

MAY 1980

ISSUE 72

It is beginning to sound like the old, old story but we have still not been able to complete our move to the Warrington address (see cover). There is a very good chance, however, that this will be before the next issue. If all goes well this JUNE issue will be the NORTHERN UFOLOGY special on the "UFOs & the paranormal" theme. The next NORTHERN UFOLOGY will then be the August issue, reverting to normal from October. The August theme will be: "PHYSICAL EVIDENCE :- its extent and validity", send your contributions in now please. Until notified all mail should still go to 23 Sunningdale Dr, Irlam, Salford

EDITORIAL: "I want to tell you a story"

Often I wonder why we, as Ufologists, exist. Are we really trying to solve a great enigma; or are we playing a cosmic game (like some new-Ufologists have it)? When pondering this it is important to consider where progress (what little of it there has been) has come from. Has it been the multi-national, super-duper research groups? NO. Has it been the combined efforts of the hundreds of local UFO sighting investigation groups; bravely chasing the latest satellite, star and occasional TRUE UFO? Again NO. In fact precious little has come out of all of this, despite our verbosity.

Perhaps we should ponder this fact carefully. I do not make it lightly, or in an attempt to diminish the value of groups. I cannot do so. I have been part of one group or another for years, and NUFON exists to foster the interests of groups. Yet it remains a fact. The little steps forward, that add together to make progress, have very largely come from individuals. Usually these have been made by way of books, written by those individuals. Books are rarely written by groups - indeed I do not know any. Yet books appear to be the one method in which current investigations, research, and theorising are put through the processor of one person and presented as a novel insight into the mystery.

To my mind, therefore, there has to be one important prerequisite of writing a book about UFOs. That is to do something new. We have enough books that churn out endless 'golden oldies' (as Charles Bowen recently called classic cases) We need no more. Every so often this needs updating for the public eye, but not several times a year. We have enough books that regurgitate the hoary old theories. The ETH may be right or wrong, but it has been proclaimed so often in literary 'reveals' that the theme is redundant unless some new twist is to be put upon it by the would-be author; and I fear the tail is already so twisted the poor creature is close to strangulating itself.

This, I might say, is why Peter Warrington and myself speculated widely in "UFOs: A British Viewpoint" We have been criticised for this. Charles Bowen in 'Creating one's own UFO' (FSR Vol 25 No 4) said we had committed ourselves too far to something new. Indeed we have not. Yet we felt it was preferable to put a wholly new interpretation on the facts (one we felt could be valid) because this would spark off debate and discussion. That has to be the purpose of a UFO book. It is no good sitting on a fence. One gets to feel comfortable and enjoy the view. The only way to make progress is to take plunges, but be prepared to jump out again if the water proves too cold.

I hope that the new wave of literary enthusiasm that is sweeping Britain is a sign that people are realising the above. After years when every Ufologist in Britain has sat around reading what other nations have to say, we are suddenly creating books of our own. No fewer than 8 of UFOINS 38 members have new books either coming out within the next year or in preparation. Some may not materialise (although 4 are already scheduled for publication); others may (God forbid) be just weery old case-churners which say nothing different. To all authors, or would-be authors, may I wish you well, but may I also remind you of your responsibility to British Ufology. By you it will be judged.

NEWS ROUND-UP

:: I was very sorry to hear that our long-time friend and associate Bernard Delair has had to retire from his official positions with CONTACT UK, due to pressure of work. His editorial work for the Contact magazine AWARENESS has always been incisive and thought-provoking. I wish his successor well, and am pleased to report that Bernard is not giving up Ufology or his association with CONTACT.

:: Edward Harris, editor of the erstwhile magazine COSMOLOGY NEWSLINK, has asked me to note his new address. This is: 16 Newton Green; Dunmow; Essex CM6 1DU. For those of you who purchased his fascinating OUR WIERD UNIVERSE, last year, you will be pleased to know that Volume Two will be out shortly.

:: Les Hall of NUFOIS describes the two-hour programme "An Introduction to UFO" which the group has prepared for presentation to local clubs. It includes 82 slides and a reel-to-reel recording of sound effects, commentary etc. This sounds an excellent idea and NUFOIS are now planning "UFO UK", a sequel. They would like to hear from you if you have tape recordings of witness interviews or photographic material pertaining to interesting NUFON area cases. Confidentiality of witnesses will be maintained and full credit given. If you have material that could be copied (for return to you) then contact Les Hall at : 107 Long Lane, Attenborough, Nottinghamshire NG9 6BQ .

ScUFON is Underway

With recent progress by MAUFOG (now becoming well established as a southern counterpart to NUFON) March 8 was an important date for British Ufology. For at the Queens Hotel, Dundee, the Scottish UFO Network was initiated by Arthur Lynch and David Sydeserff. ScUFON is eventually to be fully autonomous, covering this vast country much more effectively thereby. However, liaison with NUFON will continue and for the interim ScUFON is to act as a subsidiary of the Network, storing its files at the Nottingham HQ. Constitution will be similar to NUFON, except that because of the dearth of Scottish groups the affiliation will be more on an individual basis. ScUFON is to publish an "Investigation Guidelines" to which all affiliates must adhere. It will also publish similar monthly magazines to those produced by NUFON; named SCOTTISH UFO BULLETIN and SCOTTISH UFOLOGY. The first issues are being prepared now. A £5 membership fee (including journal subscription) was agreed. This newsletter will continue to carry news of ScUFONs progress, and I look forward to the day when we hold our first joint meeting. Meantime ScUFON plan a meeting at Perth for October 4. The ScUFON address is:-

ARTHUR LYNCH 7 B Prestwick Court; Ardler; Dundee SCOTLAND DD2 3SH

NUFON success: Liverpool YMCA April 19

MIGAP organised what was the 17th NUFON meeting (the only one to be held on Merseyside since the very first in 1974) Seven groups were represented: CHRYSIS; DIGAP; NUFORA; NUFOIS; PARASEARCH; SUFORS and, of course, the hosts. Several UFOIN members were also present.

MAUFOG (the southern alliance) was discussed. Interest was expressed in future liaison, but clear indication of MAUFOGs intentions was needed first. A statement was prepared and sent, and recent news from the south is good. It seems that hopes for a joint MAUFOG / NUFON conference leading (perhaps) to true cooperation between British groups is now a real possibility. NOTTINGHAM HQ & FILES were considered in detail with plans for improvements voted. It was decided not to purchase a copier that was available, but to keep looking for the right one. Detailed cross-file indexes on both NUFON and UFOIN files were under preparation and would be distributed eventually. FUTURE MEETINGS PARASEARCH agreed to stage the next meeting in cooperation with UFOIN. A venue of Wolverhampton or Birmingham was to be arranged and a date of early September finalised. The plan was to hold a weekend conference

and further details will be announced shortly. MIGAP also announced that they hoped to organise a one-day conference at Liverpool University later in the year. MUFORA, therefore, agreed to postpone their one day conference, planned for Manchester University, until the early new year.

Following the meeting three papers were presented which led to varied discussion. Les Hall of NUFOSIS talked of a EM detector network for the NUFON area, and was asked to present his proposals via this newsletter. Jenny Randles of MUFORA talked of an apparent cover-up in relation to a multi-witness CE 1. Andy Collins, Martin Keatman & Graham Phillips of Parasearch presented various psychological factors of relevance to CE3 cases, illustrated by the Gaynor Sunderland investigation from Oakenholt, Clwyd.

MAGAZINE REVIEWS

MUFORA have published the second Journal of Transient Aerial Phenomena. Interesting reprints from Allen Hynek (on duration of UFO events) and David Haisell (on the International Working Party meeting.) AWARENESS from CONTACT (the last edited by Bernard Delair) has a detailed survey of the MIB scene. MIGAP (133 Hinckley Rd, St Helens, Merseyside) are now publishing Mersey News each month with some interesting general articles. Good luck, too, to the new Lincolnshire group who have started to produce Lincolnshire Dragon. Approximately quarterly it costs £2 pa (16 Packhorse Lane, Swineshead, Boston Lincs PE20 3JE) MAGIC SAUCER, Feb/Mar 1980, that delightful childrens UFO magazine has a fascinating original story from the USA about an entity 3 inches tall!! NORTHERN EARTH MYSTERIES is turning into an excellent magazine. The April 1980 has fascinating features on the North Yorks Moors and their associated geomantic enigmas. It is very cheap too, at £1 for 6 issues, from 61 Clumber St, Hull, Humberside HU5 3RH UFO NEWS BULLETIN Mar/Apr 1980 reprints sightings from all over the UK, plus features on liaison.

I gather that there is a suggestion going around certain southern groups (who shall remain nameless) that NUFON should be re-titled "EWING ENTERPRISES"; because of an alleged similarity between the initials of your editor and a well-known TV personality. These comments were made when the people concerned were oil-welled (sorry...well-oiled) and so should not be treated seriously:

J.R. "South Fork"; Warrington; (not far from Dallas); Cheshire

INVESTIGATION

LOW DEFINITION

DATA

Ref	Date	Time	Location	Investigator	Level	Evaluation
79-133	SEPT 13	21.00	Whitwick, Leicstr	CUFORO (M Brown)	B	Aircraft Four teenage witnesses observed Y/W ball plus trail moving W to NE. In view 1 1/2 minutes. Extensive night pilot training using landing lights was in course.
79-134	SEPT 28	20.00	Loughborough, Leicstr	CUFORO (M Brown)	B	Aircraft Two W LITS hovering for 15 secs then moving off with flashing R LITS. Again night pilot training was in operation from East Midlands Airport.
8008	JAN 6	22.00	Burton on Trent, Staffs	CUFORO (M Brown)	B	Star Couple observed LITS flashing or/green in sky for 20 minutes. Stationary at 10 degree elevation in the N. Vega, a bright star, was in this position.

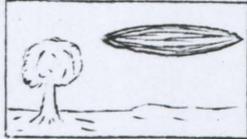
MEDIUM DEFINITION

7475 FEB 07.50 Sheffield, S Yorks D. Clarke B Insuff
JM is a council worker. He was driving to work when he saw a huge orange oval (estimated 30 feet across) hovering low over the road ahead, one end over a fence. Shortly after another car arrived. Both drivers got out to observe. Two other cars arrived and all four drivers watched for a total of 15 minutes as the object rose very slowly until about 18 feet above the road. Then it 'just went out like a light' The area was searched, but no traces.

79-131 MAY 24 18.20 Measham, Leicstr CUFORO C Insuff
A man felt compelled to look over fields where he saw a grey lens shaped object hovering. He looked many times over the next few minutes. The UFO then accelerated to a speck on the horizon. Sounds like a lenticular cloud.

79-132 SEPT 1 ?? Sheffield, S Yorks D Clarke B Insuff
Mary Bentley, an OAP, was alerted by a "Beep-Beep" sound. Looking out of her window she saw a grey circular object, like an egg, streak past. She then saw that many neighbourhood dogs were by her house barking and whining.

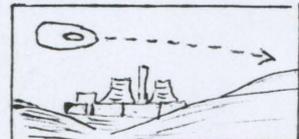
79-135 DEC 18 19.40 Burton-on-Trent, Staffs CUFORO (D French) B UFO
Eight independant witnesses observed a white oval object, like an egg (CF the above case!), surrounded by an aura. It moved slowly and erratically, stopping for long periods. It moved W-E and was in view 4/5 minutes



79-131



79-132



79-135

79-136 DEC 19 17.00 Woodchurch, Wirral MIGAP (A Bell) A Venus
A group of schoolchildren and teachers at a Xmas party observed a bright W star in the SW. It was in view 45 minutes, descending slowly and rising. The teachers refused to cooperate believing it was not anything unusual. Venus was very bright in just that position at the time and it seems probable that this, plus atmospheric turbulence, was the cause of this sighting.

8007 JAN 19.15 Goole, Humberside SUFORS (W Watson) C Aircraft
Four witnesses observed a diamond shaped dark object with triangular formations of red, green and white lights. It moved overhead very slowly heading S, making a droning/whooshing noise. In view 5 mins. Probably a military aircraft heading to a Lincolnshire base - eg a Vulcan delta wing.

8010 FEB 13 23.15 Bromborough, Wirral MIGAP C Insuff
Two women in car observed a rounded cigar, dark in colour with a rim of red and white LITS. Hovered low over rooftops. They stopped the car to look, and it moved away very fast and simply disappeared.

8011 FEB 17 21.15 Rock Ferry, Wirral MIGAP (A Bell) A UFO
Man observed a formation of 7/8 "whale-like" ovals, dark grey in colour. These cruised sedately along the line of the Mersey estuary E to SW, with no sound. One dropped a W LITS to the water. They were in view 1/2 minute and were thought to be Russian Zeppelins invading Britain! Liverpool ATC would not cooperate with the investigation, although they are usually very helpful.

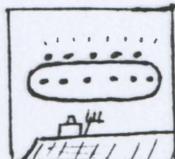
8012 MAR 1 18.30 Bidston, Wirral MIGAP (A Bell) A Insuff
A family of three observed a grey disc like object with two W LITS on top moving silently and slowly overhead and passing over Bidston Hill observatory. Shortly afterwards an aircraft passed along the same route.

8015 APR 7 21.30 Grantham, Lincs SUFORS (P Temple) E Insuff
Two teenagers observed a rounded object emitting W LITS, surrounded by yellow portholes. Shortly after they saw an illdefined object with a tail climbing into the sky from the same general area.

8017 APR 20 17.15 Garden City, Clywd MUFORA (J Randles) B Balloon
Silver cigar seen from car by 2 witnesses, pacing an aircraft with vapour trail heading NW over Dee Estuary. Very close to RAF Sealand where a balloon may well have been released. Liverpool ATC said they could not comment as the area was a "special zone", but would not elaborate.



8007



8010



8011

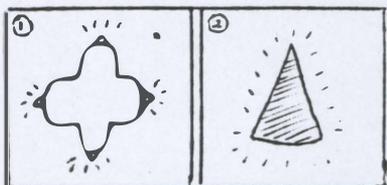


8012

TWO UFOs AND THREE FIGURES CE1 investigation by Brian Fishwick of MIGAP

March 17 1980 Rainhill, Mersyside 23.00 onwards Level A UNKNOWN

Mrs Margerie Sherrard, her daughter and a friend were returning to the home of the friend, Knowsley, via Prescott. Just leaving Rainhill (scene of the well known locomotive trials, which brought "Rocket" to fame, plus several famous CE cases) they stopped to observe a light, seemingly descending onto fields. This appeared like a clover leaf with dull orange colouration. After a few



moments they drove off in fear. A few minutes later, approaching Knowsley, a figure appeared in the road ahead. It was dressed in a white macintosh with long grey hair and a pale, thin face. They had to swerve to avoid a collision. On the return trip in the same area a couple of minutes later two identical figures were also seen. These were walking on the road too and were almost struck. At this point (time now 23.35) a red light was seen low over the fields heading SW. This came closer and was seen as a red conical object. They drove away in haste. Next day the radio on the car (not used during the sighting) was found inoperative. A fuse had blown. It has worked perfectly since. Liverpool ATC say they had no air traffic in the vicinity at the time.

UFO CAUSES DAMAGE TO TREES CE2 TR investigation by GUFORO

January 10 1980 Ashby-de-la-Zouch, Leicstrshire 15.50 Level A UNKNOWN

Mr H (who has a Ph D) and his wife were driving through woods when they saw a green light rise in front of them and vanish after a few seconds. They were puzzled and frightened by this. On checking the area it was discovered that a friend of one of the farmers, Mr M (a teacher with a BA) had seen something at the same place 40 minutes later. He was with his two sons and saw a very similar thing - a blue/green irregular light hovering by trees. It was only in view seconds. Checking the trees there four were found to have deep lacerations at 25 feet above the ground. These were in the correct location and were all aligned. No other trees showed signs of damage. Checks were made with local quarries to see if any explosions occurred. Police also had no information about the use of flares. Whilst there is a lake nearby, and the land is marshy, local naturalists and farmers say they have never seen marsh gas. The lake is the scene of several suicides and ghosts have been reported there quite often.

CASES: 16 Insufficient data 6; Aircraft 3; Balloon 1; star 1; venus 1
UNKNOWN 4 (25%)

A BRAND NEW RADAR/VISUAL CASE FROM ENGLAND

Radar/Visual encounters are probably the rarest type of UFO event to be reported. Rarer still is one which is reported as soon as it occurs. We are very fortunate that UFOSIS have a good contact with the ATC at Birmingham Airport. John Cuthbertson, an ATC operator from here with 20 years civil and military radar training plus experience as a pilot, has given his version of what took place on Tuesday, April 1 1980 between 19.05 and 20.45 GMT. East Midlands ATC notified details of an unknown being tracked heading NE to SW and Birmingham picked it up. Manchester and London ATCC also observed it. Its course was steady abeam the wind, and was tracked at an accurate speed of 44 MPH (obviously not an aircraft). It was lost SW of Gloucester. Factors of its performance indicated its height as about 10,000 feet. A light aircraft from Coventry airport had visual contact with the object, looking like a brilliant car headlight beaming through mist. A full-scale UFOIN investigation is in operation, checking the other airports and the pilot of the aircraft. Further details will be published as available and a full report will be featured in ESR in due course. John Cuthbertson says, "for the first time in 20 years as an Air Traffic Control Officer I was stumped for an explanation."