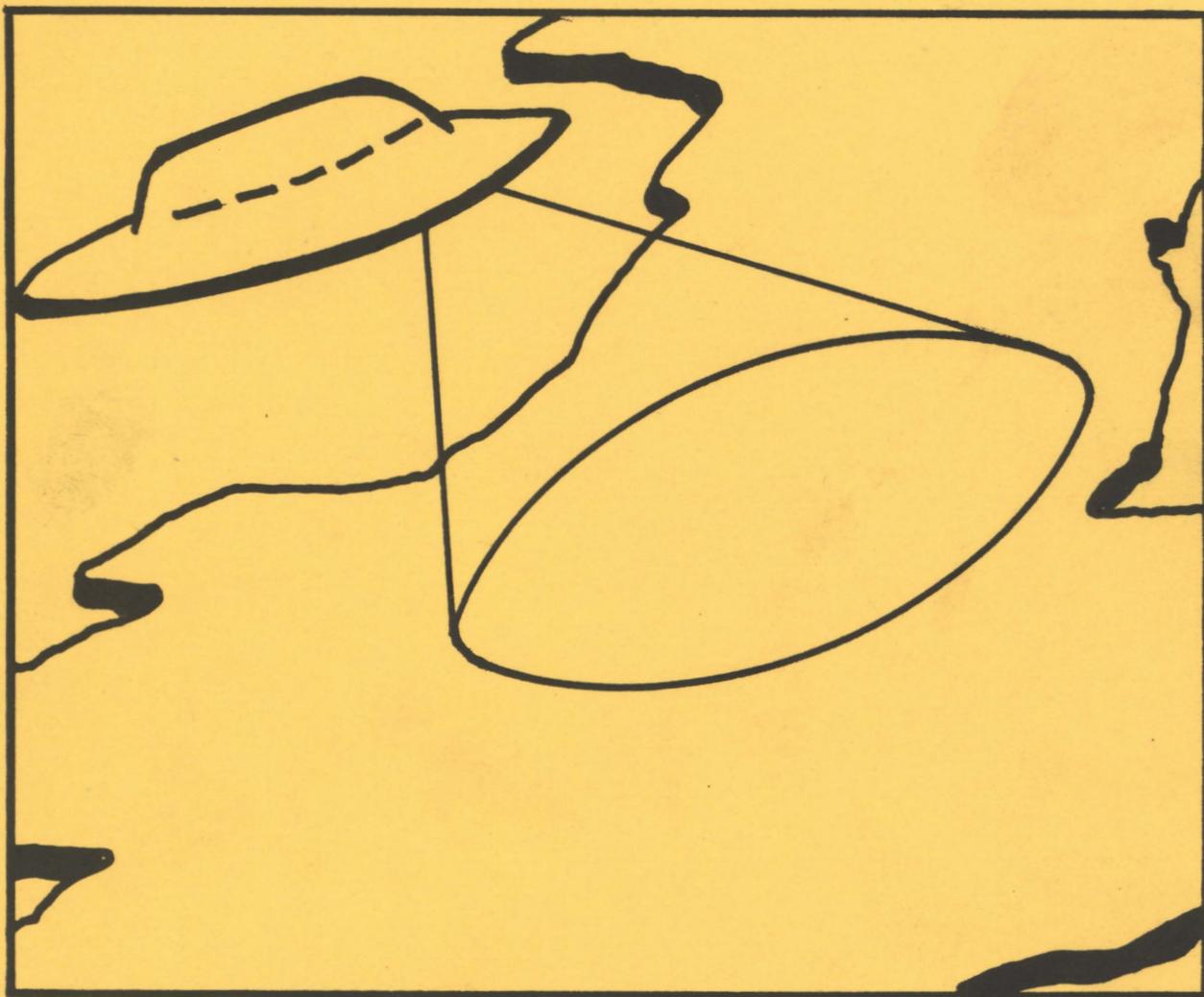


NORTHERN UFO NEWS



NEWSLETTER OF THE NORTHERN UFO NETWORK
(NUFON)

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

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

CONTENTS: P.2 WHD'S ON THE BANDWAGON? Bryan Hartley
 HOWS YOUR LIAISON WITH AUTHORITIES? Andy Collins & Barry King
 P.3 PHOTOGRAPHIC EVIDENCE OF THE UFO PHENOMENON Peter Warrington
 P.3-9 SIGHTING REPORTS: Cheshire, Cumbria, Durham, Greater Manchester,
 Lancashire, North Wales, Northumberland, South & North Humberside,
 Tyne & Wear, Staffordshire, Worcestershire, Yorkshire West & North
 P.10 NEWS ROUND-UP Paul Whetnall

EDITORIAL: "My Contact With Flying Saucers - well almost!"

Once upon a time I thought UFOs were something one read about in books, or that silly people saw every now and again. That they were visitors from the stars who were replacing pink elephants as the thing to see when one's senses were not 'all there'. Nowadays I don't believe that UFOs come from the stars, nor do I view them as all that distant. Indeed they seem to be coming home to me with an all too real unreality.

Often I have read of people who saw things regularly - you know "How many UFOs have you seen on tonight's skywatch, Fred?" "Oh-its a poor night tonight - only about a dozen or so." That kind of thing. Nutters, thought I, who could not tell a satellite from a sunlamp or a VC-10 from a double decker bus. Yet now I begin to wonder if this is not the kernel of the mystery, and maybe if we could understand why some people do see a lot of things whilst others can go through a lifetime without even a LITS sighting then we might know something about these infuriating things.

I have at one and the same time never seen a UFO and seen six (five since I typed out the last issue) Maybe that seems odd, but it simply means that I have seen six 'things' that at the time were very puzzling, none of which would stand up as being very peculiar. It is just possible that two of the six were TRUE UFOs. Its even possible they all were. Its just about possible that the aircraft flying over Chester as I write this is one. Its even possible that I will be now contacted by a six foot tall Venusian who invites me aboard his 1977 deluxe model saucer to see his etchings (some folk, such as Joyce Bowles, seem to have all the luck). Of course, it is probable that none of this will be so. Even though I have seen six 'things' the chances are still against any one of them having been a TRUE UFO.

My last UFO was seen in 1969 (a small sphere following an aircraft). This could have been a balloon, and I have seen nothing since until a remarkable week recently brought home to me what it is really like to 'see a ufo'. I will tell the tale, not because I feel any were UFOs (indeed two were definitely NOT) - but because they are UFO stories, akin to all those you read in NUN and which at the time caused me to be excited and puzzled. Perhaps they can be instructive.

On July 28 Paul Whetnall and I arrived in Rhyl for a holiday. We walked along the seafront on a sunny evening and at about 19.20 spotted a dark shape out to sea. It hovered in the sky and whilst still puzzling Paul took a quick snap with his camera. My brother and his wife saw the object also. The photo shows the 'UFO' clearly as a small dot and had we then turned off the road that would be all there was to it. Of course we walked on towards it and it turned out to be an unusual kite.

That same night at 22.52 Paul and I were coming out of a pub in a little village called Henllan in Clwyd (neither of us had had much to drink I hasten to add!) We saw a yellow/red light moving very fast below cloud. It made no noise and was lost within 20 seconds. My first reaction was that it was a satellite, but for the speed and sense of movement below cloud. It was definitely not an aircraft as the night was still and the village very quiet. What it was we still do not know, but it is hardly an earth shattering event. It fails to convince me that some silver suited spaceman took an undo interest in Clwyd that night (what could possibly be going on there to interest them?)

On August 3 at 22.45 Paul and I sat in a field just outside Chester. The night was dark and the surroundings quiet. Suddenly we became aware of a brilliant blue ball

WHO'S ON THE BANDWAGON?

Bryan Hartley (NUFONs Overseas liaison officer)

The psychics, newly religious and writers of the sensational are all cashing in on the well established and respected ufo groups from all over the world. In fact the fringe element seems to have a passion to consume the ufo phenomenon.

UFO researchers have struggled long to become established in the community as responsible working groups who present factual accounts of sightings, correlate data and make commonsense investigations without resorting to theorising about the source of the phenomenon. The fringe element has clung unwanted, jepordising this respect and the credibility of the researcher. Voicing their parrot like patter they excite with romantic notions which many at present want to hear.

The individuals getting on the UFO bandwagon are almost a phenomenon in themselves. They write articles, lecture and spread their view with confidence. I doubt if they are really interested in serious ufo research. All the hard work is provided by the investigators who do not seek the limelight. The fringe tends to point to a well known case or photograph (investigated by hard working ufologists) then turn to their favorite angle of theorising to convince the listener of what is usually unfounded speculation.

Here and there this builds up a following. More speculation breeds less fact. Let us beware that scientifically minded groups are not swept along with the tide.

Everyone is free to do whatever turns them on - a religious experience, seance or ufo study, but these interests should be kept separate. One may well impinge upon the other but there is no reason to lump all phenomena together in a confusing jumble of information. Let us give UFOs a term of reference. THIS IS A SEPARATE STUDY.

Scientists have now joined the ranks of researchers all over the world and we are working together in networks as never before. We must continue to patiently gather data. There is no quick answer to the problems as that offered by the fringe.

(EDITOR: I am sure many will agree with these remarks. Witness for example the oft still heard remarks about the absurd 'Hollow Earth' theory, recently promoted by Brinsley Le Poer Trench via photographs which it is quite certain do NOT show a hole - except perhaps in some researchers heads! Often on radio shows one is asked what one thinks of Von Daniken. The best answer seems to be in the tradition of Mr Kipling and his cakes. He writes exceedingly good books - but what have they got to do with UFOs? So far as we can tell not very much.... but of course who knows?)

* * * * *

HOWS YOUR LIAISON WITH AUTHORITIES? Abdy Collins & Barry King (UFOIN investigators)

Although you may have noticed that Britain is in the midst of one of the biggest flaps for years it is apparant that many reports must still be slipping through the net of investigators ears.

The main source of reports has for a long time been local newspapers, although of late many reports have come direct from authorities, especially police. So far this year we have had over ten reports direct from the police, all reported to us within a few hours of occurance. These include a landing with traces seen by the police themselves, a vehicle interference case, a case with psychological effects and many lesser but still important reports. - * All of these would have been lost in Civil Aviation Authority files had we not had the close liaison that we do.

This all came about by making known to the authorities our two 24 hour availability 'hotline' numbers. These are merely our home telephone numbers. This was achieved by handing over IN PERSON to all major and well positioned minor police stations a very specifically worded information sheet outlining basically the kind of liaison we sought. This involved them letting us know immediately when they receive sighting reports from either the public or the police themselves.

Within a few days this was acomplished for the whole of Essex and paid off right away with the Hainault landing case (FSR Vol 23 No 2). This proves that the authorities ARE more than willing to cooperate with serious minded researchers even in a subject such as ufology - provided they can prove their credibility. We are now looking towards Suffolk county. What about your county authorities?

* All the imprtant cases so received to be featured by UFOIN in FSR.

A proposal to greatly limit the type of acceptable evidence

One of the most controversial aspects of the UFO phenomenon is that of photographic evidence, and in particular that of 'still' photographs. For many years now a percentage of workers within the subject have tended to accept photographs of alleged objects almost without question as to their authenticity. This acceptance has led to a number of photographic cases becoming 'classics', and the majority of the remainder being the subject of continual controversy.

Throughout the course of the last few months I have had a great deal of contact and discussion with the photographic industry, and as a result of this it is patently obvious to me that 'still' photographs are simply not acceptable as evidence of a UFO phenomenon - unless there is absolute proof that the photographs are not hoaxed

The principle problem with 'still' photographs, and for that matter cine film, is the well known technique of 'front projection'. This can be easily used to manufacture an image which assumes 'real' qualities. An image produced in this way is impossible to distinguish from the genuine thing by today's level of knowledge. In other words it is not possible to tell whether a photograph shows a cut out model attached to a sheet of glass and held in front of the camera so as to appear as if in scene or a real object in the distance. After the film 'Chitty Chitty Bang Bang' had been made a number of frames of the original film were acquired by one company who then attempted to show that the car (which in the film apparently flew) was nothing more than a front projection. We all know that it was produced by this technique of course but the task was more in terms of a nexercise. The outcome was that this proved impossible. To quote one of the persons with whom I discussed this point, "Had they dubbed live action onto live action then it would have been impossible to tell"

In conclusion I urge all workers within the subject to carefully reconsider their opinions regarding photographic evidence of the phenomenon. I will be quite willing to enter into further correspondence with anyone interested in this type of evidence and more information on the problems of photographic evidence will be featured in the book which Jenny Randles and I are having published next year.

* * * * *

SIGHTING REPORTS

Report 5304 Unknown 1953 St Anthony's, TYNESIDE Level C Bill Muir

This is a report of what seems like ball lightning, although conditions are unknown. It had been raining but had stopped when a shrill screaming noise was heard, the witness (then 18) and her mother saw an object shaped like a bomb and coloured grey which flew very fast between houses and reversed its course before vanishing. It was in view only a few seconds.

Report 6004 Summer 1960 Swinton, Gtr Manchester Level B MUFORA

Mr and Mrs Jones were walking home after an evening at the cinema at about 22.30 when they observed an orange ball tumbling across the sky throwing out a brief series of smoke like trails. The object changed colour, moving through red to copper and was in view about a minute before disappearing into a cloud.

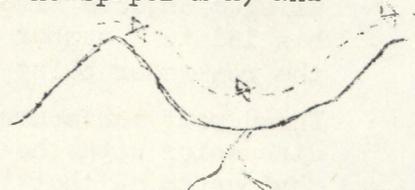
Report 6613 September 10 1966 Crewe, Cheshire Level B FU FOR

A rugby ball shaped object was seen in the sky over Wistaton, near Crewe. Abruptly a smaller object detached itself from the rugby ball which then seemed to glow brighter. The small object flew around for about ten minutes before rejoining the larger one. This occurred as a light aircraft appeared on the scene. The oval object then accelerated out of sight. Some witnesses said the objects gave off a humming noise.

Report 6718 August 1967 Nantwich, Cheshire Level A FUFOR

Paul Russel, then aged 12, observed a red cigar shape with a dome on top. He called it to the attention of his father and together they watched the object cross the sky for some two minutes. There were apparently other witnesses in the area. This was one of many such sightings in the Cheshire area during the huge August 67 flap. Many are recorded by Stanway and Pace in their book on the subject.

Mr D. Jones is at the present moment a solicitor, although at the time of the incident he was only 15. The details of this event were recounted recently to Jenny Randles and Paul Whetnall after the witness had heard a radio programme by Derek James of UFORA Staffs - in other words THREE NUFON groups were involved in the case! He was with two others, Mr Garnett Alexander (a newspaper man) and his son John. They were travelling by car towards a caravan site at Blackrock Sands in North Wales and had just passed through Capel Currig heading for Beddgelert. It was a sunny afternoon (probably AUGUST 5 1967 at about 2pm) and they were at 1400 feet in a glaciated valley with hills rising some 600 feet further on either side. An object appeared to their left slightly behind them and some 50-100 feet above the peak. It swooped down in a gentle 'S' curve, crossed the valley floor ahead at about 30 feet and rose to disappear between a gap in the hills. The shape was described as like two Welsh hats stuck together with estimated dimensions of 8-12 feet high and 3 to 6 feet wide. The object flew slowly (perhaps at 100 mph) and was made of chrome or polished aluminium like material. It gave the impression of hugging the ground, as if to confuse radar cover (a standard aircraft manoeuvre). A peculiar factor of its motion is that its axis tilted at about 45 degrees as it moved. This tilt remained the same throughout the sighting. About fifteen minutes after the object had been seen three lightning jet interceptor aircraft flew overhead in approximately the same direction as the object, and the witness feels that they might have been following it. It is of note that the witness claims a certain degree of psychic ability, having experienced precognition. There are also numerous legends of folklore connected with the immediate area in question. This description is, of course, very reminiscent of many others and August 1967 provided a massive flap the likes of which the UK has not seen again until 1977!



Report 6720 November 1967 Irlam, Gtr Manchester LEVEL A MUFORA

The witness was cycling home after a football match when he saw two orange lights appear suddenly in the sky before him. They descended out of sight behind a farm house. Over the next 3-4 minutes two further orange lights appeared and descended, the first of which split into two which separated to quite some distance before being lost to view. The lights had a fuzzy appearance.

Report 6810 October 28 1968 Crawcrook, Durham LEVEL C Bill Muir

Two young men report seeing a peculiar yellowish object at 14.30 on the above date. It remained stationary for about five minutes and was a roughly triangular shape surrounded by a fuzzy haze. It shone like a mirror in the clear sky and disappeared



by simply blinking out.

UFO PHOTOGRAPHS A LA BIRCH & PRATT TAKEN IN WORCESTERSHIRE Report 76/148 UFOSIS

This level A report concerns a 13 year old boy who was ill with flu at the time. Alone in the house he heard a continuous low buzzing sound, despite the TV being on (there was no interference). He went to the window and saw a black flattened disc with a dome on top below low cloud. The noise stopped as he went for his polaroid camera and on return the object had gone. However, he waited a minute or two and the buzz reappeared. Six similar objects were now seen hovering below the cloud. He took one quick snap, which was spoilt in exposure. This shows two of the objects and the kitchen extension. The objects then moved away slowly eastwards out of step with one another but keeping the same rough formation. Analysis of the photograph is impossible to any real degree owing to the lack of the negative, but that that has been conducted has not led to the acceptance of this story as especially evidential. The witness, however, continues to insist that it is true, despite having been challenged to the contrary, and the description and photograph are remarkably similar to those made by Alex Birch (an admitted hoax), the two boys at Wrexham this year (grave suspicions) and Stephen Pratt.



Report 77/112 Mid February 1977 Winsford, Cheshire LEVEL B FUFOR

Four witnesses report seeing a brilliant white light in the east which seemed to be losing height and was in view for a minute. It then changed to a red colour with a row of faint white lights in a curved arch underneath. After a further two minutes the object slowly moved out of sight.

Report 77/113 February/March 1977 Crewe, Cheshire LEVEL A FUFOR

Various reports in these months from two brothers who spotted clusters and single red and white lights both with the naked eye and binoculars. All the lights were flashing and no sound was heard on any occasion.

Report 77/114 March 18 1977 Malvern, Worcestershire LEVEL B UFOSIS

A 27 year old woman observed a red flash over a nearby hill. There were sparkling red lights spaced all around it and these remained in view for twenty minutes. Then a bright white light appeared suddenly by their side and this pulsed dull and bright and began to descend very slowly. It finally faded at the same time as the red sparkling lights did. The sighting lasted from 19.20 to 20.00.

Report 77/115 April 13 1977 Partington, Gtr Manchester LEVEL D MUFORA

The witness reported that he had seen a formation of fuzzy orange/red globules flying quite low over rooftops heading towards the Warburton swing bridge over the Manchester Ship Canal. The objects bounced about and wobbled in flight. It was suggested to him that they might be birds reflecting streetlighting and he accepted this as a very strong possibility. Owing to the delay it was not possible to check.

MORE INFORMATION ON TWO RECENT CASES

A full report has been received from FAPURG on report 7774 which occurred on the date of March 4 1977 (when Lancashire was inundated with reports). The chief witness is only nine, but there are several back-up witnesses over the Ribble Estuary area to the object seen. It was a three pointed star with a yellow light at each point and three red lights underneath in a cluster. These flashed on and off. SUFORS also have sent a full report on case 7764 which happened on the night of April 28 1977 (another bumper night for UFO sightings). It seems that the witness looked up without reason and saw the silver cigar shape tilt to the vertical from a horizontal position and then a heat haze surrounded the ends. As this happened the whole thing vanished suddenly.

UFO PHOTOGRAPHED OVER SALTAIRE, YORKSHIRE Report 77/116 Level A BUFORA YORKS

This report is still being investigated, but involves a group of three schoolchildren who were about to photograph a teacher at about 12.55 on May 19 1977 (in the midst of the May flap). A silver squat cigar shape appeared and moved slowly westwards.

There was time to take a single photograph which shows the object clearly as a disc with a flat bot



tom and a dome on top. Yeadon Airport had no aircraft flying in the vicinity at the time, and the teacher involved said that the object was 'too short' to be one.

STRANGE OPTICAL PHENOMENON WITNESSED BY NUFON TREASURER Report 7781 MUFORA

At 09.44 BST on May 21 1977, Peter Warrington was watching the condensation trail of an overflying aircraft using 20x50 binoculars from his residence at Alderley Edge, Cheshire. In panning he saw a small white point of light to the east of the aircraft's path. It took some seconds to relocate the light, which was not visible to the naked eye. It was now slightly larger or brighter (or both) but still just a light. It was 80 degrees off the SW horizon and a change of location was needed to view it better. The object was now relocated with the naked eye and within ten seconds of binocular observation (where it was now definitely larger) it dispersed and disappeared. Peter feels that the third observation was of Cirrus Cloud forming (this did occur 1½ hours later though at the time the sky was clear). The first two observations were possibly of some meteorological phenomenon. Attempts were made to contact the aircraft which flew over, but this was not successful. Manchester ATC suggested that the observation not be reported to the MOD.

Report 77/117 June 1977

York, North Yorks

LEVEL E BUFORA YORKS

Two teenage boys and their parents watched what they term a 'boomerang shaped saucer' for 3½ hours one evening. It suddenly materialised with four coloured lights flashing on and off in sequence. It then flew away pointed end last and left a red glow in its wake.

Report 77/118 June 2 1977

Harlow Green, Tyneside

LEVEL E Ian Cresswell

There were several witnesses to this object seen at 21.30, including a press officer from the NCB, Peter Heron. He said the object was long and cylindrical and tapered at the bottom with a cap on top. He said it could have been anything up to 200 feet long and looked like a rocket without wings. It was angled at 45 degrees and stationary. Newcastle Airport said they knew nothing of the object, but later it was claimed that it had in fact been a weather balloon.

Report 77/119 June 7 1977

Irlam, Gtr Manchester

LEVEL A MUFORA

This sighting occurred on Jubilee Night and may well have connections with the parties which happened that day. There were several witnesses, four adults and a group of about half a dozen children. There were several lights seen at about 23.30 over a period of about ten minutes. They were all red and they hovered, descended and then went out. Some said that they grew brighter, dimmer, larger and smaller at certain points. They seemed to hover in the air too long to be fireworks.

Report 77/120 June 7 1977

Bolton, Tyneside

LEVEL E Ian Cresswell

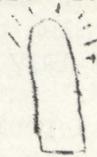
About midnight a man and wife were driving towards Newcastle when a bright white glow appeared in the sky moving very fast. The glow followed the car as it turned and when the witnesses stopped in a lay-by it stopped and reversed its path climbing out of sight. Their son was also witness to the object.

Report 77/121 June 16 1977

Gateshead, Tyneside

LEVEL C Bill Muir

Mr Dryden was walking to his grandmothers home across Rutherford School when a blue light caught his attention. He looked up and saw a metallic looking object which was the size of a postbox in the sky and seems very like that described in report 77/118. It was cylindrical in shape and climbed vertically upwards. Within two to three minutes it was lost from sight.



STRANGE OBJECT SEEN OVER NEWCASTLE

Report 77/122

LEVEL C Bill Muir

At 16.50 on June 21 1977 there was yet another observation in this decided North East flap that month. This was perhaps the strangest of them all for the shape seems to be unique. The witness is 22 year old Leslie March who heard some lads pointing to the sky and commenting, "Look there's a spaceship". He saw a craft composed of tubular formers in parallel and two cross bearers fore and aft. They seemed to be made of metallic chrome and the cross bearers shaped like aerofoils. The object flew over head and was silent. The only noise heard was the motion of airwaves. There was a strong wind. Has this shape been reported before?



OBJECT MAY HAVE CAUSED BLACK ANGEL HAIR

Report 77/123

LEVEL C Bill Muir

One does not hear so much nowadays of the mysterious 'Angel Hair' which once was reported in connection with ufo sightings. This is a puzzling fibrous material in association with the object seen, which tends to disappear instantly. However, here we have a report which may fit into this category. It is also very similar to the story of a strange whirlwind which crossed the Midlands in 1973, reported recently in NUN by UFORA Staffs. The event on this occasion occurred on JULY 3 1977 at 15.00 in the village of Apperley Dene, Northumberland.



OBJECT MAY HAVE CAUSED BLACK ANGEL HAIR Cont...

There are three witnesses, Mr and Mrs Hall and their 17 year old son. They were in their garden when the father spotted a black oval shape with fuzzy edges rise from some trees. This had a 'disturbance' associated with it which was like a whirlwind. Inside there was a mass of black feathery material which was swirling round. This rose upwards to the height of some pine trees and then hovered here for some seconds (enough time for the son to walk half way towards it). The oval shape had now vanished amidst the overall disturbance as this started to float slowly towards the witnesses. It passed directly overhead at about 40-50 feet and a very clear view of it was obtained. The substance was unlike anything the witnesses had seen before. It was not like straw or grass but was more hair like, almost like a swarm of tiny insects. The strangest part was that none of it fell to the earth. It all remained suspended. It disappeared over rooftops and trees and was thinning out, but still nothing fell to earth. It seemed to be magnetically attached to the now hidden object above it. The substance also did not move about with the strong breeze which was blowing. A hurricane like blast was noticed during the sighting and this was felt by the neighbours of the witnesses too. The field behind the incident was examined. It is barley corn and there are no traces visible and no indication of anything which could have been sucked up to cause this event. Perhaps some of our fortune tellers might like to comment on this incident.

Report 77/124 July 3 1977 Crewe, Cheshire Level A FUFOR

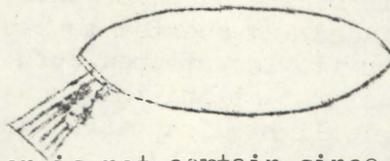
A woman and her teenage daughter noticed a strange glow through a gap in the curtains at 00.20. The daughter is a migraine sufferer and heard a buzzing sound. Upon looking they saw a orange and gold star like object the size of a two pence piece. The object was near ground level and seem to rotate slowly. It moved away slowly NE after twenty minutes. The daughter subsequently suffered from earache.

Report 77/125 July 5 1977 Crewe, Cheshire Level B FUFOR

This report is of interest in view of the next report since it seems to offer a trilogy of connected events with report 77/110. Two elderly people driving home along Middlewich Road at 23.50 saw a spherical object the apparant size of a Jaffa Orange, glowing orange. It was seen towards Leighton. After 15 seconds it just vanished.

SOLID LIGHT BEAM SEEN OVER IRLAM? Report 77/126 Level A MUFORA

This report seems to tie in remarkably well with the observation over Marple at about 23.00 on JULY 5 1977 (77/110). It involves two young boys (aged 12) who were not together at the time. They describe a fat cigar with a yellow/white colour which traversed the sky above the Manchester Ship Canal. It stopped on several occasions for a few seconds and was in view 10 minutes altogether. The time of observation is not certain, since the boys say it could be 21.45 or 22.45. In view of certain weather factors and descriptions of the sky at the time it seems the later time is more likely making it even more cooperative with the Marple case. A beam of light was projected from the end of the cigar and this was a little shorter in length than the cigar itself and stopped abruptly in mid air. The beam rotated so that it moved into a vertical position from an angle of 45 degrees (which it maintained on moving). Each stop lasted about half a minute and on one occasion the beam passed the vertical and stopped at an angle in the opposite direction. The beam was yellower than the object and both it and the cigar pulsed rhythmically. After three or four stops (the boys do not agree) the object accelerated out of view heading south east. This would take it towards Marple which is about 11 miles away. A solid light case occurred in Dorset in May which was investigated by John Ledner and Leslie Harris for UFOIN. This is most interesting when considered in connection with this report. It will be published by SCAN and FSR. An interesting aspect of the Irlam event is that the area is fairly open, surrounded by power lines and a large oil refinery. However, the boys place the object over a large housing estate at Flixton. There were no other witnesses.



JULY FLAP IN CUMBRIA

1977, as we know, is quite a flap year already. There was a tremendous flap in the northern part of England during June and July (some of which has been recorded on previous pages). This is perhaps quite understandable as this is the least densely populated part of the NUFON area and there is a well known tendency for there to be an inverse correlation between number of reports and population density. These reports from July are numbered 77/127 through 77/132. On JULY 7 five teenagers at a Longsleddale farm saw a silvery ball in the sky which faded and then came back brighter. It was in view 45 seconds before moving out of sight very fast. Perhaps one of the most interesting occurred late one night when PC Bill White saw two white spotlights hovering by the side of the road. The next day he found a flattened circle of grass 20 yards in diameter. We have a beautifully written account from a Mr Mayor concerning an event at Kendal on JULY 11. He was 'thinking how wonderful God's creatures were' as 'the hedgehogs were busy looking for food, the bats out swooping and flying etc etc' (Some of his report actually refers to the sighting!) He saw a silvery blue disc which pulsated fly slowly overhead and disappear behind him. A strange photograph was taken on JULY 21 at Ings. Whilst photographing the sunset a white flash suddenly appeared low down. The photo shows a whitish oval which may possibly be some kind of optical effect. On JULY 27 at Allithwaite a woman saw a disc in the clouds. It was coloured orange reflecting the sun which had just set. It then changed to grey as it came out of the sunlight before vanishing suddenly. It is interesting that amidst all these cases we have a report from Levens on JULY 20 when at 18.45 a man saw an unusual aircraft. It was a small low-wing monoplane with no projections from its fuselage. The wings were negative dihedral and had a pointed shape looking like those of a seagull. There was a clumsy look to the whole craft and it made a loud sound not unlike that of a doodlebug. It was grey in colour and had no apparent markings. Mysterious aircraft such as this have appeared in UFO flap areas in the past, and it is of note that the witness concerned was not reporting a UFO but was an aircraft enthusiast puzzled by something he knew to be odd.

Report 77/133 July 28 1977 Partington, Gtr Manchester LEVEL B MUFORA

A teenage boy camping in his garden at about midnight saw a white egg shaped object streak across the sky. It was in view about six seconds and was probably a fireball.

Report 77/134 July 1977 Barnard Castle, Durham LEVEL E

A teenager driving his motorcycle one wet night was followed by a strange purple light. It was high up in the sky, but he felt a heat wave on him. Subsequently he found his riding clothes quite dry and warm and his bicycle engine became hot. It slowly faded and coasted to a stop at the same time as a Jaguar car which had overtaken it also stopped. Both vehicles were unable to start again whilst the light was present, and the Jaguar car also became hot to touch. After a few moments the purple light disappeared and both vehicles functioned normally once more.

Report 77/135 July 14 1977 Heaton Mersey, Gtr M/Cr LEVEL D MUFORA

A very lucid report from a young woman which is being followed up in more detail. It concerns a sighting at between 03.00 and 04.00 by the lady and a male friend of a white disc shaped object with a series of revolving white lights which flashed on and off and a single red light. It hovered for a while and then began to move slowly across the sky vanishing after about ten minutes. There was a sound like the rushing wind but more mechanical. After a fifteen minute break the object reappeared and performed similarly except that it moved at right angles to its first motion. It disappeared at about the same point.

Report 77/136 July 16 1977 Stoke, Staffs LEVEL C UFORA

A yellow white light seen moving along the line of horizon west to east. It was in view five minutes and seen by three witnesses.

Report 77/137 July 20 1977 Biddulph, Staffs LEVEL C UFORA

This report and the next may well refer to the same object. A young married couple saw a red ball in the sky over Biddulph Moor. It moved along for 45 seconds and then dropped out of view behind some rocks. The time was about 21.30.

Report 77/138 July 20 1977

Leek, Staffs

LEVEL C UFORA

A schoolgirl saw an orange light the size of a halfpence at arms length. It descended slowly over the course of three or four minutes and was hazy in appearance.

Report 77/139 July 25 1977

Hull, Nth Humberside

LEVEL A D. Shelton

For two consecutive nights the south east Humberside sky was lit up by a semi-circular arch of glowing and pulsating light. It was orange/red in colour and flickered on and off for about twenty minutes, between 23.20 and 23.40. The speculation (not proven) is that it was something to do with a refinery at Killinghome.

Report 77/140 August 4 1977

Irlam, Gtr Manchester

LEVEL A MUFORA
WUFOS

This report concerns witnesses all known to myself (editor) and occurred within a few FEET of my own front door! Unfortunately, at the time I was out of town. On my return the next day myself and Paul Whetnall of WUFOS were able to obtain a full investigation report. My mother was talking in the garden to my neighbour, Mrs Murray, when a strange buzzing was heard. It was not unlike an electricity substation but louder and did not change in pitch at all during the 15 seconds it was heard. The

noise terminated with a loud 'pop' like a gun being fired. My mother looked briefly round but saw nothing as she was talking. However, Mrs Murray's two daughters (aged 7 and 11) did look round further and saw an

oval shaped object hovering in the sky just above the rooftops opposite. The colour was like that of a sodium streetlamp. The edges were sharp. The size was between a one pence and two pence piece at arms length and it seemed close. The sighting terminated with a white flash as the whole thing disappeared. Beside the house is an area of open moss and farmland. A group of teenage boys known to me were standing on this and they corroborate the visual sighting, except that they saw the oval moving quite fast. This seems to indicate that it was moving in line of sight with the Murray children. Weather was sunny and warm, although there is a paradox because the surrounding area of Irlam (excluding our estate) seems to have experienced rain at the time! The time was 21.30 and the sun was setting. There was no thunderstorm activity in the area at all, but the possibility remains that this was ball lightning. However, my mother says that some minutes BEFORE this visual encounter she heard the same noise from inside the house. Nobody else heard or saw anything. Can ball lightning account for this?

Report 77/141 August 10 1977

Cockermouth, Cumbria

LEVEL B PULSE

Two men, one a policeman, report that at 00.30 they saw a flashing white light the size of a pea move NW to SW. The flashes were at one second intervals and of varying brightness. The path was a slight zig-zag across the sky. After 30 seconds it vanished.

Editorial Cont....

at the other end of the field. It was low and hovered seemingly just above rooftops. It then moved slowly to the side and hovered again. The blue was like that on a police car. Despite being within $\frac{1}{4}$ mile it remained just a ball. Suddenly it moved again (probably turned away from line of sight) and by its side were two flashing lights coloured white and red. The flashes were about once a second. We were both now convinced it was no aircraft (as we had first thought). It then moved away slowly into the distance after being in view about two minutes and only then did we hear a faint sound like a light aircraft. I had become quite tense during the experience. Being alone on a piece of open land with an unknown object close by is no fun. We were both most relieved to hear this sound, but in retrospect I wonder why we heard no sound when it was close by and why it behaved so strangely. Note the report of the peculiar aircraft in Cumbria elsewhere in this issue. This occurred seven days before this experience.

The next night the sighting reported above occurred within feet of my Irlam home. I find it almost impossible to believe it 'coincidence' that so many experiences can happen in so short a period. More and more I am becoming aware of the part seemingly unrelated events are playing in the UFO mystery. Perhaps we must ask questions we have been afraid to ask, the collar of witness's eyes or what they had for breakfast. Sounds silly I know, but I have a peculiar feeling the answer to the UFO problem will be silly. Let's hope humanity is stupid enough to comprehend it.

NEWS ROUND-UP: Paul Whetnall (WUFOS)

IURC have just published the current issue of the Irish UFO News. Its up to its usual high standard with articles on the Voyager deep space probes and parascience, plus a good sense editorial about UK ufology. Its only 65p, twice yearly, from John Hinde. NUFOIS have had some publicity of late and several new members have resulted. They hold meetings at the HQ every Tuesday and Thursday. The NUFON skywatches, plus one of their own on December 17, will be held at the site at Breendon on the Hill. FUFOR have had a small amount of local publicity and secretary Mark Tyrrell is doing research into a small 1966 flap over Crewe. Also I ask FUFOR to accept my apologies for a small misunderstanding. I suggest we forget this and get on with the job in hand. UFOSIS have had publicity in the Birmingham Evening Mail and received over 30 letters and two members. The next issue of Protess will be out in about a month, price 50p + 10p p&p. They have lectures at Redditch over 18s (Sept 10), W, Midlands Soc of Electronic & Radio Technicians (Sept 12), Kidderminster round table (Oct 27). Current research includes Spectroscopy and public opinions. Derek James of UFORA STAFFS recently was a guest on Beacon Radio. This was highly successful with a stack of results report wise. One of these is included in this issue, followed up by Jenny Randles and myself. Susan Law has resigned as secretary and Commentary co editor for UFORUM. The new secretarial address for you to note is: LINDA THOMPSON 40 BADGER RD, WOODHOUSE, SHEFFIELD 13 SOUTH YORKS (Tel 699438) They have had a short broadcast on Radio Sheffield with disappointing results. Their magazine is monthly at £1.20 for six issues. SUFORS hold monthly meetings at the Central Community centre in Scunthorpe and are looking for guest speakers for the future. They are also helping follow up an interesting recent radar/visual case for UFOIN. The group hope to have a mention in Robert Rickards and John Mitchells book 'Phenomena - a book of wonders' published by Thames & Hudson on October 17. Lincolnshire ufo data has been copied by them and filed at Scunthorpe Central Library. They suggest other groups explore this possibility and it sounds an excellent idea. Incidentally, Nigel Watson comments about the contents of NUN that it could do with 'more punk rock, more articles by Nigel Watson and less about boring old UFOs' - Nice one Nigel. Thanks though to UFORUM who have expressed their gratitude for the help NUN has given their group. We are only here to serve NUFON - and that means you! The recent publicity many groups have received has been highly productive in this massive wave we are currently experiencing. A good sign I hope.

Now I am afraid for the first time I must admit to being angry. These comments are my own responsibility and not viewpoints expressed by either NUFON or WUFOS, but Jenny Randles has agreed to let me say them as she feels you ought to know the truth behind RIGAP and their apparant resignation from NUFON. They are to be known, so they say, as the Rossendale Amateur Astronomy Society incorporating RIGAP - short, I fear, for a few things Jenny will not let me print! They insist that they will not send us any more reports because, "misrepresentation of the last batch of sightings sent. We are able to ascertain what is a star, satellite, balloon etc and whoever in NUFON decided we are NOT seing UFOs was not on the spot in the area and should have known better than to suggest we were 'seing things' " Now those of you who read the report on the north lancashire flap in the March NUN will know that it was only suggested that some of the 177 reports received in a space of a few weeks (many made by RIGAP members) may have a natural explanation. If this is their approach to investigation I suggest RIGAP are not worth bothering about and should be put in the same category as those idiots from APEN! Photocopies of the letter from RIGAP are available from me on request.

MUFORA HOLDS WINTER LECTURE PROGRAMME IN MANCHESTER

For something to do on those dark nights how about coming along to some or all of the MUFORA lectures to be held at the MITRE HOTEL, Cathedral Gates, central Manchester (the Cannon Street side of Manchester Cathedral) The room is on the first floor and doors open 7.30pm. Meetings last from 8pm to 10pm. Entrance will be 25p. Dates are scheduled but lecture titles may vary slightly (if so details will be noted in the NUN). There will be an informal lecture followed by a discussion:

OCTOBER 12 "An Introduction to the UFO Enigma"
NOVEMBER 9 "Visitors from Space - Certainly not!" Peter Warrington FRAS
DECEMBER 14 "Atmospherical optical phenomena" K. Brierly FRAS
JANUARY 11 "Some significant British Cases" Jenny Randles
FEBRUARY 8 "Open Forum" Air your own views. Chaired by Jenny Randles & Peter Warrington
MARCH 8 SUBJECT TO BE DETERMINED BY THOSE ATTENDING EARLIER MEETINGS

THIS ISSUE OF NORTHERN UFO NEWS WAS CO-EDITED BY JENNY RANDLES AND PAUL WHETNALL