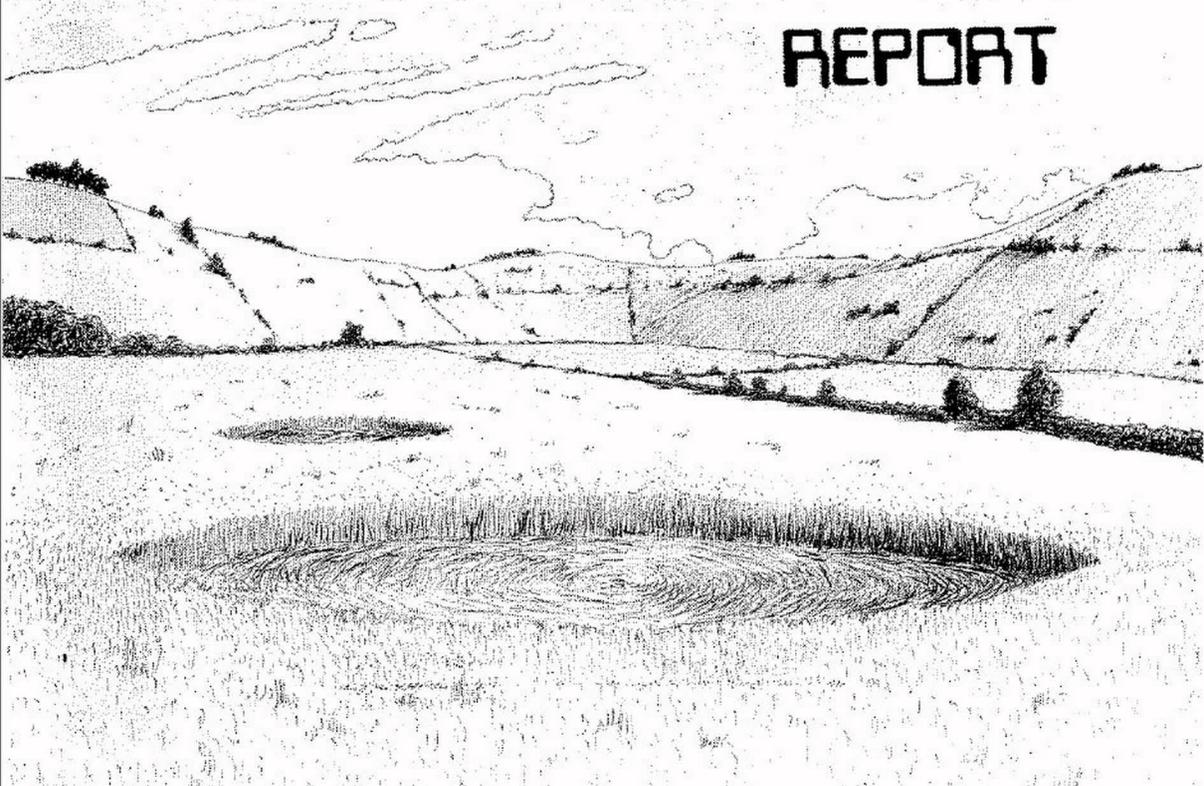


THE

PROBE



REPORT



WHIRLWINDS AT
WORK ?

Page 4.

THE PROBE REPORT

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PROBE



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Volume 2, No.3.

(Issue 7)

SKEPTICISM?

For those of you who happen to cast a skeptical eye towards UFOs, this issue is a bonus. It not only includes the usual CASE CLOSED feature, but has a CASE CLOSED EXTRA slotted in for good measure. On top of that, there is an article by self-confessed UFO skeptic and author, Ian Ridpath, and a report explaining away some more purported UFO landing nests. Had space allowed, we could have featured another half-dozen instalments of CASE CLOSED, as both SCUFORI and ourselves, between us, have recently concluded a number of investigations which in the end were rationally explained. (See NEWS ROUND-UP). All this, plus the work being done on the Warminster myth (that's how we look at it), will add fuel to anyone's fire who thinks we ourselves are skeptics. Are we? Not at all, but at times we often think we might be, what with so many false tales, hallucinations and misinterpretations. So, to answer any cries of 'debunkers!', I put forward our case to anyone who may have that impression.

There is an element in ufology that ruins the whole reputation within the eyes of the public and the scientific establishment; this element being the clan of writers/authors, reporters and flamboyant ufologists who approach the subject with no level of objectivity and very little, if any, critical analysis. They will make rash statements to the press in search of either fame and personal glory or a fast buck, regardless of the garbage they might provide. The balance has to be restored, and the only way to do this is to present the true face of ufology - and that (when you consider that 9 out of 10 case are explained) means that IFOs have to be featured as well, to show that not everybody accepts all 'UFO' sightings as true UFOs. We make no apologies for this attitude, even though it may upset one or two people, and we also make no apologies for not featuring any true UFO reports in this issue - purely because we have none available.

"Some cases turn out to be IFOs. This wins praise from the feet-on-the-ground investigators but leaves the readers who have their minds on the New Age a little dejected". So says a review in issue 25 of MAGIC SAUCER of the last PROBE REPORT. The review on the whole was very complimentary, but it left me wondering just exactly what a 'New Ager' might be. I hope it doesn't mean automatic acceptance of any claims or beliefs.

"PROBE deserves success, but its approach can be too scientifically biased to discover the real truth about the diverse manifestations. For example, I've since heard (from folk in that Bretton vicinity) that strangely weaving and circular lights were seen in the White Horse area before the farmer's stories 'broke'. Remember?" This was how Arthur Shuttlewood's last letter to me read, referring to the Westbury Circles case just over a year ago. He did not like our explanation, and along with many others wanted to believe the circles in the cornfields were caused by landed UFOs. And now, if Arthur writes another book which features the circles, he may well disregard our findings and opt for the more mysterious alternative and sell more books because of it. Regarding local folk witnessing strange weaving lights, appeals were put out for anyone to report if they had seen anything unusual - only one woman did, who lived over ten miles away from the location of the circles, and she then refused to provide us with any details. We did all we could on that case and stand by our conclusion. We also stand firm with our viewpoint even if it means losing subscribers (which we have), but it may mean eventually that our magazine is being read by the people who really matter in ufology - those who put ufology before their own personal ego-trips and bank balances.

Temporarily, PROBE's team of investigators increased by one, but this lasted only five days as another member left because of his job situation. Anyway, we welcome Geoff Bird to the team, who recently resigned from BFSB, and say farewell to Mike Seager who will be working in London for at least a year. Geoff's departure from the British Flying Saucer Bureau was due to his support of ASSAP being in opposition to Bureau policy, and he felt he could pursue his own ideas and projects in another local group which would not restrict his activities. BFSB are entitled to their opinion and we hope it doesn't come between us - as I'm sure it won't. Talking of ASSAP, the second introductory meeting was held in Bristol on October 31st, and three southwest UFO groups were called on to speak about themselves. This somewhat restored the balance in favour of ufology, as apart from Jenny Randles' talk on investigation, UFOs hardly got a mention at the first meeting in London on 10th October.

Changes have taken place in one of Britain's largest UFO organisations - the British UFO Society. Ken Rogers, for so long one of the most outspoken figures in ufology, has had to resign as BUFOS chairman due to ill health. The unenviable task of keeping 350 plus members happy has been inherited by Birmingham-based Brian Everton. I wonder if it means the end of the famous advert that dotted all the music mags and Exchange & Mart every week? Local group Wessex UFO Investigation & Research Group (WUFOIRG) have announced to me that they are going 'through a bad patch' due to internal troubles and cash-flow problems. Colin Birch does stress though, that the group is ticking over still and he hopes to get the third issue of UFO WEST eventually printed. This looks more unlikely as time goes on when you consider issue No. 2 was printed nearly a year ago, a sad situation as UFO WEST has the makings of an excellent magazine.

Discussions are going on between PROBE and SCUFORI over the possible publication of a one-off Special Supplement. The content has not yet been decided, but likely subjects are a selection of articles by people who are experts in their own fields who are often called upon in UFO investigation, eg meteorologists, astronomers and aeronautics experts. Alternatively, the supplement may consist entirely of solved cases, as both SCUFORI and ourselves have recently solved several, and these all could be written up in the manner of the CASE CLOSED feature. The solutions to what initially were alleged 'UFOs' are extremely varied and would perhaps assist other groups in their investigations. We are optimistic that this supplement will go ahead, but besides deciding the content, the distribution and finance have to be looked at. Over the past few months, material for another possible Supplement has been gathered, consisting of an exposé of the Warminster 'myth', which re-examines the evidence put forward so many years ago. So far, the notes have exceeded 20 pages and with further re-investigation planned, this will no doubt be expanded further. Plans for publishing this have not yet been considered as it is, at the moment, a PROBE project and everything hinges on the group's financial situation if and when it is finally completed.

One final word on ASSAP: in this issue is published a statement on ASSAP and UFO investigation. This has resulted through an air of suspicion surrounding ASSAP and its intentions, and this statement is intended to clear the air. We publish it without comment, as until the ASSAP investigation structure is worked out, it would be unfair to pre-judge any items.

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TERRY'S SKYWATCH PAGE

A LOOK AT THE SKYWATCH SCENE

Right! After last issue's terrible display of spelling mistakes, I'm making it clear right now that it wasn't me who was responsible for them; I didn't type it.

Skywatching has always been an enjoyable part of my interest in ufology, although it never produces results. That doesn't matter so much, as long as you can have a nice chat with some of the friendly people who have gone to Warminster over the years. There are no UFOs there, but I don't really care. I've seen strange things there in the early 1970's, but more was seen by me over my home town of Melksham, and since those days there's been nothing. Providing I round off the night with chicken and double chips, and a can of diet-Pepsi (to watch my weight), I'm happy. But not since this perishing Warminster festival.

I was lucky; I was in the Isle of Wight - but those regulars who went for a normal Saturday night chat came face to face with crowds of foul-mouthed, dirty, ignorant yobs. The Ken Rogers-sponsored weekend attracted the worst people ever to go up the hills, like football hooligans, according to the information given to me from friends who were there. PROBE members were there and they left early because of the attitude of the spidery-looking idiots sat on the gates, littering up the place with beer cans and other rubbish. This was just what the press wanted. Another excuse to laugh at UFOs, and they got it with added bonus that weekend.

It will take a lot to bring back the nights of long skywatches until the early hours of the morning, like I used to carry out. Of course, I used to get tired, and always fell asleep on the back seat of my warm car that was taking me home. There's nothing I can do about it - once I get inside the warmth, I'm gone, and it takes a lot to wake me up. (Although, one night I won £100 on a rub-off pub lottery ticket, and I made sure I didn't go to sleep - not with that ticket in my pocket!)

Anyway, once, I was in the back of Ian's car and I was fast asleep before we'd gone 100 yards, and by the time we'd passed through Westbury I was totally dead to the world, slumped in the back seat with my shoelaces tied together. The first thing I knew was that I was being rudely woken up by the others, telling me I was home. So I struggled out of the car and fell over, due to my feet being tied together. After undoing my laces, still waking up, I leaned into Ian's window to say cheerio, all the time wondering why cars were whizzing past behind me when I live in a cul-de-sac. Anyway, I thought nothing of it and they drove off leaving me to look for my gate in the hedge. This I could not do: still half asleep and dozy I rummaged through the hedge but could not find any trace of my gate..... and looking up to my house I could find no trace of that either!

All I could see was miles and miles of field, and far-off distant lights... but no house. With cars every now and then bombing down the road behind me, it slowly dawned on me where I was - dumped in a lay-by between Westbury and Melksham. Eventually, they returned, rolling about their seats with amusement, and picked me up to take me home..... properly this time.

(This is the last instalment of TERRY'S SKYWATCH PAGE until further notice, as change in editorial policy has resulted in its purpose and value being 'out of touch' with the aims of the magazine. Terry is still with us, but skywatching is also no longer a prime group activity, so material would eventually become limited. However, should there be a great outcry for its return, Terry will immediately be booted back up the hills to add his little contribution to the world of ufology!)

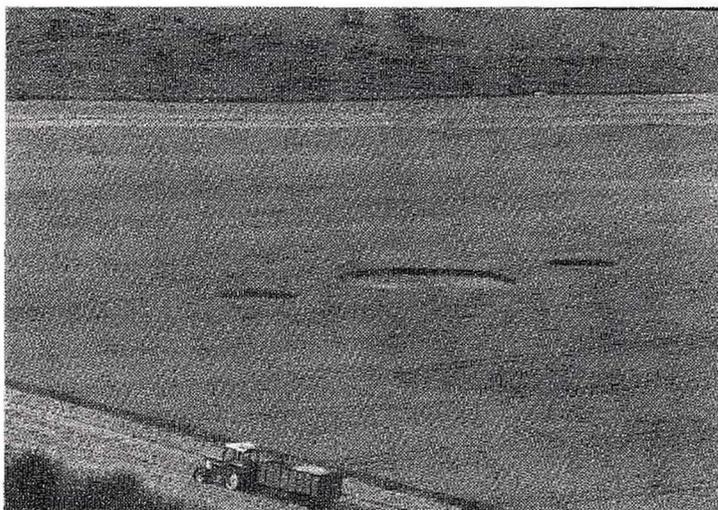
MORE OF THOSE MYSTERY CIRCLES

by Ian Mrzyglod &
Dr. G.T. Meaden.

Readers of this magazine may well remember a feature we carried on the mysterious appearance of three circular depressions in some Wiltshire cornfields. The whole story was told through Volume 1, Nos 2 & 3 just a year ago, and went on to explain in as much detail as possible just exactly what was found. To be brief, the three circles, averaging 60 feet in diameter, appeared over a period of about 10 weeks totally flattening the oat stalks in the fields, and UFOs or helicopters were first given the blame. Subsequent investigations, with the invaluable help of Dr. G.T. Meaden of The Tornado and Storm Research Organisation, revealed that they were most likely caused by whirlwinds.

The appearance of the circles caused much press interest and had people buzzing around waiting for the return of the Warminster Thing, the famous apparent UFO that haunted the skies many years ago. As Westbury (where the circles were) is not too far from Warminster, it was given a connection with the old tales of yesteryear, and this was to be just the first appearance of the flying saucer. As expected, nothing else was heard in this direction, and when the circles were finally given an explanation, no-one really wanted to know. It must be said though, that the Wiltshire Times did cover our findings and published an article verbatim to the press release. That was over a year ago.

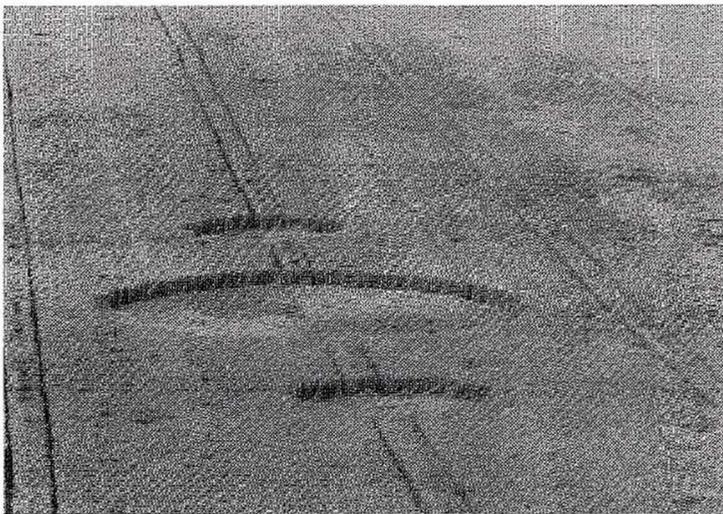
In August this year, three more circles were found in cornfields at Cheesefoot Head, near Winchester, and with them were found some of the most ridiculous explanations ever put forward. Admittedly, the circle formation was far different from the Westbury arrangement, as all three were adjacent to each other, more-or-less forming a straight line with the two outermost circles practically of the same diameter. But that was where the difference ended: they were identical in appearance to the Westbury circles and we presumed were caused by the same phenomenon. However, the press media, general public and farmers thought otherwise.



The Three Circles As They Were Discovered. (Photo: Steve Broome - SCOPE)

Despite reading our magazine, and making rash comments to NOW! magazine a year ago over the Westbury circles, Ken Rogers of the British UFO Society claimed these latest circles were also caused by UFOs via the Southern Evening Echo on 26th August. That same article also carried a suggestion by a Hampshire farmer that the circles were 'just plain vandalism' by 'grown-up children' seeking publicity. He scorned the UFO theory. Two days later, the Hampshire Chronicle presented a photograph of the circles and also backed up the vandalism story, but on the same day the Echo featured a piece inspired by the comments of farmer Giles Rowsell who identified the culprit as a twin-rotor helicopter. An MOD spokesman mentioned that an American Chinook helicopter could have been involved, but could not confirm whether or not Mr. Rowsell was being paid compensation as he had claimed. An RAF spokesman said that Mr. Rowsell's claim had not yet been accepted and it was still being looked into.

SCOPE, the UFO investigation group centred in Eastleigh, Hampshire, were on the scene as fast as possible, after being informed of the circles' existence by Margaret Webb of the Worcester-based SKYSCAN group. The photographs taken by Steve Broome of SCOPE are excellent, as were the site details, but their general impression of the situation was that whirlwinds were unlikely to cause such precise damage. They didn't support the UFO theory either, but seemed more ready to accept UFOs as opposed to whirlwinds. PROBE believed whirlwinds as responsible, as did villagers local to the scene, but we needed the comments of someone more qualified to comment, so Dr. Meaden was contacted.



Note The Apparent Symmetry Of The Formation. (Photo: Steve Broome - SCOPE)

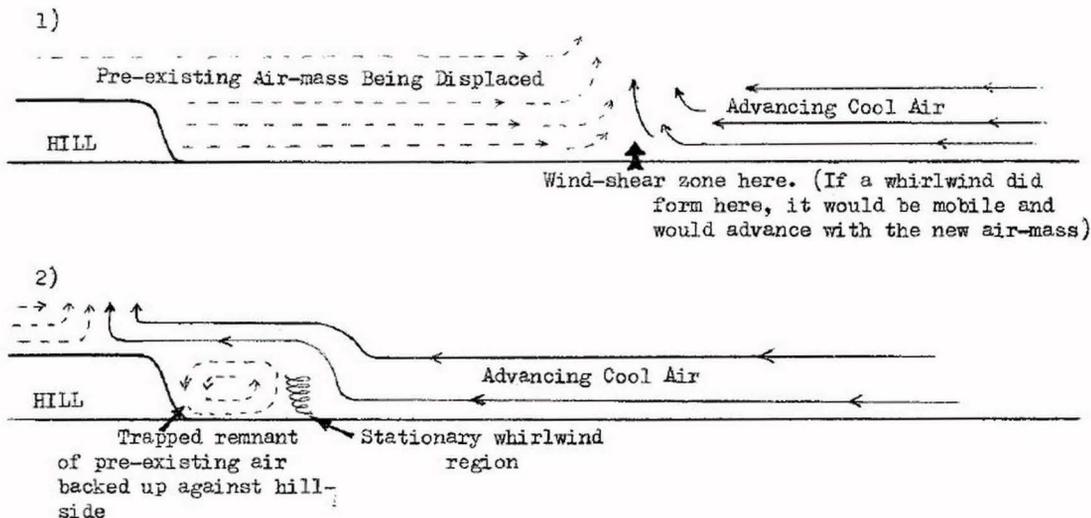
Dr. Meaden commented:

The three 'rings' which mysteriously appeared in a cornfield near Winchester in August this year have some remarkable similarities with the 'rings' investigated 12 months earlier near the Westbury White Horse by Ian Mrzyglod. Detailed descriptions and discussions were given in The PROBE REPORT Vol 1, Nos 2 and 3, and JOURNAL OF METEOROLOGY Vol 6, No 57.

From Steve Broome's excellent photographs we discern that the circles are really clockwise spirals, radiating from a centre (as at Westbury). Also important are the sharp cut-offs which occur at the perimeters. These reasons are enough to suggest

strongly once again that a whirlwind explanation is involved. Weather conditions in August 1981 were frequently favourable for their occurrence. Helicopters could never damage the fields in this way with their blasting down-draught. In whirlwinds the air spirals inwards and upwards; whirlwinds are essentially fair-weather thermals that have, for some reason, acquired rotation. One common reason is the large-scale movement across the countryside of an invading air mass which is supplementing a pre-existing air mass (e.g. a sea-breeze front, or other micro-front or meso-front). At the boundary the wind-shear (speed variation with height) can twist any thermal which the advancing front reaches (thermals start at any convenient point and remain stationary in quiet air) and in some cases a whirlwind is successfully born

What appears to have happened in both the Winchester and the Westbury examples is that the whirlwinds thus formed remained stationary during their very short life-times. The common feature in both cases is the rather extraordinary geographical one that the whirlwind sites were beneath and quite close to steep grass-covered chalk hill-sides. This feature suggests the mechanism, namely that the air-mass which is being forced backwards by the invading air-mass, is made to back up against the hillside so that the advancing frontal zone is temporarily halted. Whirlwinds which happen to form at this time remain stationary in space. This effect may even have been enhanced at Cheesefoot Head (Winchester) over a limited 'focal' region due to the punch-bowl shape of the hill. Possibly, after the life and death of the first whirlwind, the front advanced some 24-25 metres (77 feet) nearer the hillside before stopping to develop into a rotating whirlwind; and this process was repeated yet once more. I certainly conclude that the three rings were formed on the same occasion, probably in sequence one after the other, and their positions were close to one another not because of chance coincidence, but because of the position at the site relative to the adjacent hill.



The next obvious step to take, as we ourselves shall take, is to look out next August for further appearances of such circles. Dr. Meaden has put forward a very plausible theory for the creation of these rings, and further coverage of this theory will soon be published in the Journal Of Meteorology early next year (Cockhill House, Trowbridge, Wiltshire. BA14 9BG). Any further 'UFO Landing Nests' must be looked at with a very critical eye, as should perhaps many others over the years, which have now been written into UFO lore.

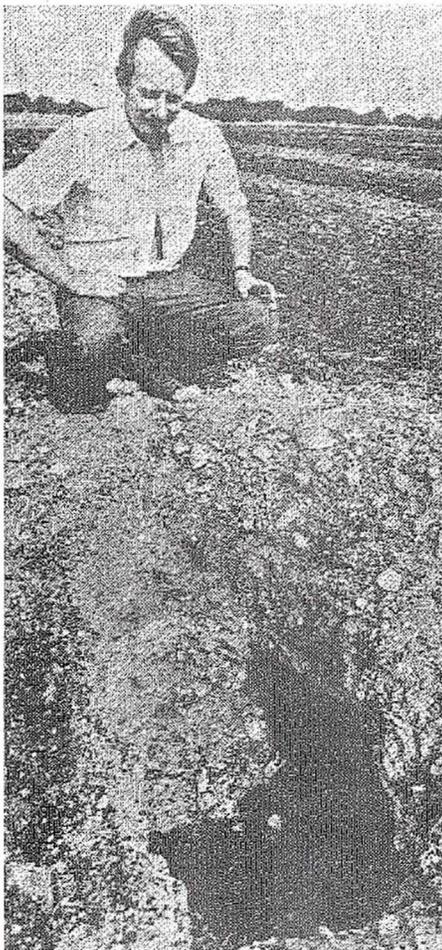
**CASE
CLOSED**

Extra!

by Ian Mrzyglod

... OR HOW TO 'CRATER' MYSTERY

It is a common occurrence for the press to create stories, fabrications and complete outright myths in order to make news. If the news is not there, it has to be manufactured, and the Sunday Mirror has done this with the Todmorden Adamski death. So now the Western Daily Press, not one to be left out, has had a bash at trying to cause a mini-sensation.



The Warminster festival caused a lot of local interest and the press, TV and radio constantly plugged the skywatch weekend as it did make interesting news material. So, for the few days leading up to and during the weekend, beginning on Thursday August 27th, the news media were full of it. But when the weekend was over, nothing more was heard except for a comment in the Wiltshire Times.

Nothing had dramatically materialised over the weekend so the whole thing went flat... until on 9th September the Western Daily Press published an article entitled; "A Close Encounter With A Crater", which read as follows:

"Wiltshire police were last night pondering whether the Warminster Thing did make a landing last month after all - 15 miles off target. A mysterious cigar-shaped crater has appeared in a cornfield on land owned by Lord Hugh Russell, near Wylve, Salisbury. It was discovered as farm foreman Kenneth Budden was combine harvesting in the field and suddenly felt the machine dip into a hole.

"Last night Army bomb disposal experts, equipped with the latest electronic gadgetry, inspected the crater - but could find no solution. Mrs. Janet Denham-Cookes, wife of the farm manager to Lord Hugh, brother of the Duke of Bedford, said: 'The hole looks as though it had been cleanly cut out'.

"But one theory, in an area renowned for UFO sighting, is that the 300 skywatchers who crowded onto Cradle and Cley Hills, near Warminster, last month, actually missed the landing."

The truth is that only the reporter, David Humphrey, or the editorial staff created the theory of a UFO landing. We decided to get to the bottom of this crater story (sorry) and so looked up Lord Hugh Russell's telephone number. We selected the number that put us in direct touch with the farm manager Tim Denham-Cookes. Terry Chivers asked him

**CASE
CLOSED**

Extra!

about the UFO theory for the crater, and his response was, "absolute bloody rubbish!"

Actually, the hole had been caused by a sunken well-shaft becoming exposed by the action of the combine harvester. There was nothing mysterious at all about the incident, and the Army bomb disposal experts, who were there just in case the hole was a bomb crater, did not go away puzzled. Mr. Denham-Cookes explained the entire situation to us and was totally amazed at the press story. With the constant stream of rubbish that some newspapers are providing (others can be excellent with their reporting), it is becoming more difficult to be amazed at what one can read.

(Photo of Tim Denham-Cookes over the crater by Melvyn Fatherly).

BOOKS

THE ANNOTATED VERSION OF 'THE CASE FOR THE UFO' by M.K. Jessup. Republished by VARO MFG. CO., Inc. Available from Gray Barker, Box 2228, Clarksburg, West Virginia 26301, U.S.A. Large spiral-bound format. 189 pages. Price \$32.50 + \$1.50 surface postage, \$8.00 air mail postage.

To begin with, a few words regarding the physical book would come amiss, since this republication is unique. This book resembles a company report, being spiral-bound between cardboard covers. The duplication of the entire book must have been, as Berlitz points out on page 47 of THE PHILADELPHIA EXPERIMENT, a laborious process, which brings one to wonder why a presumably hard-headed American executive would authorise company time and money to be spent on such a project, even taking into account the dubious reason given, namely that any 'clues to the nature' of gravity should not be overlooked. The quality of reproduction of some of the annotations is poor, and the price of \$32.50 for the book, even considering its uniqueness, is exorbitant. The story told by the annotations is, of course, the main object of review, and this is, to say the least, bizarre. Once upon a time, (we are not told exactly when), obviously hundreds of thousands of years ago, there was a world-wide civilization on this planet which is referred to as 'Mu'. The three annotators, 'Mr. A', 'Mr. B' and 'Jemi', give us a tantalising glimpse of this culture and its destruction, due to the warring of the two races known as 'L-Ms' and 'S-Ms'. L-Ms evidently means Lemurian-Muaneans, and we are not told who the 'S' men are, except that they are hostile, egotistical and seemingly very much like human beings. The L-Ms, which also seems to mean 'little men', were busy constructing great megalithic monuments both above and underground when the S-Ms attacked, throwing great meteorites and heaven-knows-what at the Earth. Mu was destroyed, Atlantis sank, and the L-Ms had to beat a hasty retreat, only to return in force ages later, in the reign of Thutmose III who had the good fortune to witness this spectacular event as recorded in the oft-quoted papyrus describing that ruler's sighting. Various wars took place, great undersea cities were built, and at the end of the last century a truce was concluded between the warring factions. Explanations are given regarding various Fortean phenomena, including vanishing people, ships and planes, and much pseudo-scientific theory is expounded using such terms as 'force-fields', 'nodes', 'vortices', 'magnetic nets' and much more. The three men evidently claim to be Gypsies, and some of the annotations are in a language which presumably is a Romany dialect. These particular annotations seem to have a slightly Slavic air. Various researchers have suggested that this book was the work of U.S. Government agencies, and if so it must rank as the most original piece of disinformation ever. The three men should, I feel, have gone into SCI-FI, since the story they tell is on a par with 'Star Wars' and certainly puts the Janos story to shame, since the L-Ms, living half their lives in water, and communicating by telepathy, are infinitely more interesting than the blonde, blue-eyed, sanitized Janos Aryans. My conclusion must be

that all this 'story' is, of course, absolute garbage, an amalgum of Churchward, Shaver, Bellamy and others. I doubt that any culture's records would be so precise as to explain a sighting over Rome in 106 BC as an S-M ship in difficulty, or many of the other phenomena the annotators 'explain'. As for people who vanish, the Lang case has been exposed to the satisfaction of serious researchers for a start. All in all this is a fascinating book occupying an unique place in UFO lore. Get it if you can afford it for its uniqueness, its wierdness, and its originality. Read it along with Bruce Cathie's books and become paranoid. Finally, if you don't want to be kidnapped and go live with the L-Ms in the 'Stasis Neutral', or on their 'Great Ark', either wear hob-nailed boots or cleats in your shoes, or be permanently inebriated, since your breath will kill the little perishers! G.B.

DOOMSDAY 1999 A.D. by Charles Berlitz. Souvenir Press. 226 pages, £6.95.

Another book to brighten your day! Why is it so many people are writing about the inevitable destruction of the Earth and all life on it? There must be a good market for this topic, because there are so many books and other writings about how man, or some other catastrophe, will eventually wipe out the Earth's existence. DOOMSDAY 1999 A.D. will probably sell well, not because it is a literal masterpiece (which it isn't), or because it tells us anything really knew (which it again doesn't), but Berlitz's popularity will guarantee it a best-seller. It has already been sold for paperback publication. However, about the book content, Charles Berlitz looks at ancient writings, customs and beliefs, and many of these do predict the end of humanity at the end of this century. He has used beliefs from Hindu, Islamic and Hopi origin, Buddhist tradition, The Bible, Nostradamus and many other sources, who in one way or another, cannot foresee man surviving past the year 2,000. Of course, the method in which the Earth meets this destruction is still under consideration, as overpopulation, poisoning of the air and water, nuclear holocaust, and planetary alignments are all prime candidates. To be fair, Berlitz has carried out a lengthy research programme, and I am not in a position to verify his facts and findings. DOOMSDAY 1999 A.D. is not all doom and destruction though, as Berlitz offers man a chance of survival providing we use our knowledge, reason, cooperation and compassion to avoid it all. This cannot be denied, but some of you may think you've read all this before, and will wonder what is actually being sold - the work or the author? On the cover of the book, the words CHARLES BERLITZ are much larger and colourful than the title. I.M.

HAUNTED WARWICKSHIRE by Meg Elizabeth Atkins. Robert Hale. 189 pages, Illus. £8.95. An excellent book light reading of the ghostly happenings of Warwickshire. I do not know the small towns and villages listed, but you can still identify them with local places and perhaps picture the spooky events that are retold in fine style. HAUNTED WARWICKSHIRE does not have chapters; instead it tackles each village or town as it comes in alphabetical order, and describes all the apparitions and hauntings that have apparently happened throughout history. The book is well illustrated with many photographs of the haunted castles, churchyards, houses and other sites, one or two of the castles photographed spookily perhaps to produce that extra atmosphere? Page 22 carries a short piece under the largely printed IMPORTANT, which quite rightly points out that many of the haunted venues are private, and not to be swarmed upon by hoardes of hopeful ghosthunters, and this does show thought, and perhaps many Warwickshire homeowners will be grateful for that. The ghosts are visitors enough thank you! I.M.

THIS HOUSE IS HAUNTED by Guy Lyon Playfair. Sphere Paperback. 275 pages. £1.50 Now available in paperback format, this book details the truly weird and wonderful experiences of an average Enfield family. Although details of this poltergeist case could become mundane to an outsider, I have no doubt that living through these experiences must, at times, be a trial to the whole household. The activity of a poltergeist is so varied and pointless that anyone involved in a case of this kind would obviously be confused at what is attempting to be achieved. This specific case was investigated with level-headedness and open minds, and it was made sure of that nothing was played up or heightened above proportion. As something happened it was analysed slowly and properly, which is important to bring out the true facts of a case. As I came to the end of the book I became slightly confused as to whether Janet Harper had

contracted 'Gilles de la Tourette's Syndrome' which caused all of the activity, or if there in fact was a 'genuine' poltergeist. Maybe I have missed the point and it is quite simple, but I still am not sure whether or not the case was truly solved. Other than this, I found it a mind-boggling and interesting book. J.M.

ROUND-UP. Sphere Books also publish three more titles that may be of interest. First, there is an offering from Fred Hoyle and N.C. Wickramasinghe entitled DISEASES FROM SPACE (Science £1.50) which, in a nutshell, puts forward a case that bacteria and viruses that cause diseases arrive on our planet from space. This theory is in line with their previous book, LIFECLOUD, which argued that life reached Earth initially from outer space, and since bacteria are living micro-organisms, it stands to reason that diseases should also follow suit. Their theories are backed up by charts and graphs, and there are some fairly technical diagrams to comprehend; perhaps a book more for the scientifically minded. On the other hand, to get back to same old routine we have some more Ancient Astronauts material. The first of two books by Robert Charroux just out, MASTERS OF THE WORLD (Cosmology £1.25) offers us more 'proof' that spacecraft arrived on Earth thousands of years ago. It is illustrated with photographs of Troano Manuscripts, and Charroux manages to 'see' astronauts, flying machines and other assorted gadgets. Plate 6 is supposed to show a person resembling an astronaut holding onto a bag of provisions - it looks more like a masked musician holding onto a trombone. And on plate 6 again, Charroux does not know his left from his right. You can see just what you like in those old carvings and pictures, and I find it difficult to accept them as evidence, just as the rest of the book. Others, with different viewpoints may find MASTERS OF THE WORLD of great interest. Again, in ONE HUNDRED THOUSAND YEARS OF MAN'S UNKNOWN HISTORY (Cosmology/Non Fiction £1.50) we are treated to more 'proof' that there were civilizations before ours - before the deluge. Some readers will enjoy this stuff, but once again we are told of an atomic war, cave-men making glass, and Venusian settlement at Tiahuanaco in the Andes. This very same city has, according to two other authors, housed a colony from the Moon, and the Atlantian race, so I suppose the Venusians were next. Controversial, but again nothing new. I.M.

SGI-FI SPOT

PANTHER SCIENCE FICTION release four books worthy of a mention. First, THE LEFT HAND OF DARKNESS by Ursula K. Le Guin, is an excellent well-thought-out book, and follows the fortunes of an Envoy of the Ekumen (an alliance of 83 planets) to the planet Winter. The object of the envoy's visit is to persuade the peoples of Winter to join the Ekumen for mutual trading and cultural benefits. Winter is so named because even in summer, conditions are sub-arctic. This, together with the fact that its inhabitants are all the same sex except for one week in four of their individual cycles, means the envoy's task is not as simple as it may look. THE VERY SLOW TIME MACHINE by Ian Watson, is a collection of short stories, some of which could easily be classified as horror science fiction. 'Thy Blood Like Milk' in particular is not for the squeamish. GALAXIES LIKE GRAINS OF SAND by Brian Aldiss, by way of a series of short stories, covers mankind's next 40 million years, ending with the final dissolution of the Galaxy as told in the 'Ultimate Millennia'. As one would expect from Brian Aldiss, this is a well-written and interesting story. Finally, in EARTHWORKS, Brian Aldiss tells how the Earth has suffered gross environmental pollution. Natural resources are rapidly being exhausted and the steadily growing population is slowly heading for starvation. The only solution, according to one religious cult, is a nuclear war to 'cleanse' the world. Knowle Noland, ex-convict and now Captain of the 'Trieste Star', unwillingly finds himself as the instrument to be used to start the war.

SIGNALS

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Editor,

I am a longstanding member of UFOSIS and a strong supporter of affiliations of groups such as MAUFOG. This does not mean that I am able to devote a lot of time to the network, as I would like to do but just that I do as much as I can. (Which isn't much at the moment). I have read several copies of The PROBE REPORT however, which I regard as one of the best magazines around at this time, so I would like to comment on your editorial, "What's in a Network?" You say that MAUFOG never seemed to function properly because the member groups did not co-operate. I think that there were several reasons for this seemingly lack of interest.

- 1) The rotating chair principle made communication difficult if ever a break occurred.
- 2) The places at which the MAUFOG meetings were held were not always accessible to groups with a lack of resources.
- 3) Some of the groups concerned had difficulties with internal communications for various reasons.
- 4) Communication from MAUFOG to the groups was often not as good as it should have been.

To my way of thinking, which I hope is positive, there should have been an ongoing process of improvement in the above and other respects in an effort to reach as close to an ideal situation as human frailties would allow. Instant co-operation cannot be obtained in any group. It has to grow along with mutual trust, understanding and tolerance. Any group is a mixture of people with a dedicated nucleus surrounded by inertia. Neither UFOSIS nor MAUFOG should be expected to be otherwise. Indeed, but for the dedicated few in UFOSIS we would not have joined MAUFOG at all. Our reason for doing so was to help in creating some kind of organisation in the south of the UK which could work with NUFON, the northern network. I feel that this must still be achieved if real investigation into the UFO phenomenon is to take place. Maybe we will eventually have five linked networks. (Scotland, Wales, Northern and Southern England and the South West).

UFOSIS has tried to maintain a correspondence link with MAUFOG but, because of internal problems, we have not been very successful. We have only attended one meeting too, at the closest venue to us which was Bristol, for the same reasons. (We also missed sending in one progress report). To get back to your editorial, you say that negatively orientated groups ignored the ideas put forward by MAUFOG and were never present at meetings to answer for themselves. That is a fact and cannot be disputed, but to resign because of it shows purely negative thinking, unless every other action has been tried first. (If the strong links are removed from a chain it is rendered useless). An alternative action would have been to expel the unco-operative groups, but a better one, in my opinion, would have been to try and strengthen the weak links by showing them what co-operation really means.

I agree entirely with your second paragraph, which describes an ideal situation and states that most groups, if not all, fall short of this. If, however, the dedicated do not show the way to the apathetic, no progress will be made at all. I personally do not agree that the future lies in a new network for the reasons outlined above. I had hoped as I said at the Birmingham meeting of NUFON-MAUFOG, that MAUFOG would gradually evolve a working partnership with NUFON, but this seems not to be. The die has been cast and several excellent groups have resigned. We, UFOSIS, have received no correspondence from SCUFORI giving a clear picture of what has taken place so we can only assume that MAUFOG is now defunct. All that we can do now is to maintain contact with as many groups as possible, and to this end we will be electing one of our members to do this. If you, as editor, would care to put these comments in The PROBE REPORT, I would only be too pleased to answer all correspondence which I might receive as a result.

Yours sincerely, Eric W. Westley, 10 Alexander Road, Acocks Green, Birmingham.

(I could probably use the next couple of pages in reply to your letter, but I will make only a few choice remarks. I hope other groups involved with MAUFOG's birth

and who were there at the end will take up your offer and reply, perhaps through this column. Anyway, to make a few comments, I will start with your points 3 and 4. MAUFOG made one of its aims to be an organisation that would help groups with problems. Sadly, those with the problems always kept quiet and only made matters that much worse. Also, MAUFOG was the groups: to say that communication from MAUFOG to the groups lacked, does not make sense. Newsheets were always sent to every group - unfortunately not every group sent in progress reports. I appreciate that not every group could attend meetings but they were always encouraged to send their comments in their absence, and this rarely happened. For the record Eric, you never attended a Bristol meeting - it was the Swindon venue on 25th April 1981, that UFOSIS were present. Finally, we did not resign just through groups not attending and choosing to ignore ideas: no, there was much more to it than that. Our resignation was the culmination of nearly two years of frustration from groups paying lip-service to suggestions, ideas and agreements, and that because very few groups offered to host meetings it became more of a financial burden on too few of us. This burden far outweighed any bonuses that MAUFOG achieved over the last few months of its life. And with regards to SCUFORI contacting groups, this was done via the minutes of the Bristol meeting on 8th August 1981 - paragraph 6).

Dear Sir,

Recently I read a copy of your PROBE REPORT Vol 2, No 2, September 1981. The one thing in your REPORT that interested me particularly was the 'David Kiapowski' incident on Wednesday 23rd August 1978 - 'An Interesting Light in the Sky' by Mark A. Tyrrell. Have you any further information on this case, as your report only scratched the surface. All the things I would have wanted to know, you overlooked! From a personal experience with a similar light, some years previous, I was curious why David Kiapowski found himself looking round at the trees and things? Normally, when you are cycling in the dark, your eyes are on the road and the only reason you look around you is through a sense of another's presence! The light in the sky that D.K. was drawn to! If I knew some more about the sensitive side of D.K. I might be able to tell you what it was all about. If it is, or was, what I think - it is out of this world!

Yours sincerely,

Richard Horner, Rye, East Sussex.

(Mark A. Tyrrell replies: First of all I am glad that I have had some feedback from an article of mine, thank you Mr. Horner. With all due respect I must say that you seem to be looking for confirmation of some personal belief in whatever way you can. During the 1978 period the Kiapowski report was one of my better investigated cases. You say I only scratched the surface - what foolishness. There was nothing in the report to warrant any further investigation, or do you feel I do not ask the right leading questions? Kiapowski was drawn to the light, but only in a visual sense. As for him looking around the area instead of keeping his eyes on the road, then as now I do not find this in any way unusual. The witness had only seen the CELLK film a few days before; his brother had an interest in UFOs; it was still a time of heavy UFO reporting by the public; the road was empty and the age of the witness was then twelve. The lad had gone down that particular road to test the new lights on his bicycle and was probably fatigued after a bout of swimming. Because of these factors and those outlined above, he may have been looking for a UFO anyway, although this was never admitted at the time. 'All the things I would have wanted to know' you say, but at what expense? Ufology has no room for dreamers and romanticists. As an aspect of human experience the UFO phenomenon is unique in its own way, but it is not as mysterious as some would have us believe. If the witness was 'drawn' to the UFO, that would be no more indicative of some psychic interface than when people claim to know when the telephone or doorbell are just about to ring.)

Dear Ian,

Many thanks for The PROBE REPORT - I'm glad that you are one of the groups who produce magazines, though I appreciate the arguments for those who don't. You certainly have

(Continued on inside cover)

ASSAP & UFO INVESTIGATION IN BRITAIN

Though ASSAP has sought to state its aims clearly and unambiguously, some doubts seemingly persist. I trust the following statement will resolve any misunderstandings.

1. ASSAP was not created, and does not intend, to replace, compete with, or take over any existing groups or organisations.

* ASSAP has no intention of interfering with the autonomy of existing groups or organisations.

* ASSAP does not presume to dictate methodology, enforce procedure, or in any way direct existing investigative efforts.

2. However, ASSAP deplores certain aspects of the prevailing state of affairs in UFO investigation in the UK, such as:

* duplication of effort between groups

* rivalry, amounting at times to downright hostility, between groups

* reluctance to share information

* lack of communication due to absence of overall national structure.

It can be fairly said that the controversy attending such cases as Livingston, Llanerchymedd and the Janos affair might have been avoided had investigation in the UK been in a healthier state.

3. ASSAP believes there is a role to be played by a national organisation which

* by the fact that it is not associated with any existing group, is totally neutral

* by the fact that it has no pre-set views, is totally objective

* by its declared aims, is committed to the scientific approach.

Such a role is one of co-ordination and correlation, comprising, inter alia:

* establishing an overall communications system to link existing groups

* providing a forum for groups to discuss aims and methods

* providing a central liaison link with the media and other external parties

* establishing an overall credibility for British ufology which no individual group is likely to achieve.

In addition, such an organisation could make available, inter alia:

* interdisciplinary expertise with consultancy on matters ranging from astronomical anomalies to poltergeist phenomena

* access to technical facilities such as photograph evaluation, soil testing &c, beyond the means of smaller groups

* access to national records and information data base

* opportunity to participate in national functions and receive assistance for local functions.

Not all groups will wish for all these facilities, but it is probable that many which have collapsed might have survived had they had the support which affiliation to a national organisation would have provided.

4. Finally, it must be clearly understood that ASSAP IS NOT A SOCIETY, IT IS AN

ASSOCIATION. Its members are not newcomers, invading the scene, but members of existing groups who are already part of that scene. They have created ASSAP because they believe the study of anomalous phenomena urgently needs the firmer discipline, the fuller co-operation, the wider information-sharing, the greater acceptance of scientific standards, that a national association can bring about. I do not see how any ufologist, who places the search for truth above personal interests, can refute this logic; I do not see how any group or individual can fail to see that they have everything to gain, and nothing whatsoever to lose, by supporting ASSAP's initiative.

**CASE
CLOSED**

This issue features another case from the files of SCUFORI, (Swindon Centre for UFO Research and Investigation) in which a rapid succession of varying light sources resulted in a classic case of misidentification.

A TRIO OF LIGHT SOURCES

SCUFORI Report No. 81/011.
Written by Marty Moffatt.

Abstract

This report involves the sighting of three different types of light source in a field on the north-eastern outskirts of Highworth, near Swindon, during the second week of May 1981. The incident took place in the early hours of the morning, and there was one witness.

Date of sighting: 11th May 1981.

Time of sighting: 0100 hrs BST (1.00am) approx.

Location of sighting: The sighting was made from the bedroom of a house in Edencroft, Haresfield, Highworth.

Evaluation: Optical misinterpretation of various lights caused by a farm vehicle with misaligned headlights.

The Event

On Monday 11th May 1981, at about 1 am, Mrs. Scott rose from her bed and went to look out of her bedroom window - this apparently is something she does quite regularly. As she drew back the curtains she saw a light travelling across the sky in a northerly direction. The light, which she described as being 'yellow... shaped like half of a plane', took about three seconds to travel across her field view out of sight.

Immediately afterwards, Mrs. Scott noticed in a field, in the direction from which this light had come and apparently about a quarter of a mile away, three petal shaped lights. Each of these appeared to be four separate lights which were collected together like this: ☼. They remained stationary for six or seven minutes, and were seen to be behind a hedge in the field. The lights eventually disappeared.

At the same time, Mrs. Scott saw what looked like a searchlight, which seemed to be moving between the three petal shaped lights, and was in the same field.

After watching for a while, Mrs. Scott went back to sleep. The total duration of the sighting was about ten minutes. Later the next day the witness reported the sighting to Terence Amey, a SCUFORI official who lives in the immediate locality.

The Investigation

Mrs. Scott contacted SCUFORI investigator Terry Amey (TA) on 12th May 1981, the day after the sighting. TA immediately got the witness to complete an initial report form (RS1) and gained an impression of the event. Later that day, TA and Martin Shipp (MS), another SCUFORI investigator, decided that the sighting was of sufficient interest to merit a cursory visit to the area over which it apparently took place. As the land was private, the investigators made prior arrangements with the landowner, and a more thorough check was made on the following day.

During this second visit a map was marked showing the trajectory and position of the light sources according to Mrs. Scott's report. Several strange ground marks were noted in a field that was in the direction of the sighting. TA then telephoned the landowner, Mr. Hares, and asked if poachers could have been responsible for the lights. Mr. Hares said he would check this out, but the following day (14th May), when TA rang him again, he said he could find no trace that poachers had been in his fields, which normally contained cows.

**CASE
CLOSED**

That evening MS took four photographs from the position of Mrs. Scott during the sighting, using a Poloroid 1000 Land camera, and these were immediately shown to her, who then drew on them the positions and movements of the light sources. Two photos were also taken of the ground marks.

As most of the light sources had appeared to be located on the ground, TA and MS paid a visit to the landowner of the field in which the marks were found. The farmer stated that some farmhands and himself had been rounding up cows in the vicinity of the sighting at the appropriate time, using a landrover with a damaged front wing. This provided a possible explanation for the lights on the ground, but still left the initial aerial light seen by Mrs. Scott to be explained.

Because in the direction of the sighting it was known that the lights of VC10 aircraft can often be seen approaching the RAF base at Brize Norton, Oxon., TA wrote to them asking for details of any aircraft activity at the time of the sighting. The Meteorological Office at Brize Norton was also contacted for weather conditions. The Met. Office replied immediately, but it was not until two weeks later that a negative reply was received regarding aircraft activity.

On 19th May 1981, TA and MS visited a local optician to enquire about possible optical effects which could have been caused by the various conditions present. All the available information was then analysed and the report concluded.

The Location

The sighting was made from a downstairs flat of two in Edencroft, situated on the north-east side of Highworth. From the window, which is about 5 feet by 3 feet, there is an uninterrupted view looking out onto some fields and the countryside beyond. Running parallel to the window is an access road lit by orange streetlights. One streetlight was in the field of view of the witness, but this was not working at the time. Not far beyond the road are some overhead electricity cables (33KVA) also running parallel to the window.

The Witness

Mrs. Scott is aged 58 and lives on her own. She is of average intelligence and is interested in paranormal phenomena. She normally wears bifocal spectacles, but was not wearing at the time. It seems highly improbable that she was the instigator of a hoax, and she appeared genuinely puzzled by what she had observed.

Evaluation and Conclusions

It is the considered opinion of the two SCUFORI investigators that the witness is a sane and rational person. No reason could be found for her to want to invent the report or elaborate on the observations made. It is highly likely, therefore, that Mrs. Scott did see these lights in the early morning of 11th May. The following conclusions have been proposed and accepted by the SCUFORI team as an explanation for the observations of the witness.

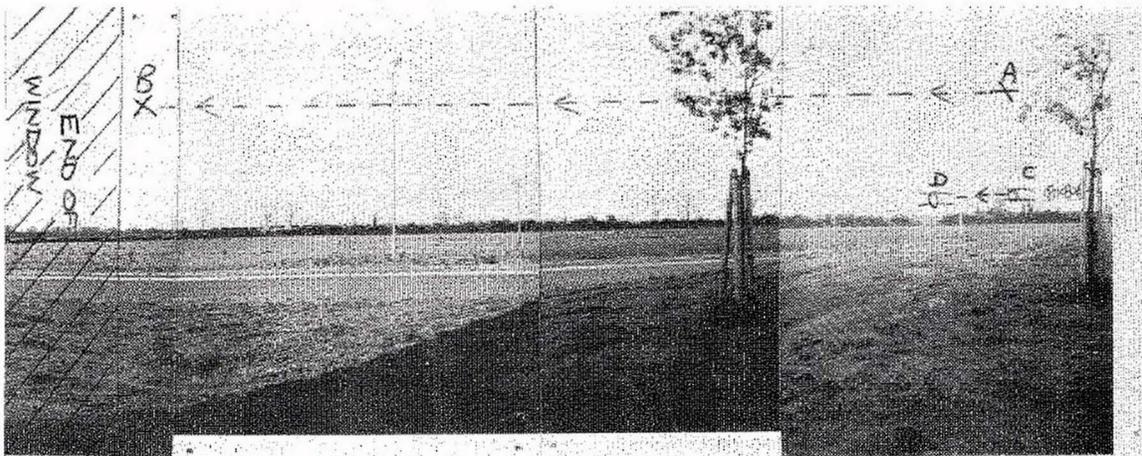
On the same morning that the lights were seen, several farmhands, walking and using a battered old landrover, were in a field rounding up a herd of cows, something they often do at this time, as during the rest of the day they are too busy. This field was the same one in which the witness reported seeing the lights. It is this activity of rounding up cows which SCUFORI believes was responsible for each of the lights seen.

1) The first light seen was described as "a yellow light shaped like half a plane (long and thin)... it moved from right to left at the speed of a light aircraft". As the witness has no knowledge of the speed of a light aircraft this statement could not be taken at face value. From an on-site reconstruction of the event it was estimated that

**CASE
CLOSED**

the light took about three seconds to travel an angular span of 90° , which is rather fast for any aircraft!

It was first thought that an aircraft was indeed responsible for this part of the sighting, as it is in the direction of the approach route for aircraft landing at RAF Brize Norton. However, a much more likely explanation comes not from the air but from the ground. As already stated, a landrover was being used to round up a herd of cows. This landrover is only driven on private land, and therefore does not have to comply with MCT regulations. The front headlight on the passenger side is totally out of line due to collision damage. In fact, it points up into the air at an angle of about 30° . It is believed that the witness saw the light beam from this misaligned headlight sweep across the electrical wires which run parallel to her window 150 metres away, as the vehicle turned around. These wires, although slightly lower than the light was reported to have been seen, travel in the same direction. Another point to note is that the landrover was to the right of the witness, with the wires to the left of it, and so the headlight would move across the wires from right to left, much as the witness described.



Photographs of the view seen from the window. (annotated by witness)

- i) Dotted line shows the trajectory of the first light seen. This light too approx. 3 seconds to travel from point A to point B.
- ii) The 'searchlight' moved between the petal-shaped lights. It took 6 - 7 minutes to move from point C to point D. It later transpired that this light originated from below the hedges and not above them as shown.
- iii) Petal-shaped lights that were seen stationary for 5 - 6 minutes, again were seen below and behind the hedge.

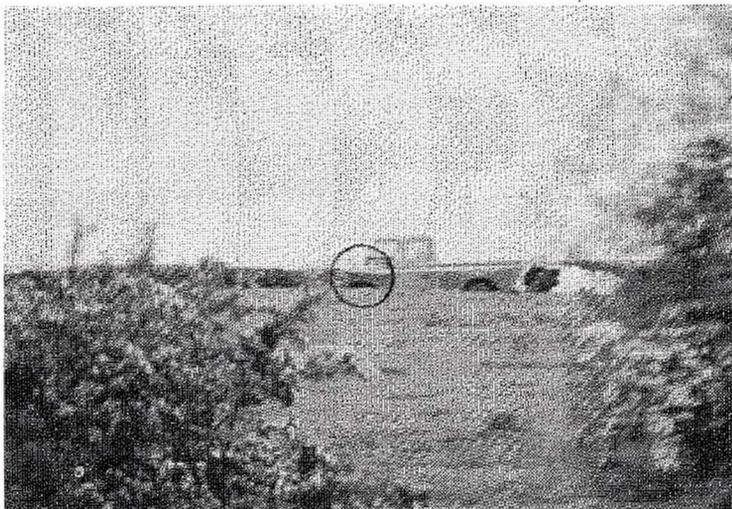
NB. Please note the position and line of the electric pylon wires.

- 2) The second set of lights seen were both the petal-shaped lights and the searchlight.
 - a) The searchlight. This was undoubtedly the misaligned headlight pointing up into the air. The owner of the vehicle, a Mrs. Birks, admitted that it does indeed look like a searchlight.

**CASE
CLOSED**

b) The petal-shaped lights. It is believed that these lights involved either the other headlight on the landrover and/or torches carried by the farmer and farmhands. The lights were seen from behind a hedge and so would have appeared as close grouped multiple spots of light when broken up by foliage. The witness, who normally wears spectacles, was not wearing them at the time, and according to a local optician the spots of light seen at a distance under these conditions would be blurred and appear as overlapping blobs of light. This would have been aggravated still further by condensation on the window caused by a drop in the temperature outside the bedroom.

3) The marks on the ground were probably caused by some farm implement or vehicle and had nothing to do with the sighting, although had the sighting not been identified they could very easily have been incorrectly linked with the report, creating all sorts of false leads and conjuring up images of Close Encounters etc., etc.



The landrover. The farmer of the land in which the cows were being herded, although helpful when asked questions, did not offer to let the investigators see the landrover at close quarters. Therefore this photograph was taken at some distance using a 600mm lens. Despite this handicap, the front wing on the passenger side clearly shows damage which has resulted in the headlight being out of line.

Summary

From the evidence available it can be stated with reasonable certainty that the lights seen all originated from the activity of farmhands rounding up cows, and that the very poor observing conditions made the sighting appear more unusual than it would otherwise have been. This report must therefore be classified as IDENTIFIED, with the proviso that reassessment may be made if further information is presented.

EXPOSE

THE STORY BEHIND THREE CLASSIC UFO STORIES

Ian Ridpath is a journalist and broadcaster on astronomy and space. He is author of MESSAGES FROM THE STARS: COMMUNICATION AND CONTACT WITH EXTRA-TERRESTRIAL LIFE (Fontana, 1978).

Being a confirmed UFO skeptic doesn't stop me from collecting cuttings of newspaper stories which, if true, would totally overthrow my beliefs. I have two such cuttings beside me at present. One, from the Sunday Mirror of September 9th 1979, is headed: 'Moon Aliens - Riddle of two UFOs in crater as Apollo made historic landing.' The other, published in Reveille in July 1979, only a few weeks before its closure, is titled: 'Sensation in Space; Top scientist says: It's the discovery of the century - a damaged alien craft is orbiting the earth.'

Both stories have certain similarities. They both contain quotes from "top Soviet experts" Vladimir Azhazha and Sergei Bozhich. And they both originally appeared in the sensationalist American newspaper the National Enquirer, which is famous for its espousal of UFO and other paranormal stories. Indeed, many of the 'classic' UFO cases shot to prominence because of their treatment in the Enquirer. Perhaps most celebrated of all was the Travis Walton abduction case. In this article I want to look at some of the little-known background behind these stories.

The 'Moon Aliens' story is easily disposed of. It originates with Maurice Chatelain, author of 'Our Ancestors Came From Outer Space', a work in the style of Erich von Daniken. Azhazha and Bozhich are two Russian UFO enthusiasts who seem only too pleased to endorse any UFO story for the benefit of western newsmen. According to the story, Apollo 11's Moon landing was spied on by two alien spacecraft, which were seen and reported to Earth by the astronauts - but their transmissions were censored by NASA. Pictures of the UFOs taken by the astronauts were also covered up, the story alleges. In fact, the hordes of newsmen eavesdropping on every word from the Apollo astronauts noticed no suspicious gaps in their transmissions. Any gaps in the Apollo photographic record would also be conspicuous. But there are none - because the entire story is a fabrication. Azhazha and Bozhich read the story in Chatelain's book, but their quotes are often presented as independent confirmation of Chatelain's fantastic tale. Airbrush fakers have doctored certain Apollo pictures to show 'UFOs', but inspection of the originals reveals the hoax. There is certainly nothing in these tales of Moon aliens - nothing except cash for those out to fool the gullible.

The 'Alien Spacecraft in Orbit' story is altogether more interesting. According to Azhazha and Bozhich, ten fragments from a wrecked alien spacecraft are orbiting the Earth at a height of 1,200 miles. They say the craft broke up on December 18th, 1955. In addition to Azhazha and Bozhich, two other famous names from Soviet UFOlogy enter the scene: Alexander Kazantsev and Alexei Zolotov, both proponents of the idea that the enormous explosion over Siberia in 1908 was the crash-landing of a nuclear-powered spacecraft. (In fact, that explosion was almost certainly caused by the impact of a fragment from Encke's comet).

Kazantsev conjectured that the spaceship which purportedly broke up in orbit in 1955 'was at least 200 feet long and 100 feet wide, and had small domes housing telescopes, saucer antennae for communication, and portholes.' Not to be outdone, Zolotov added: 'We estimate the aliens' maximum height at nine feet. They could be as small as three feet.'

When I checked with professional satellite trackers I was quickly assured that any such objects would be tracked both by radar and visually, yet nothing answering that description had been seen. So where does the story come from? It seems to be based on a 10-year-old misunderstanding. In 1969 an American scientist, John Bagby, published a paper claiming that the Earth possessed 10 moonlets which formed when a parent body broke up on December 18th, 1955 - the same date given by Azhazha and Bozhich for the 'spacecraft explosion'.

Crucial to Bagby's case were sudden changes in the published orbits of certain Earth satellites, which he put down to near encounters between artificial satellites and his supposed moonlets. But Bagby's evidence was erroneous, as pointed out by a Belgian astronomer, Jean Meeus. In a withering criticism of what he termed 'Bagby's phantom moonlets', Meeus noted that the satellite data used by Bagby were at best approximate and at worst grossly in error so that the apparent orbital changes were illusory. 'The objects cited by Bagby do not exist,' concluded Meeus.

It seems that Azhazha and Bozhich swallowed Bagby's erroneous theory, added their own gloss of science fiction by imagining the objects to be of alien origin, and turned phantom moonlets into phantom spacecraft for the benefit of gullible western newsmen.

Readers who are used to accepting a skilfully crafted newspaper story as unchallengeable fact might be interested to know from the inside how one such story grew into an international sensation. Jeff Wells, an Australian journalist formerly employed by the National Enquirer, recently published an article in the Melbourne newspaper, The Age, about his involvement with the Travis Walton 'abduction' case of 1975. He was one of the Enquirer team sent to investigate the case, in which Travis Walton claimed to have been abducted for five days aboard a flying saucer. On his reappearance, Walton's brother had taken charge of affairs, while the local sheriff was calling the whole thing a hoax and tensions were growing.

Wells describes Walton's brother as 'one of the meanest and toughest-looking men I've ever seen... eyes full of nails, tense, unpredictable.' Walton, by contrast, was 'mute, pale, twitching like a cornered animal.' The Enquirer had called in James A. Harder, a University of California professor and a leading light of APRO, one of America's leading UFO organisations. Harder proved popular with the Walton brothers. 'You are not alone,' he told Travis. 'There are many people who have been chosen to meet them.' ('I began to wonder about the professor,' Wells confesses.)

In this air of understanding, Travis's brother told the professor about his own UFO encounter, being chased through the woods as a child by a flying saucer. Harder put Travis under hypnosis in an attempt to learn more about his alleged abduction. Reports Wells: 'Suddenly the strain began to tell on the kid and he lapsed into sobbing bouts. He was falling apart, and so was his story.' Things rapidly got worse when Travis was subjected to a lie-detector test. The examiner termed Travis's failure 'the plainest case of lying he'd seen in 20 years.' Two psychiatrists were called in to examine Travis. They concluded that Travis had seen some kind of light which triggered an hallucination. Evidently Travis's father, who had deserted him as a child, had been a spaceship fanatic and Travis had always wanted to ride on a spacecraft. (American UFO investigator Philip Klass has a blunter explanation: he considers the case to be a hoax staged for financial gain).

Wells sat down in disappointment to write a memo to his editors intended to 'kill' the story. 'It had been a lunatic experience from beginning to end,' he says. 'To this day the whole experience there remains in my memory as some kind of nightmare.'

But to his surprise, he found that the story, with the help of James Harder, made it on to the front page of the Enquirer. Later, a panel of UFO experts appointed by the Enquirer voted the Walton incident the top UFO case of 1975. At that time, neither the panel, the Enquirer's readers, nor APRO members had been told about the failed lie-detector test.

These three stories from the Enquirer share a common flaw: information crucial to a full appreciation of the case has been omitted. In each case, the missing information puts a completely new slant on the story, leading to a different interpretation from that contained in most UFO books and articles. How many more 'classic' UFO stories have another, unknown side to them?

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got a scoop in the debunking of the Roswell incident. It is a good thing that that has been explained. Berlitz didn't produce a very convincing case for that nor for the Philadelphia experiment, though I think there may be more validity in his Bermuda Triangle expositions. Isn't it funny, orthodox scientists resist any attempt to enquire into what could be designated paranormal; at the other end of the scale, the cultists guard von Daniken, Berlitz, etc, with equal ferocity. I'm all in favour of explaining the explainable, however disappointing the explanation may be; get rid of that so that we have a clearer view of what is truly inexplicable - yet.

Live long and prosper,

Magda Graham, OCCULT WORLD, 91 Lytham Road, Blackburn,
Lancs. BB2 3EB.

(Thank you for your kind comments, although I feel I should point out that no actual debunking of the Roswell incident was done. All that was exposed was one photograph that appeared in the ROSWELL INCIDENT book by Berlitz and Moore, and it never really had any connection with the main content of the book. Moreover, it was William L. Moore who was responsible for the publication of the photograph, and he has got very annoyed lately over Klaus Webner's writings, amounting to threats of libel action. So, not only are some people capable of writing poor books, they also react very strongly when their work is criticised! Ed)

Letters for publication are invited, so please put down any comments you have to make on paper and address them to The Editor, The PROBE REPORT, 16 Marigold Walk, Ashton, Bristol. BS3 2PD. The most interesting will be published.



MAGAZINE EXCHANGE ARRANGEMENTS:

Rather than publish the entire list of publications that The PROBE REPORT is exchanged for, space dictated that only the amendments to last issue's list will be featured.

Additions:

UK. Fortean Times, London WC1N 3XX.
Common Ground, 14 Northfold Road,
Knighton, Leicester.
EUFORA Bulletin, 16 Southway,
Burgess Hill, Sussex. RH15 9ST.

International.

Stigmata. U.S.A.
APRO Bulletin, U.S.A.
Guernsey UFO Research Group News Circ.
UFO News flash, Italy.

Deletions:

UK. BUFCRA Journal
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