

THE RESEARCHER



A publication of the Merseyside Anomalies Research Association

“Interpretation is free, experience is sacred.”

Vol. 2 Issue 2 Summer 1999

Was life seeded on this planet by an alien civilisation?



Life's True Beginning *By Lloyd Pye*
Now you see it, Now you don't *By Omar Fowler*
Haunted Roads on The Isle of Man: Route 666
Runcorn, A Gateway to UFOs?
West Kirkby and the Beach Ball UFO
Grey Dimensions
And much more....

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Printing and production. John Hall

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About MARA

The Merseyside Anomalies Research Association (MARA) was founded in February 1996. It is a non-profit making organisation whose aims are to encourage, promote and conduct unbiased objective investigation and research into UFO/paranormal phenomena. MARA provides non-financial support for undergraduate and post-graduate research into anomalous phenomena.

MARA consists of an informal group of people of all backgrounds and a variety of ages over 18. The group limits itself to a relatively small number of people, composed of individuals with mixed backgrounds who want to actively investigate and research UFO/paranormal phenomena within the Merseyside region. We do not give public lectures at our regular meetings, but often present lectures or talks for other groups and societies. Membership application to MARA is free and space permitting, is open to any interested individuals. The Association is jointly run by its group co-ordinators who are amateur investigators and researchers in their spare time, and members of well known national organisations. They are responsible for any major decisions involving the group in addition to the association's membership, activities, functions and research.

It is a policy of the organisation not to have any fixed beliefs and to remain apolitical. However, the organisation is not responsible for the opinions expressed, or implied, by guest speakers, items within The Researcher, or by any arbitrary views of the Association's members. MARA is affiliated to the British UFO Research Association, Northern Anomalies Research Organisation, The Northern UFO Network, the Incorporated Society for Psychical Research, Halton FM UFO Factor, Merseyside Area Paranormal Society and works with the Association for Scientific Study of Anomalous Phenomena, the Wirral Paranormal Investigations and the Society for the Investigation of Paranormal Activity.

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About The Researcher

This publication serves as a voice for MARA members who want to write about their research and interests in anomalous phenomena. We will also print letters from readers and include articles and advertisements belonging to those people who are not a part of MARA but who would like to contribute their research to this small publication. It will not involve payment for the article but it will mean that your article will be read by a larger number of people involved with UFOs and the paranormal. Please send your letters and articles to Anthony Eccles at the address above. Keep it clean and objective, know what I mean? MARA reserves the right to edit all articles as necessary.

The Voice

By Bill Bimson

Well folks, this is the first *Researcher* to come out behind schedule and it's mostly my fault due to pressure from outside MARA. This is not a sign of things to come. The next issue is due out at the end of September so you can all beat me up if I am late next time. That's a good incentive to get it published on time in September.

In this issue we have two guest writers from outside of MARA, Lloyd Pye and Omar Fowler. Lloyd Pye is based in the USA and not that well known this side of the pond but I hope that is all going to change when you look at his ground breaking work in his research and essays. Lloyd's latest project 'The Star-child Project' has the potential to blow the lid off the debate about extraterrestrial (ET) visitation. The main argument of all of the ET skeptics is that there is no tangible evidence. Well it appears that Lloyd may now have it in the form of an alien or alien hybrid skull. Yes you did read that correctly. More details and pictures are given at the end of his article 'Life's True Beginnings'. The article he covers in this issue is about the debate of how life started out on this planet. The religious community tells us that God put us here and we shouldn't question that. The scientists tell us that we appeared through the spontaneous generation of life in the form of bacteria about 2.5 billion years ago and that we evolved into what we are today. The scientists also tell us that once they have proven a theory that it can't be disputed until another theory is scientifically proven to show the original theory is wrong. It doesn't matter if new evidence comes to light showing blatantly obvious errors in the original theory. This sounds very much like the arguments that the religious community put forward about not questioning their faith.

Just ask yourself how many scientists were ridiculed by the mainstream scientific community just before their theory became a bombshell leading to a scientific milestone. A recent example is the scientist who developed the theory of plate tectonics. Can you believe his peers and supervisors laughed at him about thirty years ago? Keep an open mind people. Lloyd has added a new side to the life's origin debate which should make a lot of sense to anyone with an open mind. His argument is that life was actually seeded here

by an alien civilisation and his argument is backed up by scientific proof and logic.

We also have an article from Omar Fowler in this issue who many of you will know as one of the main researchers into the Flying Triangle phenomenon. Omar has also sent a very complimentary letter about *The Researcher* which is reproduced for everyone to read. In his letter he states that *The Researcher* is a magazine of the highest literary quality. At this point I must thank Eileen Shaw for proofreading *The Researcher* and making it a high quality piece of literature. Believe me, *what it is-if it don't' for Eileen that magazine is like what dis last sentence do.* Eileen picks up all my grammatical errors and we have had occasion to laugh at some of them.

We also have a new series of articles starting in this issue about the myth and legend surrounding the Isle of Man. John Hall visits the Isle of Man every year and has built up a wealth of paranormal data which he explores in his opening article 'Haunted Roads on the Isle of Man: Route 666'. Subsequent parts will be published in future issues.

What are the chances of setting up a brand new video camera to test how it captures astronomical objects in the night sky and then capturing a bright bolide within five minutes of starting to film? About the same as being struck by lightning, right? Well it happened to me while I was on holiday in Majorca at about 1 a.m. on the 14th June. The sighting lasted about 3 seconds and actually made a noise. If you would like a copy of this please let me know. My contact details are on page 3.

In the next issue of *The Researcher*, we continue along route 666 with John Hall and we will publish an article from another expert in the USA (Ivanhoe Chaput) who will tell us how to go about videoing a UFO with a camcorder. In his article he explains how to use the camcorder facilities to make it difficult for someone to claim that the video is a hoax. He tells us about the importance of correct exposure and how to achieve this and how to avoid those annoying blurring effects which seem to happen when most amateurs zoom in on a UFO. Until next time keep an open mind and happy reading.

LIFE'S TRUE BEGINNINGS

By Lloyd Pye

Framing The Picture

How did life begin on Earth? More intellectual and literal blood has been shed and spilled attempting to answer this question than any other in any aspect of science or religion. Why? Because the answer, if it could be determined beyond doubt, would reveal to us the deepest meanings behind ourselves and all that we see around us. More importantly, it would demolish once and for all the thorny tangle of conscious and unconscious thought and belief that causes most of the bloodshed.

At present there are only two socially acceptable explanations for how life has come to be on Earth. Science insists it has developed by entirely natural means, using only the materials at hand on the early planet, with no help from any outside source, whether that source be divine or extraterrestrial. Religion insists with equal fervour that life was brought into existence whole and complete by a divine Creator called by different names by the world's various sects. Between these two diametrically opposed viewpoints there is no overlap, no common ground where negotiation might be undertaken. Each considers its own position to be totally correct and the other totally wrong, a certainty bolstered by the fact that each can blow gaping holes in the logic/dogma of the other.

Science is quick to point to the overwhelming technical proofs that life could not, and indeed did not, appear whole and complete within the restricted time frame outlined in the Biblical account. Of course, people of faith are immune to arguments based on fact or logic. Faith requires that they accept the Biblical account no matter how dissonant it might be with reality. Besides, they can show that not a shred of tangible evidence exists to support the notion that any species can transmute itself into another species given enough time and enough positive genetic mutations, which is the bedrock of Charles Darwin's theory of incremental evolution, or "gradualism."

In the early 1800's Darwin visited the Galapagos Islands and noticed certain species had developed distinct adaptations for dealing with various environmental niches found there. Finch beaks were modified for eating fruit, insects, and

seeds; tortoise shells were notched and unnotched for high-bush browsing and low-bush browsing. Every variation clearly remained part of the same root stock; finches remained finches, tortoises remained tortoises, but those obvious modifications in isolated body parts led Darwin to the logical assumption that entire bodies could change in the same way over vastly more time. Voila! Gradualism was conceived and, after gestating nearly three decades, was birthed in 1859 with the publication of the landmark *On The Origin Of Species*. Since then Darwin and his work have been topics of intense, usually acrimonious debate between science and religion.

The irony of a two-party political system whose members spend the majority of their time shooting holes in each other's policies is that it becomes abundantly clear to everyone beyond the fray that neither side knows what the hell it is talking about. Yet those standing outside the science-religion fray do not grow belligerent and say, "You're both wrong. An idiot can see that. Find another explanation." No! In this emotionally charged atmosphere nearly everyone seems compelled to choose one side or the other, as if seeking a more objective middle ground would somehow cause instant annihilation. Such is the psychological toll wrought on all of us by the take-no-prisoners attitude of the two sides battling for our hearts and minds regarding this issue.

Facts Will Be Facts

Because those of faith insist on being immune to arguments based on facts, they remove themselves from serious discussions of how life might have actually come to be on Earth. So if anyone reading this has a world view based on divine revelation, stop here and move on to something else. You will not like (to say the least!) what you are about to read. Nor, for that matter, will those who believe what science postulates is beyond any valid doubt. As it turns out, and as was noted above, neither side in this two-party system knows what the hell it is talking about.

To move ahead, we must assign a name to those who believe life spontaneously sprang into existence from a mass of inorganic chemicals

floating about in the early earth's pre-biotic seas. Let's call them "Darwinists," a term often used for that purpose. Darwinists have dealt themselves a difficult hand to play because those pre-biotic seas had to exist at a certain degree of coolness for the inorganic chemicals floating in them to bind together into complex molecules. Anyone who has taken high school chemistry knows that one of the best ways to break chemical bonds is to heat them.

Given that well-known reality, Darwinists quickly postulated that the first spark of life would no doubt have ignited itself sometime after the continental threshold was reached around 2.5 billion years ago. At that point land would have existed as land and seas would have existed as seas, though not in nearly the same shapes we know them today. But the water in those seas would have been cool enough to allow the chemical chain reactions required by "spontaneous animation." So among Darwinists there arose a broad consensus that the spontaneous animation of life had to have occurred (again, because they do not allow for the possibility of outside intervention, divine or extraterrestrial), and it had to have occurred no earlier than the continental threshold of 2.5 billion years ago.

These assumptions were believed and taught world-wide with a fervour that leaves religious fundamentalists green with envy. Furthermore, they were taught as facts because that is what science inevitably does. It reaches a consensus about a set of assumptions in a field it has not fully mastered, then those assumptions are believed as dogma and taught as facts until the real facts become known. Sometimes such consensus "facts" endure for a short time (Isaac Newton's assumption that the speed of light was a relative measure lasted only 200 years), while others endure like barnacles on the underside of our awareness (the universe doggedly expands beyond every finite measure given for it).

In the same way Newton's fluctuating speed of light was overturned by Albert Einstein's theory of relativity, the continental threshold origin of life was blown out of the water, so to speak, by discoveries in the 1970's that indicated life's origins were much older than anticipated. So old, in fact, it went back nearly to the point of coalition, 4.5 billion years ago, when the Sun had ignited and the protoplanets had taken the general shapes and positions they maintain today. Ultimately, 4.0 billion years became the new starting point for life on Earth, based on fossilised stromatolites discovered in Australia that dated to 3.6 billion years old.

For Darwinists that meant going from the frying pan into the fire, literally, because at 4.0 billion years ago the proto-Earth was nothing but a seething cauldron of lava, cooling lava, and steam, about as far from an incubator for incipient life as could be imagined. In short, right out of the gate, at the first crack of the bat, Charles Darwin was, as they say in the south, a blowed-up peckerwood.

Limbo of The Lost

The fossilised stromatolites discovered in Australia had been produced by the dead bodies of billions of prokaryotic bacteria, the very first life forms known to exist on the planet. They are also by far the simplest, with no nucleus to contain their DNA. Yet in relative terms prokaryotes are not simple at all. They are dozens of times larger than a typical virus, with hundreds of strands of DNA instead of the five to ten of the simplest viruses. So it is clear that prokaryotes are extremely sophisticated creatures relative to what one would assume to be the very first self-animated life form, which can plausibly be imagined as even smaller than the smallest virus. (By the way, viruses do not figure into this scenario because they are not technically "alive" in the classic sense. To be fully alive means having the ability to take nourishment from the immediate environment, turn that nourishment into energy, expel waste, and reproduce indefinitely. Viruses need a living host to flourish, though they can and do reproduce themselves when ensconced in a suitable host. So it seems safe to assume hosts precede viruses in every case.)

Needless to say, the discovery of fossilised prokaryotes at 3.6 billion years ago left scientists reeling. However, because so many of their pet theories had been overturned in the past, they knew how to react without panic or stridency. They made a collective decision to just whistle in the dark and move on as if nothing had changed. And nothing did. No textbooks were rewritten to accommodate the new discovery. Teachers continued to teach the spontaneous animation theory as they had been doing for decades. The stromatolites were consigned to the eerie limbo where all OOPARTS (out-of-place artifacts) dwell, while scientists edgily anticipated the next bombshell.

They didn't have to wait long. In the late 1980's a biologist named Carl Woese discovered that not only did life appear on Earth in the form of prokaryotes at around 4.0 billion years ago, but there was more than one kind! Woese found that

what had always been considered a single creature was in fact two distinct types he named archaea and true bacteria. This unexpected, astounding discovery made one thing clear beyond any shadow of doubt: Life could not possibly have evolved on Earth. For it to appear as early as it did in the fossil record, and to consist of two distinct and relatively sophisticated types of bacteria, meant spontaneous animation flatly did not occur.

This discovery has been met with the same resounding silence as the stromatolite discovery. No textbooks have been rewritten to accommodate it. No teachers have changed what they are teaching. If you can find a high school biology teacher that religious fundamentalists have not yet terrorised into silence, go to their classroom and you will find them blithely teaching that spontaneous animation is how life came to be on Earth. Mention the words "stromatolite" or "prokaryote" and you will get frowns of confusion from teacher and students alike. For all intents and purposes this is unknown information, withheld from those who most need to know about it because it does not fit the currently accepted paradigm built around Charles Darwin's besieged theory of gradualism.

Outside Intervention

The ongoing, relentless assaults on gradualism by religious fundamentalists is the principle reason scientists can't afford to disseminate these truths through teaching. If fundamentalists would keep their opinions and theories inside churches, where they belong, scientists would be far more able (if not inclined) to acknowledge where reality does not coincide with their own theories. But because fundamentalists stand so closely behind them, loudly banging on the doors of their own bailiwick, schools, scientists have no choice but to keep them at bay by any means possible, which includes propping up an explanation for life's origins that has been bankrupt for more than two decades.

Another reason scientists resist disseminating the truth is that it would so profoundly change the financial landscape for many of them. Consider the millions and billions of tax dollars and foundation grants that are spent each year trying to answer one question: Does life exist beyond Earth? The reality of two types of prokaryotes appearing suddenly, virtually overnight, at around 4.0 billion years ago provides overwhelming testimony that the answer is "Yes!" Clearly life could not have spontaneously animated from inorganic chemicals in seas

comprised of seething lava rather than relatively cool water. So billions of dollars of funding would vanish if scientists ever openly conceded that life must have come to Earth from somewhere else because it obviously could not have originated here.

A third reason scientists avoid disseminating this knowledge is that spontaneous animation is a fundamental tenet of their corollary theory of human evolution. As with life in general, scientists insist that humanity is a product of the same protracted series of gradual genetic mutations that they feel produced every living thing on Earth. And, again, all this has been done by natural processes within the confines of the planet, with no outside intervention of any kind, divine or extraterrestrial. So, if spontaneous animation goes out the window, then the dreaded spectre of outside intervention comes slithering in to take its place, and that idea is so anathema to scientists they would rather deal with the myriad embarrassments caused by their blown-up icon and his clearly bankrupt theory.

So What Is The Answer?

Life came to Earth from somewhere else--period. It came to Earth whole and complete, in large volume, and in two forms that were invulnerable to the most hostile environments imaginable. Given those proven, undeniable realities, it is time to make the frightening mental leap that few if any scientists or theologians have been willing or able to make: Life was seeded here! There...it's on the table...life was seeded here.... The Earth hasn't split open. Lightning bolts have not rained down. Time marches on. It seems safe to discuss the idea further.

If life was actually seeded here, how might that have happened? By accident....or (hushed whisper) deliberately? Well, the idea of accidental seeding has been explored in considerable detail by a surprising number of non-mainstream thinkers and even by a few credentialed scientists (British astronomer Fred Hoyle being perhaps the most notable). The "accidental seeding" theory is called panspermia, and the idea behind it is that bacterial life came to Earth on comets or asteroids arriving from planets where it had existed before they exploded and sent pieces hurtling through space to collide some millennia later with our just-forming planet.

A variation of this theory is called directed panspermia, which replaces comets and asteroids with capsules launched by alien civilisations to traverse space for millennia and deliberately

home in on our just-forming planet. However, the idea of conscious direction from any source beyond the confines of Earth is as abhorrent to science as ever, so directed panspermia has received little better than polite derision from the establishment. But as blatantly as undirected panspermia defies the scientific tenet that all of life begins and ends within the confines of Earth, it is marginally acceptable as an alternative possibility. There have even been serious, ongoing attempts to try to determine if the raw materials for life might be found in comets.

The point to note here is that no one wants to step up to the plate and suggest the obvious, which is that some entity or entities from somewhere beyond our solar system came here when it was barely formed and for whatever reason decided to seed it with two kinds of prokaryotes, the hardiest forms of bacteria we are aware of and, for all we know, are creatures purposefully designed to be capable of flourishing in absolutely any environment in the universe. (Understand that prokaryotes exist today just as they did 4.0 billion years ago...unchanged, indestructible, microscopic terminators with the unique ability to turn any hell into a heaven. But more about that in a moment.)

If we take the suggested leap and accept the notion of directed-at-the-scene panspermia, we are then confronted with a plethora of follow-up questions. Were all of the planets seeded, or just Earth? Why Earth? Why when it was a seething cauldron? Why not a couple billion years later, when it was cooled off? Good questions all, and many more like them can be construed. But they all lead away from the fundamental issue of why anyone or (to be fair) anything would want to bring life here in the first place, whether to the proto-Earth or to any other protoplanet? And this brings us to the kicker, a question few of us are comfortable contemplating: Is Earth being deliberately terraformed?

Welcome To The Ant Farm

The concept of terraforming does indeed conjure up images from the recent movie "Antz." Nevertheless, for all we know that is exactly what we humans--and all other life forms, for that matter--are, players on a stage that seems immense to us, but (visualise the camera pulling back at the end of "Antz") in reality is just a tiny orb swirling through the vastness of a seemingly infinite universe. An unsettling and even unlikely scenario, but one that has to be addressed. Well, so what? What if we are just bit players in a cosmic movie that has been filming for 4.0

billion years? As long as we are left alone to do our work and live our lives in relative peace, where is the harm in it?

Is this fantastic notion really possible? Is it even remotely plausible? Consider the facts as we know them to be, not what we are misled into believing by those we trust to correctly inform us. The simple truth is that life came to our planet when it (Earth) had no business hosting anything but a galactic-level marshmallow roast. The life forms that were brought, the two prokaryotes, just happen to be the simplest and most durable creatures we are aware of. And, most important of all, they have the unique ability to produce oxygen as a result of their metabolic processes.

Why oxygen? Why is that important? Because without an oxygen-based atmosphere life as we currently know it is impossible. Of course, anaerobic organisms live perfectly well without it, but they would not make good neighbors or dinner companions. No, oxygen is essential for complex life as we know it, and quite possibly is necessary for higher life forms everywhere. If that is the case, if oxygen is the key ingredient for life throughout the universe, then from a terraformer's perspective bringing a load of prokaryotes to this solar system 4.0 billion years ago begins to make a lot of sense.

Let's put ourselves in their shoes (or whatever they wear) for a moment. They are a few million or even a few billion years into their life cycle as a species. Space and time mean nothing to them. Traversing the universe is like a drive across Texas to us...a bit long but easily doable. So as they travel around they make it a point to look for likely places to establish life, and 4.0 billion years ago they spotted a solar system (in this case ours) forming off their port side. They pull a hard left and take it all in. At that point every protoplanet is as much a seething cauldron as the proto-Earth, so they sprinkle prokaryotes on all of them in the hope that one or more will allow them to flourish.

What the terraformers know is that if the prokaryotes ultimately prevail, then over time trillions of them will produce enough oxygen to, first, turn all of the cooling planet's free iron into iron-oxide (rust). Once that is done...after, say, a billion years (which, remember, means nothing to the terraformers)...oxygen produced by the prokaryotes will be free to start saturating the waters of the seas and the atmosphere above. When enough of that saturation occurs (say, another billion years), the terraformers can

begin to introduce increasingly more complex life forms to the planet.

This might include, for example, eukaryotes, Earth's second life form, another single-celled bacteria which clearly appeared (rather than evolved) just as suddenly as the prokaryotes at (surprise!) around 2.0 billion years ago. Eukaryotes are distinctive because they are the first life form with a nucleus, which is a hallmark of all Earth life except prokaryotes. We humans are eukaryotic creatures. But those second immigrants (which, like prokaryotes, exist today just as they did when they arrived) were much larger than their predecessors, more fragile, and more efficient at producing oxygen.

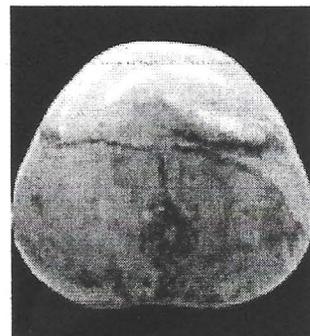
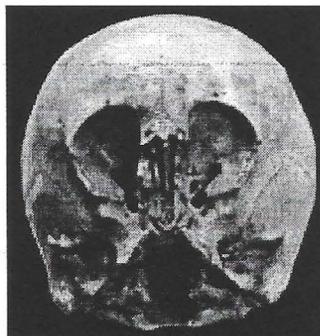
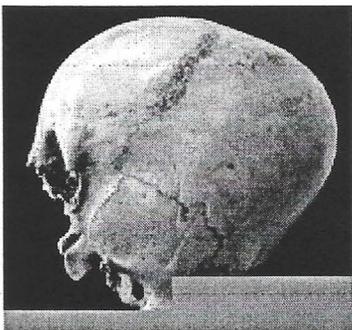
After establishing the first portion of their program, the terraformers wait patiently while the protoplanet cools enough for "real" life forms to be introduced. When the time is right, starting at around half a billion years ago, higher life forms are introduced by means of what today is called the "Cambrian Explosion." Thousands of highly complex forms appear virtually overnight, males and females, predators and prey, looking like nothing alive at present. This is what actually happened.

The terraformers continue to monitor their project. They notice Earth suffers periodic catastrophes that eliminate 50% to 90% of all higher life forms. (Such mass extinction events have in fact occurred five times, the last being the Cretaceous extinction of 65 million years ago, which wiped out the dinosaurs). They wait a few thousand years after each event while the planet regains its biotic equilibrium, then they restock it with new plants and animals that can make their way in the post-catastrophe environment. (This, too, is actually borne out by the fossil record, which scientists try to explain away with a specious addendum to Darwinism called "punctuated equilibrium.")

For as outrageous as the above scenario might seem at first glance, it does account for the real, true, literal evidence much better than either Darwinism or Creationism ever have...or ever will. This produces the bitterest irony of the entire debate. With pillars of concrete evidence supporting outside intervention as the modus for life's origins on Earth, the concept is ignored to the point of suppression in both scientific or religious circles. This is, of course, understandable, because to discuss it openly might give it a credibility neither side can afford at present. Both have their hands quite full maintaining the battle against each other, so the last thing either side wants or needs is a third wheel trying to crash their party. However, that third wheel has arrived and is rolling their way.

Please visit Lloyd Pye's websites for further insight into his fascinating work. <http://www.lloydpye.com/> is his main website and contains details of his projects books and essays.

<http://www.starchildproject.com> is another of Lloyd Pye's websites containing details of a skull which has been found in Mexico which is alleged to be of alien origin. The pictures of the skull on this site (and shown below) will convince everyone that the skull is far from normal but only nuclear DNA tests will definitely prove it one way or the other. These DNA tests are expensive and this is a prohibitive factor at the moment, but it is hoped that funding will be made available in the near future. This has the potential to put the question of alien visitation beyond question. Visit the site so that you can tell your grand children that you were there before the news broke and history changed forever.



The Starchild Project
By Lloyd Pye

West Kirby and the Beach Ball

By Anthony Eccles

The following account had occurred during the summer of 1978 on the beach at West Kirby, which is on the Wirral in Merseyside. The event had not been reported to BUFORA until fourteen years later, in 1992, when accredited investigator, Mark Glover, was approached by the Director of Investigations, who was at that time, Jenny Randles. The reason for this time gap was because the witness did not know who to contact, he had only told his family and friends.

Mark had received the witness's letter which gave a brief account of his experiences. Mark had contacted the witness and they soon met. The discussion which followed was also to reveal a second sighting, which had occurred some years later in 1989. In Mark's report he states;

"In this case we have, if true, elements that at first sight seem to indicate the so called 'Men in Black' (MIB) phenomenon being involved or implicated."

Mark believed that there may have been an element of exaggeration or mistruth, especially as that particular aspect of the witness's account was not so clearly forthcoming on the sighting form. Due to the time gap between the alleged experience and the investigation Mark concluded that

"It is not possible for me to disprove or prove his account - either way; all I can do is to present it as he has reported it."

At the age of eleven B.J. was taking his dog for a walk around two to three in the afternoon along the promenade of West Kirby Beach. It was a lovely clear summer day. There was a man already standing at the promenade holding a pair of binoculars. He was said to have been between thirty five and forty years of age, standing over six feet in height, medium build, very white freckled skin. The description goes into further detail in that the man's hair was brown with grey

streaks, he was bearded, well spoken and wore a lumberjack shirt and jeans. This man called over to B.J. and asked him if he wanted to look through his binoculars to look at this object. The young boy did and he was directed to where an unusual silver ball had been hovering over West Kirby beach. It apparently remained stationary for what felt like five minutes. However, the object suddenly shot straight up into the sky at an amazing speed. Just as quickly as it disappeared the object reappeared and jolted in a straight line to the boy's left side view. The object began to hover again for an approximate three minutes and it shot in a straight line to his right side view. Finally, the object then 'returned' to its original position.

The round silver ball then shot straight up into the sky again with its body changing colour from silver to a reddish-green or greenish-red. The young boy suddenly felt an urge to walk over to one of the nearby rock islands called Red Rocks, the older man wanted to do the same thing. The young boy's attention had turned, for no known reason to a number of official looking black cars that were parked adjacent to the promenade (described as being old fashioned Jaguars). One of these 'people', a man, got out of one of the cars and walked towards the young boy. All the strange man was reported to have said to the young boy was that he "had best go home". The boy was feeling frightened and, with the other man who stood next to him, he walked over to Red Rocks by way of the beach as a means of getting away from this apparently frightening man.

When they had reached the island they could no longer see the mysterious ball.

Mark had asked the witness to describe what the man had looked like. B.J. stated that he appeared to be between the age of 30 - 35, six foot tall, of medium build, with pale skin. B.J. makes a point of what he claims appeared to be 'make up'

around the eyes. His hair was grey and brushed back and he wore a black suit. B.J.'s dog began to bark when the man approached him. Further questioning led the young man to reveal that the man with the binoculars had continued to observe the ball even before they were about to go onto the beach, and also the man was a little distance away—*“about fifteen metres along the promenade”*. When the MIB had finished talking to him, B.J. went up to the man with the binoculars and told him what he had been told

“I told the man and he said it was weird what he had said to me”.

Later, the boy had noticed that his digital watch had stopped, about twenty minutes after the sighting.

Mark was justified in leaving the investigation as it was, due to the length of time which had elapsed since the details of the *experience* had been reported and also due to the length of time having a possible distorting effect upon the young man's memories. Mark reported that there were certain discrepancies in the young man's account regarding the motion of the unusual object he had seen in relation to his original sighting form account.

What is interesting in B.J.'s account is that he states that after his experience he began to have disturbing dreams.

“ever since that night I have had recurring dreams of nuclear explosions over Liverpool and Birkenhead and as it happens I feel myself burning as I turn away(I seem to be in a high position. I know that this is no ordinary dream because it is so, so real.”

Had he been reading various close encounter accounts in books and in the newspapers and misperceived a number of events which happened all at once? Did he make the whole story up? What does he have to gain by creating such a false story? The young man admitted to having read The Fortean Times and two UFO books that had been out at that time.

His initial letter ends with:

“This is a warning of some sort, as I have experienced one similar occurrence in 1989”.

According to the witness, in June 1988 one afternoon ten years after his experience in West Kirby, the witness was camping in the Lake District at Coniston Lake. B.J. began to have a funny feeling “like his brains were being picked”, then he relates the sighting of an object that appeared over the lake's surface, it was ball like and silvery. It “buzzed” about at great speed before shooting up into the sky very quickly. He had camped there for a week and he remembers waking up the night after his sighting with pains covering the whole of his body. He said that every time he thinks about this he gets “fearful” and has “butterflies” in his stomach. Is this a suggested hint that he had been abducted? Unfortunately it is a case where interpretation remains free but the experience, or story itself, remains unknown. Perhaps it is better to leave it closed as it is and not read anything into this. If anything, it shows the difficulties involved in attempting to solve a case, the older the case is the harder it is to find a rational explanation for it, particularly if no other witnesses can be found or no investigative information can be gained.

Mark's conclusion is that the case remains inconclusive. West Kirby, as a place, is well known for its annual collection of UFO sightings. The northern coast of the Wirral has seen its share of prehistoric settlers, especially on Hilbre Island, and a number of people have had strange experiences in the area. However, I am convinced that nine times out of ten, it has more to do with the fault lines that exist on the three islands of Hilbre and the mainland fault lines which are at most one to two hundred metres to the west of West Kirby town itself. The fault lines run through a combination of lower mottled sandstone, basement beds and pebble beds. These factors, in my opinion, are the causes for a number of night time Ball of Light (BOL) cases throughout Merseyside, and unusual spheres seen during the day, but could also account for possible interpreted close encounter experiences.

The Good, the Bad and the Downright Ugly - a look at the how the media portrays the subjects of UFOs and the paranormal: Part Two

By Tony Eccles

The aim of this article is to show how the media has treated the subject of the paranormal. I have specifically focused on the subject of UFOs.

In Part One I explored how unusual craft had been reported and portrayed in the newspapers, especially with the multitude of "scareship" sightings which were observed in the US and Europe in the latter part of the nineteenth century. These mysterious airships were noted as travelling great distances in very short time spans. These machines behaved as if they were beyond the capabilities of airships being created at that time.

Obviously, the idea about flying machines was not new. Sometimes an array of new spangled machines became the focus for fantastic voyages into unconquered territories such as outer space. Jules Verne had written a book about a journey to the Moon during the later years of the nineteenth century, where the human spacemen had encountered Moon beings. H.G.Wells wrote about the Earth being invaded by Martians that wreaked havoc in large tripod walking machines, and this was in 1897!

Despite the fact that some had appreciated these early science fiction novels the idea that humans would one day go into space was not really accepted by science as it had not yet evolved into accepting and exploring this possibility. People were also using steam, gas and primitive internal combustion engines as a means of travel alongside horse and carriage. Any vehicle travelling the speed of a horse on sea and land was considered ground breaking as far as technological advances were concerned. Flight was seen as the next step. In 1898 a German produced car called the C annstatt Daimler could travel at a top speed of 25 mph.ⁱ

On Dec. 17, 1903, two American bicycle manufacturers, Orville and Wilbur Wright,

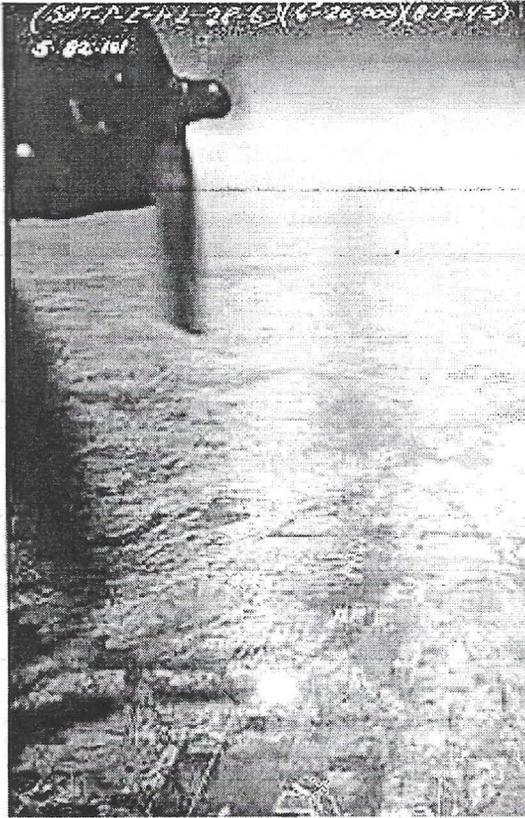
made the first aeroplane flights in history, near Kitty Hawk, in North Carolina. Orville flew their wood, wire, and cloth aeroplane 37 metres at a speed of 48 km/h. In 1900, Count Ferdinand Von Zeppelin flew his first airship, the LZ-1. It was 128 metres long and could reach a top speed of about 27 km/h. Fantastic speeds and altitudes were far from being obtained. Few had recognised that the human ability to create first in the imaginations of the mind would eventually become a physical reality.

Like anything else that is created, inventions and their modifications are a time consuming affair but they become rapidly improved during periods of warfare. Therefore, space travel, at the beginning of the twentieth century, was not seen as a realistic concept except, perhaps, with the passing of a great length of time. At a time when people were witnessing mysterious airships and their unusual pilots, real airship and aeroplane technology was very limited. The inventions we have created for today began as mere thoughts in the imaginations of creative people, such as authors, just over a hundred years agoⁱⁱ.

This ties in nicely with observations of exotic UFO sightings in that the UFOs take on the appearance of shapes that later become the shapes of our own advanced technological aircraft.

The first half of the century was a fascinating era for the observations of strange anomalies and experiences. The popular texts tend to cover UFO sightings from the Nineteen Forties, and particularly from the US, more than anywhere else in the world. This can be explained due to the fact that there is more information available regarding US sightings. Typical of this was a fascinating anomaly that appeared in the press and was called the Foo-Fighter. These were seen during the Second World War and were reported seriously by the newspapers with the understanding that

they were unique secret weapons being built by Germany.



The Foo-Fighter is the white ball at the bottom of the figure.

The stories of pilots were sometimes supported by statements made by the Army Intelligence who were obviously interested into looking closely at such a weapon. Surprisingly, at the close of the War the Allies had discovered that the Axis forces had come across these strange fireballs too, they had labelled them Feuerball. One of my arguments is that if the Allies had known that these were not secret weapons and that they could not identify the true source of such a phenomenon, would the reports of such events reach the pages of the newspapers? If so, would they have received Army Intelligence backing that stated that these things were being seen for real and that they did not know what was responsible for them? My answer to that would be no.

The Second World War had ended by plunging the world into a new era, the Atomic Age. This was the beginning of a very tense period of politics that was known as the Cold War. This was a significant time as the observation of unidentified flying objects by credible witnesses had increased, especially as the public became more aware

of what atomic science could accomplish, such as exploring into space.

In this article I would like to draw the reader's attention to a wave of sightings that really began in the thirties, but received recognition again in 1946, and had appeared over the skies of Scandinavia, especially Sweden. Up until this time the press had always been curious about the subject of strange sky craft and had been willing enough to print people's experiences as they were reported to have happened without unnecessary ridicule or scepticism. During this period, the Swedish "ghost aeroplane" phenomenon took the European press by storm, it appeared to not only appeal to the public's curiosity but it also carried with it a number of serious implications for the Swedish authorities and about the mysterious nature of the subject itself.

The sightings had consisted of huge multiple engined craft that hovered and flew over a number of cities making a thunderous noise. One such example had even occurred over New York on the 26 December 1933. (3) The New York Times had reported the incident describing the mysterious object as circling over New York with such a tremendous noise and flying during a terrible blizzard. At 9.30 in the morning the aeroplane had been visible, then it vanished, only to return nearer to three o' clock in the afternoon, where it persisted to fly in weather conditions not suitable for any type of flying. All airfields had cancelled their flights throughout the time of the blizzard, no emergency landings had been made, no aeroplanes had been reported as missing, and no aircraft had been logged as flying for that day!

Northern Sweden, on the 22 January 1934, a clergyman of Langtrask had reported that during the previous two years he had seen strange craft in the sky time and time again, twelve of these aircraft had flown over his parish in the summer of 1933, one after the other and always in the same direction south-west to north-east. Each of these weirdly shaped craft had flown at a very low altitude with no markings or national insignia. On one occasion they had flown so low that there appeared to be three humans in what appeared to be a cockpit! A striking detail was that the machines had only one wing on either side. A detail that existed in few aircraft during the Great War, in

aircraft during the late thirties and early forties such as those flown during the Second World War! Had the clergyman seen such an aircraft being flown over Sweden? The press were fascinated by such reports.

Such visual experiences had described a variety of craft, but all of them appeared with no markings on their body. In February 1934 these sightings were rapidly increasing. This alerted the Swedish government. For the first time the joint defence ministries of Sweden, Norway and Finland decided to carry out an investigation, in an attempt to identify the origins of these mysterious aircraft. This is mainly known through information given by the press.

Description details, conveyed by public and military observers, were very similar. The "ghost aeroplanes" were larger than anything that had been encountered, even by the standards of aircraft being developed in Europe. They could fly in all weather conditions and over dangerous mountain terrain. The combination of government efforts came to a blank, they could not find the country of origin, bases for the aircraft to fly from and the ground guides for the weather conditions. A press release was made by the Swedish Major-General Reutersward, which said: *"It is obvious from a comparison of these reports that illegal air traffic is taking place over our military restricted areas". Many reports have been received from reliable persons who have closely observed these mysterious fliers. And the same observation is made repeatedly: the machines possessed no national insignia or identification marks. It is impossible to explain away the whole phenomenon as imagination. The question is, who are they and why have they penetrated our airspace?"*^v

From 1934 the phenomenon seemed to cease for a short while, but the sightings returned in 1936. The objects had flown further north this time, passing in a southerly direction over the top half of Norway, then diagonally into Sweden and then back again.

To deviate slightly, we turn our attention to the cinema media. It is worth mentioning that in 1936 a film hit the cinema screens, it starred Raymond Massey. It was based on a novel by H.G. Wells called "The Shape of

Things to Come", the film was called "Things to Come". Briefly, the film depicted the Earth after a terrible war. A plague ensues wiping out most of the population. The few survivors begin a new life and rebuild society. They invest their few resources in technology, but they are unable to sustain life on Earth for very long. The people created, with this technology, a single rocket ship that is designed to send a selected few to a distant but fertile planet that could support human life.

Maybe I could suggest a tenuous link between science fiction and real unusual experiences on a subconscious level. I will go so far as to say that these sightings may have been a result of distortions of our time, and therefore I will make another suggestion that if we had film footage of these ghost aeroplanes from 1936 would we today recognise the basic shape of these craft as a B-52 bombers, for example, the kind that were used in Vietnam?

Back to Sweden and a decade later, after a devastating World War, the huge ghost aeroplanes were suddenly replaced by phantom rockets or "ghost rockets". This would appear to be a good example of any apparent paranormal attachment to these sightings which illustrates a theory that certain paranormal phenomena, such as UFOs, appear to stay one step ahead of our own technological inventions.

A decade later these "ghost rockets" would appear at a time when weapon scientists were working on the development of rocket and missile capabilities. A method of either delivering an atomic bomb to an enemy nation or to take humans to the stars.

Concern in Scandinavia was shown in the way that large numbers of biplanes were deployed by the Swedish Air Force to intercept these "ghost rockets". Media coverage of these events was not only extensive but it had also consisted of a number of rare photographs that had captured the phenomena in flight.^v These "ghost rockets" had closely resembled the German V-2 rocket bombs that were used by Hitler to target civilian centres in England and France. Furthermore they appeared to be busy crashing into lakes rather than the land itself! Without the extensive media coverage the public would not have known about these incidents.

By 1946, the question that might have been asked was who could possibly be making these rocket bombs? Were the Americans and Soviets experimenting with advanced V-2 technology over Scandinavian airspace? If this was the case then the Swedish authorities or their US allies had not informed the public.

Sweden had been mostly neutral throughout World War Two and had developed powerful industries such as Saab and Volvo. Shell Oil had also been responsible for linking Sweden to the US. This meant that Sweden had close links with Europe and the US. If rocket testing was responsible for these many sightings and threats to a national security then surely the US military would have told the Swedish authorities, like any other military project conducted in allied foreign lands.

However, the rocket shape was not the only shape observed, other shapes reported by observers included lights, cigar shapes and winged machines. Interestingly too, was that this phenomenon had also spread into Southern Europe, even to the limits of Northern Greece! At times the rockets had been seen as being very large and bright green in colour, they were sometimes referred to as flying green fireballs. The Soviets were the obvious choice for blame, they were assumed responsible for these rockets, even though they were calculated at flying at speeds of up to 1000mph! Obviously, the accusations were denied by the Soviets. It would be interesting to see if the Soviet public had witnessed such rockets and also if the Soviet military were conducting their own investigations at that time.

In the year of 1946 there were many trips in and out of Sweden by a number of retired US military personnel who had found their way into businesses such as Shell. One of these ex-military had been General James A. Doolittle. He had been famous for the US strategic bombing over Africa, Italy, Germany and Japan. He was working with Shell Oil and met with a number of business delegates and also a number of military officers.

These trips had always been suspected, by the media, of secret meetings between the Swedish and US intelligence to discuss the "ghost rocket" events. This has always been denied. However, during these meetings a

small number of US military personnel had been present and whisked off to other unspecified meetings.

In one newspaper, the *Stockholm-Tidningen*, on the 21 August reported Doolittle as saying; *"We are not here for any military negotiations, only for our company. Of course we would like to stay in Sweden more than two days. Maybe I would be able to see one of the renowned ghost bombs. Naturally, I don't know anything about them, but I would be glad if I did"*.^{vi} Military documents had recently confirmed that the Swedish and US military had not directly discussed the ghost rocket issue.^{vii} If both governments had liased over the rocket affair it would have been done secretly with the use of intelligence units. Looking back, the Swedish media reports have become part of the history of UFO sightings. They have portrayed the "ghost rocket" events as factual as possible, and without the sceptical and fun poking approach the media of today uses. The Swedish military was supportive of the press and had not appeared to deceive them. So when and why did the media's attitude change to the subject of UFOs?

As a slight aside, in the United States, Project Twinkle had been set up in the late Forties as a result of the appearance of unusual green fireballs which had been witnessed by a number of military personnel as well as members of the Project's staff. A Dr. Lincoln La Paz who was an expert in meteors studied these sightings. Having seen one with his own eyes he continued the Project's experiments using three camera locations so that they could capture the event on film. It failed. The results of the study remained inconclusive on witness testimony alone.

From 1947 I have chosen two events that took place that were to help create a new attitude for the media. This attitude was one used by the military for its own ends, and the other the media chose to use as a means to sell newspapers. I would like to address how the media and the US military had treated these events because they were responsible for influencing the public's interpretation of the UFO phenomenon and the possibility that humankind might one day come into contact with beings from another world.

From these events was borne a disposition that was to be fed into the era of science fiction and B movie dramas and the belief systems of those who watched and enjoyed them. It was the beginning of ridicule of those that saw UFOs and experienced other forms of close encounters.

I have, in part one of this article, covered the first of two chosen events which was the sighting by pilot Kenneth Arnold on 24th June 1947. It was on this occasion that the press had taken Arnold's description of the objects he had seen and coined the phrase *flying saucer*. This was an obvious influence for the content of American B-movies in the 50s with far out aliens and wobbly saucer craft. But in the following month, July, something *big* had caught the press in an excited frenzy near Aurora in New Mexico. It was this event that decided how the military were to use the media to influence the public's opinion of flying saucers and play down the growing numbers of sightings that alarmed the US Air Force later on. This event became known as Roswell.

Without going into too much detail of what happened, due to the fact that Roswell has recently been given so much attention time and time again by media sensationalism and hoaxing, it is believed that something had crashed on a farmer's ranch and left debris. The incident had caused a lot of fuss at that time and it had caught the world's attention, if only for a brief moment.

Roswell, Corona and Aurora were small communities situated near the important White Sands missile testing range and Roswell Army Air Force base. Roswell base was the first base to store atomic weapons and the first to drop one on Japan. The location of this epic event is very important geographically as the vast desert landscapes that can be found there in New Mexico and nearby Arizona have always had an important role to play with ongoing military development of new secret technologies.

On 2nd July 1947, there was a thunderstorm over the area of Roswell. Late in the evening, a local ranch hand by the name of Mac' Brazel heard a tremendous bang nearby. It was, apparently, not until the following morning that he had discovered a huge amount of debris on his land.^{viii} The wreckage had allegedly covered an area three quarters of a mile

long and two to three hundred feet in width, debris that could not be caused by the crash of a weather balloon, an object which the US Army Air Force cited later was the cause of the debris!



Mac' Brazel who first found the Roswell debris.

A few days later, Brazel decided to head on into the nearest town which was approximately eighty miles away to report it to the local sheriff who, in turn, had contacted Roswell Army Air Force Base to see if the debris had belonged to the military. This was not the case and a couple of officers from the base went out to have a look at the wreckage. One officer was from the Counter-Intelligence Corps, the second was Major Jesse A. Marcel who worked as Roswell's Intelligence Officer. Both men accompanied Brazel back to his ranch to examine the debris. Following their night's stay at the ranch, Marcel showed the two men the scatter of debris. The material found had apparently unusual properties, so much so that they had loaded their vehicles up to take a portion of it back to the base for analysis. Not only had they spent most of the day picking up pieces of *wreckage*, but by the time they had loaded their car up there was still plenty more lying around the field.

The day of the 8th saw the army cordon off the rancher's land completely, no one could enter it unless they had permission. It had become a military operation. On this day

the Roswell military would officially issue a statement to the press. This was released from First Lieutenant Walter Halt, the base's public relations officer under the insistence of the Base Commander, Colonel William Blanchard. Blanchard believed in having close ties with the local community, and if the press release that morning was justified it was for the fact that something unusual had really happened and that it happened on community soil.

However, the principle reason for releasing such a statement was strategic. When the intelligence officers had shown the type of debris found, Colonel Blanchard was concerned that some of the locals would attempt to locate the field and help themselves to the yet unidentified wreckage. The press release was to act, not only as a means of informing the locals of what had happened, but to specifically ensure that the public was convinced that the Army Air Force had control of the situation and that there was more or less, a complete flying disc and hence no debris to be picked up for the taking. This served to buy the army air force time to remove all of the debris. Blanchard had considered all official communication regarding the incident to be top secret.

The press release of the 8th appeared like this; *"Here is the unqualified statement issued by the Roswell Army Base public relations officer: The many rumours regarding the flying disc became a reality yesterday when the intelligence office of the 509th Bomb Group of the Eighth Air Force, Roswell Army Air Field, was fortunate enough to gain possession of a disc through the co-operation of one of the local ranchers and the Sheriff's office of Chaves county. The flying object landed on a ranch near Roswell sometime last week. Not having phone facilities, the rancher stored the disc until such time as he was able to contact the Sheriff's office, who in turn notified Major Jesse A. Marcel, of 509th Bomb Group Intelligence office.*

Action was immediately taken and the disc was picked up at the rancher's. It was inspected at the Roswell Army Airfield and subsequently loaned by Major Marcel to higher headquarters.^{ix} This had reached the local newspapers very quickly, particularly the Associated Press. The Roswell Daily Record had received phone calls from

newspapers in London, Paris and Hong Kong.



Brazel was escorted to the military base for questioning, upon his next appearance he would be escorted into the local radio station and his story this time would be considerably different to the one he first gave. He stated live on air that what he had really found were pieces of rubber, balsa wood and sticky tape. The message this time was to clearly state that the wreckage was that of a weather balloon. Even the area of the debris had been shortened to two hundred feet square.

Blanchard used the media in a way that appears to offer some explanation for the findings of the debris. Knowledge of its existence was the source of certain rumours that had already been spread throughout Roswell. Blanchard's release was to have two functions, firstly Blanchard had no choice but to buy some time for his staff to bring in all of the wreckage on the field, and secondly, he was to partially inform the public of what had been happening to stick to the usual friendly public relations role. Brazel's treatment and change of story seemed to have been purposefully done to undermine the significance of the reality behind the event. The media had been deliberately used to spread misinformation which appeared to have worked. This seemed apparent as Brazel was reluctant to talk anymore, and also due to the fact that he had been seen later with a brand new truck, a new meat store and a new home. For someone that had earned very little money as a ranch hand he was suddenly doing very well. This strongly suggests that Brazel had been bought by the military. If this is true about Brazel then does all the military attention given to the scene make any sense if the Roswell event was merely due to a downed weather balloon?

Roswell had caused much excitement and confusion within the military and the Pentagon. Marcel was soon ordered to fly to Fort Worth in Texas where Brigadier General Roger M. Ramey of the Eighth Air Force was to give a press release in an attempt to finally kill the story. There, the Newspapermen were shown some wreckage on the floor. Marcel was asked to pose for a photograph holding onto some of the supposed debris from the alleged crash site. In front of a number of staff one of the other officers was asked to identify it and he replied that the pieces were part of broken weather balloon which had a special attachment called a Rewin target that was hexagonal in shape.



Marcel with weather balloon wreckage.

The press were handed a story that seemed to knock down their heightened expectations of the reality behind flying saucers. Of course, this latest version of events had a number of effects. Firstly, it had prevented the situation from escalating out of hand, and secondly, the intelligence officer Marcel was obeying orders by appearing as the scapegoat and ridiculed, he was acting the obedient and patriotic soldier. This was to affect his personal credibility as an officer. If we look closely at the front page of the Roswell Daily Record for Wednesday 9th July it contains a large and simple heading. "Gen. Ramey Empties Roswell Saucer.



Adjacent to a picture of the identified wreckage there is a column headlined, *Ramey Says Excitement Is Not Justified* the article begins; *General Ramey Says Disk Is*

Weather Balloon. Fort Worth. Texas. July 9. *An examination by the army revealed last night that mysterious objects found on a lonely New Mexico ranch was a harmless high-altitude weather balloon-not a grounded flying disk.* The use of the word *harmless* is carefully chosen as it suggests that the public had believed flying disks to be dangerous or at least a threat to national security. To the left of that front page Sheriff Wilcox is photographed talking into the phone. For the first time journalistic ridicule regarding the subject was used. Under the sub heading of *Sheriff Wilcox Takes Leading Role in Excitement Over Report, - Saucer Found.* The text continues with: *That worried look on the face of Sheriff George Wilcox, in the picture above, comes from having been cast, more suddenly than he liked, into the role of leading man in the world comedy which developed over the purported finding of a flying saucer at the Foster ranch, in the Corona community, north west of Roswell.** This provides a platform of disbelief for any reader who may have been paying any attention to the sudden and dramatic initial revelation that a flying saucer had been taken by the military. Yet, ironically for the reader, there is a small note beneath the debunking photograph of the weather balloon on the floor. *Tehran. July 9 AP_ The flying saucer fever spread to Iran today. Press reports from Zabool Shourf and Karbinheh near the Afghan frontier said residents there had observed strange "starlike bodies" in the sky which exploded loudly, leaving a cloud of smoke.* The newspaper Mehri Iran said the objects apparently had something to do with a secret weapon, which it dubbed *V-20.* Might this incident tie in with anything the US military were doing that might also have been the cause of the Roswell crash or was

the thing that crashed at Roswell connected with things happening in the skies over Iran? Whatever the answer may be, it illustrated that the UFO puzzle, and soon to be UFO problem, was a world-wide phenomenon. The media had been fed by the US military a large lie for the sake of covering up a major army air force project. Journalism, where it concerns UFOs and other unusual phenomena, had been manipulated by the US military for the first time. It makes me question whether it really was the authorities that had manipulated the media machine in the first place. Maybe this explains why today the media uses manipulation, sensationalism and ridicule as tools for its own sake, knowing the success these tools have played over the years.

Without looking deeply into the already existing depth of research, a couple of immediate questions regarding Roswell stand out like a sore thumb. If the debris at Roswell was from a weather balloon, why did intelligence officer Jesse Marcel not recognise it, especially as he has observed these on a regular basis? If it was only a weather balloon, why was such a fantastic story fed to the press? After all Colonel Blanchard and other members of base staff had examined the wreckage themselves. A weather balloon crashing would have not been the cause for such a far fetched press release. Finally, all flights of weather balloons had been logged, and access to that kind of information is available. None were apparently logged for the 1st and 2nd of June 1947, so why is there still a shroud of secrecy remaining over the Roswell affair?^{xi} Details of Project Mogul, the project to identify Soviet Atomic testing in the atmosphere, are currently available. There still persists a military silence over this, even to the extent where a US Senator has had an extremely difficult time trying to find any official paperwork relating to the incident.

Following Roswell there was an official investigation into the UFO subject. By late 1947, the army and the air force had separated into two units. The airforce was beginning to embark on an examination of reports that were both from military and civilian sources. The public had quickly forgotten about Roswell, but the sightings of strange aerial craft continued over skies around the world. In the next issue I will look at how the media had kept a close eye

on the US Military who were attempting to satisfy the public's demand for answers to the UFO subject with the set up of a variety of Projects such as Sign, Grudge and Blue Book. My conclusion so far is that the US military had been largely responsible for the initial debunking, and misrepresentation of the flying saucer sightings. The media came into its own when post war economic booms had enabled the media markets to compete, expand and achieve huge profits. The flying saucer story was an inevitable money spinner.

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Grey Dimensions

By Julie Boyd.

After reading the article "An Out Of body Experience" by Sue and Nora McAllister in *The Researcher* Volume 2, Issue 1, their views regarding the theory of projection in relation to alien abduction prompted me to write the following article.

You see, their theory is not something I had considered before and yet it does make perfect sense if we are to look closely at the whole alien abduction and even the UFO phenomena. My mother once told me about a recurring dream she had in which she would visit a house and go up to a baby lying in a cot. When she tried to touch the baby, her hand would go right through as if the baby was a hologram, yet the baby would always stare at her and cry. Was my mother dreaming or was she actually astrally-projecting enabling the baby to see her. Is that what happens when we see ghosts and aliens who seem to go through solid objects? (compare with Omar Fowlers article in this issue. Ed.)

One of the most commonly asked questions by sceptics concerning the alien and UFO phenomena is: "If the aliens are such clever guys, able to appear through windows and walls, then how do they manage to crash their spaceships?" The answer is probably the simplest one. They may not be the same group of aliens or just because they have mastered the ability of projection does not mean they are always able to steer a spaceship! After all, the person who claims to be able to remote-view, or astrally-project, at will, is not an immortal immune from crashing their car if road conditions are against them. If we are to apply the same discrepancies in the human race to the notion of the clever alien versus the dumb alien, we could possibly gain a better understanding of the phenomena (and its inconsistencies). We can manage to put a man on the moon and a probe on Mars, yet we still have people living in gutters and starving. Pilots are flying

stealth aircraft and yet some of us still can not drive a car, or even have legs to walk. We as

a species possess great potential, yet for the most part, we cannot or do not develop it.

We humans are all the same species living on the planet yet there is so much diversity in intelligence, physical, mental, psychic and spiritual abilities amongst us (not to mention the animal kingdom). I believe the same may well apply to the other life-forms which may exist and possibly be interacting with us and our reality. In addition, are the beings who are alleged to manifest themselves through solid objects necessarily the same beings who travel in the alleged solid UFOs? After all, there is no real, hard evidence to support the existence of nuts and bolts UFOs in comparison to the many reported experiences of the typical abduction scenario... which in many respects has strikingly similar anomalies to other paranormal experiences. I personally, believe that we are dealing here with energies rather than solid physical events... Having said that, everything is energy and maybe it is just a question of different vibrations of energy operating on different frequencies which can be picked up by certain people at certain times and under certain criteria. We must also consider that such energies can actually have an effect upon the psychological as well as the physical world.

A classic case involves the following abduction scenario:

An experiencer undergoes another abduction, only this time she is in her car with two witnesses and a dog. She goes into an altered state of consciousness and relates her experience as it is happening. To her, she is aboard the craft with the aliens. To her friends, she is still sitting in the car but in a medium-trance like state. However, the dog's reaction is important. The dog becomes very agitated and his hackles rise in fear. The two witnesses step out of the car with the dog. The dog is clearly anxious and very

uncomfortable with his surroundings, whining and growling. Lots of animals react in exactly the same way to other phenomena such as haunted places, or the presence of spirits etc. The animals are sensing the presence of energies. After all, dogs for example, can hear different frequencies which we would not be aware of. Could the dog in the abduction scenario "see" the alien presence as the woman was obviously "seeing" them, just as some people claim to see ghosts and most animals can certainly be aware of them. The intelligence which manifests as the greys may well be the same intelligence which manifests itself as ghosts and poltergeist energy etc. Unless, if you are one of the school of thought who believes that ghosts are just spirits of dead people, then this theory may be an unusual one. However, we do have to consider the similarities in the phenomena and the fact that many abductees claim that the aliens only present themselves as the image which we expect while hiding their true identity. Whether we experience fairies, ghosts, genii or aliens, are we all seeing the same intelligence behind the different masks? Are they all just different

levels of the same intelligent energy? From the aliens who can appear through walls, to the ghosts which we think are dead people, to the fairies and genii of other cultures, and of course not forgetting the greys who pilot and crash their crafts(!), are they just echelons of the same phenomena?

Ghosts have been seen to walk through walls, to be half-in, half-out of our reality, parts of their misty bodies visible. The greys have been seen manifesting themselves in the same way, appearing through walls, in mists, being able to materialise and de-materialise at will along with many UFOs.

Is this the true alien or just a part of himself he wishes to project to us?

Lets face it, if there are some humans who can master remote-viewing, while some of us find it hard to even get out of bed of a morning, then it is obvious we are not dealing with shades of black or white when trying to learn about these phenomena... It's more of a cloudy shade of grey!



David Icke in Dudley: Shock Horror!

A lecture review by Julie Boyd

Tuesday evening on the 16th February seemed like a nice night to have your sanity, or should I say your view of reality and the world tested. Well, after reading half the things I've read in my time, I would say that I'm ready for any theory that comes at top speed out of the woodwork, especially conspiracy theories which abounded with great abandon on that very evening. Most of you will probably remember David Icke in his turquoise hey-day of channelling when the media gave him a rougher time than they have recently given Glen Hoddle. Both guys are alike, in as much as they have been known as sports personalities who said some things that maybe the average citizen finds just too unpalatable to take, and both of what these gentlemen have been known to say has left a bad taste in the mouths of a lot of Joe Public. In a nutshell, if you say anything that doesn't keep the status quo in balance then the odds are that you will be shut up and shut out! David Icke has come a long way since those turquoise shell suit days, and I for one never doubted in my mind that most of what the press reported of him back then was the same kind of vitriol that they pour out now. So taking time out to read his books and actually go and listen to him seemed like a better way of finding out for myself just exactly what he does believe. This was not the first time I have listened to David's lectures. The first one was in the Lark Lane Community Centre here in Liverpool a couple or so years back. It seems David has got bigger and better. We arrived just in time for the prompt 7pm start and David kept his audience entranced for almost four hours, (and didn't even stop to take a sip of water!), until he told us that it was time to take a break before the second half of the lecture. Did that mean that it was going on for another four hours until 2am! I never found out because at 10.30pm we had to leave to catch the last train into Birmingham. What a pity! I was just getting warmed up and so was the rest of the audience. In fact one guy got pretty hot under the collar and made some loud objections but was promptly put in his place by Mr. Icke which made the

whole spectacle reminiscent of a Tim Matthews lecture!

Basically if you have never heard any of what David Icke talks about then it is pretty complicated for me to go through it here. After all it took him almost four hours just to give a basic outline! Simply put, if you have any interest in conspiracy theories from governments, to banking systems, to the military and UFO's etc, just to name a tiny fraction, then David is your man. If you are scared about the way this world is going with its micro-chips, human cloning, genetically engineered foods and mind control technology as some minor examples, then David will make you even more scared!

But chin up! There's a way out of all this madness. We just stop following the leader, so says Dave. Well, I've never followed any leader but somehow, I just can't help thinking that the invisible hands behind the hidden agenda are trying to cut a deal which will affect us all in some way. It remains to be seen. Also, David had come up with some very interesting information regarding the death of Princess Diana, the Royal Family, and the list goes on... even those reptilians are involved. Remember those of the 'Greys' fame? Oh well, I recommend that everyone at least gives David an ear as he is not the only one who is saying what he is saying, and the information he gives is available for anyone to research if they doubt him... except for the reptilian part, but forget that bit for now! See him at your peril!

As a matter of interest, there is an audio tape called 'From the Shadows - Exposing the New World Order' by Abdul Karim who reveals similar information to that which David is reporting. It is very interesting, worth listening to, and I have a copy if anyone wants to borrow it.

Runcorn, a Gateway to UFOs?

By Sue McAllister

Articles in the weekly news; local Runcorn newspapers and now the Daily Mail have caught my attention somewhat, especially throughout the month of March. Roger Ellison who is also a member of MARA suggests that the borough of Halton / Runcorn is a window area of UFO activity and I am now inclined to take this view seriously myself, since having had a recent sighting with Larry Warren, (author of *Left at East Gate*) on the 16th of March 1999. From my house in South Liverpool, looking to the east I can see Runcorn Bridge and although our sighting was to the west, it was nevertheless along the South Liverpool Mersey area.

The South Liverpool Incident

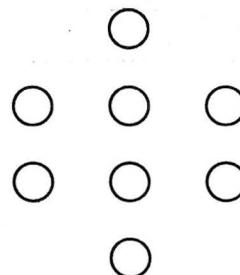
It was approximately 8.55 p.m. and Larry had just nipped outside to smoke a cigarette, as he didn't like to smoke in my house! I was in the kitchen at the time washing a few dishes, when Larry came back in and explained that he could see a bright light at the top of my road. I followed him back out to see it while he was telling me that a red light had dropped out of it and shot off northwards at great speed! At the front gate, with no shoes on my feet, I could see a very bright light. At first I thought it was a planet, then realised that it was too big and decided to run back in to put on my shoes and coat to have a longer look. I was indoors less than a minute, then I was back out and Larry was over on the other side of the road in front of my house. I could no longer see it from the front gate because it had moved. We walked up the road and onto some wasteland where we caught sight of it again. While watching this "light", an aeroplane was approaching from the south, and Larry explained to me that sometimes these lights blink out when aircraft are near! We could see the light starting to change colour from a bright white / yellow to amber, then all of a sudden it blinked out as the aeroplane crossed its path! After the aeroplane flew past northwards, the light

reappeared. We couldn't hear any noise from the light but we could hear the aeroplane, although very faintly. While still watching it, we both witnessed the next red light suddenly pop out from the left of the UFO and stop a short distance from it. It then shot off at great speed in a southerly direction. The main light seemed to change colour again then blinked out.

Having read a number of articles on loan from Mark Rosney (another MARA member), I noticed that there were a number of separate reports of red fireball type lights in the skies! Some of them also in an easterly direction. A coincidence?, I don't think so!

The Runcorn Bridge Incident

This leads me on to another UFO sighting by guess who? My own brother and sister-in-law. They were returning home from Manchester after visiting a friend in hospital. On the 15th April at approximately 8:50 p.m. (surprise surprise), and guess where? On the freeway that leads onto the Runcorn Bridge! My sister-in-law in the passenger seat saw it first, towards the ICI plant on the Wirral but above the River Mersey. My brother got a better look as he drove around the bend in the roadway taking you up to and across the Runcorn Bridge. He described it as quite high above the horizon and it stood out because the lights were as bright as light bulbs. This was not just one light though, but a configuration of 8 lights as in the diagram below. As they drove over the bridge they lost sight of it as if it had just disappeared.



Formation of lights seen in the Runcorn bridge incident.

Conclusions

So what on earth is going on? I don't claim to know, but I suspect that some kind of military activity is involved. As for the River Mersey with its varying depths, many UFO sightings have been reported from Seaforth to New Brighton to Runcorn West Bank through to Warrington with some reports of UFOs actually seen ascending out of the Mersey itself! This is not unlike the many UFO sightings over the Hudson River USA which stretches for approximately 200 miles in New York state! There has also been a wave of UFO sightings in this region recently near and around the many upstate New York lakes.

What is the connection with our waterways? Maybe the UFOs are less conspicuous over the dark waters and hence they are able to carry out whatever tests they are involved in with less scrutiny from the general public. The British Aerospace plant at Warton, Lancashire overlooks the Irish Sea and is only about 15 miles up the coast from the Mersey Estuary. How convenient? There have been many UFO sightings around the Warton area including flying triangles etc. Now that more and more people are accepting that something out of the ordinary is going on involving UFOs and the military, I suggest that you all keep your eyes on the skies and the waterways, and hopefully, the answers to our questions will one day soon be answered.



May '99
Bozo JKH

TITANIC

Anatomy of a disaster shrouded in mystery

By Colin Veacock.

No maritime disaster in history has caught the attention of the general public more than that of the R M S Titanic's disastrous collision with an iceberg in the mid-Atlantic resulting in the untimely deaths of 1,522 souls. With the benefit of hindsight the loss of the Titanic and those unfortunate enough to still be on board as she broke in two and slid beneath the icy waters could have so easily been avoided. Henry Threlfall Wilson founded the White Star Line in 1845, along with his partner, John Pilkington. The pair made their fortune taking immigrants to Australia and returning with rare goods. In 1857 Pilkington suddenly left and was replaced by James Chambers who, six years later, acquired his first steamship, the 2,033 ton Royal Standard. The Royal Standard set a trend for White Star owned vessels which was to eventually lead to the loss of the Titanic. No matter how one looks at it, ships owned by the White Star Line had an unenviable tendency of running into things and sinking! Ironically, the Royal Standard started the trend by running headlong into an iceberg returning from her maiden voyage to Melbourne but was able to limp to Rio de Janeiro for repairs.

Shortly after this the company went into liquidation and was sold for the paltry sum of £1,000 to thirty one year old Thomas Henry Ismay who planned to start a Trans-Atlantic shipping business with his friend and financier Gustav Schwabe, a Liverpool banker. The only condition Schwabe put on this was that their ships were to be made at Harland & Wolff's Belfast works. Perhaps they were given the multi million pound contract because Gustav Wolff was Schwabe's junior partner.

In 1869, Harland & Wolff received orders to build six vessels from the Oceanic Steam Navigation Co Ltd, a subsidiary of the White Star Line. It was at this time that someone had the bright idea of naming all their vessels with names that ended in "ic". The first two were the Oceanic and the Atlantic. While these ships were being built, Ismay joined forces with William Imrie making the Oceanic Steam Navigation Co Ltd, the most prosperous shipping company on the North Atlantic run. It is perhaps fortunate that the owners of the company didn't travel by sea on their own vessels as they had terrible luck. In 1873 the Atlantic ran into a partially submerged rock off Halifax, Nova Scotia. Its Captain, James Williams had headed for Halifax after he had used up all his coal reserves fighting against a storm in his attempt to reach New York. Five hundred and forty six people, most of whom were woman and children went down with the Atlantic. Only a few years before (1863) the 6,594 ton Naronic, then the world's largest livestock carrier vanished without trace in the north Atlantic. In 1899 the Germanic capsized in New York harbour because of the weight of the ice which had congregated on the ship's upper decks and rigging. Eight years later in 1907 the Suevic ran aground at Land's End, Cornwall after returning from a long and arduous trip to Australia. In the very next year, the liner Republic sank after it had run headlong into another liner called the Florida. In this instance nearly everyone escaped unharmed as this was to be the first radio distress message successfully transmitted.

April 30, 1907 Harland & Wolff began work on two new ships, the Olympic and her sister ship, the Titanic. Subsequently, in

1911, another ship was ordered which had the provisional title of Gigantic, later to be changed to Britannic after the terrible loss of the Titanic. Even the story behind the Britannic is a disastrous one. On 26th February, 1914, but not fully fitted out until 8th December 1915, she was almost immediately commissioned as a hospital ship to help the injured soldiers of the First World War. On November 21st 1916, the Britannic collided with a mine in the Aegean Sea and quickly sank within an hour. Twenty one people died. Perhaps it is just another coincidence that some of those on board the Britannic were also on board the Titanic when it sank! The Titanic's sister ship was, in retrospect, almost blessed as several near fatal accidents couldn't end her life.

On September 20th 1911, Olympic collided with the 7,000 ton cruiser HMS Hawke but managed to make it back to Southampton with two watertight compartments flooded and only one engine working. Later on, in February 1912 she lost a propeller on a mysterious submerged object some 750 miles off the New Foundland coast. Olympic is a good example of triumph over adversity as she survived on to 1938 when she was taken out of service.

So on to Titanic...Titanic began her sea trials on the morning of April 2nd 1912. At the time she was the largest moving object built by man and must have looked a tremendous sight. In fact she was such an awesome sight that she was deemed unsinkable. Maybe this is why she only had 20 lifeboats on board, able to hold 1,178 people; fourteen standard able to hold 65 people each, two cutters able to hold 40 people each and four collapsible boats known as Engelhardtts which were able to hold 47 people.

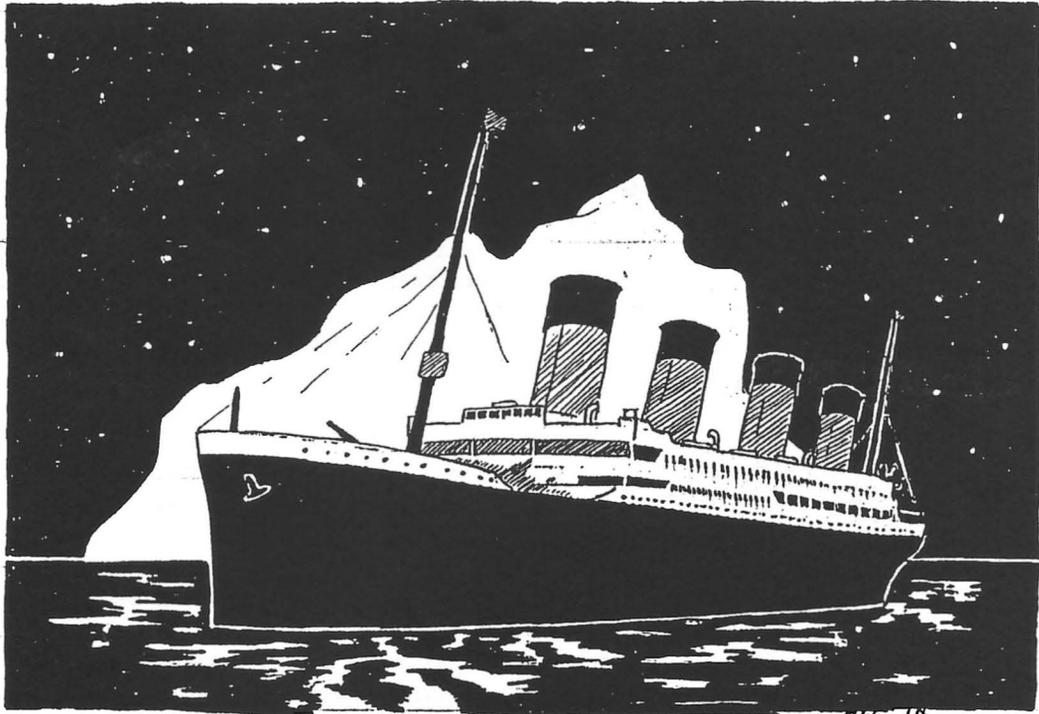
Captain Edward Smith was a silver bearded highly respected figure who was approaching retirement. The respect that his fellow mariners had for him may not have been entirely deserved as his record was flawed by several serious accidents. He first went to sea as a thirteen year old and received his first command in 1887. Two years later the Republic ran aground in New

York and in 1890 another of his ships ran aground in Rio de Janeiro. This was followed by two serious fires on board the Majestic and the Baltic. It was to be his last hurrah taking the pride of the White Star fleet to New York on her maiden voyage. However he was a man facing a huge problem. Titanic couldn't set for sea without huge amounts of coal to fire the massive engine's boilers. Unfortunately this was at the later stages of a coal miner's strike so coal reserves had to be taken off surrounding ships tied up at the dockside. Perhaps this is why a fire in number 10 bunker starboard side of boiler room 6 went unreported due to the haste in transporting coal. It is this fire which was left raging that figures highly later on.

The coal was loaded, the Titanic slipped its moorings and at twelve o'clock, after three huge blasts of Titanic's horns, and with 2,922 passengers on board, she was pulled away from the dockside by several tugs. The fact that she was such a massive structure caused a wake to develop behind the ship known as the canal effect which was made worse when Titanic's huge screws began to turn. This canal effect caused the New York to break its moorings and slowly edge out towards the pride of the White Star line. Only the intervention of the tug boat pilots saved the Titanic from serious harm.

The pilot of the Titanic who was steering the great vessels bow towards open sea was none other than George Bowyer, the pilot who had been on duty when the Olympic had run headlong into the side of the HMS Hawke. Another coincidence? Talk on board amongst the crew that day concerned the Niagara that had, that very morning, collided with an iceberg...The Titanic had travelled to Cherbourg, France, it returned to Ireland, anchoring off Queenstown, now known as Cobh, where a boat ferried the remaining passengers from shore.

It was while the Titanic was stationary that 24 year old stocker, John Coffrey, deserted ship for some reason better known to himself. Perhaps he had had some awful premonition of disaster or had accidentally come across information, or unsettling rumours that had been circulating amongst



the crew. So with some of her 2,235 passengers meandering around the many decks enjoying themselves, Captain Smith standing majestically on the bridge and Eugene Daly standing alone on the third class promenade deck playing Erin's Lament on his pipes, the Titanic headed for open sea not realising what dire fate lay in store.

Why Smith ordered the ship to continue at full steam towards sea lanes that he knew were strewn with treacherous icebergs is unknown and rumours suggesting that Ismay had officially asked, or ordered, him to proceed at full speed to arrive in New York in record time are unfounded. Make no mistake about it, there were more than enough warnings about the icebergs ahead. Why they weren't taken seriously is anyone's guess. Barr of the Cunard owned Caronia, travelling east from New York sent a message that read; "Captain. Titanic. Westbound. All steamer reports bergs, growlers and field ice in 42 degrees North from 49 degrees to 51 degrees west. April 12. Compliments. Barr". This lay right in the Titanic's path. Perhaps more shocking is the fact that this was only one of two messages, the second coming from a Greek ship called the Athinai reported the same icebergs. At least one of the ice warnings

did reach the attention of Captain Smith but didn't reach the bridge were it would have mattered most. Smith was dining with Ismay in the promenade dining room when one of the junior officers handed him a message containing an ice warning but had it quickly taken off him by Ismay who openly joked that encountering icebergs was inevitable. Even passengers sitting at surrounding tables were handed the message. Although the Titanic should have been posting extra lookouts in search for icebergs, second officer Lightoller was ordering ship's carpenter J Maxwell and the chief engineer to search for ice in a completely different area. Amazingly, they were busily employed in the very bottom of the ship checking the Titanic's watertanks for ice!

At 7.30pm, another message was sent by the California reporting three large icebergs directly in the path of Titanic. Later the California even reported that she had had to come to a full stop as she was surrounded by thick compact ice. The Baltic and the German liner, The Amerika, both reported two massive icebergs, while the Mesaba told of huge mountains of ice straddling the very point where the Titanic met its end. In fact, the only message which we know did reach

the bridge came from the SS Rappahannock which reported icebergs after she had damaged her steering in a slight collision. Why oh why were these warnings ignored?

The time was 9.30pm. The crowds that had earlier gathered and wandered about the decks had long since abandoned them for the warmth and comfort of the dining and smoking rooms. It was at this time that second officer, Charles Herbert Lightoller, was relieved from his post on the bridge by first officer William McMaster Murdoch, while the Titanic continued on at a steady 22.5 kts almost rushing towards its destiny. It was to be Frederick Fleet high up in the crow's nest who first spotted the iceberg when it was virtually on top of the ship. He would have undoubtedly spotted it earlier if he had had a pair of binoculars but through some oversight Titanic had set to sea without any. Fleet pulled three times on the lanyard which rang a 16 inch bell suspended above the crow's nest. Almost immediately James Moody on the bridge with Murdoch picked up the receiver to hear the words, "Iceberg right ahead". Murdoch immediately called out, "Full stop, full astern," and then ordered helmsman quartermaster Robert Hitchins to turn hard a starboard. But it was all to no avail. Thirty seconds later Titanic struck the towering iceberg a glancing blow which tore at the ship's hull below the waterline pulling apart steel plates and puncturing others. In response the ship slowed and then came to a full stop.

The time was 11.40pm. Titanic wasn't to move another inch. Irish immigrants kicked lumps of ice around the deck and several of the first class passengers raised their glasses to the iceberg which was rapidly disappearing behind them into the darkness. They were blissfully unaware of the drama which was unfolding below decks. While fourth officer Boxhall checked their position (41° 46' N. 50° 14' W) Captain Smith and Harland & Wolff's general manager Thomas Andrews inspected the damage. It only took a matter of minutes for Andrews to declare the Titanic doomed. Within hours she would be on her way to the Atlantic floor. Shortly after 2.00am as the stern quietly rose out of

the water towards the star strewn sky Thomas Byles, a catholic priest, heard passengers' confessions on the first deck while within earshot Wallace Hartley and his band played Nearer My God To Thee and Major Archie Butt and three of his friends continued to play cards in the first class saloon.

At 2.20am the Titanic was no more. Several ships in the vicinity were trying their best to reach the passengers who were panicking and freezing to death in the icy water, but the conditions and the vast distances involved meant it was fruitless. The testimony given by the various captains, crew and passengers only added to the confusion which surrounds the disaster.

12.15am Captain James Moore of the Mount Temple on route to New York from Antwerp, 49 miles away from the mortally wounded Titanic, received a distress call and turned about and headed for the scene. At the same time the Provence also received the new CQD (Come Quick, Danger) distress call from Titanic's radio operators Jack Phillips and his assistant Harold Bride. The Mount Temple edged its way through the ice fields for hours until three in the morning when Captain Moore had to reverse the engines to narrowly miss a schooner which passed by and disappeared silently into the night. What was the name of this mystery schooner and what was it doing there? The norwegian Samson, a sailing barque, was, we know, definitely in the area but the Samson was nothing like a schooner and Moore would have known this. The reason that the Samson denied knowledge of being in the area is simple. On his deathbed in 1962 the chief officer of the Samson swore that he had seen the Titanic's distress flares but had sailed away because it was illegally hunting seals.

The Mount Temple, the Samson, the unknown schooner, the Virginian, the Dorothy Baird the Cunard owned Carpathia, (which was first on the scene to pick up survivors), and the California, were all within a distance in which the Titanic's flares should have been visible, but for some reason swore that they hadn't seen them. The unknown vessel was spotted by Alfred

Fernand Omont, a cotton agent from Havre, who was amongst survivors in a lifeboat who saw a distant light some ten miles away seemingly travelling towards them. In his testimony given to British vice consul James Walsh, Omont stated that while the boat full of survivors cheered and waved at the distant ship it just sailed away and left them. He also told of how the seaman in charge who was never named, spoke about knowing about the iceberg that eventually sank the Titanic when it was 1760 yards away. If this seaman was telling the truth the question has to be asked, how did he know? Frederick Fleet who had first spotted the iceberg from the crow's nest didn't see it till the last minute. Although Captain Stanley Lord of the California didn't see the flares, several of his crew and passengers certainly did. After one of the lookouts spotted the Titanic's mast lights at twenty miles distant, the ship lookouts were doubled. Although the flares should have lit up the clear sky not one of the lookouts saw anything except a young cadet who came forward and swore that he saw another ship heading east and then several distant flares. Was this the same ship that Omont and the boat full of survivors had watched sail away over the horizon? Once again we have another mystery vessel silently making its way through the dangerous icebergs, the identity of which has never been discovered. Officer Stone also came forward to describe how he had watched a stationary ship suddenly vanish into the darkness.

The identity of these two, possibly three, ships hiding amongst the icebergs has never been solved. With the Titanic's distress flares and radio messages asking for help these unknowns should have turned and offered help to survivors, yet it appears that they simply turned and sailed away. Why? Could they have known, indeed expected the disaster? People at the time certainly did. Up to twenty individuals had premonitions of the Titanic's dreadful conclusion to its maiden voyage, one of which actually refused to board the ship at Southampton. Two clairvoyants also gave warnings that went unheeded. Twenty years earlier two stories were written one of which described the death of the Titanic

perfectly. "Futility", written by Morgan Robertson in 1898, told the dramatic story of the British ship, The Titan, which sped headlong into an iceberg and sank with great loss of life. Even the equipment he described on the Titan matched that of the Titanic. In his later years Morgan Robertson told of how a spirit guide used to help him write his stories. Another of his stories told of how the United States and Japan fought a terrible war, one battle of which involved a sneak attack by the Japanese on the American fleet. It bore more than a passing resemblance to Pearl Harbour.

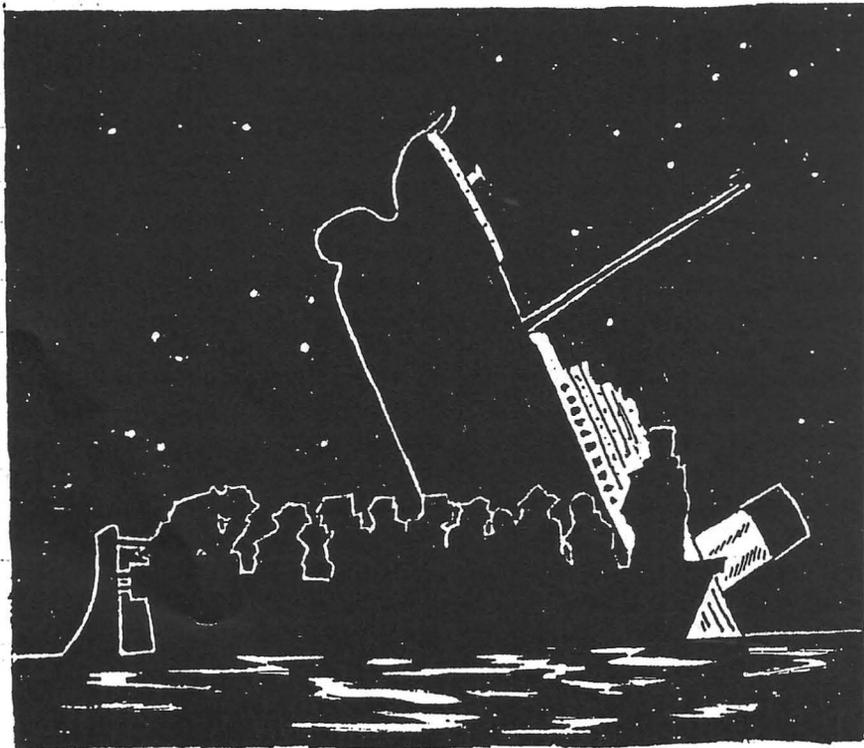
At 2.00am on August 22nd, 1985, Dr Robert Ballard and his partner Jean-Louis Michel finally discovered the last resting place of the Titanic after a long search. The Knorr had dragged a sonar and video device known as the Argo along the Atlantic floor for months without result, when a large circular object suddenly hove into view. The ship erupted with whoops of delight as one of the crew manning the monitors realised that the object was one of the Titanic's massive boilers. The loud cheers quickly diminished as the entire crew remembered what had happened 76 years earlier. It was in quiet reflection that the crew gathered on the Knorrs quarter deck to remember those who had perished at that very spot.

In the nineties a new conspiracy theory has emerged which may explain the mysterious vessels seen by passengers and crew on ships nearby and their apparent reluctance to get involved. The theory goes that the Titanic was fatally holed while in dock in Southampton by an unknown vessel, some say the New York. There was simply too much money involved for the Titanic's maiden voyage to be cancelled at such a late hour so her sister ship, the Olympic, was structurally altered and renamed and sent to sea in her place. The deception would have been quite easy to carry off as most of the surviving postcards purporting to show the Titanic's interior and exterior are actually photographs of the Olympic. This would explain why Titanic's entire crew had been demoted one place to make way for the first officer of the Olympic, Henry Tingle Wilde, who joined the ship at short notice while it was moored at Southampton.

It would have been sensible to have someone on hand who knew the ship inside and out. This caused resentment amongst the other officers including Pitman, Boxhall, Lowe and Moody whose problems were further confounded by the fact that they had never worked together before. Because the owners couldn't hope to get away with such deception for long they planned to sink the Olympic/Titanic in mid Atlantic where the truth would never be known. A fire in the coal bunker would, it is theorised, have caused a massive explosion deep below decks where it wouldn't have hurt anyone. This fire should have been discovered and dealt with by Captain Maurice Harvey Clarke who inspected the ship thoroughly while berthed in Southampton and even had two of the crew lower and raise two of the Titanic's lifeboats twice, yet no mention of the fire was reported.

To ensure that none of the passengers were harmed, the Carpathia and several other unknown vessels were waiting out in the Atlantic to evacuate the Titanic before it ever slipped beneath the waves. To ensure that none of the crew spotted these unknown ships shadowing the Titanic, all the ship's binoculars mysteriously vanished! But, as we know, an iceberg spoiled the best laid plans. Insane story? Underwater pictures of the Titanic laying on the seabed

two and a half miles down tend to add credence to the tale. The plate arrangements on the Titanic's hull do not match her plans, yet they do match the plans of the Olympic... There is also the fact that Titanic never had her hull primed in grey paint yet the ship laying on the Atlantic floor clearly shows, where the black paint is stripping away, grey paintwork. Taken with the stories told by Irishmen to this very day, whose fathers worked in the Harland & Wolff's ship yard that the two ship's identities were switched, the story tends to become slightly more believable. The truth behind the sinking of arguably the most lavish and extravagant ship that ever graced the sea, the loss of the Titanic, is one that could have been avoided. So many things remain unexplained about the ship's disastrous maiden voyage that conspiracy, hearsay and rumour were always going to adopt the story one day. What were the unknown vessels seen in the area and what were they doing? Why was the Carpathia seemingly at a dead stop waiting for the arrival of the Titanic? How could experienced seamen not notice the fire in one of her bunkers and how can the plates that line the supposedly Titanic's hull match exactly with the Olympics? Many questions...few answers...many needless deaths.



Festive Hauntings

By Colin Veacock.

Hauntings are like Liverpool busses. You wait for ages then three turn up at the same time...Over the Christmas and New Year period three cases of reputed hauntings made the national press that are, at first glance, classics but tend to descend into farce the closer one looks at them. First case up to the podium concerns the goings-on at Lower Cottage, Hollows Lane, Upper Mayfield in Derbyshire, owned by Andrew Smith, his wife Josie and their three children, Lindsey 12, Stephen 5, and Daniel age 1. They paid £44,000 for their dream home in 1993 without realising that in the next four years they would experience over 500 separate paranormal incidents. Local legends told of a milk maid named Ellen who was sexually abused and imprisoned in the cellars of Lowes Cottage as well as a young boy who is said to have hanged himself from the rafters in the attic.

It is not surprising then that not long after the Smiths moved in, strange happenings began which often sent the family running from their home. Smith saw a thick swirling mist develop in the dining room while Josie woke one night to find herself being slowly strangled in bed and had her face violently slammed into her pillow. Various human-shaped mists were also seen in and around their house. The episodes of weirdness culminated in the sighting of a full blown apparition of a young girl in the kitchen wearing a 19th century bodice and long embroidered skirt who vanished in the blinking of an eye. Not long afterwards the immersion heater exploded and the pet budgie died. Both of these incidents were, naturally, put down to the unquiet spirits. Josie's claims went from the sublime to the ridiculous when she described how the ghost sometimes tickled her feet and the top of her head and occasionally would lift her night-dress and attempt to sexually assault her.

This was to be the last straw. The Reverend Peter Mockford of Blurton, Stoke-on-Trent was brought in to clear the house in October 1995 and although he tried to exorcise the house five times he failed miserably. He left saying that he had never felt such evil. Another vicar who visited Lowes Cottage described the place as the biggest spiritual challenge he had ever faced. He told the family to leave the cottage during Halloween because that was when the evil powers built up to their maximum. Even neighbours told the Smiths that previous occupants had had similar experiences, something which was hotly disputed during the following months when the case was dragged kicking and screaming into the courts.

It wasn't long before the usual assortment of ghostbusters turned up on the doorstep offering their help. Tony Dawson and Clive Topcliffe spent the night in the cottage and heard a loud bang and a door latch lift and fall back into place, something which was audible on their video recordings. They also claim to have filmed a burning candle moving on the staircase but past experience has taught me to take such claims with more than a pinch of salt. The Daily Star, not known for its in-depth reporting, sent Martin Stote along to investigate and sure enough he left satisfied that he had seen the paranormal at work. It would have been a short report if he hadn't, wouldn't it? Stote's personal experience comprised of a click which attracted his attention towards a door which he observed to open several inches before slamming violently shut. Quite a spectacular episode, or is it? The Daily Star reporter failed to reveal that at the time of the incident, the cottage was crawling with reporters and researchers from several television stations on the look out for a good story. Not to be outdone by its competitor, The Daily Mirror sent along Bill Daniels who had an experience which he was later able to explain. He awoke to

find a green flickering light hovering over him which he traced back to a faulty green timing light on the stove.

It was definitely not the faulty stove light which caused William Sawter's experience. He claimed that the ghost actually passed straight through him...Understandably the Smiths' health suffered and they both gave up work due to the stress of the situation. A touch of the Stan Collymores I think! With their health declining, who did the family turn to for help? Their doctor? A family health practitioner? Relatives? A councillor? Well no, amazingly Andrew Smith immediately contacted a surveyor. Yes, a surveyor for help who told him that the haunting activity in their home would knock £20,000 off the value of the property. An amazing claim for any professional surveyor to make when one considers that there isn't a comparable case to draw on. This caused the Smiths to renege on their last £3,000 payment, resulting in them being sued for the outstanding debt by the previous owner, Susan Melbourne and her sister Sandra Podmore. If the Smiths won this case it would have been the first time since the Middle Ages that the supernatural had been officially recognised by the courts.

Their solicitor, Steven Savage, was quietly confident and compared their case to being not unlike disclosing that the roof leaked or the drains were faulty. The sister's barrister, Thomas Dillon, was not slow in pointing out the fact that Josie Smith was on anti-depressants. He also pointed out how certain aspects of their story seemed to have come straight out of the pages of the novel, *The Amityville Horror*. How did the Smiths respond?" They stated that the happenings in their home were nothing like that described in *The Amityville Horror* but more like those featured in the film, *The Haunting*. They told this to the packed courtroom thus establishing the fact that they had more than a little knowledge of hauntings and the occurrences which supposedly took place in such buildings. Oh dear...The occupants prior to the sisters described to the court how they had lived in Lowes Cottage for twenty years without anything remotely unexplained taking

place, and a Mrs Podmore from nearby Waterhouse had lived there till she was twenty five without incident. The Smiths, now behind on points and obviously punch drunk and not thinking straight, now changed tact and pointed out that Bonnie Prince Charlie's men had been executed at nearby Gallowtree Lane in 1745. So what? In an act of desperation, Josie described how the ghost occasionally raped her. Yes you guessed it, The Entity. If the death march wasn't already echoing around the courtroom heralding the passing of the Smiths' case, information concerning the family's fiscal management certainly extinguished any glimmering hopes of success. The couple had a habit of running away from their financial responsibilities, it was claimed, and had five previous county court judgements against them. Andrew had also been declared bankrupt after a business venture failed miserably. Smiths O, Sisters 2.

A friend of the Smiths, seeing their dismay, came running to their defence giving credence to that well-known saying, "with friends like these who needs enemies?" The friend told the court how he had advised the family to place a wooden crucifix in a bowl of salted water in the bedroom and say a prayer. It would be simpler in my humble opinion to have screamed, "Shoo, go away you nasty spook!". The Smiths' case had now been severely damaged. In fact, it had been hung, drawn and quartered, drowned in a vat of sulphuric acid, fed a meal of English beef before being publicly flogged in the street and buried in a secret grave somewhere in the Formby sand dunes. Judge, Peter Stretton QC dismissed the couple's claims describing Josie as having hysterical reactions and accusing her husband of being plainly untruthful. Perhaps the knock out punch had been the fact that Andrew Smith had tried to sell tickets at £5.00 a go to attend a Halloween party at Lowes Cottage. Strange behaviour for a man living on his nerves. The Lowes Cottage farce proves one thing and one thing only. The paranormal is an easy scapegoat when ordinary everyday life becomes too hard or complicated.

January 31st 1999, another case concerning a family of five who fled their home in West Leigh, Hants, to escape the unwanted attentions of a ghost was reported in the News Of The World. This time the case was a lot more credible than that of Lowes Cottage. Warner and her four children had been terrified when the bad tempered ghost of a farmer from the eighteenth century glided around the house at night stopping clocks, moving her children's toys and generally making a nuisance of itself. The Provost of Portsmouth, the Very Reverend Arthur Dean had been called in to help the family but failed even though he was thought to be a specialist at putting spirits to rest. Later research proved conclusively that a farmer had indeed hanged himself in her home's attic.

The most ridiculous and misreported case has to go to the security camera film of the ghost of Belgrave hall, taken at 4.48am on the morning of the 23rd December 1998. Built in 1709, Belgrave Hall, built by the Craddock family, is a fifteen roomed red brick mansion situated on the outskirts of Leicester. The hall is now a public museum which has 25,000 visitors every year. The head curator, Stuart Warburton, told of how staff had heard footsteps in the hall many times and cooking smells had been experienced. Some of the staff even claimed to have seen an apparition of a Victorian woman, thought to be Charlotte Ellis, in a terracotta dress and black shoes. Charlotte had been dependant on the the suffragettes who supported her when she had been threatened with prison for objecting to inoculations which killed as many people as they saved.

Having viewed the security film many times it becomes plainly obvious that the image caught on film is nothing more than an erroneous light flare caused by light reflected into the security camera's lens off sleet passing close to the lens. The image only appears for the duration that it takes an over exposed piece of sleet to pass by the camera. When it passes by, the image vanishes. Another fine Colin, Colin Green, a TV expert, says that the image could have occurred when light was shone into the

lens from another angle such as a car headlight....or perhaps sleet? Promising cases, but not a one which would get me overly excited. Perhaps I'm too cynical, but I wonder if the reason that we no longer hear of Borley Rectory or Langenhoe church type hauntings is because we, in the latter years of the century, are no longer blinkered and governed by Victorian ideals and values. The reason there are no more classic haunts is because they weren't there in the first place. Borley and other cases like it, were play things, steps on the ladder to fame and fortune for self publicists and egotistical sycophants to play out their fantasies. These amazingly exaggerated and misreported cases are just as responsible as the fraudulent spiritual mediums for the bad press that hauntings get, because it is the exaggerated cases which all other hauntings are likened to. Perhaps I am too critical, but I'm honest and until a case comes to light which stands up to a sustained scientific investigation and survives public scrutiny, the classic archetypal haunted house is always going to remain an enigma while lesser cases will be exploited by the devious and cunning, and consequently, just out of reach of my camera's lens.



Haunted Roads on the Isle of Man: Route 666

By John Hall

Introduction / Overview

This survey of haunted stretches of Manx roads is a collection of folklore related tales from several publications on various dates. The introduction is published in this edition of *The Researcher* and subsequent parts will be published in future editions. The author's own source material comes from early anecdotal tales and on occasion from actual witnesses testimonies which state that the strange events actually happened as described in this and future articles.

Aims and objectives

My own interest is in visiting the actual locations as described in the stories to photograph and document the sites while on periodic visits to the Isle of Man (IoM). Where possible, I provide ordnance survey grid references on current maps where the names of sites have changed with time or disappeared all together. I have discussed local myth and legend with the local residents to ascertain if anomalous activity still occurs and these recent discussions are added to the older tales.

Reference material

Books and maps in the Manx museum reference library are a valuable source of information and I have used these extensively to pre-research areas of interest (AOI) before making on-site visits. The library gives an overview of how the AOI used to be which is compared with its present condition during the on-site visit.

Archetypes

Almost all of the hauntings involve some agency which is responsible for haunting a specific location, or clusters of hauntings which may be due to a single entity, or multiple entities, or a single entity masquerading as several entities acting out assumed roles. Some examples of the archetypes are giants, witches, phantoms bugganes, black dogs, water monsters and faires. They haunt traditional sites such as bridges, trees, wells, buildings, roads, pools, rivers, churches, ancient sites, tumuli and

standing stones. There are many examples where the activities of traditional entities can be compared with more modern, strange events such as UFOs and alien intrusion.



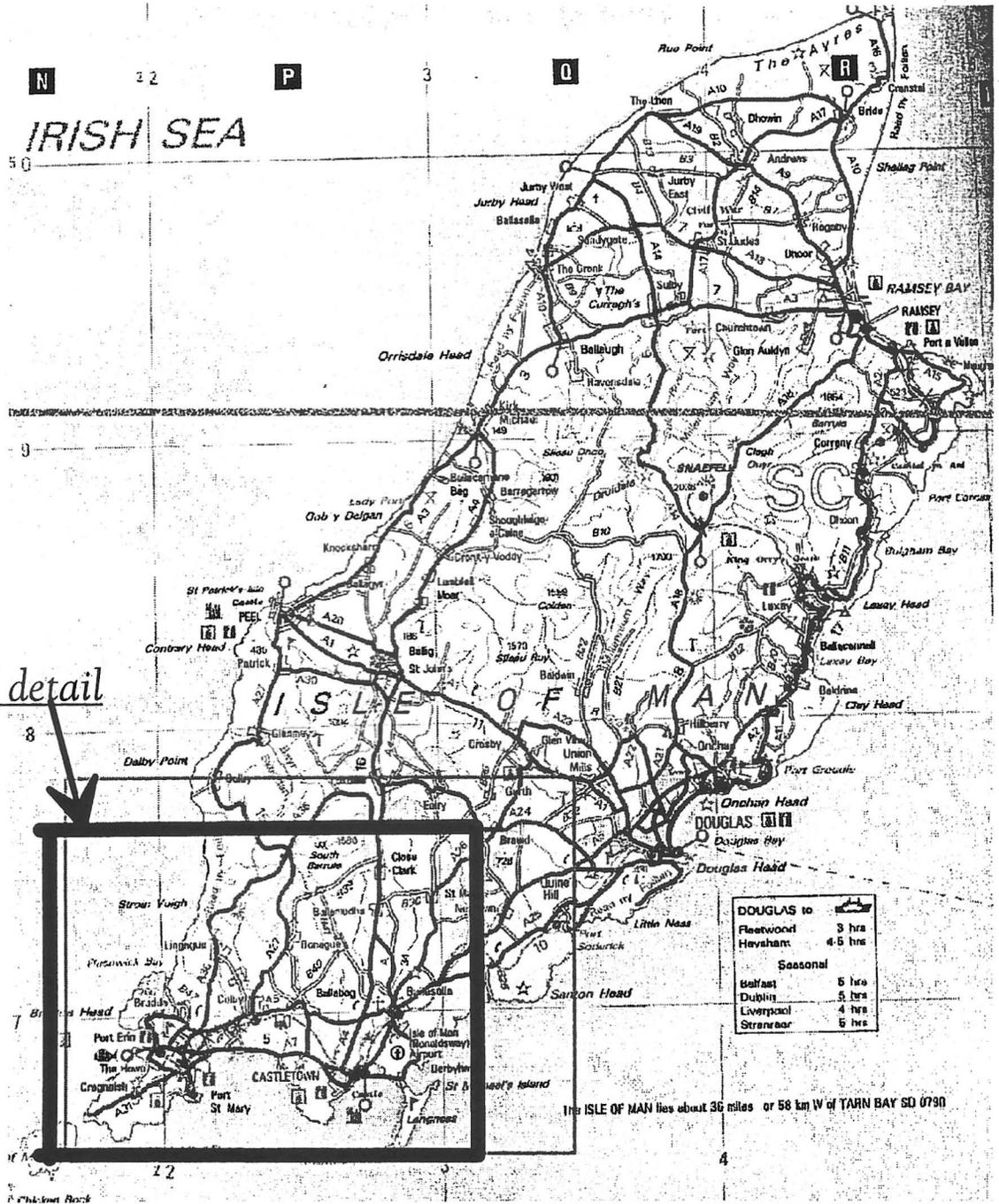
'HAUNTED ROADS'
- BLACK DOGS -
- AS BIG AS A CALF -
- BARENEST MUDDEYDOO, SHUCK, PADFOOT, -
- SHAIKHA, SNARLEYOW, CALEY TROT,

Deception

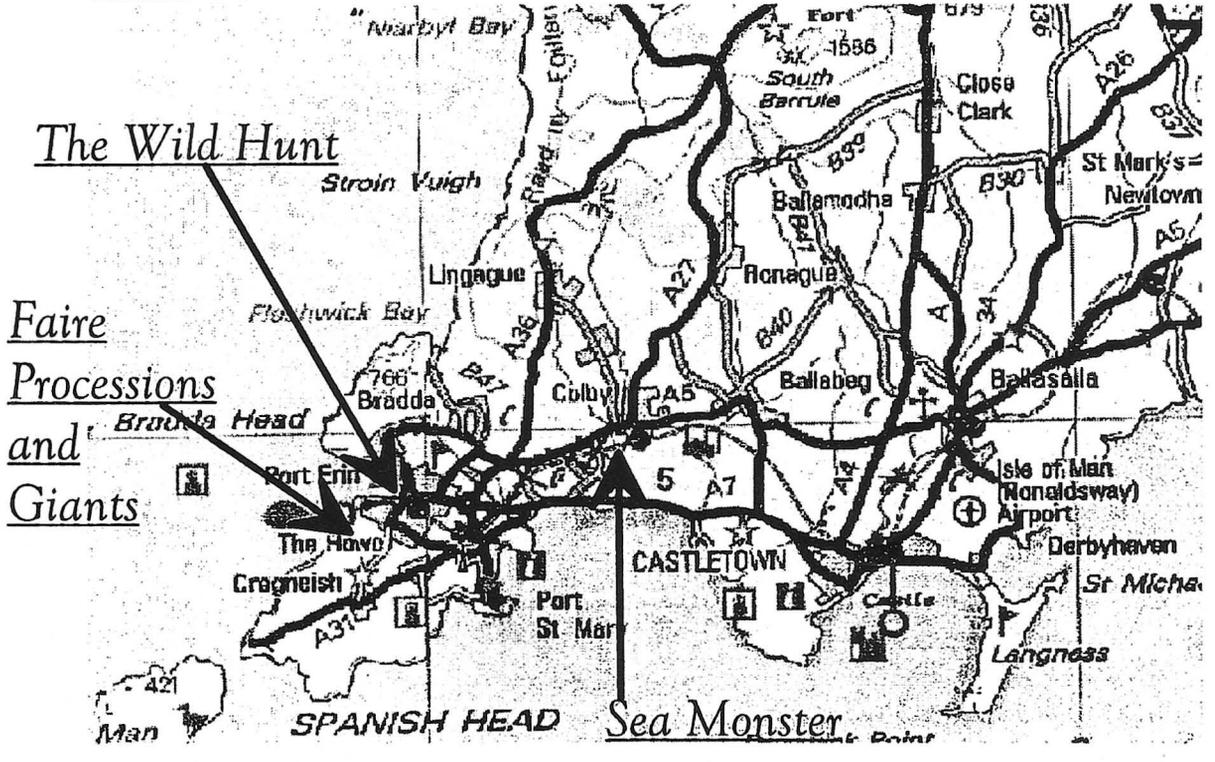
Many a ghost story has been invented or exaggerated in an attempt to cover far more nefarious, nocturnal activities such as smuggling. In these cases the aim of the story was to frighten away the curious and hence keep secret the unlawful activity. The recent rise of the Chupacabras – goatsucker in Puerto Rico may be a similar deception. Parallels with the Chupacabras and UFO myths coincide but that is yet another bag of tricks!

Fireside stories

It is relevant to remember the times from which the stories originate and when they would be told. They would make good fireside stories in remote locations and would be known only to the locals who gave them a hidden knowledge unknown to outsiders.



Area of detail



This knowledge commanded a degree of respect especially as the march of Christianity was in the process of driving out the old pagan ways and turning the old myths into the new devils. However, in keeping with the haunted roads stories, we'll assume that the anecdotal tales' origins are indeed truthful experiences of genuine witnesses. The local people believe that areas where strange happenings occur are the locations of ancient sites which should be avoided at certain times of the day or night or certain times of the year. Some of these tales may be explainable in scientific terms today while others are not.

On the IoM, the days of the movements of the little folk, or 'good folk' as they were euphemistically termed, were to be avoided. Some examples of these days are May Eve and the Celtic quarter days. They were appeased with votive offerings, witchcraft spells and by the church in later times. The ancient sites were to be avoided at night time to avoid being 'faire led' into a lost maze which has parallels with the concept of missing time in modern ufology. The mythical remedy for being faire led was to turn your coat inside out as this would reverse your luck and hence break the spell.

At this point we'll move onto some of the selected sites which I've surveyed and photographed in some detail. I have walked the haunted road to get the feeling of the area in the hope of picking up on any strange phenomena and captured the area on film and in some cases audio tape. This has been done with my co-partner Elaine Hannah to get a second perspective on any anomalous phenomena detected at the time of the survey.

Meayll Circle

Numerous phenomena have been reported in this area. Sounds of rushing, galloping horses (unseen), apparitions of a mounted phantom army seen on the hill plus other strange apparitions and manifestations. Near a well, nocturnal lights have been seen from a distance moving to and fro and have been explained by some as marsh gas in the boggy area. The well is called 'The Well of the Horses' and is near the Neolithic village below the Meayll circle. One witness, while walking on the Meayll Hill one starlit night, is said to have been shown 'an exhibition of all things'

until dawn. In 1896, he found himself 300 yards from the Well of the Horses, totally disorientated. There are no details of what he saw etc, as no investigators at the time bothered to find out. No doubt, he was made fun of and probably played the experience down to avoid ridicule. This sounds like a typical UFO / alien missing time experience and in another time and place, he may have become another Adamski abductee!

On another occasion, witnesses were startled by a noise at their heels, described as a cart load of stones being suddenly tipped up or like a gun. This happened several times on their way home from Port Erin but some have discussed the possibility of explosions in quarries as an explanation. However, there is some similarity to these sounds and those described by researchers investigating poltergeist activity.

Phantom funerals, phantom fires, & faire processions

Spectral processions were often seen coming down the main road from the Howe to Kirk Christ Rushen Church and phantom fires have been observed on mountains and hills during the hours of darkness, yet no fire burn marks were found on the ground when these places were investigated the next day. St. Elmo's fire and mountain discharges have been put forward as possible causes of these phenomena. Faire processions have often been seen winding their way to the top of the hill.

The wild hunt

The faire hunt or wild hunt is an audible phenomenon which sounds like the cracking of whips, thundering noises or barking dogs. A whole unseen host has been heard late at night at Port Erin coming from the former Belle Vue Hotel direction. It appears that the direction of the noise was from Port St. Mary at the Narrow. The IoM has a rich nordic history and this phenomenon dates back to those times when it was known as the Crash of the Norsemen. This is a typical audible imagery of the period with a acknowledgement to the Norse gods of Valhalla, Odin and the Wildhost.



Meayll Circle on Mull Hill

Faire processions & armies

Seen at midnight on the road from the Howe to the chasms. This phenomenon is described as one or two thousand little girls with no lights in their hands? Does this mean that the lights were not the usual sort of lights, I wonder? A faire army was seen coming from the Howe one night, all wearing red caps and coats. The witness is said to have waited a very long time for them to pass and this may be another example of missing time.

Faire giants or UFOs?

Some men coming along the Howe met three faires described as "three big men walking side by side as wide as a wheel? with terrible caps". "They could not hear their feet and the caps were after them". "The central faire was larger than the other two and as they walked straight through them they felt as if they were lifted up and also felt terribly curious". This was taken from the original text which dates back to around the 1600's. There are UFO overtones in this story as many UFO witnesses describe close encounter experiences with missing time, levitation and seeing what might be described as terrible caps, e.g. flying saucers. It is possible that they witnessed the fiery wheel of Mannan (see glossary). No exact date is given in this orally related account but this is obviously an enhanced fireside tale, the enhancement being known locally as the 'shaggy dog factor'.

The Chasms

A sightseer at the chasms witnessed a figure approaching him in strange clothing with a dagger raised to attack. The witness fainted and when he awoke, the figure had vanished. The Chasms are near the Meayll Circle and the recreated folk village of Creg Neish.

Sea Monsters

At a site known as Black-Head, fishermen used to make appeasements to a sea beast which lived in the cave under Black-Head. I have no doubt that this tale had connections with the smuggling trade. The sea monster was described as a shore hunting buggane which had a head similar in appearance to a horse with eyes like pewter plates. The placation of the sea monster by the fishermen was achieved by throwing rum from the cliff tops while the words "take that evil spirit" (gow-shen-y-veist) were shouted. This was

done as the fishermen passed the headland Kione-Dhoo (Black Head) on the way to their fishing grounds. The cave itself is known as Ghaw-Kione-Dhoo (Black Head inlet). The buggane was often heard roaring in its cave and sounded like a fog horn, but it is possible that this type of sound can be made by the action of wind and water rushing into and becoming trapped in the cave. The cave itself is covered in white pebbles and the alternative description of the shape of the layout of the pebbles is of a murdered person's ghost in frightening form.

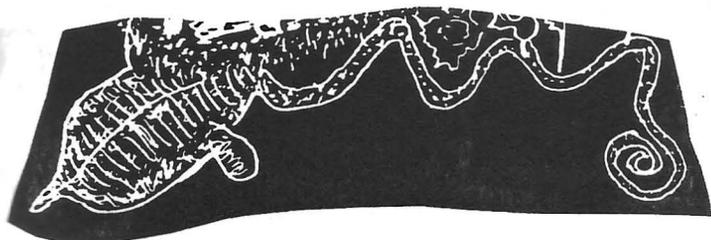
One story gives an account of an incident a mile or so north of Black Head. A giant black shape was seen moving upriver and ashore to Colby, possibly witnessed by a local returning home to Bullfession. The sea monster crossed the main coast road at Strand Hill and was described as a big black thing which came out of the sea and crossed the road just in front of him! After this sighting, the witness was pursued by poltergeist activity on the way home with field gates violently rattling and crashes of noise above his head.

The Howe

At the top of the Howe, Meayll Hill is covered in wartime observation structures. Just above the village of Creg Neish, there is a shipping directional radio mast with a resemblance of an upturned UFO! There are many farms and converted farms for the well to do in the area above Port Erin and the scenery from here is quite stunning leaving me with impressions of extreme possibilities! The sighting of the mound in this area was no accident. The ancient peoples must have been in direct communication with their gods! There have been no sightings there recently though as far as I can ascertain.

Mermaids

Mermaids have been observed at Casstruan near Black Head but it is possible that grey seals were mistaken for them. There is a grey seal population around the IoM at the present time.





The window area

The energy phenomena described as the agency for a possible explanation of paranormal activity has been linked to geomagnetic disturbances and fault zones by M. Persinger and Ghislaine Lanfenieres studies. They correlated numerous anomaly reports which fit the 'window area' concept including electromagnetic components which

create luminosity, noises heard and odd sensations of those in and around the electromagnetic field. They also postulated that this was a transient phenomena which wandered around the countryside from its actualisation before dispersing! Paul Devereau's book 'Earth Lights' is based on research of faulted sites, ancient sites and UFO reports and echoes the above studies. The Dragon Project went on to discover curious anomalies due to electromagnetic effects visible on infra-red film but not visible to the naked eye at megalithic sites in window areas.

As in the Mull Hill Meayll Cricle area, the lights visible may be due to the above and cultural beliefs. The Piezoelectric effect is a phenomenon which occurs in quartz and generates a voltage when the quartz is stressed or compressed. This is thought to induce electrical activity in the atmosphere when quartz-bearing rock in the ground becomes stressed due to earth movements. Ionisation effects may be misinterpreted as a UFO or ghost above a fault zone. The Meayll circle stands on a vein of quartz and a fault line. There is also quartz within its stones. A mound once covered the circle as a burial tumuli and probably had other uses! In addition, an unseen volcano lies just off the coast to the south and is known as Hy Brasil, the ancient mythical submergence legends of disappearing islands in a Celtic, Atlantis-like other world.

Glossary of terms

The phantom black dog (Mohdoey Dhoo)

This is a legendary monstrous animal form which stalks lonely roads and boundaries. The usual description is of a huge dog with coal red eyes. It is thought to be the harbinger of doom /death and has been associated with electrical storms, UFOs, light shapes known as black shuck, trash, padfoot and, elsewhere in Britain, barguest.

The Buggane

Described as a spectre that walks at night and possesses shape shifting abilities allowing it to take on several disguises. It may have been confused with other entities!



The mysterious ball of light / fiery wheel of Mannan

The ball of light (BOL) associated with earthlights, ball lightning, plasma discharge storms, modern UFOs, will o' wisp, corpse candle, also revered as "the old gods" and "Dragons in luminous form".

Poltergeist

A noisy ghost, which can start out with small events but in time, build to a crescendo: Known to cause audio and visual events, teleportation of articles, movement of objects through the air and ground, water and fire production and may speak. It is often connected with young children or teenagers and has been reproduced under laboratory conditions. Both Russia and the USA have tested psychokineses (the ability to move inanimate objects using only the power of the mind) for development as a weapon for the intelligence community.

Faire folk

Seen at ancient sites and tumuli as lightforms. World wide reports of the little folk have described them as the fallen angels or spirits of the dead or as child sized people with numerous other variations including ghost like and poltergeist types. Christian worship is thought by some to have reduced their stature and the belief in them.

Water horse

An abductor of humans, especially women. It has much in common with the lake monster or sea beast and has been seen in wells, lakes, rivers, and bog holes. It is thought to lure humans and animals into danger and has connections with ancient religions.

Giants

Giants are associated with mountains and stone throwing and are usually a pointer to the old gods of the countryside, carved churches, statues, hill figures. Two examples of these hill figures are Cerne Abbas in Dorset and the Long Man of Wilmington in Oxfordshire..

UFOs, aliens and abductions

The modern myths of aliens and lights in the sky have associations with fairy lights and mythical creatures as described by the research of Jaques Valles.



The wild hunt or faire rade

To the sound of thunder, horses and dogs have been seen and heard on stormy nights. Associated with the old gods, they are thought to collect the soul of any lonely traveller that they came across.

Phantom funeral procession

Described as lights and associated with the grim reaper. It has been seen on church routes, hills and mountains, often on its way to the house of someone due to pass over.

Many aspects of the haunted road are depicted in this diagram. It shows the legendary dangers faced by the lone traveller in the Isle of Man.



- EXPECT THE UNEXPECTED! -



Now You See It, Now You Don't

By Omar Fowler

There is an increasing awareness among UFO investigators, that all is not what it may seem. I am referring to our limited visual perception in our three dimensional world.

Are we capable of seeing what is there in front of us? Our eyes have a very limited range of vision, their visible light range is only a fraction of the wide band known as the Electromagnetic Spectrum. Subsequently, our brains can only sift through the wide range of signals being presented before us, but are we missing something?

One of the questions most frequently asked by UFO witnesses is "surely someone else must have seen it?" The lack of other witnesses is often puzzling. Does this mean that the UFO witness has a more sensitive visual range than just seeing the basic spectrum of red and orange, through yellow green and indigo to violet?

We are being increasingly presented with cases where someone would see a UFO very clearly and others would not see it, others would see colours and some would not. It is becoming clear that not everyone perceives reality in the same way and in order to confirm our own 'reality', it has to be confirmed by others. Dr. John E. Mack has referred to this phenomenon as "differential perception". It is a phenomenon that is becoming more prominent in the minds of the UFO researcher.

Gordon Creighton, the editor of Flying Saucer Review, related the story he had received from a woman who witnessed such an event. She was a passenger on a ferry sailing from the Islands of Scilly to the mainland during the summer a few years ago. The ship was crowded and together with many passengers she was leaning on the handrail that runs along the side of the ship. They were some distance out at sea, when a disc shaped UFO craft emerged out

of the water a short distance away and shot skywards. The woman was amazed by what she had seen and turned to speak to her fellow passengers. She was astonished to see people casually looking out to sea or chatting between themselves. Obviously they were completely oblivious to what had taken place!

Another strange event came to light when I recently interviewed a Mrs W. at Ilkeston Derbyshire. She related another such incident:

Mrs W. I was going out to peg the washing out, it was about October 1989 and I saw this thing, it was a dull, dull colour, not a shiny colour, it was like lead in a pencil, it was that colour. It started to come over, we'd got an alleyway down the back of our house and this lady was talking to me in casual conversation. Then this thing came over our garden, I was watching this round ball and talking to this lady and I thought, well she's not looking at it, so she can't see it. I would have said can you see that? But I thought it's obvious she can't see it.

O.F. She was looking in the same direction as you?

Mrs W. Yes, she was talking to me all the time, while I was looking at this ball.

O.F. There were no windows, just a ball?

Mrs W. Yes just a dull metallic ball. It was about the size of a car where you could sit two people in. Not very big but it was very low.

Mrs W. There were other people coming down and I thought it's there but I didn't say anything. I thought if they could see it, they would have said something by now. Then it started to climb and go up. When it got up higher, it expanded into a brilliant white light and then just shot off.

A few days later, when my eldest boy Lee was at Ilkeston School, I thought I've got a feeling that strange ball is here again. I went outside looking but couldn't see a thing. Then ten minutes later, my son Lee ran up to the house and was banging on the ground floor window

and he said "Mum, you don't know what I have just seen?" I said, "I know what you have seen, you've seen a round ball haven't you?" He said "it was on top of your roof, it had prongs coming out of it and they were rotating." I didn't see it that time, but I'd got a feeling it was there, but I don't know why.

There are further examples of "differential perception" and one of the latest concerns a "Flying Triangle" sighting. A woman witness Mrs SJ of Towcester, Northants, related this:

Mrs SJ It was Christmas Eve 1998 and the time was 10.50 p.m. and I was sitting in the lounge. I don't know what made me go towards the window, but I did and as I looked up, I saw this huge dark triangle object come over. It was travelling East to West and it made a slight droning noise. It-like glided and all I saw were huge red lights, but they were at the bottom of the triangle. It was so low, that if it had been a stealth bomber, it would have taken the roof of, it was that low! My husband was with me and I said to him "can you see that?" He replied "no I can't see anything." We rushed upstairs, because we knew that if it had gone over the house, it would have gone over to the other side, but there was nothing and he said, "best say nothing." It was huge and had a funny drone to it, what it was I don't know, but my husband didn't see it!

Why can some people see UFO craft and others cannot? The sensory information coming through our eyes is so incomplete and is only a small part of what may exist.

Are we entering the realms of the psychic field? There are many reports of people having out of body experiences associated with UFO craft. One such person, 'Paul' told me "The information I can gather is that the 'Triangles' are from the future and coming back. I saw a photo in a magazine somewhere of a control panel in a Grey's ship and I knew immediately! You put your hands on the panel that's how you fly it.....it's terrifying!"

These witness experiences are only a few of the many that have been related to me. The question that is now in everyone's mind is are the UFO craft travelling in another dimension?

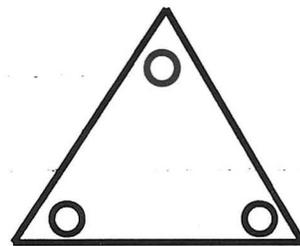
The aliens have told us that 'time' is a human concept and of our own making. Could they be time travellers, coming from another dimension already here on earth and visible to the gifted few?

We only believe what we see and to some extent we see what we believe.

Omar Fowler is the founder of the Phenomenon Research Association (PRA) based in Derby and a co-founder of Project FT which is the European database of all flying triangles

Can you help us with our research?

M.A.R.A. has collaborated with a number of groups with regards to reports of sightings of flying triangles over Merseyside. We already possess a number of local cases and would like more witnesses to these objects to come forward.



If you have had sightings of these triangular craft then please do contact us. See details on page 3.

Your letters

Starting with this issue, I hope to encourage some debate about The Researcher, MARA and the subject of the paranormal in general via letters which will be published on this page.

All of your letters should be sent to:

*Bill Bimson,
73 Eaton Gardens,
West Derby,
Liverpool L12 3HN
England.*

Remember that MARA is non-political and does not have any fixed beliefs, which means we will tolerate anyone's belief even if we don't agree with it. What we will not tolerate is public slander. So if you disagree with someone and decide to call them idiotic or pathetic, your letter will not be published here. There is enough slander on the internet discussion groups. By all

means point out the error of someone's ways because the person being criticised and the rest of us may learn something from that, but please refrain from making it personal.

The subject of your letters may be anything from comments about articles published in The Researcher or other publications to a general view on some aspect of the paranormal. to some aspect of MARA's future.

Don't be shy, drop me a line.

I am only publishing one letter in this issue. It is the one which I mentioned in The Voice from Omar Fowler. Its nice to start a discussion page with a compliment, especially from someone of Omar's standing.

Cheers Omar.

OMAR FOWLER
PHENOMENON RESEARCH ASSOCIATION
DIRECTOR: FLYING SAUCER REVIEW
CONSULTANT: 'MU' MAGAZINE (JAPAN)

Derby

Tel/Fax : 01332-761464

E-Mail: Bontor@aol.com

30 March 1999

W.E.Bimson, M.A.R.A. 73 Eaton Gardens, West Derby, Liverpool, L12 3HN

Dear Bill,

Thank you for sending me your magazine and the letter inviting me to submit an article.

I must say that I consider 'The Researcher' a magazine of the highest literary quality and I thoroughly enjoyed reading it, particularly the article by Larry Warren. The lack of colour pictures does not devalue the excellent content.

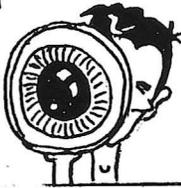
By coincidence I have just completed a short article on the question of UFO's moving in and out of our own 'reality'. It is a subject that I have been wondering about for years. I believe that Jenny Randles also came across this mystery and referred to it as the 'Oz Factor'.

Please feel free to use the article if you wish and thank you again for your excellent magazine.

Best wishes



PSI-MAN SAY'S



TODAY, PSI-MAN INVESTIGATES WHETHER ALIENS ARE AMONGST US

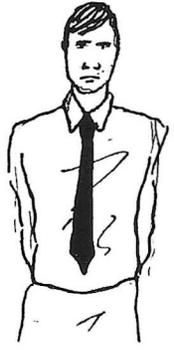
"MEET MRS PONSENBY WHO CLAIMS TO HAVE BEEN ABDUCTED BY BEINGS FROM THE PLANET THARGO!"



"THAT'S RIGHT YOUNG MAN. HORRIBLE, HE WAS. GREEN, WITH BIG BOG EYES, SCALY SKIN, AND A LOVELY TIGHT LITTLE BUM."

"TAKE A CLOSE LOOK AT OUR LINE UP AND SEE IF YOU CAN SPOT THE ALIEN."

"LOVELY YOUNG MEN."



"WELL MRS PONSENBY, DID YOU SPOT THE ALIEN?"

"NO SONNY. THEIR DISGUISE IS TOO GOOD, BUT THEY'RE HERE ALRIGHT. BELIEVE ME YOUNG MAN."



"SO, ARE ALIENS AMONGST US? YOU DECIDE"

"YOU'RE LUCKY WE COME IN PEACE"



Veacock



- HAUNTED ROADS -
THE PHANTOM DEATH COACH
.