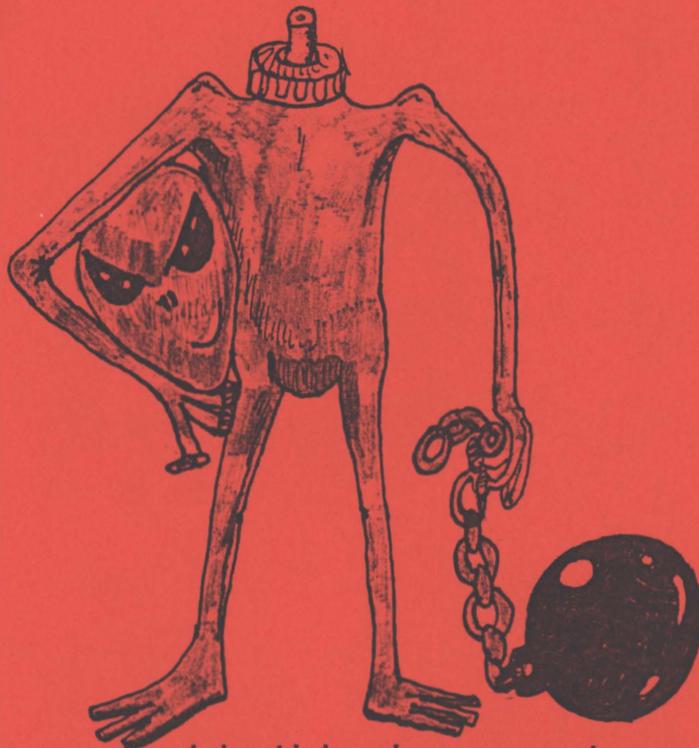


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YORKSHIRE UFO SOCIETY

PROJECT RED BOOK

(Vol 5, # 9, March 2002)



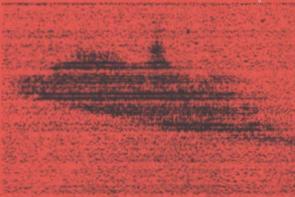
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"I'd buy that for a dollar!"

AN INTERVIEW WITH ROBERT SNOW

Robert Snow was born in Salisbury, Wiltshire. He left school at seventeen and went into the army, where he travelled mainly in the Middle East, with some service in Germany. He left the army on a medical discharge having cracked two bones in his spine. He then went into the civil service and then joined English Heritage where he remained for ten years. He left English Heritage and became a freelance reporter and writer, which he does now.

DAVE BAKER: Robert, how did you become a Ghost Hunter?

ROBERT SNOW: I first became interested in the paranormal at a very early age and it was really because of my late Grandfather, Dr Richard Clay. He lived at Fovant in Wiltshire where he was a medical practitioner and also a keen amateur archaeologist. When returning from an excavation at Pokesdown near Bournemouth, he encountered the ghost of a prehistoric horseman, probably of The Bronze Age period. When he arrived home he recorded his observations meticulously. This case is mentioned in many books on ghosts and is very well known.

Grandfather also had several other encounters with the paranormal, which he also recorded and also experiences related to him by his patients. I am fortunate enough to have inherited his archives, which contain a great deal about ghosts. I think that they must be among the best collection of material on the paranormal in private ownership, consisting of many thousands of documents and several hundred books, which I am continuously adding to.

But to answer your question about when I first became a ghost hunter, well it was only about eight years ago when I actually started investigating cases.

Can you remember your first case?

My first case was (investigating) Pengersick Castle in Cornwall, where a host of strange things happened.

On the night of the 4th and 5th of April 1997 I was taking part in an investigation into the paranormal activities at Pengersick Castle, at Praa Sands, Near Penzance in Cornwall. The team consisted of 10 members, 8 males and two females.

Just before midnight the whole team assembled in what is known as the haunted bedroom and positioned themselves so that they could all see as much of the room as possible.

At about one minute past midnight the light was switched off by one of the team members and everyone in the room just stayed where they were, observing the room. There was a certain amount of moonlight shining through the window. One of the female team members was sitting in a chair near the window.

After the light had been out for about three or four minutes I observed by the side of the member who was sitting by the window a white misty shape appearing; it seemed to get quite dense, it was roughly the shape of a person and it was standing by the right hand shoulder of the lady, Mrs Don who was sitting by the window. Although there was moonlight shining it certainly could not account for what I saw. This figure seemed to be swaying from side to side as if it was shifting its weight from one foot to another, this went on for about fifteen minutes or so until the light was switched on again.

After a few minutes the light was switched off again and I saw materialising a white figure standing to the left hand side of the bed as you were facing the end of it. This figure was the shape of a human being and I am sure that it was female. it was white and it seemed waxing and waning varying from being fairly very faint to very bright and certainly extremely visible. It seemed to be a female form about five feet six inches tall or thereabouts as a rough estimate and it was a creamy white in colour. it had a straight dress although at one particular point it seemed to have a full skirt that was much wider than the body and a slim waist although this probably only lasted a short time and returned to the straight dress.

I must mention that during this second session of the light being out no one was sitting on the chair by the window. The figure started to walk towards me and I was standing in the

opposite corner to the chair that was by the window. I called out that something was walking towards me, the figure carried on walking. I then said again that it was walking towards me. As soon as I said that the second time it went back to where it was before. It did not turn round, it just seemed to walk backwards.

Someone then said that someone should walk over towards it. I then walked over towards the figure but when I was by the figure I had to return as it was extremely cold; just like walking into an industrial cold store.

The light was then switched on. I don't know what it was that I saw but I am certain that it was not of this world.

Throughout the night there were several other incidents mainly small and altogether it seems that they all add up to one thing and that is that at the castle there is a great deal of paranormal activity. It does certainly need much more investigation. There is a lot more work to be done there.

I have known the owner for a long time and been to Pengersick Castle many times, sometimes, I have been there in the dark but have never before spent a night in the place, neither have I ever experienced any paranormal activity before.

What fascinates you about ghosts so much?

I think I am probably fascinated by ghosts and hauntings because they are unexplainable, or at least some are. I think that most people have a fascination for mysteries.

There are a number of possible explanations for ghosts. Can you review some of them for us, and tell us your own thoughts.

Yes there are many theories about ghosts and what they are. One of the favourite theories is that where you get places such as the Tower of London, where many strong emotions have taken place such as violent deeds, murder, execution, fear and sadness, something becomes embedded in the fabric of the building. Therefore certain people at certain times under certain conditions can pick these up; a sort of video replay of past events.

In fact there are people, mainly scientists, who think that the earth's magnetic fields can have an effect on the human brain and cause illusions or hallucinations.

Another possible explanation could be that a person who sees a ghost could be suffering from the effects of a brain tumour or have some mental or psychological problem. On the other hand, ghosts could be really spirits of the dead, in other words, ghosts are really ghosts.

From my experience, ninety percent of hauntings or paranormal activity can be explained by careful investigation. For example there could be loose floor-boards, air in pipes causing water hammer. After a hot day when an old building starts to cool down, with a lot of timber used in its construction, it will creak and even produce noises akin to human footsteps. The list of possible explanations goes on and on.

What is your own personal favourite haunting?

I think that my favourite haunting is Borley Rectory in Essex, although the rectory has long since gone.

Many people associate ghosts as the spirits of those who died hundreds of years ago: Cavaliers, Monks, Roman soldiers etc. Are there any examples of more "modern" ghosts?

Oh yes there certainly are, you only have to open any ghost book to see examples of present day ghosts.

There are many reports of "ghosts" which appear to be non-organic, such as Phantom cars, trucks, and even houses...have you any such cases on your files, and how can we explain such phantoms?

Yes I have, in my archives cases of such ghosts. Now explaining them is a different matter, they could be time slips or even imagination.

Years ago, I used to borrow books on ghosts from the adult section of my

local library. My favourite author was Elliot O'Donnell, and some of his tales I remember to this day; they absolutely scared me stiff. Things like "The Eyeless Woman" and "The Grey Horror". Were his accounts real, or more like FOAF tales?

I am sure that his stories were real, although I think some would probably be folklore, myth or legend passed down from person to person over the years.

Another favourite of mine is the one you mentioned as your own favourite: Borley Rectory, supposedly "The Most Haunted House In England". Can you tell us about it?

Borley Rectory, in Essex was built in 1863 by The reverend Harry Bull and enlarged in 1873 because of the incumbant's ever increasing family, which was fourteen children. The rectory was built on the site of an earlier rectory, which in turn was said to have been built on the site of a Nunnery.

The house was always said to be haunted but it gained its reputation during the occupation of The Reverend Lionel Algernon Foyster, who took up occupation in 1930 and left in 1935, five years to the day.

Harry Price investigated the hauntings for this period and when the Foysters left he rented the building for a year or so. The account of the hauntings is in two books, both by Harry Price, *The Most Haunted House in England*, and *The End of Borley Rectory*.

It is a very long and complicated haunting.

Now the rectory was burned down in 1939 and the ruins demolished in 1943. Now the rectory is no more, the hauntings seem to have moved into the church.

At the risk of offending his friends and followers, it has been suggested in some quarters that Harry Price, who made the house famous, "bent the truth" somewhat with his investigations...

Harry Price did not make any claims himself he only reported what had been reported to him or related by witnesses to the haunting

There is a famous photo of a brick, supposedly levitating, which was later claimed to have been thrown by a workman demolishing a wall. Is this true?

I am not certain about this but I think it could have been thrown by a workman engaged in demolishing the burnt out shell.

What to your mind would be "The most haunted house in the UK?"

Probably Pengersick Castle in Cornwall or Woodchester Mansion near Stroud in Gloucestershire.

Have you conducted investigations there?

On Friday 7th September 2001, two colleagues and I took part in the filming of an American television programme at Woodchester Mansion, *The Worlds Scariest Places*. We arrived at the mansion at around 7pm and proceeded to tour the building to familiarise ourselves with the location before darkness set in.

The tour guide was David Price, the Chief Executive of the Woodchester Mansion Trust. Woodchester Mansion is a gothic revival house built of Cotswold stone, around four sides of a courtyard in 1840, but for some reason it was never completed, and nobody seems to know the reason why. However, I suspect that the real reason could have been that the money ran out, why I say this is that the masonry work is of the very finest quality, with no expense spared. In the house, all floors have very fine ribbed stone vaulted ceilings with an abundance of finely carved cartouches. Some of the wooden formers are still in place, supporting part finished arches and vaulting. There are some of tools left behind by the builders, all this, coupled with the extreme isolation of the building, seems to add to the melancholy atmosphere that surrounds it.

A feeling of timeless tranquillity permeates the house and valley. Woodchester Mansion is at the end of a mile long drive in a deep valley

the sides of which have a covering of dense woodland.

Once we had completed our tour of the house, we adjourned to the drawing room, the only room in the house which is complete. At around 10pm Dennis Moyses and I proceeded to set up trigger objects at various locations inside the house, at all levels from the top floor to the cellar. These were in the form of two penny pieces placed on pieces of white paper, lines were drawn around these so that if they moved at all one could tell. This task we completed at approximately 10.30pm when Dennis and I joined the rest of the party in the drawing room for coffee, biscuits and a general discussion.

Around 8.55pm we decided to go for walk down the valley to where there are a series of ponds, twenty American soldiers apparently drowned there during the last war. The house was a temporary military barracks for American soldiers during the Second World War. The walk was about a mile distance each way. The reason for this is that the valley is also haunted according to local residents and we wanted to see if there was any paranormal activity there. We arrived back at the mansion at 10.15pm and sat talking in the drawing room.

At 11pm, we decided to start our vigil with all the lights in the drawing room turned off. We sat in silence for about half an hour but nothing happened at all. The lights then went back on and we had a discussion about the building in general and our thoughts and impressions of the place.

It was just after 2.30am that we all heard a quiet metallic knocking coming from the right hand side of the fireplace; everyone looked in that direction, obviously very surprised indeed. After a couple of minutes, the sound gradually became louder and reached a crescendo; it was now deafening. As we looked at the wall, letters appeared, as if painted by an invisible being, using an invisible brush. The emulsion on the wall was of a light mustard colour, the letters were the same colour but much darker. The letters were 'SWSB' in capitals and about twelve inches in height and roughly formed, as if painted in frechand.

I should mention that Dennis, Archie and I checked the control objects at hourly intervals through the night. However when we did our first check one control object was missing from the kitchen area, so the ghosts owe me

two pence. Otherwise, the control objects did not move at all throughout the night.

My first impression was that this was some form of hoax or trick set up by the film company; a very logical conclusion to arrive at. I am sure that you will agree. I went outside into the corridor to see if anyone was there who could have created the sound, but the corridor was empty. All the time the tapping noise was continuing and seemed to be coming from upstairs. I called on Dennis Moyses a fellow member of The Ghost Club and Archie Lowrie, who is, by the way, The General Secretary of 'The Scottish Society for Psychical Research', to accompany me upstairs to check the area where the sound was coming from.

Archie led the way with Dennis and I close behind. As we climbed the main stairs, the sound was now very loud indeed and getting louder all the time. All three of us had powerful torches switched on and just as Archie rounded the corner the sound stopped. We then went up to where the sound seemed to be coming from but no one was there. We all examined the area to try to establish the cause of the sound but could find no rational explanation. If a human agency had been there, it would have not been able to escape without being seen. I should mention that on all levels the floors were of stone and in places, it was just loose rubble, as no flagstones laid.

Anyway, we looked in all the rooms leading off that corridor; but could still not find an explanation. We returned to the drawing room and reported our findings to the others. I decided, and the others agreed, that it would be advisable to go up to the corridor, where the sound seemed to originate from, and spend a period in complete darkness; this we did, with the exception of four people who were not too keen to accompany us. We were there for about ten minutes when the knocking started again. I shone my torch in the direction of the sound but could not see anything to account for the noise. The knocking sound continued uninterrupted. I switched off my torch and the sound stopped.

After a very short period, about five minutes or so, we all heard a faint sound from the other end of the corridor; I can only describe it as sounding like a combination of a heavy wooden box drawn across the rough floor, a jet aircraft, and an express train, all at the same time. The sound seemed to be travelling along the corridor and approaching us, getting louder

all the time until it was absolutely deafening by the time it reached us, which would have been about three minutes or so from start. It was then amidst us and I shone my torch and again, could not see anything to account for the sound. I must mention that throughout this incident I was leaning against a wall, which was vibrating violently and so was the floor; everyone present felt the vibration. We had a thorough search of the vicinity, and again could not find anything to account for the sound.

After our thorough search, we returned to the drawing room for a discussion of the incident. The people, who had stayed behind, were in a distressed condition. They were wondering what was happening upstairs. At first, they had thought that we had been playing tricks on them. The loud tapping sound started again and we all went out into the corridor and made our way towards the main staircase. I went upstairs myself and into the corridor where the sound was coming from, again the tapping stopped as I rounded the corner, this I did four times in total, but on the last time the tapping did not stop.

Dennis and Archie accompanied me on a fifth visit to the upper corridor where the sound came from, but this time there was no tapping. Just as we were ascending the main stairs, a loud tapping started which seemed to be coming from the stone vaulting above the stairway; we stopped and listened. The rest of the party came up, including the film crew; we all stood on the stairs and listened. Suddenly there was a sound like a large quantity of masonry falling from a great height. My first impression was that the stone vaulting above the stairs was collapsing; the sound was deafening.

There were many other incidents of a loud metallic tapping and too numerous to mention. I have, however mentioned the major incidents.

I carefully examined the areas in question and could find no explanation at all for the sounds; therefore, I am one hundred percent certain that these incidents of loud metallic knocking must have had paranormal origins. The painted letters however, are another matter, which could have possibly have been a hoax, but considering all other factors I am of the opinion that they could also have paranormal origins.

Tell us about The Ghost Club.

The club has its roots in Cambridge when in 1855 fellows at Trinity College began to discuss ghosts and psychic phenomena. Formally launched in London in 1862 (attracting some light hearted ridicule in *The Times*), it counted amongst its early members Charles Dickens and Cambridge academics and clergymen. This group undertook practical investigations of spiritualist phenomena, which was then much in vogue and would meet and discuss ghostly subjects.

The Ghost Club seems to have dissolved in the 1870s following the death of Dickens but it was re-launched in 1882 simultaneously with the Society for Psychical Research (SPR) with whom there was an initial overlap of members.

The Ghost Club was revived on All Saints Day 1882 by A.A.Watts and a famous contemporary medium, the Reverend Stainton Moses. Whilst the SPR was a body devoted to scientific study the Club remained a selective and secretive organisation of convinced believers for whom psychic phenomena were an established fact. Stainton Moses resigned from the vice presidency of the SPR in 1886 and thereafter devoted himself to the Club which met monthly, with attendance being considered obligatory except for the most pressing reasons. Membership was small - 82 members over 54 years - but during this period the Club attracted some of the most original - and controversial minds in psychical research, serving almost as a place of refuge for those who were unable to pursue activities elsewhere. These included Sir William Crookes who attracted scandal after investigation into Florence Cook, a medium.

Since its founding in 1862, the Ghost Club has welcomed many luminaries to its membership, such as noted Ghost hunter Harry Price, as well as people from more varied professions. The list includes Charles Dickens, Sir William Crookes, Air Chief Marshall Lord Dowding, Arthur Koestler, Dr C.E.M.Joad, Donald Campbell, Sir Julian Huxley, Sir Osbert Sitwell, W.B.Yeats, Sigfreid Sassoon, Dennis Wheatley and Peter Cushing. Present members include the explorer and founder of Operations "Drake" and "Raleigh" Colonel John Blashford-Snell, OBE, and noted paranormal investigators Maurice Grosse, John and Anne Spencer and Reverend Lionel Fauthorpe, as well as authors Lynn Picknett and Dennis Bardens. The previous chairman of the Ghost Club was W.T.G. (Tom) Perrott, a life member

of the club and an eminent figure in the field of psychical research.

The club has investigated many famous locations during its lifetime, such as Borley Church, Chingle Hall, The Queen's House, RAF Cosford Aerospace Museum, Glamis Castle, Winchester Theatre, Woodchester Mansion and the Clerkenwell House of Detention.

We are an informal, democratically-run club of genuinely open-minded members and it should be stressed that interested sceptics are always welcomed. The club has many members from all over the world. A newsletter is issued to members on a quarterly basis. Anyone interested in the Ghost Club can contact me at robertsnow@snowrm.demon.co.uk and I'll do the rest!

Tell us about a typical investigation.

In a nutshell you just observe and record your observations with the aid of equipment as sound and video recording equipment and thermometers, apparatus for measuring changes in atmospheric pressure, night viewing equipment etc.

Do you ever use psychics or mediums in your investigations?

Sometimes, but not often. My experience with mediums was during the filming of the series *The Ghost Detectives* at Pengersick and also *The World's Scariest Places* at 'Woodchester Mansion' in Gloucestershire.

In both cases the mediums picked up spiritual presences which was significant because there were two psychics and both picked up identical presences independently of each other.

Some psychics and mediums are better than others but to be perfectly honest, usually we prefer to conduct an investigation using various scientific instruments such as apparatus to measure and record changes in the atmospheric pressure and temperature. We also use night viewing equipment and instruments to detect radio waves and magnetic fields.

What are your opinions on ouija boards?

I have no opinion really but have to admit that I am not keen to take part in a seance using such things as ouija boards, probably because I don't know enough about them and am therefore apprehensive.

Anyone can go out and hold a sky-watch to search for UFOs, as long as they use a little common sense. How easy is it to hold a ghost watch? What advice would you give to anyone who has a hankering for a haunting?

All it needs is common sense and above all permission from the owners of a private property.

How easy is it to find a location to hold a ghost watch?

By just reading books newspapers listening to peoples conversations and visiting libraries and records offices.

There must be some fascinating "mistakes"...what was the most unusual explanation for a so-called haunting you have come across.

The following true story may interest some readers.

Some years ago a young lady who was a member of a psychical research society was invited to stay with a party in a house which was said to be haunted. She may or may not have been warned that the subject was taboo with her host, the owner of the house, who would never allow the 'ghost' to be mentioned.

Before the party went to bed the young lady, who was very anxious to send a report to her society, asked her host whether she might sleep in the haunted bedroom. Though at once told that he did not wish to talk about it, she was so persistent that in the end he agreed and when she asked at what time the ghost walked he unwillingly told her 3.00 am. She went to bed and, of course, woke up as the clock struck three.

Appropriate moonlight was streaming into the room. She heard the door open and saw a white figure advance towards her bed and stretch out his right arm, whereupon she fainted from terror. When she 'came to' later

on she awoke feeling very cold and pulled herself together with a nip of brandy from a flask she had.

She was first down at breakfast just before one of the men guests entered the room. Rubbing his hands, he said "Good morning" and asked her if she did not think it very cold. He went on to say: "I was so cold during the night that I went to the spare bedroom and took a blanket off the bed".

Some famous hauntings have proved to be nothing more than deliberate hoaxes, such as -allegedly - Amytville. Has anyone ever attempted to trick you?

No one has, as far as I know ever tried to trick me.

What was your biggest success in terms of finding evidence that something paranormal was at work?

Pengersick Castle and Woodchester Mansion.

Have you ever been seriously frightened or disturbed by an investigation?

No, never

Is there any place you would love to hold an investigation but for some reason cannot?

Probably The Tower of London, but that is out of the question because of security implications

Interest in UFOs comes and goes, but the fascination with ghosts and the paranormal seems more or less constant. Why do you think this is?

Probably because ghosts seem to be more varied and don't seem to follow any particular pattern, I am not really sure, that is just a theory.

SUBMISSIONS / LETTERS TO PROJECT RED BOOK

Fed up of the same old rubbish appearing in *PRB*? Like to see something more "up your alley"? Think you could do a damn sight better? Want to vent your spleen?

Then here's your chance...

If you would like to contribute an article, a review, or even just voice an opinion, contact editor Dave Baker at YUFOS Towers, 224 Bellhouse Road, Firth Park, Sheffield, South Yorkshire, S5 6HT, England, or e-mail davbak@blueyonder.co.uk for submission guidelines.

We won't pay you anything, but at least you'll get all that anger and pent-up frustration off your chest and, more importantly, more than *TEN* whole people will get the chance to totally ignore your work.

"ASKIN' BOLLOXINSKI"

If you want to write to "The USA's Greatest Investigator of the Unexplained", Tom Bolloxinski, you can e-mail your questions or comments to him at:

tombol@blueyonder.co.uk

and Tom will do his best to answer them, explain them, or insult them.

WEB COMMENTS

Have you visited the YUFOS website? Take a look at www.yufos.org.uk where you can download a sightings report form, subscription form, join our mailing list, and lots of other jolly interesting things.

THE VIEW FROM BRITAIN

THE JENNY RANGLES COLUMN

(Originally published in *The MUFON JOURNAL*, February 2001)

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Editor's note: This column was originally published in *The MUFON Journal*, (Mutual UFO Network), in the USA. Please bear in mind the original date of publication. YUFOS extends its thanks to Jenny & Dwight Connely, editor of MJ, for permission to reproduce this work.

There has been only one case on the minds of British UFOlogists as 2001 got underway - the best known of all close encounters in the UK, which is the multiple sightings in Rendlesham Forest.

This Suffolk pine wood encircled an episode involving both local villagers and USAF airmen as well as officers from the then twin NATO bases of Bentwaters and Woodbridge.

The case occurred in late December 1980, so the 20th anniversary was bound to bring much attention. It certainly did, with vigils in the forest and anniversary sky-watches - not to mention media stories.

There are rumours of odd lights being seen that week; although that has been true for many years in this area (where tourist walks are even taken from time to time). The air bases have long been deserted following the end of the Cold War and Orford Ness is now a nature park with the deserted huts and bunkers still the source of much talk.

The Rendlesham Forest case has generated more books than any other single event beyond Roswell. And in late November the fifth full volume to appear about its mysteries was released in the UK by Sidgwick & Jackson. *You Can't Tell the People* is by former private detective and internet gossip column editor Georgina Bruni. She has conducted a major search for witnesses and sources during the past three years and has published her findings in this voluminous text.

It certainly introduces some new data - including site photographs taken shortly after the incident in the forest - and brings to light a couple of new witnesses. In the process it ignited a furious internet debate over the Christmas/New Year holidays.

The arguments rage between a group of British UFOlogists, backed by skeptics such as

science writer Ian Ridpath, who champion the view that the case has gradually dissolved into a series of misperceptions of mundane phenomena - like a prominent local lighthouse and some stars. Unsurprisingly, many UFOlogists feel this is an over simplification that rejects - needlessly - the testimony of responsible witnesses.

I do not intend to go into the finer points of that debate here, but rather to look at an issue that has emerged from the current furore and that might be significant to this case.

Both myself and Jennie Zeidman have reported the basic facts in *MUFON Journal* during the early days of its research in the mid 1980s. This will give interested readers a basic grounding. But - although there were many sightings in the area spread over a period of several days - this case essentially revolves around two major incidents.

In the early hours of 26 December 1980 strange lights were seen falling into the forest by a security patrol at the East Gate of Woodbridge base.

One man from that patrol (Airman, later Sergeant, John Burroughs) went into the forest along with two others who arrived from Bentwaters to investigate (Sergeant Jim Penniston and his driver, Airman Cabansag). Once inside the forest they closed in on a semi transparent ethereal floating object that made strange movements and then shot skywards.

At closest proximity Penniston says that what seemed like 'mirror writing' was etched on the side. There is evidence of an altered state of consciousness involving these witnesses during this phase.

In the forest at the point of this close encounter 'landing marks' were later found by Burroughs and Penniston. In essence a big hole punched through the tree canopy, a scuffed up area on

the ground and a triangular set of shallow indentations.

Following further sightings in the woods, in the early hours of 28 December 1980 the deputy base commander, Colonel Charles Halt, then led a team of men - including a base photographer - to the site to take samples and measurements and 'resolve' the event. They failed.

Halt took a dictaphone with him and recorded the procedure 'live' - but during this period more strange lights returned and Halt and several airmen chased these for some distance through trees, sporadically recording what they saw onto the tape. This included star like lights, beams akin to lasers striking the ground and a 'winking eye' object.

Central to both of these events is the question of the 'landing site' - or as Halt on tape correctly calls it the 'suspected impact point'. It is truthfully this because Penniston and Burroughs were never certain that the smokey thing that they saw on the first night literally touched down. As such - how sure can we be that the marks they found do relate to the UFO?

A forest in the dark is a very difficult place to navigate. One group of pine trees looks much like any other. Certainly, if these airmen found marks at a spot near where they thought the UFO had been there is good reason for them to have assumed that the UFO caused them. But it likely was more an assumption than certainty. They did not see any UFO create these marks.

However, the skeptics are fond of debating how the marks in a triangle inside the 'landing zone' could have been created by rabbits - but the real issue to me involves the hole smashed through the pine canopy. I have never seen a skeptical attempt to explain this, other than to dismiss it as either irrelevant or not proven to be there.

But it was there. How do we know? Because the witnesses describe it. It is clearly reported by Halt on the tape as he stands at the site 48 hours later recording what he sees. And it was independently described to researchers - even before the Halt tape surfaced - by a forester who found it.

This, to me, is critical evidence. He was not a person unfamiliar with the woods. This man - Brownlea - knew the area very well. When he

spotted this massive hole punched through the tree tops one day in mid January he was in no doubt that it was unusual. Moreover, he thought it indicated that something had crashed from the sky into the trees.

Brownlea - very properly - reported the matter to the nearby Forestry Commission offices. And they discussed the meaning. Could the air base have been testing some kind of remotely controlled 'drone' - was one theory? Did something fall off a plane? They rejected any thought of an air crash because - as forester Vince Thurkettle told me - there was no way such a major event on their land and so relatively close to their offices could have been cleaned up and all wreckage removed without them becoming aware of it.

At the point when these discussions went on (early 1981) there was no public knowledge of the UFO sightings - not even in the local media. In fact the first ever reference to the case in a public forum was my short piece on the unverified rumours that appeared in *Flying Saucer Review (FSR)* magazine in March 1981.

But by then there was no trace site for us to study. In fact there was no trace site by the day after Brownlea found it! Even as he turned up for work the day after the above discussions he found logging crews already levelling this part of the forest. They were ordered to chop the trees.

Claims as to what went on are rife. A local garage owner (Gerry Harris) reported that an airmen told him the trees were being cut down because the forest was irradiated (radiation levels were recorded at the site by Halt on 28 December but these are of dubious importance according to the manufacturers of the equipment used and clearly were not considered a threat as Halt and co spent hours on site whilst unprotected). Obviously, cutting down trees would not deradiate an area. But it shows how stories about the site and the sudden decision to fell were getting around.

So why was this part of the forest felled as soon as Brownlea found that hole through the trees? Its a good question. I asked the forestry commission offices in 1983 and was told it was just routine. The trees in this area had been 'scored' before Christmas indicating they were part of the extensive pine wood now ready for 'harvesting'. In fact, on the Halt tape you can hear discussions about the discovery of some notches on trees surrounding the landing site and Halt comments that they seem to be 'old'.

As they were. Who ordered the felling so rapidly? Brownlea agreed they were in an area set to be cut down but he was not expecting this part to be immediately deforested. The base in the woods were told to do this by their head office in Cambridge. And Cambridge told us that the timing of the felling for the day after the discovery of the 'crash site' by Brownlea was merely chance. "It was a coincidence. These trees were simply the next in line to be felled".

So - as you see - there was a site - it had some anomalous evidence suggesting that a heavy object had fallen through it from above and , by accident or design, it was removed from any possible scrutiny the minute that a civilian had found it.

From Gerry Harris notes the 'radiation' story seems to have been something of a 'scare tactic' as it was used as a basis to advise any locals who heard about the UFO sightings not to go near the forest.

Possibly that was its main function. After all the radiation doesn't seem to have bothered the USAF men when out there. You dont hear them on the tape expressing any concerns (and as radiation levels fall off exponentially they would have been much more at risk than weeks later when the trees were felled)

So it cannot reasonably have been concluded as a threat to their health and it is inconceivable that an irradiated forest would have been left in situ for thousands of locals to wander through during the three or four weeks between the UFO sighting and the eventual felling. Public safety would have required at the minimum some sort of ruse - such as a 'chemical dump' scare - being invented to keep people out of the woods even if the real truth could not be advised to them.

But there was no public warning. Only these rumours of radiation offered to anyone who heard about the UFO.

There is a definite pattern here suggesting that the USAF did not want people snooping around the landing site - which they may have chosen to do after hearing that a UFO was supposed to have landed there. So the radiation saga may have been used as a convenient deterrent to inquiring locals. Then - once the site was identified by locals -it was rapidly put out of commission. A curious thing to do if nothing much had happened there.

However, there is another remarkable twist to this story because there are reasons to suspect that a false trail was left for the locals to follow - just in case anyone stumbled over the truth.

Between 1981 and 1983 we heard several stories filtering off base that there was a 'false landing site' placed in the woods. This wasn't the real one (presumably that was destroyed early on). Instead it was put there as a ruse to distract airmen who had heard the rumours (the UFO incidents were the talk of the base). Many were going into the woods looking for UFOs. A New Years Eve sky-watch party was supposedly held, for example.

So - there is a good case for someone planting a bogus set of traces near the real landing site just to take attention away from the true one.

Our sources on base told us this site was quickly visited by airmen and that someone scratched an arrow into the ground to de-mark this spot as the place to go. This is very hard to believe if the site was the real location of a then still secret UFO event. But it makes perfect sense if someone on base was trying to fob off airmen and locals with what they wanted them to believe were the real traces left by the rumoured UFO landing.

The story takes a vital new turn at this point because forester Vince Thurkettle found what he took to be the landing site whilst he was out walking his dog. We think this was at about the end of January 1981. He did not tell of this until October 1983 - the day after the Rendlesham Forest case became a front page story in Britains biggest selling newspaper (*the News of the World*). Thurkettle approached the highly respected London Times to report what he had seen nearly three years earlier and offer an alternative, rational viewpoint.

He described finding a site with scuffed up ground and some holes in a rough triangle that he believed from inspection at the time were rabbit holes. From this site you could see the Orford Ness lighthouse shining through trees. Perhaps that was the UFO mistaken by the airmen. It was, he admitted, just an idea. But as one of the few people claiming to have seen the landing site - and being very dismissive - his story was extremely influential. Even now many people in the UK think this case was solved that day by this foresters story.

I talked to Thurkettle soon after. He showed me rabbit marks. Explained his ideas and

impressed me as a clearly honest reporter. But – here's the rub. He didn't describe to me seeing a big hole in the tree-tops over the site. But he did say there was an arrow in the ground nearby.

According to Georginas Bruni's new book *Thurkettle* has become less convinced he was right as more witnesses have surfaced describing what they saw. He is keen now to emphasise that he never said this case WAS resolved as just a lighthouse (and I can confirm that in 1983 he was merely offering speculation because - he told me - he found the tabloid media talk of spaceships and aliens to be premature and over the top).

If we take seriously those circulating tales on base about the false landing site seeded into the forest, suddenly Thurkettle's story takes on an eerie new light. For if he saw the false site - not the real one - maybe he was an innocent pawn in the eventual discrediting of this case? We assume that Brownlea found the real site (there was no arrow at his but there was a big hole in the trees as described on the Halt tape) As soon as his discovery was reported someone ensured that the area was deforested ASAP.

If we assume that Thurkettle found the bogus site (and it looks as if at least it wasn't the same site from his description) then what was this location? Quite feasibly a hastily concocted 'clone' forged out of convenient forest marks such as rabbit holes by the powers that be. These may accidentally have misled this forester into thinking he knew the answer to this case.

This is admittedly a speculative argument as to what might have happened - or why. But it is based upon a lot of facts that fit rather neatly together. And I dare say some will wonder if the false site was not even deliberately put where it was to lay the template for the future explanation that was offered up by the skeptics.

I am not so sure of that idea. The skeptics' arguments as to explanations for parts of this case do still have grounds - regardless of the traces - and have to be taken seriously. The truth about the landing site is only one part of the whole story. It is also hard to see anyone in the USAF thinking that far ahead strategically enough as to plan for a possible future skeptical theory.

Nevertheless we do now have a whole new

question to face up to over what one wag on the internet dubbed during the recent debate 'Neverendlesham'(!) That is whether someone deliberately sought to mislead the public by creating a bogus landing site that has led so many astray?

If so, where was the real site? Could you see the lighthouse from here? Were the traces left there identical to the ones that Thurkettle identified as rabbit holes at the site he found? And was the destruction of the real landing site so rapidly after discovery merely a coincidence?

There is evidence for tactics in force soon after the event that probably involved USAF intelligence and base public affairs engaging in dis-information. Several angles of the events in the aftermath of this case point to their direct association with sowing out confusion into this case and using UFOlogists (including myself) to do it for them.

Can we conceive of anyone here deliberately fabricating a bogus site so as to compromise this case? Perhaps that's a question that readers of this magazine who are former USAF personnel can best answer for the rest of us.

You know the sort of tactics that they employed. Is this conceivable? I did put these thoughts to one of the airmen based at Bentwaters in 1980 and who witnessed some of the UFO events. He asked me not to name him. But in response to the request as to whether he thought public affairs might have laid such a false trail - he said "I wouldn't put it past them".

Curiouser and curiouser.

Jenny Randles – February 2001

EARLY AUSTRALIA HISTORICAL ENCOUNTERS (part two)

BY BILL CHALKER

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1869:

THE OLD DUFFER RUSH GHOSTLY OCCURRENCE

Our antipodean history continues. Consider the following bizarre story published in the NSW country paper, the *Burraborang Argus*, of July 10, 1869:

"EXTRAORDINARY OCCURRENCES.— In these enlightened times it seems almost an absurdity to talk about ghosts making their appearance, but the following statement of what has befallen three respectable men residing near Young is authentic, and may be relied upon by our readers as being no hoax.

"The three men referred to are splitting posts and rails for fencing at a place about four miles from Young, near the Three-Mile and the old Duffer Rush.

"The first time they saw anything unusual was on one moonlight night, about three weeks ago, when they were much startled by seeing in the bush near their hut, a white object about the size of a cat, but of no particular form.

"This extraordinary looking object suddenly before their eyes sprung up into a white spectre about eight feet high. They called out to it, but could not reply, struck it with a stick, and it sounded hollow. It also chased two of them one way, and one another.

"On another occasion they retired to bed at the usual hour on a calm still night, went to sleep, slept for some time and, upon one waking up during the night, he was surprised to find that the whole of the roof of the hut had been removed. On looking out they saw the spectre, but no one else was about, and they are all quite sure that neither on this or the former occasion was it either a man or a woman. Its suddenly rising before their eyes from a mere nothing to a height of eight feet quite dumbfounded them.

"Another night they were much surprised at seeing a strange, unearthly-looking animal somewhat resembling a dog, with a long chain attached to it. This animal came right in front of the hut, and commenced grinning at them, but made no noise, either by barking or otherwise, save the occasional rattling of his chain. As the animal would not go away, one of the men (who was a good shot) loaded a gun, and fired the contents direct at the brute, but the shot took no effect upon it. The dog, or whatever it was, remained for some considerable time.

"On another night the dog seemed to have returned, for they heard the rattling of a chain and a noise like what a dog would make when licking a plate.

Upon looking outside, they saw that a plate which had been left there was in motion, but they could not see what caused it to be so, although they could, while looking, distinctly hear the same noise described above. They watched it for some time, the plate being kept in motion, and the noise being distinctly heard as if the plate was being licked by some animal.

"On Sunday last these men came into Young, and upon one of them returning in the evening he found that the door of the hut had been pulled down and its contents brought outside and left there.

"Two out of the three men are well known to us, and we feel confident that what we have stated may be relied upon as being the truth. A shepherd told these men that some time ago two men who were splitting there quarrelled, and one killed the other with an axe, and afterwards fell a tree on him, and that it was nothing extraordinary for the murdered man's ghost to make its appearance."

While this bizarre tale may be better left in a book on ghosts or poltergeists, the early description of the white object suddenly changing into an eight foot spectre and apparent changes in form, are intriguing and are curious reminders of the often reported apparitional nature of alleged UFO entities. A few examples, before we return to our

historical narratives. will I think make the point adequately.

Amidst the virtually impenetrable rainforests of the Dorrigo plateau in north-eastern New South Wales, a road out of the small timber town of Lowanna winds erratically and eventually comes to a railway crossing. The rail line has been long out of use and the crossing has taken on a sinister reputation, apparently based on reports of strange goings-on. While in the local area documenting a UFO flap in progress during 1973, I found the time to find out a little more about the "haunted" Tullawoogah crossing.

On at least a dozen occasions during the period from 1964 to 1972 people travelling along this isolated timber road have observed a brilliant white light "like a searchlight" shining up through the dense inhospitable growth in the rainforest that surrounds the crossing. On occasions curious travellers have stopped to get a better look only to be terrified by the spectacle of this light coming towards them. "bounding out of the forest and across the road." The light appeared to consist of "four squares of light" as it passed across the road in front of the frightened witnesses.

During 1968 or 1969, within a month of seeing the bobbing light, a married couple claimed they encountered a "ghost" at the crossing. Just after passing over the railway crossing, the husband saw a man apparently wearing a flannel shirt and dungarees and a broad-brimmed hat, walking ahead of them in the same direction they were travelling. As he drove closer the husband was suddenly overwhelmed with fear. The "normal man" was transparent! This "man" did not look around at all, as the car passed him -- instead he continued walking along the road, apparently totally unaware of the couple passing. Local lore suggested that slowing down at the crossing flushed out either the light or the ghost. I tried that out on a number of occasions and even camped there once; but no. I attracted neither apparition, but found a lot of leeches.

An apparition called "the Yellow Lady" appeared before the wife of a shooter visiting an isolated highland farming property in Central Tasmania during the Easter of 1973. During the early hours of the morning, a female figure entered their caravan by diving head first through the van's roof hatch. She seemed to be wearing a yellow sleeveless dress and a light scarf over her heavily made

up face. She evaded the reach of the shooter's wife. Finally after 2 or 3 minutes the shooter's wife despaired of the woman's strange behaviour and said, "I want to go back to sleep." The figure then slowly went back to the hatch and disappeared into the night. The shooter was in bed with his wife, recalls that his wife had tried to wake him up during the night, but was too tired to look.

The same area became the centre of unusual UFO activity for much of 1975. Unusual lights were seen from about March, coincidentally from the time when lights were installed. They became so frequent that a system was set up amongst people working on the property to alert everyone to their presence. Lights appeared to land on Table Mountain. Two locals climbed the mountain and found evidence of small indentations and other possible ground traces. The connection with the strange light activity could not be proved.

The "Yellow Lady" may have put in an appearance again, during March, 1975, coincidentally the time when UFO sightings first took hold of the highland farm area. A number of hunters were on the farm. They had had a few beers, but were emphatic that they had seen something quite strange. One of them had gone outside the farmhouse, and turned around to find just behind him "a figure of what he thinks was a woman." She appeared to have on a 19th century period dress. The man could only make out an outline of the figure, the rest being white in colour. He called out to the others to join him as the "figure" seemed to glide up some steps away from the house. One of the other hunters saw an elongated oval area of light near a shed by the house. The light -- or figure? -- seemed to pulse in illumination as it faded away into nothing. This second witness felt the light may have had some UFO connection and was not a "ghost". The whole incident lasted some 3 minutes and it appears 5 persons in all saw the figure or light.

One of these witnesses, like some of the others, had hunted in the area for years. Back in January, 1965, the hunter was stalking deer near marsh area when a "man in dark clothing" suddenly appeared "out of nowhere" beside him and stayed with him in the walk, of about 150 yards, down to the marsh. The hunter tried to no avail to engage this man in conversation. He saw that the man seemed to have an incredibly old face marked by cracks and wrinkles, "like a skeleton with skin on it." The man wore a big dark military coat with light paullettes. At the edge of the marsh the hunter

turned to the man and asked to no avail what he wanted. He then looked down and was shocked to see that the man had no feet! Then the man vanished. Next day the hunter questioned an old timer who told him of a ghost with no legs. He found that this ghost also had a military style uniform and epaulettes. The ghostly encounter took place near an area called Leg-O-Man Marsh!

In my travels around Australia investigating UFO reports I have found the coincidence of apparitional tales, and other so-called paranormal phenomena, in areas of UFO activity, occurring so frequently, that it no longer surprises me. You will notice this from time to time as you read through this history. Sometimes the coincidences and possible connections are startling.

1878:

THE GOULBURN GHOST LIGHT

The Goulburn Herald recorded the following interesting phenomenon during March, 1878:

"Lately there has been much excitement amongst the superstitious, numbers of whom go off in parties, with guns & c., to the range above Stewart's Garden, where there is an unfinished stonehouse. Here an apparition is said to make its appearance in the form of a light, and to travel, sometimes very slowly, and frequently very quickly, from the riverbank just below, up to, and around the house, then varying the performance by a run among the trees. This is said to be kept up from an early hour in the evening until about 3 in the morning; all endeavours to get near the light are said to prove futile."

Ransome T. Wyatt's *The History of Goulburn* records that one "Gruncell claimed to have disposed of it with a shot gun."

1879:

A "REMARKABLE METEOR"

In 1879, Mr. S. Worsley Clifton, Collector of Customs, at Fremantle, Western Australia, forwarded the following account of a "remarkable meteor", to R.J. Ellcig, of the Melbourne observatory. Ellcig in turn passed it onto the science journal *Nature*, which published the following account of the February 1st, 1879, apparition:

"A small black cloud on a clear day appeared in the east travelling not very swiftly towards the

northwest, which burst into a ball of fire with an apparent disc the size of the full moon, blood-red in colour; It left a train of black or dark-coloured vapour across the heavens which was visible for three-quarters of an hour. No sound was heard, sky perfectly clear, and the thermometer, 100F, in the shade."

1890:

THE RAYMOND TERRACE "PORTENT"

One morning, during 1890, in Raymond Terrace, was a little different to most. Some thought the end of the world was at hand. Mrs. L. Meredith provided the following tale:

"My mother remembers that in Raymond Terrace out from Newcastle, NSW, one morning in 1890, a huge cloud shaped like a fish with a long tail, appeared in a clear sky. Everyone in the district noticed it and soon word passed that should the fish-like cloud move its tail, the world would end. Grown-ups and children believed this, and even elderly folk stopped up all night watching it. After about three days it disappeared and the world kept going."

Seems like something fishy was afoot in Raymond Terrace that day in 1890.

1893:

GHOST LIGHTS AND STRANGE ENCOUNTERS

During the 1890s, "ghostlights" were frequently observed moving along the roads and about the countryside in South Australia. Farmers at Ororro and Cornish miners at Moonta, often mistook these small, detached lights for bicycle lamps at a distance. But once they were observed at closer range, only a white light source could be discernible. Sometimes, two lights could be seen together. Many attempts were made to catch the elusive lights as they moved about at fence level. These attempts were no more successful than they are today. After a few years the reports of the elusive lights in this remote area of South Australia, seemed to die out.

An anecdote handed down within a farming family told of an extraordinary UFO story that was alleged to have happened in 1893 in central NSW. A farmer claimed that a saucer shaped aerial object landed in a paddock on his property. As he approached the object, a man in strange clothing emerged from it. The farmer walked towards the being. The stranger

shone some kind of torch at him. The farmer was thrown to the ground stunned. His hand where the "torch" beam had hit him, was allegedly paralysed for life. This story was told to Dr. Miran Lindtner, president of UFOIC during the 1960s. Unfortunately no record of the details behind this tale survived after Dr. Lindtner's accidental death in 1969.

1902:

AN EARLY ASTRONOMER'S SIGHTING

At 9.27 am, November 20th, 1902, "a remarkable phenomenon was witnessed in the heavens by Mr. Griffiths, the assistant astronomer, and others," at the Adelaide observatory in South Australia.

"Two officers were taking weather observations, when they noticed a brilliant globular light having a planetary disc. It appeared SSE, at an altitude of about 45°. It moved slowly northwards, passing within 15 or 20° of the sun, and was brightly visible till 9.31, 4 minutes in all. Mr. Griffiths, who observed it for a minute, states that it covered about 20° of an arc in that time. The object appeared like Venus does when it is at its greatest brilliancy soon after sun set. Mr. Griffiths lost sight of the meteoric object at an altitude of 45° above the horizon. Other observers say it travelled at least 90°, and was lost sight of, in the great glare of the sky. When it was near to the prime vertical it became elongated and took an elliptical form, the long axis lying south to north".

It seems that during November, 1902, eastern Australia hosted an incredible array of "fireball" reports. Much of it may have been related to dust storm "devils" or related natural electrical phenomena. "An electrical fire ball" started a fire near the shaft of a new Barambagie mine, a man in Harris Park in Sydney was knocked unconscious and left partially paralysed when a "fireball" exploded above him and fireballs the size of houses were reported from many different locations.

Perhaps the most interesting period of the historical antipodean UFO legacy was the fascinating "airship" wave that swept Australia and New Zealand during 1909.

(Continued next issue)

NEXT MEETING

YUFOS presents:

VALERIE SALIM

Author of

"GHOSTS of
SHEFFIELD"

and

"MORE GHOSTS OF
SHEFFIELD"

on

Tuesday, 9th April 2002

7:00pm – 10:00pm

at

**THE MOSELEY'S ARMS
WEST BAR,
SHEFFIELD CITY CENTRE**

Admission – Members £2:00

Non-members: £3:50

**Valerie will be signing copies of
her books, and talking about
Sheffield's haunted places**

Ring Dave for details...

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

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

THE MONSTER OF THE MERE

(Feb 14 2002 Liverpool Echo)

It sounds like an unlikely fisherman's tale.

But the manager of the Martin Mere nature reserve in West Lancashire is convinced there is something large lurking in the deeps.

Some creature, say staff at the reserve, is responsible for dragging fully grown swans into one of their lakes.

And it could be a monster fish the size of a small car, a kind of cross between Jaws and the Loch Ness Monster.

This is one theory which might explain the sight of a swan being pulled underwater.

Several visitors witnessed the swan trying to flee the grasp of a giant underwater predator on Thursday night.

In an earlier incident, the 20-acre lake where swans gather was left deserted as they all refused to go on to the water.

"Something is completely spooking them," commented reserve manager Chris Tomlinson.

"On two occasions, both Thursdays, January 17 and February 7, something in the water has caused the 1,500-plus wild wintering swans to completely disappear".

Centre manager Pat Wisniewski adds: "Whatever it was out there last night must have been pretty big to pull a swan back into the water. Swans weigh up to 13 kilos".

Pat added: "This could be an extremely large pike, or a Wels catfish. Both conceivably could survive in the rather murky, de-oxygenated water for years and grow to an extremely large size".

Four years ago Pat spotted something that appeared to be the size of a small car circling the mere just below the waterline of the lake, which is four metres deep.

One theory is that something may have made its way into the mere through its drainage

system many years ago as a juvenile and remained there ever since having grown too large to escape.

Visitors to WWT Martin Mere are asked to keep their eyes peeled for the monster.

* The current British record rod-caught Wels catfish stands at 62lb while the world record weight is 202lb. The Wels is Europe's largest freshwater fish and they are known to live in excess of 30 years.

A spokesman for Angling Times said it was unlikely the predator would be a catfish, however. They do not grow to any considerable size this far north, although some specimens have been caught in the Wirral meres. It is the wrong time of year for large catfish to be so active.

POPE HAS PERFORMED 3 EXORCISMS TO WARD OFF DEVIL

(Reuters February 18, 2001)

VATICAN CITY - Pope John Paul has performed three exorcisms during his 23-year pontificate, including one as recently as September, one of the Catholic Church's leading exorcists said on Monday.

Father Gabriele Amorth told Italy's La Stampa newspaper that the Pope had carried out his first exorcism in 1982.

"This girl was rolling around on the ground. People in the Vatican had never seen anything like it. For us exorcists it is run of the mill," Amorth said.

The Pope has since taken part in two more exorcisms, including that of a 20-year-old woman in September, to underline the importance of the ceremony.

"He carried out these exorcisms because he wanted to give a powerful example. He wanted to give the message that we must once again start exorcising those who are possessed by demons," Amorth said.

For Roman Catholics, exorcism is the casting out of what is believed to be an evil spirit

through prayer and the laying on of hands. Amorth said possession by demons took many shapes.

"I have seen many strange things...objects such as nails spat out. The devil told a woman that he would make her spit out a transistor radio and lo and behold she started spitting out bits and pieces of a radio transistor," he said.

"I have seen levitations, and a force that needed six or eight men to hold the person still. Such things are rare, but they happen," he said. Amorth said the woman whom the Pope exorcised in September was still undergoing treatment.

"It's a very serious case. A series of curses," he said. The interview was published a day after the Pope warned of the daily temptations of the devil during his Sunday address.

"The devil, the 'prince of this world', even today continues his insidious actions. Each and every man...is tempted by the devil when he least expects it," the Pope said.

The official Roman Catholic exorcism starts with prayers, the blessing and sprinkling of holy water, the laying of hands on the possessed, and the making of the sign of the cross. It ends with the priest commanding the devil to leave the possessed person.

EXORCIST CALLED TO HOUSES

(Halifax Courier, 16 February 2002)

An expert in the exorcism of unquiet spirits has been called in to investigate the double "haunting" of two neighbouring homes.

The Rev Tim Wilson, of All Saints' Church, Skircoat Green, Halifax, will turn ghostbuster today for two frightened families in Illingworth, Halifax.

The neighbours contacted their local vicar the Rev Angela Dick following reports of "visitors" terrifying their children in the night.

Two families - who want to remain anonymous - have been affected. In both cases a young boy has talked of two ghostly children suddenly waking him in the night wanting to play.

Strange phenomena have been noticed by the next door neighbours who realised their sons were both describing the same nightmares.

They include: chilling air currents; objects moved without being touched and the appearance of shifting coloured shapes.

Gradually the parents had drawn out the story of the invisible night-time spirits. A brother and sister, said the boy, tried to make them play.

"We'd always sensed something about this house but nothing as severe as this," said the father of one of the boys. His son, aged five, had kept awaking, terrified.

"We decided to ask the vicar from Bradshaw and Holmfield to come and do an exorcism," said the father.

The Rev Dick, of St John's Church, Bradshaw, said she had contacted the Rev Wilson for help to investigate the spooky goings-on: "I believe in the power of good over other forces but until we investigate I can't say much yet. From what I've been told there's certainly something which isn't right.

"These things are not to be played with and I don't do this kind of thing every day so I got in touch with the Diocesan consultant, fellow clergy colleague Tim Wilson. He is an expert in these matters."

The Rev Wilson said it was a private matter and he did not want to comment.

ALIENS 'KNOW WE'RE HERE'

(Ananova, February 19, 2002)

Alien astronomers on planets in other star systems almost certainly have the Earth listed as a world teeming with life, according to a leading scientist. Earth observers are probably no more than 20 years away from identifying distant planets on which life exists.

And it is likely that other civilisations among the stars, assuming they exist, have already come to the same conclusion about the Earth, says Dr Roger Angel, from the University of Arizona in Texas.

At America's biggest science meeting in Boston, Massachusetts, he said the Earth had been sending a strong signal into space announcing the existence of life for at least a billion years.

"I'm convinced that if there were aliens with technology a bit more advanced than ours they

would know that there's life on this planet," Dr Angel told the American Association for the Advancement of Science. Different chemicals create specific signatures imprinted in light which can be identified.

Astronomers know that any planet whose reflected light contains a strong oxygen signal is virtually guaranteed to support life. Other signatures that suggest life are water, carbon dioxide, ozone, methane, nitrous oxide and chlorophyll.

At present the only way to detect planets outside our solar system is indirectly, by measuring the gravitational effect they have on their parent stars and about 100 giant Jupiter-like planets have been found so far using this method.

To find smaller planets such as the Earth and examine their atmospheres requires technology capable of separating their light from the dazzling rays of the stars they orbit. Dr Angel said: "Our own Earth has been putting out a signal for the last billion years which says 'we're here'."

UFO FLY-BY PREDICTED FOR THE OLYMPICS

(James Nelson Feb 20, 7:30 Reuters)

SALT LAKE CITY (Reuters) - The massive security at the Winter Games could be put to the test Thursday when a delegation arrives in an unusual fashion.

Intergalactic visitors are expected in the early evening, according to a woman who claims to have had "multiple visitations" by the aliens.

"The Brotherhood of Light will make their presence known on Thursday, February 21 over the Olympic city," said Victoria Liljenquist of Phoenix, Arizona.

Since she arrived in Utah a week ago Liljenquist has been talking with scores of reporters -- and anyone else who will listen -- about her prediction of a friendly fly-by of space travellers.

"I pinned them down -- between noon and 5 p.m.," said Liljenquist.

Liljenquist, 46, claims she was first "contacted" by these visitors when she was 13 years old living in northern Utah. Since then she's had many visits from them. Her claims

have had the BBC and other UFO documentary producers calling her.

She said during one of the appearances by these other-world beings she was told she was going to do something major for humanity when she was in her 40's.

"They want to make contact and to be in unity and peace with us," said Liljenquist.

Unidentified flying objects flying overhead during the Games is her destiny and a "wake-up call" for everyone she said.

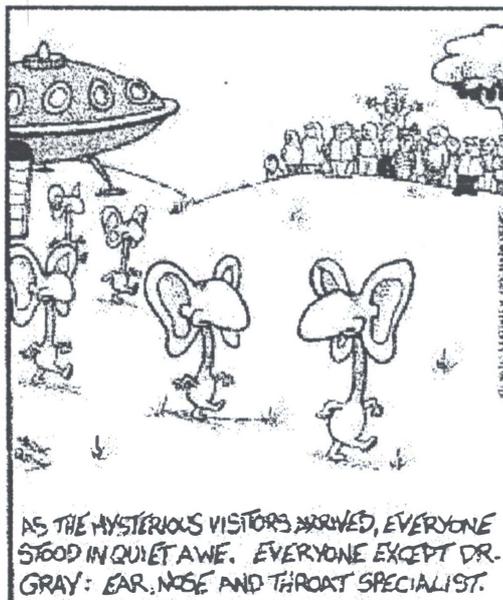
"It could be a cigar shaped-craft with a scout fleet," she said.

"They're benevolent beings, a peaceful entrance of making their presence known. They want the world to unite together," she said.

Protesters, scalpers, religious zealots and pin traders have been gathering for weeks in downtown Olympic Square areas. So what is another stranger in the neighbourhood going to hurt anyway?

Anyone who wants to know more about the UFO prediction and Victoria can visit her Web site at

"I think a lot of people will see it," Liljenquist said, "I hope it's good weather."



TALKIN' BOLLOXINSKI

With the USA'S most controversial investigator of UFOs and the Unexplained.

Hi, I'm Tom Bolloxinski. Welcome to my world... THIS MONTH:

"ASKIN' BOLLOXINSKI"

Since my interview last year (PRB Vol 5.# 6), and my subsequent articles, both myself and PRB have been inundated with letters from readers wanting to know more about me and my work. And who can blame them? There's a lot of crap out there posing as ufology, and it can be difficult to know who to trust. At least with me though, you know what you're getting.

As I have been out "in the field" this last month investigating a wave of UFO / cryptid /paranormal events in Louisiana, I haven't had time to write an article as such. But don't worry. The case I'm investigating will more than make up for it once I have it all down on paper, and published right here in the pages of PRB. I'm not going to tell you much about it, but all I can say is "Mothman, Shmothman!"

So this month, I thought I would print just some of those letters which literally spewed onto my doormat, and do my darndest to answer them.

Dear Tom,

I was fascinated to read your brilliant article on Area 51 last month, but I don't think it included everything suspected about the base. I heard that there is a connection with Animal Mutilations. Is this true?

R. Harris, London.

Yes. Yes it is true. This was included in my original draft, but 'edited' by 'editor' Dave Baker, "for space". However, anyone interested in Animal Mutilations and Area 51 could do worse than catch the latest Fox TV special, "*When Cattle Lose Their Rectums*", which I was heavily involved in¹

In the programme we talk to a guy I met in a bar that claims to be heavily involved in ONE

¹ The programme, that is. Not cattle losing their rectums. Just thought I'd clear that up.

fraction of the whole Animal Mutilation phenomenon. This guy, who we'll call 'John', (he refused to give me his real name for fear of reprisals) claims to be an officer in a 'Raspberry Beret' Special Operations Unit who operate the mysterious Black Helicopters.² 'John' told me that his own particular helicopter is a super-advanced Huey SUX-2002, which is stealth capable, completely silent, and (I quote) "...so black, it's like, how more black can it be, and the answer is none...none more black."

This man, who reeked suspiciously of beef and wore aviator sunglasses *even in the bar*, told me that he had personally "cored out the asses of about three hundred cattle. And a horse." He would not elaborate on how it was done, except that they "use special cutters". Nor would he tell me what all the bits were used for, but that it was "something to do with cloning." Then he asked for another beer. And then another. Anyway, he told me that Groom Lake has a fleet of these 'copters, although because of their incredible stealth capabilities, no-one can ever see them coming and going; "Even the guys who fly them."

I contacted a U.S. Airforce spokesman who fields public relations for Area 51, and asked him if 'John' could be telling the truth. The officer replied to me- knowingly - "Listen- the guy's living in dreamland!"

As Area 51 is often referred to as 'Dreamland', I believe that this was the officer's attempt to leak the truth to me, and that this is all the confirmation we need...there's corin' going on, and it's happening in Area 51!

Dear Tom,

Where can I buy your books? I would really like to read them and I do not care how much I pay. I think you are great!

(Name withheld by request)

My books are available from Amazon.com, County Bookstores, K-Mart, Wall Mart, and the Circle K. They will also be available - at a

² The real ones, that is - not the UFOs *disguised as Black Helicopters and piloted by Gray Dudes*.

special discount price - from my website (currently under construction), and from YUFOS Towers. But not publisher's clearing houses; that's just a viscous rumour set up by my enemies.

Dear Tom,

I am really interested in the Rendlesham Forest Incident, but I am totally confused by all the books out there. They can't all be right, can they? Which one is the best?

Charles Hault, (Not *that* one. Honest.)

Charlie, I know exactly what you mean. It seems that these days just about anyone can pick up a pen and paper and come up with a new "spin" on the Rendlesham Forest chestnut, often based purely on a misinterpreted aside dropped by a mouldy old ex-prime minister. And they're usually a pile of horse-crap too. But if you want to know the *real* truth about Rendlesham, my next book, "*Rendlesham - the Elvis Connection*" will be in the shops soon. And it doesn't involve goddamn lighthouses either.

Dear Tom,

Do you believe in the concept of "missing time"?

"Buddy", New York.

Yes, yes I do. In fact - and this is the first time I have publicly spoken of this - I have experienced it myself, even if I do not fully understand it's meaning.

It first happened many years ago, when I was on my way home from the launch party of my first book, *The Big Book of Space Aliens from the Galaxy's Outer Beyond*. It was a brilliantly clear night, way past midnight, and I had decided to walk home through Greenwich Village to clear my head a little. My last memory was of dropping the empty bottle of Jack Daniels into a trashcan a couple of blocks from my apartment. My vision suddenly became blurry, and I felt incredibly dizzy...then there was a blinding light...

The next thing I remember, I was waking up in a heap on my couch *with no memory of getting home*. My clothes were on inside out, I had a number of strange bruises on my body, and I

had a pounding headache and raging thirst; all symptoms of "missing time". Fortunately, I had no nose-bleeds, "scoop-marks" or problems with my ass. But no matter how I tried, I could not remember the last couple of hours. They were a complete blank...

This would not be the first time. After the wild launch party for my next book, and each one after that, the same thing would happen on the way home. And -though this must be a coincidence as I trust the Big Guy implicitly - after I spend a night in a bar with cryptozoologist Jon Downes.

Am I being abducted by aliens? I think not. If some little Gray bastard had "probed" me, I think I'd know it. But, I have my suspicions that the military may be involved somewhere. Perhaps an effort to silence me, to prevent my books hitting the shelves running. Who knows? Whatever, I've started sleeping with a Franchi-Spaz automatic shotgun anyway. God Bless America!

Dear Tom,

I think that you are nothing more than the fevered imagination of a deranged editor, in a crazy bid to inject a little humour and satire into the world of ufology. What do you think of that?

Anonymous.

Well, that's what They would love you to believe, isn't it? They would like nothing more than to think I am a non-person, a fictitious character, a made-up part in a play, because then that would mean that all the unearthly things I have uncovered, all the secret truths I have unearthed, would be merely a falsity too. And that would suit them too. But of course I'm real. Otherwise, who would have wrote all of my books, appeared in countless Fox TV specials, and appeared at every single MUFON symposium since it started?

And who else could be writing this?

I'm real, I'm alive, and I'm Out There. I've been talkin' Bolloxinski, and I'll see you next month.

Tom Bolloxinski, March 2002