

SOUTHAMPTON UFO GROUP

12 Years of Investigation

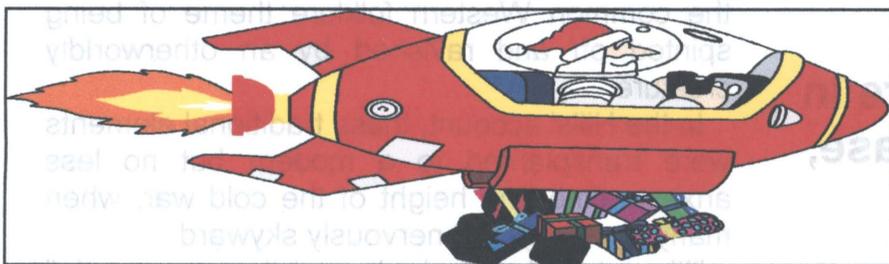
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E.MAIL ADDRESS : SOUTHAMPTON@SUFOG.FREESERVE.CO.UK

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Hi everyone... Happy Christmas and New Year from the editor... This edition is as ever, packed from page to page with UFO information, sightings, reports, articles, and much much more. I have had to add a few extra pages in this edition, to accommodate some late news and a press cutting. This edition has a little more colour to brighten your Christmas.

Next year, 2005 hopefully will be a better year for the group. From the review in the next edition, 2004 has not been a good year for the group. We are facing some major changes towards the end of 2005 and 2006 could see the group changing hopefully for the better, but more in the next

edition. Please remember, the newsletter is for group members, so please support it with your articles, sightings and any UFO information that you feel other group members may find of interest. We have struggled in 2004 to keep our membership (we now only have 28 members - in 2003 we had 70) and this will have a dramatic effect on the group in 2005/2006. So when you read the February edition, hopefully you will be able to help the group survive into 2006 or this may be our last Christmas.

SUFOG
25 WESTON GROVE RD
WOOLSTON
SOUTHAMPTON
HAMPSHIRE
SO19 9EE
Tel : 02380 448194
Mobile : 07714960127

The New York Times

Published: October 23, 2004



Betty and Barney Hill in September 1966. Their account of abduction by otherworldly aliens was seminal for many books and movies.

Betty Hill, 85, Figure in Alien Abduction Case, Dies

By MARGALIT FOX

Betty Hill, whose assertion that she was carried off by otherworldly beings in 1961 inspired a national obsession with alien abduction that remains a staple of American popular culture, died on Sunday at her home in Portsmouth, N.H. She was 85.

The cause was lung cancer, her niece Kathleen Marden said. Mrs. Hill was not the first person to tell of an alien encounter. But her account was the first to capture the public imagination on a grand scale, defining a narrative subgenre that has flourished in the decades since.

Mrs. Hill's account was the subject of a book by John G. Fuller, "The Interrupted Journey: Two Lost Hours 'Aboard a Flying Saucer'" (Dial, 1966). In 1975 it became a television movie, "The UFO Incident." The film starred Estelle Parsons as Mrs.

Hill and James Earl Jones as her husband, Barney, who also said he was abducted.

The incident, the Hills said, occurred on the night of Sept. 19, 1961. Driving in the White Mountains of New Hampshire, they saw a light that seemed to grow larger and larger. Back home, they found what appeared to be shiny spots on the car's exterior. They could not account for a two-hour segment of their trip.

The Hills later saw a psychiatrist, who put them under hypnosis. Gradually, a narrative of the couple's lost hours emerged. They recounted many times that a group of short grey-skinned beings stopped their car and took them aboard a waiting spaceship. There, the Hills said, they were subjected to rigorous medical examinations that included inserting a long needle into Mrs. Hill's navel.

The account fit squarely in the Western narrative tradition. With a dark night, ghostly apparitions and sexual undercurrent, it had many Victorian gothic hallmarks, and it shared the common Western folklore theme of being spirited off and ravished by an otherworldly creature.

In the Hills' account, these traditional elements were transplanted to a modern but no less anxious time, the height of the cold war, when many people gazed nervously skyward.

"It's not unlike the Leda and the swan myth," said Terry Matheson, a professor of English at the University of Saskatchewan and the author of "Alien Abductions: Creating a Modern Phenomenon" (Prometheus, 1998). "The alien comes in, probes women in a distinctly sexual way for purposes that are equally inscrutable, but which may, we're told, make sense down the road."

Mrs. Hill was born Eunice Elizabeth Barrett on June 28, 1919, in Newton, N.H. A graduate of the University of New Hampshire, she was a social worker for many years. Besides her niece, survivors include three sisters, two children and three grandchildren. Mr. Hill died in 1969.

The Hills' cultural legacy includes films ("Close Encounters of the Third Kind"), television programs ("Roswell") and books, like those by Whitley Strieber and John Mack, that treat alien abduction as a plausible phenomenon.

I'm After The Aliens That Beat Up Bob...**Gareth Edwards****(The Scotsman Newspaper)****9th September 2004.**

It was a terrifying close encounter which led to the only case in British history of an alien sighting being the subject of a criminal investigation.

Exactly 25 years later, the case is still open on forestry worker Bob Taylor's brush with mysterious alien spheres on Dechmont Law.

Now, on the anniversary of the event, UFO enthusiasts are set to descend on the site, to show that the truth really is out there.

They have arranged to visit the site today to meditate in silence at the exact time of Mr. Taylor's encounter.

The event has been organised by paranormal investigator Ron Halliday, chairman of Scottish Earth Mysteries Research, who believes the encounter to be one of the most significant events in the history of UFOlogy.

It is certainly one of the best- documented, and to this day defies rational explanation.

On November 9, 1979, at around 10.30 am, Mr Taylor, then a forestry worker employed by the Livingston Development Corporation, parked his truck at the bottom of Dechmont Law.

He walked up the lower slope of the hill with his dog, and as he emerged into a clearing saw a large, circular, sphere-like object about 20 feet across.

Mr Taylor said it appeared to be made from a dark metallic material with a rough texture like sandpaper.

As he approached the object, two spheres, each about three feet wide with protruding metal spikes like old naval mines, dropped from the object.

The two spheres rolled towards him and despite his dog barking furiously, attached themselves to his trousers. There was an acrid smell that caused him to choke and he felt a sensation of being grabbed by the side of the legs and tugged forward.

The next thing Mr Taylor remembered was waking up with his head pounding, a sore throat, and a bitter taste in his mouth. He later calculated that he had been

unconscious for at least 20 minutes. "I was completely devastated afterwards," he recalled. "I couldn't walk and the doctor came to look at me. We went back with the police and found all these marks where it had been."

The police found unusual indentations in the ground, ladder-shaped marks where the craft was said to have stood, and marks following the path of the mine-like objects.

They said they were "completely baffled" by the incident, which was treated as an assault.

Now 87, Mr Taylor moved away from the area after the event, but on the eve of the anniversary he revealed it was still in his thoughts.

"I stand by every word of my account of the incident," he said. "I told it as it happened and it's as clear as yesterday. It is the most amazing thing that ever happened to me. "I know what I saw and it looked like a spaceship, a huge flying dome. I'm not surprised there has been so much interest in it over the years as it was such an incredible thing to happen."

Mr Halliday believes going back to the site on the anniversary could yield some clues to the nature of the encounter, and has not ruled out the possibility of once again making contact. "We want to go back to the site to mark this anniversary and perhaps by being there we will be able to make contact again with whatever it was Bob Taylor saw," he said.

"It is possible that this was something from another dimension which for a short period of time appeared in our world. That fits with what Taylor saw, as he said the object appeared solid but at brief moments was shimmering and partially transparent.

"Even sceptics believe he is telling the truth about what he saw, and no explanation has been given to what it could have been."

Mr Taylor's encounter took place on the edge of the area known as the Falkirk triangle, one of the most "visited" UFO hotspots in the world. Around 300 UFOs are seen in Scotland each year, the highest concentration of UFO sightings on the planet.

Source: BBC News UK Edition
6th November 2004.

UFO Programme 'Panic' Gripped Ministry By Dominic Casciani BBC News Online at the Public Record Office

The truth may be out there but in 1972 the Ministry of Defence was agonising about a televised debate on UFOs, fearing it would encourage the British public to believe in little men from outer space.

Documents released at the Public Record Office reveal official anxiety as to what would happen if the Royal Air Force took part in a BBC programme about unidentified flying objects.

On one hand they feared they would fuel UFO hysteria - but on the other hand they feared conspiracy theorists would have a field day if they refused to take part in the show. When an official did give an interview to the BBC, it just sparked more controversy - with one letter writer requesting to meet the government's expert in languages from outer space. During the 1960s and early 1970s, there was a huge growth in sightings of apparently unidentifiable flying objects, many of them near to RAF bases.

In 1971, the BBC's current affairs programme Man Alive decided to investigate sightings over Banbury, Oxfordshire, and asked the Ministry of Defence for assistance. This was not such a straightforward request as it would seem. Air Commodore Anthony Davis found himself nominated as the ministry's official UFOs spokesman - though his colleagues had deep concerns as to the whether he should take part in the programme at all.

"We do not know who will be in the audience," wrote Air Commodore Brothers. "Mr Davis could well be the target for cranks and fanatics and others who profess to believe in 'little men from outer space'." "Unless you have any other thoughts on the matter we propose to tell the BBC that we are only prepared for Mr Davis to take part in a filmed interview. "Ministerial rethink David Filkin, the programme's producer, urged the ministry to think again and he won round the top brass. "On balance, it would be better to do this and face up to the possible difficulties of dealing with a hostile audience of cranks and fanatics rather

than the alternative risk of leaving the field to the fanatics and giving the impression that we are afraid to stand up to questions," concluded officials. Having decided to take part, the ministry was so determined to quash UFO rumours, officials arranged for RAF Lightning's and one US Air Force Phantom to be filmed flying in formations that they said were the basis for the rumours. "Good colour film taken [by the BBC] at dusk should show the fire-cones of their jet effluxes in re-heat, apparently hovering and then moving sharply away, as often described in UFO sightings," Air Commodore Davis told the ministry."

On UFOs, I found both the producer and interviewer apparently fully in sympathy with the MOD point of view; they have probably had their fill of the cranky UFOlogists whom they have already interviewed at length." The man from the ministry came away satisfied that the MOD has quashed the rumours for good - not least after his successful performance during the subsequent studio discussion.

Do you speak Uranian? Unfortunately, that did not turn out to be the case and the letters kept coming in to the ministry - including one from a Mr Creighton of Rickmansworth, Hertfordshire. Like many UFO enthusiasts, Mr Creighton thought the programme was a seminal moment in the battle to prove the existence of extraterrestrials. "It was not only epoch-making for its treatment of the subject but that the star performer of the evening was a gentleman who, if my memory is not at fault, holds a government certificate of proficiency in the more exotic branches of xenoglossy and speaks fluent Uranian or Plutonian," he wrote. Mr Creighton said he and other enthusiasts desperately wanted this official to appear as a guest-speaker at UFO clubs around the country. "I have made several unsuccessful attempts to locate him - could you be so good as to put me in touch with him or indicate how he may be contacted?" Unfortunately for Mr Creighton, the men from the ministry

SUF0G CONTACT CORNER....

Phenomenon Research Association :
01332 761464

Malcolm Robinson(SPI England) :
0208 998 4936
0208 997 3496

Pager : 07654 663 728

Mobile : 07949 178 835

E.mail : spi_spi@hotmail.com

E.mail : malcolm.robinson@fdn.co.uk

UPRI (Ireland)
Po Box 7041
Harmonstown
Dublin 5

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denied they had a chap conversant in alien languages. "This department has no knowledge of the person you mention," came the terse reply. "I can only suggest that the staff of the BBC programme may be able to assist you."

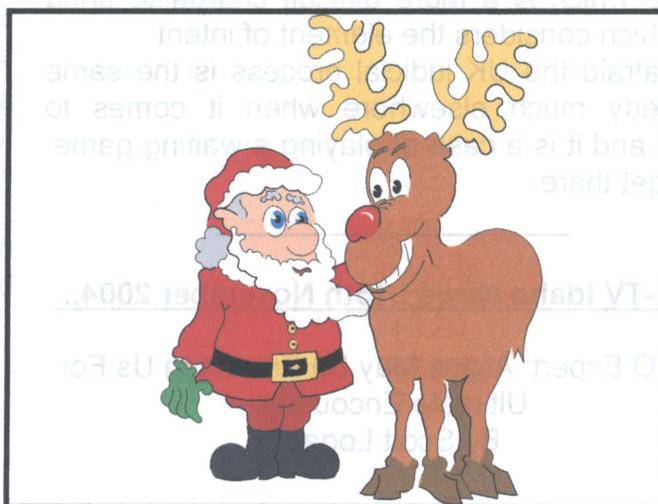
UF0logy in a financial mess...

The financial problem facing UF0logy is a long term issue, and my guess is that the problem will get far worse. While popularity in the subject appears to be at an all time high, at least as far as Internet traffic is concerned, this is very diffuse and un-organized.

The "organizations" that have been involved in this research for decades are seeing their support dwindle as the general public goes to Internet sources for information (which is often targeted to their particular interest).

It's a sad fact that many UFO publications sell fewer than 500 copies, unless they are picked up by a major publishing firm that can market them properly, and often those sales barely reach 100 copies. This barely covers the cost of printing, storage, and distribution, so it isn't a money maker in any real sense.

There are only a few people that have attempted to make a living through their interest in UFOs, and it has proven to be very limited. So, if you are thinking of becoming involved in UF0logy to make a fast buck or two, then forget it... There is no such thing as a rich UF0logist, only a content one...





Dr. John Mack's KILLER appears in court...

Yesterday, November 16th. was the first court date for the appearance of the driver involved in the fatal accident concerning Dr. Mack.

No charges were brought yet and the driver was not named. The police strongly prefer that he is not named until charges are brought. His identity is known however and he is believed to be a 50 year old Czech national.

He was remanded on bail again until January 11th. pending Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) advice.

The CPS is the body in the UK responsible for bringing prosecutions. They work hand in hand with the police. I must stress that what follows is pure speculation.

Given it is over 6 weeks since the accident, and even in the UK blood sample testing doesn't take that long, then one can only guess the reasons for the delay in bringing charges.

It may be that the circumstances of the accident are complicated and require further legal consideration. It might possibly be that the CPS are trying to go for a Dangerous Driving charge which is a more difficult charge to bring and which considers the element of intent.

I'm afraid the UK judicial process is the same as pretty much elsewhere when it comes to speed and it is a case of playing a waiting game. We'll get there.

KBCI-TV Idaho News : 15th November 2004...

UFO Expert: Aliens May Be Preparing Us For
Ultimate Encounter
By Scott Logan

UFOs are showing a keen interest in our nuclear weapons facilities, says investigator Robert Hastings, who has spent countless hours analysing documents dealing with UFO sightings at nuclear missile launch sites and research labs in the United States over the past several decades.

"You have reference to these objects hovering, racing away at blinding speed," he told Idaho 2 News. "There is no evidence we have an aircraft that can do that or anyone else on earth." Hastings, who has devoted countless hours researching UFOs and the U.S. government's reaction to them, was in Boise for a lecture and slide show Monday at Boise State University.

Hastings believes we are being visited by aliens who have mastered a faster than light form of space flight. And he speculates they have not openly revealed themselves to avoid public panic.

"What they're doing is engaging in a decades long psychological preparation process whereby slowly but surely people on earth understand this is real, they're here," he said. Hastings believes three UFOs with aliens on board did crash at Roswell, New Mexico in 1947 and points to a 1950 memo to FBI Director J Edgar Hoover saying three so-called flying saucers had been recovered "each one occupied by three bodies of human shape but only 3 feet tall " And he says the spectacular UFO sighting earlier this year off the Yucatan Peninsula were the real deal. But Hastings is not a believer in the theory aliens and earthlings are working together at Area 51, the top secret base in the Nevada desert, as some suggest.

In the end, Hastings says what's missing - so far - is physical evidence, but he says the story is far from over.

The Debate of the Orbs goes on...The Question was :

-----Original Message-----

From: Steve Gerrard [mailto:southampton@sufog.freemove.co.uk]
Sent: 05 July 2003 12:07
To: RUSSEL CALLAGHAN
Cc: STEVE RIDER (WK); GRAHAM BIRD-SALL
Subject: Conf 2002 Photo's

Russel

Steve Rider showed me the photo's you sent him of the Leeds conference 2002... I think you should claim £20,000 from a newspaper for the attached image. I found it whilst looking at the photo's and I noticed a large number of such 'Objects' in numerous photographs. As this was taken by the use of a digital camera, does this mean that 'ALL' such images are a product of the camera and not by some alien or ghostly presence (There were in fact around such 'globs' just in the 1 picture). Could you print this image along with my comments and also that any you and Graham may have on these 'Mysterious Globes'. For those people claiming alleged 'alien/spirits' then on one of the pictures where all the speakers were stood on the stage together, there are at least 25 globes in the picture. Therefore, why didn't we see them dancing around in front of us up on the stage or why didn't the audience see them. I personally feel that the alleged 'globs' are only appearing on digital pictures (I do not know of any cases where they have been captured on 35mm camera's or video camera's) that they must be caused by the camera flash reflecting off some airborne particles. The images are far better i.e. pixel wise compared to a camera and I am sure that as the flash's are also a lot more powerful, then the answer is in the camera and no where else.

All the best

Steve Gerrard (S UFOG Chairman)

The Reply from Russel Callaghan :

Hi Steve.

We have many such examples of 'Orbs' captured on digital images.

Sightings from the past over Hampshire.

LOCATION : ALDERSHOT
 DATE : 9TH SEPTEMBER 1965
 TIME : 20.40 HRS
 WITNESS : JEANETTE MARTINDALE

DOG STOPPED AND WOULD NOT MOVE.
 OBJECT WITH HEADLAMPS AND BRIGHT REVOLVING LIGHTS IN THE SKY.

SOURCE : FSR VOL 16 NO.6 NOV/DEC 1970

LOCATION : NORTH TOWN, ALDERSHOT
 DATE : 12TH AUGUST 1983
 TIME : 01.15 HRS
 WITNESS : ALFRED BURTOO

ENCOUNTERED A LANDED UFO ON CANAL BANK, TAKEN ONBOARD BUT ALIENS HIM 'REJECTED' BECAUSE HE WAS TOO OLD.

SOURCE : FSR VOL 29. NO 2 1983

LOCATION : ANDOVER
 TIME : 01.00
 WITNESS : UNKOWN

3 SLOW MOVING WHITE LIGHTS IN TRIANGULAR FORMATION.

SOURCE : ESSEX UFO GROUP DATA BASE

LOCATION : ANDOVER
 DATE : 25TH NOVEMBER 1993
 TIME : 01.10
 WITNESS : UNKOWN

3 SLOW MOVING WHITE LIGHTS IN TRIANGULAR FORMATION.

SOURCE : ESSEX UFO GROUP DATA BASE

ABOVE REPORTS TAKEN FROM THE SOUTHAMPTON UFO GROUPS HAMPSHIRE UFO DATABASE...

Personally, I think they are an artefact of the cameras infra red focus control.

In most models of Camcorder and digital stills camera Infra red can be seen through the lens.

Try it at home with a camcorder and a TV remote, you will see the led flicker through the camera but not with the naked eye (in most cases)

I think the infra red measuring beam is illuminating dust or some other particle invisibly close to the lens' the focus is concentrating on a larger more central or distant object so the illuminated particle is now out of focus 'as you compared orbs to the Bonsall UFO image, an out of focus light source, I believe'.

I think these orbs are just that.

It is interesting though when faces seem to appear in these orbs at this time I have no idea what could cause such an effect other than pure luck.

Regards.

Russel.

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So readers what do you think... Are orbs just caused by the camera. I certainly never heard of such a phenomena since the Digital Camera arrived and I have only seen the mystery orbs recorded on Digital cameras and no 35mm film. Your questions etc would be gratefully received.



SUFOG DIARY - 2005..

Group Meeting Dates..

19th January 2005

16th February 2005

16th March 2005

20th April 2005

18th May 2005

15th June 2005

20th July 2005

August 2005
(Avebury Trip)
(date etc to be confirmed)

17th August 2005

21st September 2005

19th October 2005

16th November 2005

14th December 2005

(This is our Christmas Party meeting)

(2nd Wednesday of the month otherwise it would have been the 22nd December - A bit too close to Christmas)..

Please contact the Editor before the above dates to confirm that the Sky Watch / Meeting are still going ahead. This is because Sky Watch's are likely to be cancelled / changed due to weather conditions, and other commitments that the editor is not aware of at the time of publication of the newsletter..

The UFO Debate on the Internet...

Here are some questions posed over the Internet.. What do you think? I am happy to print any replies, answers or questions?...

It has now been over a year since Graham Birdsall of Quest International's UFO Magazine passed away.

How is UK UFOlogy faring since the closure of UFO UK Magazine?

Has the debate gone?

Have UFO sightings become less of a topic for discussion in the UK?

How major a role did UK UFO magazine play in keeping UK UFO research in the public mind?

How high is the readership for the USA and Brazilian UFO Magazines?

Who will be writing the history of UFOlogy? The sceptics, or the people who have witnessed strange things, beings, craft etc.

Is the alien agenda a mere blur from past decades, where slick design and colourful graphics inspired us to revel in a beautiful mystery?

How many UK UFO groups are receiving regular sightings and contact reports?

Is there a 'New UFOlogy'? An underground UFOlogy, a mutation caused by the fragmentation of mainstream UFOlogy?

Who is still telling people that UFOs are not real, yet still make their wares available in media circles, promoting their own form of closet UFOlogy?

Who now keeps the MoD on their toes in the UK, regarding UFO sightings?

Isn't strange that those people lucky enough to film anything decent in the UK, are put against the media faces of mainstream ridicule, and then quit?

What does a psychologist know about video tape film? Aren't they supposed to be looking at the mind and its workings?

Source: BBC News 2nd December 2004

'Aliens Made Me Drive Too Fast'

Shock from seeing an alien ship was one of a whole host of far-fetched excuses offered by speeding motorists trying to avoid penalty points and fines. Bemused staff at the Northumbria Safety Camera Partnership say many drivers believe if they come up with an elaborate excuse they will be let off.

They have compiled a top 10 of the most ridiculous claims from speeding drivers including rushing to see dying pets. But they also warned their message is serious and that speeding claims lives.

Staff at the Partnership, responsible for fixed speed cameras in the north-east of England, regularly receive letters from drivers hoping to avoid the £60 fines and three points on their licence. Manager Ray King said: "Some drivers seem to think that if they tell a good enough story, then they will get off, which unfortunately rarely works. "But if there are genuine mitigating reasons, there is always the option of putting their case to a magistrate."

Everything from the wind behind the car to jets overhead and dying hamsters have been blamed by motorists, Mr King said.

But he added: "This is a light-hearted look at excuses for speeding, but it is a serious issue - we'd rather not be getting any letters at all because no one is breaking the speed limit and no one is receiving a ticket."





NEWSPAPER REVIEWS
BY ERNIE STARS.

In fact I'm also including cuttings from certain magazines that you'll see why as I go along. For example, a whole PACK from

FORTEAN TIMES from the last three month's issues, courtesy of SUFOG loyal member Lorraine from Eastleigh... thanks my dear.. hoping to see you at our Xmas Party night if you can get transport. I chose the page on **FORTEAN TRAVEL**. Steve Kokker's looks at Turkey's UFO Museum at Istanbul and talks to it's curator about UFO sightings, extraterrestrial visitors, and fundamentalist threats! No such thing as "chance", Steve says, within the grand plan extraterrestrials have for us... **AGREED?**...The museum founder being a Turkish businessman, whose plane was approaching Newark, New Jersey, in 1999, when he saw a luminous object hovering less than a mile away. Both Nuri Sozkesen and the passenger seated next to him could see the discoid object clearly. It whizzed away in seconds later. The astounded Turk, back in Turkey, saw a poster for a UFO Conference, attended, afterwards walked into a meeting or organisers discussing where they'd find the money for a small research centre they already had as the Conference had cost all their savings. Nuri Sozkesen became their financial angel..

hence both the centre and the museum are now proof of that! Further Conferences featuring John E. Mack and Budd Hopkins plus a TV series and a "truck come museum" promotion followed, visiting 17 Turkish cities, plus a UFO Turkish language glossy X magazine!. Enough! I'm gonna get my FREE passport!

FORTEAN CASEBOOK reviews the Bob Taylor incident of November 1979 just outside Livingstone, Scotland, Subsequent cases of lack of bodily co-ordination, suggest that some brain processes are being disrupted in Bob's situation of being approached by weird spiked balls seemingly from, the big circular object sat in front of Bob in a forest clearing. The balls "attached" themselves, one each side, to his trouser legs. He lost consciousness. On coming too he attempted to drive his 4x4 home but finished up in a ditch. The object had vanished. His trousers were torn. The event made UFO history. The place is marked out, a plaque installed. Two rather similar cases, a businessman attacked by a "floating ball" that flashed glowing spikes causing him to collapse unconscious while using the bushes in a forest in Staffordshire in June 1991. On recovery, feeling weak, his clothes gave off sparks when he tried to brush dirt from them. The third case involved a retired nurse in Sweden was woken up by restless cat and dog pets and saw a blue ball hovering outside her door. discharging sparks into the soil. She became paralysed and fell unconscious. Here husband came to help and the ball vanished leaving a sulphurous smell leaving her with a migraine lasting five days. **IN 1987!**

FLYING SAUCERY from another Fortean Times has our old "friends" Andy Roberts and Dr David Clarke putting their boots into the 'latest fads and flaps from the world of UFOlogy' Waste of time.. if only they'd get **TAKEN!**

CASEBOOK in the **FORTEAN TIMES** shows us that **JENNY RANGLES** has a new monthly section in **FORTEAN TIMES** featuring regular sighting reports... are you reading this, Steve? reviews of classical cases, major UFOlogical topics and hands on advice for UFO investigators. Looking for our suggestions and advice to the address below! Where? Maybe a missing adjoining page.. we'll search! Jenny relates the 1954 encounter by Jesie Roestenberg at her farmhouse home at Ranton, Staffordshire, involving a shiny disc with two "men" in blue suits, facially white, with long blonde hair. After gazing at her 'wistfully, with a compassionate air, he craft vanished in a flash of purple mist'. Jessie

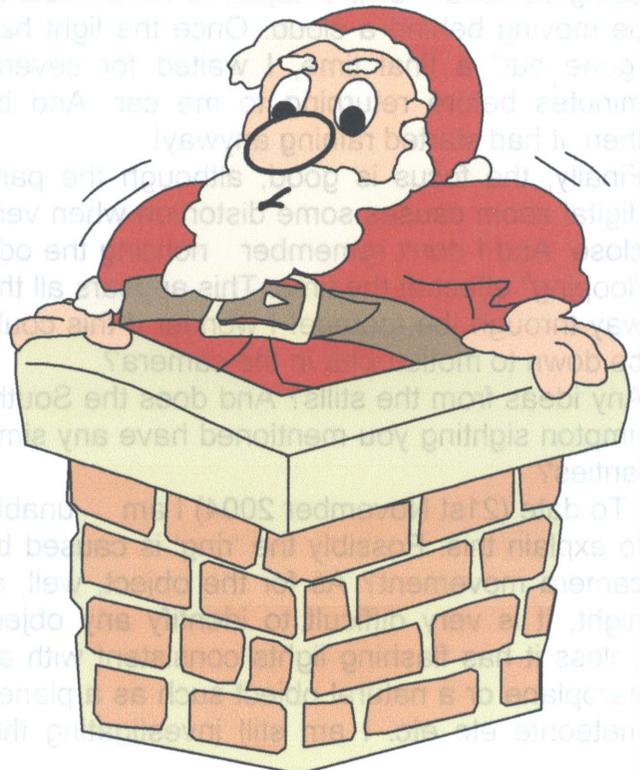
claims to have seen the figures since, 'out of the corner of her eye', and they communicate with her mentally, she adds. Great to see Jenny Randles in print again...we go back many years of ups and downs in our lives. As a BUFORA committee member, Jenny was the first person I ever contacted re my March 1960 encounter and then others much later ...and the first person to show me some sympathy by calling me a 'UFO repeater'. We also shared, unknowingly, for some years, peculiar treatment in our "official" posts in BUFORA.. mine was being in charge of media matters...I went on TV and radio and in newspapers as BUFORA's Press Officer, back in the early seventies? Unfortunately I was an apparently lone actual "experiencer" and have to admit I was sympathetic to others of that ilk. In a very short space of time I got the brushoff.

OK...all water under the proverbial bridge. NOW we finish with TWO BIG CUTTINGS, both from the **Daily Express** and the **Sunday Express**? The last one features a TREMENDOUS two pager.. on Sunday the 28th November.. with very catching headlines. such as; "The truth is out there, and world's top academics believe that life forms from other planets do exist.. and they look like us!!" Even BIGGER, it says, The 4400; Why experts are starting to believe 'alien kidnap victim's' Well....light began to dawn. There's that USA fictional "documentary" THE 4400. There's "THE FORGOTTEN" in cinemas there AND HERE! Channel Four is doing a Sunday evening series "Are we Alone?" SKY ONE are running, I think, the American 4400. And. apparently, typically, ONE DAILY PAPER coverage of it all!

SO FAR! Still, excellent presentation.. a prancing alien mid page, the Barney and Betty Hill saga, info from the "experts"...ho ho! Peter Ward, a palaeontologist from the University of Washington.. cannot but believe there ARE intelligent species out there.. but with so many planets there MUST be many of them' What do they look like, then? Prof. Simom Conway-Morris, a palaeobiologist from the university of Cambridge, guesses "they" will be 'curiously human-like' but' could have four or six legs' Peter Ward chips in with 'they haven't visited us 'because there's so few of them' and

'in science fiction, they normally look repulsive and arthropod like, whereas we'd be unlikely to tell them from us' Shall I go on? UGH! Chris French (naturally) speaks; the University research program he is heading will have a result early next year. 'Psychological, and possibly other disciplines are being tested. Abductees often report wide range of experiences. Psychic abilities to be tested. But the fact is, no one really knows what the true explanation is.'

The SUNDAY TIMES concludes by asking! extraterrestrial experiencers" to write in. Hell! I wrote SEVEN PAGES? no reaction yet...and MINE were only small excerpts! LOGICALLY, I thought, the EXPRESS will follow all the letters that will flow in this last weekend. Silly me! On Saturday the 4th December there indeed WAS A two pager in the EXPRESS! DID A NAZI INVENT UFOS FOR THE CIA? ran the huge headline! I haven't even BOTHERED to read it yet! After THREE DAYS of gobbledegook "SPAM" messages on my emailer that's all I need! BYE FOR NOW!



UFO Report : Portsdown Hill, Portsmouth...**Date : 20th October 2004.**

I was driving on the Portsdown Hill Rd (B2177), heading west, a little way past Fort Purbrook where you have a clear view over the Portsmouth, Hayling Island and Langstone Harbour. I noticed the light and assumed it was a fire work or flare, as it had a similar luminosity. When it didn't go out, and appeared to be coming closer, I thought it to be a helicopter, as it was flying low, and was becoming very, very bright. Curious, I pulled in and started filming (luckily I had my camera in the car!)

When I am zoomed in on the object, it appears to display some irregular movement, although I can't say that that was not down to my shaky hand! It also seems to have a subtle strobe effect to it; one particular part of the clip shows a distinct very rapid pulsing of the light, with the effect that the lens flare the light is causing creates a fluctuating cross pattern in the camera. This is so rapid, you have to slow it down to see it properly. Perhaps these strobing lights are characteristic of some kind of more conventional aircraft?

Also plainly visibly is the abrupt manner in which the light seems to go on and off, with it being obvious that the object is far too low to be moving behind a cloud. Once the light had "gone out" a final time, I waited for several minutes before returning to me car. And by then, it had started raining anyway!

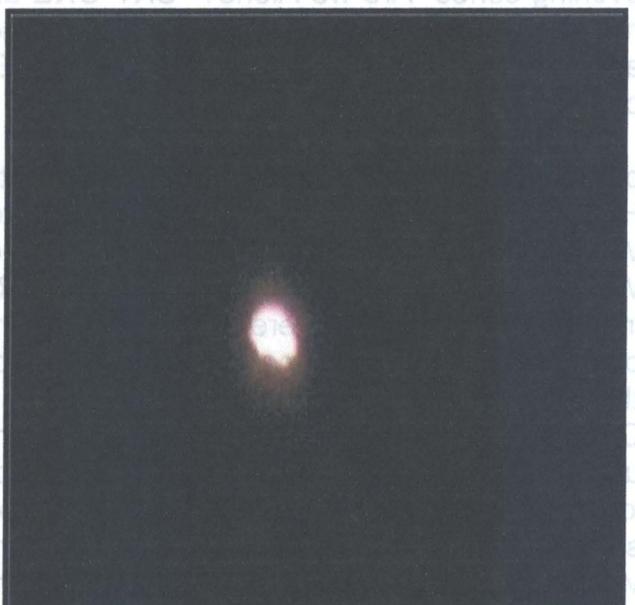
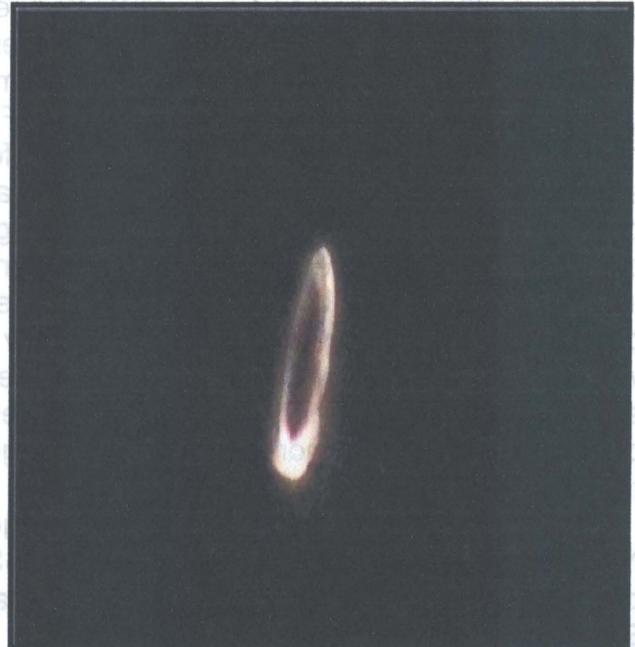
Finally, the focus is good, although the part-digital zoom causes some distortion when very close. And I don't remember noticing the odd "looping" effect at the time. This appears all the way through the footage! I wonder if this could be down to motion-blur in the camera?

Any ideas from the stills? And does the Southampton sighting you mentioned have any similarities?

To date (21st November 2004) I am unable to explain this. Possibly the 'ring' is caused by camera movement? As for the object, well, at night, it is very difficult to identify any object unless it has flashing lights consistent with an aeroplane or a natural object such as a planet, meteorite etc etc. I am still investigating this

and I will do until such time that I am unable to find a logical answer to the report.

Steve Gerrard (SUF0G Chairman)





MAGAZINE REVIEWS
BY ERNIE SEARS.

Well, didn't think we'd have many this time but they kind of accumulated so here goes with a very interesting bunch !!.....open your MINDS!

ADVANCED RESEARCH PROJECTS AGENCY looks at the paranormal phenomena, a briefing on a net assessment study by P. T. Van Dyke and M.L.Juncose, from the files of Rand, Santa Monica, California, and dated....wait for it !.. January 1973 !. Prepared at the request of the Director of the Defence Agency, to deal with scientific and technical the substantial disparities between the U.S and the USSR. Samples of which include difficulties in obtaining conclusions of the parapsychological Soviet research. The article shows us that the USSR adds that which comes under "illusory" and even allows for "the soul" to be part of the phenomena. Thus "religion" seems to be part of the subject matter, as does Telepathy, Clairvoyance, and pre-cognition.. the latter affecting communication between astronauts. Possible military applications" too. System damage and equipment control comes into it as well . All funded by the Russian Government. 27

pages in all!

UK National Archives is a 15 pager and is equally interesting.. it comes up with that hoary old "explanation" 'weather balloons'! However, the report says there are cases on record where no common explanation was ever found. The secret history of the British Government and the personalities therein go back to World War One.. as someone said, THE TRUTH is the very first casualty of War! On October 8th 1950 the Sunday Express began to serialise Gerald Heard's The Riddle of the Flying Saucers. The Sunday Dispatch ran Frank Scully's Behind the flying Saucers and Donald Keyhoe fought back with The Flying Saucers are real! The Ministry of Defence Archives in turn includes updated info on the Rendlesham happening and the incident itself remains one of the most convincing UFO incidents to date. The file itself is described as "fat"! The report on file of which this is a part copy of contains a massive end bibliography of various UK sources plus pages of the USA Defence sources involved. Also many books.

UFO MONTHLY .COM is growing all the time and although Editor and founder Gary Heseltine needs more support it looks pretty well set to fill the gap twixt the late Graham Birdsall's death and the general public...but still, needs our support! The October issue is forty pages long including the dramatic covers and contains reports on a major new mutilation case from Argentina, the tragic case of the airman who died from an experiment on him at Porton Down 50 years ago, opening up a proverbial ongoing can of worms. News is to hand of a new monthly chat forum for subscribers only. The US Air Force is to study a report on psychic teleportation. A major new series on Sky TV entitled The 4400 has begun...it's pulling in vast crowds on the TV in the USA. Much more now and to come! At £1.50 a website copy a snip .Website www.ufomonthly.com or UFO Monthly.com, Suite 226, 57 Great George Street, Leeds, West Yorkshire, LS1 3A

NEW BUFORA JOURNAL.. for Autumn 2004 took a giant leap forward with John Spencer's AGM presentation taking up some 15 pages,, the contents of which covered, in positive detail, THE TRUTH which the often much maligned experiencers and abductees have been telling "experts" ever since when! Replacing John's planned talk, BUFORA vice-chairman John...well known in the UFO world for many years, covered historical reports such as the McMinville sighting of 1950 (in which two witnesses took photos which were never denounced) right up to present day proven side effects of "encounters" such a ghosts, Abductees "marks", channelling, The Near Death experience.. naturally taking in the connected "Life after-death"

aspect, mythology, Hybrids, screen memories, missing time, summing all that and more with his closing comments on The Future of UFO research. Much of which I, like thousands of others, can relate to with personal experiences. At eighty years old, mentally and physically still "active", I can recall, with NO HYPNOTHERY, every incident since nine years old.! All of which John Spencer has made this NEW BUFORA issue momentous. Thanks! Norman Oliver also writes on events past and ongoing, sightings,.. a 1937 one, too!.. and comments on a new Zecharia Sitchin book, the Earth Chronicles Expedition. Having spent a Kent weekend sharing talks with Norman earlier this year (during which he drove me from here to there!) I learnt of his vast knowledge I found his outlook and such were akin with mine. Thus he covers 'The Scoriton Mystery' in 1965 in great detail in the Journal, bringing out much that was unknown or distorted at the time. It still leaves me with one small question, prompted by John Spencer's mention of the Near Death Experience and Whitley Streiber's eventually admission of seeing his "dead" father who actually spoke to him. (I had this same experience in 1982 with my long "dead" wife in a sunlit garden.. even being TOUCHED by her) The connection with the Scoriton Mystery and alleged witness Mr Bryant who claims he saw a young version of the recently "dead" George Adamski in the entrance of a craft.. this "apparition" also actually spoke to Bryant. So...The BUFORA Journal also featured couple of local Southampton sightings by a close and trusted friend of mine earlier this year. No stranger to such. Plus strange encounters on Merseyside from the book "A Different Sky" by Tony Eccles Finally, some interesting comments by Journal Editor Steve Gamble. Contact with BUFORA can be had at BM BUFORA, London, WC1N 3XX

UFO REVIEW for NOVEMBER is a massive 89 pages long and a bargain for it's contents too at £2.50.. from our Steve by request or from a website or direct from Editor Stuart.. details later. Contents listed are; The Manchester Bang that never was.

Body parts, Bad taste, but what the heck. The Lost Land of Lyonesse. Review of Probe International Conference. Fortean Corner.. by "Miss B. Osom" the Review's Editor has a sense of warped humour! The Science and Politics of Mars. Linda Moulton How shoots dead another Chupra! Roger Anderton writes interestingly on Einstein. The 1970's ITV "alien" broadcast which was never solved and had strange "coincidences" with ME including a multi-witnessed sighting of a huge "triangle" carrying out "impossible" manoeuvres over Southampton the evening before the broadcast! Finally, the Review has Andy Roberts giving his versions of a previous article which drew.. not surprisingly.. strong language from readers! And I keep intending to add my views too...based on what a waste of valuable space was the Andy Roberts article.

RIGHT! RACING ON...since I DELETED TOTALLY the previous MAGAZINE REVIEWS with a careless push of the wrong key!.. come to :

RAPPORT, the "Enlightenment! magazine of the late Ken Phillips Witness Support Group...founded in 1990.. written and produced by people who had a "Close Encounter" experience" Mark Bell writes on the Raelian Movement.. maybe best known for it's "cloning babies" intentions! Lots based on the Bible's Genesis etc, and the "elohim" etc. The Secret World Order and those scientists death in he 1980's and such.. Again, strange "coincidences" with our local Admiralty complex atop Portsdown Hill , my 1960 sighting there, the Marconi mystery.. and much else I haven't figured out as yet! A dramatic abduction story by Roz Cooper. John Mack and Gordon Cooper's passing. "Clarity begins at Home".. a clear one off sighting at Dunstable on the 13th June. (We had one HERE on that day, didn't we, Steve?) Painting the walls with ET's. Elsie Oakenson's Column. The Oz Factor by Noel from OZ... multiple abductions, vast "cave", etc.(I know someone close to me in the past who still has nightmares about that who was "Taken" WITH ME then although my memories were vague and not stressful or whatever for reasons I can only guess at) The Paul O'Grady Show that Marc Bell was asked by our Rapport

Editor Mike Rutter if he'd like to do it....I was also asked by someone but refused!...lucky me, as Marc relates he actually went to the London venue and had a previously long chat on the phone but eventually declined to actually appear! Be warned.. hands are "tied" by the "authorities". A "From Yesteryear" article covered some interesting sightings.. including an underwater craft seen near Iceland during the week ending December 1992. Moving very fast, carrying lights around it, seemingly accompanied by a light in the sky above it, it tangled fishing nets, brought the coastguard to the fishing boats rescue, Newspaper report said a big naval exercise was taking part in the region, where warships detected a huge object and assumed it was a secret Russian submarine. It did not reply to messages, nor did it surface. (See earlier item on Russian telepathy experiments alleged to being carried out on submarines). My own article then followed. The magazine concluded with a startling 'information from abductees' two pager...."The Alien Plan for Humans"....illustrated by rather primitive drawings and featuring one to one in your face discussion by aliens. All one can say.. unless you know differently!.. that we're for big trouble if we don't pull our collective and individual socks up, But then, we've been TOLD that for years, by "others" and our own commonsense! Let me finish with the final line in the article; 'All they are interested in, that no matter what happens at all, that they control'.

OVNI for November\December...Back page Tale Enders and sighting reports include an Andover Hants lady driver seeing a huge 'soap bubble' between cloud layers at approx 1000 ft about 3.45 pm on the 26th Sept. 04. Had two 'black dots' north and south on it's circumference. The 'bubble' turned slightly and vanished, leaving the two black dots flying towards Andover. A Canadian report has two triangular objects seen for 55 minutes at Ontario on 1975. UFO over Shelton Lock, Derby. 23rd Sept 2002.A 'large full moon' turned out to be a bright white circular light, which after two minutes began to 'shrink' in

size and was soon the same size as the stars in the sky. It then 'spiralled' in larger and larger circles. The lady witness ran inside to get her boyfriend but it had subsequently vanished. We've at SUFOG have had several such reports of similar incidents. **INSIDE OVNI** several pages are devoted to the tragic death of John E.Mack in London and the demise of astronaut Gordon Cooper, both of which brought UFO's and abductions to exposure in leading UK papers.

Those Mexican UFO's over the Popocatepetl volcano are shown in photos taken in 2002. in an OVNI article by DR. Oren Swearingen. Raymond Fowler has been sent dozens of such photos by Dr .Swearingen showing the "daily" appearances of the incredible behaviour of these objects, some showing 'perfect' formations being "formed" in triangular patterns etc. Repeated the following day in the EXACT same position in the sky! Those "contrails" in Ontario, Canada, seen in OVNI photos. Dead racoons were found after last years "spraying" Samples being sent off for testing. A respiratory type 'flu is also seen after "spraying from large white Jumbo jets., that have dark red or black nose and tail Sinister? Margaret Helen Fry's latest book, "Who are they?" out now. about her personal involvement in abduction cases and her long history of such. Obtainable from her address; Post Box No 197. Rhyl. LL18 1AA North Wales, Cost....I've ordered one for my Christmas prezzie!....£14 plus £2 postage. £1 of the price goes to Cancer Research. Margaret has rejoined SUFOG after being abroad for some time.

The Great SUFOG Video Sale..

Throughout 2005, I will be placing adverts for video sales as I have decided to sell some of my 550 UFO video's dating back to the 1950's. Some of the proceeds will go back into the SUFOG pot. I may well also sell some of my 450 audio tapes that I have also collected dating back to the early 1950's.

SUPPORT SUFOG in 2005 !!!!

CELLULAR MEMORY.

(Part 1)

[The transfer of characteristics and behaviours from the donor to the recipient via the cells of the transplanted organ]

(An Article by Malcolm Robinson Strange Phenomena Investigations. (November 2004)

I watched a really interesting programme on Discovery UK Health recently, (November 2004) one of those satellite programmes that one flicks through when trying to look for something else. The programme was entitled, 'Transplanting Memories'. I'll tell you what, this was a cracker of a programme. It was all about people who have transplants, be it a heart, liver, or something else. Then after a short period of time, those people suddenly crave for something, be it a blackberry pie, bitter almonds or indeed want to take up a sport like baseball or basketball. All these things that they have never been interested in before! Now I've heard of this phenomenon before but never actually sat down and watched what turned out to be a cracker of a programme. The programme featured a number of top medical authorities, and people who have experienced the phenomenon known as 'cellular memory'.

So, dear reader, can memory 'survive' in people's bodily organs, and, when transplanted into someone 'new', somehow give those memories over to the 'new' recipient. ? It's a fascinating concept and something to this writer that gives rise to many an inquisitive thought. One woman on this TV show who received an organ transplant had a strange dream in which appeared a young man who spoke to her and related certain things which later checked, proved to be true ! Not only that, the final words spoken by this young man in her dream, were the actual words etched on his tombstone, something that she could never have known until she finally traced the donor's family who confirmed all that she said. Another lady, who had had a transplant, suddenly had a passion for karate, something that was certainly not in her agenda before. Don't get me wrong, people can go through life not being interested in karate and then for one reason or another, they may wish to take it up, whether they have had a

transplant or not.

I've always held the belief that 'some' alleged past life regression where people claim (for instance) to be a 17th century sea-farer under hypnosis, may not necessarily be what they think is them as that sea farer in a past life, it could just be a 'genetic memory' of one of their ancestors, a memory of a great great grandfather for instance. Some genetic disorders can be passed from generation to generation, so the concept of 'cellular memory' may not be that strange. DNA is basically the human tree of life and every human being stores the ancestral DNA history within them of their father and forefathers.

Those UFO abductions that surface under hypnosis may not necessarily be real either, they could be the result of what's known as cryptomnesia, where the mind has forced a memory back to the deepest recesses of the mind, be it from something that was read in a book, magazine, or seen on a television programme. A good 'For Instance' was the case during the 1960s where a Finnish psychiatrist Reima Kampman, related the story where several schoolgirls seemed to recall past-life experiences, but under hypnosis it was ascertained that they had remembered reading of the incidences in books as children. Cryptomnesia is the retention of unconscious memory of information learned through normal channels. Information that was previously learned and is consciously forgotten may be indefinitely stored within the subconscious. If it were not for cryptomnesia the human mind would always be cluttered or overloaded with basic random information.

The conscious mind doesn't always recall all daily information and the individual will swear that 'in no way' is their claimed UFO abduction or encounter, something that they have read in a book. They'll tell you it's real. However, as I say, the 'subconscious' mind stores all and they may have forgotten that that UFO book they forgot

reading 15 years ago, comes into play under hypnosis as a scenario story that they believe happened to them. So when under a good hypnotherapist who may be looking for answers, the subconscious memory starts working like some state of the art computer processor, a Google Search Engine, if you like, where it will try and find the answer, or as in our Google 'mind' search analogy, come up with some matches which at least come close to, or relate to the issue in hand. The human brain is a fascinating organ. Some say we know so little about it and that we basically only ever use around 10% of it at any time. I believe that psychics and Eastern mystics/Yogis, can somehow tap into or open up, the store room of the mind where they somehow have a magic key to enter rooms and corridors of the mind that are kept locked to most of us.

Certain people view the subject of 'cellular memory' in different ways depending I guess to the way that they themselves 'view life'. Take for instance the spiritual medium James Van Praagh whose regular appearances on U.S. television draw large audiences. He speculates that cellular memory is down to the presence of the donor's spirit that has not yet moved on to it's next home, more so in those cases where the donated heart is coming from a young person. He maintains that the young person's spirit may feel that it has not properly conducted lived out it's proper time on Earth, and as such, will linger in the physical donated organ in a new host body. Mmmm. Not so sure if I go along with that.

Noted psychiatrist and philosopher William James once nobly stated, and I quote;

"If you wish to disprove the laws that all crows are black, it is enough if you prove one single crow to be white".

So are these reported instances of cellular memory 'medical white crows'?

The more I thought about writing this article on the subject of cellular memory the more I wanted to learn as much as I could about it. Marlene my partner kindly found me numerous well-written medical articles on the Internet to do with this subject. I e-mailed University of Arizona scientist Gary Schwartz (who appeared

on this TV show) and Gary personally submitted to me his paper on the subject co written by Paul Person PhD and Linda G.S. Russek PhD. Now I don't actually refer to this paper here in this article as I had researched and looked at other papers prior to receiving Gary's but it's fair to say that much of what Gary Schwartz relates in his paper my partner had already found. Not that I am taking anything away from Gary's paper, quite the reverse in fact. Gary's paper is enormously educational and full of other cellular memory case studies. My research society, Strange Phenomena Investigations, (SPI) aim to place this paper on our web site and readers can view it at www.spiuk.net. Anyway, I'm going to go into reference mode here and refer to some of these medical articles that Marlene found on the internet. In this way it gives you the reader the opportunity to grasp the severity and scope of cellular memory. But moreover, it makes for interesting reading.

Physical therapist assistant Leslie A. Takeuchi, BA, PTA from Orinda California related in her report about her studies with people with chronic pain and the relationship of mind, matter, body and emotions. She studied the possibility of 'emotions' or 'memories' somehow being stored in the very tissue of human beings and she states, *"Is it possible that our memories reside deep inside our bodily cells in addition to our minds"* Well Leslie is clearly not alone when it comes to thinking along those lines. Candace Pert a professor at Georgetown University in America who is the author of 'Molecules of Emotion, Why You Feel The Way You Feel', discovered what she called 'neuropeptides (or peptides for short). These chemicals can be found in all the tissues, muscles, and major organs of the body. Candace firmly believes that the mind is not just in the brain that it exists all throughout our body. The hard drive of our brain, which stores memory, may therefore not be alone as hard drives go.

Not all medical practitioners share Leslie and Candace's presumptions. Jeff

Punch a transplant surgeon from the University of Michigan states, and I quote,

"A transplant is a profound experience and the human mind is very suggestible.

Medically speaking, there is no evidence that these reports are anything more than fantasy"

Jeff goes on to state that organs are not capable of transferring memory to a person's mind and that if the phenomenon of transferred memories exists, then it's got to be 'supernatural'? Mmmm, are we substituting one mystery with another one here? Well this writer certainly would think that Jeff is. But to be honest Jeff does state something, which I guess the reader has to take into consideration whilst contemplating this article, and that is, these memories, or indeed the desire to do something totally out of character and 'brand new' may have nothing whatsoever to do with cellular memory, but to do with the medication that recipients of donated organs take. This may make them feel weak, weird, or as Jeff points out in his article, taking the drug prednisone will make them hungry. But the bottom line as far as Jeff is concerned is that, the subject of cellular memory may be nothing more than pure coincidence? Yes, it may well be Jeff, but clearly there is still a heck of a lot of unanswered questions.

When we look at these cases of cellular memory (and I'll come to those in a moment) Admittedly 'some' if not 'all', of these cases, more so the ones with the sudden desire to take up a sport or other type of leisurely pursuit, could be down to what Jeff states as, just someone watching a TV programme whilst they are recovering from their transplant. This programme may for instance be about roller-blading. The patient thinks that, 'hey this is fun' but puts it to the back of their mind as something that they don't think they would ever do. However further down the line, they may be out shopping, spot a pair of roller blades and peruse the sport. If it was uncovered that the new organ that was 'fitted' into their body belonged to a young chap who was a

keen roller blader, then hey the connection is made, must be cellular memory, but as Jeff states, no it's not, it's pure logical coincidence.

When writing an article of this nature, one has to provide two sides of the argument, hence the comments above, which to this commentator is indeed fair. OK, let's have a look at some of these so called cellular memory cases. What do you make of the following?

CASE STUDY 1

There was a case in which an 18-year-old boy who amongst other things, wrote poetry, played music and wrote songs. Sadly he was killed in a car accident. A year later, his mother and father came across an audiotape of a song he had written entitled "Danny, My Heart Is Yours". Apparently this song was about the way he felt at that time and he believed that he was about to die and that he was giving his 'heart' to someone. Now, the donor recipient of this young boy's heart was an 18-year-old girl called Danielle. The story goes that Danielle met up with the deceased boy's parents and the parents played them a song on audiotape that their son had written. Now Danielle had never met the parents, never met their son never heard his music, but was able to there and then complete the phrases of his songs !!!!

CASE STUDY 2

A seven-month-old baby boy received a heart from a 16-month-old boy who had drowned. The donor child had a mild form of cerebral palsy mostly down its left hand side. Now the recipient child did not display any systems whatsoever of cerebral palsy prior to the transplant, and, you've guessed it, once the transplant was completed the recipient child developed the very same stiffness and shaking on it's left hand side.

How about this one ?

CASE STUDY 3.

A 47-year-old white male received the heart of

a 17-year-old African-American male. Shortly after the transplant the recipient was astonished by his newly found love of classical music. And again you know what's coming, the recipient of the heart found out that his donor absolutely loved classical music and played the violin. Indeed, the donor had died in a drive by shooting clutching his violin case to his chest.

It get's stranger ?

(Part 2 in Jan/Feb 2005 Sufog Magazine)

The New Haven Advocate - Connecticut
25th November 2004.

Alien Abductions and Coffee Enemas
Or, the problem with being open-minded

by M.D and Steven Novella

I listened patiently as the UFO enthusiast explained how humans were transplanted to the earth from another world by our alien forebears. "Then how do you explain the fact that humans share 98% of our DNA with chimpanzees, and a genetic code will all life on earth?" I asked.

"Well, I think you have to keep an open mind," was her starry-eyed response. People who believe odd things - that coffee enemas can cure cancer, that the Loch Ness Monster exists, that art on the dollar bill can explain secret conspiracies - are always telling us to "keep an open mind."

To that, I reply: "Keep an open mind, sure - but not so open that your brains fall out." In the endless sparring between sceptics and believers, the "keep an open mind" rejoinder is the favourite weapon in the believers' arsenal. It is their all-purpose tool. But what does it really mean to be open-minded, and is it the sceptics or the believers who are truly closed-minded?

Having an open mind is a curious virtue: Everyone agrees that open-mindedness is indeed a virtuous state, but it's most often praised by those being decidedly closed-minded. Also, the most open-minded people are those whom you would least suspect as paragons of this particular virtue, sceptics.

And those most lacking open-mindedness are those most likely to admonish others for not being so - true believers.

Let me explain.

Having an open mind means you don't dismiss claims to truth out of hand. You analyse first. When you analyse a claim, you consider all the relevant evidence and examine all the logic involved, in a fair and unbiased manner, then grant tentative acceptance or rejection. If new arguments or new evidence come up, then you revise your opinion. Being open means that you apply this standard fairly to all claims. Being open-minded does not mean believing every claim, no matter how improbable-that's being gullible, not open. This process of fair analysis, based upon logic and evidence, leading to tentative conclusions, which are open to revision, is part of science. It is also the very soul of true open-mindedness.

By contrast, true believers adhere to a desired claim regardless of evidence or logic. No argument is persuasive enough, and no evidence (or lack thereof) is compelling enough to nudge them from the perch of their belief. They are closed to the possibility that Bigfoot might be a delusion, that crop-circles are pranks, that coffee enemas don't cure cancer - that their cherished belief might be wrong. Yet it is such believers who most frequently claim the moral high ground of open-mindedness, then condemn unbelievers for being closed-minded. They wish others to accept their claims either without examining the logic and evidence, or despite refutation from such examination.

The "open-minded" police often use the label of "closed-minded" as a personal attack to dismiss the arguments of those who dare to examine their claims. You do not believe I was abducted by aliens, they argue, because you are closed-minded. (Could it be because they lack credibility or any evidence to back up the claim? Or because the claim is inherently ridiculous?) To them, being abducted by aliens is an article of faith, much as religious believers take certain beliefs on faith.

That's fine. People are entitled to their faith. It's an important freedom, guaranteed

in the Constitution. But personal faith cannot be used to justify a scientific claim about the factual state of nature. Scientific claims must be public, open, and transparent - they cannot be based upon secret knowledge, special talents, or unquestioned virtues. If you think aliens have visited the planet, you must be prepared to offer evidence, not just accuse other people of being closed-minded for not believing you.

Science is also a cumulative process. At this point in history we happen to be sitting on centuries of painstakingly accumulated scientific knowledge. It would be both hubris and folly to ignore all that has gone before. So while keeping an open mind to new ideas and claims, it is to our advantage to view such claims through the filter of established knowledge. Believers would have us view new claims in an intellectual vacuum, as if all claims were inherently equal.

So let me turn the tables and humbly ask you, dear reader, to be truly open-minded. Adhere to the advice of T.H.Huxley, who wrote, "A wise man apportions his belief to the evidence." Keep your brains tucked safely inside your skulls. Be open but not gullible. And remember, it is better to think than to believe.

Cosmic Pulse or a strange cloud?...

The picture below was sent to me by a colleague at work asking if this was a picture of a pulse engine. The picture was taken over Southampton in September and he says that at no time did he see an airplane or anything leaving the trail behind it. I must admit I am a bit mystified myself at the cause of this image. Is it just an airplane trail breaking up? But, it does look as if what had left the trail had some kind of 'Pulse' to the engine. A have asked a friend who is a pilot and he is also mystified at the cause of the mystery trail.

If there is such a thing as a 'Pulse' engine, then they have to test fly it somewhere I suppose. But, why do it over a heavily populated area. Why not over the Atlantic or the North Sea. Hampshire seems bit of a public area to test fly a secret aircraft, or is it? Who actually looks up at the sky when they are out walking along the street? UFOlogists do, but who else? So, if there is such a thing as a 'Pulse' engine, then maybe it has been captured on camera flying over Southampton in good old Hampshire...

If you ever take a picture of something you cannot explain, then please forward it onto me and maybe SUFOG readers can help identify the image...



UFO Reports over Southampton and Portsmouth : October 2004..

Monday the 18th October saw Southampton UFO Group member Lorraine walking up Eastleigh Market Street around 2.30 p.m. with her mother. Her attention was caught by an unusual object proceeding quite low down across the clear blue sky. Since Southampton airport is right on the edge of Eastleigh she is used to planes coming in low and noisy, this object, which she could only describe as "tubular", was certainly no plane that she recognised. It vanished behind shops and she waited for it to re-appear. I didn't! Size at arms length between an 5p and 20p. Unidentified!

Tuesday the 19th October a very unusual object was reported over Southampton by no less than six people.. report by SUFOG member Julian Carson who supplied the report and interesting drawing of the object which came from Southampton Docks and passed over Merryoak and Bitterne very low and at a low speed. No sound, and was described by one witness as like a "Ferris Wheel!" revolving slowly, and having several holes

around it's perimeter where the sky showed through... these were rotating faster than the rest of the object. 2 photographs were taken... not developed although we expect to have them at our 15th December SUFOG meeting. Time 8.30 p.m. Duration 15 minutes.

Tuesday 20th October over Portsdown Hill, Portsmouth... a known UFO hotspot for many

years.... time 8.30 p.m., the witness was driving over the hill heading West, and had a clear view over Portsmouth, Hayling Island, Langstone Harbour, etc. Noticed a light, or flare, assumed it was a firework. It was coming closer and didn't go out, and thoughts of a local helicopter vanished as the light became much brighter.. witness had pulled in by then and was now filming! The light appeared to go on and off very abruptly and finally went out altogether. Witness returned to his car and drove off. I have a photo of the object which shows a strange looping effect which witness suggests might have been due to camera motion blur? SUFOG has seen a further sighting and photograph of what looks like one of those "chem trails". We are awaiting a copy (See page 20 of newsletter). Witness stated "trail" appeared but with no sight or sound of aircraft. It stayed intact, cut off at each end, for quite some time. All this over and around the Southampton-Portsmouth area...

Southampton Evening Echo : 10th December 2004

Calling ET

WAS there anybody out there?

With Sky 1 currently showing the latest TV miniseries based on extraterrestrials visiting Earth to kidnap unsuspecting humans, I have to report my own strange out-of-body experience this week.

And, as with all such encounters, I am having difficulty in getting anyone to believe me.

While driving along the A31 towards Ringwood on Tuesday evening at about 4.30pm traffic slowed to watch a strange craft pass overhead.

Hovering above us was a triangular-shaped aircraft with a spotlight. It was slow enough to be a helicopter but dissimilar. I mentioned it to the newsdesk here at the



paper. But, I was informed by colleagues barely concealing their smirks, checks with Southampton Airport and Hampshire police brought no reports of "strange aircraft" that late afternoon.

"Did you notice anyone looking out of it?" asked one staffer. "And were they green?"

So, if anyone has made contact with a visitor from another planet could you ask them to get in touch. I have a vacancy on the *Daily Echo* newsdesk they might be suitable for...

The National Archives - UK

5th November 2004

Research notes have been compiled by staff in The National Archives and other government departments in the course of their work to assist staff and researchers. They have been created from a wide variety of sources and are related to specific queries. Research notes should not be considered comprehensive and it is likely that further information can be found by undertaking bibliographic research and searching the Catalogue (www.catalogue.nationalarchives.gov.uk).

Unidentified Flying Objects (UFOs)

Introduction - What is a UFO?

Since man first started looking up into the skies he saw things he couldn't explain. For the last 50 years or so these things have taken on the label 'UFOs.' Originally an abbreviation for the US Air Force term 'Unidentified Flying Object', it has become a synonym to most people for 'Alien Spaceship.' For the Air Force, though, it is simply a term to refer to something in the skies that the observer can see but not recognise. Usually the explanation is less extraordinary than a flying saucer manned by visitors from other worlds. Often a weather balloon or natural phenomenon is the cause. However, there are cases on record where no good common explanation was ever found.

UK History of UFOs

Elements of the secret history of the British Government's early involvement in the UFO issue, giving an insight into the politics and personalities responsible for shaping official policy, can be found by studying the range of documents now available at The National Archives. The bulk of recorded history of UFO's in the UK occurs in the post-war period, but to understand what happened and why, it is useful to go back a little further. A mysterious wave of airship sightings that took place over America in 1896 and 1897 ? the first such sightings recorded ? were mirrored by a series of sightings that took place in Britain, starting in 1909. These so-called 'scareship?' sightings occurred between 1909 and 1912. With tension between Britain and Germany particularly high at the time, the public perception was that these were sightings of German airships carrying out reconnaissance missions. These

sightings mark the beginning of official interest in unexplained aerial phenomena.

These sightings continued throughout 1913 and one consequence of this was the strengthening of the Aerial Navigation Act of 1911. A Bill was duly passed which set up prohibited areas. If these were violated or if an airship failed to respond to signals from the ground, it could then be shot down and to enable this to be carried out, the War Office stepped up efforts to produce a gun capable of bringing down an airship. The War Office continued to investigate the 1913 sightings, but drew a blank.

Despite widespread public scepticism, the Government continued to take the view that all sightings should be investigated. If there is evidence that your airspace is being penetrated by aerial craft one does not ignore the data. Whatever one's personal beliefs, anyone within government and the military cannot ignore evidence of this nature and must assume that they are hostile. This philosophy underpins British official interest in UFOs, and in a sense the War Office response to the 'scareship?' mystery set the template for future official investigations into UFOs.

Most UFO researchers are familiar with the 'Foo Fighter' mystery, which involved strange balls of light and small, metallic objects seen by both Allied and Axis pilots during the Second World War. File AIR 14/2800 at the National Archives contains one of the few surviving official British reports of these objects, detailing how aircrew from Bomber Command's 115 Squadron saw some of these strange objects on bombing raids in December 1943.

The year that UFOlogy first really hit the headlines in the UK was 1950. Prior to that there had, of course, been coverage, but this largely concerned US sightings and the reporting was often dismissive. But on 8 October 1950 two major newspapers started a series of articles on the subject. The Sunday Express began to serialise Gerald Heard's book *The Riddle of the Flying Saucers* and the rival

Sunday Dispatch, a London paper, ran extracts from Frank Scully's Behind the Flying Saucers and Donald Keyhoe's The Flying Saucers are Real.

Media and Establishment scrutiny

But it was not just the media who were clamouring for answers and pressing the Government for action. Some very senior Establishment figures – including Earl Mountbatten, Commander-in-Chief of Fighter Command, Air Chief Marshal Sir Hugh Dowding, and Sir Peter Horsley, Deputy Commander-in-Chief at HQ Strike Command – felt that something should be done and lobbied on the subject. An Establishment figure whose interest in UFOs is less well known is Sir Henry Tizard.

Best known for his pioneering work on the development of radar technology prior to the Second World War and his various wartime posts included Scientific Adviser to the Air Staff, Tizard had followed the official debate about ghost rockets with interest and was intrigued by the increasing media coverage of UFO sightings in the UK, America and other parts of the world. Using his authority as Chief Scientific Adviser at the MOD he decided that the subject should not be dismissed without some proper, official investigation. Accordingly, he agreed that a small Directorate of Scientific Intelligence/Joint Technical Intelligence Committee (DSI/JTIC) working party should be set up to investigate the phenomenon. This was dubbed the Flying Saucer Working Party.

The Flying Saucer Working Party

The Flying Saucer Working Party was set up in October 1950, but operated under such secrecy that its existence was known to very few. Nevertheless, there were two clues that such a study had been carried out. One of these clues was obvious, but the other was more obscure. The first clue was in the Secretary of State for Air's response to Prime Minister Winston Churchill's famous 28 July 1952 memo in which he enquired 'What does all this stuff about flying saucers amount to? What can it mean? What is the truth? Let me have a report at your convenience'. The response, dated 9 August 1952, began 'The various reports about unidentified flying objects, described by the Press as 'flying saucers', were the subject of a full Intelligence study in 1951'.

The second clue was in a minute dated 29 May 1959, written by an official in S6 (a now defunct MOD division whose responsibilities for researching and investigating UFOs were latterly taken on by DS8, Sec(AS) and now DAS). This minute contained a sentence which read 'The subject was reviewed by the J. I.C. some years ago and their views agree with a more extensive review carried out by the Americans?'. This minute can be found at the National Archives in file DEFE 31/118.

There was some considerable discussion and debate about the terms of reference of the Flying Saucer Working Party. The final version read as follows:

1. To review the available evidence in reports of 'Flying Saucers'.
2. To examine from now on the evidence on which reports of British origin of phenomena attributed to 'Flying Saucers' are based.
3. To report to DSI/JTIC as necessary.
4. To keep in touch with American occurrences and evaluation of such.

The five-man working party was headed by one of the MOD's scientific intelligence branches, and all the members were specialists in the field of scientific and technical intelligence. The working party's conclusions were set out in a document dated June 1951 and bearing the designation DSI/JTIC Report No. 7. It was entitled 'Unidentified Flying Objects' and classified 'Secret Discreet'. The report was made available at the National Archives on 1 January 2002. Some of the key NA file references containing the Report and related DSI/JTIC discussions are DEFE 10/496, DEFE 41/74 and DEFE 41/75.

The report concludes that all UFO sightings could be explained as misidentifications of ordinary objects or phenomena, optical illusions, psychological delusions or hoaxes. The main body of the report ends with the following statement: 'We accordingly recommend very strongly that no further

investigation of reported mysterious aerial phenomena be undertaken, unless and until some material evidence becomes available'.

The report was duly considered by the DSI/JTIC and it was recommended that in view of its sceptical conclusions, it should be regarded as a final report. It was further suggested that the working party be dissolved with immediate effect. This was agreed, thus bringing to an end the MOD's first UFO research project.

Sightings continue

The Flying Saucer Working Party had been dissolved in 1951 amidst a frenzy of scepticism. However, this was soon to change. During the period 1952 to 1957 there were a series of UFO sightings involving the military, which forced the MOD to rethink and then reverse its policy. Such high-profile sightings, together with the increasing number of reports from the general public, pushed the sceptics within MOD onto the defensive. The Flying Saucer Working Party's recommendation that UFO sightings should not be investigated was overturned and by the mid-1950s two Air Ministry Divisions were actively involved in investigating UFO sightings. The divisions concerned were S6, a civilian secretariat division on the air staff, and DDI (Tech), a technical intelligence division. Their brief was to research and investigate the UFO phenomenon looking for evidence of any threat to the UK.

Evidence

There are as many photographs of UFOs as there are of the Loch Ness Monster, and they are of equal quality: blurs and forgeries. Other physical evidence, such as alleged debris from alien crashes, or burn marks on the ground from alien landings, or implants in noses or brains of alien abductees, have turned out to be quite terrestrial, including forgeries. The main reasons for believing in UFOs are the testimony of many people, the inability to distinguish science fiction from science, the willingness to trust incompetent men telling fantastic stories, the ability to distrust all contrary sources as being part of an evil conspiracy to withhold the truth, and a desire for contact with the world above. Belief in aliens in UFOs is akin to belief in supernatural beings.

Your right to know extended

Details about UFO sightings, clinical trials, accident investigations and Whitehall meetings

are now systematically being released to the public under plans to open up government. Public access to information from government bodies is being extended by the scrapping and amending of numerous pieces of legislation, under the Freedom of Information Act which is currently being phased in.

In 2002, the first tranche of hitherto secret information was released when government departments published their own schemes of legislation, which they plan to release to the public. The material will be made available immediately on departmental websites or through application by post. The various documents available for dissemination at The National Archives give a history of the British Government's early involvement in the UFO issue, giving an insight into the politics and personalities responsible for shaping official policy. The official reporting, analysis and recording of UFO sightings commenced in the early 1950s, with substantial records at the National Archives beginning in the early 1960s. At that time the Air Ministry was made responsible for the collation of all reports dealing with UFO's (certainly from the early 1960s). The specific responsibility was delegated to A.I. (Tech)3 in the deputy Directorate of Intelligence (Technical). All reports from all sources are sent to A.I. (Tech)3 for examination, analysis and classification. Reports on unidentified aircraft emanating from sources other than RAF Fighter Command [where the majority of reports were directed via police and civilians] were passed to CIC Fighter Command for investigation. A.I. (Tech)3 examined all UFO reports and attempted to obtain substantiating evidence from Fighter Command, MET, MCA etc as appropriate. All reports registered included the following details: details of originator i.e. civilian, MET etc; address of originator; preliminary classification of sighting i.e. balloon, aircraft, missiles, astronomical phenomena, etc; height, speed, shape, size, colour, date/time and locality of

sighting; plus other remarks.

Materials available at The National Archives tend to be dated from 1960 to 1974. They generally consist of collections of sightings as reported to the Ministry of Defence, by civilians through, for example, the Royal Air Command and official correspondence relating to these sightings. There is also substantial information regarding the government's official UFO policy through the years, including references to how and by whom it was drawn up, and how it evolved etc, as well as numerous references and correspondence between various departments ? particularly the Ministry of Defence, RAF Fighter Command and the Deputy Directorate of Intelligence (Technical). The information included in the majority of files held at The National Archives is focused on numerous specific UFO reports and how they have been handled by the various relevant departments ? either from civilians or airforce personnel. Where the information is available, it tends to be officially classified/categorised according to following criteria:

- (a) Date, time and duration of sighting;
- (b) Description of object;
- (c) Exact position observer;
- (d) How observed;
- (e) Direction in which object was first seen;
- (f) Angle of sight;
- (g) Distance;
- (h) Movements;
- (i) Meteorological conditions during observations;
- (j) Nearby objects;
- (k) To whom reported (police, military organisations, the press etc);
- (l) Name and address of informant;
- (m) Any background on the informant that may be volunteered;
- (n) Other witnesses;
- (o) date and time of receipt of report; and
- (q) Is a reply requested?

The following files, within AIR 2 and AIR 20 categories should point you to the key collections of documented sightings through the years as officially recorded by successive governments (in approximately chronological order):

AIR 2/16918 features numerous sightings, with

reports by members of the public between 1961-1963; and likewise AIR 2/18115, 1967; AIR 2/18116, 1967; AIR 2/18117 1967-1968; AIR 2/18183, 1968-1969. AIR 2/18871 contains reports and newspaper cuttings from 1972, while AIR 2/18872 again consists of a collection of civilian and other reports, 1972-1973; AIR 2/18873, 1972-1973; and AIR 2/18874 likewise for 1974-1975. AIR 2/19125, which opened this year, is essentially a collection of UFO sightings as compiled by RAF Patrington ? referred as reports of unusual occurrences (UFO). This includes a collection of reports from civilians, police, and various flight personnel from RAF Patrington etc and occurring between 1968 and 1973.

AIR 20 files include: AIR 20/11612 which again is a collection of general UFO reports and policy statements, 1967-1968; AIR 20/9320 reports from Air Traffic Control (Code 9): and details of Parliamentary question on unidentified flying objects 1957. AIR 20/9320 includes details of Radar and Radio Countermeasures (Code 61): Parliamentary question on UFO's 1957; AIR 20/9321 likewise Air Traffic Control (Code 9): Parliamentary question on unidentified flying objects; Radar and Radio Countermeasures (Code 61): Parliamentary question on unidentified flying objects; and similarly for AIR 20/9322.

A sub-series within AIR 20 includes: BJ 5/311, which features documentation relating to meteorological aspects 1968-1970; and DEFE 44/119 a collection of UFO reports and analysis, Jan 1951-Dec 1951.

Ministry of Defence Archives

The Ministry of Defence archives [www.mod.uk/contacts/army_records.htm and www.foi.mod.uk/classes1.asp] includes updated information on UFOs, including the Rendlesham documents about a UFO report in Suffolk in 1980 ? which remains one of the most convincing UFO's incidents to-date, and still remains unexplained. The so-called Rendlesham

File is a fat catalogue detailing the increasingly despairing correspondence between the Ministry of Defence and members of the public after the sighting of unexplained lights in Rendlesham Forest, near the RAF base at Woodbridge, Suffolk, in December 1980.

US Government sources

The US has long been considerably more active than the UK government in recording and analysing UFO sightings through the years. The U.S. Government Documents provide a valuable resource for UFO information gatherers:

1. The Central Intelligence Agency has placed the full texts of recently declassified documents concerning UFO's on line at the CIA's Popular Document Collection: UFO's Fact or Fiction? www.foia.ucia.gov/scripts/popdoc.asp
2. The National Security Agency has placed the full texts of recently declassified documents concerning UFOs online at the National Security Agency's UFO Documents Index.
3. www.nsa.gov:8080/docs/efoia/released/ufo.html
4. The Federal Bureau of Investigation has placed the full texts of recently declassified documents concerning UFOs in PDF format in the 'Unusual Phenomena' section of the FOIA Electronic Reading Room. www.foia.fbi.gov/uo.htm
5. For extensive documentation of UFO investigations, the researcher should consult the records of US Air Force Project Blue Book, located in Record Group 341, at the National Archives and Records Administration, Textual Reference Branch, College Park, MD 20740-6001; telephone (301) 713-7250 RG 341.15 Records of Project Blue Book 1947-69

History: Established as Project Sign by a memorandum from Maj. Gen. L.C. Craigie, Director of Research and Development, Office of the Deputy Chief of Staff, Materiel, HQUSAF, to Lt. Gen. Nathan F. Twining, Commanding General, Air Materiel Command (AMC), USAF, 30 December 1947. Assigned to Technical Intelligence Division, Intelligence Department, AMC, 22 January 1948; confirmed by Technical

Instruction 2185, HQAMC, 11 February 1949, pursuant to a letter from Director of Research and Development, Deputy Chief of Staff, Materiel, HQUSAF, 16 December 1948. Project Grudge terminated, December 1949. Reactivated, 27 October 1951. Re-designated Project Blue Book, March 1952. Air Technical Intelligence Center, transferred from AMC to Office of Director of Intelligence, Deputy Chief of Staff, Operations, 1952. Terminated by Secretary of the Air Force announcement, 17 December 1969.

Textual Records: Records of the Aerial Phenomena Branch, Technical Analysis Division, Air Technical Intelligence Center, Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio, relating to the Air Force study of unidentified flying objects (UFOs), consisting of case files on alleged UFO sightings, 1947-1969 (61ft.); case files of the 4602d Air Intelligence Service Squadron on alleged UFO sightings, 1954-56; and records relating to the staffing and organisation of the project, 1948-67. Records of the Office of the Director of Special Investigations, Office of the Inspector General, HQUSAF, consisting of reports of investigations of alleged UFO sightings, 1948-68.

Motion Pictures (20 reels): Motion pictures received by the Air Force during the project, and forming part of the Aerial Phenomena Branch case files described above, 1950-67.

Sound Recordings (23 items): Interviews with individuals conducted or acquired by the Air Force during the project, and forming part of the Aerial Phenomena Branch case files described above, 1955-67.

Photographs (8,360 images): Sightings of alleged UFOs, forming part of the Aerial Phenomena Branch case files described above, 1954-66 (PBB). The Declassified Documents Reference System published by Research Publications, Woodbridge, CT issued bimonthly on microfiche with a hardcopy abstracts/subject index, is another source worth examining. OCLC 16411767