

Contents: P.1 EDITORIAL - 'Where does science fit in?'
 P.2 News
 P.3 News cont.. UFOCAT - a unique tool for research
 P.4 Northern Ireland Report Part 2
 P.5 SW England Flap CURRENT REPORTS: Cheshire, Scotland
 P.6 CURRENT REPORTS: Cumbria, Notts, Cheshire, N. Yorks, W. Yorks
 P.7-8 DETAILED REPORT: The Mossley Close Encounter

EDITORIAL: 'Where does science fit in?'

One of the topics currently being aired with great vigour in editorials is the involvement, or otherwise, of scientists in ufology. The decidedly conservative attitude of many of this profession has led to the creation of the British UFO Documentation Centre (see N.U.N. July 76). This organisation is trying, quite laudibly, to emulate Dr. Allen Hynek's Center For UFO Studies in the USA. Recently NUFON passed a vote of support for the aims of this centre - though not without dissent (see Page 3). However, we should not get carried away with this. It is one thing supporting ideals, and it is another actually putting them into practice.

I think we all would agree that it IS important to get scientists more interested in UFOs. Wherever the ultimate answer may lie, be it physical, psychological, either or both, then it HAS scientific ramifications. As amateurs, and mostly non-scientists, we are POSSIBLY (and I stress that word) limited in what we can do. However, ufology is a complex subject in its own right and a scientist, no matter how skilled, will almost certainly not be a ufologist. So there are things we can do that they cannot, and probably vice-versa. As the Secretary of NUFON, coming into contact with many groups and individuals, I see it my responsibility to point out what appears to be the biggest fear that is putting some people off the BUDC scheme. This is that it will be ultimately divisive, and will set scientists up as a breed apart. This fear was enhanced by the manner in which the amateurs were ignored in the initial stages and presented with a 'fait accompli' by the BUDC. This was clearly wrong although I recognise some of the reasons for it.

The BUDC is causing several peculiar reactions amongst the amateurs. In some circles it causes evasion (ignore it and it will go away), with many it spells confusion (because no clear policy statements are being made), but with a few it causes disquiet. These latter are the ones who see the importance AND the dangers. I believe we do NOT want to 'go away'. Most people seem to feel it is a 'good idea'. The worry stems from the manner in which it is progressing.

I would like to propose that we allow ourselves a breathing space. I feel that we need a UFO centre developed along the lines of a scientific institute, and that we do have the capabilities to do this. True enough there ARE no professional ufologists, but there are professionalised amateurs. These SHOULD have a meeting ground with professional scientists, whilst at the same time the ufo organisations should continue, working towards a clear improvement in the quality of raw data fed into the centre. That would be their task. That of the centre would be to try to work with it, feed back more specific requirements to the investigators and, possibly more importantly, to publish the best of it scientifically. We should realise that only scientists can do this. Even Flying Saucer Review (which I consider an absolutely vital contributor and the epitome of professionalised amateur ufology) suffers the burden of needing to survive, as the clinging to their outmoded title suggests. The involvement of amateurs in the centre should be based on democratic election by their fellows based in turn upon PROVEN performance in scientific ufology.

I do not propose that the BUDC should wind up, but I do propose that a working party be set up IMMEDIATELY with representatives of all those who come under the term 'professionalised amateurs'. Some delegation would be needed but the party could prepare a detailed set of documented proposals, in say six months time, for consideration by us all. Then we could see where we stand. Then, perhaps, we can make it work properly.

JENNY RANGLES

Contributors this month: BUFORA EDINBURGH, IRISH UFO RESEARCH CENTRE, MUFORA, NUFOIS, Ian Cresswell, Bryan Hartley, Philip Hudson

NUFON:: The Northern UFO Network is a communication and liaison medium for independent organisations and researchers in Northern Britain. The Northern UFO News is a monthly forum for their news, views and ideas. The opinions expressed herein do not, necessarily, reflect those of the network as a whole.

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GROUP STATUS

At the NUFON Representatives meeting in October a motion was passed concerning AFFILIATION and ASSOCIATION status to the network. All groups were asked to notify of their intention. The following have notified that they wish to be an ASSOCIATE group of NUFON (under the terms as previously noted - see November issue). There are 12 other participant groups. If they do not notify to the contrary by January 1st 1977 it will be assumed that they wish to be AFFILIATES only. A complete list of ASSOCIATES and AFFILIATES will be included next month.

ASSOCIATE GROUPS: BUFORA YORKSHIRE, MUFORA (Manchester), NUFOIS (Nottingham), UFOSIS (West Midlands), WUFOS (Merseyside)

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NEWS::

NB: PLEASE NOTE THAT YOUR EDITOR EXPECTS TO BE IN HOSPITAL FROM DECEMBER 8th FOR MOST OF DECEMBER. I MAKE APPOLOGIES NOW FOR THE LACK OF NORMAL COMMUNICATION WITH THIS NEWSLETTER AND FOR THE NEXT FEW WEEKS. HOPEFULLY, THE JANUARY 1977 ISSUE WILL NOT BE DELAYED, BUT PLEASE UNDERSTAND IF IT IS. TO ASSIST MATTERS WOULD YOU PLEASE WRITE NUN ON THE OUTSIDE OF ANY ENVELOPPE SENT CONTAINING REPORTS OR MATERIAL FOR THE NEWSLETTER. THESE SHOULD STILL BE SENT TO THE EDITOR ANY URGENT TELEPHONE MESSAGES SHOULD GO TO EITHER PETER WARRINGTON (061-226 - 6712) OR TREVOR WHITAKER (0422-67047) DURING DECEMBER.

:: On JANUARY 8th 1977 at the Houldsworth Hall, Deansgate, Central Manchester (2pm until approximately 6pm) BUFORA are holding their first regional seminar. The objective is to discuss the role of the local ufo group, and how it can best fit in with national policies. In principle it will provide opportunity for you to raise grievances, problems and ideas direct with the BUFORA committee and in view of the oft' heard criticisms of this organisation, particularly from northern ufologists, I would hope that you will take this opportunity. If anyone would like to present a short paper (maximum length 10 MINUTES) please submit a copy to the editor by DECEMBER 25th (watch the Christmas post). Please do NOT stray from the objective of the meeting. It would be advantageous if you would mark JAN 8 on the outside of the envelope. A small admission fee will be charged.

:: I have been asked to give information on the cards which are being used to compile data for N-CAT (the North England catalogue). Those wishing to research local newspaper files or transmit group files (not previously submitted to NUFON) for this project should note that a small postcard for each case containing :- DATE, TIME, LOCATION (with new county), OBJECT SHAPE, COLOUR, ESTIMATED HEIGHT, DIRECTION, DURATION, NUMBER OF WITNESSES plus any special features is all that is required. (Please include ALL reference sources on the reverse of the card - eg newspapers, local group publications etc). NUFON is also cooperating with HUMCAT (the humanoids catalogue being prepared by the Center for UFO Studies). Any possibly obscure entity sightings which you might be aware of please notify. As always, full credit to groups and investigators will be given if notified.

:: It is understood that a BUFORA branch in Edinburgh is being set up by Peter Hill (former committee member of WATSUP, the Southern group). More news when to hand. This will replace the erstwhile Edinburgh University society.

:: I should like to point out that the DECEMBER 1976 issue of 'OFFICIAL UFO' contains an article by myself on Ufology in Great Britain. The photograph of an object taken from an aircraft over the Midlands was NOT included with my permission and is known to be a reflection of the aircraft's tailplane. This fact will be strongly pointed out to the editor. Two people have written to me requesting correspondence with British ufologists - any offers?
Diana Covey 9230 Independence Blvd. Apt 522, Parma Heights, OHIO 44130 (age 34)
Paul Zvicus 432 - 85th st, Brooklyn, New York NY 11220 (youngster)

:: The next NUFON meeting will be in BIRMINGHAM (probably Saturday, February 12th 1977)

NEWS Cont;..

:: Derek James of UFO STAFFS has asked me to point out a very generous... service that they are willing to offer UFO groups who do not have their own forms. They are willing to supply copies of the new forms developed by BUFOR. Write to Derek at 7 Queen Street, Porthill, Staffs ST 5 8 QJ

:: The process of setting up the reference library of UK and Foreign publications is proving a complex task, owing to the collation of material from so many sources and the indexing of it. It is anticipated that the UK section will be operable early in the New Year, and the Overseas section is not completely together yet. So far we have copies of publications from USA, Australia, New Zealand, Scandinavia, France, Belgium, Holland, Germany, Italy, Russia, Japan and Argentina. Books will also be included in the UK section. The library will be operated as a RESEARCH REFERENCE (not a general lending service) but will be available to all if they notify in writing the reason for their requirement of specific information. At present administrative and postal costs of between 10 and 20p (obviously more for books) are envisaged per item. A complete index will be published as soon as possible. Anyone who has something to contribute should contact Jenny Randles (UK section) and Bryan Hartley (overseas) (23 Hastings Rd, Thornton-Le-Fylde, Lancs)

:: MEETINGS

NUFOIS hold meetings at their HQ (443 Meadow Lane, Nottingham) and all are welcome. Forthcoming programme (with the topic to be presented) is: JANUARY (Map reading & basic triangulation), FEBRUARY (Aircraft lights), MARCH (finding your way around the heavens). Meetings are on the last Tuesday in a month. MUFORA is holding an open meeting at the GPO club, Quay St, Manchester on December 7th at 8pm. Anyone welcome. There will be an open meeting here each month. In addition DIGAP continue to hold open meetings on the second Friday each month at the Friends Meeting House, Central Manchester.

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IMPORTANT NOTICE

The Nottingham UFO Investigation Society have asked it to be pointed out that they are OPPOSED to the structural basis of the British UFO Documentation Centre and do NOT wish to cooperate.

In response to queries from several groups it should be pointed out that the NUFON resolution which was unanimously accepted on October 23 was in support of the AIMS AND IDEALS of the BUDC. It was NOT a unilateral vote of support for the presently constituted organisation. Any other group which wishes to make clear their non-support (or vice-versa) of the present BUDC may do so.

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UFOCAT: A UNIQUE TOOL FOR UFO RESEARCH

The above is the title of an article received from Fred Merrit of the Center UFO Studies. It is too long to include in full, but some relevant extracts are hereby noted. The full article is in the current issue of the CUFOS Bulletin.

UFOCAT is a computer file of some 79,500 reports of Unidentified flying objects. Dr. David Saunders began building UFOCAT in 1967, and donated it to CUFOS in 1975. Each entry is a record of salient features of a report of an individual ufo event, citing source. UFOCAT is being used to make statistical studies of UFO reports, such as Saunders 'Extrinsic factors in ufo-reporting' (American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics, paper 75-43) UFOCAT is also being used to provide catalogues of reports of particular interest to specialists at nominal cost. Such catalogues selectively list reports by such factors as geographical, type of report (eg occupant, abduction), date of report (eg year or month), special report features (eg traces or E/M effects). Even such factors as reports from aircraft or military personnel. The possible combinations are as broad as the users request and the extent to which each factor is coded in the file.

Approximately 22% of reports are European, and this is increasing since NUFON and BUFORA now transfer material to the catalogue (in addition to CONTACT UK). We have a copy of the code book and reports are now being transferred from all past cases so that in essence you will (by approximately Summer 1977) have access to a computer catalogue of all NUFON reports (plus other cases).

Use of UFOCAT is encouraged from those whose interest is scientific and who will in turn make their findings freely available. If you mention that you are associated with NUFON and will publish results this way your request will almost certainly be accepted. Cost is approximately £10-£15 per readout, but this is a worthwhile cost in view of the versatility of the service and especially when all UK material is transferred over to it. INQUIRIES TO:- Dr. D.R. Saunders
924 Chicago Avenue, Evanston, Illinois, 60202 USA

The Irish UFO Research Centre received an extraordinary report in the form of an unsigned, anonymous letter. There does not appear any way to follow it through and it is quite possible it is a complete hoax. It tells an incredible tale which is not without discrepancies. The full letter is included in the special supplement they produced for their JULY 76 issue Of IRISH UFO NEWS (which is available on special subscription from them of 50p for two issues). A summary of the report is as follows:

It concerns an old man, who at Christmas 1945 supposedly went to visit a dying uncle on a small island off the West coast of Ireland. Unfortunately he had already died and he consequently walked through deserted fields towards the shore to wait for the boat to return him to the mainland. (He did so despite claiming that there was a blizzard and a gale). Suddenly a flash was sighted out at sea. It flashed a second time but stayed lit for two minutes. Then an object with a square underside and a silvery dome, surrounded by purple lights, shot from the sky onto the sea. It rested here, making a whirring like a drill, and then rose before descending slowly into the fields. The witness hid behind some bushes and watched the huge object (it had crushed two cattle underneath who apparently had not run away!). The dome slid upwards and two figures with squarish legs and out of proportion bodies, wearing grey-black rubber suits got out. One walked to the nearby shore OUT ONTO THE WATER and placed a large 'phial like object' there. A farmer's dog then came onto the scene barking. Thinking it was one of the cattle a red ray was fired at it, and burnt it right through. Then the dog arrived and a box with lights and antennae was pointed at it. Hypnotised, apparently, it walked into the box and was put on board. Then they directed a huge scanner at the sky and five or six objects flew by overhead and disappeared. A beam of light was directed around the area round the landed craft. One of the beings heads swivelled round, without the body moving, 360 degrees to follow it! Then a gas enveloped the craft and the beings returned to it. They floated upwards into it 'magically'. One being saw the crouched form of the witness, raised his hands to the sky and waved. The witness ran away and reported the incident to the farmer who told him never to mention it as he would have his life ruined. Apparently he often found his field yellow in a morning, and his animals mutilated. Hundreds of dead fish turned up in the sea and the water was discoloured. He saw 'lights' often too. After such landings two radios were de-transistorised (the transistor was not invented until 1948!)

Either that is one of the most fantastic hoaxes ever or it is a most important case. I would not like to say which, but in the absence of being able to follow it through (and one can understand why the witness would keep quiet if it were true) then we must conclude that it is a non - event. Any comments?

On now to another potentially very important case which IS verifiable. It concerns two members of the British Antarctica Survey, who on May 22 1966 were stationed near Mount Gundry, Adelaide Island. Early in the morning they saw strange dense cloud in the south. It was rising vertically at a speed of about ten feet per second. It was at altitude 500 - 800 feet, elevation 10 - 15 degrees, and was about 100 feet by 100 feet in size. It was alternately expanding and contracting during observation and emitting a low buzzing sound described as like 'bees'. It was in view for a total of 45 minutes before dissolving. At one point a thick black ray emanated from the cloud and struck the ground at an angle of 45 degrees. A secondary ray was visible at the point of impact at an angle of 75 degrees to the primary ray. At the point of impact on the ground a small snow devil (snow storm) was observed. A colour slide of the event just described was taken, and this is being examined by BUFORAs photographic department. The incident was reported to yearly meteorological report and to the US Air Force, but there was no follow up in either case.

Weather was dull, with a five knot wind. There was no thunderstorm activity. It has been impossible to trace one witness, who was last living in Uganda, but the other witness (name on file) lives in Belfast and is a school teacher. He was a senior meteorological officer with the survey.

Coming back down to earth with the more usual type of report we have to deal with two witnesses near Dublin on June 21 1974 (at 23.30) reported seeing two white balls (the former twice the size of the full moon, the latter much smaller), moving slowly across the sky from the SW. They were in view five minutes and made no sound.

FLAP IN SOUTH WEST ENGLAND
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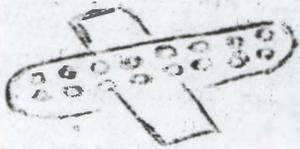
As some of you will no doubt have seen there have been odd goings on in the South West during mid November. The media have, of course, had a field day. We have a series of explosions over a wide area every night, just after 21.00. They have been recorded and analysed, though not explained to date. However, the scientists have proclaimed that they are NOT ufos. I wish they would divulge their methodology as it would save us a lot of trouble with the many non-UFOs we deal with. There has also been at least two close encounters with humanoids seen (pink eyed creatures at that). Intermixed have been electromagnetic effects and physical traces with scores of daylight observations of 'dirigibles'. A full report on these events, being investigated by BUFORA, will appear in Flying Saucer Review but it must be noted of relevance to our own area that we have not had a thing. Indeed this is an important negative statement because at the time of writing (November 22) NUFON has only ONE report on record for October and November together compared with THIRTY at this time last year. Interesting?

DOUBLE QUOTE OF THE MONTH: Mrs Bowles described her close encounter with a landed ufo, which had stopped the car steering, engine and lights, on BBC1 TV. An occupant walked across the fields and bent over staring in at the car. She was asked: 1) Did you get out of the car? 2) Do you often see things like this? No prizes for guessing the answers.

SIGHTING INVESTIGATIONS

Report 6808 October 8 1968 Lymm, Cheshire MUFORA REPORT
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One of MUFORA's investigators, Peter Hough, has given us a report on an incident which began his interest in UFOs. At the time he was delivering newspapers at 07.30 one morning. He saw what he thought was a model aircraft caught in some trees at an angle. It remained still for a few seconds and then flew between two trees. It was now clear it was an object in the sky. It disappeared behind a tree and then reappeared in a position some 100 feet higher. It then hovered for 20 seconds, moved off slowly in a 180 degree semi-circle and then made a sharp right angle turn before cruising away into the distance. It was in view five minutes.



It was described as like a cross with a row of lights or windows, in twos, along the edge. It was just after the flap of flying crosses seen in the south west. CLASSIFICATION C 3 c VALUE 3

REPORT 7465 October 23 1974 Glasgow BUFORA EDINBURGH
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Mrs Crawford and her daughter (aged 10 at time) observed a sparkling white, circular object moving northwards quite slowly. It took less than a minute to disappear in the murky horizon over the Clyde. A moment later an aircraft was seen and this did NOT reflect the rising sun. This was later confirmed as being a Trident going into Glasgow airport - the only movement. Extensive checks were made with the weather stations and with Glasgow and Edinburgh observatories. A balloon was ruled out by all authorities after checking windspeeds and other factors. Investigator Sturat Campbell concludes that the only explanation could be that this was ball lightning. The sky was clear and the weather cold. No thundery conditions were known. CLASSIFICATION C 3 b VALUE 4

REPORT 7466 December 10 1974 Annan, Scotland BUFORA EDINBURGH
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Mrs Maxwell was sat at the bus station with her two year old daughter. The time was 15.40 and the weather was dull and cold. Looking at a church clock she saw an object behind the spire. At first she thought it was an aircraft, but soon decided that this was not possible. It was oval and silvery and lit up like a tungsten lamp. It drifted to the north slowly for about 10-15 mins (birds were able to overtake it) and then turned west, shot off two red flames and disappeared. A further witness, a former military man, came round the corner during the sighting and testified to the observation. During its motion streaks of red, like exhaust seemed to be coming from behind. Various checks were made but aircraft, balloons etc were ruled out. The object was moving against the wind (which was westerly up to 9000m). The conclusion reached was that this was a form of ball lightning. CLASSIFICATION C 3 b VALUE 4



REPORT 75/141 Various dates October 1975 Shipley, W. Yorks IAN CRESSWELL

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Ian Cresswell has received a report from a Paul Bennett, (14 Westfield Lane, Wrose, Shipley) concerning a series of observations around Bradford in mid October. It is hoped that the BUFORA Yorkshire team will investigate. The most significant report appears to concern a red 'saucer' shaped object seen by a group of boys, including the writer, hovering over Wrose Hill Reservoir at 19.00 on October 10th. They ran towards it and when within 50 yards it just vanished into thin air. Paul's letter says, "So far nine (UFOs) have been seen in the Bradford area in 1976 and in the past five years 50 UFOs have been seen - however, 27 of them could be probable hoaxes." Paul is apparently a member of CONTACT UK.

REPORT 7663 July 21 1976 Hucknall, Notts NUFOIS REPORT

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This was first notified as a preliminary notification card (see August 76 issue). It is most interesting as a further adjunct to the series of reports in the Nottingham area at this period (see November issue page 6). The one witness, an elderly lady, was watching birds in a field from her home early in the morning. Over towards the nearby airfield she saw an object like two saucers stuck together spiral down from a cloud and across the sky. It also appeared to spin. It was in view approximately three minutes before moving away at high speed. The colour was described as light, coppery gold (like an old wedding ring). The airfield reported no movements at the time and East Midlands airport had no traffic in the area. The object is so far unidentified. REF: UFO Research Review: Autumn 1976 CLASSIFICATION c. 3 c VALUE 3

REPORT 7695 JUNE/JULY 1976 Macclesfield, Cheshire MUFORA REPORT

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Ms G holds a well qualified position of employment. She does not wish to be mentioned by name or occupation. Her report came to the attention of MUFORA following a radio programme. It occurred after one of the hot Summer days, at about 22.00, as stars were just beginning to appear. In the south east, at elevation 30 degrees a goldish shooting star appeared and flashed to the ground (vanishing behind houses). It was followed 'instantly' by a similar object following the same path. This happened three times in three seconds. It is possible that this was an unusual form of electrical phenomenon. CLASSIFICATION B 4 c Value 2

REPORT 7696 September 9th 1976 Huntington, N. YORKS Philip Hudson

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A man, his wife and their seventeen year old daughter were witness to two white lights which moved across the sky southwest to south east at an interval of four minutes. They moved faster than aircraft and disappeared into cloud. The local RAF base were contacted and they reported that at the times of observation (06.44 and 06.48) they had nothing on radar and there were no aircraft in the vicinity. Our thanks are due to Philip Hudson, BUFORAs RIC for Lincolnshire, for reporting this case. CLASSIFICATION C 4 b VALUE 2

MORE INFORMATION ON THE BARROW LIGHTBULB (Report 7694) Ian Cresswell

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The original report comes from Post Office Engineering inspector, Mr. Thomson, and his wife. At 07.20 On October 6th looking through the window of their home they saw a large object shaped like and elongated light bulb. It was very luminous and did not appear to be reflecting light. Mrs. Thomson thought she saw it blinking. It hovered for two minutes plus, and then moved away south eastwards and disappeared. Further witnesses came forward via the North Western Mail, RW Jordan reported it as being like a cross section of a saucer tilted towards the observer displaying a bright ellipse of light. It was an elevation of 80 degrees. JK Devlin was with a workmate at the Barrow Engineering Company when they saw the light at an angle over the steelworks. After clocking on at 07.27 it was still there but appeared to have moved. The sky at the time was overcast. Investigation is proceeding.

THE BIRMINGHAM CONFERENCE

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There is no intention of giving a full report. It will be reviewed in BUFORA JOURNAL and Flying Saucer Review. However, congratulations must be given to UFOSIS for all their hard work in organising it. About 130 people attended to hear a full programme of papers on many diverse subjects. (eg plasma phenomena, statistical relations of reports with sunrise and sunset terminators, photographic analysis and, of course, Ted Bloechers paper on Entity reports). The lectures will all be available on the NUFON tape library scheme in the near future (probably after Christmas) and BUFORA assure me a complete 'all-in-one' proceedings WILL be issued this time. 6.

DETAILED INVESTIGATION REPORT

THE MOSSLEY CLOSE ENCOUNTER CASE

Investigation: Jeff Porter & Peter
Warrington (MUFORA)

CASE NUMBER: 75/140

CLASSIFICATION: C 2 c

AUGUST 1975 20.00 hours

Holmfirth, West Yorks (OS SE 073070)

INTRODUCTION:

The case came to the attention of MUFORA following a radio programme on October 22nd 1976. The witness rang the studio AFTER the programme (he did not wish publicity) and spoke to Jenny Randles. Jeff Porter & Peter Warrington interviewed him on October 24th, and returned with him to the scene of the incident to take photographs on October 31st. The case has not yet been closed.

THE LOCATION:

The incident occurred in an upland moor region on the A635, facing WSW (OS REF as stated). The area is desolate, with no habitation for some miles either side. To the north there are several reservoirs. To the south east is the Holme Moss TV transmitter. The road is at a height of approximately 1400 feet and is surrounded on both sides by peat bogs. Upermill (scene of several close encounters) is two miles west.

THE REPORT:

The witness is a service engineer, well educated and married. We shall refer to him solely as DJ (which are not his initials). DJ was travelling alone in his mini-van from Wakefield to Mossley, where he lives. The date was either August 24 or 31 (weather conditions indicate the 31st, but checks are being made to try to pin this down with certainty). He was familiar with the road and had driven it on his outward journey some hours before. After leaving Holmfirth he entered hill mist (not uncommon in the area). Visibility was reduced to no more than fifteen metres.

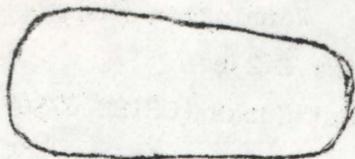
At reference SE 0907 he noticed a white light by the side of the road, up ahead. As he drew closer he began to wonder if it were something in the road itself. It looked as 'big as a farmhouse' so he stopped. He turned off the car engine and wound down the window. He could now clearly see the object in his one o'clock position (true bearing 250 degrees). It was about 100 metres distant and was shaped like a barrage balloon without fins. It was clearly visible and seemed to create a 'tunnel' through the mist, although the marker posts by the road side just a few metres away were almost lost from view.

The object now began to move towards the witness. Thinking his headlights might be attracting it he turned them off. When within about 18 metres the object turned slightly and crossed the road, at an angle ahead - coming within a distance of 7.6 metres of DJ. The marker posts by the road side are wooden, with dimensions 1.2 metres by 150mm by 50mm. The object rose, whilst in motion, and cleared these (hovercraft fashion) at a height of no more than 2 metres (it appeared to be on the ground for the rest of the time). It was framed across the road at this point and very accurate dimensional figures are possible based upon the width of the road (5.7 metres). It would appear that the object was 7.5 metres long, 7.5 metres wide and 4.5 metres high (front end), tapering to 6.0 metres wide and 3.6 metres high (rear end). -SEE FIG A & B The overall shape was that of an egg with a flat base, rounded edges, and tapering. It was coloured white, was bright enough to leave a slight after image on the retina, but did not illuminate the road beneath. It was described as like a translucent plastic with a light INSIDE it.

The object now passed across the road, still maintaining a speed of only about 3km per hour. It began to move down the valley side (back on the ground again) following the contours. Suddenly two white shapes appeared out of the mist right on top of the car. They were sheep following the object and looking up at it. One of them was bleating and this was the only sound heard during the whole experience. They continued to follow the object down the valley. As the object reached the bottom of the valley it turned to follow it, and seemed to accelerate slightly. It was difficult seeing clearly through the mist (although the valley bottom was clear). The object was finally lost as it passed behind an outcrop of rock (OS REF SE 085065) at bearing 110 - 120 degrees. As it did so the witness sighed with relief and his ears quite noticeably 'popped'. Total duration of his stop was seven minutes. DJ now drove rapidly away, although he was slowed by the mist and reached home some minutes later than would normally have been expected.

THE OBJECT FIG A & B

SIDE VIEW



UNDERNEATH VIEW



There was only one distinguishing mark on the object. A black circular band, about one metre in diameter on the underside towards the rear.

The witness was obviously very anxious, and after the object had gone he found himself clutching a screwdriver (which he does not recall picking up). He probably did this as a reflex defence mechanism. In addition he felt paralysed. He could move his head, but not his legs. He thinks this was probably due to fear. One can appreciate his desire not to have his name mentioned. He did tell his wife on arrival, but not anyone else. He said at night he found himself wondering if he really saw it - but he is certain that he did. He has no explanation for what he saw at all.

CONCLUSIONS:

It is very difficult to reach a conclusion in this particular case. It is very reminiscent of the many reports of the mystery helicopter which have come in from this moorland area over the last few years, but there is no way that this can have been a helicopter. It is probably the best reported case of its type on record, and the close proximity of the observation makes virtually all possible explanations untenable. One could think in terms of a hovercraft, though what one would be doing out there is another matter, but one cannot get within feet of one of those on a desolate road and hear nothing. The fact that the sheep was heard is a very significant point.

The area itself revealed no indications of anything unusual, such as tracks, though it is being considered revisiting the area and checking with the local landowners as to whether anything can be remembered from this period.

DJ has provisionally agreed to undergo hypnosis, should a suitable doctor be found and should it be deemed useful. The time lapse in this instance may be significant (it amounts to about 50 minutes). DJ, however, is quite certain that this was entirely due to the misty conditions and this does seem a very likely answer.

At the present stage of investigations MUFORA classify this report as unidentified.

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NORTHERN UFO NEWS: SUBSCRIPTION REMINDER

Your subscription to Northern UFO News runs out with this issue if there is an 'x' in the box

Subscription for 12 issues (January - December 1977) is £2



Groups who wish to take more than one copy may check rates with the editor or NUFON treasurer, Peter Warrington. Those who took multiple copies last year should note that the rates for 1977 are unchanged.

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PUBLICATIONS (Available through the Editor)

NUFON REPORT ON 1975 (last few copies)	25p		
NUFON SPRING 1976 CONVENTION PROCEEDINGS	40p		
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