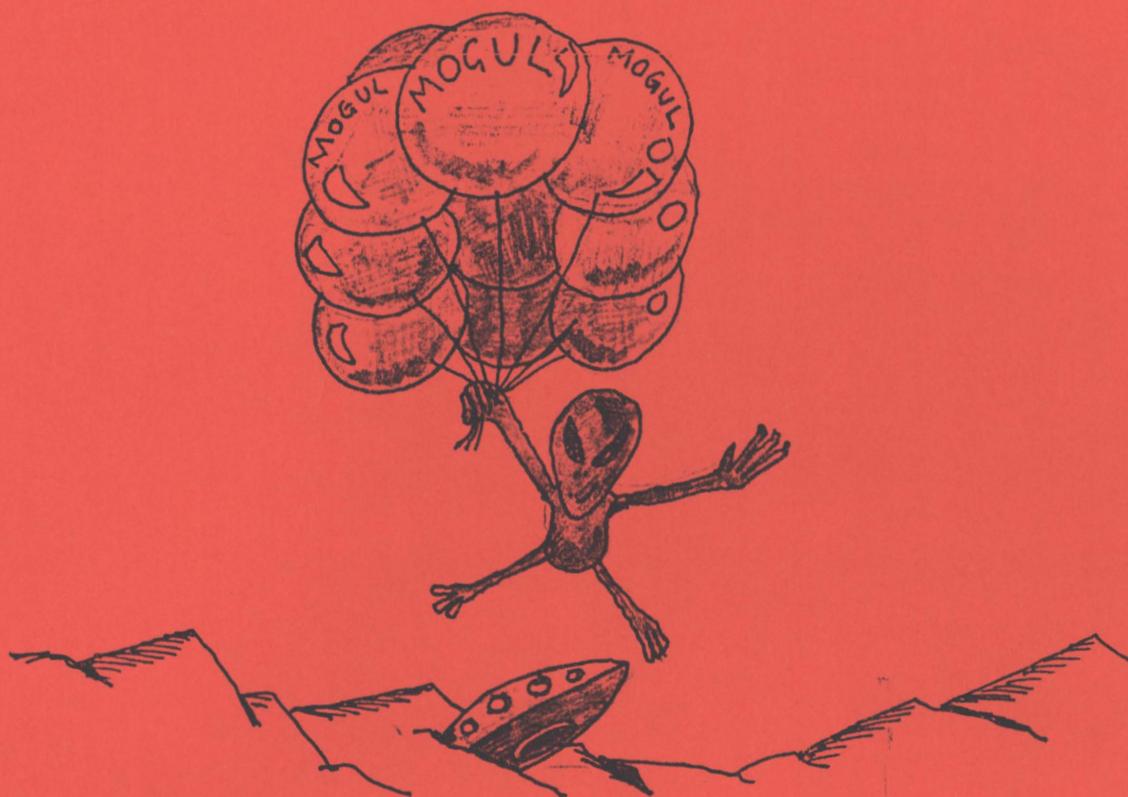


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YORKSHIRE UFO SOCIETY

PROJECT RED BOOK

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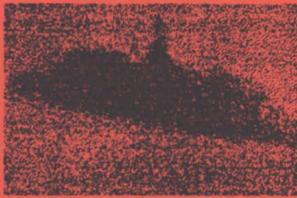
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**AN INTERVIEW WITH KEVIN RANDLE
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NORTHUMBRIAN UFO CRASH
NEW RENDLESHAM DOCUMENTS**

And much more...

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YUFOS



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"I haven't felt this way since 'Funky Town!' ..."

AN INTERVIEW WITH KEVIN RANDLE

Kevin Randle is one of the most prominent UFO researchers in the USA and the author of a number of books on the UFO subject, including *"The Truth About The UFO Crash at Roswell"* (with Don Schmidt), *"The Randle Report"*, and *"Project Moondust"*. He is a contributing editor to *International UFO Reporter (IUR)*, - the journal of the Centre for UFO Studies (CUFOS). He has appeared on many UFO-related programmes, such as *Sightings* and *Unsolved Mysteries*, and he is a regular contributor to magazines such as *International UFO Reporter* and *The MUFON Journal*.

DAVE BAKER: Kevin, it's a question I ask everyone, but how did you become involved in ufology?

KEVIN RANDLE: I always blame my mother for that. She had an interest in science fiction and science fiction often deals with alien races, alien visitation, and the exploration of the galaxy. It's not a big step from science fiction into UFOs. I do realise that science fiction is, by definition, fiction and that with UFOs, we're dealing with a perceived reality. But, my mother sort of started it and then did nothing to discourage it, which, I guess, puts her in front of lots of other parents.

As a Captain in the USAFR, did you ever come across any evidence that the US military had any interest, let alone knowledge about UFOs?

In my role in the Air Force, I saw nothing to suggest that the government or the Air Force had been hiding anything. In all that time I saw one unclassified report of a UFO sighting that had been reported, I believe, because some thought it interesting. It was a flight crew who had seen something over the Pacific, but was little more than a nocturnal light.

Outside the military, I have seen quite a bit to suggest a government interest in UFOs. I think the two Air Force reports on Roswell demonstrate, if nothing else, an interest in the topic.

As someone who was inside the military, what do you think the chances are of a successful cover-up of the kind many ufologists and conspiracy theorists suggest? Could something so

monumental as alien life-forms visiting this planet be kept a secret for so long?

But it hasn't been kept a secret. We're discussing it.

On the other hand, there are documents, with the proper provenance, that demonstrate the real nature of the cover up. Air Force regulations, at one time, suggested that unidentified sightings be classified. We learn of Project Moon Dust, which, among its other missions, gathered UFO-related materials, and when the government was queried about Moon Dust, denied that it even existed.

And finally, it's a self-keeping secret. You don't mean to tell me that you believe in those Little Green Men, do you? Who wants to risk their reputations by chasing something like UFOs?

Many theorists talk of ultra-secret Black Ops groups, secret cabals within the various elements of the governments- Crash/Retrieval teams, for example. Are you aware of any such clandestine groups, UFO-related or otherwise?

Actually, we do know of some clandestine teams assembled first by the 4602nd Air Intelligence Service Squadron. Their mission was to capture downed enemy air crews and interrogate them. This was an outgrowth of the Cold War paranoia, but these men were given the task of gathering UFO related materials as a sort of training exercise. So, we can look into the past, see some of these things and speculate

from there. I probably should point out that the mission of the 4602nd was more in a standard military intelligence orientation rather than one focused on UFOs.

As for crash/retrieval teams, it would seem to be a natural outgrowth of the Roswell case, but I know of no credible evidence, or credible witnesses, who were members of such teams.

You just mentioned Roswell. You are probably best-known to most readers as one of the primary Roswell Investigators. How did you become involved in the case?

Simple. The J. Allen Hynek Center for UFO Studies (CUFOS), in conversations with Stan Friedman, among others, realised that there was work that needed to be done, witnesses to be interviewed. They believed that someone with a military background would understand some of the things the witnesses, former military men themselves, said, better than someone who had no such common ground. They asked me to participate and I was glad to do it.

What were your initial reactions? Were you sceptical or did you accept the possibility of an alien crash retrieval from the start?

I believed, in the beginning, I would, we would, blow into Roswell, talk to some people, and find a mundane explanation. After all, UFOs don't crash. My attitude toward UFO crashes was already well established. In Ron Story's 1980 *Encyclopedia of UFOs*, I wrote the section on crashed saucers and hidden bodies, suggesting that there was no good evidence and the stories always seemed to evaporate when checked. The witness names were bogus, the locations didn't exist, the timing was wrong. Imagine my surprise when I talked to Bill Brazel and he confirmed that he had picked up pieces of the debris. Imagine my surprise with I talked to Edwin Easley who told me he couldn't talk about the crash, but confirmed other elements of the story. Or when Patrick Saunders, the base adjutant wrote in a copy of *The Truth About the UFO Crash at Roswell*, "This is the truth and I never told anybody anything."

In other words, I didn't believe, but the weight of the witness testimony, those we found who

were reliable, convinced me that something extraordinary had happened.

There are a number of Roswell investigators, each with their own version of events, crash sites, number of alien bodies and even "quality" of witnesses. Are their any definite points, witnesses or other information which yourself, Stanton Freidman and other investigators all agree on?

I think that we all agree that something fell near Roswell, that it was extraterrestrial in origin, that the Army, meaning government retrieved it, and then covered up the incident. I think we agree that Jesse Marcel (both father and son) are reliable. We agree on Walter Haut and Bill Brazel, the Proctors and Stricklands. I believe we now agree on Gerald Anderson and that he invented his involvement. In other words, we agree on a great deal, and we agree on the important points.

We disagree on some of the other points. I'm not sure that anything happened over on the Plains of San Agustin and I'm not sure about the role of Barney Barnett. I'm willing to set that aside and wait until we have more, or better, information about it.

Thinking about this now, and the way events have unfolded, I think that we now agree on more points than we did. I know that Stan and I have had any number of cordial communications about these things in recent years. I think a lot of the acrimony has vanished and we do share information on a regular basis. It was probably not a good thing that some of the disagreements slopped over into the UFO community, but then that is the nature of the business.

Ufology is notorious for in-fighting and un-cooperative behaviour amongst researchers...or some anyway. Do you think if all of the Roswell researchers had been able to work together, a real and definite answer may have been exposed?

But, you see, Stan (Freidman) and I did work together on aspects of this case. Yes, at times the relation was somewhat acrimonious, but only when we disagreed on the importance of an aspect of the case or a witness. To do proper

research I don't think we all should be sitting on the same side of the table. To do so leads to complacency. To argue points and to disagree creates an atmosphere of solid research and informed debate. Here, as happens in other arenas, personal opinions and beliefs sometimes got in the way. But, I believe we made better progress and learned more by separate research rather than all following one track.

What are your opinions on witnesses such as the mortician Glen Dennis, who was such an important player, and yet who is in some quarters at least - now considered highly dubious? As the validity of the event relied for so long on their testimony, does this lower the entire credibility of the Roswell event as an alien crash?

I'm not sure Dennis was ever that important a player because when you get right down to it, he didn't see the alien bodies and knew very little about the case. Yes, he said that he had seen some strange metallic debris, but he didn't handle it. His role had been important because he could link alien bodies to the crash, but only through second-hand testimony. I realised, as I talked to several witnesses about the bodies, that I was as close to it as he had been.

His role became less important when no one could find his nurse, nor could we establish her existence in Roswell. When he changed the name, when he was confronted with the negative results of a years long search, that to me, spelled the end of his importance.

The real point, the important point, is that the military witnesses, those on Colonel Blanchard's staff have not been diminished as witnesses. The attacks on Jesse Marcel, Sr., are based on poor information and a desire to discredit him rather than learn the truth. I think Marcel is as good a witness today as he was twenty years ago. Eliminate the civilian witnesses (which is throwing out the good with the bad) and concentrate on the military, and I think we can build a solid case.

In the vast array of players in the Roswell saga, who do you think are the most reliable witnesses?

I think we have to look to the military. Jesse

Marcel, Sr. (though Jesse, Jr. is a good witness), Walter Haut, Edwin Easley, Patrick Saunders, Joe Briley, Frank Kaufmann, and several other military witnesses. I think Frankie Rowe can help us understand this, but she, for some reason, attracts a lot of negative criticism. I probably should mention Bill Brazel and the Proctors, Marian Strickland and some of Brazel's neighbors.

The problem here is that there is another side that wants to discredit everything and believes, wrongly, that they must attack the integrity of the witnesses so that the smallest thing is blown up into a major discrepancy. Jesse Marcel, Sr. said that he had flown AS a military pilot, and the other side attacks claiming that Marcel said he HAD BEEN a military pilot. Well, that's not what he said, and I have seen lots of people given "stick" time in military aircraft so that they could say they had flown AS a pilot. It's a small thing, not all that important, blown up into a major problem, suggesting Marcel was a liar. The evidence doesn't bear this out, but the story continues to circulate, so there is a taint to Marcel that really shouldn't be there.

Most ufologists agree that *something* happened at Roswell and that there was certainly a cover-up by the military and the government. What do you think of the Mogul theory or others such as a "lost" nuclear weapon etc?

Absolutely no evidence that it was a "lost" nuclear weapon. Had that been the case, we could have found the paper trail. When the Air Force dropped a bomb on Albuquerque in 1957 (a lost nuclear weapon) there were eventually stories about it in the newspapers. We know about these incidents today, so I think we can eliminate that theory right now.

Mogul? No. It was a weather balloon and radar reflector, or rather an array of them, and nothing that should have fooled anyone. Lots of rubber and foil, if it had been Mogul, but nothing that couldn't have been identified. Not to mention that Charles Moore, of Mogul fame, told me that he and others had gone to Roswell to ask for help in retrieving their balloons, and that Mogul officials were required by the CAA to announce the launches in their NOTAMS. I don't think that Mogul covers the evidence and there is quite a bit to argue against it.

What is your opinion on the new book by Karl Pflock, "*Roswell - Inconvenient Facts and the Will to Believe*"?

I wrote a three thousand word review of the book for the Journal of Scientific Exploration. Basically, it said there were some things with which I agreed and some with which I did not. I believe his book contributes a great deal to the Roswell case, but there are some blind spots in it. I disagree with his final conclusion. I believe Roswell represents an alien crash and he believes it was a Mogul balloon.

What do you feel are the best pieces of evidence that *something* unearthly happened?

The testimonies of some very credible people such as Edwin Easley.

Bottom Line, Kevin. What do you think happened at Roswell?

An extraterrestrial crash which explains the direction taken by the government and why we haven't gotten better information from the government activities in the last fifty years.

Are you still actively investigating the case, and is there anywhere else you can go? After all, most of the witnesses are dead or very old.

Yes, because there are some avenues that simply have not been followed. I'm following some of those and have been since the summer of 1997. Yes, many of the witnesses are old, some have died, but there are still things to be learned. We have to continue to do what we can, though I think the repeated interviews with some of the principals has gone on long enough. How many times can you talk to Bill Brazel and how much more can he tell you. Sometimes a witness makes a major change in his or her testimony, and then you have a new set of problems. Why wasn't all this told before? If there was is a good answer, fine. If not, then the credibility takes a hit.

If things really happened as you and others think, do you think that the Government or military will ever let us know?

The answer, I think, will eventually be taken out of the government's hands. At some point something will happen that will give us the complete answer. At that point the government will have no incentive to keep the cover up in place.

What do you think of other crash/retrieval cases, such as Shag Harbour (see last issue) Kecksburg, and much of the work presented by Leonard Stringfield in his famed *Situation Reports*?

First, let me say that I believe that without Len's work we probably wouldn't be having this discussion. Len pioneered the work on crash/retrievals, and, I believe, coined the term. He reported on a great number of events, and he told me his attitude was to report what he learned, hoping that one of us, somewhere else, would find a piece of the puzzle in his work that would help us in ours. Len's was an invaluable contribution.

Shag Harbour, thanks to the work of Chris Styles and Don Ledger, will take it's place as one of the best documented cases. Their work, in chasing down documents and witnesses, borders on the brilliant. They have done quite a bit for our understanding of the UFO situation and the governments' role in hiding information (and by governments, I mean the US and Canada).

The work by Stan Gordon has also been great. His problem, I believe, is that some of his witnesses are unreliable, which is not to point a finger at him. Finding the people he found, and chasing the story, has been quite an ordeal for him. I believe, unfortunately, that when we get to the bottom of Kecksburg, we're going to find a terrestrial answer. When we get there, it will be in large part because of Stan Gordon's work.

Moving on, a few people were surprised by the release of your book *The Randle Report*, which was quite scathing and sceptical on a number of controversial UFO-related subjects. It was almost as though they thought that because of your opinions on the Roswell crash, you would believe anything and everything...has this always been your nature, or have you

become more cautious over the years?

Why would anyone believe that I would automatically accept everything out there? Don't I have a right to observe, analyse, and accept or reject based on the evidence presented? Why is it believed that if I believe that some UFOs are of extraterrestrial origin I am now obligated to believe everything that is claimed or suggested?

I think I have become more cautious, but then, I think as we all age and learn more about the world around us, our sense of wonder diminishes, we become a little more cynical, and we realize that some things we might once have accepted just make no sense in the world about us.

Growing up I was fascinated by the ancient astronauts theory, but as I learned more about anthropology and archaeology, I realised that some of the basic premises of the theory did not make sense in the real world. The Plains of Nasca didn't represent an alien landing field, but was something that was within the capabilities of the people who lived there when the lines were drawn, and that a UFO that could hover did not need a runway to land.

Bearing that in mind, what are your opinions on some of these staples of ufology?

MJ-12?

I believe it to be a hoax and have outlined my reasons in a book to be published in late 2002. The major problem is that the documents have no real provenance, they contained contradictory information, there are clear forgeries involved, and they are historically inaccurate.

Gulf Breeze?

I believe it to be a hoax, maybe begun as a prank, but which ballooned into quite a money making case. I believe that the model found in the former home of one of the principals in the case provides us with one of the best clues about the authenticity of the case.

Alien Abductions?

I wrote a whole book, with Russ Estes and Bill Cone, about alien abductions. I believe that we can find the answers in the mundane and the terrestrial. That is not to say that I believe the abductees are lying or that the researchers are charlatans. I believe that the majority of them are honest people who have misinterpreted the experience or the evidence.

Ray Santilli's "Alien Autopsy" footage?

Hoax. I really hope this isn't a "staple" of modern UFOlogy. I really hope that this disappears and becomes a footnote to the research being conducted.

Shuttle/NASA footage?

I've spoken to Dr. Kasher about this, listened to his lectures and seen his tapes and find his arguments to be quite persuasive. This might be one of the best clues that we have for the reality of UFOs, and the theory that they are extraterrestrial.

Animal mutilations?

I don't believe they have anything to do with UFOs.

The Socorro landing...balloon or ET craft?

Certainly there are other options here. Balloon seems ridiculous. But that doesn't translate into an extraterrestrial craft. It might have been something else, though I lean toward the alien aspect here.

Kenneth Arnold's sighting...pelicans or ET craft?

Pelicans just seem to be outside the realm of possibility, given the dynamics of the case. That certainly doesn't lead us directly to alien craft, but I don't see any good explanations for this sighting.

What do you think of Dr. Steven Greer's "Disclosure Project"? Was it a commendable and valid idea merely orchestrated in the wrong manner?

It seems to be a good idea, but I think that the message might become lost in all the voices. Yes, you need to collect as much as you can, but, you should limit the presentations to the best of the evidence... not necessarily the most spectacular. And, you dilute the message by moving into political arenas such as free energy and banning weapons in space. Neither of these areas has anything to do with government disclosure of UFO information. You take on too much and you begin to offend too many people and the politics of the situation get in the way. In other words, you might find a supporter who believes the government has been less than candid about UFOs, and might be willing to help, until you move into other political topics.

I know that you had certain reservations about some of the "star" witnesses, such as Clifford Stone...

I believe that each of these witnesses should be investigated and I find the excuse that they don't have the time or money to do so as fairly lame. It takes very little money to run some of the records checks and once it has been suggested that a witness might not be who he says he is, then I believe the project should make sure that the records conform. No, you're not going to have a notation about being on a crash recovery team, but there will be indications of clandestine assignments, there will be suggestions of special schools or academic credentials, either military or civilian, and there might be gaps in the chronology of the assignments. In other words, it won't provide a witness with absolute proof, but it will hint at that proof.

This idea that the government can expunge the records completely is ridiculous. If, for example, you wished to check my academic background and contacted the University of Iowa, who told you that I had no degree there and there was no evidence, or record, of my attending, I could provide all sorts of documentation to refute that. I have transcripts, letters, cancelled checks for tuition, and many other kinds of documented evidence. However, when we challenge the credentials of some of these people, we are told the record has been changed, but they can offer nothing in the way of evidence for that change, and they become angry that we have asked the legitimate questions.

So, when the records don't corroborate the story, when there is no reason for the person to

be where he or she claimed to be, when there is nothing to support the tale, why should we believe it?

I remember that in the book *UFO Crash at Roswell*, which you wrote with Don Schmitt, you mention that there were a couple of military guys who were witnesses to the Roswell case, but who simply refused to break their oath of silence and say anything about their involvement. They simply took their vows so seriously... Do you think that anyone who was "in the know" such as Clifford Stone claims to be, would ever come forwards?

Yes, I believe that some of them have, and they have provided some clues about these events. These were people who we found, based on the records that existed, suggesting they were in a position to know the truth. I respect them for their personal codes.

I will say that before I accept the expanding role of Cliff Stone that I will have to see some real evidence of it. As far as the record is concerned, he was a clerk/typist with no special knowledge or training that would make him a valuable asset to a crash recovery team.

Kevin, as well as your numerous books on ufology, you are also an author of a number of sci fi novels. Tell us a little about these...

What is to tell. I have always wanted to write science fiction and have had the opportunity to do so. A friend of mine, while we were in college, said, "Let's write a science fiction novel." So we did. Eighteen months later we had a final draft and about ten years later, sold it. I've written about twenty science fiction books, which, I suppose, could be considered my day job. It is, apparently, the only day job that disqualifies a person from UFO research. I don't know how many times I have heard some of my more controversial claims dismissed by saying, "He writes science fiction." Nearly half the members of the Science Fiction Writers of America have Ph.D.s and are working as scientists, but no one rejects their work because of it. The only way to become a member of SFWA, is to publish three short science fiction stories or one SF novel.

Which five books do you think should be on every ufologists bookshelf?

Ruppelt's *THE REPORT ON UNIDENTIFIED FLYING OBJECTS*, Kagan and Summer's *MUTE EVIDENCE*, Jerry Clark's *UFO ENCYCLOPEDIA* (In two volumes), Klass' *UFOS EXPLAINED* (If for no other reason than to teach us to be thorough) Sagan's *UFOS: A SCIENTIFIC DEBATE*

What are you working on at the moment?

Science fiction

In an age when some ufologists are deconstructing many "classic" UFO cases, which cases do you think are still the strongest evidence that some UFOs are ET craft?

In no particular order, McMinnville, the Tremonton Movie, the Lubbock Lights, the Levelland EM cases, the Washington Nationals, the occupant wave of 1973, the Montana Movie, Bentwaters (without Larry Warren), and, of course, Roswell. I would have included Socorro, if there had been additional, independent witnesses.

Kevin, many thanks and good luck for the future...

SPIES ADMIT IT: THERE ARE NO ALIENS OUT THERE

(Paul Harris, November 4, 2001 *The Observer*)

Britain's spies have given up looking for aliens after more than half a century of fruitless monitoring of thousands of UFO reports.

Ever since the early 1950s reports of sightings of unidentified flying objects by members of the public and military personnel have been logged by the Ministry of Defence and passed on to its intelligence branch.

But the Directorate of Intelligence, Scientific and Technical, has now abandoned the quest for ET. The directorate specialises in scientific espionage and analysis of advanced technologies but documents seen by *The Observer* show it asked last year that it be sent no further reports of UFO sightings.

'These records, whether from members of the public or service sources, have not proved valuable,' the department concluded.

The decision ends five decades of army intelligence experts investigating UFO sightings from all over Britain, including many from Royal Air Force pilots. 'They are essentially saying they have wasted their time for 50 years and they want nothing more to do with it,' said Dave Clark of the National Centre for Folklore Studies at Sheffield University and a leading UFO researcher.

Britain's official search for UFOs began in the late 1940s and peaked with a top-secret government study into the 'flying saucer' phenomenon, commissioned in 1951. That study, details of which were published for the first time in *The Observer* two weeks ago, concluded that no UFO sightings were genuine but attempted to hush up the reports to avoid creating panic at the height of the Cold War.

Clark believes the Government is finally willing to admit that studying UFO sightings is pointless. He said modern radar systems have become sophisticated enough to explain the vast majority of sightings as being aircraft or atmospheric conditions. 'They have looked at the subject and they have simply decided there is nothing in it,' he said.

However, the Ministry of Defence will maintain its small internal UFO desk, which logs and reports all sightings reported to it by members of the public. 'They are not shutting down entirely, but their intelligence experts don't want to know any more. The operation is now just a PR stunt to keep the public happy,' said Clark.

UFO enthusiasts are not likely to be satisfied at the lack of interest shown in the possibility that aliens might be visiting Earth. Graham Birdsall, editor of *UFO Magazine*, said: 'I find this decision extraordinary. If people are seeing unusual things in the skies of Britain, I am sure the intelligence officials will still want to know about it.'

There has been media speculation that the UFO phenomenon is on the wane. But Birdsall said UFOs were still being seen in their hundreds and that it would be a mistake for the Government to stop investigating sightings.

'The phenomenon is still as intense and busy as ever. The fact remains that UFOs continue to be seen, continue to be reported and continue to be videotaped,' he said.

"I SWEAR IT IS THE TRUTH" THE NORTHUMBRIAN UFO CRASH OF 1969

ANDY ROBERTS

Whilst doing some research at the PRO recently I was rooting through the newly released files for 1969 when I came across the following case. I have set out the case in chronological order using the materials from the PRO file and kept commentary to a minimum until the end. Enjoy...

A hand-written letter dated January 12th 1969 was the first inkling the Air Ministry had that a UFO had been observed crashing on to a remote Northumbrian Moor. The letter, in its entirety, read:

"Dear Sir or Madam,

I know you will not believe me when I tell you that I know the whereabouts of an Alien Craft which crashed about a fortnight ago.

On Sunday 29th December 1968 I was on patrol along the Roman wall which is near where I live in Haltwhistle. I work for the National Trust. I have always been interested in UFOs. I remember the day was dry although low cloud was skimming over the high land to the west. To the north is Keilder Forest.

I was sitting at the top of Whinshiels Crags listening to World Wide Family Favourites which comes on at 12 noon. I glanced up at a sparrow-hawk which was hovering above me, and in a break in the clouds there appeared a silvery disc which was coming down very fast but with no noise. It was spinning very fast, trailing smoke.

At first I thought it was a plane. But when it was about 1000ft from the ground it levelled off and went away north. I must have followed it for about 12 miles when it suddenly just nose-dived out of sight. At first I thought of going to investigate but at that time of the day the time I reached the spot it would be dark and I never walk on the moors after dark.

So next Saturday, 5th Jan this year I set out in the morning and by dinner time 12 o'clock I had covered about 10 miles. I rested at the top of a hill although I was excited about discovering the object. To the east was a marshy piece of ground between two hills, and there it was, a silver disc sticking half out of the bog, half in.

I hurried down to where it was, I was surprised because it was huge, it must have been 100ft in diameter. It was just like a huge spinning top. I noticed a doorway which was open so I walked in. And what a fantastic sight. All the walls were a mass of equipment. Everything was working, lights flashing and weird noises, but not a sign of life. As I walked back to the door I noticed the door was half submerged in the bog. It was sinking so I jumped out. I thought it was going to disappear but it stopped, leaving about 2 feet sticking out of the marsh. I was disappointed that I had not managed to pick anything up before it went under. Funny though, the hatch being open and nobody about although I looked everywhere I could. That is the end of my account and I swear it is the truth.

Signed this twelfth day of January 1969
Mr D. Robson

Robson's letter was received at the Air Ministry by Len Akhurst of S4f. This is the department which handled UFOs at the time and which is now AS2. Akhurst was the Nick Pope of his day and was responsible for fielding the growing number of UFO reports and associated correspondence. No doubt intrigued by the letter, on the 17th of January Akhurst 'phoned P.C. Milburn who was in charge of Haltwhistle Police station. They discussed the content of the letter and later that same day Akhurst confirmed the conversation by letter:

Dear Mr Milburn,

We spoke on the telephone today about the enclosed copy of a letter we have received from Mr Robson of Haltwhistle. We both agreed that the contents of the letter about an alien craft seemed a little far fetched and you very kindly offered to talk to Mr Robson about it. I should be most grateful if you would let me know the outcome of your enquiry.

Yours sincerely
L. W. Akhurst

The Northumbrian police took swift action and on Monday, 29th January 1969 Police Constable Milburn interviewed Mr Robson and wrote:

".....I interviewed Douglas William Robson regarding this letter. He repeated his story and took me to the area in which he alleged this object had come down. Owing to the state of the weather that day the search was postponed.

On Thursday 23rd January, 1969, I again saw Douglas William Robson and told him I intended to have a further search to locate this Unidentified Flying Object. Robson then said, 'I want to admit that I haven't been to the place where I saw the object land, nor have I been in it, but I did see it in the sky and it came down.'

Robson then made a statement, under caution, admitting that he had been telling lies."

Robson's statement makes fascinating and disturbing reading:

"On 12th January 1969, I wrote a letter to the War Office, London, regarding that I had been out on Sunday, 29th December, 1968, when I saw something in the sky. It looked like a disc to me with vapour coming from it. At the time I saw this object I was sitting on the Roman Wall near Whinshields Crag, Bardon Hill. This object I saw in the sky seemed to come into land to the north-east of where I was sitting. In my letter I said I had gone to this object and had been in it. I also told P.C. Milburn of Haltwhistle that I had been in this object and that I would take him to it.

On Thursday, 23rd January, 1969, I was again interviewed by P.C. Milburn and I

now want to admit that I did not go to where I thought this object land, nor have I been in an object such as I describe. I don't know why I said I had been up to this object or why I had been in it. It just came over me when I was writing to the War Office in London. I am sorry I have told these lies and I apologise for any inconvenience I may have caused.

Signed D.W.D. Robson

P.C. Milburn forwarded these details to his HQ at Hexham who in turn forwarded them to Akhurst at the M.O.D. who politely replied:

"Dear Sir,

Thank you for your report about the 'Haltwhistle UFO'.

In the light of your report we do not propose to take any further action. But I should like to take this opportunity of thanking you and Police Constable Milburn for the trouble you have taken.

Yours faithfully
L.W. Akhurst

And there the matter ended. Whether or not Robson was charged or cautioned for wasting police time is not recorded.

This case is highly instructive for a number of reasons. Firstly having received a letter claiming a UFO had crashed what did the MOD do? Rather than dispatch teams of highly trained crash retrieval experts in black helicopters they simply got in touch with the local police and asked them to look into it. Obviously Akhurst and his colleagues had no way of knowing what, if any, truth lay behind the initial claim, yet still chose to take no direct action. Had the MOD been geared up, as writers such as Good and Redfern claim, to react immediately to a saucer crash then surely their course of action would have been different. Yet there is no evidence of this in the file. No hint that Akhurst had contacted any other departments. No list of other, secretive, departments to which his letters were copied. Evidence of nothing, other than one civil servant contacting another. Clearly the man tasked by Her Majesties Government into dealing with the UFO problem was not unduly

worried by civilians reporting crashed UFOs.

Then there is the witness. A credible guy able to write a logical letter claiming illogical events. If I was being charitable (which I rarely am) it's possible that Robson did see 'something' in the sky, some ambiguous object or phenomena which he could not identify and - rightly - termed a UFO. If he'd stopped there his report would have been just another of the 228 reports the M.O.D. received in 1969. But perhaps that was the problem. 'Just another UFO report' wasn't good enough for Robson, so he didn't stop there. Instead he invented a complete story and tried to persuade officialdom it was true.

All this was strung together in a quite coherent letter and sent to the M.O.D. Hardly the spur of the moment act as he claimed, it seems to have involved pre-meditation and planning. Even when questioned by the local police force Robson was prepared to stick to his story on the first instance he was taken to look for the 'craft'. What made him confess later we shall probably never know.

It would be easy to dismiss Robson as mad or deluded. We don't know, but I'd guess that he was just an ordinary person with an interest in UFOs, like so many of us have. But one day something made him concoct a crashed saucer tale (and remember in 1969 crash retrievals were still a twinkle in Stanton Friedman's imagination). Yet stories just like his - hell, stories with far less logic and cohesion than his - are, year after year admitted as 'evidence' for crashed UFOs across the world.

Imagine what would have happened with this case if Robson's letter had not been acted on by the M.O.D., imagine if it had just lain there on file, waiting until the year 2000 for some intrepid UFO researcher. Had they come across this letter in isolation Robson's letter would be a very convincing argument for a genuine crashed UFO on the Northumbrian moors.

Next time you read some UFO huckster claiming crashed saucer stories can't be made up I suggest you refer he or she to this cautionary tale. And say a silent prayer form the common sense attitude displayed by the M.o.D and Police.

ANDY ROBERTS (flyingsaucery.com)

PSYCHICS JOIN THE MANHUNT

(The Sunday Times, U.K. November 11, 2001)

US intelligence agencies are recruiting psychics to help predict future attacks and to find Osama Bin Laden. The recruits, known as "remote viewers", claim to be able to visualise happenings in distant places by using paranormal powers.

The US government established a remote viewing programme, known as Stargate, in the 1970s in an attempt to utilise the skills claimed by psychics to combat communism. The programme, at the Stanford Research Institute in California, was shut down in 1995 after the end of the cold war.

Now, however, US intelligence agencies are reactivating some of their old paranormal spies.

Prudence Calabrese, whose Transdimensional Systems employs 14 remote viewers, confirmed that the FBI had asked the company to predict likely targets of future terrorist attacks.

"Our reports suggest a sports stadium could be a likely target," she said.

The FBI and CIA refused to comment but confirmed investigators have been told to "think out of the box".

Angela Thompson-Smith and Lyn Buchanan, former members of Stargate, said that they, too, had been approached.

PASCAGOULA REVISITED

NAVY RETIREE SAYS HE ALSO SAW SPACESHIP 28 YEARS AGO

BY NATALIE CHAMBERS, ASSOCIATED PRESS

PASCAGOULA - When Charles Hickson and Calvin Parker told the world in 1973 they were abducted by aliens while fishing on the Pascagoula River, few people believed them.

Now after 28 years, it appears they weren't alone in their experience on that Oct. 11 night.

A retired Navy chief petty officer recently contacted *The Mississippi Press* about the sighting that he can't forget.

Mike Cataldo of Rotonda West, Fla., said he was on the pre-commissioning crew of the USS Tunney under construction at Ingalls Shipyard. Dusk was setting in as he and crew mates Ted Peralta and Mack Hanna were on U.S. 90 heading to Ocean Springs. Peralta was driving, Hanna was in the front passenger seat and Cataldo was in the back seat.

"We saw a very strange object in the horizon going from northwest across Highway 90. It was going pretty fast. It went down into a wood area and into the marsh. It hovered over the tree line, I guess, maybe a minute. We actually pulled off the road and watched it. We said, 'My God, what is that.'" Cataldo said.

"We saw it, no question about it. We talked about it. Was it a shooting star, a meteorite? This was very different," he said.

Cataldo said the object looked like a large tambourine with little lights flashing on it.

"As quickly as we saw it, it just vanished," he said.

Cataldo said he had a second sighting minutes later, this time in St. Andrews as he neared his home.

"It wasn't as high up as we saw the first time. It was real," he said.

Cataldo said he rushed and told his wife what happened.

"I was almost hyperventilating. I wasn't shook up, but I was excited I saw this thing," he said. The next morning, Cataldo contacted his

executive officer on the submarine and made a report.

The following Monday, he contacted Keesler Air Force Base in Biloxi and left his telephone number, he said.

"My executive officer and crew members thought we were just lunatics, just whacked out," he said.

"It never came up again. Keesler never called or did anything," he said.

"It was the strangest thing. It was kind of scary," Cataldo said.

Cataldo retired from the Navy 19 years ago. He was last in Jackson County in 1974.

Cataldo said he has never met or talked to Hickson.

Hickson said neither he nor Parker wanted their story given to the media. Their only objective was to notify the proper authorities, the sheriff's department.

"I've had a few people who said they didn't believe it, but I've never had any ridicule and my family never had. That's one reason when this thing first happened to Calvin and I didn't want to talk about it because I didn't want to be called crazy. But it seemed to me we had to tell the proper authorities," said Hickson, 70, who lives in Gautier.

The rest is history.

Hickson said he knows other people saw the space craft but wouldn't come forward.

"They would have sure helped us if they would have said something," he said.

Hickson penned a book about the encounter, was interviewed numerous times by the scientific community and made the circuit at seminars on extraterrestrial. In 28 years, he never deviated from his claim of the occurrence behind the old Shaupeter

Shipyard building on the Pascagoula River - even under hypnosis.

Parker, who was 19 then, had trouble dealing with what happened. He is now living in Louisiana.

"He's not the same man as before. It just ruined him," Hickson said.

Hickson described the three creatures that floated out to them as pale, ghostlike and about 5-feet high. They had crab-like claws or pinchers and rounded feet. He said they appeared to glide rather than walk.

Hickson said he was taken aboard the oval-shaped, well-lit space craft and examined with some type of "eye."

"Some kind of way they examined me. I've had a feeling ever since it happened that they know where I'm at all times and what I'm doing," he said.

"These things are robots. I didn't see any eyes. They had no indication of breathing. They didn't have a mouth. It was a straight slit. It seems they had something to do and they just actually done it. Took us back out there, put us down and they left," he said.

Hickson said he does not know how long they were with the aliens but he would like another encounter with them.

"When it first happened, I wouldn't go in the night by myself. I would have nightmares. My wife really helped me get through this thing," he said. "Now the fear is all gone. I want to meet them again and see if they will take me to their world. I believe if they do, they'd bring me back. Our whole world here is getting into a terrible shape."

Glenn Ryder, sheriff's department shift captain that night the call came in from Hickson, said it was a busy night, around 11 p.m. when Hickson called from a pay phone and was insistent on talking to then-Sheriff Fred Diamond, who happened to be in bed.

Ryder said Hickson then asked for the second person in charge. That happened to be Ryder. Hickson told Ryder he had something to tell but feared Ryder would laugh.

Ryder told him to go ahead and when Hickson finished, he did laugh.

"I told him to wait there and I would come and talk to him. He said he was going back to his house and gave me the address so I could come there," Ryder said.

"Calvin Parker was just hysterical. He was having fits. I took them in the patrol car to the sheriff's office," Ryder said.

Hickson and Parker were questioned extensively apart and then put in a secluded room together where a tape recorder had been planted to catch them in a lie.

"That boy (Parker) was really shook up. Charles was composed. The boy had just come down here from Jones County had always lived out in the country. He kept telling Charles on the tape not to talk to us. He said if (Charles) told them anything about what happened they would come back and get them," Ryder said.

"One thing led to another. We went to the site at Shaupeter, where Colley Towing is now. He showed me where it landed and picked him up."

Ryder said no physical evidence of a landing - burn marks or footprints - were found.

He said after the story broke calls came in from across the United States, England and Canada.

"They were pretty well convincing something did happen to them," he said.

Ryder said there were other calls fielded about sighting of a streak of light that night, but only Parker and Hickson reported being taken aboard the space craft.

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE RELEASE "TOP SECRET" RENDLESHAM DOCUMENTS

BY DR. DAVID CLARKE

Five documents relating to the alleged UFO Landing at RAF Woodbridge in 1980 are no longer a secret following a landmark decision by the MOD's Director of Information Exploitation.

In March 2001 the MOD agreed to release the contents of their file following an application by David Clarke under the Code of Practice on Access to Government Information.

The decision marks a further breakthrough in our understanding of the events in Rendlesham Forest.

Five documents were with-held from the response under exemptions to the code, 2 under Exemption 1 (national security) and 3 under Exemption 2 (internal discussion and advice to ministers less than 30 years old).

We immediately lodged an appeal against the decision and an internal review has now been completed. A senior MOD official has now released the two documents that were with-held on the grounds of national security.

The five documents - described by *UFO Magazine (UK)* as "top secret" - are:

A letter from the MOD to RAF Watton (Eastern Radar) and the SOC station, RAF Neatishead, dated 26 January 1981 requesting a statement on radar observations on 29 December 1980.

2. A reply from the Commanding Officer of RAF Neatishead to MOD (Ops) GE dated 3 February 1981 describing the results of checks.

3. An internal minute from an MOD official [Pam Titchmarsh], to a Minister's Office (John Stanley, Ministry of Defence) submitting a draft response and an accompanying background note in respect of a Parliamentary Question tabled by Sir Patrick Wall MP, answered on 24 October 1983.

4. A duplicate copy of the first page of (3) above.

5. An internal Minute from a MOD official to

a Minister's office, submitting a draft response and accompanying background material in respect of A letter to the Secretary of State for Defence, Michael Heseltine MP from David Alton MP, which had enclosed a letter from one of Mr Alton's Constituents.

The released documents and a copy of the judgement will be posted on the www.flyingsaucery.com Website.

The documents contain no evidence that a cover-up of a UFO landing ever existed.

We can reveal that the two documents with-held on the grounds of "national security" do not constitute a 'smoking gun' - they simply illustrate how claims of a cover-up arise from secrecy for the sake of secrecy, part of an established tradition in Britain.

What they reveal is that the RAF were making checks on radar records for 29 December 1980, following information supplied by Lt Col Charles Halt in his memo to the MOD.

As we now know the actual date of Halt's sighting in Rendlesham Forest was the night of 27/28 December 1980. This implies incompetence and complacency on behalf of the MOD, who did not see fit to make further inquiries into the details they had been supplied by Halt.

The correct date was subsequently confirmed by the former Commanding Officer of RAF Watton who has described his role in an exclusive interview in June 2001 before any other UFOlogist was even aware of the MOD file release.

The retired Squadron Leader told us: "I recall the incident well [as] I was on duty at the time it occurred. I can confirm that the call came from Bentwaters RAPcom. They requested that we scan the radars for any radar targets in their area; there were NONE. They reported flashing lights in the Rendlesham Forest area, outside the airfield runway [and that] the base police were investigating the incident."

The officer was on duty on the same night as a civilian radar operator Nigel Kerr who claims

he saw a "blip" on his screen above the base runway coincident with the report from Bentwaters. The blip disappeared after several sweeps of the radar. Kerr's CO dismisses this claim, saying that no such observation was reported to his Controller at the time, who oversaw the ATC screens at the joint military/civilian facility. This is a fact confirmed by the CO in contemporary note in the MOD file, dated 26 February 1981 that reads:

"On the night of the reported sighting our controller on duty was requested to view the radar; nothing was observed. The facts are recorded in our log book of that night."

He added that the T84 analogue radars at Watton frequently detected spurious echoes that behaved exactly as Kerr described. The lack of radar corroboration was confirmed by Halt in a 1997 interview when he said:

"[I] called the command post, asked them to call Eastern Radar, responsible for air defence of the sector. twice they reported that they didn't see anything."

The Watton CO also confirmed that he personally ordered that all radar tapes - both from 27/28 December and surrounding dates - should be impounded for examination. This was not unusual but entirely consistent with MOD procedure following reports of unusual sightings. In January, 1981 the evidence was removed by a joint RAF/USAF team from the Military Air Traffic Organisation (MATO) who apparently found some of the tapes were faulty.

This appears to be the basis of the rumour that USAF intelligence officers "confiscated" radar tapes from Watton shortly after the sightings. The CO's evidence can finally lay this myth to rest.

Claims have been made that the release of the MOD file is entirely as a result of pressure placed upon the Ministry by Lord Hill-Norton and Georgina Bruni. Credit is due to both, but this claim is not correct.

The facts are that during the summer of 2000 the MOD invited us to submit specific requests for UFO case files under the terms of the Code of Practice. The Rendlesham File was just one of a number of files closed under the 30 year rule that were subsequently requested and released; their contents will be revealed in our book, "Out of the Shadows: The British

Establishment, UFOs and the Cold War", published early next year.

My request for the Rendlesham File was submitted in February 2001 and on 22 March an MOD official wrote as follows:

"[as a result of your request] there are a number of papers that were generated between 1981 and 1983 and later assembled on one file, along with correspondence received after 1983 from members of the public. Briefings to Ministers in respect of PQs asked on the subject since 1983 are placed on another File. On the file containing papers on the alleged incident in Rendlesham Forest, there is an internal minute that appears to summarise the extent of MOD investigation and draws the conclusion that has been used in all subsequent briefings.

"We are content to photocopy the documents from that file, which consists of somewhere in the region of 70 enclosures. This, along with some sanitising and review will be undertaken free of charge following your application under the Code of Practice."

This proves that our application was made and processed following MOD procedure that was entirely independent of Lord Hill-Norton who received the file some time after we did.

We wish to pay tribute to all those who have contributed to the research into the Rendlesham case, regardless of their opinions and personal approach to the subject. That includes Georgina Bruni, Jenny Randles, James Easton, Ian Ridpath, Nick Redfern and others who have all contributed to our knowledge of the Rendlesham forest mystery in their own way.

Keep watching www.flyingsaucery.com for further revelations.

DAVID CLARKE AND ANDY ROBERTS

FROM AROUND THE WORLD...AND BEYOND!!!

UFOs, conspiracies, fortean and paranormal events compiled by Dave Baker

DID A THUNDERBIRD VISIT SOUTHWEST PENNSYLVANIA?

(by Stan Gordon, 30 Sep 2001)

This past Wednesday, I received an interesting sighting report. A 19 year old witness claims to have seen a huge bird in South Greensburg, located in Westmoreland County, Pennsylvania. The actual observation occurred on Tuesday evening, September 25, 2001.

I conducted an in-depth interview with the witness by phone. On Thursday, Dennis Smeltzer, an associate researcher with a serious interest in ornithology, went to the location of the sighting, and interviewed the witness.

The sighting occurred at about 7:30 P.M. local time, when it was beginning to turn dark. The witness was outside at the time, and was close to Route 119, which is a major highway.

The witness was observing the trucks and cars passing by when his attention was drawn upwards by a sound "like flags flapping in a thunderstorm." He observed a huge bird which appeared to be black, or very dark greyish-brown. The witness was startled at the wingspan of the creature, which he estimated to be between 10 and 15 feet.

The bird's head was estimated to be about 3 feet long, about as large as a small dog. When the bird was first observed, the witness stated, "I wouldn't say it was flapping it's wings gracefully, but almost horrifically flapping it's wings very slowly, then gliding above the passing big rig trucks."

The creature seemed to be following the truck traffic, passing overhead at about 50 to 60 feet. The bird flew about 150 feet down the road towards a wooded area. The bird spread it's wings, showing the witness how massive it was, as it swooped down on a dead tree near a billboard.

This fellow continued to watch as it dropped slowly, yet forcefully, and saw the bird ruffle it's feathers, and saw it's head move around. After several seconds the bird rose from the tree, and gave the man the impression, that the

tree would bow and break from the apparent weight.

The bird then flew out of view towards another wooded area. The entire sighting lasted around a minute and a half. Immediately after the occurrence, this man ran to a local business to ask if anyone saw what he observed. He also approached a woman who was nearby, but she didn't see it either. The witness was upset that apparently no one else has reported this creature.

Smeltzer looked around the area of the tree where the bird was reported to have landed, but no evidence could be found. It's Smeltzer's impression that the witness is not fabricating and is describing to the best of his ability what he observed. The witness appears familiar with the great blue heron, vulture, and eagle, and is certain that this is not what he saw.

UK GOVERNMENT HELPS FUND BLOCKBUSTER CROP CIRCLE FILM *(BBC News 5 October, 2001)*

After *The Sixth Sense* and *Unbreakable* the next release from director M Night Shyamalan is *Signs*.

The film is the third major release from Shyamalan, who received huge accolades for *The Sixth Sense*, one of the most celebrated films of 1999.

Currently in production in Pennsylvania, *Signs* won't be in cinemas until next Summer. As with his previous two releases, at this stage little is know about the plot, but it has been revealed that the film will focus on the crop circle phenomenon.

"No aliens will appear in the movie, although they will be heard and communicate through the language of mathematics" said Shyamalan.

The film stars Mel Gibson who will play the farmer on whose land the crop circles appear. Joaquin Phoenix who was recently nominated for a best supporting actor Oscar for his portrayal of the Emperor in Ridley Scott's blockbuster *Gladiator* will play Gibson's brother and 12 year old Rory Culkin younger brother of Macaulay will play one of Gibson's

children.

Crop circles started to appear in the mid seventies and developed over the years from simple circles into complex pictograms. The high number appearing in Wiltshire has been linked with the presence of ancient remains such as Stonehenge, Avebury and Silbury Hill.

The film is being part funded along with Walt Disney pictures by the British Film Council which has a three-year budget of £150m from government and lottery funds to "shamelessly" build on links with Hollywood studios, said the Council's chief executive officer, John Woodward.

Self-proclaimed crop circle hoaxer John Lundberg said: "It's ironic that the government are funding a crop circle film, as researchers often accuse them of running a campaign via the media to discredit crop circles."

MYSTERY SPACE BLAST 'SOLVED'

(BBC News Online science editor Dr David Whitehouse, 30 October, 2001)

Astronomers may have solved the puzzle of what it was that brought so much devastation to a remote region of Siberia almost a century ago.

In the early morning of 30 June, 1908, witnesses told of a gigantic explosion and blinding flash. Thousands of square kilometres of trees were burned and flattened.

Scientists have always suspected that an incoming comet or asteroid lay behind the event - but no impact crater was ever discovered and no expedition to the area has ever found any large fragments of an extraterrestrial object.

Now, a team of Italian researchers believe they may have the definitive answer. After combining never-before translated eyewitness accounts with seismic data and a new survey of the impact zone, the scientists say the evidence points strongly to the object being a low-density asteroid.

They even think they know from where in the sky the object came.

"We now have a good picture of what happened," Dr Luigi Foschini, one of the expedition's leaders, told *BBC News Online*.

The explosion, equivalent to 10-15 million tonnes of TNT, occurred over the Siberian forest, near a place known as Tunguska. Only a few hunters and trappers lived in the sparsely populated region, so it is likely that nobody was killed. Had the impact occurred over a European capital, hundreds of thousands would have perished.

A flash fire burned thousands of trees near the impact site. An atmospheric shock wave circled the Earth twice. And, for two days afterwards, there was so much fine dust in the atmosphere that newspapers could be read at night by scattered light in the streets of London, 10,000 km (6,213 miles) away.

But nobody was dispatched to see what had happened as the Czars had little interest in what befell the backward Tungus people in remote central Siberia.

The first expedition to reach the site arrived in 1930, led by Soviet geologist L A Kulik, who was amazed at the scale of the devastation and the absence of any impact crater. Whatever the object was that came from space, it had blown up in the atmosphere and completely disintegrated.

Nearly a century later, scientists are still debating what happened at that remote spot. Was it a comet or an asteroid? Some have even speculated that it was a mini-black hole, though there is no evidence of it emerging from the other side of the Earth, as it would have done.

What is more, none of the samples of soil, wood or water recovered from the impact zone have been able to cast any light on what the Tunguska object actually was.

Researchers from several Italian universities have visited Tunguska many times in the past few years. Now, in a pulling together of their data and information from several hitherto unused sources, the scientists offer an explanation about what happened in 1908.

They analysed seismic records from several Siberian monitoring stations, which combined with data on the directions of flattened trees gives information about the object's trajectory. So far, over 60,000 fallen trees have been surveyed to determine the site of the blast wave.

"We performed a detailed analysis of all the available scientific literature, including

unpublished eye-witness accounts that have never been translated from the Russian," said Dr Foschini. "This allowed us to calculate the orbit of the cosmic body that crashed."

The object appears to have approached Tunguska from the southeast at about 11 km per second (7 miles a second). Using this data, the researchers were able to plot a series of possible orbits for the object.

Of the 886 valid orbits that they calculated, over 80% of them were asteroid orbits with only a minority being orbits that are associated with comets. But if it was an asteroid why did it break up completely?

"Possibly because the object was like asteroid Mathilde, which was photographed by the passing Near-Shoemaker spaceprobe in 1997. Mathilde is a rubble pile with a density very close to that of water. This would mean it could explode and fragment in the atmosphere with only the shock wave reaching the ground."

The research will be published in a forthcoming edition of the journal *Astronomy and Astrophysics*.

WHAT'S THAT NOISE?

(Laura Barton, *The Guardian*, October 18, 2001)

It's a constant, irritating hum that makes life miserable for all who hear it - but nobody knows what it is.

Largs sits prettily on the west coast of Scotland, looking out over the Firth of Clyde. Paddle steamers putter across the bay, where, from time to time, porpoises are spotted. It's more of a retirement town these days - the jobs have drawn the young folk away. But the tourists still come for the watersports and the sailing, the annual Viking festival, and, of course, the peace and quiet.

Yet peace and quiet have eluded Georgie Hyslop since she moved here 18 months ago, following the death of her husband. Indeed there are nights when she roams around her house, looking for a place to sleep. She opens windows, listens to the radio, searches for somewhere, anywhere, to hide her head from the constant humming sound.

Before she moved to Largs, Hyslop had never heard of the Largs Hum - though it has been

well documented in the *Largs and Millport News* for the past 12 years. She regretted the move almost instantly, and would leave if she could afford it. The hum is worse in the house, and in the car. Hyslop likens being indoors to sitting inside "an acoustic box". It seems worse in the night. "You dread the night. During the day at least you can get out and make a noise."

The hum scrambles her radio and television, and has also interfered with her spinal column stimulator - an electronic implant in her back. It now looks increasingly likely that she will have to have further surgery to correct the problem.

An article by Norio Nakamura and Yukio Inukai, published in the *Journal of Low Frequency Noise Vibration and Active Control*, observed that there are four main factors in the symptoms of sufferers of "low-frequency noise" (ie, hums): a) auditory feeling; b) oppression feeling 1 (a feeling of skin oppression round the eardrum); c) oppression feeling 2 (a feeling of skin oppression round the breast); d) vibration feeling.

Hyslop would describe it thus: "If it's not too bad, it's a bit of a headache. As it gets worse it progresses to an ache across the sternum, like a tight band across my chest. My ears pop, and I get stabbing pains, vertically in my head. I get nosebleeds. My short-term memory goes, I feel nauseous and sometimes I am violently sick."

Hyslop is not suffering from tinnitus - there is nothing wrong with her ears - and she is not alone. Fellow residents share her symptoms, and unexplained hums have been identified throughout the world. Tentative research has found that the majority of hum sufferers tend to be female and over 50. Hyslop herself has letters from fellow sufferers - male and female - from all over the country, including Preston, Blackpool and Norfolk, and indeed abroad.

In Taos, New Mexico, a hum began in 1991 and remains to this day. A 1994 survey of 8,000 residents discovered that the hum was audible to 11% of the Taos population. Its source is unknown. In Hueytown, Alabama, residents have complained of a low-pitched noise which, according to research in the *Fortean Times*, resembles "a dentist's drill, or a fluorescent light bulb about to blow". A pulsating noise heard throughout Rome in the 70s, and which has now subsided, was nicknamed "ron ron".

The Bristol Hum was also most prevalent in the 70s, though it is still heard today. One sufferer in Bristol eventually committed suicide in 1996 - unable to bear the unrelenting noise.

ARE MYSTERIOUS GOAT-SUCKERS KILLING SHEEP?

(Associated Press Oct. 31, 2001)

MEXICO CITY - A family of farmers in northern Chihuahua state say mysterious vampire-like creatures have killed and sucked the blood of more than 60 sheep in the weeks leading up to Halloween.

The state news agency *Notimex* reported that farmer Ramiro Parra Gonzalez was headed to his field outside the city of Bocoyna on Wednesday when stumbled upon 35 dead sheep, all of which were found without a drop of blood in their bodies and with two small bite marks on their necks.

Parra Gonzalez told police that the slayings were the work of the "chupacabras," or "goat-suckers," a group of legendary beasts that have terrorized his family, *Notimex* reported.

Parra Gonzalez said he heard dogs who normally sleep in his fields begin to howl exactly at midnight on Wednesday. A few minutes later he heard the dogs running for their lives.

"I thought it was probably a fox," Parra Gonzalez told *Notimex*, adding that he might not have liked what he would have seen had he ventured outside to investigate.

Parra Gonzalez said Wednesday's attack marked the third time the goat-suckers have struck his family, *Notimex* reported. The attacks started on Oct. 10 when Parra Gonzalez's brother, Francisco, said he returned to his fields after lunch to find the lifeless, bloodless bodies of 12 sheep and one pig.

Then on the morning of Oct. 25, another relative, Martin Parra Orpinel, said he found 16 of his sheep dead and another 14 gravely injured. All had been bitten on the neck and mysteriously lost a lot of blood, Parra Orpinel told authorities.

A local police spokesman said authorities were investigating all three incidents.

Rumors of goat-suckers spread across Latin

America several years ago, though many officials dismissed the reports, saying animals were being killed by wolves, dogs or coyotes.

The rumors spawned folk songs, t-shirts and even little rubber goat-sucker figures.

Reports were common in Puerto Rico and there were some in the Rio Grande Valley of Texas.

UNIDENTIFIED FLYING CREATURES TERRIFY CHILEAN DRIVER

(Dr. Virgilio Sanchez-Ocejo 1 Nov 2001)

A woman and her daughter lived moments of true anguish and fear as they witnessed what appeared to be a flock of oval-shape creatures flying over their vehicle. The eyewitnesses were travelling in a van from Calama to the coastal city of Antofagasta. The incident took place last Saturday, October 27, 2001 at approximately 8:30 PM. According to one of the eyewitnesses, the sighting lasted about 15 seconds.

The mother, one of the eyewitnesses, contacted Calama UFO Center to report the sighting but did not want us to reveal her name. She is a prominent business manager at a computer firm in the city of Calama.

Both mother and daughter were planning to spend the weekend in their Antofagasta residence. The 16-year-old daughter goes to school in Antofagasta, so they wanted to spend some time together.

According to them, the flying creatures they saw were oval in shape and grayish in color. Our investigative center had never before received reports describing these types of entities, until now.

"We were driving to Antofagasta. As we got to the slope on the road I knew we were almost there. The road in that area has many curves; therefore, I was very alert because it can be dangerous to drive at night on that part of the highway.

"My daughter reclined her seat. It had been a long day so she began to relax, as it got dark. Suddenly, she jumped out of the seat yelling and screaming. "Look mother!" Her tone of voice frightened me, so I asked her what was wrong. "Can you see that?" She asked me. I held on to the steering wheel tightly and

began looking up. I knew it was a dangerous section of the road and I could not afford to get distracted.

"I finally saw what she was talking about. It was a flock of flying creatures. There must have been about 20 of them. It was too dark to distinguish any physical aspects. They looked like shadows. All I could tell by looking up from the vehicle was that they were oval in shape and grayish in color. They were very fast and did not appear to fly a straight course; they were making wobbling movements in all directions.

"I thought to myself, 'if those things were UFOs but they appeared to be living creatures'. I tilted my head toward the windshield and I noticed that they were traveling in a straight line. They were heading towards Calama. My daughter noticed that one of them got closer to our van. "I think it is looking at me, mother", she said.

"We have never been so scared. I finally told my daughter to stop looking at them. She went into the back seat and began praying. I thank God for not losing control of the vehicle.

"I have to admit that I was reluctant to come forward with this. One of my drivers told me before that he saw similar beings crossing the road in that area. At first, I did not believe him. However, now that it happened to us, I definitely do. I still cannot believe that I am doing this, but I know what I saw."

Jaime Ferrer, Calama UFO Center
Translated by Mario Andrade

WINSTER DRIVER 'SECONDS AWAY' FROM PHOTOGRAPHING OBJECT (*Matlock Mercury*)

A NERVOUS Winster driver was just seconds away from photographing a UFO on Halloween.

Derek Holmes (66) was driving home from Cromford when he spotted a strange bright light in the sky.

Mr Holmes, from Lea Croft Road, said: "I thought to myself good God what is that.

"I could see this very big, bright, white object.

"At first I thought it was a car coming from the other direction, but then realised it was not moving."

"I felt nervous, it was a peculiar feeling, I had read before about UFOs thinking there must be some simple explanation."

The UFO was first spotted by Mr Holmes on Bonsall Moor near the Salters Lane junction at 10.32pm.

As he drove nearer the light it was obviously not a road vehicle but a round airborne object, with curved edges.

Slowing down, Mr Holmes searched for a safe place to stop on the narrow road, to capture the brilliant image on film. But despite having a camera in the back he was too slow.

"The size of the light went down, it was as if someone had hit a dimmer switch and it went yellow," added Mr Holmes.

"It started to move into the distance and then disappeared altogether."

BONSALL FOOTAGE: WHAT £20,000?

(*Anthony James UFO NEWS UK 6/11/ 2001.*
AJames@emufora.freeserve.co.uk)

According to Santiago Yturria, who supplied UFO footage from Mexico to Los Angeles based Kiveat Productions, no money has changed hands for the Sharon Rowlands Bonsall (UK) UFO footage.

Mr Yturria was amazed to read in the UK's *Daily Star* and *The Sun* newspapers about the amount allegedly paid and decided to call his friend Robert Kiveat to find out more.

Mr Kiveat was shocked at the story and stated that it was all a big mistake and this was the first time that he was aware of the story. No money had changed hands and no deal had been done.

Kiveat Productions was unaware of the footage, and stated that an agent had been acting on his behalf here in the UK. The whole deal folded when the newspapers became involved. No one had been offered this sum of money which was referred to as a 'crazy amount', and Mr Kiveat hadn't even seen the footage.

******STOP PRESS!!!!******

WE' RE ON THE MOVE!!

NEXT MEETING

TUESDAY, 11TH DECEMBER 2001

7:00PM – 10:00PM

NEW MEETING PLACE!!

THE MOSELEY'S ARMS,

81, WEST BAR

SHEFFIELD CITY CENTRE

AND IT'S PARTY NIGHT!!!

(Ring Dave for details)