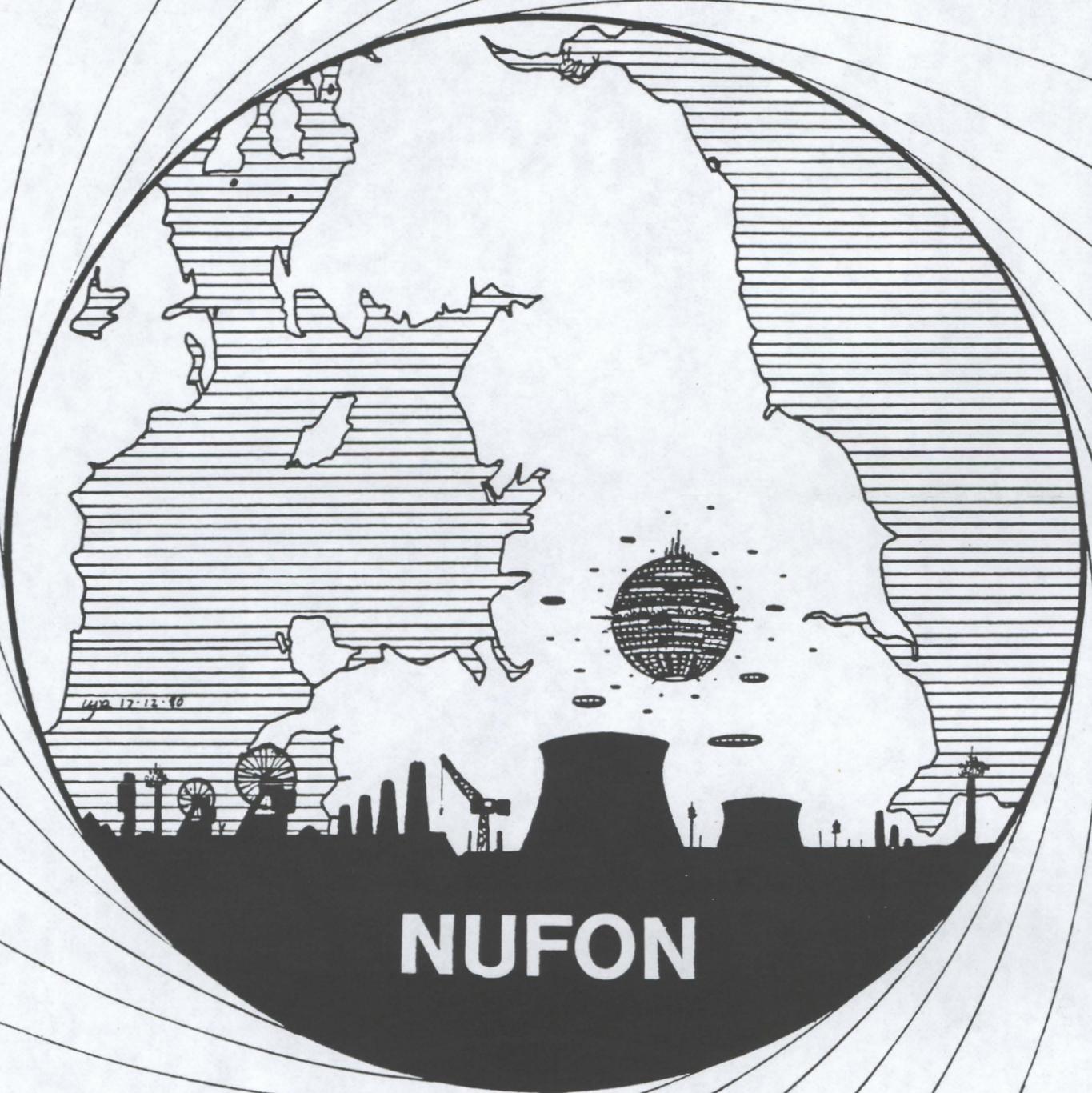


NORTHERN UFO NEWS



14th 17-12-80

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NORTHERN UFO NEWS is published monthly (in series with NUFON CASE HISTORIES)
 by the Northern UFO Network (NUFON) Editorial Address :-
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 1982 Subscription rate £2.80 (£4.20 with CASE HISTORIES)

EDITORIAL: "Drifting on an Alien C"

My third book, Alien Contact (or Alien C, as for some curious reason my mind calls it) was published to a fanfare of silence on Feb 4. It affords me the chance to consider the presentation of the UFO phenomenon to the public at large.

Alien C was always a risky venture. I came close to giving up on it twice (once when it was complete). I see in retrospect more clearly why this was so. UFOs are a controversial subject, which some people need to believe do not exist (just as well as some need to believe that they do). Too many books jazz up the enigma, when its truth is strange enough and needs no spice. BRITISH VIEWPOINT and UFO STUDY were attempts to bring sobriety to the subject, but as such had no more than a modicum of public impact, scarcely scratching the surface of less restrained tomes. This is just my way. I do not enjoy reading sensationalism, so do not wish to write it.

But the contact case is a different matter. Even amongst ufologists it is full of controversy. The only people amidst the public ready to listen are those weaned on thrills and spills, who suspend normality and read a book that transports them to some magic land where it never snows, where Maggie Thatcher is a human being, and where alien spaceships with their friendly pilots whiz about the galaxy. This makes it enormously difficult to write about a contact case in any detail.

Thinking about the Sunderland family saga, the substance of Alien C, in the cold light of afterthought, I realise how implausible it is. To me, and probably most of you, submerged in this stuff for years it is hard to appreciate how unlikely such a series of fantastic claims must seem. The most likely public reaction is... "What a load of drivel!" ...or... "They must be mad!" Indeed many ufologists reacted this way to Frank Johnson's The Janos People, even though the story itself (as they must have known) was a typical CE4, and essentially factual (so far as I am aware). All this book lacked was critical appraisal, which the reader could supply himself of course. I am not defending Janos. I don't think it is a good book. But it sold far better than UFO STUDY, for example, which illustrates my point.

In Alien C Paul and I try to combine the public appeal of a Janos style approach with critical analysis. The hope is that more none-specialists might read it, not particularly so it would make money (although of course that was a consideration) but more so that a few might really think about what goes on in the world. For the contact phenomenon (whatever it is) does exist... and we need to appreciate that rather more than we do.

I am not sure we found the right blend (if there is one). Sensationalising, however lightly, an already unbelievable story must make it less acceptable. It might be read more widely, but will it be believed? And yet, sanitising it and stripping it of its "flavour" (because, remember, its story-book element may actually be an intrinsic part of the contact case's nature) leads to it only being read by those who know the problem exists anyway. I realise I have multiple responsibilities.

Alien C is a schizophrenic book. Early reviews confirm my suspicions. MAGIC SAUCER says the first half (the story book) is excellent, but the analysis (which considers complex psychology, sociology, hallucinations and so on) is naive and over-rational. The publishers sent a copy of this review with a note attached saying in effect, "See... I told you to end the book after the story!" It took quite some effort for us to persuade them that anyone wanted to see analysis "detracting" from the story! Members of my family, disinterested in UFOs, have read Alien C (they have not read my other books!). They gave up at the end of the story, or read the analysis with some effort. Both my brother and father said, "I hope you write more like this." And at least one serious ufologist has expressed entirely the opposite view. The first half made him cringe. The second part was much better. So I know I cannot win.

For some odd reason the publishers chose to sell Alien C to a bookclub within 10 days of publication! This should guarantee few sales! Bookclubs are a necessary evil these days. Out of a normal £5.25 sale price the author gets 10% (52½p). The bookclub cons people into thinking they can buy it for £4.25 (though with postage this is almost £5 anyway!). Yet they buy it from the publishers for £1.40 (so who is making the money?). The author gets 14p! When it was announced by Encounters my heart sank. "As startling; as convincing as the best-selling Janos People". If I thought that was the best I could do I would give up now!

I feel like the London Symphony Orchestra having just recorded the theme from Coronation Street! But life is about learning. I am not ashamed of trying. I have just finished UFO REALITY for Hales. That is nothing like Alien C, which will hopefully now sail on into the sunset.

NEWS ROUND UP.....

THE EVENT OF THE YEAR?... It certainly promises to be the . A one day ASSAP conference scheduled for Saturday, April 17, in Leicester.

Organised by Kevin McClure (editor of Common Ground)

it has an impressive line-up of five papers, all by published authors. There is a diversity of subjects and much of interest to the ufologist. I suggest you make every effort to join what is expected to be a large and influential audience.

The programme lined up for the GRAND HOTEL, 11 - 5 pm, (city centre 200 yds from the railway station) is:-

PAUL BEGG (author of INTO THIN AIR, and the forthcoming OUT OF THIN AIR) on the Bermuda Triangle and the genesis of mysteries and rumours.

Dr. SUE BLACKMORE (Bristol University) who discusses "Out-of-the-body" experiences are they hallucinations? Her definitive book is published in June.

BOB CRACKNALL discusses and demonstrates his claimed psychic abilities, as described in his recent best-selling book.

HILARY EVANS (author of several books, including UFOs) on recent work into the Msr Fontaine UFO abduction case from France.

And myself (Jenny Randles) on the use of regression techniques in UFO abduction and "past-life" studies. Are they asset or liability?

Planned cost is £2...contact: Kevin McClure 14 Northfold Rd KNighton Leicester (Tel: 0533- 883504) Sounds well worth giving up a Saturday for.

:: Two other events to note. MUFORA is planning to stage a one-day seminar on the Alan Godfrey abduction case. This will be held in Manchester and will be by invitation only. This is because the seminar will include presentation of the video recordings of the sessions under hypnosis, thus limiting the numbers who can attend. If interested write to: Flat 2, 597 Mauldeth Rd West, Chorlton, Manchester M21 1L.

:: UPIAR are staging an "invitation only" four-day seminar on the psychological & sociological aspects of ufology in Salzburg, Austria, between July 26 and 29. It will cost \$ 30 to get in. So if you fancy an Alpine adventure send a description of your qualifications for being there (not necessarily academic) to:-
Dr Alexander Keul Meidlinger Hauptstrasse 82/19 A-1120 Wien Austria

:: Does anyone have issues 1-55 and 72-85 of NUN for sale? Write to:-
Richard Heiden 7320 W Capitol Drive No 211 Milwaukee Wisconsin USA 53216

:: Finally, condolences to Miles Johnston, recently the victim of an IRA bomb. Miles is OK, thankfully, and so, he says, is his video...which is something!

CASE HISTORIES... Hilary Evans writes about Issue one of this new venture, "I feel it right, just when you are embarking on a new and potentially very useful venture that you should be quite clear about what you're trying to do, and whether this is in fact what your readers want" He seems to feel that C.H. 1 may have been too subjective (although it was difficult not being with the case in question!) He suggests a more objective and less "jolly" approach. But what do you think??? Let me know so I can produce Case Histories to the style that you require. In the meantime C.H. 2 will be due in late April. This will feature a review of recent happenings in the Todmorden/Halifax/Bradford area, including a mini-wave, an interesting EM case involving police and a summary of the Alan Godfrey abduction.

ELSEWHERE THIS MONTH... PROBE issue 8 is up to the usual standard with a super photographic IFO case. They also announce, coming May, a promising new 44p booklet UFO/IFO-A Process of Elimination (£1, inc postage); many useful articles from experts to help the investigator (16 Marigold Walk Ashton Bristol Avon BS3 2PD) FUFORs last publications (they have merged with MAPIT to be renamed OSEAP) is a very useful NIGHT OBSERVATION EXERCISE MANUAL...skywatching brought up to date with a thorough and systematic scientific approach. All groups should have this. Well worth 50p from 30 Charlesworth St Crewe CW1 4DE. Their last UFO INSIGHT has an excellent Mark Tyrell article on rumour generation, backed by experimental fact. A good lesson in research technique, John Rimmer takes up the theme (also to be discussed by Paul Begg at Leicester!) in COMMON GROUND 4. Also Dr Vernon Harrison on mediumship and "super-ESP". (14 Northfold Rd Knighton Leicester). Finally, photo analysts will have a field day with FORTEAN TIMES 36. Photographs said to show Jesus or Gods...what are they? (BM-FORTEAN TIMES, LONDON WC1N 3XX) Both these last two publications cost £1 each.

IN SEARCH OF HIDDEN CONTACTS...

In recent communications with Malaysian researcher Ahmad Jamaludin we have been considering the problem of whether contact may occur in some cases where this is not immediately obviously...eg the repressed memories emergent under hypnosis. I have recently been speculating that contact may actually occur far more often than we realise, at a subconscious level. Ahmad suggests that we check for symptoms and where these show up subject the witness to hypnotic regression. He points to:-

Physical marks on the body and punctures on the skin (Alan Godfrey, the Todmorden police officer, noted unexplained damage to his boot after the sighting)

Nightmares within a few days of the experience

Unexpected sudden manifestation of psychological symptoms (eg fear of bright light)

Apparant time discrepancies in the story under consideration

Other sightings in the area but slightly later than the conscious time recalled in the case suspected of possibly being a contact. (Again this occurred at Tod)

As an example we ~~recently~~ reported on a Shropshire case investigated by Stephen Banks from July 1981. Three women in a car observed a low level UFO and then suffered time distortion and disorientation as they drove the few miles home to Telford. The three women have been brought to Manchester and subjected to medical regression. One could not be regressed by either of two doctors, independantly. The other two were regressed to the incident and both recalled an alleged contact experience. The two stories were recounted completely independantly, screened from one another. There were some comparisons, but far more differences.

Rosemary finds herself separated from the others, floating out of the car. She is in a room with a central table and light pouring out of the walls (no visible source). Both these are remarkably common CE4 motifs. She is forced to get onto the table and a series of 4' tall "robots" grey, round, rolling on wheels. They are "friendly" and look at her but do nothing. She sees the car on the road below and "floats" in.

Vivien sees herself staying in the car as the other two girls get out. She feels a floating sensation and is sucked up inside a mist (car and all) inside the object. Here she finds herself in a room with central reclining chair/table and a male voice repeating slowly and incessantly in her mind...DON'T BE AFRAID...A group of four foot tall entities then appear; ugly, green cloaks, hairless, thin arms. She is "scanned" by a big light and hurt physically, with the voice still repeating its phrase. She says "They're pulling at my bones...It seems as if they're inside my legs." She is then carried back to the car.

Work on this fascinating case is to continue.

ASSAP CASE...Inv: James Feltham Caernarvon, Gwynedd NUFON 6510 MED B

19.00, July 1965 (Approx) Man plus group of others on seafront observed a strange object. This was a "classic" but unusual "Three spheres in a triangle" type of UFO. Object was silvery metallic and joined together by three tubular formations. It hovered in the west over the sea at an estimated h of 4500 ft. It was in view 20 mins, seen through binoculars as it hovered. It disappeared instantaneously. The witness claims that he subsequently contacted RAF Valey and that they told him they had the object on radar (I do not think they have one- JR). They did not know what it was.



SUFON CASE...Inv: Tam O'Neill Fenwick Moor, Scotland NUFON 8154 MED C

02.10, October 30 1981. Another case of a UFO archetype. This commonly reported UFO was observed on a night of heavy rain (the connection of water with this particular phenomenon was noted by me in an FSR article on repeater witnesses last year). Six men travelling home by minibus were witness. It was first seen in the distance as a red light moving towards them. As it approached it could clearly be observed as circulat with a series of red lights around it (just like the object seen inside a Lancashire reservoir in August 1980...see ALIEN CONTACT) Two beams of light then appeared from the front and swept the countryside below, brightly illuminating it. They went out and the object then accelerated away remarkably fast. In view 15 mins. No sound.

HAPI CASE...Inv: Mark Brown Coalville, Leicstrshire NUFON 8155 LOW D

05.05, December 21 1981. Milkman and colleague (an experienced UFO investigator) Observed a yellowish/white very bright "star" stationary for 10-15 mins and then seen to move off steadily and be swallowed by streetlights. No star or planet there.

None of the above three cases suggest any obvious explanations and are termed UFO

A couple and their two two foster sons (ages 10 & 11) are involved in this case. The incident took place from a quiet cul-de-sac on the route into East Midlands Airport. This is a summary of an excellent 25 pp case report. At the time the adults were eating a meal and the children watching TV. The washing machine was also on in the kitchen. Above all this noise a deep droning was heard. It rose in level to a deep staccato throb. All four heard it. One boy went to the window and saw the sky "twinkly" and the road lit up by six tubes of light. A swirl of twinkling light was seen on the ground between these. They seemed to rotate and change green-red-yellow. After 10 seconds they went out. The other boy had instead gone to his bedroom and from this elevated view saw a circle of light on the ground. Looking above this he saw a saucer of red and white lights containing red and white strip lights. On top was a red dome. The strip lights flashed more slowly than the other lights. The object hovered directly above an opposite rooftop (appearing bigger than the roof itself!). After 4/5 seconds it moved off east, then flipped

Object

on its edge through 180 degrees and moved away west disappearing "as if being switched off". Total duration, from reaching the bedroom, 10-12 seconds. The father is sure he saw a light through the window when the net curtains were moved by the boy. The sound was heard, decreasing, for a few moments after the object vanished. Both boys appeared very shaken by the experience and the parents claim they could tell they were not lying or exaggerating. One boy said, "if there are things like that in the world I want to leave it." On the return of the boy from his bedroom both were asked to sketch what they saw, which they did independently. The boy who saw the object over the roof is certain it was very low, as it would have to be to illuminate the road (if these lights were of the UFO and not car headlights or stray reflections). He estimates 40-45 feet. Trigonometry gives a diameter for the object of about 27 feet and calculations and arms lengths estimates seem internally consistent.

Groundlight

Yet a door to door search of other houses revealed no other witnesses which is, in itself, peculiar. There was also an outdoor fete at the time at a nearby pub. Despite media coverage appealing for witnesses nobody else has come forward. Yet again we see the curious isolation factor associated with close encounters.... or does this mean the object was really not unusual? Was this a gross distortion of an inbound aircraft? East Midlands had three planes inbound, all from that part of the sky. A Boeing 737 landed at 20.47 (probably too early for this); a Cessna 172 at 20.55 (most likely candidate) and a DC3 at 21.00. Is this what the boys saw unusually low? Mark Brown tends to think so, but as usual it remains uncertain.

CAR-STOP BY THE MOON?... Nailstone, Leics OCTOBER 11 1981 23.15 8153 B

This case looked straightforward...until? Two brothers returning in a car after dropping off a girlfriend suddenly found the car slowing and stopping. They tried to start it but without success. So one man set off for petrol (assuming they had run out). A taxi came by and he flagged it down as the nearest all-night station was some miles away. Whilst he was gone one brother walked to call his wife from a nearby box, noting as he did a strange large white light "like a cluster of smaller lights" hovering above a nearby colliery. The box did not work properly so he returned to the car. The brother came back with petrol and his first words were to ask if his brother had noticed the odd light in the sky. They put the petrol in but still the car failed to start. They then noticed the light (which had moved a little from side to side) was now gone, after being there for 40 mins. They decided to try the car again and it started and has given no trouble since.... Mark Brown noted the men had heard of car-stop UFO cases, which may be relevant. He also checked with an expert who suggested a possible natural means by which the car could have stopped. Also checks with Phil Taylor (UFOINS astronomical adviser at Greenwich Observatory) showed the moon was more or less exactly where the light had been. The conclusion seemed obvious. It was slightly odd that Phil had himself to later discover a close encounter from Hastings, Sussex, just 7 days earlier, that he quite independently evaluated as the moon (to be discussed in PROBE). But stranger still neither investigator seems aware of the case in BUFORA JOURNAL Summer 1972 (also later in FSR). On May 25 1971 Mrs Eunice Rose from Hinckley was driving at Belcham Bar (almost at exactly the spot of the 1981 case) at 22.45. She saw a light which she termed "moonlight colour" (!!!) over exactly the spot where the 1981 light was. Her car engine spluttered and began to cut out as it passed over!!! The moon at that time was NEW!!! Is this coincidence?? Think how rare car-stops are.