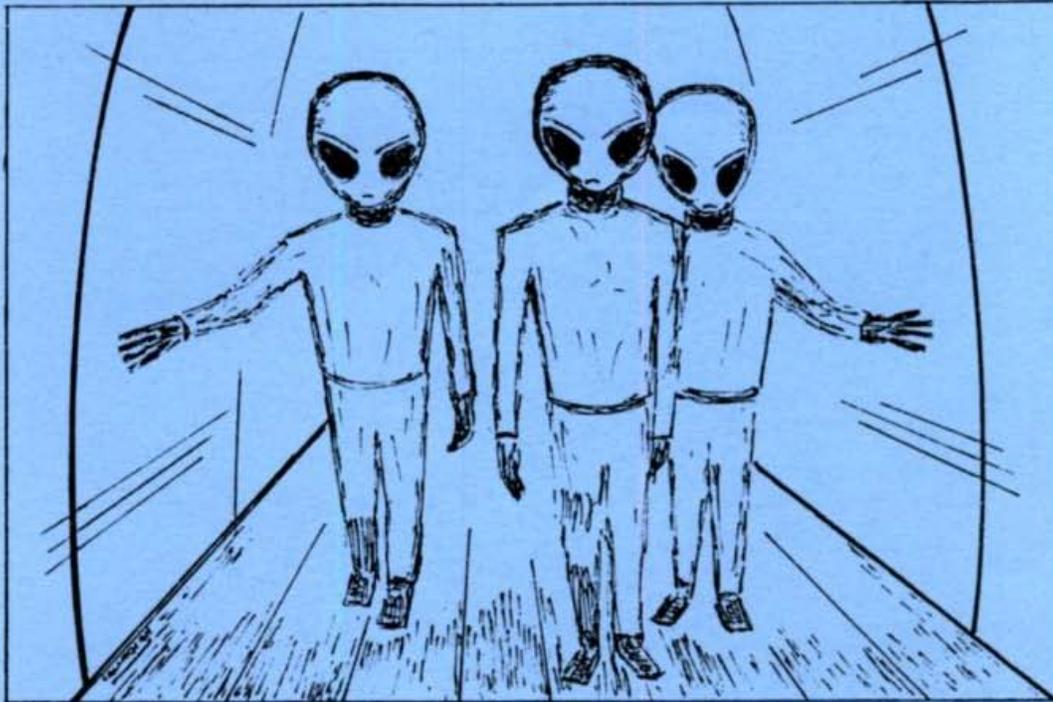


NORTHERN UFO NEWS

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J R Comments:

Such has become the level of interest in UFOs of late that it pops up in the most unexpected places these days. Within a few weeks during November 1998 British Television illustrated the highs and lows of popular interpretation of the UFO mystery. This came about through two of the nations best loved TV drama series that wrote the subject into then-story lines in a big way.

The more typical of the two was the otherwise quirky BBC drama 'Ballykissangel' set in a fictional Irish village. Here a Ufologist arrived at the expected point of a coming close encounter having predicted the next landing site from various daft calculations. He was, of course, dismissed as an idiot with some wonderfully witty lines. Explaining that the electricity in the air meant that 'meteorologically we are go' he was greeted with the retort 'psychologically you've been gone for a while'.

The Ufologist was deliberately portrayed as a first class loony - although he got the last laugh when the UFO turned up -unfortunately when only he was left to see it. But why does TV always have to view UFO enthusiasts as anorak wearing, mentally challenged trainspotters. There are sober, intelligent Ufologists out there - somewhere!

There is an amusing coincidence connected with BallyK. Here's where I enter name drop overdrive, so do forgive me. A few years ago I was in Ireland making a TV chat show. A fellow guest was the actor Brian Blessed. We got on so well and he was so interested in the paranormal that we agreed to share a car and drive across country to where he had another engagement. As we drove through the mountain countryside seen on TV we chatted about UFOs and the hours flew by.

The conversation turned to James Ellis, an actor friend that Brian had worked with for years on the TV series 'Z Cars'. As I told him James had more recently appeared in the series 'One by One' based on the real life exploits of the zoo vet at Belle Vue near my home in Manchester in the era it was set (the 60's). I delivered newspapers around there at the time. So - no prizes for guessing which actor has just played the nutty Ufologist chasing lights in the Irish countryside around 'Ballykissangel'. Yes, the very same James Ellis.

But the first TV series off the mark three weeks before BallyK was the ITV show 'Heartbeat' - based on the real life stories of a country policeman in the North Pennines during the 1960's. The 'Constable' books by Nick Rhea that spawned this show are published by Robert Hale, the same company for whom I have written UFO books during the past 20 years - including my most recent ('Something in the Air').

In 1995 'Heartbeat' featured an episode in which one of the cast was abducted from his police patrol car. This was based upon the real life case of Yorkshire policeman Alan Godfrey (see 'The Pennine UFO Mystery'). The story was treated well and, I understand, the writer did actually contact Godfrey for advice.

In the recent episode that story line was referred back to, but it was not integral to the plot. Instead a series of UFO sightings occurred in the Pennines where a swooping object silently crossed the sky terrifying farmers and the like. Then a body of a missing cyclist was found on the moors complete with a strange bum mark. Needless to say aliens were soon the subject of local discussion.

The body with the strange burn is, of course, another feature of 'The Pennine UFO Mystery' - in which the tragic death of Zigmund Adamski features strongly. That real life case was unresolved but in 'Heartbeat' it was somewhat different - no UFOs or aliens, it was all caused by an electric fire!

Of course, the Adamski and Godfrey stories are publicly well known and much press coverage has followed. But the other main feature of the new 'Heartbeat' show was what made me pay close attention. For the series of sightings recreated on screen seemed very familiar. Then, when the crusty ex sergeant decided to mount his own investigation into the case and set up a skywatch on a hilltop at the expected time of the next sighting I suddenly realised what was about to happen!

I was right. The sergeant explained to his bemused colleagues (and no doubt to the bafflement of most viewers) what this UFO really was. It was a cargo plane coming from Scotland that was 'gliding' over the moors. Naturally, the reaction 'planes don't glide' was issued by dumbfounded coppers and the plot line was rather rapidly dismissed as the episode came to a close. But I was smiling profoundly, knowing that there was only one possible source for *this* plot line. It was yet again the basis of a chapter in 'The Pennine UFO Mystery'

Readers of that book may recall the Air Cargo 101 saga that I outline in detail. There were repeated sightings over the Pennines of a swooping, silent object that frightened fanners. The origin was solved by a very clever skywatch exercise that we set up at NARO. This included a police sergeant acting as a UFO investigator and a monitor we were granted at a local airport radar tower. The culprit was conclusively identified as a cargo flight from Scotland across the Pennines by a still well known airline whom I chose not to identify because they were breaking aviation regulations.

I had not discussed this case elsewhere (although by coincidence I do mention it in my introduction to Tim Matthews just about to be published book). This remarkable resolution to a set of sightings was unique to the superb research by NARO. The similarities written into 'Heartbeat' were hard to view as coincidence. There was no reasonable doubt that the NARO investigation was being dramatised.

So, I wrote to Yorkshire TV to ask why no credit was offered for this clear use of real life work and the producer confirmed two important things. Firstly that the writer of this episode and the abduction story in 1995 came from the very place where these Pennine cases happened. Secondly, that he *had* indeed based his story on real events but could not recall where he learnt about them - but did not think it was 'Pennine UFO Mystery'. In other words, go away.

Wherever this story has appeared it *must* have referred to the NARO case study because nobody else did the work. The two 'Heartbeat' episodes feature three specific stories on UFOs all from the Pennine book with very unusual features - especially in regard to the gliding cargo plane from Scotland This YTV excuse seems a 'cop out' (if you pardon the pun).

Of course, there is little NARO can do. Justice is such that BUFORA were once sued by a UFOlogist over an article written by a Manchester Evening News reporter even though the group did not see his piece until *after* it was in print and complained immediately about its satirical tone. That writer was *not* even censured and still writes for the paper. In contrast here the excellent work of NARO is not only turned into a TV drama out of which large sums of money will be made but not a jot of credit is offered.

Serious work by UFOlogists brings us no recognition - just look how credit over crop circles was hijacked TV portrays UFOlogists as moronic clowns. It is little wonder that all scruples are fast disappearing in our subject.

NEWS

East Midlands group disbands

Shortly after announcing that they were back in action, EMUFORA - the East Midlands UFO Research Association - decided just before Christmas to close for good Tony James explained that 'I have not lost interest in the subject' but disbanding EMUFORA will give him more time to do his own research. Tony promises any interesting reports from the Nottingham area that come his way will be sent to NUN. I wish him well with his research.

Project FT seeks data

NUN reader Victor Kean reports on Project FT - a computer data base he is operating into sightings of the flying triangles. He already has 7000 cases and hopes to add more in a quest to 'track the black triangular shaped UFO across Europe'. What he is seeking is the possibility of FT entrance and exit windows.

Hill Norton on the offensive

Thanks to Nick Redfem for news of the offensive by Lord Peter Hill Norton, ex chief of staff of the MoD and pal to the UFO movement. On 19 November he asked the Ministry how many UFO files they have, as opposed to files stored by the PRO (Public Record Office) for release in batches (30 years late) each January. Lord Gilbert responded for the MoD that there were 76 files dating from 1985 to 1998. These came from the familiar source of Air Staff 2A (Nick Pope's old office). But Hill Norton was gunning for news of other data - for example files appertaining to those covert departments known to also become involved in UFO study (e.g. DI 55 and DSTT). Gilbert admitted there were 'some files' held by 'other divisions or establishments' but that none could be made publicly available. In fact, Gilbert added, their precise nature and content could not even be identified on the grounds that there are not sufficient funds available to attempt such a task. So now you know - it's not a cover up of guilty secrets but of MoD poverty. Maybe Nick Pope could give them a sub from his royalties!

1999 Coming attractions: Books & TV

Northern UFO News Page 4

Tim Matthews book 'UFO Revelation' (Cassell) is due for February release at £9.99. So watch out for that

Although there is likely to be a wind down of UFO titles compared with previous years, there are still several things in the offing as the Millennium beckons. Here is what I know about so far.

In the summer Nick Redfern's 'Cosmic Crashes' will appear from Simon & Schuster (as implied it's about crash retrieval cases). The same publisher has in the autumn part one of the Nick Pope's new two book saga - 'Operation Thunderchild'. This is the brave tale of how the MoD would defeat a real life alien invasion (my bet is they do a deal with ET to sell the book rights to Simon & Schuster).

The agent responsible for selling all these books at five figure sums also announced a six figure sum for Tim Good's new book about aliens on earth. And he has also sold the first complete story of the Rendlesham Forest case for a five figure sum. This unprecedented 'full story' by Georgina Bruni is due in 2000 and obviously means that everything I have written on the case so far was incomplete twaddle. My demon lawyers 'Sue-it-all' may have to descend upon Ms Bruni's (surely by now mega rich) agent.

Meanwhile, back in the real world of high flying UFO finances Peter Hough has also amassed an astounding six figure advance (the six figures being two-pounds-and-fifty-five-pence) for a new book on UFOs to be released by Allison & Busby. My new book (an in depth look at abduction theories) from Piatkus comes in the summer and has an advance with a lot of noughts in it - unfortunately most of them at the beginning. And the UFO world will be hit by the terrifying blitzkrieg of a book triple authored by Dr David Clarke, Andy Roberts and yours truly. This is to come only *after* we have managed to win enough money from the lottery ticket our advance should just about pay for and can then go out and buy a ream of paper to start work.

Meanwhile, in TV land, there seems to be no sign that UFOs are the dead duck the media claim them to be. Programmes about the phenomenon are threatening to take over the world and become every bit as awful as those never ending DIY features.

The one I know something about (as I worked behind the scenes on it late last year and even made occasional forays in front of the camera) is Granada TV's 'Origin Unknown'.

This started off not too encouragingly with the title 'Watch the skies' but under the eye of exec producer Mark Gorton has - for once - heeded the advice of UFOlogists and turned into a half decent effort. The six-week run is presenting a novel look at UFOlogy in the north west with the scepticism is coming from some of the UFOlogists taking part (not the sceptics) - although there is plenty of pro ETH comment in there too. Don't panic if you missed the series (which ends on 23 February) it will almost certainly crop up nationally on ITVs late night schedule later in the year and wider still via Granada's satellite channel.

Other TV ventures cover virtually every channel but are less balanced. A 13 week series due on Channel 5. 'The Great UFO Conspiracy' looks very American in style and is like a TV version of Tim Good's books (Tim is involved behind the scenes in the sort of role I had with Granada). Channel 4 have also filmed three one hour documentaries, made by the same team who brought you the Roswell autopsy affair. I know little about these except that one covers secret aircraft projects and there is heavy US input so as to ensure sales of the series.

I am aware of a couple of other projects - one of which I am consulting on but cannot yet discuss. So what next? Carol Smiley redesigns the interior of a gray mothership whilst the crew are off abducting. Will they be surprised to find their austere white lit operating theatre replaced by lace curtains and an open plan lounge?

New Products:

If you have ever wondered what the internet is all about but have not taken the plunge *UFO Files* from the Woolwich UFO Research Group may be the answer. This is an enormous CD Rom just packed with material much of it taken from the net. The 3000 files cover every aspect of what is the second most popular subject on the internet - from abductions to MIB There are 200 MB of real audio, 150 MB of images and lots and lots of text including the new alleged batch of MJ 12 files. It will take you weeks to log on at your leisure. To use this you need a PC & CD Rom with Windows 3.11 or 95 (98 will work even better) and a 16 bit sound card for the real audio. The mega CD is available for £10 (post free) payable to M Bell at Woolwich UFO Research

Are you with the Woolwich on this?

Tim Matthews also has a new publication - *Air Intelligence Digest* - a declassified report on American military flying disc developments. This is reprinted along with a short piece setting these 'black projects' into context. The 15 pp report is available for £3 (post Inc) from T Matthews.

Finally, book, magazine and video bargains galore are once more on offer from the latest *'Midnight Books'* catalogue. Aside from being the only place I know to get all the excellent William Corliss 'sourcebook' project titles digesting anomalies from the scientific press, there are many hard to find UFO and paranormal titles. Pages of UFO material in this 44 page catalogue.

A UFO CENTRE FOR ROSSENDALE?

For some time now councillor Billy Buchanan has been trying to create a UFO theme park in Scotland to cash in on the publicity afforded to the Bonnybridge area. Although there have been many sightings thereabouts in the 1990's one area in the UK has been active far longer - with the Pennine Hills sparking waves of encounters for decades, if not centuries.

At the heart of this activity has been the Rossendale Valley, notably the area between Bacup (Lanes) and Todmorden (Yorks) where some spectacular cases have occurred. The region is dubbed 'UFO Alley' by the local media and it may - or may not - be coincidence that this just happens to be where I was born (the village of Stacksteads near Bacup). Anyhow, because of this personal strong tie to the region (I still call it home) I am delighted that an initiative has been launched to set up a UFO centre here.

The idea is the brainchild of two businessmen from the north west who have created a marketing plan and are presently attempting to persuade the local council, MPs, business partnerships and many other resources to support their quest. It is early days as yet but they report encouraging signs that the time might just be right for this sort of venture to get off the ground. This is particularly so because they aim to try to integrate the project with mainstream science and the SETI programme.

According to the proposals put forward 'The Bacup UFO Centre' is ideally located. This is because of the 'hot spot' surroundings and the plethora of UFO activity regionally. They advise that some 40,000 internet sites promote UFOs and that there is a huge UFO industry to draw from which would help such a centre to thrive.

What I find particularly amusing is the welcome note in the PR campaign that 'unlike rock festivals or sporting events, UFO gatherings are attended by law abiding and inoffensive people.'

Some Ufologists might struggle to qualify in those terms, but the point is valid.

Amongst the ideas being put forward for the centre is the creation of a Roswell style museum. This would be cleverly coupled to a UFO resources site aimed at schools and libraries, plus, of course, the ubiquitous shops and no doubt merchandising. I can almost see those T shirts now reading 'I had a close encounter in bed last night'.

A series of events are being proposed that might suit any prospective launch and that could become part of a regular calendar. These would include film festivals (although last time I was back home Rossendale seemed as bereft of cinemas as most places these days). No matter, the plan to convert as bingo hall into a cinema (neat reversal there) and all sorts of other schemes seem well in hand. From convention centres, regular UFO group meetings, lectures, skywatches and coach trips to hot spots the plan has - as the organisers told me - 'taken on a life of its own'.

Although I have known about this scheme for some time I have only just been cleared to talk about it now the juggernaut is rolling and it is felt, probably unstoppable. Anyone wishing to try to steal the idea for their own area, I am advised would be too late as the steps have all been taken that give Bacup the lead. By the time you read this it is hoped that the project will have moved into the political arena and no longer just be in the realms of a fond pipe dream.

Time will tell but it would be nice to have a focus of UFO activity in the north west and a place that the scattered UFO community could regard as a spiritual home. Would we be willing to forego our individuality and bind together to aid a quest of this sort? Would we, for example, allow our files to be centrally located and donate material and artifacts to an educational exhibition? I hope so.

Hopefully this project proves itself through time. Done badly it could just be a tacky gimmick. Done well it would be a real asset.

Rendlesham Reactivated

The debate about Britain's best known close encounter - the alleged landings in Rendlesham Forest, Suffolk, in December 1980, is rumbling onward towards a possible answer.

As recent NUNs have revealed, last year Scottish UFOlogist James Easton found in the USA (in the hands of a group who seem to have sat on them for years) the original witness statements penned by some of the key USAF personnel. These include not only John Burroughs and Jim Penniston, whose first hand accounts are in 'UFO Crash Landing?' but also some new USAF witnesses who had a greater or lesser role in the case.

His first dossier, Rendlesham Unravelled, played much on the fact that in these statements - penned within days of the occurrence - these witnesses described what they saw in less graphic terms than a spaceship. Moreover, they admitted to being fooled on the same night by a light that only later did they realise was the Orford Ness lighthouse beacon.

Very properly, Easton argued that this devastating news seemed to put a huge spoke in the wheel that would cause the Rendlesham train to crash. But it was not - and is not - quite that simple, as I pointed out in NUN and a longer article last summer for International UFO Reporter. The key to me was that Burroughs and Penniston had *always* said (that is for many years) that their immediate written statements were deliberately watered down. They did this to protect their careers in the Air Force as they believed these might be compromised by telling the incredible truth as they had perceived it.

However, James Easton has not sat back on his laurels. He has continued the fight for truth behind this case. This has led to '*Resolving Rendlesham*' — his latest thesis on the matter. It is to some extent a response to my piece in the IUR and challenges some of the things I say.

Some of these new points are cogent. Others seem a little laboured. For instance, he denies close comparison between the statements made by Penniston for Sky Crash in 1983 (under the pseudonym Archer) and those he gave freely in 1994 for 'Strange But True?' Yet I find the similarity telling because the 1983 statements are more like the allegedly 'exaggerated' version being told today than the one given in the written statement that Easton has unearthed. That consistency suggests that the written statement was deliberately limited whereas verbally Penniston has told a more forthcoming version.

Easton cites as a reason for lack of similarity how Archer (1983) terms the object seen

at close quarters as a kind of dirty off-white and yet in 1994 spoke of opaque black glass. True these accounts are not identical, but one can see how something dirty oil white is not a million miles from resembling smoky glass. Since both are unusual comments made about a UFO then I find the comparisons more interesting than perceived semantic differences.

Another 'discrepancy' Easton notes is that Archer in 1983 told of chasing the object, closing in and getting within a few feet of it and that this is nothing like his later version. But his Strange But True? interview sounds to me like a more detailed retelling of pretty much the same thing, I cannot comment on what Penniston may have said to others, but his 1983 and 1994 statements as in 'Sky Crash' and 'UFO Crash Landing?' are surely more alike than unlike

Another huge problem that James Easton concentrates upon is whether any sort of craft was present. As I have *repeatedly* made clear from 'From out of the Blue' onward - and certainly in 'Crash Landing' - Burroughs has *always* said he did not see a definite craft, just a very strange light phenomenon, but equally one that he suspected had some intelligence behind it. That Penniston saw it differently (although even he saw a glassy, dark off white thing with mist or vapour - which certainly sounds less substantial than most spaceships) is vital. It is one of the reasons I have come to suspect that the encounter could involve witnesses who met with an energy field - perhaps of natural or of artificial origin - that triggered an altered state of consciousness. Read the statements by Burroughs and Penniston of the electrical energy and Oz Factor states they experienced in close proximity to the UFO. They talk of these consistently and this is one of the main things they excluded from their written report

Inexplicably - to me - Easton notes of this tale about an energy field (never mentioned by Burroughs in his written report) that it has 'added little of substance'. This I find amazing, because the Oz Factor descriptions are amongst the elements that most persuade me that they did experience something unusual. Undoubtedly they are not simply inconsequential but point the way towards what might have happened.

Sceptics do have the habit of trying to explain the bits that are open to resolution (as some major chunks unquestionably are) at the expense of parts that are far more difficult to resolve.

Another significant question concerns the testimony of Mal Scurrah, the radar operator who tracked objects in Norfolk 'around the time' of the events. I have always made clear that he was uncertain of the exact date. In our exchanges of data on the case this period was narrowed down from autumn 1980 to late November / December. It was my surmise that December was indicated because Scurrah referred to an incident already in his base log that appeared to be the 25 December Cosmos rocket burn up.

According to James Easton Scurrah has claimed he has been misquoted and badly treated by Thames TV (in fact it was LWT) when filming 'Strange But True?' in 1994. Moreover that errors they imposed were compounded in the book of the series by Peter Hough and myself, where he is misquoted again This is despite - he alleges - telling LWT that he was not sure of the date. And he *did* do this. But what is certainly *not* in his interview with LWT is that Scurrah now had the date clarified as late November and so positively knew that it was not happening at the same time as Rendlesham. There is a huge difference between not being sure of the exact date but thinking it was around the same time and stating it was definitely not at the same time, but a month beforehand.

In fact, Scurrah came to me with his story (via Philip Mantle) and approached in the context that his story might well support Rendlesham. As stated the best we could do was define the date as around the same time period If he had narrowed it further then he never told me.

Peter and I wrote the 'Strange But True?' book in the three months between filming and transmission of the episodes in 1994. All quotes come directly from the filmed witnesses via the actual interview transcripts supplied to us by LWT. It would be useful to know in what way Scurrah now considers these transcripts to be wrong as that is not specified by Easton. But Peter and I were certainly not making quotes up.

One thing is important. We did have a minor tiff with LWT. In the book we added to the text that Scurrah's radar sighting was not certain to be on the same date as Rendlesham. We were merely reflecting what Scurrah had always stated and what was in his interview. But the TV programme had perhaps glossed over that uncertainty and we were *told* not to draw undue attention to the fact. The book was not our copyright but LWTs and we were contracted to adapt the scripts with limited scope beyond But we protested sufficiently that a compromise was reached. Our text *does* state that Scurrah did not recall the exact date only that it was around the same time period - exactly as he had told us

Another issue concerns Cosmos 749 and the idea that satellite electronics were scrambled by an NSA experiment that led to an orbital path

decay. Ian Ridpath dismisses the idea by showing that the re-entry on Christmas night was just an inert booster rocket. It *was* but my real point is missed In 'Crash Landing?' I make clear that the Cosmos debris was a powerless booster. However, astronomers report that there were *two* separate re-entries that night The predicted re-entry of the Cosmos rocket may well have provided a smokescreen for any experiment because should *other* events occur as a consequence of the test *they* would be written off as simply the death throes of Cosmos 749.

I do not want to create the impression that 'Resolving Rendlesham' is full of holes. It is not. It has areas that I would contest, but it also has some challenging observations on the case. It does make a positive contribution towards resolving certain aspects. For example, there are stunning reports from Colonel Halt as to why the dates on his infamous memo appear wrong (he did not check the dates!) More telling still is his description of seeing the UFO next to the 'farmhouse' (the Boast homestead) and being sure this was *not* the lighthouse because *that light* was visible further south. In fact, from the site, the lighthouse is almost line of sight with the house and so the light Halt reports as south of here was *not* the lighthouse but is where the Shipwash lightship sat. This I know from early visits to a site that is now markedly changed. The lightship was further away and less visible than Orford Ness. If - as this quote implies - Halt *saw* that ship, *thought* it was the lighthouse, and saw a much brighter second object by the Boast house then he could well have assumed that to be unexplained. But if it *was* a UFO then *where* was the lighthouse? At the least this report makes us ask such questions, although Halt told me last year that he saw *both* lighthouse and lightship

This is a case that is never going to die down and with the promised book by Halt and Georgina Bruni's 'definitive' work in process it may well get a new lease of life. But it is good to know that James Easton is still trying hard to find answers to this ongoing affair. Ufology needs this sort of productive debate.

Resolving Rendlesham is a 28 pp dossier from James Easton, who is also publishing an irregular news letter 'Pulsar' to update his work via:- pulsar@compuserve.com.

Au-*topsy* turvey madness

Just when you thought it was safe to go back into the coroner's lab! Yes, the dreaded alien autopsy footage has taken yet another twist

On 17 January 1999 the Mail on Sunday 'revealed' to the world that the 'famous' alien film was made in Milton Keynes. In fact we featured this story in last October's issue and it was on the net even earlier (so their exclusive was suffering from a bit of a time lapse). Moreover the revelation is about the *tent* footage and not the alien autopsy proper - although these two pieces of film are certainly not unconnected.

What the Mail did get was an interview with Andy Price-Watts, who along with his fellow video making colleague Keith Bateman say that they *faked* the tent footage in a bam near Milton Keynes. They did this, they claim, *after* Ray Santilli brought them film of aliens he had bought and asked them to 'clean this up'. They tried hard but could find no meaningful images on there and so handed it back. But their company decided to make a new version of their own, Santilli had been a friend and associate for years and bought videos they made on a range of subjects. Santilli claims it was all done as a joke.

The story of how these men faked the Roswell tent footage using a wig stand and some orange peel plus a dummy head atop a 12 year old boy is hilarious. It is also telling. President Truman, allegedly seen in shot viewing the alien, was a farmer who interrupted their filming wearing a coat hastily appropriated from a scarecrow! As the men say; *'We could hardly stop ourselves laughing as we shot the video.'*

The footage was processed in black and white with computer drawn scratch marks to make it look old. The jest was well done. When shown it Santilli suggested they had been conned. They followed Santilli's specific critiques about it and added things that made it seem more authentic, but he remained disinterested. The Mail claim that Santilli asked the men to cancel a TV showing of their film as it might effect the launch of his autopsy footage.

Then, to their surprise, Reg Presley, pop singer, Ufologist and friend of Santilli mentioned the tent footage on a TV show and the juggernaut was rolling. Philip Mantle saw it, Santilli re-entered the fray (with the now famous footage) and soon he was selling to the media what we know of as the autopsy film.

Was this more spectacular film the same footage that the Milton Keynes video producers had foiled to develop for Santilli?

Santilli claims that he bought this genuine footage in the USA and it is not hoaxed by the Milton Keynes group, as the tent footage was. Bateman and Price-Watts never saw the 'real' footage. Santilli (in a net statement dated 20 Dec

1998) says that the tent footage was the first piece supplied by the cameraman who later provided the autopsy. This man was unimpressed when shown the fake images 'retrieved' by the guys at Milton Keynes and this led to Santilli's own doubts. But he did not then expose the genesis of the tent footage and Philip Mantle says that he was shown this (as was Reg Presley) through Santilli's offices in 1995.

As such we are now told that the tent footage was too poor to process. The Milton Keynes video producers tinkered with it and came up with their hoax. Santilli went back to the same US cameraman, bought the better, real footage but did not take this to Milton Keynes for it to be worked upon. Instead the real alien autopsy film emerged via other labs with the tent hoax sidelined as a distraction that threatened the credibility of the supposedly real film.

At the time BUFORA had just made a mass market video, *Penetrating the Web*, at a production studio in Milton Keynes. I feature on that video *but was not paid for doing so*. The film was made under the auspices of a still active BUFORA council member to promote the group. Philip Mantle says this is coincidence. The company was *not* the one that faked the tent footage. But, Bateman and Price-Watts say in the Mail, '(In Summer 1995 they) decided to put their film out on a video being made...called Penetrating the Web 2.' They do not go into detail as to how and why and I have no idea whether BUFORA were involved in that sequel. By then I was excommunicated and my disquiet at the groups involvement with the Santilli autopsy footage was embarrassingly public leaving me pretty well disowned by council.

This unfortunate set of circumstances leaves BUFORA innocently ensnared by events beyond their control and, of course, whoever made Penetrating the Web 2 could well have bought the tent footage for inclusion without knowing its provenance. But the problems stem from UFOlogis too eager for media exposure and keen to draw in the punters. Although many here are likely to be innocents caught in the crossfire simply risking association with an increasingly dubious affair has wrought disaster. Some people at the forefront of British UFOlogy have yet to admit they made honest - if quite horrendous - mistakes. It is time they did so.

Circles to nowhere

The Mail is not my favourite paper right now. Last September they requested and agreed rights in my book *'Something in the Air'* and a date for inclusion was given. The publisher were thus limited in terms of PR for a book that concerns mid air encounters between aircraft and UAP. The Mail never even carried a review. Hale got the runaround for weeks trying to discover why nothing was happening and then the editor 'made a decision' not to include 'this stuff' in his paper - but no reasons were cited for such a turnabout. The Mail had featured large pieces on books about ET, Egyptians on Mars and the Bible code. But by the time news of this about face arrived the Hale book was dead.

So much for writing objective, rational research books and people taking notice. Next time critics like Peter Brookesmith say - as he did in *Fortean Times* - that Jenny Randles *used* to write serious books - remember the above. It is frustrating writing for 23 years down to earth books that get treated like this by the responsible media. I will *not* stop writing them. Nor will I 'sell out' to write things I do not believe are true. But there is little you can do if your serious books dematerialise! Brookesmith recently wrote a (pretty good) book on abductions. My one book on that phenomenon is not referenced. He had not read it.

My three recent serious books - *MIB*, *UFO Crash Landing?* and *Something in the Air* were not reviewed by that self same *Fortean Times* - although they have reviewed the ET and 'Egyptians on Mars' stuff. You cannot win.

Rant over! Back to the Mail. They have given a pretty good imitation of *not* publishing 'such stuff since October. There were pages on the Ashbourne, Derbyshire 'haunted house' trial (more on that one day perhaps as NARO was involved). Then on 8 January they resurrected crop circles featuring a fascinating interview with self confessed hoaxer Doug Bower.

They do say that history is written by the victors. In the strange world of crop circles it seems that history has been written by a right bunch of losers. This is one of the times (and to redress the balance of the previous article I emphasise that it is far from the *only* time) when BUFORA deserve real credit but get too little.

It was thanks to BUFORA council member Ian Mrzyglod that the first reported circles in 1980 were treated seriously by the UFO movement. It was his liaison with Dr Terence Meaden that saw the possibility of a UAP energy force triggering some sightings. It is thanks to long term council member Paul Fuller that excellent PR was built by years of sensible commentary. His

research led to the discovery of circles dating back centuries that prove how some simple marks result from an atmospheric vortex. With great assistance from publications officer Mike Woollen BUFORA published the first ever crop circle 'book' in 1986 and by 1990 had recognised the extent of hoaxing enough to have *predicted* the next step. BUFORA's London seminar on circles coinciding with 'Mystery of the Circles' brought together for the only time all disparate thinkers and provoked an audience vote. This sanctioned in front of the media the fact that BUFORA believed circles to be the result of *both* hoaxing and atmospheric vortices.

All of this was long before Doug Bower and Dave Chorley blew apart the mystery by publicly revealing in 1991 that they had faked most of the fancy patterns in Wessex crop fields - an idea they got from a 'real' circle in Australia in 1966. As far as the media has since been concerned daft UFO buffs and croppies were all made to look idiots. A decade of fine work by BUFORA was instantly vaporised.

BUFORA did not help themselves by allowing all those good workers - Mrzyglod, Fuller & Wooten to leave in despair. The arrogant sceptics movement sat there and did nothing for a decade, then after Doug & Dave put circle scepticism on the map had the gall to claim credit. And of course, the circle researchers went on much as usual convinced some weird contact is occurring. I recently read an as yet unpublished book by a member of the circle fraternity. His take on how circles began, and developed is amusing twaddle. But it bears little relationship to what I saw happen.

Now the Mail and Doug Bower (Chorley died two years ago) present their own version of crop circle history. BUFORA, of course, don't even get a mention - just as (in the book cited above) key figures like Mrzyglod and Fuller are missing and even Meaden is dismissed in two lines. To the Mail they are non people. It is a case of two nice con men fooling the massed idiots of UFOlogy and circle 'fanaticism'.

It is a cute story but *not* the *real* history of crop circles. The Mail, as so often these days, mislead. Yet a fascinating twist they add is that Bower claims to *believe* in UFOs and aliens! He saw 'five lights stationary in the sky' from a forest, thinks he was 'programmed to do all this' and 'there must be a spaceship buried in the sand' ... Or then again what did Barnum say about the natal frequency of suckers?

MAJOR ARTICLES ELSEWHERE

Northern UFO News Page 10

Out there on the news stands the old favourites are still appearing. *Fortean Times* has not had much on UFOs of late; although in 118 (Jan 99) there is an amusing report on an American contactee conference and Andy Roberts has a small piece debunking parts of the Llandrillo case from 1974. This was not, in fact, the lengthy, reasoned article he wrote on the matter and which I was sent, wrote a reply to and FT duly published in 119 (Feb 99). As such my reply looks crazy because it responds to an article by Andy that FT forgot to publish! Oh well, this is the journal of the strange after all.

119 also has a re-appraisal of the 1973 Pascagoula case. Was it just a waking dream?

The *X Factor* meanwhile has been busy. 46 has fatal encounters (Peter Hough), 47 & 48 contactees, 49 the Billy Meier affair, 50 & 51 Soviet UFO files, 53 interview with Hilary Evans, 55 scientific views on what aliens should look like and foo fighters.

BUFORA Bulletin With subs

Has been looking good under Robert Moore's editorship. 6 - Nov - has Philip Mantle on the tent footage. An interesting curio here. He calls the hoaxing video company ARK, whereas in the Mail they are named as AK. The A and K presumably come from the Christian name initials of Andy and Keith, the two men behind the company. So who was 'R' and why his name vanished between BUFORA 6 and the Mail?

Magonia 65 (editor J Rimmer)

Two articles assess if the ETH is credible and why carry UFO reports were not given thorough scientific study. Both challenge the basis of UFOlogy - is our evidence strong enough to support the conclusions foisted onto it by the likes of Tim Good and Nick Pope? The ETH Bulletin by John Harney is now the Magonia Monthly Supplement primarily on the Magonia web site but a few hard copies are available and worth a look.

Abduction Watch (editor K McClure)

14 - Oct, Discussing the abduction symposium idea Kevin carries his decision not to co-operate but has not replied to - let alone published - two letters from me showing that his doubts on the plans simply don't apply. What gives Kevin?

15 - Nov, Alien implants debated

Phenomenal News (SEMR)

Incubi, monsters, UFOs and a fascinating piece by Paul Fuller about a carnivorous bird sighting!

UFO Network News No Price given

UFO activity near Menwith Hill.

Wales Federation

UFO activity over Anglesey.

IUR (USA: CUFOS)

Fall 98 - Insiders review of the Sturrock report, the MoD method of investigation
Winter 98 - Another famous photograph bites the dust, interview with the reporter who coined the term 'flying saucer'.

MUFON Journal (USA)

Aug - Mexico City video a hoax?
Sep - Most crop circles not hoaxes - claim
Nov - after effects of implant removal
Jan - computer enhancement seeks to read the text of the Ramey letter in the Roswell photo

UFO Historical Review Sep 98 (USA)

Report on a 1904 sighting from a US naval ship in the Pacific.

Ohio Notebook 17 (USA)

US department of energy keeps tabs on UFO groups, woman emits UV glow after encounter.

Haunted Scotland (editor "M Fraser")

UFOs, Hauntings, etc north of the border. Intriguing ghost case from Ticonderoga, New York, ties in with UFO sighting here in MUFON

UFO Afrinews (Zimbabwe)

Latest cases from Africa via Cynthia Hind

Perspectives on recent death of Maria Reiche -of Nazca lines fame.

Strange 20 (USA; Editor "M Chorvinsky").

Best US glossy serious journal on strange stuff. Well worth the investment. This issue seeks out the true story that inspired "The Exorcist".

BOOKS OF THE MOMENT

The Randle Report

226 pp Softback Photos by Kevin

Randle M Evans, New York \$14.95

This was a real surprise. Whilst I have always liked Kevin's writings on Roswell they have, of course, been tinged with the US presumption of ET origin. So I never expected to see this former USAF intelligence officer and Sci-Fi author produce such an excellent sceptical book. Possibly one of the best general interest UFO titles from the USA since Allan Hendry's epic 1980 work. Even Randle admits he had not expected it to become so cautious, but his chapters review what he regards as the most important UFO cases/debates of the 1990's. By this, of course, he means American debates - as nearly all are! Yet he looks at the pros and cons of Roswell, the autopsy film, Gulf Breeze and several others with refreshing objectivity. I would not dare have published some of the comments he has about possible hoaxes. Indeed I seem to recall a certain Manchester Evening News affair when I criticised the MJ - 12 saga in less direct terms....! Whether Kevin will now find his US witnesses pursuing him through the UK courts thanks to our absurd libel laws remains to be seen. But enjoy this book as a terrific hard headed look at some modern controversies - whilst still on the shelves.

Randles Rating 85%

Destination Earth 224pp Illus Alan Baker

The Alien Intent 256 pp Illus Ray Robinson

Both Cassell p/b at £9.99

Alien Intent is subtitled 'A dire warning' - appropriate words, especially the four letter one. To be fair this book is not all bad news. There are traces of discrimination and logic and this writer might become hardened by the evidence (or lack of it) to support the saga of nine alien races visiting earth - aka Clapham Junction. So mixed in with good thoughts on hypnosis and altered states are

worrying impressions on the likes of Billy Meir and Gulf Breeze. Rendlesham is reported from Sky Crash - which is only 15 years out of date - way to go Ray. So quite a mixed bag.

Baker's book is more promising. Less UFO Magazine and more Jacques Vallee in philosophy but with alarming gaps in knowledge about UFOs outside the stuff recycled by the media. Looking less at cover ups and conspiracy (Robinson's theme) and more at whether an alien presence has been on earth for millennia it raises quite a few provoking ideas but sadly does not take them very far. This author could be one to watch if he reads more widely in future and realises that there is a whole UFO world out there that he has probably never seen.

Randles Rating

Robinson 30% Baker 70%

How to defend yourself against alien abduction
242 pp Softback by Ann Druffel Piatkus £8.99

When Piatkus told me they were publishing this title I was stunned. My written blurb / PR to help sell it to UK readers (most of whom would not know Mrs Druffel) fell apart, because, although I provided a pleasant but objective opinion, it was properly cautious about the ethics involved. So instead Piatkus carry a glowing endorsement penned by Philip Mantle.

I respect Ann as a long term MUFON investigator and have no serious qualms about her case history presentations or opinions based upon her many first hand US abduction cases. Where Philip and I obviously part company is in judging whether it is an altogether good thing to offer up a series of self defence techniques telling folk how to fight off alien kidnap.

Chapters describe how to ward off ET using the lot - herbs, ESP, physical assault (although with the intent never to try to kill the alien - Ann suggests - hopefully ensuring no nutty US court will ever charge a witness with grayicide!) It is not so much that these things may not work. Placebos do. It is more the implicit reality that they tend to afford to a subject with at best contentious evidence. To be sure there is a real mystery. I am not even saying it has no alien component but I am wary of suggesting that when ET invades your bedroom you should summon help from a guardian angel!

Randles Rating 35%

Below are eight UFO authors telling an odd tale given as anagrams. Try to unscramble them.

Oh, Huge ET PR	Conk Pipe
Jack Mohn	Dr FA Funnel
And Lynn Jeers	Met what mist
Did Punk Bosh	To go dim

INVESTIGATION

Latest UFO sightings

Case 80-107 September 1980 Mollington, Cheshire BUFORA

A 15 year old boy saw a bright orange glow at 21.00 as he cycled near his home. The floating 'fireball' descended slowly in 'steps' into a field where it 'landed' and now took on a triangle shape - like a road sign but with a greenish/purple hue. A 'hatch' opened in the side and then closed again. All told the object was in view 30 minutes. If the time was a little earlier than suggested I would propose that this UFO might be the setting sun plus an optical illusion. No data is given in the report as to the direction.

Cumbrian Car Stop

Gloria Dixon and the delightfully appropriate Paul Cabby report this encounter at 01.30 on 1 January 1993. L, a taxi driver, had just dropped off some New Year revellers at Hethersgill, Cumbria and was driving towards the main road at Brampton. Then her CB radio began to crackle and went dead. At the same time the car coasted to a halt and its engine and lights failed. Needless to say L was not pleased to lose the chance of good custom on this busy night but she set off to walk back towards the remote house where she had left her passengers.

Suddenly, a brilliant ball of light appeared behind the cab and hovered before her. It was a small floating ball, perhaps a foot across. After a few moments it floated above the car roof. Feeling as if she were being 'observed' L then saw it shoot away towards Longtown.

Returning to the car the engine and lights came back on and it lurched forward. The CB was also active and L's sister was desperately trying to contact her. Although she felt as if she had only walked away for about five minutes her sister claimed that L had been 'missing' for half an hour.

So far as I know L has no further recall, and of course BUFORA does not conduct hypnotic regression. The incident came to light following a second incident (at 01.00 on 23 November 1996) at Hallbankgate, nearby. On that date D - who is L's father and another taxi driver - was taking three passengers from a pub in Talkin when all four saw a green ball with a white aura drop into some trees and hover near a farm. About 40 minutes later, with a new group of passengers, D spotted a 'tall figure' coming from a gate at this spot. It appeared to be dressed in a silver suit with a 'white sheet' stuck to its hand and in front of the body. All three witnesses were frightened and D drove on by.

Gloria Dixon reports that the area has had a reputed history of various odd events and is noted for a supposedly inactive MoD site called 'Spaceadam'. The region is still patrolled.

Case 9331 16 May 1993 Carcoe, North Yorkshire UFO Network

Peter Cliffe and two other group members were on a skywatch from 23.00. They observed two stationary lights and a large object that was moving rapidly to the right. This resembled a cone and was successfully photographed.

Case 9548 11 August 1995 Goosnargh, Lancashire LUFOS

Several witnesses in this famous village near Preston reported to Tim Matthews seeing a dark triangle around midnight. One woman reports how it flew past her garden ash tree. Next morning she called the Bae plant at Warton who confirmed there was 'aerial activity' that night. This village is best known because it houses Chingle Hall - an old manor house that is reputed to be the most haunted building in the UK. Many odd lights and sounds are claimed. NARO took unexplained photos of the effect.

In the party spirit

This case is, Gloria Dixon tells me, very important but has been a nightmare to follow up. This is partly because of the involvement of other groups, the use of hypnosis by one, that severely and negatively affected one witness, and various other factors. Unsurprisingly an 'alien' scenario emerged that way and complicates the issue considerably. However, Gloria is certain that an important close encounter exists and is worth recording. The events were followed up for her by Paul Ascough, a paramedic, and he supports that view.

In order to protect the witnesses I will only say that the events occurred in 'Calder', West Yorkshire. This describes only the general area, not the village. On 15 July 1995 Mr and Mrs H and Mr and Mrs D were having a barbecue. After watching the lottery on TV - at about 20.00 - the witnesses were in the garden enjoying the warm evening. But there was a 'strange atmosphere' that went beyond party spirit and several people noticed that objects - such as glasses - were vanishing.

By about 21.40, with dusk falling, Mr H saw a low level object nearby that was grey with flashing lights. He then recalls it suddenly being on top of him, a black door in the side, some 'mist' and a beam of light emerging from it.

Meantime Mrs H was on a bench and recalls the object at roof height with red, white, green and blue lights. These rotated. After looking at it for an unknown time she remembers it heading off along the valley.

Mr H says of this disappearance that it had lights in the form of a triangle and these rotated in the opposite direction to lights on the base. It 'ejected' a beam of light towards a house, then vanished before reappearing lower down the valley. Memories of all four witnesses are confused at this point. They describe a 'big moon' and of it suddenly being dark. Mr H was amazed to check the time and find that 70 minutes had simply 'gone'.

At 22.50 all four returned inside. The two women fell asleep on the floor in the lounge feeling very tired Mr H was violently sick. Indeed, both he and his wife were unwell for two weeks and had great difficulty in sleeping. Mr H also had a skin rash that persisted for some weeks after the event This was very unusual.

When Mr and Mrs H drove home all four witnesses saw two 'children' dressed in black who were in a park next to the house. They seemed to 'appear' from trees. It was after midnight and they all thought it improbable these were 'real' children, but - feeling frightened -they simply left.

Back at home there was a very strong, sickly sweet smell. Indeed Mrs H had to open the windows, despite the late hour, to try to get rid of it. It lasted half an hour. They cannot properly describe it saying that it was very unusual.

The biggest mystery concerns the inability of these witnesses to properly recall the events of the missing 70 minutes and the confusing state of consciousness both before and after the UFO encounter. Mr H says of his recall: 'imagine your memories recorded on video tape, cut into lengths of a few seconds long, throw most of the segments away and splice the remainder together in the wrong order.'

Paul says that there are some reports of psychic phenomena in the recall of these witnesses; although not out of body or NDE phenomena. Nor are they diagnosed as epileptic. They regard what has happened as a frightening, real and inexplicable set of events for which they badly want some sort of explanation.

Don't we all.

Case 9623 6 January 1996

Conway Valley, Wales Margaret Fry

At 03.00 Mrs O of Conway got out of bed unable to sleep. Looking across the estuary on what she took to be a bright moonlit night she realised that the sun, rising opposite was no such thing. It was a jet black oval surrounded by an aura of light. The same event was witnessed by Mr P at Deganwy. He had been so restless that he set off in the car to enjoy the night. Parking by the estuary he sat watching the moon reflecting on the water when two lights appeared and crossed the river in total silence. Then they returned He also saw what he took to be the sun rising and again a dark oblong object silhouetted against this.

80-107



9623



9624

Case 9624 25 June 1996
Tremerichon, Wales Margaret Fry

A and her aunt, B, were returning from a car trip at 22.33. Suddenly A noticed a strange craft descending past some electricity pylons near a local farm. Drawing the attention of B to the object it was clearly in view in the moonlight and residual mid summer light. The object was slightly tilted revealing a jet black base, a white 'headlamp' and what seemed to be 'car spoilers' hanging from one edge. As B drove slowly forward the hovering object was seen across the hedgerows. They also passed two cars, seemingly stopped and looking at the object. Being frightened the two women drove away but saw the UFO silently cross above them as they arrived at B's home. It now appeared oval in shape. Margaret reconstructed the events on site with the witnesses and discovered that the object was only some 30 feet off the ground hovering below the pylons.

The night of August 18

A series of reports have been put on record for 18 August 1996. They began at 04.45 at Bare, Morecambe. Mr P was opening a shop when he saw the object in the dawn sky over Barrow. It was observed as a round ball with white lights circling it. The UFO then moved off in the direction of Lancaster. This could possibly have been Venus.



Later that day, sightings came thick and fast. At Bramhall Cheshire, a blinding white ball of fire was seen followed by a second smaller light. Manchester Airport confirmed that they had several sightings reported to them and suspected it was a fireball meteor or satellite break-up.

Around the same time - 19.30 - two sisters saw a UFO at Market Harborough, Leicestershire. The object was described as a 'great humming top' which scared off a flock of birds. Indeed it was their flight that alerted the women. They say the UFO was 'twisting about in the sky' like a huge balloon. Following the sighting one of the women was unable to sleep for several days.

Nearby were the K family who saw the same object that night. They say it made a humming noise and was 'wobbling' in motion. The

craft was a silver disk with a dark centre and spikes on the edge.

NUFON had further sightings of these various sightings - including reports from Warrington, Bradford and Glasgow that support the Manchester area sightings. These events - around 21.30 - do indeed seem most likely to be some sort of fireball given the wide area over which they were seen. But the localised incident at Market Harborough seems rather more interesting

Case 9626 6 September 1996
Bradford, West Yorkshire

At midnight the four man crew of a fire engine had a close encounter after dealing with a car fire in the Wapping Road area of the city. The sub officer said that the UFO was tubular in shape and seemed to be 'spinning' in the sky. This might suggest the possibility of some sort of kite or tethered balloon. However, the manner of disappearance seems to deny that possibility. After some 30 seconds it vanished amidst a shower of sparks.

Case 9627 20 September 1996
Fortrose, Scotland

At 21.00 B, aged 13, was travelling home by car with his father, a friend and that boy's sister. The object first appeared as a white light that flashed red and green. Then a series of lights began to flash and these illuminated a disc shaped craft that was hovering in the sky. The object was between Avoch and Munloch and was black in colour behind the sheen of the lights. The witnesses had already observed aircraft heading into Inverness Airport and say that this allowed a comparison, proving that what they now saw was clearly something very strange indeed. At the conclusion some six lights were visible and the object headed off towards Ord Hill.

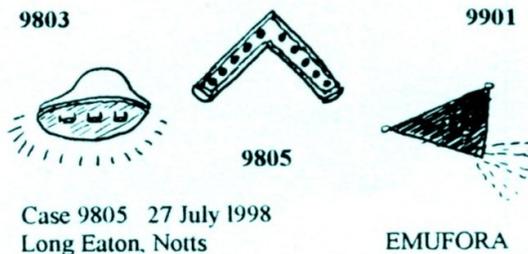
Case 9802 May 1998
Somercotes, Derbyshire

D. Beglin

Mrs M was looking through her kitchen window at 08.00. She saw 'two triangles joined like a bow tie'. It fluttered in the sky for about a minute. This suggests to me that she was viewing a box kite.

Case 9803 7 April 1998
Clifton, Notts EMUFORA

Mr H looked out of his bedroom at 21.30 and saw a craft over rooftops opposite. It was solid gray and surrounded by white light. On the underside of the 'domed saucer' were three 'conical vents or exhausts' - a very common description in such cases. The base glowed dull red 'like hot metal'. In the few moments when Mr H went to call his wife the object vanished.



Case 9805 27 July 1998
Long Eaton, Notts EMUFORA

At 16.50 Mr A was bird watching in his garden when a high flying 'boomerang' passed overhead. It was silvery grey with lights at the edge and four times the size of a jumbo jet. Dark portholes were seen on the edge as the craft headed north west. Local police denied receiving any reports.

Case 9808 30 October 1998
Belper, Derbyshire PRA

Ms C, a member of PRA, and her friend Mrs S, were attracted by a 'yellow star' in the SE. As it came closer this resolved into an elongated shape and 'glided' over resembling a cigar with lights on the base 'sparkling'. As it headed NW it was seen to be a Vulcan shape 'triangle with a snout'. A faint 'jet' noise was heard. Given the possibility of air traffic crossing this area (it heads NW across the Peak District towards Manchester Airport) was this in fact what was observed? The witnesses do not believe so.

Case 9809 16 November 1998
Ludlow, Shropshire PRA

Mr P was called outside at 19.20 by his mother and sister. In the east these three people, plus two friends, saw a triangle with a light at each apex point. It appeared to be both stationary and silent. Then it began to sink down slowly and disappeared

The metal shape of the object was illuminated by the lights shining onto its surface.

Ripley - believe it or not!
Case 9810 23 December 1998
Ripley, Derbyshire

Mr J had delivered some Christmas presents and was driving home at 22.45 with his young children. It was the 7 year old boy who pointed to a 'strange light' as they travelled the A 38. Pulling into a rest area they then all watched as this 'spotlamp' hung motionless for about 3 minutes - its lack of movement was proven by measuring it against the stars. Then - suddenly - it began to head towards them and panic ensued. The children screamed at Mr J to drive off. As they descended towards Ripley the children reported it was now above the car and the 10 year old girl gasped that it had changed shape to become a triangle. Moments later the object was dead ahead of the car - a jet black, perfectly angled triangular shape - only visible because of the side illumination cast by a small red light on top and two green lights on each corner base. The whole thing glided out of view over Ripley.

As you can see, flying triangles over the East Midlands continue at an unprecedented level. How many are just aircraft being misperceived? With headlights (as many planes have on clear nights making a visual into Manchester Airport approach over Derbyshire) they can fly line of sight and look stationary for many minutes. But is that all that is going on here? And does nobody see old fashioned UFOs these days?

Case 9811 29 December 1998
Preston, Lancashire LUFOS

Yet another report of a triangle, heading along the River Ribble towards Salmesbury at about 22.00. It had red lights at each apex and a white searchlight that was not beaming down. Checks revealed that no police helicopters were in the area at the time - ruling out this possibility.

Case 9901 13 January 1999
Belper, Derbyshire PRA

The same two women as in case 9808 were in a car at the A 6 'Safeway Roundabout' area of town at 22.50 when they saw a bright star approach and resolve into a dark triangle. This had a huge light beaming out of the front and a reddish light in the middle and at each point. The object appeared to

glide over them making no noticeable sound. The object headed away SE.

Nick outed

As we closed for press the *Sunday Times* (7 Feb) reported the story of Nick Pope and his alleged 'alien contact' - told under pseudonyms as the 'Peter and Jenny' case in his book 'The Uninvited'. This was, of course, an open secret in UFOlogy. It had been widely discussed and was reported in Fortean Times last year (a source I gather the newspaper read). The press story stirred up things a bit but I warned Nick when we last met (April 1998) that this day was inevitable. Too many people knew and he really should have taken control of this matter and explained it properly to readers for himself rather than let the press squeeze it out with their own agenda. Mind you he was lucky. A month before it *did* appear a tacky tabloid were about to tell all. I declined to talk to that paper as they had made no effort to speak with Nick. I only gave my views to the Times when they confirmed that they had already fronted Nick about the story. Although the Times cited me blandly saying I was 'surprised', they did not carry the quote I asked them to carry. So I will include it here, because this is my real concern over the issue. That Nick Pope had an odd experience is fair enough. Whether he told the MoD about it when applying for the Air Staff job is of some interest, but not the main deal. That he chose neither to publish it openly under his own name or not at all (which would have been the wisest alternative course) *is* a problem. It is rather like trying to have his cake and eat it. It is also deeply ironic considering his 'One to One' phone advert plea that he'd *like* a contact! (Incidentally, he responded to comments in the last NUN -somewhat obliquely - by being cited in the March 1999 Fortean Times seeming surprised that some UFOlogists over reacted to this advert - without, of course, noting irony about the Peter and Jenny story!). However, my primary concern - as I told the Times - is that the incident Nick describes is so trivial. The likelihood that it masks an alien contact is remote. BUFORA took an important stand that argues against the use of regression hypnosis for many vital reasons. Yet Nick Pope is a revered figure in people's eyes - the very ones who are potential witnesses. I consider it inappropriate that he be essentially - if indirectly - endorsing the value of hypnosis to seek out answers to minor events in ones life by searching for alien abductions behind them. Far more thought should have been given to how people will see this as a cue and seek to emulate his actions. People do look to icons in this way.

I should add that this may seem like hypocrisy to anyone who has read my book *Star*

Children'. But the hypnosis experiments that I report upon in there were key reasons why I immediately sought the BUFORA ban on the matter I saw first hand through them the problems of this methodology and have used the experiment (e.g. at the MIT symposium) to argue *against* the use of regression. Perhaps Nick Pope will come to learn similar lessons from this whole unfortunate affair. We shall see.

Witness dies on 18th anniversary of case

Sadly witness Betty Cash passed away on the 18th anniversary of her famous encounter at Huffman. Texas in December 1980. Her death is reputedly a result of injuries brought about by the events, shared with friends, Vicki and Colby Landrum. Betty - who got closest to the hovering UFO - was the most seriously effected. She suffered burns, radiation trauma and was critically ill in hospital for some time afterwards.

This case is a tragic illustration of the problem that besets UFOlogy. Here was a patently visible object, shepherded by what must have been military or government helicopters, and whose physical consequences were inescapable. Yet, despite years of effort, law suits and determined assistance from NASA engineer and UFOlogist John Schuessler, it proved impossible to convince the world that anything had happened. As a result Betty spent years of agony without just compensation. One has to ask how the physical reality of any UFO encounter could be established if this case did not do so. Most abductions have nothing like this degree of evidence. It is a sobering legacy.

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
PRA	Derby
SUFOG	Rugeley
Federation	Llangernyw
IUFOPRA	Dublin, Ireland