

FINAL ISSUE

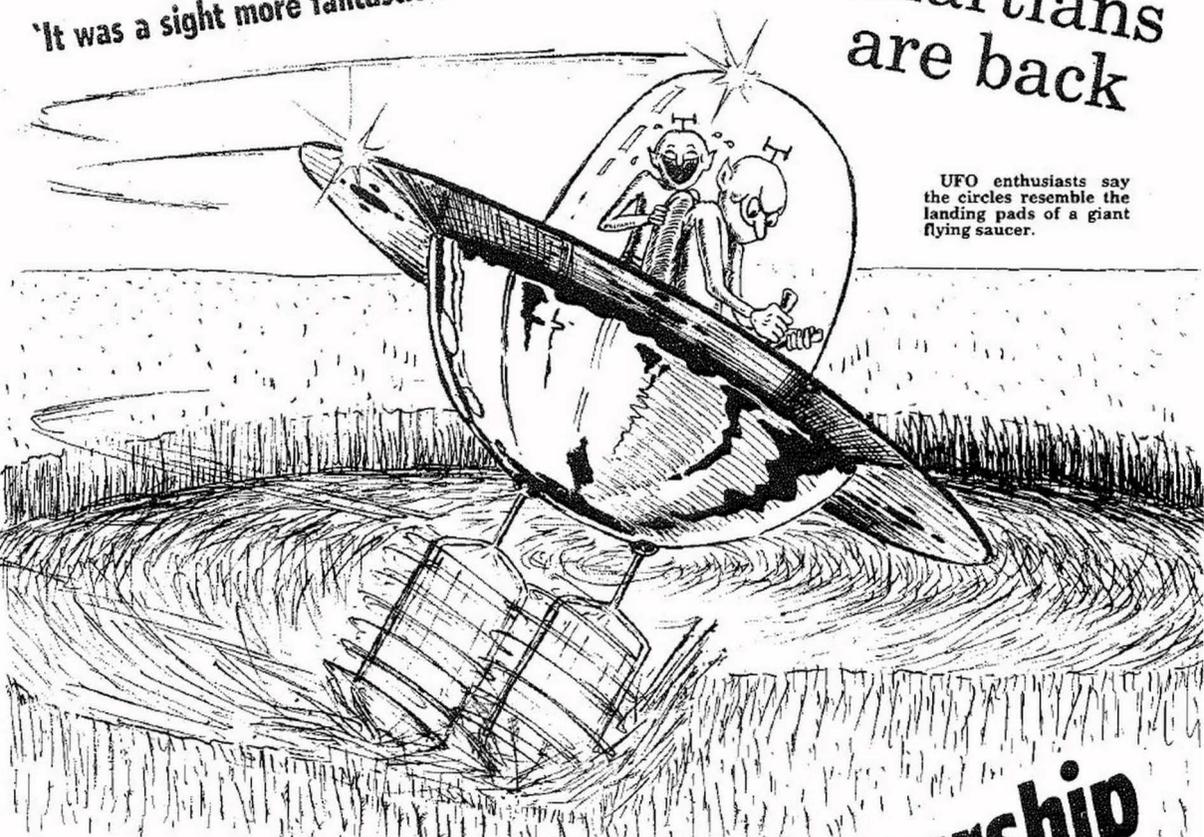
PROBE REPORT

JOURNAL OF UFO INVESTIGATION

'It was a sight more fantastic than anything in a movie'

Martians are back

UFO enthusiasts say the circles resemble the landing pads of a giant flying saucer.



THE TRAIL OF THE BIG 'UFO' MYSTERY

mark of a starship

"The next thing I knew these two — I hate to say it — these two little men were scurrying around near the ship."

I. MRZYKLOD

THE PROBE REPORT

THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF PROBE UFO INVESTIGATION ORGANISATION

Editor - Ian Mrzyglod

16 Marigold Walk,
Ashton,
Bristol BS3 2PD.
ENGLAND

Internation exchange address

8 Eden Grove,
Whitley,
Melksham,
Wiltshire SN12 8QJ.
ENGLAND.

COVER ILLUSTRATION: IAN MRZYGLOD

© PROBE 1983

Any unauthorised or uncredited reproduction of copyright material is unintentional and will be remedied by reference to the publisher.

BOOK SALE

PROBE have decided to sell a number of books that, with the closure of PROBE UFO Investigation Organisation, have become surplus to requirements. There are only single copies of each available.

FLYING SAUCER VIEWPOINT (Rex Dutta), Pelham, 1970, 1st Ed. Hardcover, with dustjacket. Very good condition, as new. 115 pages, illustrated with photographs. £2.50 + 50p p&p

BEYOND EARTH: MAN'S CONTACT WITH UFOS (Ralph & Judy Blum), Corgi, 1974, fair, 50p

UNIDENTIFIED FLYING OBJECTS (Robert Chapman), Mayflower, 1970. (Diff cover) good, 75p.

THE UFONAUTS (Hanz Holzer), Granada 1979, Mint, as new. £1.00

THE UFO EXPERIENCE (J. Allen Hynek), Corgi, 1974. Very good £1.00

UNINVITED VISITORS (Ivan T. Sanderson), Tandem, 1969. Fair, 75p.

INVISIBLE RESIDENTS (Ivan T. Sanderson), Tandem, 1970. Good, £1.00

UFOS? YES! (David R. Saunders & Roger Harkins), Signet 1968 (USA Ed). Good, £1.00

THE FLYING SAUCERERS (Arthur Shuttlewood), Sphere, 1976. Mint, as new. £1.00

UFO MAGIC IN MOTION (Arthur Shuttlewood), Sphere, 1979. Mint, as new. £1.00

STRANGERS FROM THE SKIES (Brad Steiger), Award Books, 1966 (USA). Fair, £1.00

THE SKY PEOPLE (Brinsley Le Poer Trench), Tandem, 1971. Mint, as new. £1.00

OPERATION EARTH (Brinsley Le Poer Trench), Tandem, 1974. Good, 75p.

THE FLYING SAUCER STORY (Brinsley Le Poer Trench), Tandem, 1973. Very good, £1.00

All are paperbacks except first item. Postage for each book is 32p, (50p for hardcover item), and all applications will be dealt with on a first-come, first-served basis. Apply to PROBE, 16 Marigold Walk, Ashton, Bristol BS3 2PD. Telephone reservations will be accepted, and books held for four days. Telephone (0272) 666270 after 6 pm.

THE PROBE REPORT

Volume 4, No 2. (ISSUE 14).

EDITORIAL

It seems an eternity ago when I first sat at a typewriter and began typing out my very first editorial. This, of course, was for 'PROBE' volume 1, number 1, (later changed to PROBE REPORT with the third issue), and it marked a very important stage in my UFO studies. Certainly very naive, and totally unaware of what was going on 'out there', it was undeniably a very exciting experience to be actually producing something that would be read and referred to by others. What was finally produced was an embarrassing magazine that thankfully was only printed in a small quantity (100 copies) and this issue has rightfully been forgotten. Yet it is now sought after by collectors, for no other reason than to complete the sets that began springing up as PROBE REPORT started to gain a little respect.

What is more, that ridiculous issue meant everything to the group at the time (then known as NUFOR(SOUTHWEST)), because it was believed that this was only the start, and that years later the group would be larger in number and publishing a journal that would be instructive, important, and circulated in thousands throughout the world. Not aware of financial positions in this subject, those dreams did not seem unreasonable. It was always thought that FLYING SAUCER REVIEW was distributed in umpteen thousands, and that the market was extremely healthy - and that people really wanted to know what was going on. Miles away from reality in fact, and a lesson that was to be learned every time the printing and postage bills had to be paid.

Where were all those people who read UFO books? Why were they not buying our magazines? Others appeared to be doing fine, so why couldn't we? Obviously, the situation was the same all over the country, and little PROBE magazine just happened on the scene at the wrong time. During our first years, several other magazines fell by the wayside, and at this present time, there is only a fraction of the number of magazines being published compared to what was around when we first started in June 1980.

During August, a copy of PROBE REPORT Volume 4, number 4 was returned through the post, with the stamp torn off of the plastic wrapping. The Post Office gave no reason for returning it, but it can only be surmised that perhaps when the stamp was torn off, the address was also torn off. (The stamp is usually adhered to the address label). The fact that it was mailed out in a plastic bag means that it was either sent to a subscriber, or to an exchange journal. Could anyone who did not receive the last issue please contact the editor as soon as possible while supplies of Volume 4, number 4 last.

On the brighter side, there are some journals that form a very positive contribution towards British UFO publishing tradition, and it would be an extremely sad blow to see them collapse as well. There has always been PSR, which although has suffered a decline over the last few years (and plummeted over the last few issues) nevertheless still stands as one of the world's most respected UFO publications. It would be tragic if this magazine should ever collapse - as it would if NORTHERN UFO NEWS should stop publishing. Edited by Jenny Randles, it has recently reached issue 103, a fine achievement by any standards. MAGONIA, which if you add the issues published as MIPOB, has also succeeded in establishing its position in British ufology, recently reaching number 52.

Another plus is that EUPORA is aiming to improve the quality and content of its publications, with a greater emphasis being placed on the JOURNAL OF TRANSIENT AERIAL PHENOMENA, the respected research publication. The EUPORA BULLETIN is being upgraded from 1984, and EUPORA PROBE is set to make its debut appearance in January 1984. OSEAP JOURNAL, sadly diminished in its production quality when compared to its first issue, nevertheless is still aiming to present respectable material. Although controversial, perhaps far too controversial at times, I am sure that OSEAP do have ufology in their best interests. This is yet to emerge in their writings, it is fair to say, as most of their energies seem to be directed in criticisms of others. Yet, what they say does carry merit, and if the OSEAP team were more willing to co-operate with other UFO organisations, perhaps there would be very little to criticise if the combined efforts produced the desired results? It is no fun to continuously argue, as I myself have tired of this in UFO journals, probably arising after my upsetting so many people over the past three and a half years.

Looking around, there are also other UFO magazines that are dotted about the country, each doing their own thing, and trying to better themselves. Some are improving at a fast rate, and this must surely make the passing of PROBE REPORT a somewhat less important occasion. It will always remain important for me as editor though, because it will mean that my dream never did come true... but to those who helped make it partially come true, I thank you.

Speaking in an earlier passage of the quest for back issues of 'PROBE', the following advert has been sent for publication:

WANTED, PROBE Nos Vol 1, number 1 and 2, and PROBE REPORT Vol 1, number 4. Will pay £1 each. Telephone 0735 25560.

EXCHANGE PUBLICATIONS. This will continue with EUPORA PROBE, so please maintain previous agreements. Refer to the enclosed note.

CONTENTS

SIGNALS (Letters to the Editor).....	2
'TERRY'.....	3
DRIVING US ROUND IN CIRCLES (Ian Mrazgloed).....	4
UFO-CAR CHASE NEAR FROME (Martin Shipp - SCUFORI).....	11
REFLECTIONS ON THE YELLOW BRICK ROAD (Douglas Payne).....	14
IN SEARCH OF FAME AND FORTUNE (Jenny Randles).....	16
BOOK REVIEWS.....	19
PRINCIPLES AND PRACTICE IN THE PENNINES (Hilary Evans).....	20

SIGNALS

Letters to the Editors



Dear Editor,
Recently I have been receiving PROBE REPORT as part of my EUPORA subscription. Although the majority of its contents is of an excellent quality, I think I must point out that the SIGNALS page should have a change of name, ie THE BATTLEFIELD. All I seem to find under this particular heading are investigators and researchers condemning each others' work in a rather unprofessional manner. For example, in PR Vol 3, No 3 you have Bob Boyd's letter attacking PROBE REPORT's criticism of PUFORG's book, UFOs Over Plymouth and following that PROBE REPORT's criticism of PUFORG's attack (confusing?). Stewart Campbell is next, chastising Geoff Bird for his article on George Adamski. PR Vol 4, No 1; Brenda Butler up in arms about SCOURI's research into the Rendlesham case, then Martin Shipp's answer to Brenda's complaints and the 'Piece de Resistance' has got to be Anthony Face's unfounded and abusive letter, which I am sure was totally unnecessary.

Please do not think I am against constructive, intelligent criticism of each others' theories and their approaches to those theories. But we will never fixd out the true origin of UFOs if we keep on 'out-doing' each other. PROBE REPORT is not at fault for this situation, but it is the ufologists who participate in disrespectful attacks on each other that do great harm to this subject.

Yours sincerely,
M.R. WOOTEN,
EUPORA RIC, East Region,
Leyton,
London.

(I sympathise with you, and certainly agree with you that personalised attacks have no place in this subject - yet I feel that if someone sends in a letter in the vain of the Pace letter as published in PR 4/1, attacking what I do, I must let others see what is being said. But to agree with you, personal digs should never have to appear in print. On the other hand, strong criticism of new theories and hypotheses is essential to highlight flaws, if such flaws exist. That is constructive, and this ought to be appreciated by the proponent. One problem lies in the fact that certain people react too strongly to criticism, and take it as personal. Some people are almost passionately 'obsessed' with their pet theories that any attempt to query their work is seen as a character assassination. Another problem is that some others are just simply rude and narrow-minded. Also, it must be appreciated that nothing stimulates a reader into writing more than a good, old-fashioned argument. It does make interesting reading, and by writing, readers can let off steam in relative comfort. Argument is much more useful than oodles of praise in any case, and it is because of all these reasons that the nature of the SIGNALS column will probably never change. How can it when practically all the correspondence is generated by disagreement? And with that in mind, read on..... Ed)

Dear Sir,
Please allow me to reply to Paul Devereux's reaction to my review of EARTH LIGHTS.

1. I take it as a compliment to be accused of 'professional libel'; I had thought I was merely an amateur! However, there was no libel. That McCartney is an amateur does not mean that he is unqualified; it merely means that he is not a professional geologist (or geochemist), that he is not attached to any of Britain's academic institutions or geo-physical organisations.
2. I can hardly accept a statement that Jenny Sandles' forthcoming book supports Devereux's argument; my problem is that Devereux's own book does not support it!
3. My 'intellectual integrity' is doubted because I cannot see close correlations which Devereux can see. Correlations appear to be in the eye of the correlator, and one must ask whether Devereux has not deceived himself. It is not clear

to me that there is an 'obvious tectonic relationship with UFOs ...'

4. It does not matter whether Devereux made a major claim about stone circles and thunderstorms; he made a claim that there was a correlation. As for maps of thunderstorm activity, he should see BS CP 326:1965, a map from which was reproduced in my article 'A Natural Theory of UFOs' in J-TAP, 1(3) 59 (July/Aug 1980). It supports my criticism.
5. Megalithic sites cluster towards the NE and SW extremities of the Great Glen because it was a major access route, not because it forms an earth fault.
6. It is not I, but Devereux who is 'hopelessly out of order' on the matter of vitrified forts, and it illustrates his wilful disregard for facts. The test to which he refers was conducted by Dr Ian Ralston of the University of Aberdeen, and an account can be found in Bulletin of Experimental Archaeology (Univ. of Southampton) 4, 1983, 10-11. The structure was not a cairn; it was a detached sector of wall built according to the ancient pattern. The 'truck-loads of timber' were mostly fast-burning off-cuts, one of the prime functions of which was to dry out the wall, which had become very wet. The wall did not burn 'for days on end', although it might have done if it had not been prematurely demolished (after only 20 hours). The 'clinker' from the wall was identical to samples collected from vitrified fort sites, and some fragments are on show in Aberdeen. It appears that the 'archaeologist' quoted by Devereux is Arthur C Clarke, whose views on the matter are not shared by Dr Ralston. Ralston states that there is no mystery about the vitrified forts. If Devereux does not like being chased, then he should not run away from the facts.
7. I was not reviewing a 'review copy' of the book; the errors I listed appear in the copy held by The British Library!
8. Again Devereux refuses to face facts in the case of the Jennings 'ball lightning' photograph (reviewed in J-TAP 2(5) 88-89). His talk of lateral displacement and parallax is nonsense; there is no evidence that the camera and the light source were moving towards or away from one another. The lightning visible in the photograph is in the far distance, nowhere near the lamp standard. I did not claim that the photograph is a fake; I merely say that Jennings was mistaken. That BL really exists does not justify illustrating it with a photograph which does not show it.
9. Why would I mention black BL if I could not answer questions on it? Does Devereux think that I invented it? How is it that he is ignorant of this aerial phenomenon?
10. If my natural theory of UFOs is 'half-cooked', it will at least bring down some UFOs. I doubt that Devereux's dud theory (hardly a 'thesis') will bring down any!
11. Devereux makes the outrageous claim that 'NOBODY has proved anything about UFOs...!'. Many, including myself, have proved that some UFO reports are false, and that many others have commonplace explanations. I have shown that UFOs have much in common with BL. What has Devereux shown?
12. If there is any evidence that stressed rocks produce light (quite apart from piezoelectricity), then I have yet to see it.

Yours faithfully,
STEWART CAMPBELL,
Edinburgh.

Dear Editor,
We at UFO INTERNATIONAL have read with sorrow your decision to cease publication of PROBE REPORT and to stop activities as an investigative group. Of course, we have known of these impending moves and the reasons for them for some time, but to see them in print has an air of finality. Your editorial says it all; if the REPORT had been full of accounts of Dick Barton-type investigators chasing round the country in pursuit of elusive spacemen, and intrepidly thwarting the evil MIBs, then we have no doubt your sales figures would have been somewhat different. It is not only the public

that is not ready for responsible ufology; there are quite a few practitioners of the art who are in the same position. In our opinion, the financial position which has caused you to take this unfortunate step is an indictment of the state of ufology generally.

That you angered people by having a go at the 'true believers' of various kinds, indicates to us the exposure of their true nature; they were unable to defend their position by reasoned argument so they resorted to abuse or sulking... We too have experienced this reaction. We hope that you will be able to continue your ego-deflating activities in the future.

The latest issue of PROBE REPORT is well up to the usual standard, with plenty of ideas and controversy to make people use their grey matter - the only waste of space being Mr Pace's letter. We appreciate that you were honour-bound to print it, but what a pathetic mixture of childish pique and pomposity. Perhaps an example of one of the things wrong with peoples' attitudes in ufology. It looks as if PROBE REPORT is going to sink with flags flying and all guns firing, which is appropriate. We wish you all success with BUFORA PROBE and look forward to seeing it, guns, flags and all!

Yours,
PETER TATE,
Chairman, UFO INTERNATIONAL,
Kingswood,
Bristol.

(Many thanks for your sentiments, although as I sit here typing out the very last pages of PROBE REPORT, I see no signs of any flags or guns... more like a white handkerchief being waved on the end of a stick, and a spent pop-gun. Looking at the shelves and seeing the first issues standing there, it certainly brings back the memories of how we intended to one day reach 100 issues, and be the best in our field. It merely seems so pointless at the moment. Still, as you say, BUFORA PROBE is only around the corner, and I too wish for every success with it. PROBE will officially dissolve as an active group from October 1983, but we will certainly all get back together for projects (writing or practical) such as during the 1984 Summer months when we shall be very busy (see the Mystery Circles article, DRIVING US ROUND IN CIRCLES elsewhere in this issue). So there are certainly many things to look forward to. Ed)

In winding up the PROBE UFO Investigation Group operations, it was felt that publishing a couple of candid shots of a long-standing team member would not go amiss. Your editor knows that there are more important things that could be published, but so what... Terry will probably be best remembered for his "SKIWATCH PAGE" that graced some earlier issues of PROBE REPORT, and it is known that many people obtained enjoyment from his antics on those cold Warrminster hilltops.

So, unashamedly, here are two favourite shots of Terry Chivers from the PROBE archives.



One of the favourites, taken at Stroud during an investigation into a series of reported UFOs seen over several weeks. Nothing more can be said, except for the caption...

'Terry Chivers enters a field to speak to the only witnesses who were present at the time of the sighting. The witnesses look on with apprehension.'

Dear Editor,
Yes - I do know the full title of your excellent journal: see my reference to PROBE REPORT at the beginning of my letter (PR Vol 4, No 1). However, there are nearly a dozen mentions of PROBE on its own on the very cover!

Jenny Randles (PR Vol 4, No 1, page 4 f) and I seem to be largely in agreement in our approach to the UFO syndrome. Sorry if I have not yet solved the enigma, but I am working at it. I provisionally accept the *bona fides* of 'Mr Price'. What we have to ask ourselves is whether his evidence is (a) of a high level of reliability (My reference to his "data" should read "date"); (b) one of collective percipience; (c) supported by relevant, independent data, such as physical traces? It is not. It therefore seems reasonable to classify this case as one of percipient-mediated (1) apparition of a subjective, delusional or hallucinatory kind. Such terms relate to straightforward psychology with nothing "exotic" ("strange"; "bizarre"; OED) about them.

As for Jenny's alleged coalman, perhaps he ought to be reported to Tony Pace: I should be most apprehensive about a man of dark appearance who makes erratic weekly calls without apparently transacting any real business.

Yours sincerely,
MANFRED CASSIRER,
London.

- (1) Jenny is not alone in going in for neologisms; I prefer mine to "percipient-dependent" (Schoenherr in UPIAR, Vol IV, No 1.114).

CORRESPONDENCE is welcomed in response to this, or any of the previous issues of PROBE REPORT. As this is the last SIGNALS column to ever see light of day, please address your comments to the editor, IAN MRZYGLOD, 16 Marigold Walk, Ashton, BRISTOL BS3 2PD, ENGLAND. By then, hopefully a new letters page title should be in operation. Letters of comment on this issue will appear in the first BUFORA PROBE in January 1984.

TERRY



After the very first UFO Exhibition held at the Rachel Fowler Centre in Melksham, Wiltshire, all the sweeping-up chores were left to good old Terry. Whilst everyone else was sat back, congratulating each other on a successful exhibition, Terry was hard at work. When he noticed the lack of motion in our corner, he started to say something to all concerned... something like, "My, aren't you a dashed lazy lot, Garry me, but! tut!" Of course, from the expression captured on his face, one could be understood for mistaking what he said for something a little more severe.

DRIVING US ROUND IN CIRCLES

IAN MRZYGLOD

Much as it has been against this author's better intentions, it has been decided that a review of the recent 'mystery circles in the cornfields' situation be carried in these pages. The reluctance stems from two reasons:

- a) that sufficient coverage has already been given to the circles in PROBE REPORT and elsewhere since 1980 (1), and
- b) articles on cornfield circles in a UFO journal can or could create a link between the circles and UFOs, whereas it is certain that none exists.

However, this years' appearances have had a significant bearing on the course of PROBE's annual research, and many interesting aspects of the whole circle saga have come to PROBE's attention. Initially, this year saw the appearance of formations of five circles set in almost perfect geometric arrangement. Secondly, obviously because of the novelty of the patterns, the press and TV became interested and widely covered them; the DAILY EXPRESS leading the race for the most outrageous campaign (2). The UFO connection was strongly emphasised throughout the media coverage, and "UFO spotters" and "UFO experts" were often quoted as supporting the UFO theory. Ken Rogers, founder of EMPOG (and still planting EMPOG after his name when quoted in the press) even went to the extremes of predicting increased UFO activity over the August bank holiday weekend, no doubt intended to publicise his annual Warminster Skywatch Festival (3). But the third, most significant factor to emerge from this was the total ignorance shown by many apparently experienced UFO investigators.

Referring to point (a) above, it is not unreasonable to have assumed that these investigators (allegedly keen enough on their subject to have familiarised themselves with up-to-date investigation and research) would at least have been aware that such circles were regularly appearing in westcountry cornfields. Yet many were astounded by comments made by Jenny Randles in the national press (4) where she referred to the whirlwind theory that offered seemingly reasonable explanations for the circles' appearances. These statements to the press were met with a certain amount of hostility from investigators and a very strong reluctance to accept the whirlwind theory was evident (5). This did not stem out of informed theories on meteorological anomalies, but a preference for exotic UFO encounters.

Fourthly, and equally significant to the circle saga, this article is appearing to report on the latest findings (which are extremely vital to the structure of the whole whirlwind theory) and as a service to new readers and long-standing readers who may wish to know what was actually occurring in between the professional journalism that distorted the events beyond proportion. It might also be added that any failure by PROBE REPORT to mention the circles, especially as they are virtually on our back door, could be seen by some as another UFO cover-up - and we don't ever wish to become involved with anything like that!

1983 - A Good Harvest

Practically the whole nation became aware that something odd had happened in a cornfield beneath the Westbury White Horse on the Westbury/Bratton road, the B3096 (OS Map reference 184 900520) when the DAILY EXPRESS reported the appearance of the first set of five circles on Monday 11th July. But Wiltshire residents were first treated to the news via the WILTSHIRE TIMES which reported the event on Friday 8th July. The EXPRESS coverage opened the floodgates and both BBC and Independent TV featured the circles on their early evening news and breakfast television programmes. The DAILY STAR sent a reporter to this address to obtain photographs of the circles so as not to be 'scooped' by any other national tabloids, and of course they left empty handed.

Every westcountry newspaper, at least those relatively local to the area, latched on to the circles and all could see big sales in pushing the 'UFO' side of the story. Theories were bounded about, ranging from rutting deer and mating badgers, to over-enthusiastic couples chasing each other around in circles. Mother foxes were blamed for teaching their young offspring to hunt in circles, and helicopters were once again accused of flattening the corn.

Whirlwinds were theorised by a few people, including farmers, but the general opinion of this theory was that the arrangement was too strange for common fair-weather whirlwinds. Practical jokers were also blamed, although no-one came forward to claim the credit, as is usual once the joke becomes old news.

Cheesefoot Head, in Winchester, Hampshire, in the meantime presented its own set of circles, and these were featured in the DAILY EXPRESS on Tuesday 12th July 1983, with seemingly similar measurements, namely a larger central circle averaging out in the region of 60 feet across, and four outer 'satellite' circles measuring 12 to 15 feet across. Nothing more was said about the Cheesefoot Head circles, except that this site played host to an unusual formation of three circles in the Summer of 1981. PROBE REPORT carried an examination of these in an earlier issue (6).

On 9th July, backtracking slightly, members of PROBE visited the Westbury White Horse site to obtain photographs for further analysis, and also to rendezvous with Dr G. Terence Meaden of the Tornado & Storm Research Organisation based in Trowbridge, Wiltshire. Dr Meaden was the meteorologist who initially presented the whirlwind hypothesis in 1980 after the appearance of the first circle, incidentally again at the foot of the White Horse. (7) However, after discussing this years' appearance with Dr Meaden, he left to visit Gley Hill just outside Warminster which was the scene of several circles in 1982. Later that afternoon he discovered another formation of five circles, but the four satellite circles were much closer to the larger central one.

This information was kept quiet and the press were not informed, so no mention was given of these circles when the Swindon ADVERTISER reported the discovery of another five-circle formation in Wantage, Oxfordshire. This article referred to the Westbury circles, but made no mention of the Gley Hill set. The ADVERTISER made it very clear from their article that they thought it all a hoax, constructed as a copy of the others already in existence. SCUPORI visited the scene and produced some excellent photographs, and also agreed with the ADVERTISER in that they too believed that a hoax was involved (8).

To recap the situation, and to literally count the number of circles that had shown up, records were needed. Not only were four sets of five circles now known to exist, but another single circle had also been discovered in the same field as the Westbury formation. This was similar to other single circles that had been discovered in the past, but it was smaller and slightly irregular, much more so than earlier examples. Nevertheless, as PROBE members had been at the site on Friday 8th July when it was not there, it was certainly evident on Saturday 9th when the meeting with Dr Meaden took place. So it had to have appeared either very late on the Friday (after 9.00 pm) or early on the Saturday before the picnic parties would arrive.

On 6th August members of PROBE met in Warminster for a social occasion, and decided to visit the Westbury White Horse for the purpose of showing a London visitor exactly what the circles looked like in real life. To say that all

concerned were stunned is slightly understating the case. Placed next to the original set of five was another smaller formation, but again displaying the larger central circle surrounded by four satellites. These were photographed by us, but it did occur that it was indeed strange that the press had not covered this second occurrence.

On the way back to Warminster, passing the village of Upton Scudamore, another single circle was spotted in the field to the left. This was at map reference 872475 and seemed again to be of the same size as the larger circles had all been, roughly 60 feet in diameter. There were no signs of any outer circles in this case. Again, there seemed to be no tracks leading to the circles, and therefore no immediate sign of hoaxing.

So to summarise what had happened since early July (or most probably much earlier than that, as the Cley Hill formation allegedly appeared in May, according some sources), it seems that two sets of five were discovered in Westbury/Bratton, one set of five in the Longleat area just outside Warminster at the foot of Cley Hill, another in the Devil's punchbowl at Cheesefoot Head, and the fifth set in Wantage. There were also single circles at Westbury/Bratton and Upton Scudamore just outside Warminster. All formed without anyone apparently seeing them in the process.

Explanations

As mentioned earlier in this article, various solutions to the circles were put forward, the majority done so with tongue in cheek. PROBE have always supported the whirlwind theory, namely that advancing air masses would push existing air masses inland until small pockets are trapped, backed up against steep, often concave, hillsides. Such hillsides, Cley Hill and the White Horse being fine examples, would stop the advance temporarily, holding the air mass static for a short period and allowing a forming whirlwind to remain stationary, flattening the corn as it did so. This theory is much more complicated than this brief passage can elaborate on, but suffice it to say that it seemed to explain the single circles, and even the three circle group at Winchester in 1981. The five-circle groupings were something different, and it must be admitted that it was stretching



The Westbury/Bratton circles as photographed from the White Horse on 9th July 1983.
(Photo: Ian Mrzyglod).

the belief of the PROBE members. Dr Meaden himself was intrigued by the formations and admitted that the whirlwind theory alone could not explain the latest occurrences. It was nevertheless still clear that some kind of wind vortex had flattened the corn without damaging it, and a whirlwind would do this. But what kind of whirlwind could produce four outer whirled? It was not known in the records of recorded meteorological phenomena, and could not readily be explained.

The structure of the circles was identical to past events, yet the outer satellite circles were something very new. They were not so neat and tidy as the larger parent circle,

but still had the unmistakable clockwise swirl inside. PROBE were still convinced that the weather was involved, but the theory that had stood for three years was developing flaws. For instance, originally it was thought that a steep hill, similar to the Wiltshire chalk hills, was needed to stay the advance of the air masses, yet the Wantage circles were found in an almost perfectly flat area with no evident hills or slopes.

The Winchester circles admittedly did not have a steep hill in the immediate vicinity, but were sited in a natural 'punchbowl' which was thought, would act in a similar way to the chalk hill.

The Cley Hill and Westbury/Bratton events this year seemed to support this idea still, but it was beginning to fall down elsewhere. The Upton Scudamore circle is not sited near any hills, or near enough that they'd have any apparent effect on the winds at the location of the circle. Although in possible trouble, the whirlwind theory was still the most solid prospect being suggested. After all, it was a testable hypothesis, and it was now being tested to the very limit. If it was failing, then it would certainly need a rethink.

The farmers whom investigators had spoken to were not too sure what was going on, although with the 1982 Cley Hill circles, farmhands themselves suggested whirlwinds when this author spoke to them. The usual whirlwind that they spoke of though, was the type that would suddenly appear and lift loose corn and dust up several hundred feet into the air, but it would be moving with the wind across the field. It would also leave damage sometimes, but usually in the form of a furrow; certainly not a near-perfect circle.



One of the 'satellite' circles that surrounded the five-formation at Wantage, 19th July 1983.
(Photo: SCUFORI).

It was clearly evident that the whirlwind theory was in for a battering, yet nothing else that seemed plausible was being offered as an alternative.

The notion that a hoax was involved was examined once again by the PROBE team, and rejected for various reasons:

- 1) The time required to create one central large circle and four outer satellite circles would be considerable. With circles measuring 60 feet across, it would need a team of people to flatten the corn in the spiral pattern that is characteristic of each of them. This would also have to be done either very late at night or before sunrise so as simply not to be seen. It was felt that the time element and the manpower required would rule out the hoax option.
- 2) The Cley Hill circles were way off the track, hardly visible even the highest point on Cley itself. They were only just marked out, and probably only spotted because those who found them knew what they were looking for. The photographs taken from the top of Cley Hill, using a telephoto lens, barely show the formation. It is because of the remoteness of this particular formation that PROBE once again rejected the hoax theory, as the main intention of perpetrating a

hoax is so many people can see it. The Cley Hill circles were far from obvious and thus avoided any public interest.

- 3) Analysing old photographs of the 1980 Westbury/Bratton circles (there were originally three individual circles which each appeared at different times and in different locations, although the last two were in the same field) revealed some interesting factors. If only UFO group finance allowed for the hiring of helicopters to fly over the circles for aerial photographs, perhaps the significance of the 1980 circles would have been spotted beforehand! However, NOW! magazine did have the finance and their excellent shot of the second circle highlighted what are possibly three satellite circles surrounding the main one. At the time, they were not thought of at all, the emphasis being on the large circle itself. Any other marks were put down to normal wind damage. If the three depressions are similar to the ones that occurred this year, then perhaps the 1980 circles were more important than they seem, when compared to this year's offerings. As to why there were only three apparent satellite circles; the fourth would have been right where the hedge surrounding the fields is. It can only be surmised that maybe a fourth small depression would have shown up in that exact spot; not stated. So, from looking again at the old records, and consulting with Dr Meaden, it seemed that we had a five-formation dating as far back as 1980, when the circles allegedly first started appearing. This new evidence only added to the theory that the circles were natural, and that the five-formations were not any different from the 1980 circles, except that the outer circles were more evident. It was also assumed that a hoaxer (or most probably a team of hoaxers) would have made a better effort of flattening the outer circles.
- 4) One would think that after four years of running through fields flattening hundreds of square metres of corn, someone at least would claim the credit. Most practical jokers in the end reveal themselves.

manoeuvres, especially low-level ones, over cornfields), but it was a technical impossibility to a downdraught from a helicopter to create a spiral effect. The resultant damage from a helicopter would be a tapered pattern emanating from the centre of the circle direct to the perimeter, following the radii.

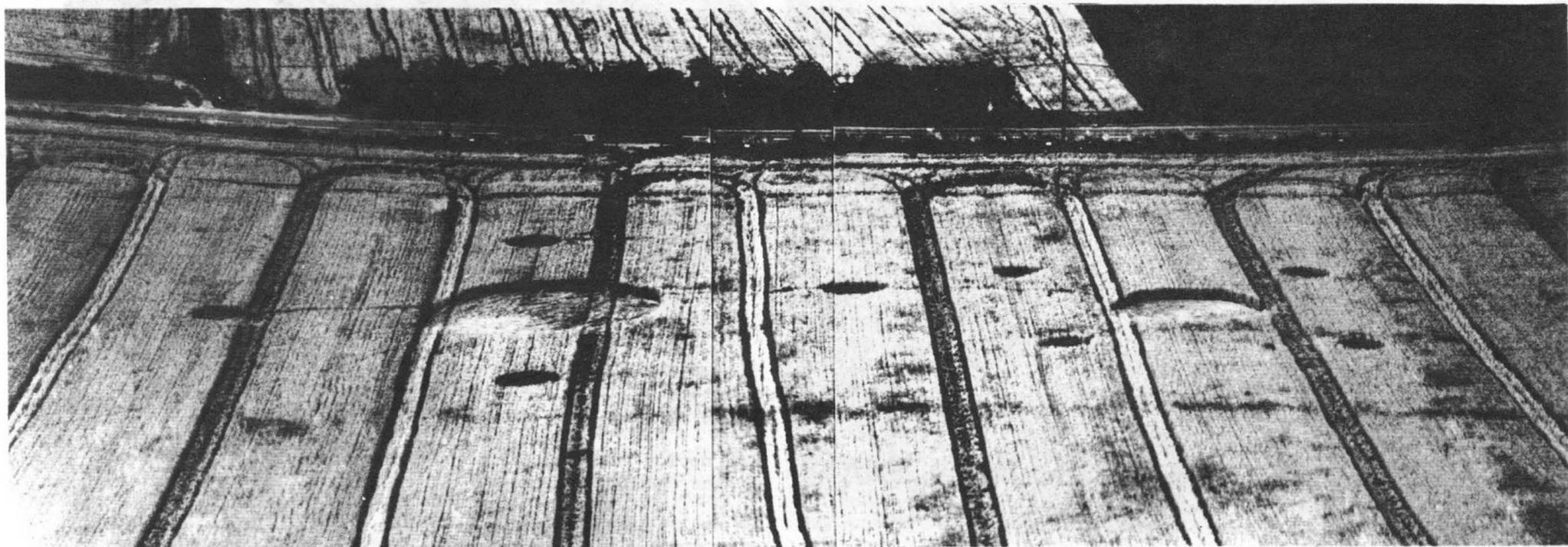
Rutting deer, mating badgers, love-struck couples and mother foxes could all be dismissed as simple fun ideas put forward by the press and locals alike. The Ken Rogers mass UFO landings theory was also a joke; or at least it is hoped that Rogers wasn't being serious when he spoke to the newspapers. Rogers has always found himself in the position of being the man the press always turn to for a statement, along with Lord Clancarty, and both always manage to produce the goods. Certainly Rogers (sometimes called 'David' by some newspapers) gave them what they wanted to hear (3) and similarly Lord Clancarty helped to keep ufology from being far from respectable (9).

Besides, as correctly pointed out by Jenny Randles, despite the UFO furor created by the press, there was not one single UFO sighting reported to any newspapers or UFO investigation organisation. There was one exception, but the article could not have been serious (10). Finally, as the four outer satellite circles were never perfectly geometrically aligned, any spacecraft touching down would have to be 'bent'. On top of that, as the circles were formed from spiralling corn, why would apparent landing pads be spinning in any case? Additionally, a spaceship with the dimensions suggested by the span on the circles actually landing would do more than bend the corn; it would crush it - which certainly wasn't the case.

The 'experts' who were quoted as supporting this theory are not known, except for the two aforementioned, so it would not be unrealistic to assume that the UFO theory was generated, if not created, by the press media.

Evidence

All the theories put forward have been done so in total absence of supporting evidence. No photographic evidence



Three photographs juxtapositioned to show the second formation of five circles that appeared next to the original five. Although smaller, their composition was that of the first set, and were accepted as having been caused by a similar phenomenon. These photographs were taken on 6th August 1983 from the White Horse. Note the B3098 in background (Photos: I.M.)

Helicopters were at first thought by some to have caused the circles, especially when the Cheesefoot Head formation of three circles was found. An American Chinook helicopter (equipped with two rotors) was suggested, as some are stationed at Odiham, near Basingstoke, Hampshire. This, although never outrightly denied by the MOD at the time, was not thought likely. What would have accounted for the larger middle circle?

The 1980 circles sent farmer John Scull complaining to the School of Infantry in Warminster when he first saw the damage, but received strong denials. Helicopters were not responsible for his Westbury/Bratton circles, as not only did they deny responsibility, (helicopters do not carry out

exists and witness testimony is minimal. HTV did have one gentleman telephone in with a story that he had seen a whirlwind form at about 8.00 pm one evening, which subsequently left a circular depression in the field. Which circle he witnessed, no-one knows, for he could not be traced. His name and town were given out on the television, but no-one of that name was listed in the telephone directory for that area. As the telephone call came in whilst HTV were speculating on the circles, one could perhaps correctly assume that the caller was in immediate reach of a telephone as the programme was being broadcast. This would imply that he had a telephone installed, although this is only conjecture. The outcome was that this testimony could not be regarded as sufficient evidence for the whirlwind theory.

In 1980, samples of corn and soil taken from inside the circles and also from test areas outside of the circles were taken for examination by Bristol University. This was undertaken by technicians on behalf of PROBE, although Ken Rogers (then chairman of EUPOS) found out and quoted EUPOS as having carried out these tests to the NOW! magazine. The results were inconclusive, as there were far too many contaminants in the soil from chemicals to give any clear indication of foreign substances. On top of that, there were definitely no radiation readings recorded. The samples were destroyed afterwards and no further samples were taken from later occurrences since that date.

The only evidence that could be recorded was what could be found about the circles' make-up. They were very large, ranging from 45 feet up to 62 feet, and all had clockwise spirals of flattened corn, emanating from the centre. In each case, the centre of the spiral was never concentric with the main circle itself. This was useful evidence for supporting the whirlwind idea, as it was feasible that a whirlwind, held almost stationary, could move around in a circular pattern itself, thus accounting for the non-concentric arrangement.

The corn was never damaged, merely bent from a point a few inches above the soil. In fact, the corn was still alive and growing, despite being flattened. The ears of the crop were in perfect condition. Apart from what could be ascertained from the site itself, nothing else could be collected information-wise. No-one saw them being formed, and farmers were non-the-wiser. In 1980, a woman who was employed at one farm was said to have heard a buzzing/humming/whooshing noise for periods of 20 minutes, then a gap of silence for another 10 minutes, followed another 20 minute period of noise. This was allegedly carrying on for several hours, but the woman, employed as a house-keeper would not go out and see what was causing it. It was reported to have been at about midnight, on the eve of the third circles' appearance, and she was frightened. When contacted by PROBE, she refused to speak to the investigators and would not cooperate in any manner. The information that was obtained came from the farmer himself. He could not supply any information other than what he was told, and he himself did not know of any noise.

A woman who lived several miles outside of the Westbury area reported seeing a light in the sky which she estimated would place it directly over the fields. This was not considered to be that useful, as such guessing, at the dead of night (this was supposed to have been seen at about 11.00 pm) would be totally impossible. The direction could perhaps have been correctly estimated, but certainly not the distance. This witness also refused to supply any further details.

The 1981 Winchester sightings were backed up with reports of silver-suited small beings walking about the fields where the three-formation of rings were found, namely Cheesefoot Head. This was first known of when Ken Rogers (again) appeared on local television (then Southern TV) and revealed the story. No names were given, and this was the only record of such a sighting. Coincidentally, Rogers was staging his Westminster Festival, the first of its kind, a few weeks later.

Discussions between the members of PROBE and SCUFORI, and also with Dr Headen resulted in a planned 'circle-watch' from selected locations during the Summer of 1984. It was unanimously agreed that only photographic evidence of the circles actually forming would be conclusive. Not only that, but at least some people might actually see them being created, whether by whirlwinds, UFOs, hoaxers, deer or whatever. With the idea agreed on in principle, with details to be worked out sometime later next year, the 1983 cornfield circles file was closed. (It must be added that some people mentioned how interest such a 'circle watch' might be if in fact the circles have been caused by courting couples).

New Developments

Always ready to accept new possibilities as to how the circles were formed, the files are never totally closed. PROBE has always listened to other theories (except the landed flying saucer one) and commented as fitting. The hoax theory has never been given much credence, but it was

feasible that a whirlwind had formed the larger central circle and some practical jokers had entered the field to carve out the surrounding circles. It was possible, yet no tracks were ever noticed that connected the circles together. Such tracks would be evident if someone, especially a team, had walked to every circle to flatten it out. So, as before, the hoax theory was not given that much importance.



The photograph that appeared in NOW! after the 1980 Westbury/Bratton circles caused a little local interest. Are the small marks on three sides of the circle connected with the 1983 'satellite' circles? (Photo: Credit NOW!)

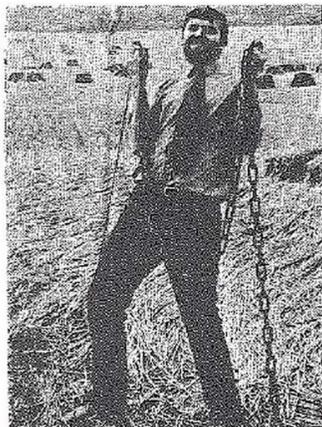
However, a telephone call from Bob Rickard, editor of PORTMAN TIMES changed the course of the investigations. He was in possession of several photographs of the Westbury/Bratton circles and wished to remark on the apparent connecting mark that followed the boundary of the larger central circle. This author had not been aware of any connecting mark, except for the ones caused by visitors to the fields who were walking in droves from one circle to the next. Bob Rickard was examining early photographs, which possibly would have preceded any mass tourist attention, and he claimed that such a mark was visible. Closer examination of photographs in the PROBE files did not reveal such a mark immediately, but if the imagination was stretched a little, faint traces could be identified.

So was it possible that someone had left marks after hoaxing the circles? It seemed certainly possible, and this was added to when PROBE were in receipt of a local press cutting featuring the son of local land-owner and farmer Alan Shephard. It was on Shephard's land that the circles had appeared, below the Westbury White Horse.

The press clipping showed a photograph of Francis Shephard, Alan's son, holding up a heavy chain, underlined by the wording, "How the Rings Were Made". The story told of how Alan Shephard became suspicious of the possible hoaxing nature of the circles, and together with his son Francis, worked out how to create a perfect replica circle using some heavy chain. PROBE members had already heard of such a story a few days earlier when Dr Meaden was consulted over the more recent appearance of the second five-formation at Westbury/Bratton. At last, a copy of this clipping was obtained, and some further checking could be done (11).

About that time, EARTHLINK magazines arrived, giving a brief account of how the editor Daniel Goring and a colleague visited the site. Their first visit of 15th July allowed them to study the original five circles, but a later check on 19th introduced them to the second set. They entered the field and took measurements, also noticing that the spirals in this case all ran anti-clockwise; the first reported case as far as PROBE records can tell, bearing in mind that cornfield circles are being discussed, not other alleged UFO nests elsewhere around the world. Photographs that PROBE members obtained of the second set did confirm this, although it is thanks to EARTHLINK that this was brought to notice (12). (PROBE members did not enter the field and inspect these circles for two reasons: barbed wire was being put up at the perimeter of the field, and by this time, all circles began to look alike!)

Thus it was apparent that these circles appeared sometime during the 15th and 19th July. Dr Terence Meaden paid a visit to the site on Saturday 16th and they certainly were not there at that stage. So it was either on Sunday 17th or Monday 18th. Studying the photographs, Dr Meaden was intrigued by the sudden change in direction of the spiral but nevertheless accepted them, as did PROBE, as another unusual occurrence of the strange phenomenon. It was during this discussion that the subject of the heavy chain and the duplicate circle was raised, and it was deemed vital that certain facts be established. With the press cutting available some days later, these facts could be ascertained.



Left: Francis Shephard with the chain that was used to re-create the Westbury/Bratton circles. HOAX?

Right: A whirlwind trail photographed in the same field as the circles. WHIRLWINDS?

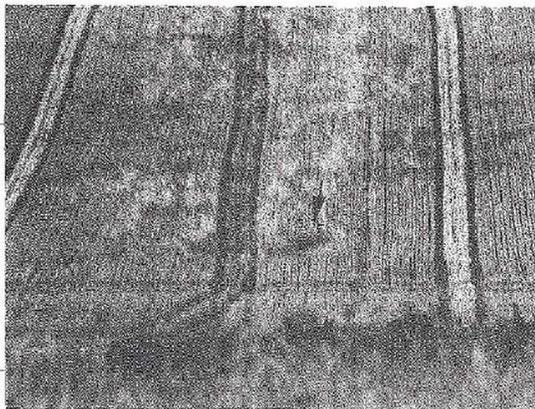
(Photos: Left - Credit Wiltshire Times.

Right - Ian Mrzyglod.

away, waiting for the EXPRESS to report on the latest circle appearances. For some reason, no reports were ever to follow in the national papers, only local papers. Therefore the story never saw print, and the circle saga was forgotten. Did this finally wrap up the entire mystery? It did not appear to, as Bob Rickard enquired further about another press clipping that he had in his possession.

This showed Francis Shephard again, only this time wearing a Worminster UFO T-shirt, and saying something to the order that should anything land, he'd see it. Something was obviously amiss, as in the earlier press statement he was seemingly sceptical, if not cynical, of the UFO theory. On top of that, an early statement made by Alan Shephard in the WILTSHIRE TIMES caused another contradiction (13). His suspicions of a hoax bore no resemblance to his suspicions that rutting deer were causing the circles; the theory he suggested in the earlier article, and supposedly shared by many local farmers. Did Alan Shephard suddenly change his mind, or did the circumstances change? Clearly, this, along with the Francis Shephard T-shirt story, urgently needed clarifying.

A possible scenario was forming in which the Shephard family were guilty of staging the entire circle saga, causing them and letting the newspapers find them. The possible publicity (a foregone conclusion with the 1983 formations) could help a business of farm produce wholesaling. However, this view was not shared by this author, and a visit to their farm was made on Sunday 18th August. Alan Shephard's daughter was the only person present, but she put the position straight by first explaining that the journalists for the American newspaper, in which the T-shirt article appeared (14) wanted sensational stories. Francis owned the shirt, which was one of a batch printed two years ago as a reaction to the Worminster UFO hysteria which still reared itself every now and then. Francis is a member of the Farmers' association based there. The Alan Shephard "rutting deer" story came from statements made to the press at some earlier date, when local farmers did think that deer might be responsible.



A telephone call to Alan Shephard revealed much. The circles (the press report only mentioned one) that he and his sons had managed to flatten were in fact the second set at Westbury/Bratton. This news was astounding, as very little had been said about such a major stunt. When asked why nothing had been said to the major papers, the whole story unfolded:-

Unhappy at being 'scooped' by the DAILY EXPRESS and the other tabloids, the DAILY MIRROR decided to go one better. They used the Shephard idea of dragging a chain through the corn, and a MIRROR team did succeed in duplicating almost perfectly the neighbouring five-formation. Their resultant circles were slightly smaller, and they did have a clockwise spiral (difference explained). Compensation was paid to Alan Shephard, and the MIRROR team took their photographs

The Shephards did not own land where any of the other circles appeared, and this finally quashed any theories of a family conspiracy-type prank. The Shephards are now convinced that a team of jokers are damaging the crops, although the motives remain a mystery to them.

Hoax Re-evaluation

With fresh evidence that a team could reproduce a five-formation set of circles, the whole hoax angle had to be thought out again. Information obtained by Bob Rickard, after having found out from this author that the DAILY MIRROR carried out the stunt, proved most interesting. According to the reporter, the circles were all measured out by a length of cord, and the position of the four satellite circles was calculated with a compass. The operation of measuring out the circles and flattening them

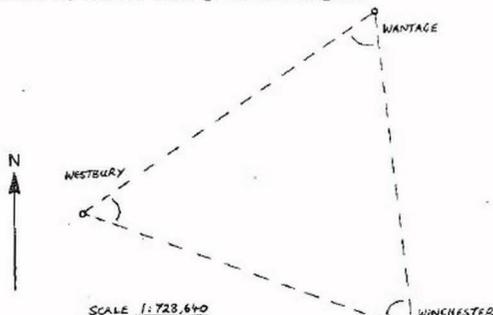
took only 24 minutes. The task was photographed with a stop-motion camera situated on top of the hill overlooking the field, and several photographs were secured showing the entire operation from start to finish. From the time the camera was set until the team arrived to dismantle it, only 55 minutes had passed.

This proved conclusively that someone could perform very quickly either very early in the morning or later in the evening, and finish in relative quick time. Thus, covering earlier points raised against hoax as a theory, we can comment:

- 1) Time and manpower have been shown to be a relatively minor problem.
- 2) This cannot be readily explain, unless the Cley Hill circles were a test, or it wasn't until the job was finished that their near-invisible position was realised.
- 3) The marks may not be significant, or they could be poor attempts at producing a five-formation. However, it is unlikely that the hoaxer(s) developed the idea for a five-formation at this stage. Such circles were not seen until 1983. This must remain inconclusive, until the photograph can be properly analysed, should that ever take place.
- 4) Perhaps after causing so much financial loss (over £70 for each set of circles) the culprits would choose to remain anonymous. The motive for such an operation may be for other purposes, ideas which will be examined later in this article.

Other factors emerged from talking with colleagues. SCUFORI, the Swindon-based UFO investigation group, commented upon the strange coincidence over the names of the locations. If one takes Westbury, Warminster, Winchester and Wantage, it immediately becomes apparent that all begin with 'W'. Nothing drastic in this case, but an interesting point if someone were playing games. Such coincidences are sought for by some researchers.

Taking this line further, by placing the locations of Westbury, Winchester and Wantage on a map, the three points form an almost perfect equilateral triangle; if it isn't, then it certainly is an isosceles triangle. More silly findings, but then again, the sort of thing that a practical joker might go in for. Why ignore Warminster? It never reached the newspapers, whereas the other three most definitely did, Wantage being third. It is very possible that if someone wanted to play on the totally fictitious 'Warminster Triangle', then why not have a go at creating one? Again, this is pure conjecture, brought about by attempting to reason why someone would go to such lengths.



Conclusions?

We are left with three basic solutions to the entire circle mystery, each plausible if the evidence is examined in a different frame of mind:-

- 1) The first theory is that all the circles have been caused by whirlwinds, with the exception of the known facsimile formation manufactured by the reporters. In this solitary case, not only was the central circle smaller than the others (considerably so in fact) but it was the

IT'S NO USE, WE'RE TOO EARLY. OVALS USED CAR AUCTION ISN'T TILL AUGUST 20TH

On Saturday, at 2pm, Oval's Used Car Auction will rock the universe.

Proof that some people were able to capitalise on the appearances of the circles. This advert appeared in a westcountry paper and perhaps typifies the media reaction.

only known case where the corn was spiralled in an anti-clockwise direction. This could mean that all the others were following a natural meteorological pattern, as whirlwinds tend to spin clockwise, and thus deem them all as natural.

Furthermore, several circles, especially in the vicinity of Cley Hill in 1952, were found in obscure places. Some of them were untidy, and one of them was in fact oval in shape. These were not visible from any public vantage points, and this author found them, and only became aware of their presence, by obtaining information from farm workers. It is unlikely that these would have been the work of hoaxers, who would presumably opt for more visible sites for the hoax to have any impact.

Add to that the letter that was published in PROBE REPORT Vol 3, No 4, accompanied by an excellent photograph, that was sent in by Perry Petrakis of the A.E.S.V. organisation in France. Although the photograph, of an alleged UFO nest that later was found to be whirlwind damage, does not show such a neat uniform circle, it nonetheless does illustrate the whirlwind potential.

Yet more evidence comes from a reader of THE UNEXPLAINED who responded to this author's article that was published in an earlier issue (see ref (1)). Two large circles were discovered by the writer of the letter, who after hearing a loud roaring sound looked in a nearby barley field the next day. The circles were almost perfect. It was later corroborated by others who witnessed a whirlwind at about the same time he heard the noise. (See issue 132).

- 2) Secondly, one could theorise that some of the circles, certainly the first cases in 1980, were caused by whirlwind activity. But later appearances have been 'doctored' for effect by hoaxers. There may be a combination of both natural and manufactured circles but it is apparent that the whole position has become too distorted to ever clarify which may have been which.

- 3) Thirdly, it is possible that the whole programme from beginning to end has been a deliberate hoax, gradually increasing in bravado until at last the national papers and television took notice. The secluded circles at such places as Cley Hill could have been experimental ones, perhaps being used to test out new methods for flattening

the corn, or for judging time and manpower involved whilst out of the way of any witnesses. The probability that different applications were used is enhanced by the fact that some circles had holes in the centre of their spirals. The DAILY MIRROR used a 'swing-ball' pole as an anchor for the cord and chain. Perhaps in other cases a person merely stood in the centre holding the chain. No circles to date have ever been perfectly circular, including the known hoax set, so maybe several methods were tried out? As the circles were always formed in Summer (which stood as good evidence for a climatic explanation), the ground would invariably be hard and therefore not reveal footprints. Also, as the corn rows are usually planted about 7 inches apart, a person could easily walk between the stalks, one foot in front of the other, without damaging it. It seems that this was not 100% effective, as the marks which are visible on certain newspaper photographs (many thanks to Bob Rickard) do show the makings of a connecting path joining the outer circles with a line which follows the exact perimeter of the larger circle. But these marks have not been noticed before, and have certainly escaped PROBE's detection.

Accepting that the whole mystery could be solved by the Hoax option, what would be the motives behind such an elaborate operation? Three possible scenarios do spring to mind, outlined as follows:

a) It was a family hoax to publicise their name and wholesale business. The possibility that the Shepherds constructed the whole hoax for the promotion of their own enterprise had to be examined, particularly in light of the newspaper items. This was duly dismissed when enquiries were made to the satisfaction that this was not the case, as explained earlier.

b) It is possible that somebody, either a team or an individual, intended to monitor public and/or UFO-community reaction to the circles, possibly for a project of a psychological interest. Yet it is unlikely that any official project would receive sanction for the wilful destruction of several hundreds of pounds worth of crops.

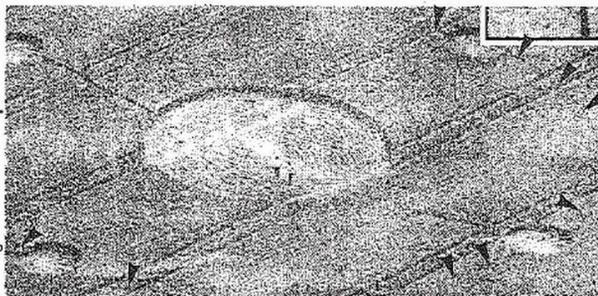
c) The most likely culprit would be someone who wished to further the public interest in Warminster's UFOs and its mythical triangle. The hoaxer may wish to rekindle the dwindling interest which is now only a fraction of what it used to be. In Warminster's popular days, spanning the mid 60's to the early 70's, hundreds of people would often congregate on the local hilltops; magazines produced by local groups would sell well, recruitment was high for group memberships, and massive interest was generated for the Arthur Shuttlesworth books. Since those days, the groups have ceased to exist and Arthur Shuttlesworth has not been able to get his later books published. Warminster holds no interest anymore, and publishers are not over-anxious to handle UFO books, let alone Warminster UFO books.



J. Allen Hynek studies what could be a mark made by a pole of some sort, in the centre of the circle at Upton Scudamore near Warminster. (Photo: Ian Mrzyglod).

If a person, deeply involved with the Warminster scene in its better days, wished to investigate a return to those times, then hoaxes on a grand scale would be about the only way to ensure a return trend. Certainly no UFO sightings make Warminster famous nowadays. The hoax has worked to a degree; the 'Warminster Triangle' has been born, and the

Warminster 'Thing' has had several recent mentions. Sight-seers have come to the area to see the circles, and the circles have been a major topic of discussion amongst visitors. UFO journals have often featured them - your editor stands guilty of this, although the UFO angle has always been refuted - and no doubt these events have been recorded as being of some UFO significance in somebody's archives. The popularity generated by the media coverage, and the Ken Rogers statements, helped attract people to the August bank holiday Warminster Festival, which undoubtedly would have otherwise gone unnoticed.



Poor-quality version that appeared in many newspapers worldwide; this one from the Weekly World News (USA) which was accompanied by a fictitious story of how a farmer (who is not known in the area actually) witnessed a 'starship' land. However, this photo is published because it shows the very suspicious marks probably made by someone holding onto a rope or string held fast in the centre of the large circle.

Is this theory feasible? Quite possibly so, and if correct then PROBE REPORT owes everyone one big, red-faced apology for continuously pushing and supporting the whirlwind theory. If PROBE REPORT and Dr Meaden have been misled by our own research, and the hoax hypothesis has been correct all along, your editor accepts full responsibility for any confusion. But, although a few names have been mentioned as possible guilt parties (only in discussion mind you), nothing concrete yet exists. We may still be right. Even if hoax is factually established as the solution, there still remains the problem of identifying those involved. Clues are readily available, eg,

- i) he must have a reasonable knowledge of UFOs, enough to know of 'UFO nests'.
- ii) he must live in the westcountry or have easy means of commuting to enable early-morning starts to the task;
- iii) he must be able-bodied enough to quickly climb over fences;
- iv) he must need psychiatric attention.

Final Words

For four years, PROBE as a team of UFO investigators, have enthusiastically watched the circle phenomenon evolve; from the single circles of 1980 to the present-day formations. We always thought we could have been on the verge of studying a new phenomenon, and it was exciting that possibly the team would have been successful in capturing an actual circle forming on film. The strong hoax element has diminished that impact, yet an exercise will go ahead regardless to try and solve the mystery completely.

PROBE members, hopefully with assistance from others, will monitor cornfields from various vantage points during the Summer of 1984. If we are successful in witnessing something, then it will be worthwhile, whether catching a hoaxer or seeing truly fascinating.

If the circles fail to appear, then perhaps the whirlwind theory will finally be quashed, and the hoax theory win through. If the hoaxer knows of the intentions, then he may well stay away. Alternatively, he may attempt to carry out his plans in spite of our presence (if he knows) in which case the PROBE team will be well entertained in a game of cat-and-mouse.

Whatever the final outcome, the PROBE members (forming as a team again for this purpose) will have a very interesting time.

References

- 1) Mrzyglod, I. 'The Westbury UFO Nests', PROBE, 1/2, September 1980, pp6-8.
- Mrzyglod, I. 'The Westbury Circles Part 2', PROBE REPORT, 1/3, December 1980, pp6-7.
- Mrzyglod, I. 'More of Those Mystery Circles', PROBE REPORT, 2/3, December 1981, pp4-6.
- Mrzyglod, I. 'Mystery Circles - The Epilogue', PROBE REPORT, 3/2, October 1982, pp7-9.
- Mrzyglod, I. 'As Round as Saucers', THE UNEXPLAINED, 11/121, pp2418-2420.
- Headen, Dr.G.T. 'Mystery Spirals in a Wiltshire Cereal-field', J.Meteorology, U.K., 6/57, pp76-79.
- Headen, Dr.G.T. 'Mystery Spirals in a Hampshire Cornfield', J. Meteorology, U.K., 7/66, pp45-49.
- Headen, Dr.G.T. 'Mystery Spirals in Cornfields: Further Cases and Discussion', J.Meteorology, U.K., 8/75, pp11-19.
- 2) Daily Express, 11th, 12th and 15th July 1983.
- 3) Bristol Evening Post, 18th August 1983.
- 4) Daily Express, 12th July 1983.
- 5) Randles, J. 'J.R. Comments...', Northern UFO News, 103, July/August 1983, pp2-3.
- 6) See Reference 1).
- 7) See Reference 1).
- 8) Swindon Evening Advertiser, 19th July 1983.
- 9) See Reference 4)
- 10) Weekly World News (USA), 16th August 1983 (Credit Fortean Times).
- 11) Wiltshire Times, 26th August 1983.
- 12) Goring, D.J. 'The Wiltshire 'UFO' Circles', EARTHLINK, 14, September 1983, pp9-10.
- 13) Wiltshire Times, 8th July 1983.
- 14) Globe (USA), 16th August 1983 (Credit Fortean Times).

UFO-CAR CHASE NEAR FROME

MARTIN SHIPP

SCUFORI REPORT 07/80

Abstract

This report involves the sighting of a light source(s) which was tracked through the Wiltshire countryside by two witnesses in their car at night during the second week of April 1980.

Date of sighting:	9th April 1980
Time of sighting:	22.35 hrs (BST) to 23.05 hrs (BST)
Location of sighting:	The sighting was made from both inside and outside of a car near the village of Nunney, Somerset. OS Map 183 (745455)

The Event

At about 10.35 pm (2235 hrs) on 9th April 1980 Mr Steven Dayman-Johns and his wife Julie left Mr Dayman-Johns' parents' home at Nunney, Somerset, and set off for their house in Frome, Somerset. Taking a shortcut, Dayman-Johns, driving his 1973 Datsun Cherry car, turned into Ridgeway Lane. This lane, $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles long, is bordered by pastureland and only a few houses. After going about $\frac{1}{2}$ mile along this lane, Mrs Dayman-Johns suddenly said, "What's that?" as she saw a white object in the sky move across her view. The object moved left to right and travelled one quarter of the windscreen through which she was looking, at a high speed before coming to an abrupt stop. Steven Dayman-Johns saw the object momentarily before it stopped. He stopped the car, leaving the engine running and extinguishing the headlights, got out and stood on the door sill to watch the object which was still stationary. At arms' length it appeared as one inch across and one quarter of an inch in height. It had no definite outline, but appeared to have a "darker" ring running around its top. (See figure 1). After a few minutes, Steven got back into the car and moved off down the lane at about 10 mph. He kept switching from side-lights to headlights as they both watched the object. Suddenly it moved off at what Steven described as "an instant, phenomenal speed". It did not appear to accelerate, but moved off instantly towards Manstrow. It moved from left to right and was obstructed from view by the car roof a mere second after it moved. As it travelled, they could see a faint light emitting from both front and rear, and a bright light was also visible in the centre of the object. Its elevation was about 40° - 50° during this initial sighting. (See figure 2).

As soon as the object was lost to view, Steven quickly got out of the car but could no longer see it at all. As they were about halfway along Ridgeway Lane, Steven decided to

drive to the end to the main road where the actual road was higher than the surrounding countryside. As they approached the junction, a motorbike came towards them sounding his horn several times as he passed. At the junction to the main road, they turned left and pulled into a layby on the right-hand side of the road about 150 yards from the junction. Here Steven turned the car around to face Nunney Catch (a village), then got out of his car again and once more stood on his door sill. From here he could not see the object but noticed a whitish glow on the horizon slightly to his left. It was the size of a thumb at arms' length and appeared similar to an upturned letter 'U'. (See figure 3) This light did not resemble the glow given forth by the village lights due to its shape and colour. Steven got back into the car and drove towards Nunney Catch which was a high point. But from there they could not see the light or any glow.

So he then decided to travel back towards Nunney and into Ridgeway Lane again. They then stopped at the point close to where they had first seen the object but could not see anything this time. Turning around they went back up to the main road and turned left again towards the layby. Just before reaching the layby they noticed to their right and behind trees, a bright vertical beam of light. The beam, brilliant white in colour, did not seem to emit any glow and appeared about the width of Steven's little finger held at arms' length. The beam did not seem to be very far behind the trees and it was silhouetting several trunks and branches. He turned the car right in Marston Lane which was slightly to the right of the beam. The start of the lane is on an incline called Cheese Hill. After reaching the top and then travelling downhill, switching again from headlights to sidelights, they could not see the beam anywhere. Continuing along the lane, driving without headlights for part of the time, they passed over a small bridge, and shortly afterwards became "aware" of an object to their left. It was at an elevation between 20° and 30° . Steven stopped the car and cut the lights totally. The object appeared to be about 2 or 3 fields away and was the size of his thumb at arms' length. It was the same shape as the object they had first seen, and had a bright glow in the centre. (See figure 4)

Steven Got out out of the car again and stood on the door sill. Julie remained inside the car as she was extremely frightened. The object, which was stationary, had a vertical beam of white light slowly coming from the centre of its base. This parallel beam of light was about half the width of the object. It descended in a fashion that was similar to a solid object being lowered a piece at a time, and not like a torch beam. Steven expressed it as if "it was a light slowed down... although it needn't

necessarily have been a light..." Due to the terrain, he could not see where the light came in contact with the ground (See Figure 5).

After a minute or two, Steven observed that the top of the beam had a 'V'-shaped darker area inside it. (Figure 6) He watched this spectacle for about 4 minutes and then decided to go across the fields to observe the object at a closer position. Julie pleaded with him not to go and shortly afterwards, the beam moved back up into the object at the same speed at which it had descended, taking about 3 seconds to do so. (Figure 7)

Steven continued to watch the object which remained perfectly stationary. He then decided to drive up a 'T' junction ahead and turn left on to a road which would bring them closer to the object. After sitting back inside the car he told his wife to make a sign of the cross and everything would be alright. He also did this himself. (Both witnesses are practising Christians, inasmuch as they attend church most Sundays. Steven Dayman-Johns is not really sure why he told his wife to make the sign of the cross - he however did not think that the object was 'evil'.)

He proceeded to drive, occasionally switching on his headlights and telling Julie to keep watching the object and doing so himself as much as was possible. At the end of the lane Steven switched off the headlights, got out of the car and once again stood on the door sill to get a better view of the object. In an effort to obtain a more detailed picture of what he was seeing, whilst looking at the object he used the principle of focusing his sight slightly to one side of it. By doing so he could discern a narrow parallel beam of white light emanating from the object's centre, and going down to the ground, although he could not see where or if it actually touched the ground. The beam was of an equal intensity throughout its entire length. (Figure 8)

Steven climbed back into his car and drove round a bend in the road, keeping an eye on the object which was now 45° to their right instead of being to their left. It had apparently moved in position while they had driven round the corner. Its glow in the centre was much brighter and it appeared to be closer, as it was nearly the size of two thumbs at arms' length. (Figure 9)

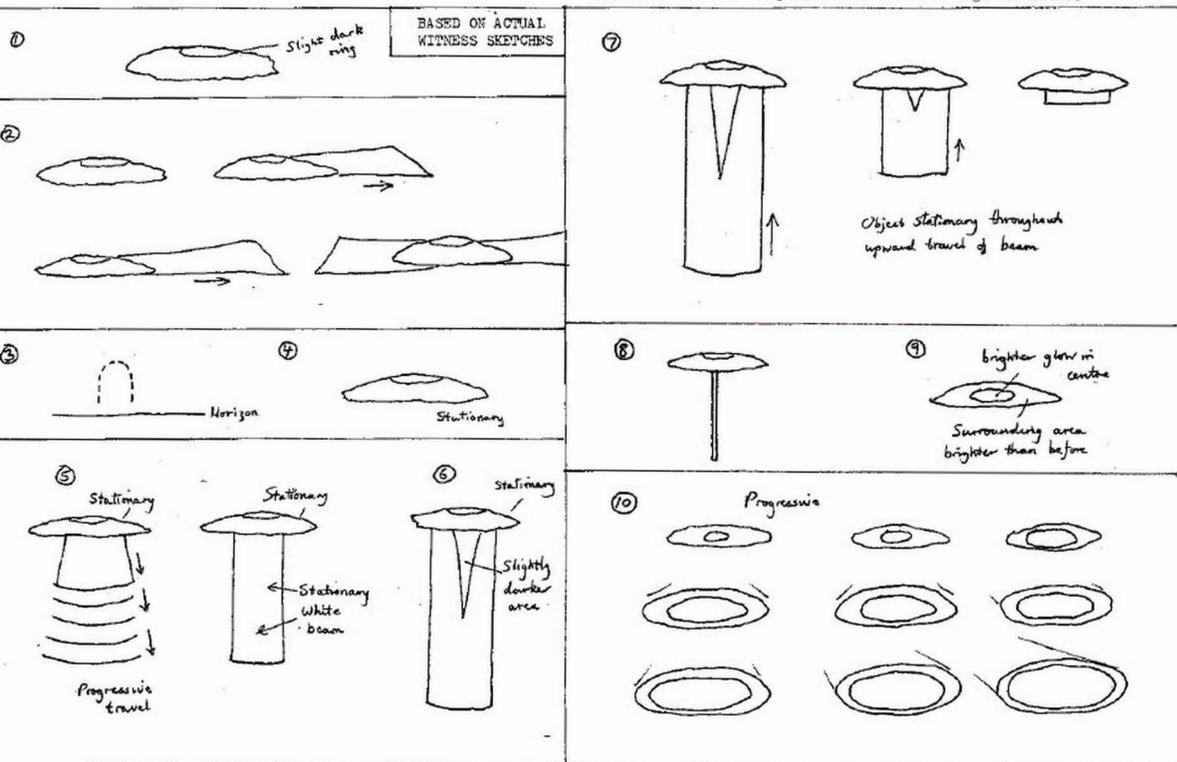
Steven stopped the car and switched off the headlights. Seconds later the object dropped in height and came towards them at a high speed, with no apparent noise. Just before the object passed over their car, Steven placed his hand on the windscreen and the object was about the size of a "relaxed hand-span" on the windscreen. He estimated its height from the ground as being similar to that of an electricity pylon. The time it had taken to "buzz" the car was about 2 - 3 seconds. (Figure 10)

As soon as the object had passed over the car, Steven got out of the car but he could not see it anywhere. The time was 11.05 pm (2305 hrs).

They drove off towards Frome continually watching the skies but saw nothing more. After buying a 'take-away' meal they went to Frome Police Station where Steven reported the sighting to the sergeant at 11.13 pm (2313 hrs). The witnesses then went home where Steven immediately wrote an account of what had happened.

The Location

The sighting was made from both inside and outside of the witness' car while in Ridgeway Lane in Nunney, Wiltshire. The general area of the sighting is lower than its surroundings and is sparsely populated (except for the small town of Nunney and Nunney Catch). Ridgeway Lane is a fairly narrow road, just wide enough to accommodate two motorcars side by side. It is bordered by hedges, which were on average 10 feet high. Several trees also ran alongside the road. The main road at the end of Ridgeway Lane is the A351 and connects Shepton Mallet to Trowbridge via Frome.



The Witnesses

Throughout the entire investigation both witnesses were very willing to assist SCUFORI. They were always amicable and appeared very sincere. Neither witness had any idea as to what they had seen, but both had previously seen unusual lights in the sky, although they felt that they were due to aircraft or nocturnal phenomena.

1) Mr Steven Kenneth Dayman-Johns

Mr Dayman-Johns (23 years of age at the time of the event) appeared to be a very intelligent and articulate man. Whilst relating the events he was always rational and objective, and paid great attention to detail when describing the sightings. Dayman-Johns wears eyeglasses (to correct his myopia). He wore these during the entire sighting. He works in a department of the Ministry of Defence.

2) Mrs Julie Dayman-Johns

Mrs Dayman-Johns (in her early 20's) appeared to be of about average intelligence. She seemed to be a quiet person, leaving most of the talking to her husband, but nevertheless she did participate avidly during general discussions about the sighting. She emphasised that during the sighting she was extremely frightened. Mrs Dayman-Johns also wore eyeglasses. These were worn during the sighting too.

The Investigation

The sighting was made known to SCUFORI on 22nd June 1980 through a colleague involved in UFO study who had obtained a photocopy of Steven Dayman-Johns' original account. However, no address was given and it took over a month to trace the witnesses. On 14th August, SCUFORI investigator Jan Wojtowicz (JW) wrote to Steven and arranged an interview with him and his wife for 16th September. On that day, JW with two other investigators Raymond Smithers (RS) and Bob McGregor (BM) interviewed the witnesses at their home. The interview was recorded on cassette tape and a four-sided report form was completed.

This visit was discussed at the next SCUFORI meeting and it was decided that a visit to the location of the sighting with the witnesses would be necessary. JW contacted the witnesses and a date for this was fixed.

In the meantime, letters were sent to the Operations Room and Meteorological Office at RAF Lyneham, Wiltshire, requesting information on aircraft manoeuvres and weather conditions respectively on the night of the sighting. The location of the sighting was visited by SCUFORI investigators and Steven, to reenact the event, take photographs and measurements. The farmer whose land the sighting took place over was also interviewed.

Replies were received from RAF Lyneham during January 1981. A letter was sent to Westland Aircraft Ltd in Somerset, asking for information concerning helicopter activity in the area during the event, and a reply was received promptly. Attempts were made by SCUFORI to obtain detailed maps of the location of the sighting and several months later these were acquired by Ian Hryglod of PROBE through Somerset County Council. Two SCUFORI investigators visited Steven on 15th March 1981 and again went out to the location of the sighting to clarify one or two points. In addition to this, the photographs and maps were left with the witnesses for them to annotate.

PROBE also helped SCUFORI obtain weather details from Boscombe Down.

On 6th May 1981, a letter was sent to the Superintendent of Police at Bristol asking for confirmation of the fact that Steven had reported the event to the police station in Frome. A reply was received on 4th June 1981. Steven was visited the following month by SCUFORI in order to collect the maps and photographs that had been annotated. The location was once again looked at and SCUFORI managed to obtain a statement from Julie Dayman-Johns.

Over several meetings, the information obtained on the case was discussed and analysed, and it was decided that there was sufficient material for a conclusion to be made.

Evaluations and Conclusions

Due to the highly unusual nature of the object(s) seen during this sighting, it has proved difficult to investigate and in turn, try to identify what was seen. SCUFORI are of the opinion that the witnesses did not hear this sighting or that they were victims of an elaborate hoax. Therefore SCUFORI believe that the witnesses did see something on the night of 9th April 1980, which to them appeared to be

unusual. In all, there appears to be five separate sightings, and each sighting was analysed separately on the assumption that they were independent of each other:-

1) The initial sighting was of a white light/object which came into the witness' view at a high speed, came to an abrupt halt, and after a period of time, moved off at high speed. During the investigation SCUFORI obtained two pieces of information which could have possibly led to the identification of this part of the sighting. The first was that the area was regularly frequented by helicopters, both military and commercial. However, the possibility of the light/object being a helicopter was dismissed on the grounds that;

a) Steven Dayman-Johns described how the object moved off at a "phenomenal speed" which appeared to be "faster than a jet". Also it was reported that the object suddenly stopped after moving at high speed. SCUFORI are not aware of any helicopter that can attain such speeds or duplicate the reported manoeuvres.

b) Steven said that when watching the object both inside and outside the car, he heard no sounds that could be associated with the object/light. It is of SCUFORI's opinion that if the object was as close as reported, then the noise caused by a helicopter would have been heard.

The second piece of information was that a farmer, whose land the sighting appeared to take place on, occasionally hunts deer. (However, this was not normally in the immediate proximity of the sighting). During the hunt (at night) he uses a search beam to illuminate the animals and this beam can pick up a deer at up to 300 yards distance. It is possible that a beam of light shone onto the clouds could have been responsible for the sighting. But, although the exact weather conditions in the area on the night in question are not known, it is clear that there was almost total cloud cover between 4500 and 5000 feet. This altitude is well out of the range of the search beam and therefore rules it out as a possibility. Additionally the farmer stated that he would never direct the beam skyward because of the hazard it could cause to low-flying aircraft.

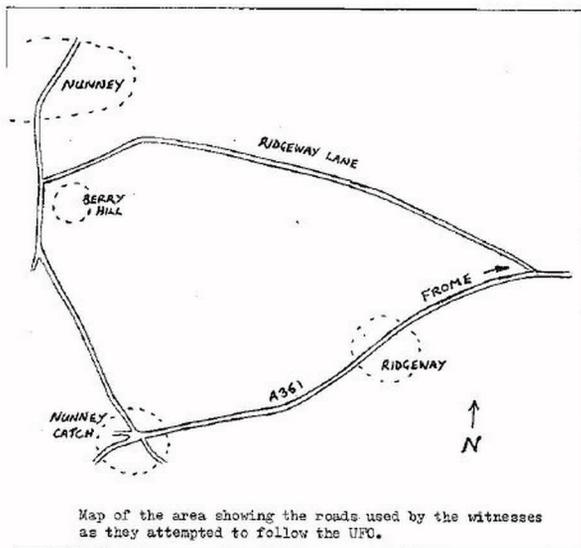
To conclude, SCUFORI know of no man-made or natural phenomena that could explain this part of the sighting and therefore it has been classified as UNIDENTIFIED.



The light/object as seen by Steven Dayman-Johns, who annotated this actual photograph.

2) The observation of a "whitish glow", having the shape of an inverted 'U', seen on the horizon in the direction of Nunney Catch. The possibility of the witnesses in fact observing the glow given by the lights of Nunney Catch or by vehicle headlights have been considered. SCUFORI do not feel that enough information has been correlated to make a classification possible, so this part of the sighting has been labelled as INSUFFICIENT DATA.

3) The observation of a white, parallel vertical beam of light seen behind a group of trees. The beam that the witnesses described was of a highly unusual nature; its appearance being similar to that of a laser beam of visible monochromatic light. Due to the fact that this beam was



stationary and verticle SCUFORI felt it was very unlikely that it was the search beam for hunting. It was also not in the area where the beam was normally used. In conclusion a classification of UNIDENTIFIED shall be placed on this part of the sighting.

4) The observation of a white object, approximately 30 yards in diameter, which slowly gave down a white beam of light. Then after four minutes, the beam of light "retracted". SCUFORI know of no man-made or natural phenomena which fits the description of the object/light or beam of light given by the witnesses. In conclusion, this section of the event shall be classified as UNIDENTIFIED.

5) The observation of a white object which travelled over the witness' car as they were seated in it (or "divebombed" as Steven Dayman-Johns quoted it). Once again this part of the sighting does not seem to fit the description of any man-made or natural phenomena known to SCUFORI and therefore must be classified UNIDENTIFIED.

It must be stressed that all the conclusions arrived at are based on the information available when they were made. In this light, SCUFORI can only assume that the last two parts of the whole event were very possibly sightings of the same object. However, it is not possible to state whether all five sightings were of the same object.

Should any further information become available on this case, the file will be re-examined and the conclusions will be open to fresh appraisal.

REFLECTIONS ON THE YELLOW BRICK ROAD DOUGAS PAYNE

Jenny Randles' article 'Taking Steps Down the Yellow Brick Road' (PROBE REPORT Vol 4, No 1) proved to be a most interesting account of her thoughts so far on the subject of close encounter UFO reports. Of course, given the rate of evolution in what she describes as her "personal quest for truth" I am very conscious as I am writing that her article and thus mine too are already probably irretrievably outdated. Nevertheless, assuming we all must stop to take breath sometime, these comments may yet have some temporary value.

As a psychologist, any attempts to supply psychological perspectives to UFO experiences have my undivided attention, especially when, as Jenny rightly points out, their applicability is considerably wider than just ufology. It must be admitted, however, that up to now, there has been very little input to this side of the debate, a deficiency which I have, perhaps naively, found somewhat surprising when one considers that the cornerstone of evidence about UFOs has been the subjective testimony of eyewitnesses rather than the objective evidence which is such a common feature in the physical sciences. The application of psychological knowledge in the field of perception, cognition and memory to the evaluation of witness testimony (and thus to an evaluation of the UFO event itself) has great potential and deserves fuller coverage in the ufological literature. Having said that, it cannot be claimed that the subject has been ignored altogether (Haines, 1979, 1980 are notable examples) and ironically, it has been implicit in every attempt by investigators and critics alike to produce an IFO out of a UFO. After all, is not an imputed misidentification an unwitting exercise in applied psychology?

The subject of Jenny's article, however, was UFO close encounters, the most exotic of UFO experiences, so let this discussion emphasise them rather than the more numerous, but prosaic, Unidentified Atmospheric Phenomena (UAP) reports. As a first point I would like to agree with Jenny's claim that a person's subjective experience (since all experience is subjective this is inevitably tautological) rarely mirrors objective reality. This is in fact a truism in psychological science, where discrepancies between objective stimuli such as size, distance, brightness and colour of objects, and their subjective impression in the mind of the beholder are commonplace and under certain circumstances can be quite large. Such discrepan-

cies depend upon a variety of different factors involving both the person, who acts as the observer (eg mental state, beliefs, expectations, arousal, fatigue, activities at the time of the experience), the physical environment within which he is operating (eg illumination, weather, geography) and social factors (eg the presence or absence of other people). The main problem for psychologists is to determine the extent of the discrepancies and the reasons for their occurrence. The situation is, of course, remarkably complicated when ambiguous or complex situations or events are being observed. Alas, our present knowledge can do little more than indicate the possible effects of some of these factors and I would hope to write further about this subject on another occasion.

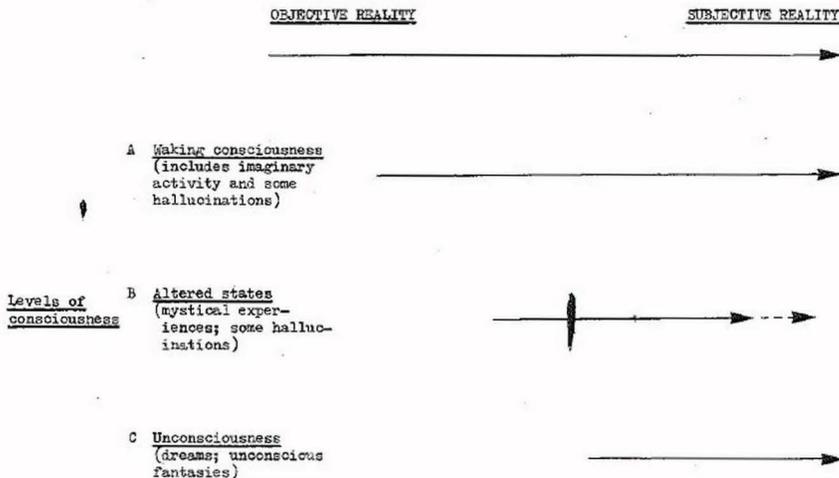
Human experience, therefore, is generally taken to be more or less at variance with objective reality but, nevertheless, retaining some traceable connection. In other words, whatever the degree of error between the two, the experience can still be identified with an objective stimulus or event. One can readily conceive of a continuum, rather like Jenny's spectrum, ranging from minimum to maximum discrepancy between the objective event and the subjective experience. Going further, we can also envisage a situation in which there is no identifiable connection between the subjective experience and the objective world at all. Hallucinations and visions may come into this category. These experiences, however, are usually thought of as being associated with abnormal human conditions such as illness, drug ingestion or acute physical or mental stress but they may also be evident when these conditions are absent (or thought to be).

Do close encounter reports accurately represent objective reality or not? Without conclusive objective evidence for any given close encounter we must consider the possibility that a report either misrepresents reality to some extent or ignores it completely. Jenny Randles seems to favour the former view, although it is quite possible that the latter, as in hallucinatory experiences, may be just as valid. One can sympathise with the apparent need to find an external cause for any given experience for we reason that the witness must have perceived something real in the outside world to make him experience what he did.

If we accept the occurrence of hallucinatory experiences, however, especially those which take place without any obvious preconditional factor such as drugs or stress, then we do not need to posit the existence of an external

cause. The entire experience could be internally generated. In other words, close encounter experiences could well be externalized mental imagery. In one sense they might be thought of as waking dreams.

Concerning Jenny's "spectrum of reality" I am assuming that this aims to show the range of human experience from that which is objectively dominated to that which is subjectively dominated. If this is so, then I think that consciousness, in terms of levels of consciousness, must be made explicit by its inclusion in any objective-subjective continuum. My own representation of somewhat, a reality-consciousness matrix, is therefore somewhat different from Jenny's and looks like this:



The main points here are that waking consciousness (A), although never totally objective, spans the continuum from objective to subjective reality but does not do so completely; it stops short of maximum subjectivity simply because a totally objective, yet waking, experience is difficult to conceive without consciousness taking on the characteristics of an altered state; in altered states (B) objectivity is reducing and subjectivity increasing; in unconsciousness (C) objective reality is at a minimum.

Jenny's spectrum refers to lucid dreams and her article gives them some emphasis. I have omitted them altogether from the matrix, subsuming them under dreams. The reason I cannot give them any special importance is because I believe them to be essentially uninterpretable. They present us with a logical problem - how can we be sure that a dreamer's "awareness" of himself dreaming (and possibly "in control" of his dream) is not merely another aspect of the dream itself, not unlike any other part? In other words, how do we know that the dreamer is not merely dreaming that he has some kind of consciousness? If this is the case, then the special quality and status of lucid dreams disappears. Moreover, the notion which Jenny uses about "the basic subjective imagery (being) intruded by objective conscious experience which then affords some control over it" would be incorrect. Dreams are so often very convincing in their apparent realism to the dreamer that I cannot see how we can give special credence to the dreamer's belief, however strong, that he is experiencing some kind of conscious awareness or control in the dream.

The qualities which Jenny uses to describe the 'OZ' factor (sensory and time distortion, mental tranquility, etc) bear striking similarity to those which characterize what have come to be called altered states of consciousness, particu-

larly mystical experiences. I have therefore allowed for Jenny's "Quasi-conscious Experience" by including altered states in my representation, although I must say at this point that I do not necessarily agree that close encounter experiences can be so characterized.

Where does this kind of analysis take us? I think that its greatest value lies in providing a frame of reference and a range of interpretational possibilities for UFO reports. An impartial contemplation of such a reality-conscious matrix makes one realize that any given UFO experience must be placed only with great care at one of the various positions within it.

It is easier to work in reverse order here by taking the level of unconsciousness first. I should imagine that very few, if any, UFO reports would normally be assigned to this category. There have been cases, however, where the witness passed out if not during, then soon after the alleged close encounter and I am persuaded to consider the possibility (only that) that those cases might be included here. If a person reports a close encounter during or soon after which he loses consciousness we cannot be certain, in the absence of other independent evidence, that the entire close encounter experience is not an unconscious fantasy temporarily confused in the memory of the witness. UFO investigators would usually accept the order of events as described by the witness eg "I was walking along the street when a UFO landed, the door opened, I saw two humanoid forms but then I must have passed out". Whatever the cause of the witness losing consciousness, we have no guarantee that the order of events were as he described them to be and that he passed out after he had the close encounter. The witness may have undergone a fantasy experience on or after losing consciousness which may have subsequently become chronologically disordered in his memory. Memory distortions of this nature are quite possible.

At the level of altered states there is a heavy but probably shifting element of subjective influence and these altered states are partly defined by characteristics similar to those described by Jenny as the 'OZ' factor. Since 'OZ' is symptomatic of Jenny's "Quasi-Conscious Experience" and she appears to equate OZ Experience with close encounters, I take it that she is moving towards an altered states hypothesis for close encounter cases. Or am I putting words into her mouth?

The level of waking consciousness is by far the most common in UFO reports (if not close encounters) and could

present the most fascinating psychological problems. Most UFO reports are deemed to fall into this category even though waking consciousness can include a wide range of objective-subjective interactions (see matrix). Fundamental to our interpretation of any particular UFO event is some kind of assessment of the relative objectivity/subjectivity of the witness at the time of the experience. By invoking 'OZ' in close encounter cases, which I am suggesting is an indicator of altered states, it is implied that the subjective element is very strong and that therefore we should be looking for a psychological explanation for such experiences.

Can we come to the same conclusions for those cases where there is an absence of 'OZ' characteristics? Jenny has raised an interesting point by implying that the 'OZ' factor is probably present in many more close encounters than we think - she believes that it just has not been mentioned sufficiently by witnesses. She further implies that careful questioning of close encounter witnesses on this aspect of the experience will expose more instances. She may be right but, as I indicated earlier, I cannot help remaining sceptical on this point, mainly because I find it hard to believe that those characteristics of a close encounter, if important to witnesses, would not be more frequently and spontaneously expressed by them. (It is possible that they may have been reported more frequently by witnesses but that the investigators have been responsible for the apparent deficit in not recording these details which they erroneously thought were unimportant).

Jenny goes further by suggesting that the 'OZ' factor is also present in other paranormal experiences (OCEs, precognitions and clairvoyant readings). Even if this were true, and I do not know that it is, I find it difficult to think of these paranormal events as sufficiently analogous to close encounter experiences as to support the 'OZ'

proposition. Among paranormal events generally I think that apparitional experiences afford a closer analogy, but here I recall that the apparition literature has made little mention of witnesses exhibiting or describing symptoms characteristic of altered states.

Whilst not denying that some close encounters may involve the 'OZ' factor, I would hesitate to go further than this without seeing the evidence. Until we have this evidence, and perhaps Jenny's new book "UFO REALITY" will supply it, I think there are good grounds for believing that at least some, if not many, close encounter reports will not contain the 'OZ' factor and, therefore, in those cases where illness, drugs, stress or unconsciousness also have been ruled out we are back to the beginning in trying to explain them.

The simple truth of the matter is that we do not yet know and understand the full range of human subjective experience within ordinary waking consciousness. If the evidence for close encounters, and apparitions for that matter, is anything to go by, then psychological science must come to terms with a rich subjective world of, sometimes, vivid realism which can take place during full consciousness and yet be totally convincing to the participant. Its relationship with the objective world may, however, be as tenuous as that of unconscious fantasies or drug-induced hallucinations. On the other hand, its psychological importance to the individual and its significance to our understanding of human behaviour and experience may prove to be quite considerable.

References.

Haines, R.F. (1979). UFO Phenomena and the Behavioral Scientist. New Jersey: Scarecrow Press.

Haines, R.F. (1980). Observing UFOs. Chicago: Nelson-Hall.

**CASE
CLOSED**

IN SEARCH OF FAME & FORTUNE JENNY RANGLES

PROBE REPORT has shown in recent issues that there are dangerous backwaters to the UFO mystery. Where witnesses can lead themselves, and trustworthy investigators astray in a quest for some often ill-defined goal. Rarely is it quite so obvious and straightforward as the proverbial fame and fortune, but there is always the risk that it might be.

The study of cases which are explained can be of value to our understanding of TRUE UFOs. The excellent 'CASE CLOSED' feature in this journal proves that. No ufologist worth anything at all should dismiss these accounts as boring or irrelevant or, heaven forbid, refuse to read them and react in the highly regrettable way that the once respected Tony Pace has done. (See letter to the editor in the last issue of PROBE REPORT.)

The SCUFORI investigation of the MIB hoax was of great importance to anybody seriously interested in UFOs (1). In a different way so was my own previous description of an incredible hoax (2). In the SCUFORI case the trickster fabricated evidence upon evidence. In the MUFORA investigation which I related, he actually impersonated a senior police officer (and continued to do so when challenged by a real senior police officer!) All these moves were in order to perpetuate a close encounter fantasy.

Such cases must provide object lessons in the capabilities of investigators, if nothing else. For their unmasking shows that (on some occasions at least) we are able to do our job, and do it well (3). In addition they illustrate to the outside world that we are not wide-eyed believers who sweep our dirty dishes under the tea-towel, out of sight and thus out of mind. We CARE about truth. And so there are several good justifications for airing these matters every now and again.

I therefore make no apology for taking you on another mystery tour to nowhere in particular (save the depths of the human mind). Nor, I suspect, is the editor of this publication even faintly remorseful for taking up valuable space on this non-event. Bear with us both and you might see the significance.

Perhaps the first warning sign that this new study teaches requires some amplification at this point. It concerns the post-encounter behaviour of the witness (or pseudo-witness as it here must be). Following his alleged experiences, over the Easter holidays in 1981, he literally set out to find any ufologist who would listen. He spoke up at a MUFORA meeting soon after these things had 'happened', if indeed they ever did. Here he persuaded then MUFORA councillor Robin Lindsey to take an interest, alongside several others. After a field trip to the scene of the crime MUFORA quickly lost interest, dismissing the whole matter as nonsense. Certainly the case never became a National Investigations Committee problem when this was formed some months later, and at the time I was not aware of what had transpired. The witness did move from this failure to the Surrey Investigation Group who similarly lost interest after confronting the romanticism of the story.

Things seem to have lapsed for a time until the witness decided to try once more and lower the credibility threshold a bit. If he could not convince adults of his adventures then possibly children might listen. So he wrote to the now defunct children's UFO magazine MAGIC SAUCER, and his sighting was given some prominence in their July/August 1982 issue.

From this published account the Plymouth UFO Investigation Centre (PUIOIC) picked it up and, thanks to MAGIC SAUCER editor Crystal Hobgen, were put in touch with the witness (who shall be known as Terry). He had advertised a 4500

word description of his experiences for "loan" to serious investigators. On 31st August 1982 this was sent to Eric Morris of PUF01G, who also happens to be BUFORA's RIC for Devon and Cornwall. At this point it might be opportune to explain the apparently confusing geography of this situation. Groups from London, Surrey and Devon were all involved because Terry lives in Surrey but, at the time of his claimed experiences, was on holiday in Devon.

The PUF01G investigation went ahead, with results that you will see in a moment. This was concluded in early 1983. But even after that, Terry went on to find another set of investigators to listen to him! In the summer of 1983 I was surprised to be informed by Dr Hugh Pincoff, secretary of ASSAP, that there was an excellent case (possibly even a close encounter of the third kind) and asking for advice on how we might best pursue it. Terry had now attached himself to ASSAP who, ignorant of what had gone on before, might have wasted valuable time and effort but for the intervention of serendipity. Two days before I had received Eric Morris' considered report on Terry and his claims.

Armed with this information ASSAP were able to reconsider their interest in the case; although it was decided to examine it from a somewhat different angle, as the brief of ASSAP does not stop if the 'anomaly' concerned proves of no ufological importance.

I think this lack of communication between serious-minded groups is a major problem we have done too little to overcome. NUFON (UFO RESEARCH NORTH) and UFO RESEARCH MIDLANDS exist almost entirely to help; as did the erstwhile MAUPOG. But the most troublesome groups are the ones who stay away from such liaisons and so their effect is minimised. BUFORA's NIC (National Investigation Committee) is doing its bit to help. Our regular meetings are open to attendance by any British group, local or national. In such circumstances cases can be discussed and resources pooled without damaging anybody's independence. Unfortunately, for groups who refuse to cooperate or even attend, there is nothing we can do (except keep trying). At the most recent BUFORA NIC meeting (held in conjunction with the major UFO event on the year's calendar, the BUFORA 3rd International UFO Congress, to boost numbers) only representatives of NUFORA, PROBE and SCUFORI attended from Britain. There were more overseas groups there! That it did prove useful was shown by a liaison that developed between BUFORA and CUFOG (USA) on two important cases. Imagine how much more could be done by such NIC meetings if other British UFO groups were willing to be a little more flexible, for the good of the subject.

It is sad in this respect that about the only major group (so far as we know) who has not fallen victim to Terry's allurings is CONTACT UK. But I have to say, as far as we know, because CONTACT UK unfortunately continue to demonstrate their intensely isolationist policies. Recently a photographic case was promoted by them in the national press, being heralded by the group as the most important photograph ever taken in Britain. The doubtful nature of that statement is not the issue I wish to raise. What is at issue is their total refusal to share data on the matter with fellow investigators. BUFORA's accredited investigator for the region in question (west Yorkshire) even went to the trouble of joining their local team, both to cement relationships and as the only apparent way of finding out any information. He was actually thrown out of the group because it was seemingly feared he might 'leak' data on the case to BUFORA. This is terribly distressing. But there is very little we can do about groups who choose to follow this line. However, we can at least publish the results of the PUF01G study and hope that it is not too late for somebody out there who might be the next potential victim of this certainly very zealous witness!

The Claim

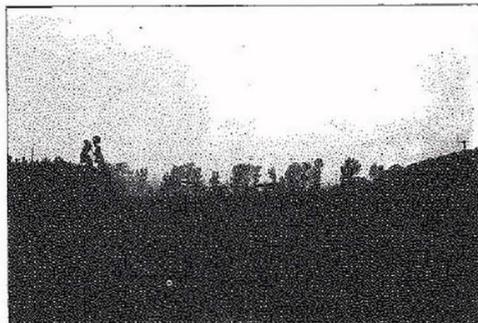
Terry was visiting Devon for a five day camping holiday on his own. He arrived in a field by the sea at Budleigh Salterton on 17th April 1981. Near him was an old hut into which he could carry collected pieces of wood and make a fire, although the weather was mild for the time of year. At 22.00 on 18th he heard a huge 'bang' and rushed out of

his tent to see a white light moving slowly from over the sea and across the fields. As he put it, "I don't think it was Concorde... I thought after that it might have been one of the objects I had previously seen at Warminster."

Nothing happened the next day, but at 05.30 on 20th April he was outside the tent boiling some water for a breakfast cup of tea when he saw three lights in the field before him. They seemed to be on or near the ground. Climbing a mound for a better view he saw they were very large and between them practically covered the width of the field. As he walked over in their direction one of them brightened up, as if it had seen him. There was no sound or movement and he does not know what happened to them. He acts very confused about this and says, "Did I go back into the tent while the lights were still there?" He continued his behaviour quite leisurely for the rest of the day and did not report the events to anybody.

At 04.30 on 21st April he looked out to see if the lights had returned. Sure enough, he saw two of them, but further away and over a nearby farm. He set off down the lane and then along a track that skirted the field heading towards the farm. As he walked, a flashing light some twenty feet away (reconstructed distance on site) made him stop. He then realised he was viewing an oval shaped object on the ground which was surrounded by flashing lights. As it revolved a sort of "porthole" was visible upon it.

The object began to move away across the field and Terry fell to the floor paralysed. His back was sore and he says he felt strangely cold. One of the two lights which he had seen over the farm came closer and hovered low down, now swinging like a pendulum. He knew he ought to leave the area but he could not do so. He began to walk towards the "crafts" (sic) apparently no longer paralysed. One of the two seemed to "grow" and he turned away. It was now 06.15. This protracted duration seemed to suggest the possibility of a second time lapse. (The first being during the previous encounter).



View from outside hut that Terry camped in, looking at the field in which he claimed to see three UFOs on 20th April 1981. (Photo: PUF01G).

At 06.45 Terry packed up his tent and left, leaving one of the lights still hovering over the farm. By 09.30 his vision was "double". By 16.30 he had reached Axmouth and was resting, with his ankle now swollen. Suddenly he heard the words "Are you happy", although nobody was around. But in the field beside him he found three circular impressions which formed a triangle, with sides of about eight feet.

By 21.00 he had travelled on to Lyme Regis and went to a phone box. But a loud knock on the glass (despite nobody being in sight) sent him off. At 23.30 he blurted out his story to a local stranger, who suggested he go to a nearby hospital. Walking there with the man Terry suddenly collapsed onto the floor. The time was about midnight. He visited the hospital, who checked him over

but found nothing the matter with him. He was sent back into town in the middle of the night but could not sleep. Then, on shaving in the dawn, two weals appeared on his face.

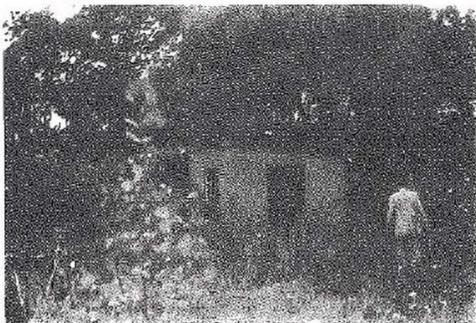
Believing that he now had physical evidence to support his story Terry decided to return to the hospital and try to persuade them that his encounter was real. But on his way there he heard a voice keep telling him, "Don't report to the hospital". But he kept going right up to the building, whereupon he saw "entities" in the hospital windows. One had a domed head. The others were very odd shapes. He decided not to go inside.

This is the end of his account (although he makes some mention of assorted anomalies back home... eg that his spine hurts him and that his TV set once screamed "Who are you?" at him). The evident signs of mental illness are very apparent all the way through the story, especially in the frequent hearing of voices.

The Investigation

On reading this account PUF0IC decided the case had potential and required a full investigation. They invited Terry to Plymouth for a few days. He arrived on 18th September 1982 and they went with him to the scene of the events to carry out a reconstruction. Site photographs were also obtained (see plates). On this visit Terry brought four poor and fuzzy photographs which he had taken of the area in July 1981, when he had visited it with the original BUFORA investigators. He claimed that each of these had "entities" on. PUF0IC studied the photographs carefully and found only patches of sunlight through trees, or shadings in the grass, where Terry continued to insist there stood aliens. On the question of aliens he allegedly saw in the hospital windows PUF0IC were at pains to point out the laboratory equipment and other kinds of machinery that were visible within the hospital building. Their shapes were unfamiliar enough to create the illusion of seeing strange creatures. But Terry was adamant and claimed that the investigators must be covering up the fact that they could see the aliens.

Regarding the time lapses, reconstruction of the events did verify the possibility that there might be two of them. Terry was asked if he would be willing to return to Devon later for regression hypnosis experiments. At first he was dubious but later seemed to decide that he would like this. Meanwhile PUF0IC obtained the assistance of a qualified hypnotherapist, a Mr Flynn, who agreed to consult on the case. They also secured the help of Harry Harris, a BUFORA member whose work in regression hypnosis is becoming well known to British researchers. Harry Harris agreed to offer advice and sit in on the sessions, where he would also video-record them. Things were moving towards these experiments being conducted in early January 1983.



Terry photographed by the hut in which he camped, and from where he claimed to see the UFOs on 20th and 21st April 1981. (Photo: PUF0IC).

During the weeks leading up to these sessions things began to go astray. It was found by chance that Terry had visited Harminster since their investigation had begun, where he had told UFO author Arthur Shuttlesworth all about his sightings, seemingly expecting publicity. Both Terry and Arthur were told this was inadvisable whilst the case was still under investigation.

Terry went back to Plymouth on 3rd January 1983 and immediately began to ask which world-famous ufologists had been consulted on the case. He seemed to have an obsession with Dr J. Allen Hynek being informed. He also requested to know what TV and radio shows might be organised for him. In view of this PUF0IC delayed the hypnosis and decided that Terry should be checked out by a doctor who was consulting with them on the case. The witness was not happy about this.

Intensive interviewing about Terry's background than proceeded and this proved crucial. He was a loner with no job, little education, no friends and only one real interest - UFOs. He drank heavily and consumed aspirin tablets with alarming frequency. He claimed this was due to headaches postdating the encounters. He also began to contradict his original story so often that its reality status became seriously in doubt. After a private meeting PUF0IC decided to abandon the case and told Terry to pack his things and return to Surrey. When challenged he mumbled something about the whole thing being a hoax and then left.

It later was found that immediately prior to coming to Budleigh Salterton in April 1981 Terry had visited Harminster where he tried to get a job and settle down. He failed. This move was entirely precipitated by his desire to be near the home of UFOs. Whilst there, of course, he saw several "UFOs". In his January 1983 visit Terry had brought with him four enormous enlargements of his photographs, with "aliens" on. These were twice the size of tabloid newspapers! He tried to pressure investigators into seeing the "aliens". But they were no more visible than before. He also talked incessantly about UFOs and would not even small-talk about other subjects; which became tiresome even for hardened UFO investigators.

The solution to this case lies in an obsessive witness who perpetrated a clever hoax after doing his homework. Speculation as to why would be pointless, although the fame and fortune Sunday newspapers have recently afforded certain close encounter witnesses must be borne in mind by all investigators, and they should keep alert for the danger signals this case well illustrates. It would have been all-too-easy to proceed with the regression hypnosis, create pseudo-abduction memories and manufacture one more classic close encounter of the fourth kind.

Credit: Investigation by Eric & Judith Morris & Martin Norrish of PUF0IC.

References.

- 1) See PROBE REPORT Vol 3, No 3, January 1983.
- 2) See MAGONIA No 6, 1981.
- 3) Hilary Evans has been a recent champion of this kind of work with his excellent demystification of the 1977 Dyfed wave, and the infamous Cergy Pontoise abduction case.

AN INDEX to every issue of PROBE and PROBE REPORT is in preparation. Completion time is not yet known, neither are details available on how to receive a copy. However, this will be announced in BUFORA PROBE Volume 1, number 1 in January 1984. It is anticipated that a small fee will be charged to cover postage and photocopying expenses.



BOOK REVIEWS

THE EVIDENCE FOR UFOs by Hilary Evans. Published by The Aquarian Press in Collaboration with ASSAP. 160 pp, illustrated with photographs, price £2.50

This is the first book in a promised series published by Aquarian Press and ASSAP, although published jointly with **THE EVIDENCE FOR VISIONS OF THE VIRGIN MARY** (reviewed below), and if all the books meet the standards set by Hilary Evans' offering, then both publishers will be very pleased by contributing something very worthwhile onto the market of the paranormal. **THE EVIDENCE FOR UFOs** is very basic and is certainly not intended to cover new ground. No new theories are proffered, but the old ones are instead evaluated, giving the 'new' reader a brief summary of what we have all been saying and thinking over the last thirty-five years. The 'experienced' student (said with some reserve by the reviewer - at least until it is clear what an 'experienced' ufologist is, and if alone makes them in any way respectable), will not obtain much from this book, although it is written in a very easy style and will certainly not be a drawn-out task to read.

Evans starts the book with a summary of the phenomenon as a whole, and then examines the social implications in the second chapter - in other words, how social and cultural backgrounds can affect the way the witness perceives the UFO, and how it gets reported depending on the religious importance or type of culture of the environment. Some see UFOs as angels, others see them as messengers of the devil, or perhaps Blessed Virgin Marys: or visitors from other stars and planets. This chapter also looks at abductions (although to be dealt with more thoroughly in a later book in this series) and contact claims, and asks whether they are products of the mind or if they were real events that actually happened. Basic speculation that dominates most articles that seem to be written at the moment, but nevertheless still written in an interesting manner.

Then Hilary attempts to assess the evidence, offering a varied assortment of interesting cases (not masses of LITS cases I am glad to say) over three chapters covering physical evidence, witness evidence and photographic evidence - and even the attitude of the sceptics. By far the most interesting chapters are the last two where Hilary assesses the evidence collected to date. He acknowledges the current mode of thought in that the UFO phenomenon is being understood as phenomena - in other words that UFOs represent a multi-faceted problem. He suggests that no ONE explanation is ever going to solve all UFO cases, as each theory so far can at best only explain some cases. The ETH does not explain small LITS cases, where miniature balls of light are seen to manoeuvre in our airspace, measuring no more than a few inches; the Earth Lights theory does not satisfactorily explain the multi-witness observations of apparent solid craft (that especially take place in non-fault areas); natural phenomena can only account for a number of cases, as can misidentifications and possible unknown secret weapons should they be the cause of some UFO reports. Evans points out that the indistinguishable overlap of these various phenomena makes for confusing analysis.

At the end of the book, the author's personal assessment offers FOUR sources of UFO phenomena, of which two will no doubt be met with some resistance. Hilary speculates that a biological intelligence exists that can manifest itself in our atmosphere as a ball of light, and can and does react to those nearby as reported in the Missouri study by Dr Harley Rutledge in **PROJECT IDENTIFICATION**. The other blockbuster is that Hilary Evans appears to accept that some UFOs are actually extra-terrestrial in origin. He appreciates the lack of supportive evidence, but makes his opinion from studying the wealth of material that was used in presumably writing this book. It is fair to say that this reviewer was surprised to read that final paragraph, yet it is also fair to say that I have not had to summarise the entire collected mass of UFO evidence on record.

In summing up **THE EVIDENCE FOR UFOs**, it must be said that in summing up the whole topic in a very limited book, many intriguing aspects are fleetingly referred to without sufficient development. This may be because the author was restricted on word number (as the companion book was only 152 pages in length) but it nevertheless does lessen the book as a fully instructive document. But, being written by someone well-versed in current ufological trends, he is not naive, and no doubt aimed this book at a more general reader. Whatever, Hilary certainly reminds us that there are UFOs out there, despite current droughts in reports!

Ian Mrazgled

THE EVIDENCE FOR VISIONS OF THE VIRGIN MARY by Kevin McClure. Published by The Aquarian Press in collaboration with ASSAP. 152 pp, illustrated with photographs, £2.50

Published with **THE EVIDENCE FOR UFOs**, this completes the first offering in the series. This book deals with a subject both fascinating and difficult to convey, due to its sensitive religious nature, but Kevin McClure has succeeded admirably in his task, and his book is a well-written, level-headed and sane approach to alleged Marian apparitions which does no injustice to religion. All the well known alleged apparitions of the Virgin Mary from Walsingham to Garabandal are examined, plus some lesser known ones, and the available evidence analysed. This is not easy since in practically every case the percipients are hardly ideal witness material and, due to the involvement of the religious and secular authorities, impartial investigation is sadly lacking.

The assessment of the evidence is well balanced and one cannot but come to the conclusion, as does the author, that a strong subjective element is involved. Much of the evidence is hardly proof of a supernatural visitation to the serious researcher, although it often is to the faithful. Alleged messages received by the witnesses, apart from prophecies yet unfulfilled, hardly constitute evidence for appearances of the Mother of God, being, as the author puts it, carrot-and-stick type religious admonitions. There is, however, a strong possibility that the witnesses have certain psychic abilities and undergo experiences which to them are of a very real nature, even if expressed as an archetypal religious experience.

Clearly Marian apparitions constitute a fascinating subject which, as the author says, demands further investigation. Readers of this book may wonder why recent investigations into the Fatima case have not been mentioned, and I have asked Kevin McClure himself this very question. His reply was that these investigations were ufologically orientated and as such did not constitute valid material for a book of this nature. They have not, however, been neglected by the author since he informs me that all available evidence on the Fatima case will be examined in a future publication.

It is this objective approach which makes this book so readable and so important, for it is the first book on this subject by an impartial researcher and investigator and a must for the serious student of paranormal phenomena.

Geoff Bird.

EVOLUTION FROM SPACE by Fred Hoyle and Chandra Wickramasinghe, published by Paladin (Oranade), 195pp, illustrated with diagrams. £1.95.

This is a startling and controversial book by two eminent astronomers which will interest all those seeking to delve further into the mysteries of evolution. The authors argue that our evolution has always been subject to cosmic influence and relates biology to astronomy, presenting to the reader an anti-Darwinian theory of evolution that is scientifically based, unlike the traditional biblical viewpoint.

Darwin is weighed in the balances and found wanting, including the fossil evidence, and the authors accuse us of being pre-Copernican in our concepts regarding Earth and its place

in the Universe. Genes, the authors argue, are cosmic in origin and arrive as DNA or RNA, not only in the tails of comets but propelled by the pressure of light waves from the stars, at very high speeds. This book will not endear the authors to the scientific establishment, however the evidence presented is impressive and thought-provoking. EVOLUTION FROM SPACE is recommended for readers with a scientific bent - it is specialist material which the general reader might find a little heavy.

Geoff Bird

PRINCIPLES AND PRACTICE IN THE PENNINES A SPECIAL BOOK REVIEW

HILARY EVANS

How often we have said it: there's no need to write sensationalised books about UFOs, because UFOs are quite sensational enough in their own right. Well, here's our chance to see how right we are. Granada Publishing, to their credit, have allowed Jenny Randles to publish an honest, unsensationalised, well-documented account of the recent happenings in West Yorkshire. Now the question is, will it sell better than THE WELSH TRIANGLE, THE UNINVITED and THE JANOS PEOPLE?

Of course, that's not the only question. It isn't even the most important question. But it's a question full of significance for British ufology. We have a fine tradition in this country of serious, intelligent writing in journals as witness PROBE REPORT, MAGONIA, FSR, J-TAP, CESEJ JOURNAL and many others past and present. But our less ephemeral literature is sparse and shallow compared with that of, say, France; both Italy and Spain can boast a far better record. A few books of the calibre of THE PENNINE UFO MYSTERY could help to correct the imbalance.

They could also do what is of course a more important job, that of enhancing the credibility of the UFO itself. Shabby and sensationalist books like those mentioned above must have helped to destroy whatever belief the general public held, that ufology is a subject worthy of serious scientific interest; as a result, the study has had to be carried on by a handful of single-minded people who could see that behind the surface absurdities and ambiguities there is an important reality. Of these dedicated individuals, none has been more active and more enthusiastic than Jenny Randles herself. She has often been a controversial figure: sometimes her enthusiasm has caused her to overreach herself, evoking personal vituperation of that peculiarly recriminatory kind which seems to afflict small groups of over-intense enthusiasts. But throughout it all she has consistently maintained a devotion to the highest standards, even if it hasn't always been within her power to maintain those standards in practice. Her new book is a triumphant vindication of her policy.

It is not easy to steer an acceptable course between presenting an official report on the one hand and a popular account on the other; too often the writer gets bogged down in the minutiae of trivia one moment, and the next slips over into the "little did I guess, as I set off for Scunthorpe that drizzly Monday morning..." Jenny's new book steers a middle course which should appeal to the working ufologist and the man in the street alike. She makes no concessions to the supposed preferences of a popular readership, but presents the events in all their complexity, bringing together the activities of a great many separate groups and individuals whose contributions she generously acknowledges.

The book is well provided with references, attributions and acknowledgements, and every incident is referred back to its original source. At the same time, she is able to stand back from her subject to take a broad perspective and present it lucidly and perceptively. When describing ambiguous evidence - and most of it is ambiguous! - she gives us all the options, making no secret of her own doubts and uncertainties. The result is inevitably a somewhat incoherent narrative which lacks a satisfactory conclusion - but then that is precisely what the affair itself presents.

THE PENNINE UFO MYSTERY gains vastly from Jenny's wide knowledge of her subject, which enables her to draw useful parallels with other cases widely separated in time and place. Similarly, her awareness of relevant research studies adds an important dimension, enabling her to illuminate the Pennine incidents from the work of researchers as varied as Persinger, Jung, Lawson and Devereux. All this is done, however, without bogging the reader down in heavy

Book reviews held over until next issue:

BEYOND THE BODY by Susan J. Blackmore (PALADIN)

HAUNTINGS AND APPARITIONS by Andrew MacKenzie (PALADIN)

discussion: Jenny writes with such total involvement that only the duller reader could fail to be drawn into the excitement of the quest, sharing the investigators' bafflement at the enigma confronting them, and their satisfaction when some piece of the jigsaw actually seems to fit into a larger picture.

The reader may hesitate, as I do, to agree with the author in every respect. I was sorry to see no reference to Rutledge's PROJECT IDENTIFICATION, which I would have thought extremely relevant; and it is a pity the book was written too soon to take into account the parallels with the extraordinary UFO sightings currently occurring in Norway. Her brief reference to Hopkins' MISSING TIME, does less than justice to a point of view which, though I am myself diffident about swallowing it whole, I consider it vitally important that we should take very seriously.

On a more mundane level, I would have liked some maps to show where everything was happening, and a chronological timetable of the incidents would have helped the reader keep track of the complex web of events. And why couldn't we have had Alan Godfrey's own witness sketches - or are they government property?

But these are minor shortcomings in what is a really praiseworthy effort, which I read with continuous admiration for the author as well as a sustained excitement about the subject. If some of us had reservations about her previous book, ALLEN CONTACT, we need have none about this new book, which reaffirms that, by the breadth of her knowledge and the depth of her insight, Jenny Randles is the best ufologist we have. I have deliberately said nothing specifically about the subject matter of the book. Some readers will be aware of some of the incidents as they have been sporadically reported in the media; they will be glad as I am to have them placed in a broader perspective and illuminated by reference to external material. No summary of mine could do justice to an affair whose interest consists partly, at least, in its complexity and in the ambiguous but apparent interconnections between one incident and another.

One thing, though, comes through loud and clear. The query which has been bandied about a lot lately, Where have all the UFOs gone?, is shown to be as much of a non-question as most working ufologists suspected. I won't be so glib as to say that UFOs are alive and well and living in West Yorkshire, if only because there is plenty of activity going on elsewhere - here in South-East London, to name just one area. The UFOs are still very much with us; and thanks to investigators like those whose work Jenny chronicles here, they are now being studied with a surer expertise, and with a greater awareness of the issues that may be pertinent, than ever before. For this the credit must go in large part to Jenny herself, who has been the eloquent spokesperson for a new school of scientifically-minded investigators whose methods and approach go far beyond simple reporting of the reported facts, and who consider each event in a spectrum of implications which range from geophysical forces at one extreme to psychosocial factors at the other.

It is this broad-minded, multi-disciplinary approach, as opposed to dedication to a single hypothesis to the exclusion of others, which typifies all that is best in modern ufology; and Jenny's new book is a timely example of the approach. When back in 1979 I reviewed the book she wrote with Peter Warrington, UFOs: A BRITISH VIEWPOINT, I wrote "with this book, British ufology comes of age". With her new book, Jenny puts into practice the principles outlined in that earlier book, and the result is a triumphant vindication. Now let's hope that all those who bought THE WELSH TRIANGLE, THE UNINVITED, and THE JANOS PEOPLE will buy THE PENNINE UFO MYSTERY and find out what ufology is really about.

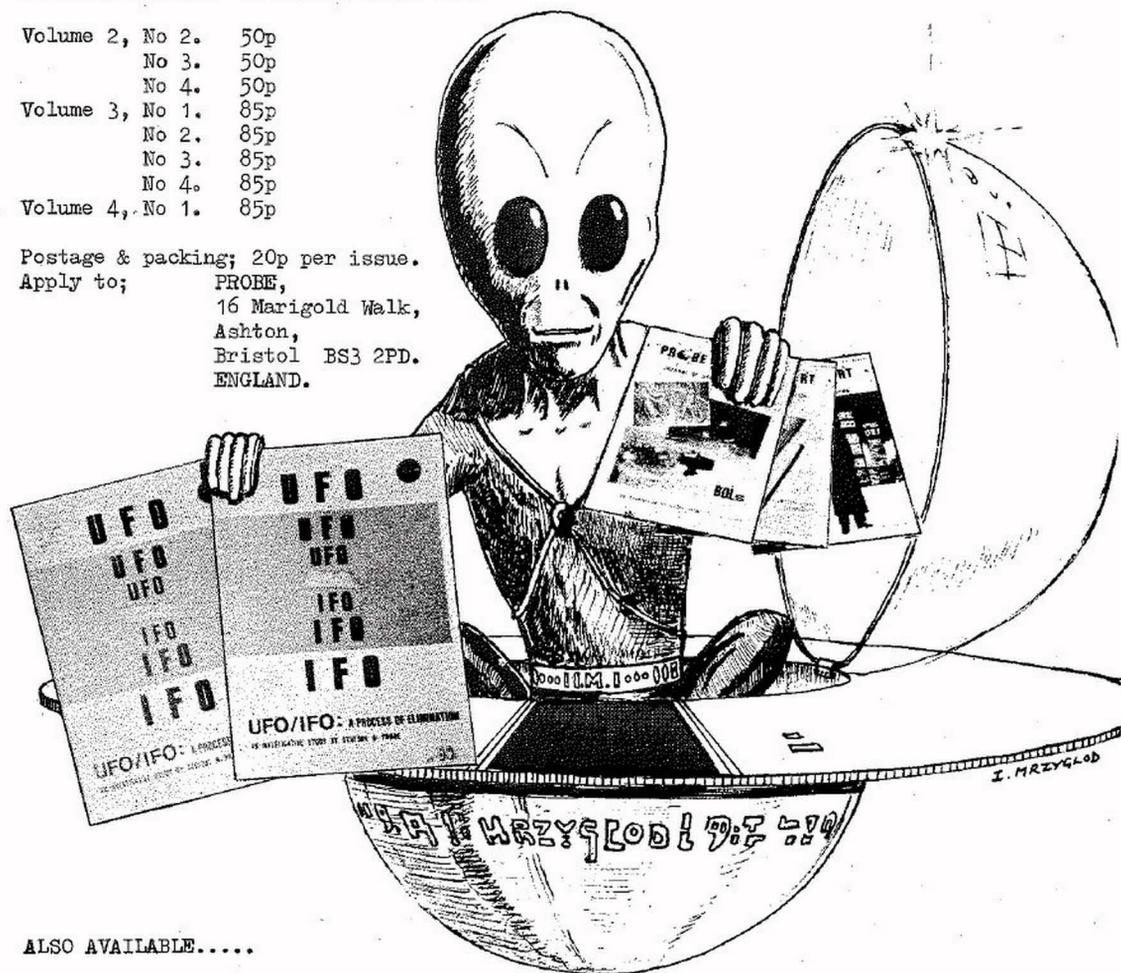
BACK ISSUE SERVICE

Take the opportunity whilst they are still available! Issues in stock are:

Volume 2, No 2. 50p
No 3. 50p
No 4. 50p
Volume 3, No 1. 85p
No 2. 85p
No 3. 85p
No 4. 85p
Volume 4, No 1. 85p

Postage & packing; 20p per issue.

Apply to; PROBE,
16 Marigold Walk,
Ashton,
Bristol BS3 2PD.
ENGLAND.



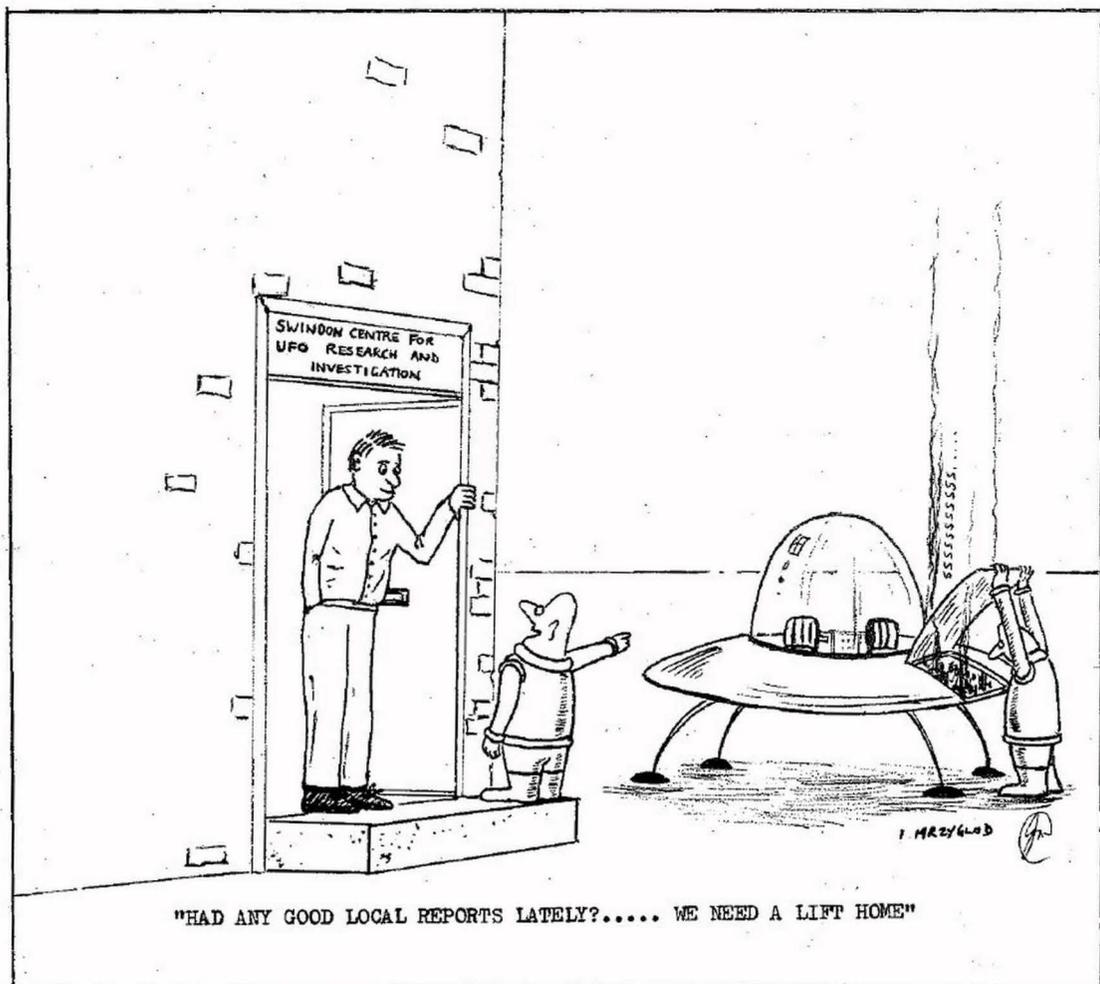
ALSO AVAILABLE.....

"UFO/IFO: A PROCESS OF ELIMINATION"

80p plus 20p postage

Apply to;

SCUFORI,
29 Lethbridge Road, Swindon, Wilts. SN1 4BY.



"HAD ANY GOOD LOCAL REPORTS LATELY?..... WE NEED A LIFT HOME"

PRINTED PAPER
REDUCED RATE

16 MARIGOLD WALK
ASHTON
BRISTOL BS3 2PD
ENGLAND