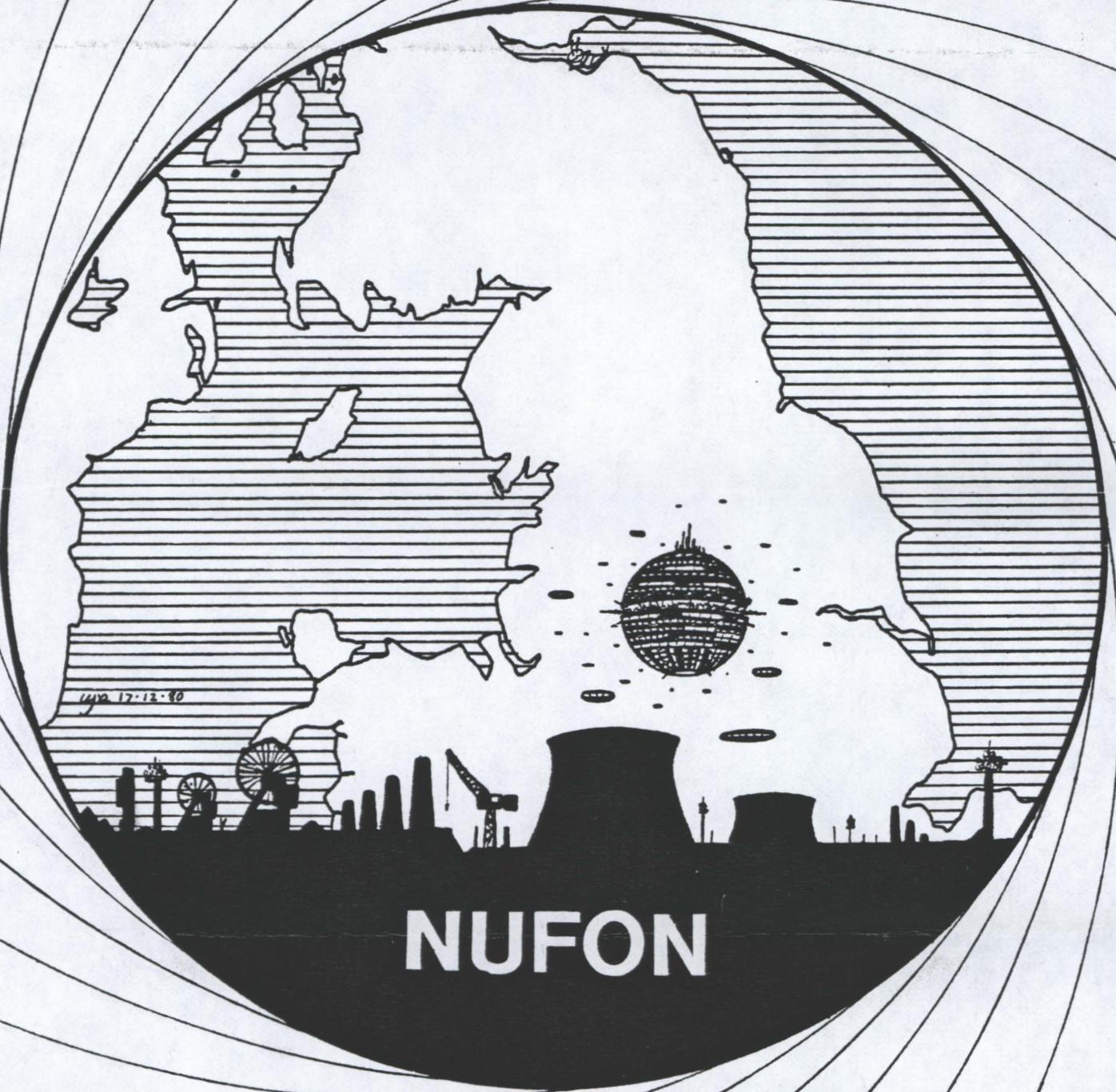


NORTHERN UFO NEWS



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GUEST EDITORIAL: THE COSMOS 1068 DEBATE by J. Bernard Delair

I champion everyone's right to express opinions, although with regard to emotive subjects like ufology always hope that issued opinions have been carefully weighed relative to the available data. My recent evaluation work on the alleged re-entry and multiple observation of the Cosmos 1068 satellite (December 31 1978) (See BUFORA Journal Vol 10 No 1) illustrates the problem.

I used the various details exactly as relayed by the eyewitness. If percipients say they saw triangular objects that is what I recorded, if they averred it moved in a specific direction then that is the direction I recorded. No item was knowingly distorted or misrecorded. Certainly I did not realise I should have been required to use any other method, merely because the accumulated reports revealed discrepancies or did not square with previous records of bolides or re-entering satellites. I merely endeavoured to record the phenomenon which had been widely reported (throughout Britain) on that night, then draw conclusions therefrom. Nobody need accept those conclusions, but one should not rearrange the original data to make it conform with preconceived notions (ie that the phenomenon was the re-entry of the Russian satellites booster rocket). Although critics (Stuart Campbell and John Rimmer) have stated I said that the data showed the phenomenon to be of an extraterrestrial origin (because of computations based on the claimed flightplans) I did not. Only that it was possible to conclude that the phenomenon was of extraterrestrial origin - which is somewhat different.

Campbell remarks there was no public consternation over the affair. This simply is not accurate. A full 75% of the telephoned sightings of this incident received by CONTACT were made by people plainly excited or worried about what they had just observed. A few were near to hysteria. It seems reasonable that the same applied to the larger sample of people who called newspapers, police stations and so on.

Assessment of these sightings depends very much on the reliability of the reports as a whole. The witnesses saw the phenomenon in question, not any of us who have subsequently attempted to evaluate it. Individually, no single report is particularly convincing, yet collectively they are remarkably consistent. Witnesses such as policemen, airline pilots and so on submitted descriptions essentially similar to "lay observers", and this homogeneity was, at least to me, significant. I could treat the reports as any other of an object seen in the sky. I found no need to juggle them or "read in" things that were probably never intended. This is all not to say that the witnesses did not see a meteor, satellite re-entry or whatever. But had some of the better, detailed reports from that night appeared in isolation in all probability they would be accepted as possible genuine UFO sightings. Certainly many reports in the literature contain less information than witnesses supplied on their observations of that night. This suggests a strong (perhaps subconscious) application of "double standards" in UFO evaluation.

But we would not be doing the subject justice if we ignore the undoubted fact that a spent rocket-launcher did re-enter the atmosphere somewhere north of Britain and proceeded east towards Germany that New Years Eve. Since a large percentage of the reports describe a phenomenon moving W-E perhaps these do relate to COSMOS 1068. Nevertheless, a significant set (in my view at least) of observations describe a phenomenon moving in entirely different directions. Applying strict scientific methodology it is difficult to dismiss all of the none W-E trajectories as erroneous. Some percipients may have orientated their sightings inaccurately, but can this only apply to the observers of none W-E flightpaths? But in this instance there are just too many observers for such a wholesale dismissal to be acceptable.

It is interesting to note that both Bob Morrell (as a practising scientist) and Jenny Randles (whose published writings have long demonstrated a bias towards scientific methodology) conclude very much as I have done. The suspicion that "someone up there" may take advantage of prominent meteor activity or a satellite re-entry is of considerable interest.

I am not a little disturbed at the apparant lack of critical methodology applied by some, who are prominent members of the British UFO scene. Quite possibly their evaluation of all the reports as a satellite re-entry are correct. Perhaps large numbers of witnesses did not know which way they were looking. But if there is any wishful thinking demonstrated by this episode I feel discerning readers will realise upon whose cap this ought rightfully to rest. As Jenny Randles says, a prima facie case does exist for a much more detailed investigation of this matter.

COMMENT (By J R)... Bernard raises a point here of great importance. I have studied the data on 100 Cosmos 1068 observations submitted to NUFON by you (out there!) (See - your work is sometimes used for research!) My appraisal will be found in a new book I am presently writing for Robert Hale. It has borne out these findings. Indeed when you consider other examples of mass sightings the problem is even more intriguing. Remember February 24 1979, when people all over the west coast saw what the MOD later claimed was an American F11 (although they did not know what we did i.e. people miles inland, including police officers, had seen a very similar thing which in no way shape or form could have been an F1-11!) If an F1-11 was over the coast and the inland reports were of something else it would be a rather remarkable coincidence for it to have been something natural. It sounds suspiciously like an intelligent plan using a ready made disguise. Maybe this is some of the best evidence we have for an alien intelligence at work. A look at other potential situations seems called for. What about all those crazy misidentifications at the time of full moon? IF there is an intelligence then this policy of "camouflage", seeding doubt and confusion amongst us, is well in keeping with what we know of it. Any takers for a research project into this... Operation Smokescreen? Let me know!

NEWS :: Two new "groups" to mention this month. The first is a new national venture championed by Hilary Evans (UFOIN Psychic advisor), well known writer on the paranormal and former SPR councillor. Called ASSAP (Association for the Scientific Study of Anomalous Phenomena) it aims to look at all kinds of strange phenomena and to conduct research into them. It starts with some impressive names behind it and promises to adopt strict standards and investigator training. The plans for what it intends to do and what it hopes to offer are grand, and it hopes to stage its first seminar or "workshop" in the autumn or winter. More details from Hilary at: 11 Granville Park London SE13 7DY.

:: The other new venture is international. Named EWT (European Working Team) it is a cooperative research project into Close Encounters. Plans for projects are currently being formulated, and work is underway to standardise terminology. Whilst it is to be European in extent (already France, Belgium, Italy & Spain are involved as well as the UK) close liaison with America and Australia is planned. Names already in EWT include Ballester-Olmos, Gamard, Troadec, Liljegren, Ted Phillips, Basterfield and so on. UK participants presently consist of Peter Rogerson and Jenny Randles. Anyone seriously interested in CE cases and prepared to put quite a bit of effort into joint research projects in this field should contact: Maurizio Verga via Matteotti 69 22072 Ceremate (Como) ITALY.

:: WANTED: To complete the UFOIN file on the Nelson car-stop event of March 1977. Has anyone got a copy of the Burnley Star for Mar 11 1977 with a report on the case. Could you loan it or copy it for the Nottingham HQ? Many thanks.

WANTED: More information on the sighting of a cigar shaped object in June 1973 at Lamplugh, Cumbria. The NUFON file on this seems to have disappeared. Granville Oldroyd (16 Longlands Lane Heysham Lancs LA3 2NS) would appreciate.

WANTED: Cheap facilities to print 500 of a 40/50 pp magazine for UFO investigators and articles from specialists in fields such as aircraft recognition and meteorology. SCUFORI (92 Beatrice St Swindon Wilts SN2 1BE)

:: Bill Gibbons advises me that actor Paul Darrow (Avon in BBC's BLAKES SEVEN) has shown an interest in the development of SUFON, the Scottish network. A case of Avon Calling?? Unconfirmed reports from Ireland suggest that when John Hind emigrates to live in Leicester next month the IURC will be run by the actor from that other series, HITCH-Hikers Guide, who plays Zaphod Beeblebrox. If so we can expect an increase in activity over there. After all two heads are better than one!

Comment so far on the suggested merger in 1982 between this magazine and NUFOIS's UFO RESEARCH REVIEW has been limited and mixed. There seems a slight bias in favour of NUN continuing to exist. However, there have been a few murmurings about the quality of production. I would stress that NUN is produced, at a loss, by me alone, on equipment which is outdated. Time is limited and I place the stress on cramming in information to give you value for money, even if the spelling does go astray and the ink sometimes smudges. More comment from you on this... PLEASE!

THE NEXT ONE-DAY SEMINAR IMPORTANT IMPORTANT IMPORTANT ****

NUFOIS have announced that they will stage the next one-day seminar on SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 26 (between approx 1 and 6pm) The venue will be the 120 seat hall at the ALBERT HALL INSTITUTE (Room 1) in central NOTTINGHAM. Keep it free. Full details from: 443 Meadow Lane Nottingham NG2 3GB (Tel: 0602-250316)

WHAT HAVE WE GOT?...WE'VE GOT THE LOT!

Syd Henley at the HQ is currently producing the mammoth catalogue of NUFON and UFOIN files so that you will have at your fingertips knowledge of all that is there (in case you want to visit to conduct research) or take cost-price photocopies. You, as groups, are putting your reports into NUFON and it is fair you get something out. When the index is produced you will see the material benefits of your efforts within NUFON (hundreds of case files instead of the few your group alone would have access to) In the interim I decided to offer a new service by publishing a list of what is available at the HQ on certain types of case. Let me know what you would like to see in this feature. First off CE 4 (Contacts): (U= UFOIN ref, N=NUFON ref, (fig) = approx no of pages, letter A,B etc Inv Level)

U 0101 Bourneville, W Mid 1901 (4) (D) U 5402 Croydon, Surrey 1954 (10) (A)
U 6001 Northfleet, Kent (8) (B) U 7202 Medmenham, Oxon (8) (B) U 7304 Wellington, Somerset (30) (A) U 7401 Aveley, Essex (80) (A) U 7504 Sheffield, S Yks (15) (A) U 7505 Machynlleth, Wales (25) (B) N 7664 Keighley, W Yks (10) (B)
U 7604 Chilcomb, Hants (10) (A) U 7612 Belfast, Ireland (35) (A) U 7747 Huyton Msyside (10) (A) U 7724 Shipley, W Yks (20) (A) U 7811 Taunton, Somerset (5) (C) U 7812 FROdsham, Cheshire (10) (C) U 7803 Risley, Cheshire (10) (A)
U 7827 Penge, London (20) (A) U 78/101 (Paul Grant affair) (80) (A)
U 7923 Gateshead, Tyne (8) (A) U 7918 Wallasey, Msyside (8) (A)

Shortly to be added...a 60pp UFOIN report on the 1980 Burneside, Cumbria case and a 210pp book length report on the 1976 Oakenholt, Wales case. Frank Johnson also submitted his booklength report on the "Janos People" Farringdon, Oxon, 1978 case.

Any case that interests you send an SAE or phone the HQ for an exact cost quote (work on about 5p per pp plus post) (443 Meadow Lane NG2 3GB Tel: Nghm 874615)

Dr ROBERT MORRELL REPLIES..... (See "The Appliance of Science" by Kevin McClure")

There are times when it might be in order to treat some subjects in isolation, but when certain other disciplines have a direct bearing, particularly when they seem to proffer an explanation that excludes concepts which many appear attached to, it is quite legitimate to ascribe a lack of balance and term it, within this context, as unscientific. McClure, for reasons that remain unclear (NORTHERN UFOLOGY 86 pp5) is critical of my employment of terminology, yet evidently recognises it is applied within reasonable context as he does not deny the lack of balance alluded to.

I did not originate the term "paranormal". In fact I dislike it, as it implies unjustified conclusions prejudicing research. However, I make no attempt to excuse my use of it. To many the paranormal, so called, has become a subject in itself, often extended to include UFOs. Mr McClure must be aware of this fact for one of the organisations supporting the Birmingham conference uses an abbreviation of the term in its corporate title.

Yes, we must separate wheat from chaff, but it is well to bear in mind that to many the chaff is the element which attracts them to ufology (and probably psychic research) The kernel of fact which remains, when the chaff is excluded, can be, and usually is, rather unattractive and mundane. When you strip the emperor of his position and finery he turns out to be a very ordinary person. We might wonder how many would have been willing to attend a conference organised along strict scientific lines to examine the so-called CE4 concept, particularly if they knew that lucid dream research may well have come up with very prosaic explanations. My guess is that the number would be very few. Far more are attracted towards publications and meetings which boost paranormalist concepts as fact, as certain publication sales strongly suggest. I would seriously doubt whether most members of the S.P.R. are in it out of any attraction for "genuine, open-minded, experimental" research, but rather it is likely they lend their support because they feel, or hope, that its work will give substance to their emotive beliefs. My admittedly limited contact with S.P.R. members pushes me towards the conclusion that the emotive element predominates, as is the case in respect of ufology.

Is McClure serious when he asks us to forget the content matter of journals within months of publication? Probably few are dwelling on the June 1980 Northern Ufology, but the published material of ufology is important and should be referred to and cited when the occasion arises. If they are no better than throw-aways why do we bother to publish them? For better or worse they are the public voice of ufology and so it is of importance they present a sound and balanced picture. If they are dedicated to a particular viewpoint any reasonably intelligent reader will be aware of this. NUFON publications, however, represent a spectrum of opinion and should keep this fact to the fore. If I find a lack of balance I feel it

essential to speak out. If Mr McClure is seriously interested in Ufology, be it in terms of content matter or public image, then he should share my disquiet rather than flippantly dismiss it. I assumed that he would have. I was mistaken, and take this opportunity to apologise for having rated him higher than I should.

SOME COMMENT ON THE EDITORIAL "Let There Be Light" in ISSUE 86 (July)

"Your editorials are one of the chief reasons for reading your paper, and this is one of the best. As an analogy it is as good as any, with a ring of truth about it - even if someone does point out any scientific impossibilities. It bears the sign of a flash of insight into reality... Free ranging thought of this nature is more beneficial to our sensing of life's complexities and linked threads than the day-to-day asking of "little" questions - such as "What are UFOs?"... Understanding what question it is one is asking is often more important and relevant than getting an answer. One is unlikely to get the right answer, but one may eventually (with humility) find the right question, or perhaps understand that ultimately there is no question that needs to be asked.

In this case ufology could be reduced to a place of understanding - ie a "So What?" But even a "So What?" is as intriguing as a "Who done-it?" And we cannot turn to the end of the book to find out "who done-it". So we should be advised to keep our minds as open as possible - observing - but being wary of getting too excited about just who we think might have "done-it". For the solution is seldom the expected one, and in this case the Ultimate Author is likely to have thought up an especially unexpected twist to conclude this little story about the ever-present "sharers" of our world's life and history." John Hitchens, Sussex

"Your editorial is to me the most important you have written. I find it disturbing you have written it at the present time. Ian Cresswell (in recent articles) mentions the consciousness of the witness and suggests something is working through it. When he writes these articles he starts by writing normally and then seems to alter his level of consciousness and writes, as it were, automatically. Others round me have been behaving similarly. One composed a piece about consciousness as the UFO source before reading your editorial. He was at work when it suddenly came into his head. There is nothing in the piece that was not in his mind already and I am not suggesting any communication with spirits or ETs!

At the June NUFON meeting in Manchester you suggested that during a CE4 the percipient may undergo programming. In SUPERLEARNING, by Sheila Ostrander & Lynn Schroeder (just published in paperback by Sphere) it is claimed that an alteration in consciousness can open the mind to rapid learning. Does this happen during TRUE UFO sightings?

All these things surfacing at the same time. Coincidence? Or is something else at work? Perhaps it is where the answer lies - in our consciousness. In a book on WW II propaganda I found this: "A successful propagandist must accept as his principal dicta the greater the lie the less likely the truth of it will be doubted and constant repetition will eventually achieve acceptance." It seems to me the UFO source works on this principle. You would probably agree that the population at large accepts UFOs as spaceships, if they are accepted at all. But this is ignoring the present day reports of mystery airships, aeroplanes etc....

Why hide behind false objects? If the source wishes to hide itself then why doesn't it do just that and cease all these inane manifestations? Perhaps it has no choice because its existence is tied up with our own. You speak of a universe alive with consciousness. But is this consciousness our own? Think of a holographic plate, cut into tiny pieces each piece contains the whole. Perhaps our collective consciousness knows everything about everybody (hence telepathy).

The puzzling thing about this subject is why so few people are interested and why so few of these are actively involved in trying to solve the mystery. Perhaps we are being prevented from becoming too involved by the phenomenon itself. Our minds could stop us solving the mystery by sending us off on dead end tracks and thereby getting nowhere. There does seem to be a self negating influence at work within the UFO phenomenon." Granville Oldroyd, Heysham, Lancs.

(If the subject deliberately sends us on false trails, as Granville suggests, would it not be likely that this is one?)
J.R.)

JR Comments.... The impact this editorial has had intrigues me. Lately I have written a lot "on impulse". I often get out of bed about lam to write out some concept that has just come to me. Indeed the editorial is loosely related to the theme of a novel I have been writing since mid June about cosmic consciousness. I certainly intended it as whimsical, but serious, speculation. Yet I am now well aware of how important intuition, coincidence, synchronicity (call it all what you will) is to us all. In BRITISH VIEWPOINT Peter Warrington and I talk of our "Education Process" and how coincidences moulded out thinking. We have been often chastised for such subjective talk, but nevertheless it is impossible for me to deny that it happens. So often and with such impact that I am positive the truth (whatever it is) lies beyond gullibility and "coincidence" (as we understand the word). What Granville says does not surprise me. I have often noted how, in Ufology, several people come up with the same idea at the same time, and how events then occur to reinforce that idea. In ALIEN CONTACT (my forthcoming book) you will find much more on this and the idea of a source for UFOs within human consciousness, based as it is on experiences prior to this "episode". In this context I will merely refer readers to a book I "accidentally" stumbled on in a WH Smith second-hand sale two days after the editorial was typed. Called "Stalking The Wild Pendulum" by Itzhak Bentov (Fontana) I had never heard of it, or him, until I got "lead" to it (scrambling on my hands and knees!) Believe it or not, as you will, if you read it you will perhaps be as amazed as I (once) would have been to see how it is virtually a re-expression (in very fine terms) of my ideas in the editorial, what Granville has to say, and what I have been feeding into my novel. If it were the only such example ever to have happened I would be intrigued, as it is all I can say is "C'est la vie"! To be on the safe side I thought I would finish as below.

"At the end of your editorial you invite comments. My original intention was to give a one word comment..... 'Rubbish'. However, on reflection, and in the spirit of "Hitch-Hikers Guide to the Galaxy", I have decided to revise this slightly. My revised and considered opinion of your editorial is.... "Mostly Rubbish" ! "

John Hind, Belfast.

 INVESTIGATIONS SECTION

Granville Oldroyd, who is specialising in a research project into British airship sightings of the 1909 and 1913 wave, points out to me a fairly substantial error on P.30 of my new book "UFO STUDY". I can only apologise for this and take this opportunity, thanks to Granville, of correcting the data. I refer to an airship sighting from February 1913 at Skipton, North Yorks, and describe it as a slow-moving dirigible, with a searchlight which passed overhead. Unfortunately the original report makes clear that the shape was "read into" the sighting at the time and only a light (not a searchlight) was actually seen. Also the object is not confirmed as having passed directly overhead. Granville suspects that the sighting may in fact have only been of Venus (although this is impossible to prove) and points out that my subjective evaluation of the report might tend to make people think that the 1909 and 1913 waves were identical. His research is showing the opposite. Many 1913 reports have mundane explanations. It will be interesting to see his results when they are published, and I apologise for complicating his work!

LOW DEFINITION

		Location	Inv.	Level
7476	July 12	23.45 Sandhead, Scotland	Bill Gibbons/SUFON	D
Woman saw "star" in N, stationary for 30 mins. Moved slowly N. Vanished.				Star??
79-152	July 15	06.30 Sandhead, Scotland	Bill Gibbons/SUFON	D
6 ovals in "V" formation. One broke & swooped towards the sea, hovering for some seconds and rejoining formation which flew off. Husband of above case.				Birds??
8118	July 19	19.30 Lochryan, Scotland	Bill Gibbons/SUFON	B
Man & wife saw red ball over Loch. Hovered 3 mins then "went out".				Insuff

MEDIUM DEFINITION

78-273	Oct 23	23.30 Stranraer, Scotland	Bill Gibbons/SUFON	B
Man on pier saw 200' flat based disc with slight dome hover over Loch for 3 min. Row of flashing R/Y lits on base. Shot off at incredible speed.				Insuff
79-151	Jan 23	00.30 Stranraer, Scotland	Bill Gibbons/SUFON	B
Man reading book saw long thin cigar floating over rooftops opposite. Silver/grey with oval green ports and a red flashing tail light. Vanished after 4 min				Insuff

This is an interesting, well investigated multi-witness sighting made more impressive by the fact that the group were actually able to witness the UFO as it was reported to them!

Events began at 20.55 when a 26 yr old woman and the 33 yr old man she lives with saw a strange light over Bold Power Station, near St Helens, Merseyside. Their high rise flat gave an excellent view of an oval light that changed from blue to red to yellow and meandered around the cooling towers and chimneys. At this time two young friends (a couple who work in the laboratories at the same college as the first witnesses work) arrived and independently reported seeing the odd light. The older woman called one of the MIGAP members (he used to be a neighbour and she knew of his interest). He was not in but she was put onto another member and in the end Brian Fishwick was asked to go to see if he could see object and power station. He could not, but he called his brother, who lived near the station. He went out with his wife's cousin (a woman) and they both observed the object for several minutes (by eye and through binoculars) as a vertical blue light. It was now some miles SW over Sherdley Park. They watched it for some time before it floated into the distance but David Fishwick broke off to call his brother.

Meanwhile the original witnesses had seen the object move off slowly SW in the direction of the Park and when Brian called them they confirmed his brother's observations. A MIGAP member who lives near the Park was called. He was not in, but his wife went out and was puzzled to see three blue/green lights moving slowly SW.

Brian now called Liverpool Airport. They said there was no air traffic in the area, but advised that a flight would pass over heading NE at 21.45. By now it was 21.25 and Brian got a neighbour with a car to drive him to the Park, arriving at 21.35. They were able to watch an oval object with a red top and blue/green base (as seen through binoculars - all blue/green when not). Just as it floated out of sight SW behind

trees the aircraft appeared right on time as predicted by the airport. It was quite distinctive from the object. They drove to a nearby sub-station on higher ground and were able to watch the object for several more minutes move SW and fade away. Analysis of directions onto a map show the object travelled between sub-stations and power stations, following electricity pylons, and was heading towards Connahs Quay power station (a path that would take it right over Liverpool Airport!) It seemed to bob up and down around the lines.

Several possibilities were checked, eg a possible helicopter inspection. This was negative. The CEBG said weather conditions were not conducive to electrical discharge. As it was an Easter holiday staff at the power station was minimal. There were no reports and local police had none either. (A remarkably interesting fact given the nature of the object) Weather records show wind from the NE so the object was travelling with it, suggesting, perhaps, a lighted balloon, but the shape and proximity to Liverpool Airport (without their knowledge) might argue against this. Also of interest is the discrepancy between what each set of witnesses saw (see diagram). You might recall the Jan 1978 sighting of two police officers on the M62 (See UFOIN 7801) An inverted T object was seen to pass on line between Bold Power Station and Fiddlers Ferry Power Station. An interesting coincidence.

8117 JUNE 15 1981 MUFORA Investigation by Mike Sachs

Between 22.45 and 23.00 four separate groups of witnesses observed a phenomenon traversing the Rossendale Valley in mid Lancashire. An old lady at Stacksteads saw what she at first thought was the moon but moving W "drifting like a balloon". Just before disappearing in the distance near Rawtenstall (3 miles west) it seemed to "drop a spark". A woman in Rawtenstall saw a bright yellow ball float E-W across the valley at tree top height surrounded by a mist or vapour. By the famous dry ski-slope it dropped a spark into some woods then vanished. She called the police (logged 23.05). Two women by the slope saw the object come straight for them. It was a golden oval with two W lits on the underside. It dropped a "ladder" into woods by the slope (actually a streamer of light that unfolded). The main object changed course to head S down the valley before vanishing after 2 mins. S of here at Helmsore a man saw a W lits move low along the valley N-S. There was a low thick cloud and a rainstorm began at 23.30. Wind was from the west. The only possibility MUFORA can come up with is some rare kind of ball lightning.