they should be - the only true concern.

My vote is that the moratorium should stay and that we should be doing more to try to encourage other UFO groups to reassess their use (or abuse) of hypnosis. Rather than worry about the few who are using hypnosis via other groups and are thus circumventing the BUFORA ban I believe we should actively seek to make these other groups see sense and follow this brave but very necessary lead.

I urged BUFORA to simply pass a motion whereby anyone doing hypnosis outside of the group should place a prominent note on the front of each case file stating BUFORA's disapproval of the method and urging the witness to think hard before undertaking it again. That will not stop any researcher who is determined enough to use it but may make witnesses and research groups reconsider their attitude in future when forced to explain this warning note.

A NEW STYLE CONFERENCE

Following on from the above story are plans afoot within British UFOlogy to organise a new style of conference. This would be along the lines of the MIT symposium into alien abductions held over a week in Massachusetts in 1992. It is anticipated that the theme of this UK event will again be the abduction mystery.

The plans were first discussed in 1993 at the launch meeting held in Manchester for 'New UFOlogist' magazine. However, ray original suggestion was to play to the UK's strengths and host this MIT event in connection with UAP - looking at the scientific evidence for earthlights, ball lightning, Meaden Vortices, electromagnetic pollution and other phenomena that might directly interact with UFOs. For various reasons this never came about

Last year I raised the matter again in my 'Sightings' column, noting that conferences have become in my opinion stale and badly need a boost. I do appreciate how groups must organise these periodic affairs so as to promote themselves and raise funds. Indeed - as I think you know - it is my policy not to charge lecture fees to UFO groups so as to help in some small way in that endeavour. However, these events really only serve that localised purpose and preach to the converted They achieve little in terms of furthering research, because in essence the same people say the same things over and over (and I do not exclude myself from that!)

Consequently, when BUFORAs Director of Investigations, Gloria Dixon, and myself were discussing ideas for the future of UFOlogy she told me that this new type of event was something she believed we needed to consider afresh. Andy Roberts had expressed similar views and the huge debate brewing over abduction cases also seemed to provide the platform needed to make this change.

A meeting to kick around ideas is being held in October. I hope to be there, but it totally depends upon the state of my mother's health. This stopped me from lecturing in Kent on 3 October and delayed this issue. However, I wanted to express my total support for the venture and explain its purpose so it does not emerge as secret plot or private enterprise. It is neither. The congress is aimed purely and simply as a sort of think tank on the future of research into this very tricky aspect of UFOlogy and - if it follows the plan I favour - will be open to all who can fulfil the attendance criteria. An explanation of these will follow.

The event is planned to be held over two or three days - probably in late 1999. Of course, mutual decisions will ultimately decide its format but if it happens as I would like then it will not be open to either a general pay at the door audience or to the media. There will be no pre publicity, no

reporters present and no effort to achieve public awareness of its existence. It will exist to do hard work and not to court the media, who would inevitably misunderstand and sensationalise its programme.

Instead, the congress will involve only those keenly involved in abduction research. That can mean UFOlogists, or witnesses, or professionals such as psychologists. If perhaps 40 people agree to sign up in advance to take part and the cost of facilities is £800 then each person will pay £20 on top of travel and accommodation. In other words this is a non profit exercise funded entirely by the participants.

I feel that wanting to be there is only step one. To take part you will need to submit an outline paper addressing at least one issue on the agenda. The organisers will decide up front the areas to be explored. Possibilities include *:-should hypnosis be used? How do we provide the correct help for abductees? How do we test specific theories of explanation?* The aim will be to make sure that each topic is given lengthy debate and ideas are widely discussed, plans get formulated and the conference ends with a strategy for future work that may take us forward into areas of new exploration of these matters.

The MIT symposium did something similar, but it had a wealthy backer to pay to invite participants and covered many question areas. I see no reason why serious, committed UFO researchers cannot fund this project themselves and - if reasonable limits are set on the questions to be embraced - can hopefully show that we are determined to try to resolve the abduction mystery through real research.

As such, those who participate will be encouraged to conduct original research prior to the event. I envisage delegates gaining an invite on the basis of one - or several - outline papers and that to present them experiments, investigations and data analyses will need to be conducted. The long gap between invite and conference is there to give these people the time and opportunity to do the research promised.

If this works it could be the most important conference in British UFO history. But only you can make it happen. Hopefully I will have more news in the next issue.

PS: I had to stop typing to field a call from a TV company in London making a 'programme on abductions'. Would I give phone numbers of 'robust' witnesses who could stand up to being grilled in a fun way? The format would be 'light' and the abductees defended on screen by noted abduction researcher Nick Pope. Nick was to be the objective 'balance'. Sadly I told the programme researcher what I thought of her plan and explained that abductions were a serious issue that needed proper assessment not the kind of farcical, fluffy chat show intended. I resisted offering home truths on the matter. But this call well illustrates the crisis point we have reached in this frankly disturbing problem of the abduction phenomenon. It is time we Ufologists took a stand against the media exploitation of the issue. I was glad I had the code of practice to fall back on here. That expressly forbade me from giving this researcher any names and addresses or, indeed, any help at all if I considered (as I did) that it would be counter the best interests of abductees 'set up' to appear on this show. Never has the need for the FT style conference been better demonstrated.

NEWS

SPI Branches Out

In a shock move earlier this year renowned Scottish UFologist Malcolm Robinson left his native land, and moved south to start a new life in London. Here he has launched *SPI England* to continue the work being carried out back up north by Billy Devlin, who now runs *SPI Scotland*. One trusts this 'alliance' will last longer than the UK itself might do given moves towards devolution!

Comings...

UFology is certainly in your blood and it is hard for most of us to let go, try as we might. As such it is good to welcome back a group that we thought had disappeared a year ago - Nottingham's EMUFORA. Tony James tells me that the East Midlands UFO Research Association are back in action. It is always good not to lose experienced workers.

...And Goings

It has been quite a summer for departures. Colonel Philip Corso, whose recent book about back engineering alien technology - "The Day After Roswell" - created much controversy reportedly died suddenly in July.

Noted BUFORA researcher, Philip Mantle, also advises that he is to retire from the subject. This is due to the serious ill health of his wife Sue and the consequent need to look after his

family. This is something I certainly respect and I wish him well and Sue a happier future.

More mysterious is the future of Dr Sue Blackmore, the psychologist often on TV ready to debunk paranormal phenomenon (In October her latest target was angels!) Sue - whose work has always earned my respect - lost out to rival sceptic, Richard Wiseman, in obtaining a major grant for 'paranormal' research. I am not clear whether this is a factor, but her lecture to the SPR - just as this issue goes to press - is intriguingly titled. Sue intends to explain why she is being forced to give up psychic research. More news on that when we have it.

The editorship of the 'house journal' of British scepticism - 'The Skeptic' - is also changing. For many years produced from Manchester by two university scientists it is moving to London in the hands of computer writer and arch debunker Wendy Grossman.

Ralph Noyes: A tribute

However, the saddest news was the death - just as the last issue was being printed - of former MoD department head 'Ralph Noyes'. I had known him for 15 years and there was no finer gentleman in British UFOlogy.

Ralph entered the fray after our 'News of the World' front page exclusive on Rendlesham in 1983. He was so stunned by the revelations that he revealed his close involvement with UK government UFO study. Ralph was a great help in the follow up of the case and was a key player in my 1996 BBC TV documentary - although he did not appear *anonymously* on that programme as - for some odd reason - leading UK writers have been alleging in public of late. Ralph - as always - made his views completely in public for me acting as the man of great integrity that he was.

He was not a believer in aliens but his 'novel' on Rendlesham, ESP, earthlights and UFOlogy ('A Secret Property') will, I suspect, one day be seen as it deserves (prophetic).

BOOK LINES

I am pleased that I was able to insert (literally at the last moment) a dedication to Ralph Noyes in my new book *'Something in the Air'* - published by Robert Hale on 2 October. It concerns the huge rise in numbers of mid air encounters between aircraft and UFOs. Ralph was once again a big help to me in unravelling RAF encounters for the chapter on these events.

Also just published is Albert Budden's new hardback from Cassell called *'Electric UFOs'*. This greatly expands upon his electromagnetic pollution theory. Albert recently got very displeased about the coverage of his theory by one British writer (not me). But I will now think hard before I review this one!

UFO Revelation is the book from Tim Matthews on secret aircraft technology, also published by Cassell and due around Christmas.

About the same time Piatkus have made the strange decision to publish a book by Ann Druffel, the American Ufologist. This is odd not because it is a bad book or Ann is a poor researcher. Neither is true. But the subject matter is certain to incite many people once they learn that the title is *'How to defend yourself against alien abduction'*. It comprises a series of chapters offering ways to prevent alien kidnap with names like 'protective rage' and 'righteous anger'. Frankly the media are going to have enormous run with this one and that is my real concern. How will it effect our serious image?

Mind you there is good news. From the proof copy I have read this is going to be a weighty tome. As such I can envisage a new do-it-yourself technique we might employ. When confronted by a hostile gray in your room late at night, ensure that you have taken this volume as bedside reading. Carefully aim for the apparently very flimsy insect like frame of the ET and practice your fast ball. I have it on good authority that grays know nothing about baseball and are quite likely to be flattened by this direct method of attack. At the very least this experiment will solve an old problem - do UFOs go clang if you hit them? We may well discover if aliens go squelch! On the other hand it will at least prove to those debunkers that abductions are not 'all in the mind' because you can hand over the alien DMA encrusted 'weapon' and turn over the body for forensic analysis. I doubt there is even a law for ET murder (Grayicide?) . But why can I not help thinking somehow that this 'defensive tactic' just is not going to work?

NICK ON NICK

Nick Pope is so widely visible these days that he naturally features in many of our stories. But thanks to Nick Redfern for conveying news of recent discussions with the MoD man Nick (P) is presently engaged in a two book deal to write an epic novel about aliens on earth and how the dear old MoD might react.

This is not - as you might imagine - to call their spaceships weather balloons, claim the grays are 'figments of the imagination' and go run and hide in a nuclear bunker. It would be a pretty short book if so. I get the impression that Air Staff 2A will make Bruce Willis look like a wimp and there is the lucrative movie market and the prospect of a sequel to think about. After all there are only so many true life books about boring old UFO cases you can write (I know -I've written most of them). I did toy with this story about how the editor of Northern UFO News uncovers a dastardly invasion by civil servants who brainwash the public into thinking that Tony Blair runs the country when in truth they do. Oops, better not give too much away.

Anyhow, Nick's epic is called *Operation Thunder child'* for release in about a year (part two in 2001). *'Forget Independence Day. This is how it would really happen.'* we are promised. He further teases by noting that there are many things he can say in a story that he could not put into none fiction. Then, in reply to a question from Nick (R) as to whether he was prevented from saying certain things in his 'true' books Nick (P) adds - *'Even to you, I really can't comment on that.'* Yes, Sir Humphrey.

Then, Nick (P) strayed into even more fascinating territory - noting that his views on MoD UFO involvement have changed lately. He is now *'a little bit more inclined to think'* that *"there could be more to it"* because of certain things in the MoD stance during recent times. He must *'be careful with every single word I say, because I know that every word, every sentence will be picked over by Ufologists. the MoD, and, er, a number of other agencies.'*

Nick (P) would not be drawn further. But he put Nick (R) in touch with a defence specialist who reported that it was *'extremely strange'* that the MoD had gone to great trouble aiding the BBC in filming *'Invasion Earth'* - a recent mediocre TV series about aliens at war with the RAF! It seems this was discussed *'at the highest level within the MoD'*. Having seen this pretty dire series I'm not surprised. It seems however, this co-operation was very unexpected

MAJOR ARTICLES ELSEWHERE

All is quiet on the newsagent scene with the crashing of the bandwagon. The field is now left to the 'old stagers' after the new style magazines have packed up and gone home.

Fortean Times is still there every month with its quirky style. Highlights have included pieces on microwave technology and synesthesia (feeling sounds) (Aug 113), Ex CIA man and Ufologist Karl Pflock becomes the latest to demolish Roswell (Sep. 114). Then there's an excellent look at recent cases of 'the hummadruzz citing some 'species of parochial magazine' (according to an old FT) called Northern UFO News plus a reassessment of the Aurora, Texas, spaceship crash (Oct, 115). What I cannot resist noting - however - is that FT hypes these crash saucer reports but when reviewing my book 'UFO Retrievals' (doing much the same thing in 1996) the words 'double ' and 'standard' flash to mind. Back then their UFO guru Peter Brookesmith (he of the above quote about NUN - 'a magazine I never read') said it was sensationalist, unobjective trash. Ergo - so is FT and don't you dare buy it!!'

Also still going strong is the bi-weekly Marshall Cavendish 'part work' - The X Factor (as opposed to the Ex Factor - which all the other mags like Sightings have now become). It has really dispensed with much pretence at being an 'encyclopedia' and is more of a typical but high quality UFOs, aliens and conspiracies version of FT. It still attracts some good writers. 39 (interview with Jacques Vallee, Paul Devereux on US straight line marks, JR on 'Star Children'), 40 (Denis Stacy beneath the skin of Blue Book, Anthony North on cults), 41 (interview with Doc Shiels, analysis of last December's Norfolk UFO video, JR on the problems of investigating hoaxes), 42 (Anthony North on the nature of mind, Belgian waffle on the triangles), 43 & 44 (Area 51 and Dulce bases assessed), 45 (Jean Ritchie talks about her own book investigating the controversial alien abduction claim of a teenage boy from Kent), 46 (interview with 'Fire in the Sky' abductee Travis Walton and Peter Hough on fatal UFO attacks)

Magonia 63/64 (Editor., J.Rimmer).

63 (May): Are crashed UFOs linked to Christian myth? Psychopathology & Nazi UFOs. 64: (Aug) Some stuff way above my head about grays and Gods. Sorry I can't be more specific.

Whilst Magonia has one of its heady literary fugues (meaning you need an English Literature degree to follow it), the associated monthly *ETH Bulletin* from John Harney is thankfully accessible to all and well worth your time. Recent issues have probed the migraine / close encounter link, the search for multi witness cases and the importance

of the Levelland affair - all of which I totally back as keys to UFOlogy.

Abduction Watch (ed. Kevin McClure)

This has fast become an indispensable dose of cold air. Don't miss it if you care about serious research. In this issue Kevin debates regression at length and critiques the 'Nazi UFOs' theme

UFO News (Lancs. UFO Society)

New joint venture with Eric Morris's BUSC has much from Tim Matthews on secret aircraft technology. Area 51, etc. to whet your appetite for his forthcoming book on the theme.

OVNI (PRA)

Reports ongoing sightings from the East Midlands - including a truly weird one (May/June) in which a creature like a cross between a locust and a bat was seen!

Strange Daze (ed. D Newton)

Wowie! This one loves to hit hard but it is quite fascinating to read. Mind you I would not dare publish its article on the involvement of Nazi politics in British UFOlogy. Albert Budden also takes a scalpel to the lives of several well known British abductees to show how their backgrounds fit his EM theory. From next issue Strange Daze might have to be renamed Writs are Us.

Strange Phenomena Scotland

The new team (Billy Devlin & Brian Allen) quickly exorcise the ghost of Malcolm Robinson. Excellently put together and full of Scottish cases and status reports across a wide range of topics. SPI is in clearly excellent hands.

Phenomenal News (SEMR)

Interesting report on lecture by Scottish abductee Gary Wood plus some Ball Lightning cases.

IUFOPRA August 98

Easily the most sense to come out of Whitehall (!) - the Irish one reports UFOs, ghosts, ESP etc.

Cropwatcher 31 Summer 98

Never thought I'd see the day when Pat Delgado wrote for Crop watcher. But it's here. His piece on 'energies' shows well the broader spirit of the mag under its new editor, as does an article on lucid dreaming. But CW is still recognisable with its 'rumours', humour and comment by Terence Meaden (yes he is still around)) on an intriguing new case from Romania. Good stuff.

The Voice

What can you say about this? Barry King sends it out every two months - provided his implant from covert Project Mannequin allows, or he has not met too many MIBs. Full of snips and snaps, nod nod, wink, wink style hints on conspiracies and the undercurrent of UFO secrecy You'll either be wowed by it or you'll giggle but you won't ignore it Seriously weird stuff.

MUFON Journal May 98 (USA)

Under new editor Dwight Connelly. A fascinating 1998 interview with Socorro witness Lonnie Zamora which enhances his credibility.

UFO Historical Review (USA)

Barry Greenwood's new venture replaces Just Cause, but is just as good. Focuses on some WW II UFO cases from America and in future issues will reassess and ferret out early UFO evidence.

Dead of Night May 98

The sort of magazine HP Lovecraft might edit from his tomb. Lots of weird tales of monsters, gnostics, ghoulies and Bidston Hill.

Folklore Frontiers 33 (editor P Screeton)

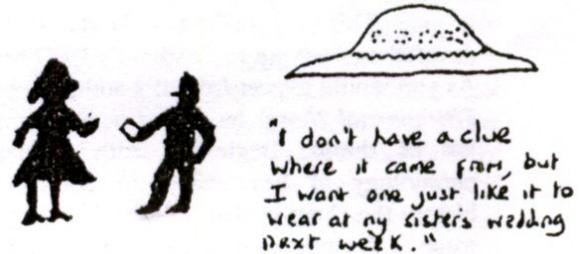
Lots of press clips and folk tales, but my fave has to be the wonderfully argued claim that dozens of clapped out steam trains are stuck in a tunnel on MoD orders as a reserve in case of nuclear war. The tunnel just happens to be the very same one (near Rudloe Manor in Wiltshire) from whence secret UFO activity is also supposed to go on. All we need now is a sighting of a gray abducting someone onto a rusty old BR freight loco and there's my next book - *Close Encounters of the Choo Choo Kind*. All aboard

Rattler's Tale (editor Anthony North)

Nice to see Tony fulfilling his dream. I gather he has a new book on the paranormal out too, but NUN rarely gets review copies from publishers these days. As always Rattlers is full of readers fiction and faction and the occasional odd tale.

IUR Summer 98 (USA)

Roswell back in the balance again! Excellent analyses seem to show that the Mogul balloon could *not* be to blame. Also features my detailed response to the new James Easton 'demolition' of Rendlesham, Another parrot not yet deceased



Borderlands

**516 pp paperback by Mike Dash
£6.99 B&W ills. Arrow Books**

You won't find a better bargain than this all year. A huge tome by the Fortean Times publisher which covers pretty well every peculiar topic you can imagine from abductions to sightings of the zeugoldon. There are even 60 densely packed pages of notes and references alone giving the book a hugely authoritative feel.

This is not a reference book or attempt to describe the evidence for 'mysteries'. In some respects it is fairly haphazard and ranges over questions and phenomena in a rather loose structure. But that often adds to the fun. In many ways it has something of the famous Colin Wilson book - "The Occult" - about it. That was a title I found very influential in my early days. I wish this book had been around then instead as an introduction to this crazy world of ours.

Borderlands is very much a personal position statement by the author expressing with excellent prose and sharp insight the highs and lows of numerous debates. He sees the excitement and drama as well as the riddles and outstanding questions. But he also sees what many others do not - the gaping holes in theories and cases. MiJce Dash always tells it as he finds it and I greatly admire him as so few do that

You won't agree with all his thoughts or conclusions, but will have huge fun following his arguments and weighing up in your head what you do concur with and what you do not. Indeed in his chapter or two on UFOs he provides more good sense than in most full books. *Borderlands* is a sheer delight to read and I unreservedly recommend that at this price you snap it up.

Randles Rating 85%

***UFOs: The Scottish Dimension 174 pp Softback
by Ron Halliday £8.50 (post inc) Scottish
Paranormal Press***

This - I believe - is the first book devoted exclusively to Scotland's UFO heritage. As you would expect from it's author (who edits *Phenomenal News*) he makes a very creditable job of things. Beginning with a map and chronology of key events in Scottish UFO history the chapters that follow take you through some of the most impressive cases in detail

As such there are reports on the Livingston case, Bonnybridge, the remarkable 1984 Blairgowrie episode (first reported in NUN at the time but here updated considerably), various abductions, the Isle of Lewis explosion, even Cedric Allingham (although minus the recent NUN update). There are

also, of course, many cases with which you will not be familiar.

Aside from reporting on the investigation into so many diverse UFO sightings there is a fascinating chapter detailing a statistical analysis of Scottish UFO activity. Overall you get a very good impression of how UFOlogy manifests in this nation.

It goes out without saying that no Scottish Ufologist could possibly consider not buying this book, but if you don't live north of the border and fail to read it then you'll be missing a real treat Books by UFOlogists written *for* UFOlogists are getting rarer these days when publishers seem only interested in what will sell. Show your support for this invaluable effort

Randles Rating 75%

***The Hynek UFO Report
290 pp Photos Softback by Dr J Allen Hynek
£10.99 Souvenir Press***

There is nobody like Allen Hynek today. A space scientist convinced of UFO reality, but unsure what they are, cautious yet open minded and applying scientific principles. No wonder he is regarded as a father of modern UFOlogy. I was fortunate to know him during the last years before his death in 1986 and I can honestly say that without his memory I doubt I'd still be doing what I do, because, sadly, most of modern UFOlogy does no credit to his memory.

This book was first written at the time when the Freedom of Information Act in the USA released the Project Blue Book files. Hynek was scientific advisor and his personal insight into key cases is without parallel. You will find much that will delight and intrigue as Blue Book is full of non famous cases of great import. It is also a treat to read about real UFOs without an abduction in sight Allen never really took to them with no hard evidence in support So - if you have no copy of the 1977 original or indeed don't even know who Allen Hynek is don't hesitate to buy this book. It is not his best, but still far better than much of what appears today. A new short intro by Jacques Vallee is included

Randles Rating 80%

Also Available:-

'*Flying Saucers: Secret History!*' is a 17 pp A4 monogram by Tim Matthews discussing evidence for the use of secret military aircraft for reconnaissance and psychological warfare purposes post 1945 Many - he contends - resemble and are reported as UFOs. Available for £3 post inc (Generous bulk order discounts are available to booksellers).

Also out is the paperback edition of Nick Pope's investigation of abduction cases - '*The Uninvited*' - reviewed last year in hardback. The 'Peter and Jenny' story is still there - making the book's subtitle a little ironic ('an expose of the alien abduction phenomenon') But, as I said last year, it still remains Nick's best writing to date and is a far better book than 'Open Skies'. However, (p.82) I should point out that I did not impose the BUFORA moratorium on hypnosis as Nick here infers. I may have suggested it but the AI's democratically voted for it. The BUFORA investigation team has always done things that way - unlike some pans of the parent group sadly! This 316 pp paperback costs £6.99 and is published by Pocket Books

INVESTIGATIONS

I was recently interviewed by James Whale on Talk Radio and he commented that several British Ufolk had told him that I upset them. Who me? Never! Why was this? Because, it appears, I denigrate witnesses by coming up with explanations for what they saw. What did I have to say about that - Moby Dick harpooned?

We have come to a pretty pass if attempting to find answers to UFO sightings is now regarded as a bad thing. Even though it is obvious this will offend some folk out there I am afraid this part of NUN will continue to report sightings, their investigation and suggest reasonable theories of explanation if they present themselves. This does not mean I know all the answers - I don't. Nor does it mean that I believe all cases are solvable. I don't Nor - in my view - does it demean witnesses to try to resolve an encounter. That is precisely what we are here for.

The day UFOlogy stops remembering that at least 95% of all sightings do have rational solutions is the day when UFOlogy becomes superstitious clap trap. That must never happen.

Black pool Light Show

An interesting tale comes from Mr T of Poulton-Le-Fylde near Blackpool. It happened in the early hours of 22 September 199, amidst the spate of 'flying triangles' allegedly associated with the BAe plant at Warton. T says that his parents sleep in a downstairs bedroom and at 1 am his mother was woken by the dog, sitting up on the bed staring outside. As she 'came to' it was clear the dog was visible because a security light had come on outside She went to look, saw nothing, but realised that the light was not switching off automatically as it should do. Mrs T had also realised that the clock on the microwave was indicating a recent power cut. Her husband went to the garage and cut the security light off at the mains to prevent it shining all night.

Meanwhile Mr T was upstairs with a girlfriend watching a video. At, 00.20 the screen had briefly gone snowy then returned to normal. His clock alarm began flashing to prove the power cut. However, he is puzzled by the 'selective' nature of the failures. His parent's clock radio did not display any false time and the downstairs TV and VCR were unaffected. The witness had given this matter little thought until discovering that a woman in Orkney Road, Blackpool, had written to the local press to describe a 'triangle of lights' in the sky at 01.45. Was there a connection he asks - especially after learning that UFOs can cause electrical effects.

Here's where I offend readers. I suspect this is a case that looks more mysterious than it is. Whilst there have been reports of EM effects in connection with Lancashire triangle sightings the report from Orkney Road was, in fact, of a UFO seen on 19 September not the same night Moreover, the selectivity may not be all it seems.

On 28 September 1997 the same thing occurred in Dove Holes four times between 23.15 and midnight. Only the village was effected. The power company blamed 'local power interruptions' - not rare at 1000 ft! Lights and power went off briefly. The security light 'jammed'. The microwave put up gibberish and had to be reset. One VCR needed resetting. My other (a more modem model) did not. That may be because some microprocessor circuits can cope with power outages whilst others fail. Some VCRs have a back up to prevent all your holiday settings being disrupted when you are away if you have the misfortune to suffer a short power cut. Older models tend not to do. Sometimes it does pay to try to find explanations.

In my book 1995 'UFO Retrievals' (yes - the one Peter Brookesmith detested!) I told the story of a UFO that landed at Cosford near Wolverhampton in the West Midlands in late 1963 (p 92 - 5). Two boy trainees at this training camp claim it came down and opened a door as did a railway worker. The base priest supported them but it was dismissed by the MoD as a steam train (no doubt heading for hiding in that tunnel near Rudloe). Data on the case from the PRO files was presented by Nick Redfern in his book 'A Covert Agenda' last year. But three new leads have come to light

The first is the most difficult to discuss. This is in order to protect the witness who is covered by the Official Secrets Act and would be very easy to locate if I said too much. Suffice it to say that I have met this witness - A - and am 100% convinced of their sincerity.

A was in the military at the time of the event and had cause to visit Cosford regularly in the aftermath of the incident and did encounter the 'boy entrants' who might possibly be involved in the sighting but knew nothing directly of the events at that time.

A notes that aside from being a training camp Cosford then had other interesting features. It was a major 'supply dump' similar to the airfield at Burtonwood near Warrington. This Cheshire base was long associated with UFO sightings, paranormal activity and alleged underground complexes as I found (and reported in NUN) when I lived nearby between 1980 and 1987. The rumours were rife in connection with Burtonwood that nuclear weapons were being stored there and the sighting of unmanned helicopter flights and unusually strict security (guarding what was supposed to be tinned food!) led to local protest marches and arrests,

A tells me that the Cosford case might seem odd because the base was apparently insignificant. Unlike Roswell (1947) and Bentwaters (1980) there was no nuclear weapons storage. Of course, the existence of nuclear weapons at Bentwaters was flatly denied in the early 1980's when Brenda, Dot and I were wandering around the woods seeking evidence. Now we know that was another MoD lie. So too may it have been at Cosford. A describes a hangar kept under permanent guard and unexpectedly air conditioned with two ready to fly Canberra aircraft on permanent stand by. For various reasons it seems possible these were covertly equipped with nuclear capability.

A has added much more of interest - including identifying the location on base where the incident occurred (now known as Hangar 13)

and how all personnel were 'turfed out' from here in early 1964 for no apparent reason. Also two 'boy entrants' were identified who might potentially have been the landing witnesses having been given a 'carrot' to keep them quiet

I then received a letter from B who was aged 8 around the time of the incident B lived at a housing estate near Cannock (just to the east of Cosford) and recalls a bizarre event as he walked home from shops and passed a mobile fish & chip van. A 'toy flying saucer' crashed out of the sky to the south-west (that is towards Cosford). It was grey 'like plastic or metal painted with matt paint', circular but with a flat base and rounded top. It made a noise as it hit the ground, but did not bounce as a toy might

B recalls how one woman looked and followed as the object now moved across the road under its own power as if on wheels. The 'UFO' seemed to shadow people, moving and stopping in their wake as they walked. This gave B the impression it was under intelligent control. B then left to go home with the object still 'observing' the fish & chip crowd. Only much later did the anomalous nature of the event hit home and he wished he had investigated further.

This area has generated many other odd events. In 'UFO Retrievals' I report the bizarre sighting from nearby Albrighton of a man called Don who - as a child - was interrogated by RAF intelligence officers from Cosford. The famous abduction of three women from their car at Telford in July 1981 also occurred quite nearby.

Now Dave Pointon (BUFORA AI for the area) has revealed a new case on 4 December 19%. The object - seen by two men from the M54/A44 junction area was above RAF Cosford. It was described as 'lights moving erratically around a stationary bright white rectangular tight with two pencil thick lines which appeared to divide it into three sections.' Then a matt black triangle with green lights on it headed NE to SW which hovered above displaying a pulsing white light. As it travelled with them overhead they could see that the white light was inside a 'dome'. Hours later both awoke feeling weak and sick. One had a sensation of being 'choked'. That morning RAF Cosford were called. They claimed to be shut at that late hour but the receptionist confided that she had seen something similar six months before. RAF Cosford then called back twice to take detailed accounts of the sighting (for an official report?)

October 15 1996 23.20 Beswick, Manchester

Another flying triangle sighting. This was reported via Jodrell Bank from a woman (K) whom I spoke with. She wanted no publicity. K was playing on her computer when she heard a noise like an aircraft - low but with odd sounds mixed in. She looked outside and saw a large triangle overhead with 'a globe in the bottom of each corner' and "silver studded lights inside'. It was heading towards Droylsden. She awoke her son and both went immediately to the sky light. This gave a panoramic view but - just seconds later - there was now no sign of the object.

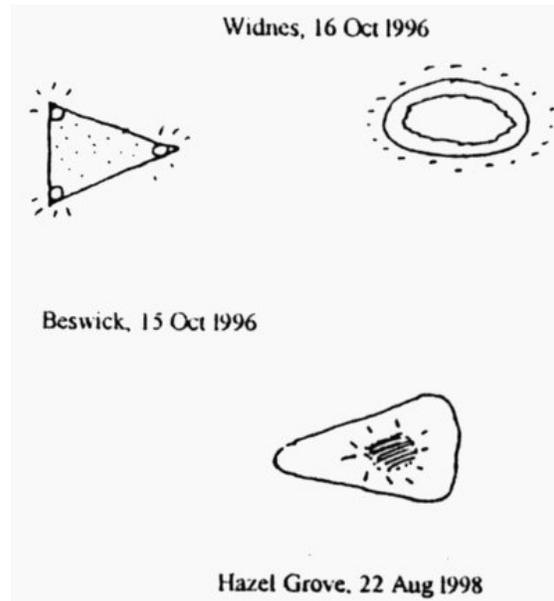
October 16 1996 21.10 Widnes, Cheshire

Witness S (aged 37) called Jodrell and I spoke with her the morning after this sighting. Suspecting she might have seen a laser light show I asked her this but she insisted she had seen them before and this was different. Their lights were 'wishy washy' whereas this one was too big, low and strong. There was also a clear sky so no cloud to reflect from. Suspecting a weather phenomenon S had called the met office before Jodrell and they had confirmed her view although they did mention the laser idea.

I asked MARA to investigate and Tony Eccles and Mark Rosney followed up the case. S was with a friend and her daughter when the object - a 'white circle' / halo with a 'hollow centre' that was 'spinning round and moving*' in the North East. They pursued it and turned a corner to see it 'sweep past' again. This occurred several times until they got tired of the chase and went home.

Dr Terence Meaden provided accurate weather data. He concurred meteorology was unlikely to be a factor, although as rain had fallen at Manchester Airport at 19.00 it is likely that skies were partly cloudy not fully clear.

Mark Rosney provided the key. A laser searchlight *was* identified as being operated from St Helens around the time in question. He saw it from Widnes on 14 October and it was NE from the position of these witnesses. Mark suspects that they had a restricted view because of the town centre buildings that surrounded them and so only saw part of the 'circuit' of the sky made by this projected oval. As such the witnesses saw the more peculiar looking *UFO' sweeping across their path, then vanishing as it was blocked by a building, but reappearing later when they turned a corner and brought it back into view. This case is a most instructive one.

**Hazel Grove. 22 Aug 1998 23.46, Cheshire**

J was another caller to Jodrell Bank whom I spoke with. Once more it is a sighting of that by now all too familiar flying triangle. He was crossing the A 6 south east of Stockport near Alma Lodge when a flash of light attracted his attention. Looking up he saw a 'triangle with the ends taken off that had a very distinct amber glow on the underside'. It was heading slowly from NW to SE.

At first J suspected that the object was so low that it was reflecting the sodium from street lamps - hence the glow. But he quickly dismissed this idea, realising that instead it had to be too high for that possibility to make sense. He could hear no obvious sound, except for a 'very faint hum'. But he could not be sure where this sound was coming from. Although he was outside (in the middle of the A 6) it was relatively late. There is still traffic even at that time (as I can attest - living within earshot of this road - JR!) but J says it was not enough to have blocked any aircraft like noise.

The object was in view about 20 seconds and disappeared towards Marple Whaley Bridge (scene of another famed case involving a British Airways jet). From this location aircraft going into Manchester are easily visible crossing the sky at around 1000 ft on final approach, but this flightpath is in the opposite direction to that observed by J. But he did call Ringway to report the incident that night. They claimed to have nothing logged. The police were also disinterested J suspects he saw a 'stealth bomber'. Not likely over Stockport

The Roswell Autopsy Footage The reel starts to unwind?

As readers of NUN will know I have not been the greatest fan of BUFORA's decision to be closely involved in the promotion of the Roswell alien autopsy footage. It split UFOlogy in 1995 and was one reason for my estrangement from the group. The footage was bought by rock video promoter Ray Santilli, supposedly from the now elderly cameraman in the USA. and sold for considerable sums to the media around the world BUFORA despite having no opportunity to check its authenticity, built their August 1995 Sheffield conference around its 'world premier' Days later it was released as a commercial video and to global TV. The arguments about its credibility have raged since with a remarkable array of Ufologists - including most supporters of the Roswell crash - seemingly unwilling to consider it bona fide and assuming that Ray Santilli was taken in and sold a pup.

One big Santilli ally has been Philip Mantle - who ousted me as Director of Investigations shortly before this all blew up. He worked with Santilli. was probably the reason BUFORA got their exclusive 'dear and has written a book that seems to favour the footage, using many stills from it. A few months ago Philip announced his retirement from UFOlogy owing to his wife's ill health. But in the November issue of BUFORA's magazine he departs with a shock verdict. It seems that he now has major doubts on the film after a man came to him this summer and professed to have been given the 'tent footage' some time ago by a rock video film studio in Milton Keynes. This company is now out of business but UFO films had allegedly been made at their facilities.

I - and other BUFORA officers - were invited to a film studio in Milton Keynes in 1993 to make a UFO video. I received no payment for this venture as it was done to promote BUFORA. *I must clearly stress - of course - that this may not be the same studio now implicated in this Roswell affair.* But the tent footage was on the sequel to that video - made without me after I left BUFORA - Mantle seems puzzled as to how it got there. It may odiously be a total coincidence that a Milton Keynes studio features in both events and *I must emphasise that I do not suggest any complicity by that location or by BUFORA* or indeed that any part was involved in fakery. There is no proof of that. But if Ray Santilli was a pawn in a complex game then BUFORA's role in all this needs thought The tent footage is the first material Ray Santilli says that he obtained in the USA from the mystery cameraman. It is poor quality and -whilst seen often by Ufologists - has rarely featured on TV. The more famous and better quality autopsy shots

are the ones familiar to most and supposedly show the autopsy of a body featured in the 'tent footage' at the Roswell site.

Santilli has admitted that he sent the tent footage to a Milton Keynes studio to be 'cleaned' when he first obtained it. They sent it back with the 'alien' scenes on it. When he took this to the USA to show the cameraman (and obtain from him the better autopsy footage) the witness allegedly did not recognise the tent scenes he was shown. Thus, being unsure of the provenance of the tent material returned by the Milton Keynes studio, Santilli says he has always cautioned the media against using it. Santilli seems to have his own suspicions that the company might have 'played games' - if perhaps the original shots had revealed little or nothing after clean up. But he has no proof and notes that if this company did fake the footage it is odd that they have never tried to claim credit

Santilli stands by the main autopsy footage and says this Milton Keynes company never received it so could not have even theoretically tampered with the best evidence. Philip Mantle has tracked the directors of the Milton Keynes studio. They have so far failed to answer his letters. A major TV expose on 'UFO hoaxes' (allegedly including new claims on the autopsy film) is due to appear very soon in the USA, BUFORA have thus taken the decision to make public all that they know on this topic. Time will tell where it leads. But the sound you hear may be chickens coming home to roost

Northern UFO Network Groups in Region

SPI Scotland	Linlithgow
SPI England	Ealing, London
SEMR	Bridge of Allan
SRUFO	East Calder
NUFORI	Newcastle
Connect	Ilkley
NLUFOIG	Morecombe
LUFOS	Lancaster
LAPIS	Blackpool
MARA	Liverpool
NARO*	Gatley
Dragon	Staffs Moor
PRA	Derby
EMUFORA	Hucknall
SUFOG	Rugdey
Federation IUFOFRA	Dublin, Ireland