

UNO NEWS

January

9

1975



Ufo procession over Haslingden

P.6.

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UNION of NORTHERN OBSERVERS

ALL THE BEST FOR '75 FROM U. N. O.

UNO NEWS:: 48 PARK DRIVE MANCHESTER M16 0AH

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EDITORIAL:--'Following up UFO reports'

As a summariser of reports for the BUFORA Journal I am in a position to see the widely varying standard of investigations carried out on UFO sightings. I must confess that in the main this variation, in general, is on the poor side of average. Now the fault is NOT BUFORAs nor are they exclusively involved. A similar situation arises wherever there are investigators investigating UFOs - AND THAT INCLUDES WITHIN THE RANKS OF UNO GROUPS. There are many reasons for these circumstances, though no excuses. To be fair BUFORA intends to do something about it; by holding regional conferences to give instructions in the art of follow up techniques. This must be commended and I hope that we are able to give a really good UNO turn out at the Stafford conference in May. One of the problems is that investigators are spread out over a wide area, often not coming into contact with other Ufologists. If BUFORAs only representative in the northern Hebrides happens to be an eleven year old illiterate sheep farmer they must make the best out of it. This is where the Regional Coordinator should come into his own. He should do his best to maintain contact with all his investigators, give them advice and ensure reports are fully checked out. This cannot be done if one man is in charge of such a huge geographical area that such contact even by mail is physically impossible. So I believe that MORE RICs should be appointed by BUFORA to share their experience with smaller groups of investigators. UNO too can help here by bringing under the wings of the nearest group every investigator who can then benefit from the wider contacts he receives. From our own point of view we CANNOT dictate what groups must do when following up a case. It is a fundamental principle of UNO that every group is INDEPENDANT. We can, however, by means of a series of articles bring out the finer points from those with experience. Geoff Porter, a recognised master of interviewing, will I hope contribute some advice on this. Trevor Whittaker is an Ophthalmic Optician who I hope will be able to write a piece about how to single out optical phenomena. And YOU can contribute too if you feel there is something you can add to the series. I begin to wonder if the main problem is not a psychological one. It is true that not everybody will think of checking every possible explanation for a sighting - the problem is so many don't even check any! How often do I see a report of the sighting ending with "I believe the witness saw something". BUT NO ATTEMPT TO CHECK ANYTHING NORMAL. An example was one recent case where a long report of a white light in the sky made no mention of the fact that a satellite was visible EXACTLY at that time and in that part of the sky - presumably because he didn't bother to check. This slipshod approach is no good. There is a mystery there to be sure but so often simpler explanations are ignored (see 74Dolo later on in this issue). That psychological problem seems to be that WE want so badly to believe EVERY report is a UFO that we avoid any effort to prove it isn't. But a UFO report will be of far more value if all natural possibilities have been checked and eliminated. If they haven't been it is almost useless.

IMPORTANT NOTICE: THIS WILL BE THE LAST UNO NEWS IN THIS FORMAT. NEW EQUIPMENT SHOULD BE DELIVERED FOR NEXT MONTH AND IT WILL NOW BE POSSIBLE TO PRINT AS MANY COPIES AS YOU WISH. NEW RATES WILL BE RATIFIED BY THE COMMITTEE BUT THEY WILL PROBABLY BE: £1.50 (ONE issue pm) £5 (FIVE issues) £8 (TEN issues) £10 (FIFTEEN issues). These last two can be paid six monthly if desired (£4 & £5). Considering the great increases in paper and postage (due to rocket again soon) these seem very fair amounts for a ten page magazine with the facility for photographs. Remember we are not trying to make a profit out of UNO. To keep costs down for you we have been running at a big loss. This equipment is expensive and so even with these increases we will not be making money. NEVERTHELESS there will be no further rises during 1975 - despite inflation. You may order now for February onwards. Let us hope you justify our expenditure. The machine will be available for group work at reasonable rates since to help with costs it will be used for professional printing. We may very soon be in a position to put UNO News on open sale so start making enquiries with your local magazine sellers.

UNO NEWS: You will no doubt have noticed that the size of this months issue is only about half of normal. This would have been inevitable this month due to the change over in printing systems but it is also very largely due to the TOTAL lack of news from any group. It is appreciated that the Christmas period gives opportunity for a rest BUT THERE IS NO REASON WHY EVERY GROUP COULD NOT SPARE A FEW MINUTES TO WRITE A FEW LINES OF NOTES & NEWS. When I was sending a sheet along to be filled in by groups there was a great response. Now it was hoped groups would be able to do this on their own initiative. ALL it takes is a letter to me during the last week of each month with group activities, any news, any interesting mail, any press cuttings, thoughts or speculations. Surely every group can do THAT. Remember UNO News is a forum for northern groups to spread news and discuss ideas. I gladly will spend time and money compiling, typing and distributing BUT I CANNOT DO THIS IF NOBODY BOTHERS TO CONTRIBUTE REGULAR SUMMARIES. We are going to a good deal of expense to produce a better magazine. Don't let us or yourselves down!

The Christmas period has doubtless had something to do with this slackening off though the ballott forms were sent out well in advance and virtually NONE have returned. Naturally UNO needs an administration and so, as some of you will know, this will be formed from those who have shown a willingness to put time, money and effort into keeping UNO flowing. These people (totalling about 10) include many new (though not unknown) faces. They are meeting in a few weeks time to lay out future plans and arrange a general UNO meeting cum lecture. This administration will put the organisation on a stronger footing though I make it absolutely clear THAT UNO WILL REMAIN AS IT IS NOW (that is NOT a group and NOT run by a committee. YOU will each have a say in things and every group REMAINS totally independant. This is the cornerstone of UNO policy). Naturally group members who have said they are willing to help will be given something to do. Those of you who, understandably, cannot do so need do just one thing. Support UNO and bits ideas.

From the next tape circuits we will try a new experiment. This is to swop groups round so that they communicate not just with a set number of groups but, in turn, EVERY other UNO group.

Manchester UFO Research Association: Things have been happening in Manchester on the UFO scene, though not actually too much sightings wise. Groups are well aware of Mr Rees disappearing with the UNO files and the consequent loss of MAPIT support. His actions have caused all respected Ufologists in the area to unite and it is hoped that the files (which after all you submitted to a joint UNO file and not a private DL Rees one) will soon be retrieved. On a wider scale Pete Warrington, who for many years has been coordinating MUFORA investigations has agreed to help UNO practically and it is envisaged that many of the erstwhile MAPIT members (who have become wise to Mr Rees's actions and their own action) will join a new, enlarged MUFORA in the next few weeks or so.

NAPRA: Have been plagued by illnesses which has put several key members temporarily out of action and has delayed work on several interesting cases. Scientific consultant, Ed Butterworth, is sadly in hospital and we at UNO wish him a speedy recovery. Dave Gittens tells me that they are able to get hold of a Geiger Counter for £5. Any group interested should contact Dave ; 60 Tyldsley Crescent, Weston Village, RUNCORN Cheshire.

Rossendale Astro: Interesting reports have come from them and it is hoped to be able to publish some of their work on UFOs over water shortly. They intend to split the group into two sections: a UFO one and an Astro one (though inter-related of course). If any group members are keen on Astronomy and would be interested in being out of town members Tim Evans would like to hear from you: Five Ways, The Fields, Haslingden BB4 4DT

** 1975 I hope will be a successful one for all. With a new strong administration, meeting regularly, there is hope that UNO can make great strides towards solving the UFO riddle. With promiss of better liason with BUFORA, better facilities things look bright BUT ALL THAT IS NOTHING without your support. UNO is you - Don't forget that.

GENERAL NEWS:

UNO relationships with BUFORA are continually improving and things look very hopeful for the near future. It is hoped that Gordon Clegg, the BUFORA RIC for the North West, will shortly join UNO and of course Trevor Whitaker, his opposite number from Yorkshire is already with us. On top of this a new RIC and BUFORA branch is functioning in Cumbria and they have been invited into UNO. Other persons coming onto the UNO administration have strong ties with the national group and the plan for the future is to designate regional BUFORA investigations to the appropriate UNO group. On March 8 - 9, somewhere in the Midlands, there is planned a coordinators meeting where doubtless such matters will come up for discussion. More news on these exciting prospects in due course.

The David Rees episode has had implications far outside UNO. Many, many people have been upset by statements he has been making on the radio concerning active hostility of UFOs. He also has been spreading round false notepaper and information about his own situation. We at UNO have made it perfectly clear that he is no longer associated IN ANY WAY with administration and indeed he (supposedly on behalf of MAPIT) has not even bothered to contact us for several months. As pointed out MAPIT is a dead duck and its active members will be shortly joining a new, more widely based Manchester Investigayion group which must be more successful.

That APEN mystery still continues. I received no less than TWO Christmas cards from them (they must have more money than sense), one purporting to come from Central Control and one from Northern Unit 23. No report on that N. Wales landing though and no address yet either.

One new book you must not miss. "BEYOND EARTH - Man's Contact with UFOs" by a cynical journalist turned (almost) believer following an exhaustive investigation of the late 1973 USA wave. Bang up to date (even to European sightings of Feb 1974), and with much interesting material. If you want to read what provoked Prof Hynek to claim that the government's handling of UFOs is a "Cosmic Watergate", the full fantastic story of the abduction of two fishermen at Pascagoula or even the UFO with (wait for it) the letters U.F.O on its side then don't miss this one. It's a Corgi Paperback and only 50p (though that was a week ago so it may have gone up)

THAT BOURNEMOUTH PHOTO:~ Bob Birkett (KUFORG)

(For details and drawing see November 74 issue. Also the latest FSR has a report plus the photo - ED)

I have just read the latest SCAN Newsletter and the interesting article about the Greg Marchant sighting on a night in October 1974. Mr Marchant was quoted as saying he saw a strange moving light in the sky. An under statement this since I believe (as an investigator of some experience) that if the facts presented are to be believed it is not simply strange but bordering on the farcial. Let us examine his statement. "I see a light in the sky as big as a double decker bus and moving fast" He then went out into the garden and with his polaroid camera took a picture. It is quite impossible, according to photographic experts, to pan with such a camera and freeze such a fast moving object. The shutter speed is one twenty fifth to a thirtieth of a second yet his photo shows a sharp and perfectly frozen image. Yes quite a picture. He goes on to claim its size as being 36" (D.D. bus as supplied by National Bus Co) yet we are to understand that such a bright, large object travelling over a densely populated part of the UK was seen by just one person. Perhaps Scan will find more witnesses yet. Lastly I would like to touch on an issue which to me is far more important than wether or not this photo is a fake - the amount of support and publicity Scan gave to it. How can Scan, within days, tell the national media "in our opinion it is one hundred percent genuine". Remembering that one of the cornerstones of investigation is a completely unbiased approach one can never categorically state that a sighting, however good, is genuine. If UFO research is to command any public support we must be unbiased and scientific. I am suprised that a highly regarded group such as Scan should put their reputation in jeporidy by widely claiming it is one of the best shots of a UFO ever taken. In my opinion, and other Ufologsists it is an unconvincing fake!!

(FSR do point out the problem of lack of witnesses and suggest that it be a pertinent fact to the nature of UFOs. But if a camera can photograph it it cannot be subjective - or can it? Having personal experience of a polaroid I find it most difficult to get an unblurred photo of a still object let alone one streaking across the sky. Either our 21 yr old is a brilliant photographer with ice cool nerves or there is something badly wrong with his story or his photo - or both. Lets have your comments)

INVESTIGATION SECTION:

Mountains of news to record so doubtless some will have to be held over.
THE ROCHE DALE REPORT (see report 182 last month)

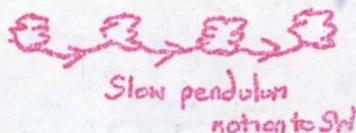
Interesting news has come light via BUFORA of a separate independent witness in Ramsbottom of what is undoubtedly the same object. Further work is being carried out on this and a full report will be published as soon as possible.

74D 181 April 7 1974 22-30 Wythenshawe Manchester

An OAP reported seeing a yellow/white light 'like the Moon' the size of 'the Moon' hanging over the rooftops on a dull night. He was watching through his bedroom window and the ball seemed to elongate, split into two parts and then merge again before vanishing completely. On evaluation it was found that at that time on that night the Moon was in the exact position and at the angle of elevation the witness recorded. It had been full on the 6th. We feel pretty sure that it was the Moon, distorted through the window glass (the witnesses eyesight is not good). The weather was cloudy but a small break, lasting only seconds, could account for the sudden appearance and disappearance. An interesting example of how the 'obvious' should always be checked out.

LIVERPOOL PHENOMENA: Reports from BYUNG

November seems to have been a very hectic month and judging from reports received, and still coming in, might well have been a flap period. Liverpool bore the brunt of a barrage of LITS. On the 13th two witnesses recorded a white hemispherical light streaking through the city skies at 16-50. An even more interesting report comes from the 15th when a fuzzy red light glided over the city centre for four minutes exhibiting a pendulum motion before lost on the horizon in street lights. The 17th brought many reports of white and red flashing lights (and this date brought sightings from other areas too see report 188 last month). Finally on the 27th flashing red and white lights again glided through the skies. BYUNG have also sent press cuttings of more interesting reports from this period of blue/white lights darting through the sky, a blue floating globe and a 'thing' which was charted accurately by following it in a telescope. They and Wirral UFO are further looking into these and we will publish more on these when received.



Streaks (periodic flashing as if revolving)

THE AUGUST FLAP:

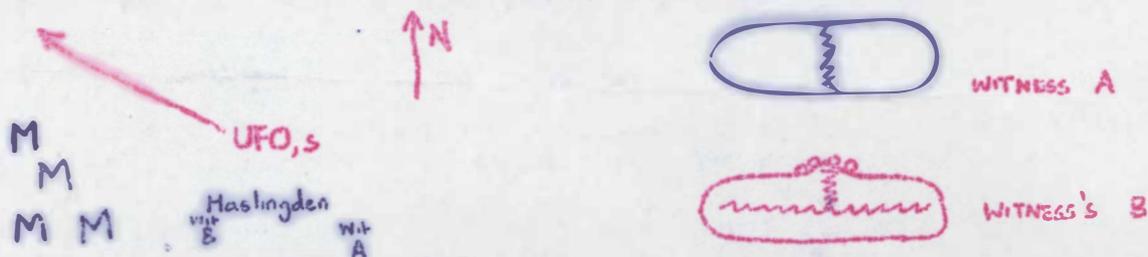
What was going on in August 1974? UFO has ten sightings for that month and many more, less mysterious ones are known of. It would seem there was a deluge of LITS reports which may well have had a great deal to do with the maximum brightness of SKYLAB at that time. Notably the weekend 15, 16, 17th was rich in white and red lights - some of which were positively Skylab others which sound like it but don't fit the time or directional data. Were the UFOs using the Skylab brightness as a cover?

- AUG 15 : Bournemouth - White light
- AUG 16 : Saltburn - White light
- AUG 17 : Abersoch - see report last month, various lights
- AUG 17 : Litchfield - Various lights. (not same times as above)
- AUG 18 : Droylsden - White light.

ROSSENDALE REPORT:

74K 200& 201: November 24 1974 16.10 Haslingden. Ross Astro Soc

Most interesting multiple witness sighting this which no doubt will be discussed at length on tape and a full investigation followed through. The two sets of witnesses do not agree absolutely but, having personally spoken to them, I feel this is a verifying factor. The first witness describes two small cigar shapes moving against a blustery NW wind. They moved over the hills towards Accrington. They were close to cloud height (3000 - 5000') and kept moving in and out of the cloud layers. The witness felt sure they were glowing and NOT reflecting sunlight (though the Sun was not visible). After a matter of seconds they seemed to join and a faint fuzzy line seemed to mark the junction. The object moved on at least as fast as an aircraft in a perfectly straight line. The size was estimated as 50-80' long each though when joined she says about the size of a pencil at arms length. This may make them slightly larger. Others who did not see the objects attested to her excitement within seconds of the sighting. The objects were viewed for five minutes. Other witnesses a couple of miles away saw more of the phenomena. They describe three cigars glowing gold-bronze which were sharp underneath and fuzzy in the centre and top with an impression of lights. They also heard a faint humming sound which was not detected by the others. Size estimates and heights all agree fully and it is interesting to note that objects one and two were about $\frac{1}{2}$ mile apart whereas there was a bigger separation between the last object. This was also said to be $1\frac{1}{2}$ times larger than the others.



I think there is little doubt of the validity of this report and the total independence of the witnesses adds strength to it. We may assume that there were four objects. Witness A saw three and four join to become a larger one but the first two had passed over when she went out to look. Witness B saw only three and four joined and perhaps the noise was a function of the two UFOs when joined or the better hearing of the latter witnesses. It is to be hoped yet more witnesses will come to light since though not densely populated it is not without habitation.

NEXT MONTH:

More reports from Rossendale from November

Details of the UNO Administration meeting plus low down on the new faces. Apologies for the omission of certain regular features due to space pressure. Back to better than normal next month.

DO YOU WANT INFO on SATELLITES?:

Satellite News published weekly gives full details on all satellites. £3 for one years issues or write to Geof Falworth 11 Wimbledon Ave BLACKPOOL FY5 1SA - send 6p for sample copy.

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