

PEGASUS



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EDITORIAL

The question of how much governments know about the UFO phenomenon has fascinated ufology from its earliest days and hinges initially on the question of whether or not they are implementing a deliberate policy of concealment. If there is no such policy then there is no problem either, since no government admits to having evidence that UFOs exist. If, as ufologists generally believe, UFO reports are classified information, the question of what is being concealed remains. Is it knowledge, impotence or ignorance that classification seeks to hide? Or perhaps a mixture of all three?

Attempts at investigation have concentrated mainly on the USA, where the central question seems to have been the administrative level at which the postulated knowledge is located. Senator Goldwater found his efforts to investigate Roswell unavailing; a high court judge dealing with a request under the Freedom of Information Act for copies of certain documents was not even allowed to see them: he had to accept a statement that it would not be in the national interest for him to do so. Jimmy Carter, who believed he had seen a UFO, promised to tell all if he became president. When he did become president, he told nothing.

In Britain, no one has been more active in seeking answers to the question of hidden knowledge than Timothy Good, whose book "Above Top Secret" has become a classic statement of what we don't know and why we don't know it. His subsequent attempt, in "Alien Liaison", to find something we do know was foredoomed to failure. Grounds for suspicion do not constitute evidence, especially when it is known that a policy of deliberate disinformation exists. Whoever classifies these matters as higher than top secret in the USA also has the means to ensure that they stay that way.

In this issue Ralph Noyes, previously a senior official of the UK Ministry of Defence, writes of his own experience in these matters and explains that he never encountered a formal policy of secrecy. It was simply not done to discuss UFOs and this informal embargo sufficed. At an even higher level, a one time Chief of the Defence Staff has testified that he was given no information on the UFO question, and Winston Churchill's query was met with evasion. Nevertheless, there are thousands of people walking the world who apparently know more than these VIPs, for they are quite certain that they have met with UFOs and some also claim to have been contacted by their occupants. These people are not cranks or eccentrics - they are a normal cross-section of society. Is it credible that they are all engaged in some vast conspiracy to fool us all, a conspiracy from which no one at all appears to benefit?

PEGASUS keeps an open mind and is willing to consider all the evidence and any theories based upon it, but of one thing at least we are sure. There is a problem, a phenomenon to be explained. UFOs exist as an objective reality. How many kinds there may be, where they come from and why, so far we can only speculate. That's the problem.

GOVERNMENTS AND THE UFO PHENOMENON

by Ralph Noyes

I reached a fairly senior grade in the MOD and had access to whatsoever documents were necessary to my responsibilities. These included TOP SECRET material generally, as well as many other papers of a still more restricted character (e.g. operational orders specifying how and when the Prime Minister would be advised to consider the British response to a nuclear threat to this country.)

But I'm also perfectly clear that much else was going on in the MOD which I didn't know about because it wasn't relevant to the jobs I was doing; for example, I remained as ignorant as the rest of us about that "anthrax island" in the Hebrides which my colleagues in the Navy Department successfully kept under wraps for about four decades until 1988! (I simply didn't "need to know" about that unpalatable episode for the sake of my own work in the Air Force Department; and nobody - quite rightly - ever told me.) If somebody above me had wished to conceal from me that the British or other governments were in touch with extraterrestrials, they would certainly have done so. But I'm pretty sure that I would have got some intimation of this, even if concern for my career prospects might have persuaded me not to enquire further! But I never had the faintest whiff of any such thing.

More important than my own testimony, however, is the fact that Admiral of the Fleet the Lord Hill-Norton, who was Chief of the Defence Staff from 1971 to 1973, never had the smallest indication of ET contact. He was the Defence 'supremo'; nothing of Defence significance would have been kept from him; I'm clear from several discussions with him that he knew nothing of any extraterrestrial approach up to the date of his retirement in the mid-1970s. Those who still wish to disbelieve me or Lord Hill-Norton (on the grounds that we are either deceitful or ignorant - or perhaps merely incompetent!) will have to consider how the supposed "ET faithfuls" in Whitehall have managed (for four decades?) to secure government funds, Whitehall office space, telephones, secretaries, waste-paper baskets and total secrecy without so much as a word to the rest of us or any difficulty with the Comptroller and Auditor General, who keeps Whitehall accountable for every penny spent.

In the several capacities which brought me into touch with UFO reports during my 28 years in the MOD I encountered several reports, particularly those from military establishments, which indicated "high strangeness". I, and military colleagues, had little doubt that something had taken place for which we had no explanation. The classic instance is Bentwaters/Lakenheath in 1956 (and other cases are entering the public domain as files are released under the thirty years rule). Not once, however, was there the faintest suggestion that extraterrestrials might be in question. We suspected the Russians ... we suspected faulty radar ... we wondered whether RAF personnel might be succumbing to hallucinogens ... we found no evidence for any such things. In the end (and fairly swiftly) we simply forgot these uncomfortable 'intrusions' as rapidly as fire brigades forget apparent cases of SHC and local councils forget the complaints of their tenants about poltergeist occurrences.

We never had the smallest evidence that Brothers from Space were responsible for our transient unease - and I do believe that we would have picked up anything of that kind, given our highly effective radar cover and the incessant watch kept on radio communications by GCHQ and NSA.

The immediate recipients of any disturbing phenomena in British airspace were always the Air Staff - the Royal Air Force officers who lived on the same MOD corridor as myself. They would have shouted very

loudly to me - as the civilian colleague able to get them the ear of Ministers and/or necessary funds - if they had detected anything needing funds or Cabinet backing. They never did. My impression is that unexplained reports were passed to scientific colleagues (especially the Meteorological Office) when the Air Staff had dismissed them as being of "no Defence interest".

If "good reports" were being kept from me (however you define "good"), the Air Staff were - quite unwontedly - missing the opportunity which only I and my Division could offer them of grabbing a bigger slice of the Defence Budget for the RAF (e.g. for research and/or defensive measures against Space Invaders). If Defence Intelligence - D.I.55 is the currently fashionable name - are doing some cloak and dagger job on ETs, I wish them well; but it doesn't yet seem to have been reflected in hardware budgets for any of the Services.

I can't imagine that any government department, however ill-intentioned, would be so silly as to conduct a propaganda campaign about UFOs, however covert.

Let's suppose that the MOD and the Pentagon really do have evidence of extraterrestrial visitation, perhaps even to the point of hiding saucers and little space-folk at some military establishment. Let's suppose that they're desperately worried about all those anonymous chaps who keep ringing Len Stringfield and/or appearing on TV with funny voices. Let's suppose that they want to keep the rest of us in ignorance. Would they really take the risk of putting "disinformation" into the public domain? Would they succeed if they tried? Things may have changed since my own days in Whitehall; but when I or my colleagues (with Ministerial approval) felt it necessary to conceal something, we simply clammed up and stone-walled. We would never have been so stupid as to engage in active lying. Quite apart from questions of morality (which certainly operated in my own time), no competent official would have taken the risk of being detected! It was simpler and safer to keep quiet.

There is no doubt at all that the MOD played a thoroughly dishonest game over the Rendlesham affair. I have already put some of my reasons on record in the afterword to my SF novel A Secret Property and in a paper UFO Lands in Suffolk, printed in Timothy Good's UFO Annual 1990 (Sidgwick & Jackson 1989). We know - the responsible Minister even admitted as much in the British House of Commons after more than two years' prevarication - that the MOD received an astonishing report in 1981 from a responsible USAF officer (Lt.Col., now Brigadier General, Charles I. Halt) of very weird phenomena which (as he believed, and seemed in part to have witnessed) had taken place in the vicinity of a major military establishment in the UK in December 1980. The MOD had flatly denied the existence of this report in response to enquiries put to them in 1981 and 1982. We would probably still be faced with this bland denial but for the action taken by American citizens under the US Freedom of Information Act in 1983. In response to enquiries made to the USAF by CAUS (Citizens Against UFO Secrecy) the USAF obtained a copy of Halt's report from the MOD and released it into the public domain in mid-1983. (Here Ralph quotes a passage from the well-known report. - Ed.)

The case itself is complex. I have given my own views about it in the papers mentioned above - essentially that Halt and several others came face to face with a striking manifestation of the "UFO phenomenon" (whatever that may be) in the December of 1980. Other commentators may disagree; alternative theories abound. My only immediate point is that the MOD have resisted all attempts to obtain sensible statements, even under sustained pressure to the Defence Secretary from Lord Hill-Norton. Why ..? Simply, I think, because it embarrasses them. Either they must admit that a senior USAF officer at a highly sensitive base in the UK went out of his mind in December 1980 (with unthinkable potential consequences in defence terms) or they must acknowledge publicly that

weird things occur for which no explanation is at present possible. Can we be surprised that they stalled and cheated? I would have done the same had I had the ill luck to be in post at the relevant time! (Let others among you who are without sin cast the first stone).

The Rendlesham incidents remain open to debate. I will merely add that they could not possibly have been a mere military misfortune - e.g. the loss or crash in Rendlesham Forest of a bit of troublesome hardware. I have given my reasons more fully in the papers mentioned above. Perhaps I may be forgiven if, in this paper, I merely summarise my conclusion by the assertion (based on hard MOD experience) that major military mishaps can't be concealed, anyway in this country, and that not even the stupidest of officials would attempt concealment by seeking to over-excite local ufologists.

There was never, in my day, a deliberate policy of concealment or a deliberate plan of obfuscation. We received hundreds of reports from the public of unidentified sightings - just as I receive to-day from a cuttings service to which I subscribe hundreds of similarly vague reports of things seen in the sky by (if I may parody) worthy citizens who have seen something on the outskirts of Wigan while walking the dog. I and my staff dealt as courteously as we could with these well-intentioned communications - and we invariably considered (often with a sigh) whether they just possibly reflected some Russian breach of the 'rules of the game'. They never did ... Only very occasionally (and usually from Defence establishments) did we receive anything definite, e.g. from Bentwaters / Lakenheath in 1956 and from RAF West Freugh in 1957. And they also, alas, never provided solid evidence which Defence scientists could get to grips with. They never happened twice at the same place; they never did us perceptible damage; we never had the faintest idea of what had occurred; we were very glad that the public never got to hear of them: we would have stone-walled like crazy if Parliamentary Questions had been asked.

It is only since I left the MOD (in 1977) that I have seriously tried to consider what may possibly lie behind the "UFO phenomenon". It was impossible to discuss it seriously within the Department; I would merely have "rubbished" my working relationship with the RAF and scientific colleagues if I had disclosed the interest I felt in the better reports which reached us. What I retain from my MOD experience - greatly reinforced by much that I have since read - is that the phenomenon is veridical and important, and that the expert methodology developed over the past century by scholarly people in the field of the so-called "paranormal" may possibly be relevant. I can't even define "paranormal" to my own satisfaction! All I can be quite sure of is that we, in ufology, are dealing with transient and somewhat insubstantial events of a bizarre character, and that we are not alone in doing so. I think they matter. I also think that we and the "parapsychologists" might have some useful exchanges.

(In January 1993 Ralph sent me this article, first published in "UFO Brigantia" in 1991, as still representing his final word on a topic of which he is now more than a little weary! - Ed.)

TAILPIECE

On the evening of 20 March 1989 LBC Radio was broadcasting a programme about UFOs, featuring Timothy Good and Jenny Randles. The presenter, Robbie Vincent, was telephoned by a listener introduced as Ralph from Chelsea, who spoke as follows:

"Now I'm phoning as a chap who worked for the Ministry of Defence for many years. I got out of the Ministry of Defence in 1977 but I was there for 28 years, and for a part of that time I had the luckless job

of receiving reports from members of the public and also considering reports which were coming in from our own people (meaning the RAF) and one or two other defence establishments about UFO sightings, so I do know a little bit about the subject from the official side, the other side of that Whitehall desk. I confirm out of my experience that Tim is absolutely right - there has been an official cover-up. There is no doubt at all that Tim's book, "Above Top Secret", shows massive, massive deceit by many American agencies. They were concealing something, I'm not sure what it was, but they were concealing something, and I have to tell you that I took part, as a Ministry of Defence chap, in a concealment of maybe a less dramatic kind on our own side of the Atlantic.

The phenomenon puzzled us. I knew that frequently things were reported from the public and from our own stations, which we could not explain. They worried us, they worried my Air Staff colleagues; I'm aware of many cases, one of them has been mentioned, the Bentwaters / Lakenheath incident of 1956. You will now find in the public record office (because the 30 year rule enables these things now to be published) an incident at West Frugh in the Mull of Galloway in Scotland.

On both of these occasions the Air Staff were deeply puzzled and distressed by something which left traces on our radar, made rings round our aircraft and left traces on gun-camera film taken by good pilots of Belenheim aircraft. When I say Blenheim aircraft, I'm going back to the 1956 occurrence.

What I also knew throughout my time, as far as I could judge, was that what we were concealing was our own bewilderment at what was happening. I differ very strongly from Tim Good, as he knows, about the view that we are being visited by extraterrestrials. We are being visited by something. I suspect that it belongs to this planet and I'm very much with Jenny Randles in feeling that.

I also know beyond a doubt that something is going on of very great importance, and that government agencies are sitting on their thumbs about it."

CLOSE ENCOUNTERS

("THE PARANORMAL

IS ALL AROUND US NOW!"

SAY TEN THOUSAND WITNESSES.)

PHONE "PEGASUS" IF YOU ARE ONE OF THEM"



THE GLOBAL DECEPTION CONFERENCE

In our Spring issue we published an article by Paul Whitehead which cast doubt on the sanity of the organisers of the conference held at Wembley Stadium on January 9th and 10th, 1993, and allegedly attended by one thousand people. Since then PEGASUS has received from an anonymous source leaflets setting out the claims of these organisers, "The Graduate School of Ufology and the American Academy of Dissident Sciences", with an address in Los Angeles. (Do they read PEGASUS in LA?)

We have therefore thought it only fair to list without prejudice some of the less startling claims we criticised previously, to give members the chance to form their own opinions. Evidence presented took the form of 2-hour videotapes at \$20 apiece, now available from a Mr. Vladimir Terziski, phone L.A. 310-473-9717. Although the price seems reasonable enough we have neither purchased nor viewed any of his tapes, so that what follows are merely extracts from his own publicity material. (The ILLUMINATI mentioned therein are a secret group said to be planning to take over the world through control of its financial and political systems.)

THE TERRESTRIAL COMPONENT OF THE ALIEN PRESENCE.

Secret illuminati projects presented to the public as the new and ultimate threat - the alien threat. One century of R&D projects in antigravity, space flights, mind control and human genetic engineering, conveniently covered up by real alien visitations. The little grays - the cyborgian IGORS of the underground gulag of government factories.

UFOs BATTLE IT OUT AT OUR DOORSTEPS - the NASA shuttle footage. Who is shooting whom? Are these alien ships being fired upon by the US government's ground based Star Wars beam weapons?

FREE ENERGY - German Free Energy Dreadnoughts versus the Illuminati- Manufactured Element 115 Gas - Guzzler saucers of Bob Lazar, that need astronomically expensive fuel to fly. Guess who will be selling the saucer fuel to us in the 21st century and beyond, when 90% of the aliens that visit our planet come here on free energy ships. The celestial conspiracy reasons behind the suppression of the free energy on Earth.

LECTURE & SEMINAR BY COLONEL MARINA POPOVITCH, National hero and decorated military test pilot from the Soviet air force... Photo of a crash-landed UFO shot down over Russia. Photos of 20 kms. long mother ship hanging close to the Martian moon Phobos, before the Russian probe which sent them back to Earth was mysteriously destroyed.

THE HOLLOW EARTH - A NAZI ILLUMINATI UNDERGROUND CITY at the South Pole, with 2 million people, and called New Berlin. Admiral Byrd's failed naval campaign against the colony in 1946/7. Are the Nazis from the South Pole the tall blond blue eyed Nordics present in little gray abductions?

There is more; much more; but evidence based only on easily faked photographs and videotapes is insufficient to support such claims as these. Though PEGASUS cannot of course disprove them, we see no reason to accept them either, fascinating though they may be. The Dissident Scientists assure us, however, that the time is at hand when we shall find out for ourselves. We shall have been taken over!

THE WINGED SERPENT OF ASHLAND

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by Gordon Millington

When ufologists consider close encounters of the fourth kind they too often turn their thoughts to Betty and Barney or their higher strangeness predecessor Villas Boas, though neither of these cases are truly typical of the way the abduction scenario eventually developed. The case to which all subsequent accounts can in some way be related and which has never received the detailed consideration it merits is the encounter alleged to have occurred in 1967 between a Nebraska sergeant of police and the agents of the Winged Serpent, by which ancient symbol they apparently identified themselves.

Sergeant Herbert Schirmer was a man of strong character, a former member of the U.S. Marine Corps. As a police officer he was widely respected by the ranchers and well thought of by his superiors, who described him as "dependable and truthful". Eventually he became the youngest chief of police in the cattle town of Ashland, and this was after his abduction report had become public knowledge.

On December 3rd 1967 the witness had been on duty since late afternoon and at 2.30 a.m. was still in his car, cruising the deserted suburbs in search of stray cattle. Approaching a crossroads, he saw a number of red lights ahead which he thought might indicate a broken down vehicle. As he came nearer, however, he saw the lights resolve themselves into a row of small windows round the circumference of an oval object hovering above the road. His next conscious memory was of the craft glowing incandescently and rising into the air. There was a high-pitched sound as it swayed from side to side with a pendulum motion. Schirmer experienced a temporary paralysis but drove back to his office, though feeling weak and sickly. He arrived there at 3 a.m. and wrote in the precinct log book: "Saw a flying saucer at junction of highways 6 and 63. Believe it or not!" He then went home and only later did he realize that, although the journey to the office had taken only ten minutes, there was a time lapse of twenty minutes for which he could not account. In communication with Jacques Vallée (1) he afterwards revealed that at the time of the encounter he had felt a brief tingling sensation and a pain behind the base of the ear, where there later developed a red welt with tiny holes, as if a needle had been inserted. For three weeks after the event he had suffered from severe headaches which disturbed even his sleep, and dreamt of a landscape with three mountain ranges, strange domes and UFOs.

At the behest of the Condon committee Schirmer voluntarily underwent a series of psychological tests, including a 'lie-detector' session, none of which gave any cause to doubt the veracity of the witness. The Condon team then flew in Dr. Leo Sprinkle, a psychologist from the University of Wyoming, to attempt through hypnosis to recover for the witness his memories of the missing time. Under hypnosis Schirmer stated that, having stopped the engine and extinguished the lights of his car, the UFO then exerted some form of traction which towed the vehicle up the slope towards it. Two entities left the UFO and one projected from a device he was carrying a green glow which apparently caused the policeman to enter a sort of trance in which he got out of his car and awaited the approach of his captors, who were described as being about five feet tall and wearing tight-fitting one-piece suits with a head covering and boots. Schirmer produced for Vallee a detailed pencil drawing of one of his abductors as remembered from the hypnosis. Though the forehead is wrinkled, the major facial features are normally humanoid, but the pupils of the eyes are enlarged, elongated and catlike, producing a penetrating and unnerving stare. There is a small round device over the left ear, with a short antenna less than two inches long, and over the right shoulder is a patch bearing insignia representing a winged serpent.

"Are you the watchman over this place?" asked the alien, in slow and measured tones which seemed telepathically transmitted rather than actually spoken. Schirmer agreed that he was, and then was led up into the UFO, where he was shown spinning drums in a machine which flashed with a variety of colours and was described as a power source producing "reversible electrical magnetism". The two then floated together, apparently in free fall, up a gravity reversing shaft to another level, where Schirmer was shown what may well have been a hologram of a sun with six planets, which was said to be the aliens' home system. "Watchman!" exclaimed his companion, "One day you, yourself, will see the universe as I have seen it." Vallée remarks that "at the time of our meeting, many years after the event, his dialogue with the operator stood out as the most significant event in Schirmer's life", so impressive were the deep authoritative tones of his abductor and the shamanistic quality of the experience.

Timothy Good (2) quotes a statement allegedly made to Sergeant Schirmer by his abductors to the effect that: "...They have been observing us for a long period of time and they think that if they slowly put out reports and have their contacts state the truth it will help them....They have no pattern for contacting people. It is by pure chance so the government cannot determine any patterns about them. There will be a lot more contacts....to a certain extent

they want to puzzle people. They know they are being seen too frequently and they are trying to confuse the public's mind."

Good's own position is perfectly clear and he expresses it unequivocally:

"It is my conviction," he writes, "that we are being visited by several groups of extraterrestrials and that while some may not be well-disposed towards us, the majority are essentially benevolent."

One would like to have some firm evidence of this essential benevolence, however, before accepting it uncritically.

It is not only Erich von Däniken who suggests that in prehistoric times astronauts from extra-galactic civilisations, who were seen as gods by the early men, came to this Earth to inaugurate genetic and technological innovation. The Dragon or Winged Serpent, said to have been worn as insignia on the right shoulder of the ufonauts who abducted Herbert Schirmer, is directly associated in myth and folklore with those ancient astronauts. As anthropologist John Michell (3) puts it:

"The discovery that flying saucers, the fiery discs in the sky, were reported in the past as dragons or winged serpents reveals the significance of a great deal of previously obscure mythology and folklore in which these creatures figure... and all those myths where the serpent is described as the airship of the gods, the vessel from which all human benefits derive, can be seen as symbolic accounts of the early dealings between the gods and men."

So were Schirmer's abductors, by their use of the serpent symbol, claiming to be the heirs of the ancient astronauts? And why, one wonders, have the insignia not been reported from subsequent close encounters?

Schirmer's abductors are said to have told him that one of their purposes in landing had been to obtain electricity from a nearby source, and indeed UFOs have frequently been observed following power lines and hovering near generating plant from which they may have been able to extract power. The phrase "reversible electric magnetism", allegedly the product of the machine he was shown, meant nothing to him and, as it stands, means little to anyone else. Consider, however, the word "reversible" as applied to the force of gravity in the elevator which, Schirmer said, had carried him and his abductor upwards inside the UFO.

James McCampbell (4) remarked that UFOs appear to defy gravity. "Not only," he writes, "do UFOs appear to be anti-gravitational, they behave as though they had no inertia."

He uses the Principle of Equivalence, as postulated by Einstein's General Theory of Relativity, to show that the observed manoeuvres of UFOs, their instant stops and high speed right-angle turns, can be accounted for on the

assumption that they have in fact achieved the control of gravitational forces said to have been demonstrated to Schirmer in the UFO.

Dr. Leo Sprinkle was so impressed by the police officer's account, his first experience of an abduction scenario, that he devoted much of his subsequent professional career to following up future cases. There cannot have been many that exceeded in depth and detail the Schirmer case, which seems to demonstrate how a man possessing the observational techniques taught to marines and police continues to employ them effectively even in the traumatic circumstances of an abduction. Some other of these details merit further consideration, especially since many have also featured in later cases.

The traction beam said to have moved Schirmer's car is paralleled by the total disappearance of a car and passengers enveloped in a white cloud on a road in Tokyo on 19 November 1963 (5) and the teleportation of a car in Natal, South Africa (6) on 30 May 1974. A truck and its driver were temporarily abducted on 28 August 1979 from Fredricksburg, Virginia (7). The phenomenon of mental control by ufonauts, whether by the projection of specific radiation or by more subtle means, is a feature of virtually every abduction reported; the subject eventually obeys the abductors, even against his will.

The 'vision' of an alien solar system, very like a modern hologram, could scarcely have originated in the witness's own mind at a time when laser technology was not known and it may well be the case that his subsequent dreams of an extraterrestrial landscape relate in some way to this 'vision'. The Aveley abductees (Essex, England, 27 October 1974) also claimed (8) to have been shown holographic videos of an alien world.

The device with the short antenna located over the Ufonaut's left ear seems to have been unique, but it may also be noted that there were injuries to the base of Schirmer's own ear which suggested that a needle had been inserted into the skull. No mention of this features in the hypnotic recall, from which one may infer that the recall may have been less than total, but later accounts of implants received by various abductees imply that something of the kind may have occurred here also. Though information gained from hypnosis will always be to some extent suspect and in need of additional confirmation, there are also a number of cases where witnesses boarded UFOs in full consciousness and remained so throughout an experience that might otherwise be deemed by some hallucinatory. On 3 July 1968 a woman in Quilmes, Argentina did precisely this (9) and at Venado Tuerto in the same country a twelve year old boy also reported a conscious experience on 6 September 1978 (10). In

Aldershot, England, on 12 August 1983 a seventy seven year old fisherman told how he had accepted an invitation to step aboard a landed UFO one night and had done so in the hope of an adventurous trip, only to be summarily rejected. "You may go," said a voice. "You are too old and infirm for our purposes." (11)

Despite a number of broad but probably misleading hints, the purposes of the Phenomenon remain as mysterious as the origins of its agents. As in the Schirmer case, suggestions of an extraterrestrial origin have been frequent. The UFO which landed at Socorro, New Mexico (12) on 24 April 1964 bore the Arabic symbol for the planet Venus on its fuselage, while on the very same day two English-speaking humanoids from a landed UFO in Tioga City, New York (13) assured a farmer there that they came from Mars. Maybe, as Schirmer was said to have been told, they are indeed just trying to confuse the public mind. Perhaps the best answer to the origin question was given at Houston in April 1897 by the operator of an "airship" UFO who claimed that he and his crew were "From anywhere, but we will be in Greece day after to-morrow." (14)

The Schirmer case raises many interesting questions to which, inevitably, we still have no firm answers. Doubtless this was why the Condon report gave it just two pages as Case 42, expressed doubt that the reported experience was physically real and therefore listed it as "explained". Since then, however, ufologists have been prepared to consider less restrictive paradigms of what is physical and what is real. Corn circles, for instance, are unquestionably physical, but what is their reality status?

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- (4) "UFOs 1947-1987" - eds. Evans H. & Spencer J., BUFORA. p.209
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- (9) As (5), p.54
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- (12) "UFO ENCYCLOPAEDIA" - Ed. Sachs M. Corgi 1981, p.298
- (13) "DIMENSIONS" - Vallée J., Souvenir Press 1988, p.66
- (14) Ibid. p.49

Are crop circles a new phenomenon (post 1979) or merely a recently recognised one? Since I was a founding-member of BUFORA in 1962 I know that ufologists have long held a keen interest in Anomalous Ground Markings (AGMs) and mysterious holes in the ground. A leading authority on AGMs is Ted Phillips, whose 1975, CUFOS, USA, report PHYSICAL TRACES ASSOCIATED WITH UFO SIGHTINGS, details 715 cases. For 154 of these cases no UFO sighting was claimed. Allan Hendry in THE UFO HANDBOOK, 1979, suggested that many such cases were hoaxes or had natural causes.

Early in June 1960 a double-ring circle was reported by farmer William Edwards of Poplars Farm near Evenlode in Gloucestershire. He found two circular burn-marks, one inside the other in a field of grass. The larger was 23' and the smaller 16' in diameter, each no more than 1½" wide. They were in a corner of an isolated field and hoaxing seems unlikely. Incidentally this field was about four miles east of the Rollright Stones. Another case dusted down by researchers is that of Charlton Crater. The shallow crater was some 8 feet across, on the dividing line of a crop of barley and potatoes. A 5" hole at the centre descended about 3 feet. Most of the crops were demolished but in an irregular pattern. What added interest was an MOD bomb disposal squad. Patrick Moore at first suggested a meteorite. Farmer Roy Blanchard thought a spacecraft might have landed. Those promoting a natural explanation suggested a lightning strike, (end of June 1963). In 1965 we were seduced by events at Warminster and in the same year a rash of craters was reported around the UK. The famous photo of the Tully, Queensland, reed-bed circle appeared in 1966, being one of five circles, and claims were made of an associated UFO sighting.

Ian Mrzyglod drew attention in his SCUFORI, Bristol, PROBE magazine to two circles below the Westbury White Horse. These were reported by farmer John Scull in his field of oats in July 1980. Dr Meaden was involved almost from the start with this and subsequent reports. In 1987, The British UFO Research Association worked with Dr Meaden's Tornado and Storm Research Organisation (TORRO) to fund a survey of cereal farmers in the Hampshire area. Of those responding the majority had no opinion about the cause of the circles. Those with an opinion mainly opted for hoaxing.

Cheesefoot Head near Winchester has a long history of crop circles. A line of three was reported in the Cheesefoot punchbowl in 1981. Paul Fuller states that there are eye-witness accounts of circles in this area prior to 1981, but that they were not picked up by the local press. The national press were slow to catch on, but spotted a good story when Shadow Foreign Secretary, Denis Healey was found with a five circle formation (of 26 July 1984) near the bottom of his garden (by Cradle Hill!) at Alfriston, Sussex. The DAILY MAIL billed it as "Healey's Comet"! In 1985 BUFORA published the first-ever booklet on crop circles called simply MYSTERY OF THE CIRCLES, edited by Paul Fuller and Jenny Randles, and later in 1989 a heavier booklet, CONTROVERSY OF THE CIRCLES. Other groups such as Contact International, based on Oxford, have also taken a keen interest, involving much useful field-work. In 1989, perhaps a little late on the scene, the Centre for Crop Circle Studies (CCCS) was founded. The CCCS aims included establishing a database of reports from around the world, and co-operating with organisations with similar interests.

The CCCS has established county branches but has come in for criticism over its level of co-ordination and general co-operation.

Perhaps crop circles can be compared to UFOs? After careful investigation less than 10% appear to remain unexplained. The subject seems to have been high-jacked to some extent by high profile cultists and 'New-agers'. It is food for thought that 'channellers' and 'dowsers' obtain results in areas of hoaxing. Clearly some observers are reluctant to accept a high level of hoaxing. The ease of this was demonstrated in the barley field competition at West Wycombe, Bucks, last July. This confirms that the so-called 'pictogram' formations must be suspect.

On visits to formations around England, I have seen regional variations - surely a sign of local hoaxing? After much hard-nosed discussion, and despite the hype, my feeling is that there are a few unexplained swirls in the fields of England.

CROP CIRCLE SOUNDS

The following is a report of the investigation into sound recordings made at Wanborough and Beckhampton in Surrey on the 21st August 1992.

The Wanborough crop circle was a 33m. clockwise formation whereas the Beckhampton circle was an 8m. anti-clockwise formation. Both were formed in wheat.

The procedure used was to attach a 1ft. metal probe to each of the lines of the external microphone socket of a portable cassette recorder and then pushing the probes into the ground 1m. apart to measure the electromagnetic activity between them at various sites. The recordings (each of about 1 minute duration) were separated by periods of silence in order to later identify each location.

The first recording was taken at the centre of the Wanborough circle and was seen on an oscilloscope as being a 5KHz hiss with spikes occurring frequently and randomly during the recording.

The second was taken at the edge of the circle and the 5KHz hiss was quieter except for a ten-second burst when it was loud as the first recording. The spikes were as frequent and just as large.

The third recording was taken half-way into the circle and again the hiss was quieter except for a five-second burst and the spikes were the same.

The fourth recording was taken 1m. outside the circle: the hiss remained quiet and there were virtually no spikes.

Audible from playing the tape, but not visible on the oscilloscope, was a faint bleep every four seconds on the first three readings but not on the fourth.

The fifth recording was taken at the centre of the Beckhampton circle. This time the 5KHz hiss was louder than the first at Wanborough and was very agitated: the pattern of "white noise" jerking up and down on the screen of the oscilloscope. There were also many very large spikes.

The sixth recording was from the edge of the circle and was similar to the fifth except that the oscilloscope display was less agitated and there were very few spikes.

The 5KHz hiss seems to be a natural function of the recorder's audio circuits when connected across the high impedance of the earth between the probes. The four second bleeps were not visible on the oscilloscope and must have been at least 10dBs down on the hiss. But the human ear is known to be very good at picking out minute sounds within a noisy background.

Later recordings taken in the researcher's own back-garden showed a very different picture with a repetitive pattern every 100mS which swamped the 5KHz hiss from the recorder. This could well have emanated from a nearby household appliance.

- MIKE ROWLAND

UFONAUTS - IMPS FROM THE ASTRAL?

by Gordon Millington

Abductions, close encounters of the fourth kind, have with increasing frequency been reported in association with the UFO Phenomenon over the past forty years. In different frames of reference, usually those of folklore and anthropology, accounts of analogous events have also originated from much earlier times, accompanied by explanations in accord with contemporary interpretive paradigms. From Rip van Winkle onwards, the fairies, or whatever elemental spirits were held to have been responsible, seem to have taken a mischievous delight in playing sometimes vicious tricks on selected specimens of humanity. Discussion has inevitably centred on how far the events described by the victims of these attentions are merely subjective and whether they bear any valid relationship to what we are accustomed to describe as objective reality. In almost all such cases the absence of impartial witnesses with no personal involvement in the events described has precluded any definitive answer. We have virtually nothing but anecdotal evidence to work with.

In two such cases, however, witnesses have been available. Jenny Randles describes how, on 22 February 1973, "whilst still in the driving seat of her car, and with two astonished UFO investigators only inches away, Maureen Puddy was describing the inside of the UFO which she claimed she was now aboard." ("Abduction", p.129) Randles describes also how on 3 March 1978, while José Alvaro believed himself to be having sex with an extra-terrestrial female, "a passer-by admitted he had seen the young man prone on the ground at the spot where he later claimed to have recovered consciousness. The traveller had walked past, assuming the youth was drunk or asleep." (Ibid. p.140)

Such accounts suggest that some, if not all, UFO abductions seem to have been what occultists and students of Fortean phenomena describe as 'Out Of the Body Experiences', (OOBEs). Indeed, the victims of the 1974 Aveley case, allegedly abducted from their car, described "a puzzling period where they 'saw' themselves and the car, even though they were floating about the UFO." (Ibid. p.80) Such an experience is not uncommon in the ufological literature, so that there inevitably arises the question of what it is that undergoes the OOBE while the physical body remains quiescent, very often in its own bed. What kind of a body is the abducted consciousness then occupying?

OOBEs are not, of course, the unique perquisite of UFO abductees, nor do all abductees experience them. They have often been reported by those undergoing surgery under anaesthesia, especially when near death. Occultists, however, claim to be able to evoke the experience at will, transferring their consciousness intentionally into what they call the astral body. According to Fred Gettings ("Encyclopaedia of the Occult", Guild Publishing 1986):

"The astral body is seen by clairvoyants as having an

independent existence on the astral plane during periods when the physical body is asleep or when a person consciously indulges in astral travel. During such periods of conscious travel and during ordinary sleep (or in the case of an imposed trance) it is quite natural for the astral body to leave the physical and etheric body behind and to lead an independent existence on its proper plane of being..." He also adds that this astral plane "is contiguous in space (if not in time) with the material realm", which might account for the five days said to have been lost by Corporal Valdes in fifteen minutes of normal time in Arica, Chile on 25 April 1977, or the similar length of time claimed as lost by Travis Walton two years previously in Snowflake, Arizona. Moreover, if the astral plane is contiguous in space with our everyday world, we do not need to invoke the extra-terrestrial hypothesis of UFO origin to explain the incursions of such denizens into the frequency band we normally inhabit. The entity which was claimed to have visited Cynthia Appleton in Birmingham on several occasions in the 1950s told her that scientists trying to reach his place of origin would fail because they were "...pulling against the great force of gravity by going straight up..." (ETH?) when they "should travel with a sideways attitude." (A frequency shift above the ultra-violet or below the infra-red? The alleged statement of a putative astral entity filtered through the consciousness of a Birmingham housewife can be expected to be somewhat gnostic!)

There is some evidence to suggest that abductees are not randomly selected, but require to have a certain psychic sensitivity which is perhaps a pre-requisite for making this postulated frequency shift to the astral. Betty Andreasson's account of her alleged abduction by Strieber-type UFO entities on 25 January 1967 at South Ashburnham, Massachusetts, refers to the family being frozen into suspended animation, presumably because they lacked the psychic constitution which alone permits manipulation by these astralimps. Budd Hopkins reports in "Intruders" a similar case of familial immobilisation. After undergoing what was to become virtually the standard physical examination (Sachs - "The UFO Encyclopaedia 1980), Andreasson claimed to have been conducted through a series of alien realms where she encountered strange and sometimes symbolic creatures and events, similar in many ways to descriptions by occultists of travels in the astral body. Aleister Crowley ("Magick". p.258) wrote that "this fine body perceives a universe which we do not ordinarily perceive..." and which "is naturally fitted to perceive objects of its own class....in particular the phantoms of the astral plane." He also warned against uncritical acceptance of any statements such entities may make, for "every spirit, up to God himself, is ready to deceive you if possible, to make himself out more important than he is..." (Ibid. p.260) Perhaps this may account for some of the incredible extra-terrestrial origins said to have been claimed by some uninvited visitants? Crowley also warned of the dangers of mishandling the return to the physical body - "If you fail to do this properly you may find yourself in serious trouble. Your Body of Light may wander away uncontrolled, and be attacked and obsessed. You will become aware of this through the occurrence of headache, bad dreams or even more

serious signs such as hysteria, fainting fits, possibly madness or paralysis." (Ibid. p.260)

These are precisely the kind of symptoms described by Whitley Strieber ("Communion") and others, following their abduction experiences. Indeed, considering the ruthless lack of concern for their victims' welfare evinced by the small bug-eyed variety of ufonauts, it is perhaps a tribute to their powers of mental manipulation that they can still be perceived by their victims as essentially non-malevolent. It is this mental control apparently exercised by the agents of the Phenomenon that renders all anecdotal evidence suspect. We literally cannot trust the sensory impressions presented to our minds. UFOs appeared in medieval times as sailing ships, as dirigible airships at the time the Zeppelins were under development and as cigars or saucers ever since the fighters of World War II. Entities described may be divided into the two major categories of golden haired, blue-eyed humanoids and bug-eyed midgets, but two of the three women allegedly abducted near the Wrekin in July 1981 gave totally different descriptions of the same abductors! Are the agents of the Phenomenon then able to present themselves and their vehicles to human eyes in any form they deem expedient?

In the ages of faith before the scientific revolution in human thinking such questions naturally did not arise - anything that could not be accommodated within contemporary intellectual and emotional paradigms was ipso facto evil or illusory, a work of the devil and therefore to be cast out. When medieval peasants who had seen ufonauts descend from a space vehicle went in a body to their bishop, he told them such a happening was impossible and that they had seen no such thing. They believed him on authority and against the evidence of their own eyes, but maybe the bishop was not so stupid after all! Faith - any sort of faith, however misguided, - is a sure shield against psychic manipulation. We sceptics to-day are probably far more vulnerable - we cannot look for spells from our friendly local warlock in the yellow pages or drop in on the high priestess of a nearby coven with a request for some protective Wicca-power! Maybe modern victims of the Phenomenon should try flooding the house with garlic, wearing amulets and describing pentagrams around beds in rooms vulnerable to visitation. Such defences were once universally deemed effective when dark powers threatened humanity. Empirically, they should be worth a try to-day. After all, what else is there?

ENIGMAS

ENIGMAS is published five times a year by Strange Phenomena Investigations (SPI). This magazine regularly features articles on all aspects of the paranormal including UFOs, poltergeists, huntings, spiritualism, life after death, etc, etc.

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ENIGMAS

UFO CHRONICLES OF THE SOVIET UNION - A COSMIC
SAMIZDAT

by Jacques Vallée (1992. Ballantine Books, New York.)

A new book by Jacques Vallée ought to be an event in ufological publishing, but if European readers of this book open it in expectation of something new and interesting they may be disappointed, for the work seems not to have been primarily intended for them. It was published in the USA and apparently directed mainly at those who find any alternatives to the extra-terrestrial hypothesis of UFO origins either novel or startling. In Europe, there are now few such to be found.

The book shows convincingly that UFO events similar to those reported from the rest of the world have been and still are also occurring in the former Soviet Union, thus confirming what readers of FSR have long known. It takes the form of a narrative alternating between picaresque travelogue and episodic ufological reporting. Vallée recounts his journeys with Mlle. Martine Costello, science reporter of Le Figaro, as sponsored guests of the Soviet Press Agency Novosti in January 1990. He speaks of his "extraordinary journey to Moscow for an unprecedented series of meetings with the major researchers of the UFO mystery in the Soviet Union," and adds that "nothing there happens easily or by chance." This reminds us that in 1990 the monolith of the Soviet Union was still intact, as were also its party lines. "Glasnost" was then just another of the words whose meaning had to be transmitted to the French investigators by their Novosti interpreters supplied by the KGB.

The writer's acknowledgements to the "many kind and helpful people" who assisted him make it clear that this visit was a carefully arranged presentation, especially devised to present to these ambassadors of western ufology an official view of certain areas of Soviet science, in particular their space programme and the embarrassing UMMO stories of Voronezh released world-wide and perhaps inadvertently by TASS in 1989.

Vallée described their first interview as one that "set the stage for the frankness and the extraordinary scope of the revelations that would come in the following days." The theatrical metaphor was most appropriate when the curtain went up on Novosti's vice-chairman introducing Professor Vladimir Azhazha, together with "hot tea and sugar on a beautiful tray." The professor had served as the scientific director of a group studying underwater UFOs from 1976 to 1987 and told of several encounters with them. Asked to describe the behaviour of the alien submariners, Azhazha characterised it in Fortean terms as that of a superior technology to an inferior one. "They treated us the way we would treat a fish or a rabbit. It is naive to assume they have any goodwill toward us, or any need to interact."

He went on to confirm the Soviet experience of UFO 'flaps' and the polymorphous appearance of UFOs which caused them to seem to change dynamically in flight, whereupon Vallée took from his briefcase a reprint of one

of his own articles which had claimed the same phenomenon as evidence of multidimensional UFO origins. Azhazha took the proffered article and glanced through it. Then, wrote Vallée, "he looked at me in surprise, put down the papers and said: 'We have reached very similar conclusions. It is as if you and I had been working together for the last ten years'."

Rapport thus established led on to further encounters with members of the scientific establishment and the gathering of much anecdotal evidence, together with insights into the attitudes of his hosts to dowsing, or biolocation as they called it, and psi factors in the appraisal of research findings. A chapter headed "Underground: Conversations around a Bottle of Vodka" chronicles meetings with the official Soviet New Age thinkers, thoughtfully arranged by the journalists at Novosti as a break from more formal encounters with the various disputing academic factions. Here they enjoyed philosophical discussions of astrology, homeopathy and the paranormal, "where spirituality seemed to thrive, among people who had an almost instinctive grasp of the issues Western scientists were trying so hard to define."

Almost all the hundred cases mentioned, however briefly, concern LITS, plus a few daylight sightings. There are a mere half dozen encounter cases (CE 3/4), including one from 1975 worthy of T. Bethurum, in which Malichev, an artist at his easel, is confronted by three ufonauts and their landed disk. Telepathically their female leader invites him to fly with them, but at first Malichev demurs. After the lady has staged a polymorphous exhibition flight in her UFO, however, he goes aboard and visits a planet with three moons where he encounters, "as if in a dream", his best friend, recently deceased. "Malichev," murmured Professor Azhazha, "has been subjected to psychiatric observation ... hypnotised twice ... he was not drugged, alcoholic or crazy."

Vallée does not mention having asked if he was still around, but "finally," he concludes, "we came back from the Soviet Union with a set of unanswered questions about the full extent of research activity in official institutions."

He has hopes of a fruitful long term dialogue between researchers in the former Soviet Union and their Western counterparts.

JOINT SIGAP / BUFORA MEETING - MARCH 17th 1993

The Regency Room at the Stoke Hotel was filled to overflowing for the visit by Lionel Beer, BUFORA Vice-President, who presented a display of slides relating to the historical appearances of UFO phenomena, accompanied by his own descriptive commentary. The failure of the bulb in the slide projector (those MIBs again?) was remedied by a resourceful SIGAP member, who happened to have one with him; possibly a case of precognition!

By PHIL WEBB

A THIRD ENCOUNTER with a UFO of the pulsating kind has mystified neighbours in a quiet South Wales cul-de-sac.

Retired fitter Mr Lionel Cox and neighbour Mr Gareth Shadbolt of Croesyceiliog were so fascinated by their eerie visitor on Tuesday night at 6.30 that they got their video cameras out and took startling film.

The phenomenon had first been filmed by Mr Shadbolt on Monday night. Another neighbour had seen the same object in about the same location last Thursday.

And RAF St Athan confirmed that they had received a report of an object above Cwmbran — last December 3 — though the station has had no reports of the recent sightings.

At his home in Brynhyfryd Mr Cox, aged 60, insisted: "I'm no nutter — it's on film for all to see.

"I've never seen a UFO before, and always kept an open mind about the reports until now. It was obviously not a satellite, because it stayed stationary mostly, and came back on three nights.

"I haven't got a clue what it is, but I'm desperate to find out. Someone must have an explanation."

Mr Cox and his nurse wife Ethel saw the phenomenon on two out of three nights. It just looked like a large star — until they focused powerful binoculars on it, and then a 36-fold magnification zoom lens

LIONEL SHOOTS NIGHT SKY VISITOR



CLOSE ENCOUNTER:

from their video recorder.

Post Office manager Mr Shadbolt independently filmed the object for 10 minutes using a camera with lower magnification, showing a different shape from the night before, when Mr Cox filmed it.

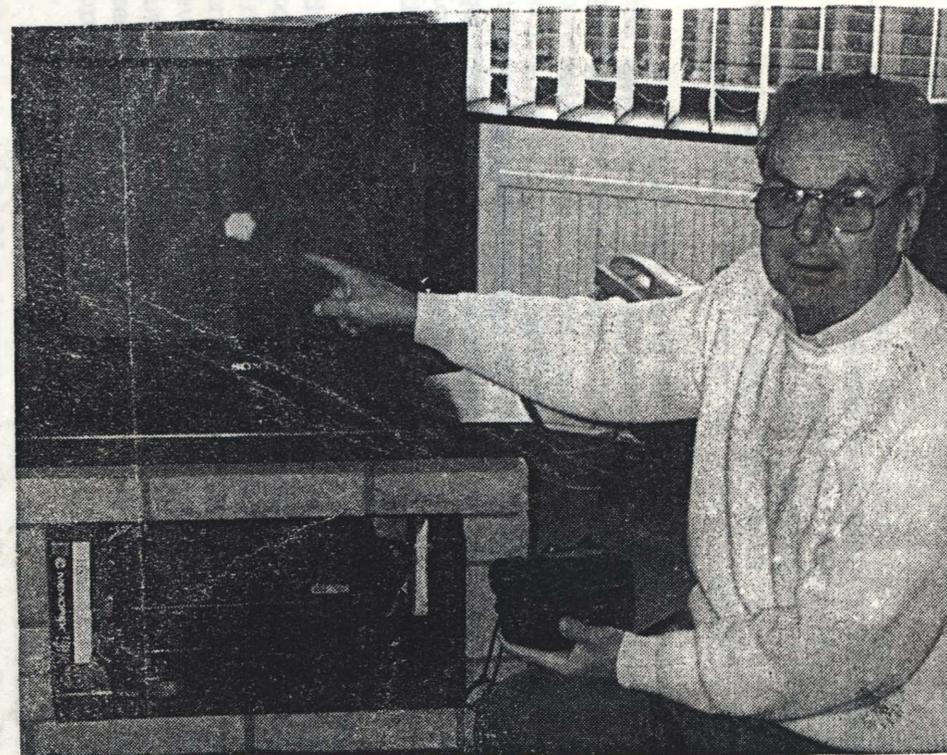
The former BSC Panteg fitter caught nearly 30 minutes of film on the UFO which showed a spherical jellyfish-like spectacle, with

internal rings.

Later it appears to give out some sort of exhaust.

His wife commented: "It was much brighter than a star, and didn't flicker like one."

Neighbours immediately contacted Rhoose air traffic controllers and the weathermen, but without getting a satisfactory explanation.



A UFO of the pulsating kind, left, as caught on video by Lionel

SOUTH WALES ECHO Thursday 11th March 1993