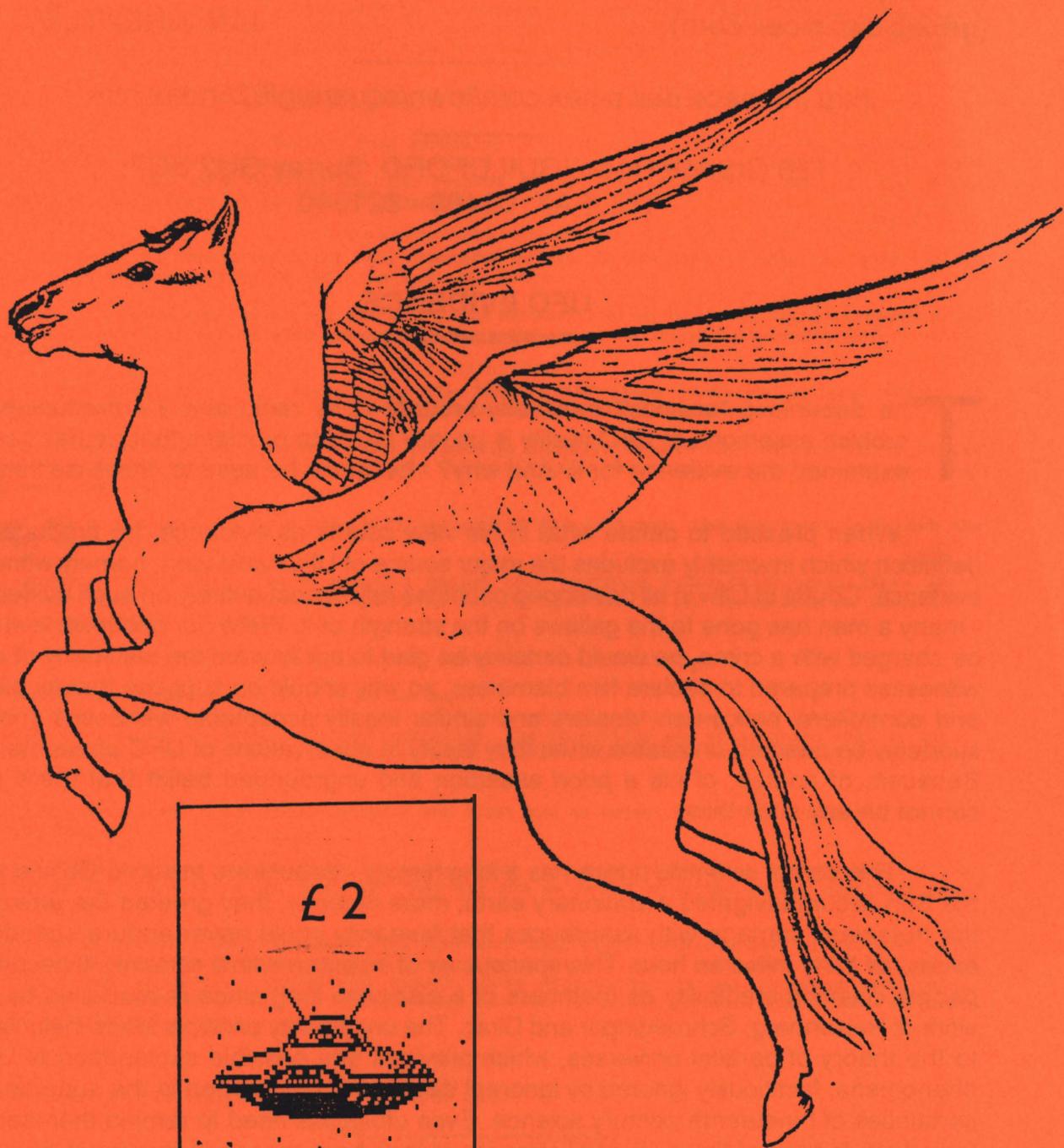


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# PEGASUS



*Surrey Investigation Group on Aerial Phenomena*

## PEGASUS

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### UFO EVIDENCE

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**T**he debunking "scientist" habitually brought in by radio and TV producers to rubbish assertions of UFO reality is usually proud to proclaim that he has never examined the evidence for it. And why? - because, he asserts, there isn't any!

When pressed to define what in his view counts as evidence, he produces a definition which invariably excludes the major source of UFO validation, namely witness evidence. Courts of Law in all developed countries rely almost entirely on such evidence - many a man has gone to the gallows on the strength of it. Were our debunker ever to be charged with a crime, he would certainly be glad to put forward the testimony of any witnesses prepared to declare him blameless, so why should he suppose that air pilots and controllers, policemen, doctors and similar legally acceptable witnesses should suddenly be deemed unreliable when they testify to observations of UFO phenomena? Because, of course, of his *a priori* assertion and ungrounded belief that there just cannot be any such thing.

This sort of scientific hubris has a long history - debunkers assured Galileo that the Sun circumnavigated a stationary earth; more recently, they greeted the arrival of the horseless carriage with assurances that humanity could never endure speeds in excess of thirty miles an hour. This spurious air of incontrovertible certainty ill becomes people claiming credibility as members of a discipline long since re-modelled by the work of Heisenberg, Schroedinger and Dirac. The uncertainty principle leads ineluctably to the theory of parallel universes, which provides one possible explanation of UFO phenomena, factitiously ignored by ignorant debunkers still trapped in the superseded certainties of nineteenth century science. Even ufologists need to remind themselves from time to time of the evidential strength of their best cases - in this issue some of them will be recalled.

- G.M.

## SAUCER AT AREA 51

[Frank Batts works as Administrative Coordinator for AIDS Project Central Coast in Santa Barbara, California. With his friend Joe, he spent the night of April 30-31, 1997 looking for UFOs in the vicinity of Area 51 in central Nevada. Despite much recent speculation that America's "most secret air base" may be shutting down, this report suggests that strange things are still going on out there. This is Frank's first-person account of what happened. CNI News cannot confirm the validity of these events, but we are impressed by the intensity of Frank's emotional reaction to what he saw. Frank can be contacted by email at tiedup@silcom.com.]

by FRANK BATTS

On April 30th, 1997, a friend and I went to Area 51. We arrived in Rachel, Nevada at 2200 [10:00 pm] and my friend got directions to the "Mailbox". By 2220 we were on the road.

[Note: Rachel, Nevada is the small town on Highway 375 which serves as the starting point for most investigative forays toward Area 51, which is located at Groom (dry) Lake almost due south of Rachel, just inside the Nellis Air Force Range. The "Mailbox" (or Black Mailbox) is a well-known landmark along the road between Rachel and the boundary of Area 51. -- ed.]

We saw red and yellow lights on the ground out in the desert by around the 19 mile marker. We never found the mailbox, but went back to where we saw the lights. They seemed much closer and bigger than any shots of the base I had ever seen in films. We parked on the side of the road by the Rachel 20 miles sign, and waited. After about an hour, we saw a blue "ball" appear above the mountain ridge and hover. After about one minute it began hopping in a pattern that looked like the letter "n". It did this twice and did some other left-to-right and right-to-left maneuvers. The whole thing seemed to last about two minutes, but I was excited and blown out. Then the blue light lowered below the ridge. We waited about another 45 minutes watching what we thought was the Base - the red, yellow and white lights. We noticed sometimes the red lights flashed -- like a revolving light announcing the opening of doors or something. Sometimes they were on, but constant. The yellow lights went on and off.

We assumed the red lights announced someone bringing a new craft out to test, and excitedly waited to see if anything else appeared above the ridge. But nothing ever did. After about an hour and a half, I was watching the Base and it suddenly lifted off the ground, hovering. The white light reflected off the desert floor and the starlight above suddenly revealed the perfect shape of a very large silver saucer - the curved saucers on top and bottom with the middle being a bank of lights. This thing was huge. I don't know sizes, but it was really big - maybe 200 feet across. We watched it do side-to-side hovering maneuvers from left to right, right to left, and up and down for over an hour and fifteen minutes. My video camera was suddenly not working and I could not get anything on film, though it worked fine in Rachel that night and the next day when we went back to the same spot to confirm the terrain we had been observing in the dark of night.

The lights on the craft, both red and yellow, did many sequencing events - from left to right, right to left, and alternating runs, though I couldn't figure out if they had anything to do with which maneuver the craft was going to do next.

After an hour and 15 minutes, a mist or fog was coming up off the desert floor and began to obscure our vision, and we gave up and left. The next day I was so upset by the whole event I asked to speak with someone at The Ale Inn [the "Little A'Le'Inn," a landmark in Rachel, Nevada where many UFO watchers gather]. We found out we had gone 20 miles the "wrong way" and had ended up at the back end of the base, but had had a great sighting by fluke anyway. The person, Bob, who goes there once a month was really excited by our story and was going to go that night (Thursday) to see what was going on. He said they shifted testings from time to time, and that area had been inactive for months but obviously was reactivated.

That is my experience. I saw unmistakably a saucer with MY OWN EYES. It has been a really upsetting experience -- which surprises me. I thought I was so cool, and that it would be so cool. The reality totally topples the order of beliefs and leaves one confused and vulnerable. I ended up a crybaby, but I have gotten through it and I'm definitely going back.

It was incredible to me, and I need to share the experience with people - the reality is so powerful, beyond any ideas that I thought I had... These "whatever they weres" were absolutely stunning and beautiful to watch.

[In a followup letter to CNI News, Frank wrote: "I continue to have big feelings from this sighting, especially after the recent Air Force Roswell explanation {i.e. about parachuting dummies. A part of me has difficulty accepting the magnitude of what I saw. Their stance makes me doubt myself further. But I KNOW WHAT I SAW! The blue luminous ball behaved like nothing in the air I've ever seen, and the huge clearly definable silver saucer/disc is too far beyond explaining away -- even to my own self. I hate to say 'they' are liars, but the powerful reality of what I saw forces me to that."

- CNI News

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## VALLEE IN THE MIST

### Through a Glass Darkly ...



**Jacques Vallee** hesitated before agreeing to be interviewed about the subject for which he's most famous: UFOs. It's not that he's reluctant to discuss the topic, or tussle with the skeptics. After all, he's written close to a dozen books on UFOs, several of them best-sellers, analyzing a notoriously ethereal subject as a hard-headed physical scientist, folklorist, and sociologist. He believes there is more than enough solid evidence to make a compelling case for the existence of UFOs, and he doesn't shy away from an honest debate.

It's the hard-core believers who give Vallee pause. Anyone who has observed the semi-academic cockpit known as "UFOlogy" knows that close encounters of the UFO expert kind shed little light and much heat, dogma and territorial sniping. Vallee's views about UFOs are far more exotic and far stranger than what he calls the reigning "nuts and bolts" approach to the subject. Consequently, he's been attacked by believers so often that he jokingly refers to himself a "heretic among heretics." As Vallee puts it, "I will be disappointed if UFOs turn out to be nothing more than spaceships."

In his recent autobiographical book, *Forbidden Science*, Vallee summed up his views about the provenance of UFOs, a viewpoint that he's developed through decades of research: "The UFO Phenomenon exists. It has been with us throughout history. It is physical in nature and it remains unexplained in terms of contemporary science. It represents a level of consciousness that we have not yet recognized, and which is able to manipulate dimensions beyond time and space as we understand them." So much for anti-gravity-powered starships ferrying Big Brothers from outer space. Vallee thinks UFOs are likely "windows" to other dimensions manipulated by intelligent, often mischievous, always enigmatic beings we have yet to understand. (60 Greatest Conspiracies of All Time covers Vallee's theories in detail.)

No other UFO researcher has contributed more to an admittedly controversial field. But Vallee commands a measure of respect that must leave his colleagues feeling a bit envious. Even Philip Klass, the avionics expert and the media's favorite UFO-debunker, calls Vallee "one of the more distinguished members of the pro-UFO community." Vallee, he adds, "is one of the brighter physical scientists who believes in UFOs."

Vallee moved to America from his native France in the early 1960s, as young astronomer-turned-computer scientist. Vallee pioneered the use of computers to analyze and categorize the UFO phenomenon, and his 1965 book, *Anatomy of a Phenomenon*, is still considered one of the most scholarly books on UFOs ever written. At Northwestern University, Vallee assisted Prof. J. Allen Hynek, the academic consultant on the Air Force's infamous Project Bluebook, now seen by most saucer students as either a half-hearted government effort to address the UFO craze of the 1950s and 1960s or a full-blown coverup. While working with Hynek, Vallee and his wife, Janine, compiled the first-ever computer database of UFO sightings.

#### Why are Americans obsessed with the idea that outer space aliens are the pilots of UFOs?

**Vallee:** I think Americans, if they are interested in the subject, are very literal. They want to kick the tires, which is a good American thing to do. They want to do reverse engineering on the propulsion system. And when I tell them, "Look, maybe those things don't have a propulsion system," you get a strange reaction. Just like, if you remember, in *Close Encounters*, the Truffaut character keeps going around saying this is a sociological phenomenon, not just physical. And he has a lot of trouble getting that idea across.

#### At one point you subscribed to the theory that UFOs might be extraterrestrial in origin. . . .

**Vallee:** When I met Stephen Spielberg, I argued with him that the subject was even more interesting if it *wasn't* extraterrestrials. If it was real, physical, but not ET. So he said, "You're probably right, but that's not what the public is expecting--this is Hollywood and I want to give people something that's close to what they expect." Which is fair.

So what do we know for sure about the nature of UFOs?

**Vallee:** There is a phenomenon. We don't know where it comes from. It's characterized by its physical [traces]. Eighty percent of all the cases have trivial explanations. But I'm talking about the core phenomena. It seems to involve a lot of energy in a small space; it seems to involve pulsed microwaves, among other things. There isn't much that is known about the effect of pulsed microwaves on the brain, so it's quite possible that some of the stories that you get from people are essentially induced hallucinations in sincere witnesses--the witnesses are *not* lying. They really have been exposed to something genuine but there is no way to go back to what that thing was, based on their description, because their brain has been affected by proximity to that energy.

Having said that, I have plenty of colleagues in science and technology I respect who tell me this could be a natural phenomenon--this could be an undiscovered form of energy in the atmosphere. We don't know much about the effect of electromagnetic fields on the nervous system. We're going to be discovering that as we go. So, it's quite possible that there could be a phenomenon like that, a very spontaneous thing. Or it could be artificial. If it's artificial it could come from another form of consciousness, which may or may not be extraterrestrial. It's a big universe out there. Who are we to say where it comes from? We can only speculate on that point.

**Vallee:** I've antagonized a number of the believers in UFOs. Number one, because I'm not ready to jump to any conclusion that it's necessarily extraterrestrial--we're not smart enough to know what they are at this point. And the research has not been done. I certainly remember enough of my training in astronomy to tell you that the universe is big enough to have other forms of life than us; at least we hope that it does. But so far we cannot prove it. So we cannot see how they would come here--they probably would be much advanced with respect to our physics, and they would have found a way to do it. But that does not explain UFOs.

I've also antagonized a lot of people because I think that the way abductions are being handled is wrong. It's not only wrong scientifically, it's wrong morally and ethically. I've been telling people, don't let anyone hypnotize you if you've seen a strange light in the sky. I think a lot of those people prominent in the press and in the *National Enquirer* and in the talk shows and so on are *creating* abductees under hypnosis. They are hypnotizing everybody who's ever had a strange experience and *telling* them they are abductees by suggestion. And they are doing that in good faith. They don't realize what they are doing. But to my way of thinking, that's unethical.

What do you think of John Mack, the Harvard psychologist who believes that alien abductions are a real phenomenon? Of course, he uses hypnosis on his patients to liberate "repressed memories" of those abductions.

**Vallee:** I respect him for his courage in addressing the issue, but I don't agree with his methods.

I've taken some witnesses who wanted to be hypnotized, taken them to specialists in two cases out of maybe 70 cases of abductions that I've studied. And usually the specialists tell me that hypnosis is not necessarily the best way of helping these people. Nor is it the best way to recover memories. It may help in very specific cases. But I've never hypnotized anybody--I'm not qualified to do it.

Why has the best data never been published?

**Vallee:** I talk to a lot of technical companies where the executives are aware of my interests, and I've had a lot of reports under seal of confidentiality from people in science and in business who had seen things. About a year ago, a vice president at IBM took me aside after a conference and said, "Are you the same Jacques Vallee who is interested in UFOs?" And he described a perfectly classic UFO close encounter story that he and his family had in upstate New York. This is not something that is going to be in the *National Enquirer*.

I met a man who is president of a technical company in Silicon Valley; he wanted to tell me about his experiences. He had been a very-high ranking naval officer in command of a large ship, and he had three experiences with UFOs, two of them in the service in very sensitive positions--and at one time when he was a test pilot. He has never reported any of the encounters, even when he was a pilot. I said, "Weren't you under obligation to report it?" And he said, "Maybe I was, but if they have the slightest doubt about what you are seeing up there, you are [considered to be] crazy--they won't let you near the cockpit of an experimental plane." And he said, "If you're a pilot, you want to fly. You don't want to spend the next month filling out forms for a bunch of psychiatrics." Which is what will happen. I think any pilot will tell you the same thing, you know, over a beer. So those are the cases that I'm interested in. The cases that have not been reported in the press, haven't been distorted in the retelling. When I have time, I follow up on those cases with my own resources basically out of curiosity, with no preconceived idea.

**"I'm skeptical about stories of crashed saucers; I have an open mind about it, but I've heard those stories for so many years and they never really amount to anything tangible."**

## CNI News UFOs and Aliens Gallery

Thousands of close encounters with unidentified flying objects and "alien" beings are reported each year. UFO events occur worldwide and often produce physical evidence. UFO research is hampered by alleged official ("government") cover-up of known data, while the "strangeness" of many reports defies scientific analysis. The "Extraterrestrial Hypothesis" may be inadequate at best, but skeptical insistence on the merely conventional alternatives -- "just errors, delusions or hoaxes" -- is non-responsive to the available evidence.

### The Issues

### Classic Cases

### Where to go from here

#### **The Issues:**

Close encounters with unidentified flying objects, including some seen on the ground, and claims of contact with "alien" beings, are among the most widely reported anomalous phenomena in the world today. Thousands of sightings and contacts are recorded each year. While less than ten percent are likely to be truly anomalous, it is also likely that no more than ten percent of all encounters are actually reported. They occur in all parts of the world and often involve physical evidence such as photos and radar tracks, electrical disruptions, human physiological effects and marks on the ground.

The study of UFOs is hampered by alleged official ("government") cover-up of known data. Without doubt, various agencies of the U.S. government have taken far more interest in UFOs than they have been willing to admit. Military encounters with UFOs, both in the U.S. and abroad, have shown decisively that some UFOs easily out-perform the best human aircraft and are also capable of inflicting lethal damage with impunity.

In the forefront of current UFO research is the so-called "abduction" phenomenon, in which humans claim to have been taken by alien beings into unusual environments where quasi-medical procedures are performed. Often these encounters have a gynecological or reproductive focus. Some experiencers and researchers believe abduction is aimed mainly at creating alien-human hybrid beings. Experiencers also say they are often instructed regarding world problems and future predictions, usually of disaster.

Alien encounters, even abductions, are not always unpleasant. In fact, many abductees characterize their experiences as mostly "neutral," with only a minority of instances being "negative" and an equal or greater number being "positive." Furthermore, some experiencers report encounters with truly benign, even spiritually enthralling entities -- hardly differing from angelic encounter but for the alien technological setting.

Such dichotomies arouse great controversy. On one extreme is the claim that all abductions have positive intent and a negative impression is simply human misunderstanding (the term "abduction" itself is considered pejorative and misleading); while on the other extreme is the claim that all encounters, however "benign," are the work of evil and deceptive aliens, possibly even of Satanic origin.

Many experiencers report telepathic communication with aliens. Some say the aliens can telepathically control human thought and behavior. Others claim to be receiving, via "channeling," important telepathic information from alien sources. A growing number of contemporary books consist of nothing but "channeled alien information."

The actual cause of such experiences remains unresolved. If "alien" beings are involved, their origin and nature remains unknown. The "Extraterrestrial Hypothesis" favored by some UFO researchers is regarded by many others as insufficient to account for the "high strangeness" of many reports.

Most astronomers and space scientists today agree on the high probability of other intelligent life in the galaxy; but most do not believe even very advanced beings can traverse interstellar space to reach the earth. Hardcore skeptics dismiss claims of UFOs and aliens as nothing but products of human error, delusion or outright lies and hoaxes. But growing numbers of open-minded professionals concede that something is really going on.

A look at several of the best-documented close encounter cases shows why it is no longer possible to ignore the potential significance of UFOs and human-alien contact.

## Classic Cases:

### A Helicopter Crew Is Accosted by a UFO Over Ohio

On October 18, 1973, at about 11:00 p.m., four U.S. Army reservists in a Bell Huey helicopter were flying northeast from Columbus toward Cleveland, Ohio. Just outside the town of Mansfield, at an altitude of 2,500 feet, they witnessed a red light off their right side. Suddenly the light flew straight at the helicopter, converging at a speed estimated at 600 mph. The commanding officer, Captain Lawrence J. Coyne, said later that he thought they were about to be rammed by a jet; he took the controls and put the helicopter into a steep dive to avoid impact. He then radioed Mansfield Approach Control on his VHF radio to inquire whether there were high-performance air traffic in the vicinity. Mansfield acknowledged Coyne's initial call; but then the helicopter lost radio contact with the ground on all channels. Meanwhile, Coyne saw that the red light was still heading straight toward them; he increased the rate of descent to 2,000 feet per minute. In seconds, the helicopter had descended to an altitude of 1,700 feet; but then, to the crew's amazement, it started to ascend against the controls.

At this point, Coyne noted that their magnetic compass was spinning, even though they had maintained a constant northwest heading. Then the crew saw a green light come in through the windows, bathing the entire cabin in green. Looking up, they saw that the light was shining from one end of a large, strange object hovering nearby. At the other end of the object was a bright red light. The crew noted that the object positioned itself directly above the helicopter and matched its speed of 100 mph. They described the object as "cigar-shaped, metallic gray, with a dome on top; about 60 feet long, without any portholes or intake openings that we could see."

Five witnesses on the ground also saw the encounter, describing the UFO as "like a blimp" and "as big as a school bus."

Coyne noted that during the encounter, the helicopter rose from 1,700 feet to 3,800 feet against the controls. At 3,800 feet, they felt a slight bump, then noted that the UFO began moving away, first slowly, then faster. A bright white light became visible as it increased in speed. For a moment, the light became dazzling as the UFO streaked away and disappeared. The helicopter radios returned to normal ten minutes after the encounter ended. All four crewmen were separately debriefed when they reached Cleveland, and their stories matched in all important details.

On November 27, 1978, then-Lt. Col. Lawrence Coyne described this encounter in detail before a special committee of the United Nations, which was then considering a motion to establish a study commission on UFOs. In his prepared remarks, he said, "...to finalize the description of this object... No noticeable wings or landing gears were observed. No vertical or horizontal stabilizers were observed. This object demonstrated its ability to change or maintain altitude headings and speed control... As a result of my experience, I am convinced this object was real and that these types of incidents should require a thorough investigation." [source: "A Helicopter-UFO Encounter Over Ohio," by Jennie Zeidman, CUFOS 1979]

### Three People Are Injured by a UFO in Texas

On December 29, 1980, at about 9 p.m., three people witnessed an unusual aircraft fly over State Road 1485 near Dayton, Texas, not far from Houston. Betty Cash, Vickie Landrum and Vickie's young grandson Colby were driving home when they noticed a bright light in the sky ahead. Betty, the driver, stopped in the road when the light became almost blinding, then got out of the car to get a better view as the object hovered only a few hundred feet away. She said later that it seemed roughly diamond-shaped, narrow at the bottom and broader above. Flames issued from the bottom, accompanied by an intermittent roaring noise. The heat and light were intense. Soon, Betty's curiosity was overcome by fear. "I felt like I was burning from the inside out," she says. "The only thing I was thinking was, are we going to get out of here alive."

Returning to the car, Betty found the door handle so hot that she burned her hand opening the door. They couldn't move the car because the way was still blocked, so they continued watching as the craft moved slowly away from the road. Moments later, they saw a fleet of large, twin-rotor Chinook-type helicopters flying in the same direction, apparently either chasing or accompanying the other object. Colby Landrum counted 23 helicopters in all.

As soon as they could, they drove on, arriving home at approximately 9:45 p.m. Though shaken, they did not yet suspect they had suffered any harm. But during that night, all three witnesses became seriously ill. By the next morning, Betty Cash was unable to get out of bed. After four days of intense suffering at home, she was admitted to the hospital; and after a series of tests, her physician arrived at the uncomfortable conclusion that she was suffering from acute radiation poisoning. Her symptoms included severe headache, nausea, oozing skin sores and hair loss. Vicki and Colby Landrum also showed symptoms of acute radiation poisoning, less strong than Betty's, perhaps, because they didn't get out of the car. Betty Cash was in the hospital approximately six weeks. All of them to this day have serious health problems, and Betty has developed several forms of cancer.

The presence of Army helicopters convinced Betty and Vickie that the UFO belonged to the U.S. military. On that basis, they sued the government for \$20 million in damages for exposing them to radiation. At the request of then-Texas Senator Lloyd Bentson, they were interviewed by military personnel at Bergstrom Air Force Base, but were never offered any explanations or assistance. In August of 1986, their lawsuit was dismissed from U.S. District Court following testimony by military and NASA officials that no such craft was owned or operated by the government.

A man named John Schuessler, who works as a senior executive for a major aerospace firm, is the foremost civilian investigator of the Cash-Landrum incident. Among other things, he has managed to reconstruct the probable flight path of the UFO. It was first sighted that night in central Louisiana, then sighted along a path that ran straight west through Louisiana into Texas, then southwest toward Houston and out across the Gulf of Mexico. It was accompanied the entire way by a large flotilla of helicopters.

John Schuessler is an engineer who has worked on NASA's Mercury, Gemini, Apollo and Space Shuttle programs, making him a genuine expert in manned space-flight. In his opinion, the Cash-Landrum UFO was a very extraordinary craft. He went out to the spot on State Road 1485 where Betty Cash and her friends had their encounter to find out if there was any radiation. To his surprise, there was none; even though the asphalt was literally charred in a large circle at that very spot, indicating tremendous heat. From this he concluded that the witnesses were exposed to high intensity electromagnetic, rather than nuclear, radiation. Some combination of microwave, ultraviolet and infra-red radiation seems probable. The question is, what kind of craft or propulsion system emits lethal amounts of such radiation? Schuessler says he does not believe human technology has produced such a craft.

The helicopters add another important piece to the puzzle. Twenty-three Army helicopters accompanying the UFO indicates a major mission requiring a great deal of planning and coordination -- that is, it was known in advance that the UFO would fly over Louisiana and Texas that night. But who was flying it, and why? So far, there are no definite answers. It is clear that the incident happened, however; and it suggests that the U.S. military is knowingly involved with operational alien technology.

## **A Farmer is Detained by Aliens in France**

On July 1, 1965, at about 5:45 in the morning, in the region of Valensole, Basses Alpes, France, farmer Maurice Masse was inspecting his field of lavender when he heard a whistling sound, then noticed an egg-shaped object with six thin legs and a central pedestal standing nearby. Masse later said the object was about the size of a small car, and he could see two seats inside an open doorway. At the same time, he also saw two "small boys," humanoid-looking beings less than four feet tall, dressed in grayish-green one-piece coveralls. Masse reported that they appeared to be gathering handfuls of his lavender. He said they had large, hairless heads, smooth white skin, large slanted eyes, pointed chins and small mouths with no lips. Masse heard them make soft gurgling sounds, as if communicating. When he approached, one of them pointed a small "tube" at Masse, which immediately immobilized him where he stood. He remained conscious, watching as they finished their task and then entered the egg-shaped object, which rose off the ground, moved quickly away, then suddenly disappeared a few moments later. Masse was left standing paralyzed in his field, but regained his mobility about fifteen minutes later.

Masse reported his encounter in detail to local authorities, including the mayor of Valensole, his parish priest and the gendarmerie. The site was thoroughly inspected, and symmetrical marks were found in the ground exactly where Masse said the legs of the object had been. It was later discovered that lavender would not grow on that spot for a period of ten years. Four days after the encounter, Masse began to experience bouts of profound drowsiness which caused him to require more than twelve hours of sleep every day for the next several months. Despite his reported immobilization by the humanoid beings, and his later health difficulties, Masse said he had a positive feeling about his encounter. Masse was well-known and highly respected in his community, and all the local authorities who examined his claims reached the conclusion that he was telling the truth.

(Sources: Above Top Secret, by Timothy Good, p.133f; Dimensions: A Casebook of Alien Contact, by Jacques Vallee.)

## A Police Officer Goes Aboard a UFO in Nebraska

Police officer Herbert Schirmer was on routine late-night patrol in the town of Ashland, Nebraska, on December 3, 1967. At about 2:30 a.m., he noticed a group of lights near the ground and thought he could make out a semi-trailer off the road. He approached to investigate, only to see the thing - whatever it was - take off and disappear in the night sky. When he returned to the police station at 3:00 a.m., he wrote in the station log, "Saw a flying saucer at the junction of highways 6 and 63. Believe it or not!" He went home that morning with a splitting headache and an inexplicable red welt on the side of his neck. Apart from this, however, Schirmer had no immediate sense that anything else had happened.

Though only 22 at the time, Schirmer was so respected in Ashland that he was named Chief of Police a short time later. He had previously served in the Navy and was the son of a career Air Force officer -- not the sort of man to become obsessed about UFOs. But only two months after becoming police chief, he resigned from the force. He said he couldn't get the UFO encounter out of his mind. He was experiencing terrible headaches and found it difficult to concentrate on his work.

The Condon Committee was in the midst of its UFO study at that time and heard about Schirmer. A preliminary investigation turned up the fact that 20 minutes seemed to be unaccounted for in his log of December 3. It was suggested that Schirmer undergo hypnotic regression to see if he could remember more details of the incident. Under hypnosis, a startling story emerged.

What really happened, he said, was that the lighted object came toward him and landed near his car. Several humanoid beings got out and approached him. One of them shined a light in his eyes through the windshield; then something like green gas flowed all around the car. Schirmer found he couldn't draw his revolver. Without knowing why, he rolled down his window. One of the beings reached in and grabbed his neck. Seconds later, he found himself standing outside his car. The being asked, "Are you the watchman over this place?" Schirmer couldn't answer. The being asked, "Would you shoot at a space ship?" "No, sir," Schirmer said. The being motioned for him to come aboard the craft.

Schirmer described the beings as four and a half to five feet tall, with heads somewhat narrower and longer than an average human. Their skin looked grayish white; their noses were fairly flat and their mouths looked like slits that didn't move. Their eyes were slightly slanted, though not overly large; the eyelids did not blink. They wore silvery-gray jump suits that included a tight-fitting headpiece with a small antenna on the left side. On the left breast they wore an emblem of a winged serpent. A drawing made by Schirmer indicates the beings look similar to humans, and not like the "Gray" type often linked with more recent abduction accounts.

During the next fifteen minutes of earth time, the beings communicated both audibly and telepathically as they showed Schirmer around their craft. He recalled being shown a smaller craft that was parked on board. He was told it was used for surveillance. He was told that these beings had been watching the human race for a very long time and were engaged in what he called a "breeding analysis program." They explained that they purposely contacted people at random so as not to reveal too much of a pattern. They want to keep us confused, Schirmer said, so we won't get too upset as we gradually get used to their presence. He felt sure they weren't hostile. They told him that he wouldn't remember most of what happened during the encounter, and that they would visit him again. "Someday, Watchman, you will see the universe," one being said to him.

Herbert Schirmer was returned to his car, then watched as the craft flew away. The welt on his neck remained as a hint that an alien being had touched him. After recalling these events under hypnosis, he did not return to the police force. Without doubt, his encounter on December 3, 1967 changed his life forever.

## MY STRANGE EXPERIENCES

It was not until late 1989, at age 25, that I began to suspect my own possible abduction. This "wondering" began on a trip to a bookstore where I was scanning a totally unrelated section of books for something interesting to read. Suddenly, I came to an out of place book entitled "Intruders". The name was all I saw on the spine, but I immediately knew what this book was about. Without checking to see if I was correct in my assumption, I grabbed the book and bought it. It was all I could do to wait until I got home to start reading it. While I was engrossed in the manuscript I recalled a dream that I had as a child. It was a horrifying dream that has recurred several times throughout my life. What I remember of it seems to fit perfectly into the classic abduction scenario.

I am lying in bed asleep. For reasons unclear to me, I wake up and peer through the doorway of my room. I think I see some small men looking back at me from around another doorway very close to my own. I get up to investigate and walk toward them down the hall. I do not get very far when I seem to remember several others coming toward me. At this point I become very frightened and turn to run back to my bedroom. I take about one step and am frozen in my tracks. I cannot move a muscle. This was not the "run in slow motion but can't get away" dream. I was totally immobilized and felt a very strange tingling sensation, which I will never forget. I can equate it a low level electrical vibration, like when you touch the ends of a cord as you plug it into the wall socket, only not as strong. I remember screaming for my mother and father to help me. Whether anything came out of my mouth or no one heard me, I don't know. At this point my back was turned to whatever was pursuing me. Then, my legs began to float up and I tilted face down and began to float. I do not recall anything after this point.

I can remember, as a child, being absolutely terrified to go down the hall to my room by myself, especially at night. I would even go so far as to try to con my brother to go with me, telling him that I wanted to show him something or that I wanted to play with him. I also had a fear of looking out of the sliding glass doors that led out to the backyard at night, for fear that someone would be out there looking back at me. These fears persisted way up into my teens. In fact, I still find myself hugging the walls in my present house, stealthily walking along wondering if someone is in the house when I know good and well that there isn't. Another incident that I recalled while reading "Intruders" pertained to a possible visual sighting that occurred when I was a young boy. My cousins and I were playing outside while my father and uncle talked nearby. Suddenly, for some inexplicable reason, I looked to a spot in the sky and detected a very small stationary object that shown brightly with reflected sunlight. It seems miraculous to me now that I could have spotted the object, knowing how scatter-brained young boys are. I called to the others to see and we watched it for some time, although it made no movement. Upon asking my father and uncle what it was, I remember my uncle getting out his binoculars and taking a look. I am sure that my father also observed the object through the binoculars. Although they could not confirm the identity of the object, they determined that it must be a weather balloon. We accepted this and went about our daily romp sessions without further discussion of the matter. I hadn't given this incident any thought at all until reading Intruders, some twenty years later, at which point the occurrence came rushing back into my mind with utmost clarity.

I also recalled during this time a missing time incident that occurred when I was a senior in high school. At the time, I was having trouble with a spastic colon and was on an anti-spasmodic drug called Bentyl. Although this may hurt my credibility, I ingested a rather large amount of this drug during my second to last class one day. I really don't know why I did this, but I did. I remember going to my last class feeling very groggy and falling asleep. When the bell rang I was almost unable to walk or function normally but managed to get to the door leading outside to my car. This was around 2:30 to 3:00 p.m. The next thing I remember is waking up around 6:00 p.m. at home in my bed to my mother asking me to move my car. This was an incredibly difficult task in my condition. I cannot believe that no one noticed that I was so doped up. The thing I find so difficult to grasp, given that this was a drug induced

blackout, is that in this condition, I would have had to get into my car at the school, drive about 3 miles in heavy traffic to my job, perform my duties, drive to another location to finish and then drive home. This is almost too much for me to accept. I seem to remember asking my co-workers the next day about my performance but not getting any satisfactory answers as to whether I did my job or whether I was even there to do it. This event gradually faded from memory and I had not thought about it again until I read "Intruders".

The next book I read was "Communion". I obtained it from the local library and was dumbfounded that it would even have this book. I concealed it as I walked up to the check-out counter for fear of being seen with it and made fun of. I had heard about the book but had never seen it before. When I picked it off the shelf and saw the cover I was immediately stunned by the artwork and a thought ran through my mind - the image on my door. On the back of the door to the room in which I had the dream about the little men, there was an image formed by the grain of the wood that I used to call "the devil on my door". I remember showing it to all my friends and even my mother, although she has no recollection of it. It seemed to be an elongated face with slanted eyes and an evil look. The face on "Communion" seemed to spark some kind of correlation. It was my immediate thought that they were different renderings of the same thing. I remember many times opening my door because I didn't want it to be looking at me. A very strange thing for a child to think about a piece of wood. "Communion" elicited the same memories from my childhood that "Intruders" did.

I began to play "connect the dots" and things became clearer that I may have had my own possible abduction experiences. After this, I began reading everything that I could get my hands on about the subject, trying desperately to find some confirmation of the things that I had experienced. I now understand that this is a quite common phase for abductees/contactees to go through. During this time of "information gathering" I had some very vivid dreams. These dreams that I will relate to you seemed very different from my normal dream state. In fact they seemed very real. The thing that puzzles me is that unlike my normal dreams where I seem to be fully conscious and in control, in these "abduction" dreams I felt as though I was not fully conscious or perhaps groggy from some narcotic. The first of these came on March 26, 1990. I distinctly remember the date because I awoke the next morning telling myself that I had to remember that day so I could relate it later. It begins this way. When I become aware of something happening, I am standing beside my bed buttoning my red and black flannel shirt. I already had on a pair of jeans. I have no recall of whether I had shoes on. My head was down against my chest as I was doing this. Again, I felt groggy but somewhat aware of my surroundings. Standing next to me on my right side was a small man whom I did not get a good look at. I seem to remember that I could see the top of his head out of the corner of my eye and it was greyish white with no hair. He wore what I perceived to be black clothes. He said to me, "Are you ready?", at which point I replied, "I guess so."

He then took me by my left hand and began leading me out of the bedroom, down the hall and into the living room. At some point during this promenade, he blurted out, "Hurry!". It seemed to me that he was taking many more steps than I was. He was smaller than me and seemed like he was late for something or that he was taking too long to accomplish his task. We headed for the door that leads out to the backyard. I do not remember going out the door, but the next thing I do remember is that we are outside. We walk across the yard and end up beside this very small jet black oval object that I assume was a craft of some sort. I do not remember a door, as such, but there was an opening that I had to crouch down to get through. I entered first with him following. I sat down in a chair of some sort that was, I assume, at the rear of the craft, immediately on my left. I say this because the little man was doing something in front of me where there seemed to be a lot of equipment and another chair. He was working quite quickly at something, facing to my right as I watched him. At this point, a small door, which I thought looked like a glove-box in a car, fell open. He cursed, "S---t!", which I found quite humorous. I even remember chuckling a bit at this, thinking that he was not much different than I was in his actions. Abruptly, my recollections end. I do not know what took place after this, if indeed this was a realtime event.

The next dream concerning this subject occurred within days of the March 26 scenario. Upon further reflection, I feel that this one may be another

remembered segment of the same experience. When I become aware of my surroundings, I am sitting at a low table. It is white and although I cannot move my head around, everything else seemed to be of this same color. Again, I feel as though I am drugged and possibly not fully conscious. My head is glued to my chest as it had been in the earlier dream. I immediately sensed two presences other than myself. One was on my left at the side of the table, which I perceived to be a male. The other was immediately on my right. I never saw this one but I perceived her as a female, as I will explain. I am looking down the whole time, but I was aware that the male on my left was doing something. I said to him, "How many others have you worked with?". He responded, "What do you mean?" I replied, "How many other people have you worked with?" He thought a minute and then said, "Two." At this point, the entity on my right said, in a distinctly female voice, "Oh, and then there was our brother." This elicited from the male some sort of confirming gesture. I am not sure if I saw this or just felt it. I could not stand not being able to look around and said, "Just a minute". I then tried to lift my head to get a glimpse of my surroundings. It took all the strength I could muster to overcome the force that held my head in its downward position, but I managed to look up. When I did, I looked straight into the eyes of the male on my left. I was overwhelmed with delight. It was something concrete that I could take with me. I will never forget the sight. His eyes were very large. They were very human looking in structure and a beautiful light blue in color. They seemed endless and I felt elated. I was so close to him that I seem to remember being able to make out the lines in the iris. This was only a momentary glance but enough to last me a lifetime. At this point, my head was returned to its original position.

Some time later, I remember looking down at a Petrie dish of translucent green liquid or jelly. A third entity was standing in the background just able to be made out in the corner of my eye. He was not unlike the entity on the cover of "Communion", although his head was more angular at the top and perhaps slightly wider. He wore a long, robed garment that seemed to shimmer slightly. It had long sleeves covering his arms which he had folded so that his hands were not visible. I got the impression that he was very much in charge. He had a cold stare. I was still very much aware of the green substance in front of me when the third entity uttered, "Wait." I turned slightly, as much as I could, to get a better look. He made a nodding gesture. When I turned my head back to view the green jelly, it was no longer there. Instead, there was a bowl of what I perceived to be, of all things, mashed potatoes. I do not know whether the nodding gesture from this being changed its appearance or whether it was simply replaced as my attention was drawn away from it. This is all I remember of this dream.

There have been many other strange things happen and other less vivid dreams concerning the UFO phenomenon, but it is these dreams described above that I find so fascinating. They are so out of sync with my normal dream state. There seems to be no clear beginning, no middle, no end. Just fragmentary segments to tantalize my imagination. I am still unsettled and confused as to whether these events were real and related or whether they are totally unrelated events that are linked together only by my immersion in this very compelling subject. Or, perhaps, they were not real at all and were generated out of my subconscious mind to fulfil an inner need to be associated with the elite "chosen" few who have actually experienced something real. Did the sequences truly occur? At times the question drives me up the wall. I hope that I can one day find out.

As for the missing-time incident, the possible visual sighting, the image on my bedroom door and the dream I had as a child, I know that these were real events. They did occur. But, as to whether or not they are related to the UFO phenomena, I can not make a concrete decision at this time.

I have recently begun to undergo hypnotherapy, having made a personal decision to determine if the lunatic fringe is just around the corner. If the determination can be made that I have somehow constructed these happenings out of my own mind, then the case should be handed to qualified psychologists to try and understand why an ordinary person would relate experiences on a subconscious level that so closely resemble experiences of actual abductees. If indeed, though, the aforementioned experiences and those not mentioned here are truly occurring in event-level reality, then I will probably have to change many of the views I hold of reality. But, however it goes, I will

approach the phenomenon as any good investigator, scientist or therapist should; not blindly accepting every detail that comes out of hypnosis as actual truth, but rather integrating those perceptions and observations into an acceptable level of compatibility with my life. In either case, the prospect of an unknown entities, whether earthly or extraterrestrial, coming into the homes of people and abducting them for unknown purposes is truly amazing and at times frightening. It is possibly the most important happening since human creation. I know that I personally cannot sit on the sidelines and wait for something to take place. We all must make every effort to understand as much as possible of the enigma. Perhaps we may find nothing that fits our level of comprehension. But, isn't that the beginning of understanding? To wonder?

- Michael.

## PHOTO SHOWS UFO ON MARS

Early Saturday morning, July 26, 1997, during an interview on the Art Bell Show, ufologist Richard C. Hoagland called listeners' attention to a Pathfinder color photo (Number 81977) at the Jet Propulsion Laboratory website; Hoagland reportedly told listeners that features on the southwest horizon of the huge Martian floodplain, Ares Vallis, resembled artificial structures.

Hours later, at 9:30 a.m., Desiree Holloway, who had heard the Bell broadcast, downloaded Pathfinder photo #81977 from Sun Microsystems, a "mirror" of the original site. Doing so, she uncovered a mystery.

The photo was a high-resolution shot of the horizon to the right of Twin Peaks, showing a low, rounded mound, much darker than the surrounding terrain, and what looked like a UFO hovering above and to the right of the mound.

"I noticed it after I had downloaded the photo from the CNN mirror site," Ms. Holloway explained. "I had listened to the Art Bell Show and decided to check it out. Upon viewing the photo, I did not agree with Richard Hoagland's findings but studied the picture further and noticed a small circular object just above the right side of the hill and near the top of the photo."

Ms. Holloway described the UFO as "a small round sphere that appears in the upper right side of the photo. It does not appear to be a photographic anomaly (in my opinion). It seems to be shadowed in correspondence with the Martian landscape below." The mound is located an estimated one mile (1.6 kilometers) southwest of Pathfinder.

Returning to the Sun Microsystems site, she found something strange. The original high-resolution photo she'd downloaded had been replaced with a grainy, out-of-focus, low-resolution image of the same horizon. Now even the mound was no longer clearly visible.

On Friday, August 1, 1997, she contacted UFO ROUNDUP and reported, "You might find it interesting to know that" she returned to the Sun Microsystems site and "their photo is now distorted. The one I copied has been replaced by a grainy, low-quality image. I cannot find a clear version anywhere on the Web."

On Saturday, August 2, 1997, Ms. Holloway was contacted via email by a man who claimed to have downloaded the supposed "original image" from the JPL website before Pathfinder photo #81997 vanished from the site. Apparently, an unknown number of people downloaded the clear image between 12:15 a.m., the time of the Art Bell broadcast, and 9:30 a.m., when Ms. Holloway copied hers. (Email Interview - Masinaigan)

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## GROUPS SAY GIANT SAUCER SHOT DOWN IN ARGENTINA



For months rumours have circulated about a recent saucer crash in north-western Argentina. Now two groups have come forward with information about the incident.

According to Guillermo Aldunati of Operation Right to Know, a gigantic saucer appeared over the town of Metan on August 17 or 18, 1995. The object was described as a metallic gray disk approximately 200 meters (660 feet) in diameter. Aldunati reported, "Many onlookers saw the UFO maneuvering, and it was apparently struck by air-to-air missiles, launched by an unknown aircraft that shot at it and knocked it out of the sky."

Reeling under the missile explosions, the saucer banked sharply to the left and plummeted in a corkscrew fashion. It slammed into a hill north of town called El Crestone or Cerro del Crestone. A private plane attempted to fly over the crash site but was reportedly forced away by "electromagnetic disturbances."

Metan is located in Argentina's Salta province, a region of red-rock canyons and vineyards. Metan is on Ruta (Route) 9, approximately 100 kilometers (60 miles) south of Salta and 150 kilometers (90 miles) north of San Miguel de Tucuman. The town is just south of the Rio Juramento.

Armed helicopters with the blue-and-white roundel of Argentina arrived over the crash site. The choppers reportedly fired machinegun bursts at "huaceros" (graverobbers) said to be stripping dead occupants of their clothing and metallic insignia.

According to the Fundacion Argentina de Ovnilogia (Argentine Ufology Foundation), an armored convoy reached Metan from Tucuman, and the Argentine Army sealed off the town for several days. FAO described the aircraft that shot down the saucer as "a dark triangular object."

Northbound traffic on Ruta 9 was reportedly halted at Yatasto, south of Metan. Soldiers told truckers and motorists that the road was either washed out or blocked by landslides. At Yatasto, an Indian family selling hot food in the plaza approached some parked Army trucks, hoping to make a sale. An angry sergeant chased them away, but not before the Indians had a look in the back of the rear truck. They claim to have seen "dozens" of nylon body bags stacked inside.

This appears to support Aldunati's claim that "the unfortunate coverup began immediately afterward...the corpses of the strange creatures resembling the Grays, but taller. The craft was saucer-shaped, more than 200 meters in diameter, and some reports speak of 200 casualties. It is said that the corpses were taken to Mendoza and later to the USA." Another FAO report claimed that some of the occupants' bodies were sent to Victoria, in Entre Rios province.

(Editor's Comment: There may be some truth to these reports. On July 31, 1995, three weeks before the alleged crash at Metan, an Aerolineas Argentinas jetliner, piloted by Capt. Jorge Polanco and Cmdr. Juan Domingo Gaitan, encountered a UFO over the Argentine ski resort city of Bariloche in the Andes.

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## THE RENDLESHAM TV PROGRAMME

ITV, in the U.K., devoted an entire program to the 1980 Rendlesham forest incident. It was one of the finest, perhaps the finest, reconstructions of a UFO incident ever broadcast on U.K. national television. Not only did they allocate adequate time to reconstruct events, more importantly, they also interviewed many of the main witnesses at length. The main content now follows. The program was hosted by Michael Aspel and I have included his accompanying narrative:

Aspel: Bentwaters and Woodbridge, twin military bases in East Anglia. The three miles that divide them are filled by Rendlesham forest. An RAF radar station nearby (photograph shown). During the monitoring of a night flying exercise, a strange object was picked up.

Mal Scurrah, former radar operator: "We didn't have the faintest idea what it was. We checked through the air traffic agencies. There should have been nothing in that area at the time. The only thing we could do was send a jet aircraft in to find out what it was. They got to within about a quarter of a mile and the pilot suddenly started reporting that they could see a very bright light in the sky in front of them. It was stationary on the screen and then, in seconds, it moved off at a fantastic rate of speed. Within the space of five minutes, it was reaching 90,000 feet and higher and we lost it off the top end of the radar scope.

There's nothing we have in this day that can perform those kind of maneuvers, the pilots wouldn't be able to take it. You tell me what it was".

Aspel: Back on Woodbridge base, near the east gate, Airman John Burroughs was on security patrol with a colleague.

Burroughs: "There were strange lights out in the forest. To me, it almost looked like Christmas lights at first, a Christmas display. At that point we looked at each other and we decided that we'd better go out and take a closer look 'cause we weren't sure what we were dealing with. What we were looking at wasn't real".

Aspel: Airman Burrows and his colleague raced back to the gate house. He contacted the Security Controller.

Burrows: "He had a lot of trouble believing what I was telling him, because it was Christmas and I had played a lot of jokes on him before". Eventually, persuaded by the Airman's tone, the Controller contacted Sergeant Jim Penniston.

Penniston: "I received a call from the Control Centre to go on down to the east gate and contact John Burroughs. And I asked them what was the nature of the problem down there and they said that they'd rather not tell me, they'd rather have me go down there and talk to the patrol man on the scene. The first thing that came to mind was an aircraft crash. I've had at least 30 or 40 crashes that I had been to at that point in time and that's definitely what I thought it was".

(Having contacted the Control Centre again and reported a possible aircraft crash): "They notified me that they were tracking an unidentified bogey about 15 minutes ago and they confirmed it with contact with eastern radar and Heathrow in London and the approximate location was about 5 miles off base when they lost contact with it. It was Christmas time and there was no scheduled flying for that night. I got permission to proceed off base to investigate".

Aspel: Following military rules, the Americans had to leave their weapons behind. The men went through the forest towards the lights.

Penniston: "I started to see a defined shape and at that point I realised it wasn't an aircraft crash, a fire, or anything of that sort. The air was filled with electricity. You could feel it on your skin as we approached the object".

Burroughs: "You felt like you were moving in slow motion, your hair on the back of your head was standing up, you felt like you had very little control over your body".

Aspel: Then, they saw it.

Burroughs: "I wish I had my weapon because I felt totally defenseless".

Penniston: "It was about the size of a tank, it was triangular in shape. Underneath the craft, was a high intensity white light emanating out of it and it was bordered by red and blue lighting, alternating".

Aspel: When nothing happened, the men, deciding the object wasn't hostile, got up to take a closer look.

Penniston: "On the upper left side of the craft, was an inscription. It measured six inches high, of symbols. They looked familiar, but I couldn't ascertain why".

Aspel: The Americans watched for about twenty minutes.

Penniston: "It slowly started moving back, weaving in and around the trees. It got about 40 feet away, then it raised up into the air and it shot off as fast as you could blink".

Aspel: On their return to the air base, the men were called in by the officer in charge.

Penniston: "'Gentlemen', he says, 'I need you to go over to the woods and take a look at the area in daylight to see if you can find any more physical evidence'".

Burroughs: "We found branches on the ground, we found indentations in the ground".

Aspel: The local Suffolk police went out too. An officer found the indentations but reported they'd been caused by animals burrowing.

Penniston: "I asked him why and he said, because he's not going to put anything other than that in his report. We found that just totally absurd. The ground was frozen and it was just impossible for that to happen".

Aspel: Then the Airmen remembered that the object they'd seen was triangular. They measured the distance between the indentations and discovered that they formed a perfect triangle. The activities soon came to the attention of the deputy base commander, Lieutenant Colonel Charles Halt.

Halt: "I personally knew the individuals that had reported and I knew they were very credible people. I was sure something had happened, there was obviously something. I certainly wasn't convinced it was a UFO but I didn't know what it was".

Aspel: There was only one way to find out. Huge portable floodlights, known as lightalls (sp), were rigged in the forest, ready for anything which might appear the next night. But as darkness fell, the lightalls began to malfunction. Lieutenant Colonel Halt was interrupted at a Christmas dinner.

Halt: "The duty Flight Lieutenant came in and he was quite shaken and insisted upon speaking to myself and the base commander about a matter of utmost urgency. He said, "it's back" and I said, "what's back" and he said, "the UFO is back". I assembled a small team of experts and we set off in the forest, ready to debunk it".

Aspel: About 30 men followed the lights into the forest, armed with special equipment including a night vision scope, geiger counter and a tape recorder.

Halt: "I'm certainly glad we made the tape, because if we hadn't made the tape, even I would have trouble believing what happened that night".

Aspel: The early hours of the morning in Rendlesham forest, Suffolk. Deputy commander, Lieutenant Colonel Charles Halt and 30 men of the United States Air Force, are out to debunk claims of a UFO landing.

Halt: "We had time to put this thing to bed. I knew there was something there, there had to be something there, but I was also firmly convinced there was a logical explanation for what was going on".

Aspel: Portable floodlights, known as lightalls, positioned in the forest, mysteriously refused to work.

Halt: "It's very unusual to have a problem with the lightall. That night, the lightalls wouldn't work, even when they swapped out and got other ones from the base. In addition, we had problems with our radios. All three frequencies we were using were intermittent and did not work properly that night".

Aspel: But other equipment was working. A night vision scope, a geiger counter and a tape recorder. The sound in this reconstruction is taken from the actual tape they claim to have recorded that night.

"There's no doubt about it, there's something like a strange flashing red light ahead".

"There, it's yellow"

"I saw a yellow tinge in it too".

"Wierd"

"It appears to be maybe moving a little bit this way?"

"It's brighter than it has been"

"it's coming this way, it is definitely coming this way".

Halt: It pulsed, although it were an eye winking at you and around the edges, it appeared to have molten metal dripping off it, just like falling to the ground, but I didn't see any evidence of anything on the ground. I just couldn't believe what I was seeing, none of us could. Here I am, a senior official that routinely denies this sort of thing and diligently works to debunk them and I'm involved in the middle of something I can't explain".

Aspel: The geiger counter was measuring levels twenty five times normal background radiation. The night vision scope showed strange readings too. The men stayed in pursuit through the woods for six hours.

Halt: "The object suddenly exploded. A silent explosion and broke into three to five white objects and rapidly disappeared."

Aspel: A mile away, Airman John Burroughs was with the broken down lightalls.

Burroughs: "All of a sudden, out of the distance, a blue light streaked past us. Passing the lightalls, they came on. It passed through the open window on the truck, going off into the distance, and the lightalls went out".

Halt: "As we moved out of the forest, we noticed three objects in the sky. The objects in the sky were moving about, sharp angular movements, very high speed. I kept getting on the radio and calling the command post. I wanted to know if they were finding anything on the radar scope. One of the objects in the sky was sending down beams, beams of light, beams of energy, I'm not sure what they were. At that same time I could hear on the radio, voices talking about the beams coming down on the base".

Aspel: Then a beam shone straight at them.

Halt: "At this stage, my scepticism had definitely disappeared. I was really in awe."

Aspel: Almost as rapidly as it appeared, it went.

An extraordinary story, but what could be behind it?

Some of what the airmen saw can be explained, astronomers say, by a rare co-incidence of events in the sky that night.

John Mason, presumably an astronomer, is then interviewed: "One of these was the re-entry of a Russian rocket. This came in and burnt up in the earth's atmosphere. It was seen by thousands of eye witnesses all over south-eastern England and the second was a brilliant natural fireball, a piece of interplanetary rock burning up in the atmosphere".

Another astronomer thinks further confusion was caused by a third factor, a lighthouse on the nearby coast. Ian Ridpath, the other astronomer, is then interviewed: "Although it's six miles away, it only looks as though it's a few hundred yards away in between the trees and as the airmen moved around, the lighthouse beam too would have appeared to move in between the trees and in front of them as they moved forward, which is exactly the way they described it".

Aspel: That theory was backed up when the tape was played against the flashing of the lighthouse. The two matched. But the Americans were well aware of the lighthouse and said that wasn't what they saw.

Halt: "A lighthouse doesn't move through the forest, the lighthouse doesn't go up and down, it doesn't explode, doesn't change shape, size, doesn't send down beams of light from the sky."

Aspel: The Rendlesham forest encounters became the talk of the air base. Lieutenant Colonel Halt knew he had to act.

Halt: "I really didn't know quite how to handle it. I reported it to my superior and was quite concerned, to be honest with you, what his reaction would be. But he was very supportive".

Aspel: He was told to write a memo to the British Ministry of Defence.

Halt: "I sent the memo, but I never heard. I kept checking and asking but I never got a response".

Aspel: But other airmen say secret investigations were taking place.

Burroughs: After the incident happened, there seemed to be some strange activity going on in the base. I'm really not sure what it was but it wasn't normal activity".

Penniston: "At that time, we noticed that there was many unscheduled flights coming in. They told me I was supposed to keep it quiet and not to take the issue any further".

Aspel: According to a former U.S. Military Intelligence officer, the flights were ordered by his colleagues.

Clifford Stone is then interviewed: "There was a total blackout of any information leaving the base. Even the senior officials on the base were not told about these flights coming in and leaving. These flights contained teams of specialists. They were to gather specific data in their fields of expertise. All of that information then was to be sent to Washington D.C. where it would be assessed and accumulated in a finalised, highly classified report".

Aspel: Whatever conclusions may have been reached, Lieutenant Colonel Halt wasn't told. He's mystified as to why, as a senior officer, his report never even received a reply.

Halt: To this day I'm very puzzled why no-one ever came back and asked for additional information, asked questions, or even interviewed me. It doesn't really add up.

Aspel: But news of the sightings began to leak out. Local investigators began to take matters into their own hands.

Brenda Butler is then interviewed: "We asked the local people if they'd heard anything and seen anything and most of the local people said that they'd seen the lights over the forest".

Aspel: A few days later though, they seemed less forthcoming.

Butler: "They'd all been told to keep quiet and two of the local people who lived near the air base told us originally what they'd seen from their bedroom window and then when we went back they'd got, "MOD (Ministry of Defence) Property - Private- Keep Out" and they'd got barriers round the house".

Aspel: The local investigators managed to get a copy, from the U.S. government, of the Deputy Commander's memo. In Britain, it prompted a question in Parliament.

The relevant entry in Hansard (the record of parliament) is then shown and reads:

RAF Woodbridge (Alleged Incident)

Mr Patrick Wall asked the Secretary of State for Defence (1) if he has seen the United States Air Force memo dated 13 January 1981 concerning unexplained events near RAF Woodbridge; (2) whether, in view of the fact that the United State's Air Force Memo of 13 January 1981 on the incident at RAF Woodbridge has been released under the Freedom Of Information Act, he will now release reports and documents concerning similar unexplained incidents in the United Kingdom; (3) how many unexplained sightings or radar intercepts have taken place since 1980.

Mr Stanley: I have seen the memorandum of 13 January 1981 to which my hon. Friend refers. Since 1980 the Department has received 1,400 reports of sightings of flying objects which the observers have been unable to identify. There were no corresponding unexplained radar contacts. Subject to normal security constraints, I am ready to give information about any such reported sightings that are found to be a matter of concern from a defence standpoint, but there have been none to date.

Aspel: The case intrigued Lord Hill-Norton, a former Chief of Staff at the Ministry of Defence.

Hill-Norton: "One can't help feeling that something is being concealed. Either the Americans, and indeed the deputy base commander, were hallucinating or they believed that something had landed there and they had taken photographs and records of it. And in either event, it must be of interest to the defence of the United Kingdom".

Aspel: Sergeant Jim Penniston is not only convinced by what he saw then, a cover-up could explain what he says happened after he left the U.S. Air Force.

Penniston: "As time went by a year or two, I had noticed that my mail was being tampered with, opened and resealed, and we also got to the one point where we found a listening device within my home".

Aspel: Soon after the story surrounding the Suffolk air bases surfaced, a large swathe of Rendlesham forest was cut down, locals believe because of the radiation left behind.

Butler: "When we asked why the trees were cleared so quickly, we were told because of the traces that were left on them. And we tried to find out who'd taken the trees away and we were told that they were just taken".

Aspel: The air bases have gone too. With the end of the cold war, the Americans left. But the mystery won't go away.

Hill-Norton: "The Ministry have doggedly denied that anything untoward occurred there and I simply don't believe it, therefore somebody, I don't know who it is, is sitting on information which by now should be public".

Aspel: If a secret report is in Washington, what could it contain?

The former intelligence officer claims he knows.

Stone: "That finalised report, concluded, that real objects were seen, that these objects were a result of a highly evolved, advanced technology, the technology was so advanced that we cannot to this day replicate it, that there was an intelligence involved and that that intelligence did not originate on earth".

Aspel: And according to the radar operator who first saw an object, it's far from being the only UFO incident.

Scurrah: "These things are being picked up by radar operators, throughout the whole world, not just in Britain, and we're not told what they are and we're not expected to ask questions about what they are".

Aspel: The Ministry of Defence admits they have more than eight thousand cases of UFO's on file. As for Lieutenant Colonel Charles Halt, although he never heard any more about this UFO report, it didn't, as he feared, damage his career. Soon afterwards, he was promoted from deputy commander to commander of the air base. Rather strange you might think, if he'd been suspected of not telling the truth.

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Conclusions? You should, as always, form your own.

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## ALIEN ENCOUNTERS

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**A former army officer and college lecturer, Gordon Millington is an accredited investigator for the British UFO Research Association and a consultant to *Flying Saucer Review*. He has contributed to many publications concerned with ufology and has an eclectic concern with the possible meanings of UFO phenomena.**

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### CONTENTS

RETROSPECT/ HIGH STRANGENESS IN BRAZIL/ THE WINGED SERPENT OF ASHLAND/ UFO REALITIES/ THE ABDUCTION EXPERIENCE/ ARE THE UFOs EVIL?/ NOT FOR YOUR EYES/ IN SEARCH OF CONFIRMATION/ HYPNOTIC SUGGESTIONS/ THE DEVIANT UFONAUTS/ HIGH STRANGENESS IN FRANCE/ ENCOUNTERS ELSEWHERE/ THE CROP CIRCLES/ ZECHARIA AND THE ANCIENT ASTRONAUTS/ CONCLUSIONS/ UFO RESEARCH/ APPENDIX

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