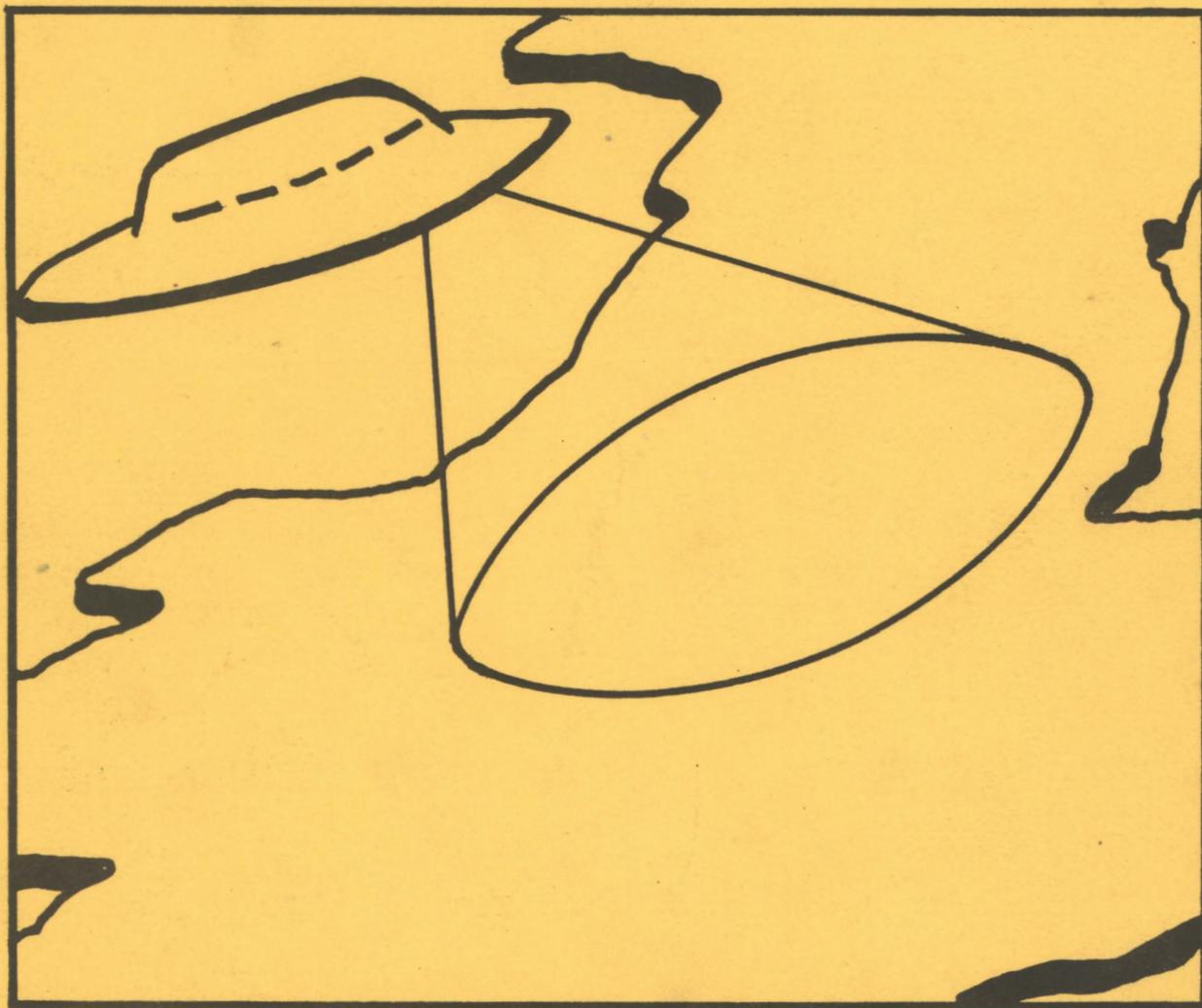


35/36

NORTHERN UFO NEWS



NEWSLETTER OF THE NORTHERN UFO NETWORK
(NUFON)

23, Sunningdale Dr. Irlam. Gt. M/c. M30 6NJ.

"Nufon is a liaison system for independent UFO organisations and researchers in Northern Britain. It acts as a coordination centre for investigation, research and general information".

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EDITORIAL: 'Do we need a national UFO group?'

This question is being asked by many at the moment and, although I would say quite definitely 'Yes' in reply, many will have seen that I have strongly criticised BUFORA of late (see Winter 76-77 issue of UFO RESEARCH REVIEW). I do this not from animosity for our national group, but because I believe that to look at the failings 'warts and all' is the only way to get rid of the warts!

The central problem is one of communication. You might be surprised to learn that N.U.N only has 35 paying subscribers and only 55 copies are circulated. It is true that most groups circulate it amongst their members, producing an effective readership of some 200 or more, but there is no doubt we could sell it if we wanted to. The point is that it is viewed more as a communication medium than as a magazine. It reaches virtually all the active ufologists and ufo groups in the north (and a high proportion of those in the south). This compares with BUFORA Journal, which circulates to some 700 but only about 100 of these can be called seriously interested. To my mind the results of your work are better disseminated the NUFON way than spread thinly to a few hundred schoolboys passing through the 'UFO fad'.

It is not just a question of magazine policy (BUFORA Journal does not lay great emphasis on sighting data for example), but one of community spirit. I believe a prime reason for the success of NUFON is that we have regular meetings throughout the region, and there is always some venture organised by a local group to promote. This creates a team spirit, and there is a lack of this in a national sense because BUFORA has never encouraged members to join local groups or aimed to set up a strong system of these.

You are aware of some of the difficulties in liaison between local groups and BUFORA. The NIC, Ken Phillips, has asked me to give reasons why there is such poor response in analysis work submitted. BUFORA has had soil samples for the Rainhill landing since December 1975 (and lost them), paint samples for the Mrs Lainchbury contact with physical effects since June last (and lost them), and two important photographic cases from last year for many, many months. We are told to 'be patient'. With limited resources someone has to decide which are unimportant. It is not my intention to suggest to you what to do, but with NUFON having analysis help from Kodak and university departments in most large towns it seems reasonable not to overburden the PAID at BUFORA - unless we actually get a UFO. That might be thought of as important!

I do not decry the work of the PAID. I would be the first to accept the value they could be, given better resources. BUFORA surely has to recognise this and become the British UFO Research Association by putting the journal on a separate subscription to membership so that all membership monies can go into research work (and the production of an inexpensive research bulletin). The journal could then be self sufficient and concentrate on the sighting data.

APPOLOGIES ARE DUE FOR THIS ISSUE BEING A DOUBLE, AS MOST OF YOU WILL KNOW THIS WAS DUE TO MYSELF BEING ILL AND REQUIRING A LONG STAY IN HOSPITAL WITH TWO OPERATIONS. I HOPE WE SHALL NOW BE BACK TO NORMAL SCHEDULES. Editor

UFO INVESTIGATORS' NETWORK:

Reference was made in the March issue to the possible formation of a UK Investigators' Agency. This concept has now firmly got off the ground, under the above revised name (hereafter referred to as UFOIN).

Briefly the idea is to have a loose-knit team of experienced investigators who will work exclusively, and in depth, on high strangeness cases. The chief purpose is to produce publishable reports for Flying Saucer Review, who are offering financial backing to the venture. The Network will not work in competition with UFO groups, but will strive for a close working liaison with all since this is essential for the continuance of investigation work. Network investigators will be the most experienced in the UK and should therefore be utilised by less experienced ufologists to ensure that a good case is investigated as thoroughly as possible. In return the network investigators will pass many cases onto their colleagues since they will be concentrating in future on intensive work into a small number of cases.

To date approximately 30 of the countries leading investigators have accepted an invitation to membership. New membership will be decided solely by an individual being able to provide to the network an in-depth investigation into a high strangeness case. In other words, membership is open to all investigators who, either now or in the future, achieve a high standard of work.

Each member has paid an initial donation of £5. With other donations this has provided a substantial fund, which will be used for investigation expenses to enable good quality cases to receive the best possible back-up. There is no official organisation or committee behind the network.

It will be my intention to keep readers informed of any developments in this new concept, and I am sure that we all wish it well and will endeavour to give it our support. Any inquiries regarding it may be made through the editor.

UFOs IN THE NEWS:

All of a sudden UFOs appear to have become respectable news material. It has of course helped that we have gone through a distinct nationwide 'flap' during the Winter, but it is significant that with the screening of the 50 minute documentary on 'Occupants' by BBC-1 imminent and the release of the motion picture 'Close Encounter of the third kind' due for around Christmas time we have recently seen a burst of serious treatment by the media.

Following several news items on the various CE-111 cases up and down the country television has produced some interesting items. Charles Bowen was featured on BBC-1s 'Swap Shop' Saturday morning show in February. He was to be seen again, along with Prof John Taylor and Captain Woods (pilot of the British Airways Trident jet involved in a radar-visual case last July), on an ITV 'Good Afternoon' programme, screened on April 12th.

In the press the Manchester Evening News went a considerable way towards making up for the dreadful series on UFOs they gave us in November 1975 when for a week, commencing March 21st, they provided a well-balanced set of articles on the subject. Considerable publicity (including several adverts on Granada TV!) were utilised to launch this. The series opened with a general introduction displaying the complexity of the many theories which might account for UFOs and a full scale treatment of one case - the close encounter on Wessenden Moor in August 1975 (see NUN December 1976). On the 22nd official attitudes were examined, including President Carters experiences. Also a survey of north west activity and an interview with Jenny Randles and Peter Warrington (giving much credit to NUFON). Other articles looked at entity reports and an interview with Patrick Moore showed this delightful entertainer up for the illogical and biased thinker he really is.

Many days of readers reports followed and MUFORA have been provided with a large number of cases to investigate (reviewed overleaf - full details in future issues when available). Reporter David Harrison is to be credited on a fine effort.

A delightful quote from Peter Warrington (described in the series as 'one of a new breed' and 'the man who has to build the crown jewels from a few bits of coloured glass') was "It's like candy floss in a gale". An apt description of our efforts to solve the UFO mystery in the midst of conflicting data.

On now to a quick look at some of the cases under investigation as a result of the stimulus to report this series created:-

No 6610: An engineer at Trafford Park recalls an unusual LITS case from December 1966. Looking NW he saw a white 'star' moving slowly 'like a ~~st~~ellite' and then suddenly streak upwards at an incredible speed at an angle of 30 degrees to the verticle. It left no trail but was gone within seconds.

NO 7121: A woman from Wilmslow, Cheshire makes the claim that a small disc came out of a tree in her garden and shot a beam of 'solid' light through the window (without damaging it) and left a lumpy mark on her kneck where it struck. This mark was seen by doctors just afterwards and is still visible now. The event allegedly ocured at 1am on August 9 1971 (amidst a CE-111 flap!)

No 76/145 A remarkable report from a CID Detective Inspector who was returning home from duty at 1.45am on April 2 1976. He saw a white disc in the sky whilst driving along the M66. It moved very fast but began to slow down. He stopped the car and got out, watching the disc slow and stop. Here it made 90 degree manoeuvres, at speed, and then started to move towards Rochdale. He followed it again, saw it stop and manoeuver again, all of the time believing it was some type of defence craft (although he was certain of the disc shape). However, all this was dispelled when it suddenly streaked out of view to the horizon within two seconds -with absolute instant acceleration. He reported it to the MOD, but for obvious reasons did not make an official police report.

No 76/146 Another alleged physical effects case. At 8pm on December 18th 1976 (in the midst of the Staffordshire flap) a man with a karate black belt claims he heard a humming noise from Salford. Looking up he saw an object like two soup plates with a light in the middle. He sat on a wall and felt very relaxed and then suddenly he felt very hot. He ran from the scene, hysterical.

No 7756 At 8pm on March 4th 1977 a woman driving in a car between Whakley Bridge and Chapel en Le Frith saw a silvery sphere stationary in the sky. She followed it for some distance and saw it streak upwards into the sky. (NB other cases on this night 7735, 7736, 7737)

NOTES ON PAST CASES:

An interesting postscript to the Hanley close encounter' (see NUN March 1977) concerns investigators Terry Shotton and Chris Bourne. After interviewing the witness they came out to find the cassette player and heater in their locked car both ON (although they had been off). The nightwatchmen has been traced. He does back up the sighting, and in fact saw the object reflected in a window. The rattling of the window ocured throughout the sighting. One other point, it is now thought that this case ocured in the 1960's not the 1950's .

Ian Cresswell, in his researching, has discovered an old FSR case ('Case Histories' Feb 71 p.15) which relates to an object seen through fog (see Staffordshire cases in Feb 1977 NUN). It left a vibratory feeling around the witness (akin to ultrasonic sound?) which left physical effects on her.

75/145 Salford, Grt Manchester May 1975 MUFORA

Eight witnesses saw a white light moving eastwards at a great height. It moved very slowly and was in view twenty minutes from 18.45, fading slowly. When it had almost vanished it suddenly burst into life again and four smaller objects leaving trails were discharged. They travelled but a short distance before vanishing. The main object vanished on their discharge. Could this have been a weather balloon disintegrating?

75/146 Preston, Lancashire November 12 or 13 1975 PULSE

A report featured in the February 1977 issue of AIRCRAFT ILLUSTRATED led to this

investigation. It concerns an odd aircraft with a rounded fuselage and wings connected to the tail plane by struts. It flew in front of a car, very low, and had no visible markings, windows or normal attributes. One can think of the UFOs which take on the shape of aircraft (as popularised by Keel), but we must also remember the nearby BAC airbase at Warton.

A FLAP IN SOUTHERN IRELAND: Irish UFO Research Centre

Thanks are due to the IURC, and investigators Miles Johnstone, John Hind, Tom Higgins and Chris Gaffney, for a detailed report of a flap which seems to have plagued the region of Naas, a small town thirty miles SW of Dublin. The reports are basically LITS, but of a higher than normal strangeness. Some well qualified witnesses are involved and there is considerable consistency in what was reported. It is also interesting to note that four investigators were witness to the objects themselves during the course of an investigation.

The flap began in Mid June 1976, but it would seem that many of these earlier reports were misidentifications. Of much more note were the two sightings which occurred on July 1st. At 22.00 three adult brothers at Sallins saw a red cloud like object with diffuse edges descend slowly. There are many potential explanations for this event, but it is worth noting because at 23.25 from the same town many witnesses claim to have seen a red oval light descend into some fields. The local Garde (Police) received so many calls from respectable sources and went to investigate the next day, but found nothing. Two witnesses who had the closest encounter were a 50 year old shopkeeper and his wife. They heard a noise like a vacuum cleaner as the object descended from about 100 feet high. About thirty five minutes later the object rose up out of the field, hopped over a tree, and landed again. This was the last that was seen of it. Three days later investigators visited the field where the object had allegedly landed. They found an oval patch of ground denuded of grass. It was 8 metres by 4.5 metres, and was still in evidence some months later. Inquiries indicate that it may well have been caused by cattle, but soil samples were taken.

On July 5th a very similar object was seen by Mr Ryan, a member of the Garde, who was driving along a road near Sallins with his sister at about midnight. It was a huge oval, larger than the full moon. It was only seen briefly before the motion of the car made it disappear. The witnesses estimated it was about 200 feet high.

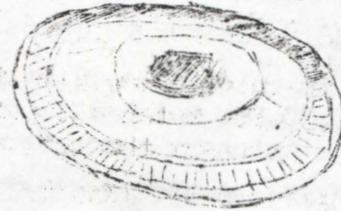
On October 31st these cases were being investigated and at 19.15 four investigators were in John Hinde's car outside the home of the shopkeeper (see above). They saw a red oval light, about half the size of the full moon, descend slowly into some open fields. The polaroid camera was available (having been used earlier to photograph the alleged landing site). About half a minute after the object disappeared a similar one appeared in the same region of sky and performed as the previous object. A photograph of each light was taken, but these were inconclusive owing to the poor setting of the camera. On return home at 22.10 a blood red light appeared suddenly in front of the car, at an elevation of about 40 degrees. The witnesses were driving just outside of Naas heading for Dublin. They pulled quickly into the side of the road and watched as the object moved slowly horizontally and then drop steeply groundwards. It was in view one minute. (Report forms for both sightings were filled in immediately by all witnesses BEFORE any discussion of the events).

There are some interesting anecdotes to these reports. Just after the first sighting one of the investigators announced he had a premonition that they would see the object again. As he was not prone to 'psychic' claims he was given the camera (which had been poorly set for the first incident). He was thus prepared and able to take two photographs of the second sighting which clearly show a red spot of light. (plus various spurious white lights). All of the witnesses had just visited a BUFORA member who claimed to be psychic. She had held 'sitting' to try to contact the objects and promised that the investigators would soon be rewarded for their work. A coincidence?

A Flap in Southern Ireland Cont...

These last sightings occurred close to November 5th, but fireworks are banned in Ireland (for obvious reasons) and the police were sure no illicit displays were held. It would be a strange coincidence if more than one took place, and the launch or landing points of the two objects were totally different. Checks for a flare proved negative and it was found that both objects moved against a strong wind. In any event the coincidence in similarity of these objects to those seen during the July flap cannot be discounted.

It was with this backdrop that the spectacular photographic case of July 15th occurred at nearby Newbridge. (See NUN March 1977). A full report on the case is to be featured in FSR in the near future so only a brief review will be here given (The photograph can be seen - in excellent enlargement form - in the IURC publication Irish UFO News for Jan 1977. You are strongly advised to take advantage of the cheap subscription offered to NUFON groups and take this twice yearly magazine). The object shows clearly in TEN black & white prints, taken in sequence on an old Kodak Instamatic. The photographs agree with the witnesses description of the object fluttering and wobbling low over the field which they were in. Describing a slow figure of eight motion (taking about three minutes) and then gaining speed and altitude rapidly (the final three shots show this clearly). A mist or vapour appears to surround the object at times. It is not yet certain that the photographs are genuine, but owing to the wealth of detail, they present considerable work is being done on them. Both object and clouds are in focus which indicates that the objects are not close to the camera (eg hand thrown) and a concealed tape recorder was left in the room with the witnesses alone (a favourite trick of Hynek) but no incriminating remarks were made.



TWO MORE PHOTOGRAPHIC CASES:

Report 76/135 May 29 1976 Hanwood, Salop Alan Knight

The witness is a well qualified auctioneer. He was just getting out of his car at 23.20 with his photographic equipment, having visited a friend's. He saw the object in the northern sky - a silver star. It moved slowly westwards and then disappeared. (It was later found that it may well have gone behind trees). Its path was erratic. It reappeared and disappeared twice more, and on these latter occasions several frames were taken with 20 second time exposure. The camera has a 135mm telephoto lens and was set on a tripod. The photographs are at present being analysed by BUFORA.

Report 76/136 August 8 1976 Gwynedd, North Wales Barry King

This report has a strange history as the witness lives in Walsall and it was investigated by Barry King in Essex! The witness, a Mrs Austin, and her husband were hiking at reference 877172 (OS Sheet 125) and took five photographs of the scenery. No object was seen at the time, but on one frame a white elongated oval appears above the hilltop. Detailed investigation of the negative showed that the 'UFO' was due to a small portion of dried chemical on the back of the emulsion. The photograph is similar to many others which have been accepted as 'genuine' and casts doubt on the authenticity of some of these.

At this point it would be appropriate to mention that Barry King has done a considerable amount of work in the preparation of PHOTOCAT. This is a catalogue and statistical analysis of photographic cases. It is an important piece of work which will hopefully be published in the near future. If you have any unpublished photographic cases which you feel might be appropriate please get in touch with Barry at 554 Goresbrook Rd, Dagenham, Essex RM9 4XD

EVENTS AT DUDLEY

Report by UFOSIS (withthanks to M.Pritchard)

The following two cases may not appear especially spectacular, but they should be read in context with Report 76/126 (see NUN March 1977) which occurred at 21.10 on the same night in the same town.

Report 76/137 October 12 1976 Dudley, West Midlands

Mr and Mrs B, plus a friend, were witness to a pulsating ball of white light moving SW and then turning SE. It was in view for one and a half minutes and throbbed on and off. Despite the estimated size of a 2p piece at arms length the investigators feel that exaggeration may well have caused a satellite to have been misidentified. Time 20.00

Report 76/138 October 12 1976 Dudley, West Midlands

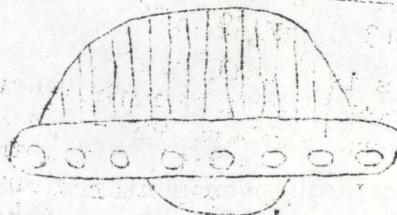
The witness is an elderly lady. She saw an orange oval through the lounge window at 20.30. She watched it off and on up to 22.00, but at 23.30 it had gone. It remained stationary throughout. It was almost certainly a groundlight.

Report 76/139 November 7 1976 Wednesbury, West Midlands UFOSIS

Two independent observations are here recounted from this town. The first concerns receptionist Karen Riley and her younger sister. At 19.20 they saw a white ball of light in the WNW. It was moving silently at average speed and was the size of a 10p piece at arms length. It then dipped a few feet with smoke coming out, continued its flight, dipped again and then discharged a small rectangular object (no more than 1/4 the size of the main object). This fell out of sight behind a wall, at first slowly and then more quickly, and as it did so the main object disappeared. The whole thing was in view 2 minutes. There is no reason to doubt the estimates of duration or size made.

From just a few streets away teenage schoolgirl Jacqueline Bradshaw was to have a strange experience at about the same time (estimated by her as 19.30). She first heard a buzzing sound which was of middle pitch and was fluctuating.

Upon looking up she saw the object shown opposite. It was glowing white from the lights on its edge. The top dome was dull silver and had dark lines, vertically engrained. The bottom dome was the most brilliant part of the craft, but was not a light. The shape was very clear and it was rotating steadily clockwise on its own axis. At first it was tilted upwards



at an angle of 25 degrees as it moved. It then moved into a horizontal position as it moved across the sky. After a while it reverted to the 25 degree tilt. Its motion across the sky was in a narrow circle. It continued without stopping to follow a similar circular path as the witness watched. She now walked to a nearby bus stop and whilst she waited for a bus the object completed another five or six circles making the same tilting manoeuvres as it did so. There were no other people on the street at the time. She got onto the bus and was able to watch the object for a few more moments before the bus took her away from the area. The total duration of the sighting was estimated as at least five minutes and the apparent size at arms length that of a football.

The weather was cold and dry with a slight breeze. There were stars and a quarter moon visible. The police had no other reports, and no explanation for either of the reports (if they are in fact unconnected) has been found.

Report 76/140 November 23 1976 Gotgrave, Notts NUFOIS

Mr Penley was outside his home when he heard a hissing noise in the sky. Upon looking up he saw a ball of white light (four times the apparant size of Jupiter which was prominent at the time). It had a tail, which faded as the object moved. The object was travelling very fast, and was in view ten seconds. As it passed overhead the hissing changed to a crackle. No aircraft movements were noted at the time. Watnall meteorological office could suggest no weather phenomenon which might have given cause to this report, although the investigators feel this is a likely cause. Certainly both a prominent fireball (which would perhaps have been reported by many others) and 'ball lightning' are possible candidates. Time 00.10.

Report 76/141 November 23 1976 Stoke Bardolph, Notts NUFOIS

A single witness cycling from Stoke Bardolph to Radcliffe-on-Trent was the observer of a brilliant light, low in the sky between two houses. He saw it for just a couple of seconds. On arrival home he looked for it once more, but it was not there. There are many possible explanations for this sighting.

Report 76/142 November 23 1976 Derby NUFOIS

A single female witness reported a light in the sky to the north of the town. Details are not known, but there were several light aircraft in the area at the time and it seems a probable cause of this report. Time 16.55.

Report 76/143 November 1976 Kidsgrove, Staffs UFORA Staffs

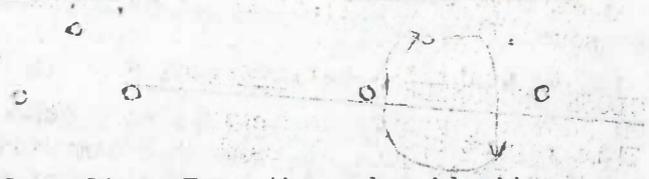
The witness in this case is a youngster who was on the way to his sea cadet unit at sometime between 18.00 and 19.00. In the west he saw three lights in the formation of an equalateral triangle

At first he thought it was an aircraft but it remained stationary, and was silent. He was now scared and ran to the opposite side of a railway bridge he was crossing. The object now flew over his head and continued out of sight,

SIDE VIEW

UNDERSIDE VIEW

appearing to follow the course of the railway lines. From the underside it appeared oval with two steady red lights on each edge and a continuously circling white light, which looked like a flashing neon light. It was the apparant size of a tennis ball (presumably when overhead) and was in view for betwen 30 seconds and one minute.



Report 76/144 December 31 1976 Knutsford, Cheshire UFO SIS

Mr Thomas, a local government officer, was driving along the M6 towards Birmingham, having just stopped at the Sandbach Services. In the SW he suddenly saw three distinctly amber lights which were stationary in the sky. They were in an equilateral triangle. He became confused and fearing that a large lorry was on the road ahead he pulled into the hard shoulder to avoid a potential accident.

There was in fact nothing ahead, and having satisfied himself to this effect he drove off again. The lights disappeared suddenly as he drove under a bridge. He has since driven along that stretch of motorway and checked to see if there are any unusual lights which could have been reflected to account for the sighting but there are none. However, this area is reasonably close to the approach way into Manchester airport - although aircraft lights are not amber. Time of observation about 19.00.

Report 7715 January 3 1977

Smethwick, West Midlands

BUFORA

The witness is a 24 year old toolmaker. He reports a yellowish light like a light bulb with a fuzzy outline. It was stationary in the South for ten minutes before dimming out like a car headlamp. It then brightened again and was still visible for ten more minutes. He went to collect other witnesses, but on return it had gone. Time of observation 20.45. Object certainly stellar (seen through thin high cloud) - probably Venus.

Report 7716 January 5 1977

Wrexham, Clwyd

MUFORA

An interesting new photographic case has come to light. It is interesting because of its similarity to the famous Alex Birch (now claimed hoax) and Stephen Pratt cases - in that the two colour prints (taken on an instamatic camera) show four disc like objects. It is also now known that an independent report of high quality occurred on the same day in Suffolk, and the object involved here in the close encounter was remarkably similar to those photographed. The photographers were two boys (aged 16 and 14) who saw the objects approaching them through a back window at 9.45 am. They rushed outside to take the picture before the objects disappeared into low cloud. The mother of one of the boys was present when they rushed in for the camera and followed them outside after they had taken the pictures. She did not see the objects, but confirms all other details. The case is being investigated by MUFORA.

Report 7717 January 25 1977

Penrith, Cumbria

BUFORA

The witness, a 38 year old man, was going to work when he spotted a large white light in the west. It had three smaller lights trailing behind (possibly optical effects). He called to his wife and children and they watched the object move slowly westwards and climb from 15 degrees to 30 degrees. It made no sound. Time of observation 07.28. In view ten minutes.

CLOSE ENCOUNTER OVER BRIDLINGTON

Report 7718

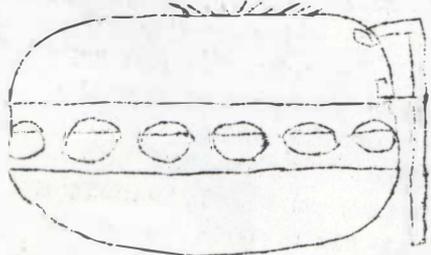
January 27 1977

This report has been received by BUFORA but has not received adequate investigation. It is to be passed onto local investigators for more details.

It involves three cleaning women, travelling to work at a large factory at 26.45. One of the women will not be interviewed as she is very frightened, but report forms have been obtained from the other two (aged 52 and 23). They are semi-literate, but their accounts clearly show the profundity of the encounter on them. Indeed one comment is 'Do not publish my address. I have to walk home alone!'

It appears two objects were involved, one hovering in a mist or cloud, above the roof of the factory. The other floated down very low (to the height of the bedroom window of a house) and hovered. It was described as 'floating down backwards'. It then turned and flew over a woodyard, hovered again, flew away once more and disappeared into low cloud. On close approach all witnesses were able to get such a good view that they could see inside the windows that surrounded the object.

It was roughly oval in shape, with a dark grey underside and top. As it flew



away it appeared more rounded from the back. There was a rectangular portion at the front with a row of windows which looked like portholes. They were shining brightly. Inside a corridor and a far wall could be seen. There seemed to be an object attached to the back which was like a jack or lift made out of aluminium but the report forms are not very clear on this. Despite the proximity of the

object, and its presence for at least five minutes, no sound was heard. The size was described as bigger than any of the standard measures at arms length. Indeed one apt description was 'the size of the Daily Mirror' at arms length. One of the witnesses felt that the top dome rotated.

CLOSE ENCOUNTER AT BRIDLINGSON Cont...

It is already apparant that this is an important case, particularly in view of the diversity in ages of the witnesses. However, there is more. It is alleged that physical effects were felt - ie the witnesses went cold, developed a bad throat and had a prickly sensation in their eyes. It is further alleged that the watch of one of the witnesses was stopped, and machinery inside the factory over which the object hovered stopped temporarily about this time.

The witnesses went to some lengths to find BUFORA, as they were terrified to report it to the press for fear of ridicule.

Report 7720 February 3 1977 Ilkestone, Derby UFORA Staffs

The witness was sitting on his motorcycle at 17.36 when he saw a reddish ellipse with a tail, the apparant size of a one pence piece at arms length, moving on a descending path NW to SE. It was in view 13 seconds (timed accurately by his watch). The witness went to some lengths to try to identify what he saw. He compared it to pictures of a satellite re-entry and found it did not compare (and also via the Russian Information Bureau that there were no reentries). He ruled out a flare because it moved across a strong breeze (as confirmed by weather records) and there were no storms conducive to ball lightning formation.



Report 7721 February 4 1977 Basford, Staffs UFORA Staffs

Mr Exton is an AA Engineer. He was driving along the A500 with a colleague following 50 yards behind. They were talking on the radio (72.8 MHz frequency). Suddenly their conversation was drowned out by static - white noise, a background hiss, and a high pitched note. Both men heard it and had to turn their sets down. Looking over towards the Shelton steel plant one man saw an orange object moving parallel with the road, travelling west. It hovered momentarily (4-5 seconds) and as it did so the static increased. As the object soed away towards the M6 the static decreased and finally faded. Checks with other operators who use radio equipment produced the confirmation of the Stafford Police HQ who said that they had unexplained heavy static between 02.15 and 02.25 on the night in question. The AA men's sighting occured at 02.25.

Report 7728 February 27 1977 Stoke on Trent UFORA Staffs

An unusual incident is reported from the skywatch UFORA held to coincide with BUFORA's national skywatch at this time. The watch began at 19.30 on the roof of a garage. Nothing was noted until at 00.23 a broken silvery line followed by a red disc of light was seen. In size it was twice that of Venus, and it moved about thirty degrees of arc due west. After a short break for a drink the watch was resumed, and at 00.40 they noticed (independantly) some feelings of apprehension. Then the garage roof began to vibrate in a wave like motion. This lasted for two minutes, then there was a break and it resumed. The watches were able to stick this out for an hour, with growing feelings of fear, before the watch was abandoned. The site has been used before and since with no such effects having been noted.

Report 7732 February 28 1977 Sheffield, South Yorks UFORUM

It was reported that at about mid-day some students from the Polytechnic and at least one lecturer spotted an object which they at first took to be an aircraft moving in zig zag fashion across the sky. It then shot off at great speed towards Tinsley Viaduct. This report should be noted in context with the Sighting Notification card (7731) - see P.12 - of a sighting in Nottinghamshire at the same time.

There have been several cases of late where schoolchildren have allegedly had sightings of objects from their school (note especially the South Wales CE-111 encounter). This is another. It concerns two schoolgirls in their teens, who at 2.30pm say that they saw a silver/blue metallic oval shape streak across the sky to the NNE. It was rotating and had flashing red and green lights on it. The speed was well in excess of that of an ordinary aircraft, and the object was in view for about thirty seconds.



Report 7747 March 10 1977

Higher Irlam, Gtr Manchester MUFORA

Miss Ennis is an 18 year old typist. She had just arrived home at 1.15am, and was about to go indoors after parking her car. At elevation 50 degrees in the North East she saw a silver/grey cone shaped light. It was stationary and seemed to be pulsating. She observed the object for 4-5 minutes, before going up to her bedroom from where she could not see it any further. The observation point places it over mostly open land which leads to the banks of the Manchester Ship Canal. Barton Aerodrome (a large private flying aerodrome) is two miles north, but as there are no runway lights there is no flying at night (a fact to which I can definitely attest as I live in the immediate vicinity of this sighting - EDITOR)



Report 7748 March 12 1977

Withernsea, N. Humberside Derick Shelton

Details of this case are still being discovered by local investigators, but it involves the crew of the lifeboat from Falmouth to Bridlington. Sailing NW past Withernsea they saw a glowing object which hovered over the boat for several seconds before shooting off to the south west at a tremendous speed.

Report 7749 March 14 1977

Bradford, West Yorks BUFORA YORKS

This report was telephoned into MUFORA, but it has been forwarded to the Yorkshire branch, who on superficial examination believe to possibly be a misinterpretation of a star. It concerns a stationary white light seen over rooftops with a diffuse band of light surrounding it.

Report 7750 March 27 1977

Gee Cross, Gtr Manchester MUFORA

A single witness, whilst taking his dog for a walk, reported a white ball of light with a slight tail (the size of a tennis ball??). It moved across the sky south to north and was in view 4 seconds. Despite his letter, which refers to the fact that the object was purposefully directed and talks of government secrecy there is no doubt that this was a bright fireball meteor (see also Sighting card 7751 - p.12) Time of observation 22.45.

VEHICLE INTERFERENCE CASE FROM LANCASHIRE (Report 7746)

This case is still under investigation, and a full report will be featured in a future issue. It concerns two men who work a night shift in a factory near Nelson. At 3.10am they had driven a colleague home when they saw bright lights on top of Pendle Hill. The object shown opposite moved slowly towards them, hovering above the car. It was a shiny black oval with bright lights at each end, and a mass of coloured lights underneath. It was surrounded in a white mist. They stopped the car, and drew the object as it hovered. It made a low humming sound as it was overhead. They became frightened and tried to drive away but the car would not restart. The lights went dim as if the battery was flat. Eventually the object moved off and the car restarted. Total length of observation was ten minutes.



MASSIVE FLAP IN LANCASHIRE: Reports by RIGAP

1977 has certainly begun in bumper fashion, so far as UFO reports are concerned and we already have TWICE as many reports for the first third of the year as we had on file in both 1975 and 1976. There seems little doubt that Britain has been the scene of a 'flap' of some proportions.

Thanks are due to RIGAP for submitting details of 24 reports they have investigated in the Central and North Lancashire region during February and March. Some have been referred to last issue, a synopsis of the more interesting ones is given below. Many of the others appear attributable to stars, satellites and aircraft and no doubt the publicity which the flap generated (in local press and on radio) led to the huge increase in reporting. The flap appears to have died down towards mid-March, with the Vehicle Interference case (see P.10) coming towards its close.

The flap began in earnest about mid February (see some earlier reports in the March NUN). On February 21st (Report 7724) at 21.30 a round yellow object was seen at Oswaldtwistle. This elongated into a pencil shape then turned on end (as a pencil turning on its point) and disappeared.

The last two days in February and the first few days of March seem to mark the central point of the flap (note we have reports from other parts of the north also and it seems fortuitous that BUFORA staged a skywatch in the midst of this - perhaps explaining why something was seen in Stoke). On February 26 (Report 7727) three witnesses in Rossendale saw something strange at 22.30. It was a green/blue triangle with a reddish base with two flickering lights on it. At first it was stationary and then it reddened and became round and then circular before moving off to the west towards Blackburn.

The next night, February 27, (Report 7729) from the same location another object was seen at 21.05. This was a yellow sphere which changed into a red triangle and moved west to east across the valley. It then hovered, reversed its track and when half way to its original position turned south and disappeared.

March 4 was a busy day with several reports (see also photographic case P.12 Report 7735). At 20.45 (Report 7736) four witnesses at Rossendale saw a blue/white light with a string of red lights above it (Compare this unusual description to the Stoke skywatch report P.9 Report 7728). The whole thing moved up and down like a yo-yo!!

As the flap came to a close March 8 was a remarkable night. At 20.30 four night shift workers at Oswaldtwistle saw something (Report 7742). Again it was initially round, changed to triangular and was moving. It had a red light at one corner of the triangle. One of the witnesses shone a large industrial torch towards it and a white light came on on the object! Fifteen minutes later there was to be a shock for a coachload of 40 people at Barnoldswick. They were all to see a UFO! (Report 7743). Again it appeared like a star in the distance but became triangular as it approached. Little pieces of light were flying around the outside. Some of the witnesses observed the object through binoculars and attest that it was 'the size of a town'.

But the flap was not quite over. On March 10 at Stoneyhurst (in the north east of Lancashire) an object was seen at 17.15. (Report 7745). It was like a huge yellow/white headlamp seen to descend out of sight very slowly.

As can be seen there is considerable consistency in descriptions of the object and this may be significant. All of the sightings were of an object at a distance and involved no sound at all. The only one where a sound was recorded was the vehicle interference case (7746)

NUFON Case numbers for the reports in the flap are as follows (Underlined if mentioned in text or previous issue) 7712, 7713, 7714, 7719, 7722, 7723a, 7723b, 7724, 7725, 7726, 7727, 7729, 7730, 7733, 7736, 7737 - 7741, 7742, 7743, 7744, 7745

Report 7752 April 14 1977 Bridlington, N. Humberside Derick Shelton

A man in his garden at dawn reported a brilliant ball of light which flew towards the sea and dropped a piece to the ground. It was probably a fireball.

Report 7753 April 15 1977 Hull, N. Humberside Derick Shelton

There was a mystery over a one foot long object which hit a window whilst a woman was cleaning it and fell to the ground. It took some time to identify the object but it was eventually proven to be a type of distress flare.

Report 7754 April 15 1977 Alsager, Cheshire UFORA Staffs

A young teenager, who is keen on aircraft recognition was looking for aircraft through his binoculars, from his home at OS Ref SJ 786554. At elevation 80 degrees and bearing 340 degrees he saw what appeared to be a silvery diamond craft with stubby wings. It was stationary. He called to his parents who went out to the garden with him. His father was an RAF pilot on photo reconnaissance work and he observed the object through binoculars. He described it as like a silver disc with a dark grey middle (A doughnut



shape). After watching for about three minutes the object, still stationary, was enveloped in a grey mist. Out of this came three smaller discs which slowly grew smaller. To the naked eye this was not seen but the object was seen to split into two smaller 'dots' which flew away. The observation was at 18.55 (for nine minutes in all) and the sky was still light.

Report 7755 April 17 1977 Bolton, Gtr Manchester MUFORA

A single witness at 04.35 reports a fluorescent cigar shaped object, the size of the full moon, which travelled in an L shaped course from Bolton to Bury and then East towards Manchester. At the point of turning it hovered for about thirty seconds.

SIGHTING NOTIFICATION CARDS

- 7731 February 28 1977 (Non) Langar, Notts Saucer with dome, red lights NUFON
- 7735 March 4 1977 (4pm) Halifax, W. Yorks 3 photos of cigar shape BUFORA YORKS
- 7751 March 27 1977 (22.47) Eastoft, Lincs White ball (Fireball) Nigel Watson

IMPORTANT NOTICE

NUFON REPRESENTATIVES MEETING

Following the success of the formula at the last NUFON meeting the next meeting will be also informal in concept. Its chief purpose will be to provide an afternoon when the norths ufologists can get together and meet one another. There will be no restriction on how many each group may bring (within reason) and you are encouraged to involve some of your membership. MUFORA hope to stage something of more general interest at some stage of the afternoon (eg a talk) but certain matters will have to be discussed, including the election of a new Chairman as Trevor Whitaker, having served NUFON for two years in this capacity, has expressed a desire to take a rest from administration. Other items are:-

- 1: The September 10th NUFON Conference in Nottingham
- 2: Finalisation of area boundaries for NUFON
- 3: UFO Investigators' Network
- 4: Reorganisation and relocation of files with a view to better availability

We hope to devote some of the time to informal discussion from the floor and a review of some of the more interesting cases under current investigation.

The meeting will be on MAY 14th 1977 2pm to 6pm at

THE PATTEN ARMS PARKER STREET WARRINGTON Cheshire

The room is licensed and is directly opposite Bank Quay main line station in Warrington. There is an adjacent car park.