

STRANGE TIMES

Echoes

from the Borderlands

An investigation into claims of after-death contact and other world reality



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STRANGE TIMES

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Front & Rear Cover Images: Bill Rose

EDITORIAL



The year 2001 will be locked within our memories encompassing images that we all watched in horror on September 11th and the evolving ramifications of these. Let us hope that 2002 will be a year of more positive forces at work healing those who were touched in such damaging ways by these devastating and violent acts of terrorism

In order to maintain continuing high quality and wide-ranging articles, Strange Times will be increasing in cost to £3.00 per copy and £12.00 for a year's subscription. This will become effective for all new subscribers and renewals. We hope all our readers will continue to subscribe to Strange Times and we appreciate and value your support.

In this issue we are running original and provocative articles on topics that include after-death contact, and mysterious coincidences to the enigmatic Hessdalen lights in Norway, extreme fringe beliefs and highly classified black aircraft.

Echoes from the Borderlands explores and focuses on some compelling and remarkable tales in an extensive article examining the nature of reports documenting after-death contact, near-death experiences and some strange and bizarre events relating to WW II.

Bill Rose looks at mysterious coincidences and synchronicities and asks whether these are random events or have a far more mysterious force behind them.

Philip Mantle travels to Norway for an exclusive report into the on-going mystery of the Hessdalen Valley lights and also conducts an interview with well-known Norwegian researcher Odd-gunnar Roed.

Chris Gibson analyses secret black military projects and questions whether there is any substantial evidence for the existence of highly advanced top secret military aircraft.

Brian Allen is becoming a regular writer with Strange Times and in the light of the World Trade Centre attacks in New York, he investigates extreme fringe beliefs, in this case founded on distorted interpretations of Christian Scripture.

We thank those readers who took the time to write to us giving us their comments, and some of these letters are there for you to read in this issue. Please keep these letters coming, as your comments are a significant contribution to Strange Times.

Strange Times will continue to highlight and explore extraordinary experiences, and all things strange and during 2002 we will be bringing you more penetrating articles addressing issues surrounding the concept of reality, consciousness, visions, time-warps and all inexplicable phenomena. In addition to this we will be looking at the researchers and writers into the paranormal field of study and running regular interviews with them, in order to explore the reasons for their dedicated and focused vision into this subject.

We hope you will continue to walk with us in the company of Strange Times through these strange and mystical landscapes.

I would like to wish you all a very Happy New Year and good fortune, good health and peace in 2002.

Gloria Heather Dixon

January 2002

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LOCKHEED



Page 4 Military aviation expert Chris Gibson takes a thoughtful look at the world of black aviation in this comprehensive survey of secret aircraft that may or may not exist.

BILL ROSE



Page 13 The strange lights seen in Norway's Hessdalen Valley have intrigued investigators for more than two decades. Leading UFO researcher Philip Mantle travelled to Norway for this exclusive report on the latest developments.

BILL ROSE



Page 20 Coincidence is a puzzling intangible thing which we all experience from time to time. Is there any sense to it? Why are some of the biggest events in history plagued by it. Bill Rose takes a look at this perplexing subject.

BILL ROSE

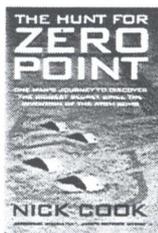


Page 28 When we think about fundamentalist religion, our attention tends to shift towards the Middle East. However, as Brian Allan explains, there are many ultra-extreme Christian groups in America with chilling agendas and forecasts of a coming apocalypse. Should we be concerned about this? See what you think, after reading this deeply disturbing article.

BILL ROSE



Page 34 Near death experiences, contact with the dead and ghostly events are explored in this astonishing collection of reports gathered by Gloria Heather Dixon. Some of these remarkable tales are likely to make you re-consider the whole question of life after death.

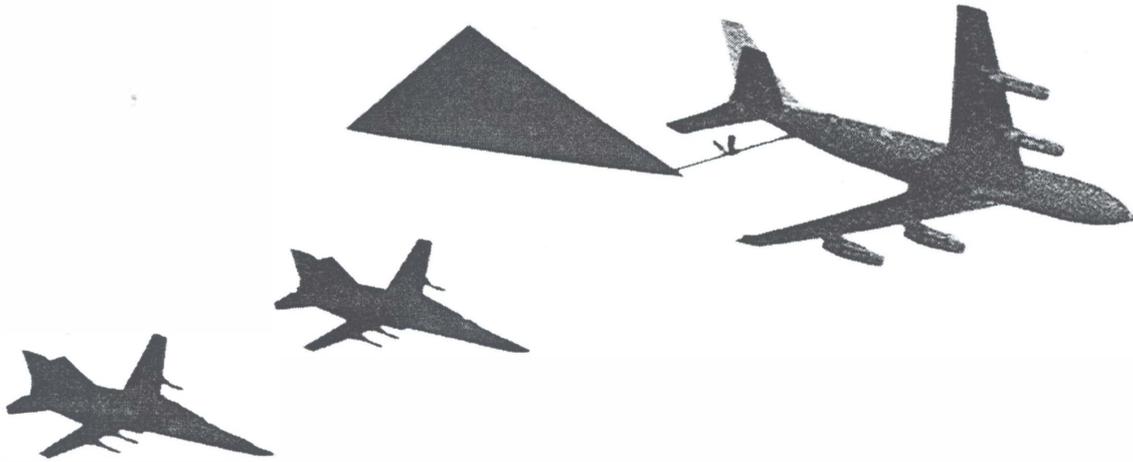


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FEEDBACK

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Schrödinger's Black Cats



- a personal view of the black aircraft scene

CHRIS GIBSON

In early 1992, Jane's Defence Weekly sent an article to me depicting a secret triangular aircraft. This tweaked my interest in what came to be called "Black Aircraft", for the simple reason that I had seen something similar over the North Sea in August 1989. It prompted me to begin an information gathering exercise that has continued to the present day. This quest has seen me walking a tightrope that will be familiar to anyone who has tried to provide a rational explanation for strange phenomena.

Black aircraft, and their study, have become the "enfants terrible" of the aviation scene. Since the early 1990s, few aviation writers have admitted to opinions on them, those with opinions stick to them, mainstream media has a fascination for them, but generally the aviation press steers clear of this prob-

lematical subject. When they do run a piece on the subject, it usually contains somewhat outlandish claims about the origins of these aircraft or they go totally over the top on the coverage of a subject that, in reality, has little substance.

I suspect this is because most aviation enthusiasts prefer their aircraft to be arranged in neat rows, easy to photograph and with registrations that are clearly visible on the tails and can be checked off on a list. Black aircraft provide none of these convenient features.

It is a fact of life that strange phenomena more often than not turn out to have rather mundane explanations, so maybe it is time to apply William of Occam's famous razor to black aircraft. Perhaps as the overburden of secrecy is stripped away, much of the current evidence for the existence of

these vehicles will require thorough re-examination. Like the vitality of Schrödinger's cat, the existence of these vehicles can only be proven if and when the security "lid" is removed and the vehicles exposed to the world's gaze and the outlandish claims exposed as just that.

THE STATE OF THE GAME

As of January 2002, the pundits have speculatively identified nine vehicles and their roles:

1) **AURORA** - Hypersonic replacement for the SR-71. The most widely debated black cat, thanks to that sighting of a unidentifiable triangular aircraft over the North Sea and its assumed ability to trip seismic sensors. The name Aurora has been established to have been a cover name for the B-2 Spirit in its early stages of development.

This is most convenient, allowing a hypersonic vehicle called Aurora to be denied with complete candour. Also rumoured to be called "Senior Citizen", a name that would fit in with the USAF project naming system. "Senior Citizen" has also been connected with a Boeing STOL transport aircraft.

2) **TR-3A** - "Black Manta" - U-2R replacement. First sighted during Desert Storm, but now reported to be a "common" sight in the skies of the South Western USA, usually in the company of F-117As. Its role is thought to include data relay and targeting for F-117As. The TR-3A has been variously described as a flying wing, triangular or manta-ray shaped.

Three distinct appearances from the pundits, but a consensus on a single role. That support profile has been interpreted mainly from the sightings of single examples of the aircraft being associated with formations of F-117As. An interesting angle to the use of the TR-3A designation was the unveiling, test flight (and crash) of the Darkstar UAV (uninhabited air vehicle). Its official designation is "Tier 3-".

3) **MOTHERSHIP** - Satellite launcher. The name "Brilliant Buzard" has also been associated with this aircraft which is thought to be the air-breathing first stage of a Two Stage to Orbit (TSTO) system. The Mothership's XB-70-like lines have not been seen of late, but that doesn't mean it never existed. A second role could be as a strategic reconnaissance system. The planform of this vehicle would suggest a high operating speed, but probably not much greater than

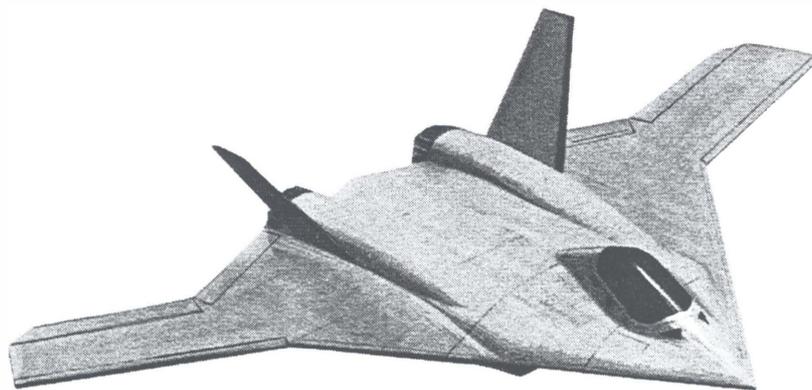
the SR-71. It may be used to carry testbed vehicles to the required altitude and speed to enable their exotic propulsion systems to function. A Landsat image is rumoured to show three Motherships on the ramp at Groom Lake, but Landsat images of this area are, of course, "classified".

4) **A-17/FB-119A** - F-111 replacement. This vehicle has been sighted in the mountains around Groom Lake, usually at night, at low level and high speed. It has a highly swept delta planform reminiscent of the North Sea vehicle. Witnesses have described a non-conventional lighting pattern and

an unusual sound associated with this aircraft. Vehicles with this lighting pattern have been sighted in UK air space since 1993 and two of these aircraft may have been videotaped in New Mexico by the aviation writer Steve Douglass, although the picture quality is not good enough to be conclusive.

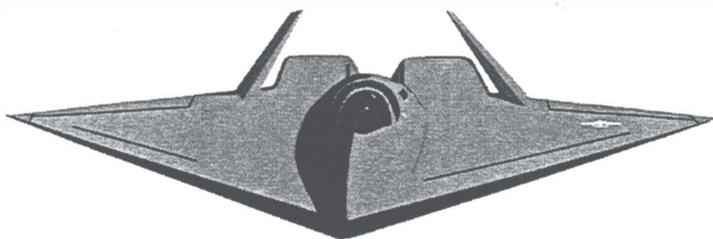
5) **FLAMING PUMPKIN SEED** - Hypothetical hypersonic strike/reconnaissance vehicle. This may be a demonstrator for exotic propulsion systems utilising external combustion, possibly similar to an linear aerospike rocket, or pulse detonation wave engine. Planform is said to be that of a diamond or pumpkin seed. The Flaming Pumpkin Seed vehicle could be a one-off test-bed, possibly even the source of the doughnuts on a rope contrails.

The Flaming Pumpkin Seed may be a development vehicle for the air spike concept. Not to be confused with the Linear Aerospike Rocket, this involves using a focused plasma beam to form a shock wave ahead of the vehicle, reducing drag and allowing lighter, less heat resistant materials in construction. A Russian project called "Ajax" is said to use this technique.



What does the Northrop-Boeing TR-3A look like? The drawing above is a BAE Systems concept for a single seat stealth attack aircraft which may be closely based on this classified US design. If the TR-3A is in USAF service alongside the F-117A Nighthawk, it may serve as a tactical reconnaissance aircraft and act in the target designation role. There have been reports that small numbers of these aircraft operated during the Gulf War and Balkans Campaigns.

BILL ROSE

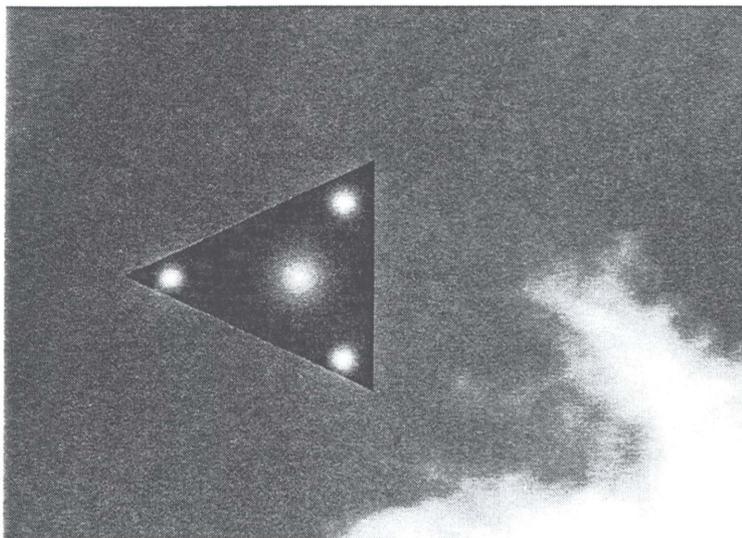


Possible appearance of the A-17/FB-119A. If it exists, this aircraft could be a stealthy tactical light bomber with a supercruise capability.

An attack aircraft to replace the retired F-111 and the ageing F-117 stealth fighter would appear to be an obvious USAF requirement, so this aircraft may already be in semi-operational service.

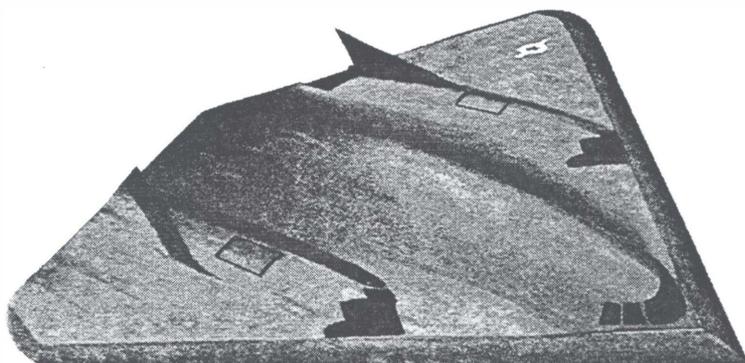
6) **F-121** - a Vertical/Short Take Off and Landing (V/STOL) strike reconnaissance vehicle. Reported to be based in underground hangars and rumoured to use technology of a highly advanced nature. This craft has a triangular planform and emits bright light from what is thought to be its "powerplant".

Hmmmmm, sounds familiar... It is odd that the leading proponent of the rather exotic F-121 should cast doubt on the North Sea Triangle sighting, stating that it was nothing more sinister than a third F-111 refuelling fully swept. According to KC-135 Stratotanker crew and F-111 pilots such a procedure would be dangerous and is not normally attempted.



Powered by an exotic propulsion system, the "top secret" F-121 "Sentinel" could be little more than wishful thinking or at best a concept from a contractor's think tank.

BILL ROSE



The widely rumoured Boeing Senior Citizen tactical stealth transporter would be used to covertly insert special forces deep behind enemy lines in a high priority situation. If this aircraft exists in small numbers, it will remain classified until circumstances force disclosure.

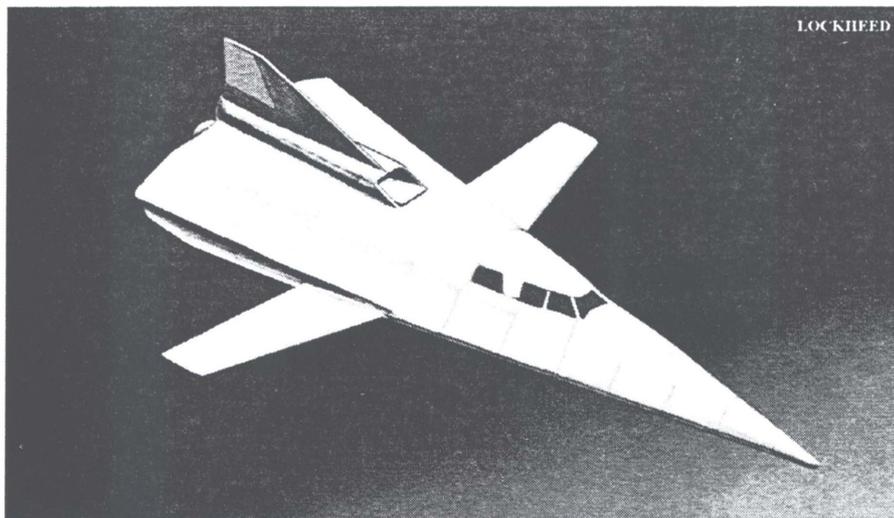
7) **SENIOR CITIZEN** - STOL Transport.

Working from Freedom of Information Act documents and sightings of an aircraft with an ogival planform, Senior Citizen may have been identified. Previously considered to be a code name for the Aurora project, it is now thought to be the name of a programme to develop a low observable STOL transport. This would be an ideal platform for the covert insertion and support of special forces and as such its role would require a covert development and deployment programme.

8) **ASTRA** - Supersonic replacement for the SR-71 Blackbird strategic spy-plane.

The March 1997 edition of Airforces Monthly, a respected aviation journal, carried an unprecedented 10 page spread on what has since entered black aviation lore as the Boscombe Down Incident. The article described an aircraft crash on the runway at the Defence Evaluation and Research Agency airfield at Boscombe Down. Boscombe Down not only has secure facilities, but is also one of the longest runways in the United Kingdom.

The roads in the district were sealed off and over the next couple of days a variety of odd aircraft movements were observed at Boscombe Down. Of course none of this happened, but it has been postulated that a high supersonic (Mach 3 - 4) aircraft called ASTRA (Advanced Stealth Technology Reconnaissance Aircraft) suffered



A Lockheed concept from the early seventies showing a mixed propulsion hypersonic spyplane capable of operating on the edge of the Earth's atmosphere. Something similar to this may already have been flown from Area 51 or White Sands, using an updated XB-70 as a launch vehicle.

an undercarriage failure on take off. It was then recovered and the pieces shipped back to the US in a C-5 Galaxy. Of course, it is possible that the aircraft involved in this incident was the alledged A-17/FB-119A.

9) SWITCHBLADE - F-111 replacement

Possibly a classic example of a patent document being applied to black aircraft. Grumman developed the X-29 to investigate the feasibility of using forward swept wings on combat aircraft.

When a mystery aircraft with a peculiar planform was seen flying around Cannon AFB in New Mexico, a former F-111 base, it was assumed that this was a replacement for the F-111. The strange planform was due the air-



USAF

The F-111 swing wing bomber was operated by the USAF and although it suffered early teething problems, the range and performance, (which far exceeded the F-117A) made this a valuable asset for tactical combat operations. At the present time, no successor has been revealed, but it seems likely that a replacement does exist.

United States Patent

Date of Patent: Nov. 16, 1999 Patent Number: 5,984,231

AIRCRAFT WITH VARIABLE FORWARD SWEEP WING

Assignee: Northrop Grumman Corporation, Los Angeles, Calif

Inventors: Heinz A. Gerhardt
Kenneth Seho
Joan Nolan
Matthew N. Mrdeza

Appl No: 09/100,738

Filed: Jun 19, 1998

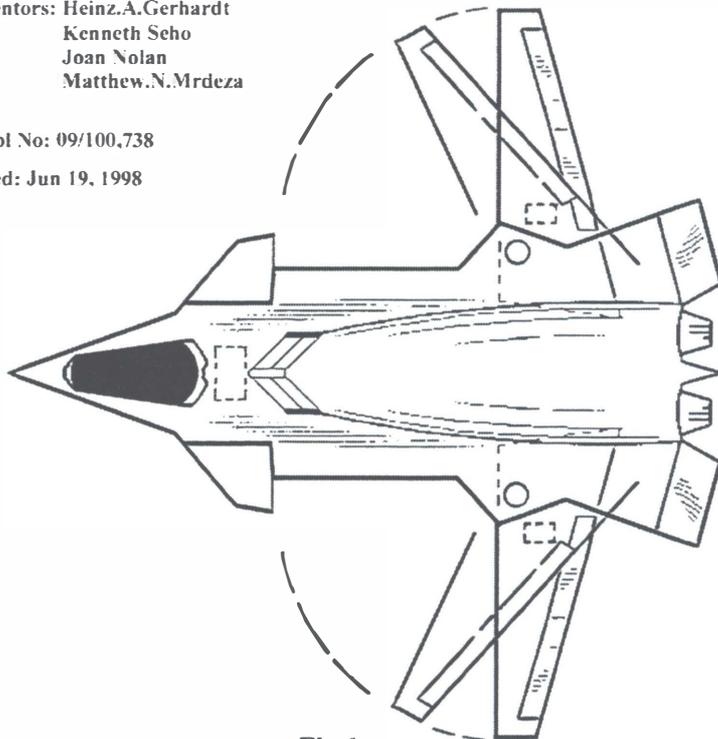


Fig 1A

When this drawing was released by the U.S Patents Office, it reinforced a growing belief amongst aviation observers that a new generation of combat aircraft developed from the experimental YF-23 stealth fighter had arrived. Conceivably, the FB-119A, Astra and Switchblade may be linked together and are all variations on a theme.

US PATENTS OFFICE ADAPTED BY BILL ROSE

craft being variable geometry, but with the wings sweeping forward.

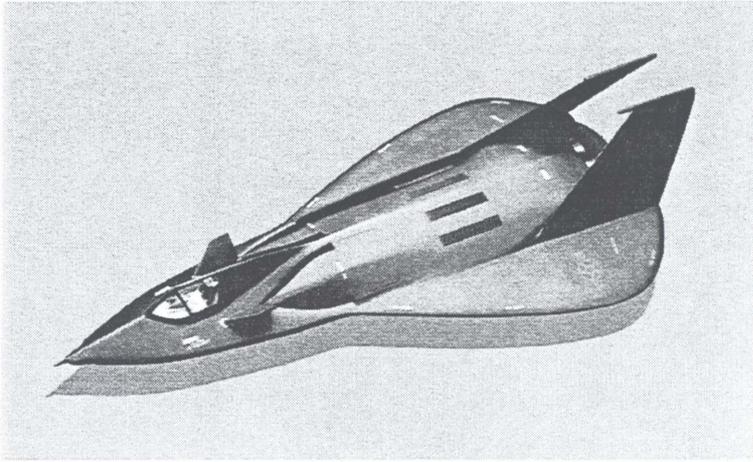
A rummage in the US patent office revealed that a patent for such a system had been filed by Grumman. In early 2001 there was an announcement (by the pundits) that the unveiling of the Switchblade was imminent. It wasn't.

BOXING CLEVER

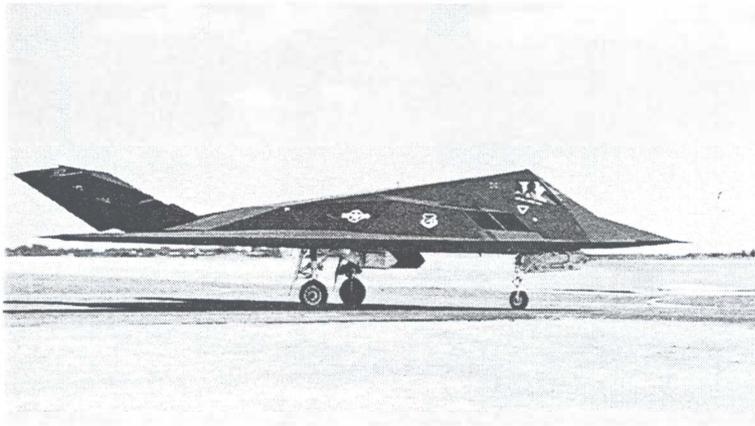
How many cats are in Schrodinger's box? Where do these hypothetical aircraft originate? Since there can be no official acknowledgement of any advanced technology projects, the pundits base their descriptions on the large volume of research conducted when generous budgets were available.

Much of this information is easily available in the public domain, but any practical applications are classified. When an unusual (preferring to eschew the use of the word "unidentified" and its connotations) vehicle is sighted, the patents, research data and especially project concepts are picked over until a match is found and the presses roll. Of course, that is what editors pay these pundits to do.

As a result similar vehicles, or one vehicle sighted in different circumstances, may be attributed to totally disparate identities. The assigning of roles and performance regimes depends on the area of interest of whoever does the analysis of the sighting.



BILL ROSE



The F-19A stealth fighter (top) was believed to be a real aircraft for several years, but eventually turned out to be the F-117A stealth Interdictor (above) designed to covertly attack high priority targets. Whether there were plans in the 1970s to build a radar invisible aircraft capable of taking out Soviet AWACS aircraft remains unknown.

What springs to mind is that one vehicle has been attributed separate identities.

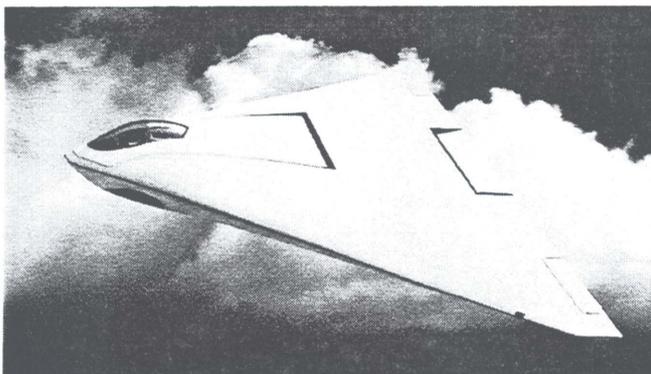
THREE-IN-ONE

It is this problem which has cropped up time and again in the world of

black aircraft. At least three of these nine vehicles share a common planform, a 75deg delta. This planform has been the most obvious feature of the Aurora and A-17/FB-119A vehicles described since 1992.

ASTRA is said to possess a double delta shape, but the basic planform is also a 75

USN-BILL ROSE



Before the ill-fated A-12A Avenger 11 was ordered by the US Navy, a small demonstrator called Sneaky Pete was tested at Area 51 and China Lake. Occasional distant sightings of this classified triangular aircraft may have generated UFO reports during the 1980s.

degree delta. If, like the XB-70 Valkyrie,

ASTRA featured compression lift in its design, as a Mach 3 - 4 aircraft might, the drooped outer panels might produce the appearance of a double delta planform.

Thought to be one of the best planforms for hypersonic flight, the 75deg delta would also serve the low level/high speed strike role well, with the wing conferring high internal fuel volume and associated long range.

In fact these two shapes (double and 75degree delta) are so alike the obvious question is: Are they the same vehicle? While no one can overlook the seismic evidence for hypersonic or high supersonic vehicles, the fact that



CHRIS GIBSON COLLECTION

FOCKE - WULF Fw. 198
Single Seat Fighter
(Details of this silhouette may not be accurate)

The plane that never was! A three view drawing of the FW-198, which was thought to be in service with the Luftwaffe during WW11.

this delta shape has been observed in the same low level role as the F-111 and in the company of F-111s does seem to suggest a common purpose.

Another two vehicles, TR-3A and F-121, share the broad equilateral triangle planform. Again there is a disparity in their respective roles: the TR-3A is thought to be a high altitude reconnaissance vehicle while the F-121 is a V/STOL strike aircraft. Again, my money is on the mundane.

There is no intention to irritate those that have glimpsed and described these vehicles, but only the 75deg deltas and the equilateral deltas have been observed with any regularity. This is possibly due to the others being one-off

prototypes which have since fulfilled their development task (like Tacit Blue/Shamu). They are also the only ones observed and described by experienced aircraft watchers.

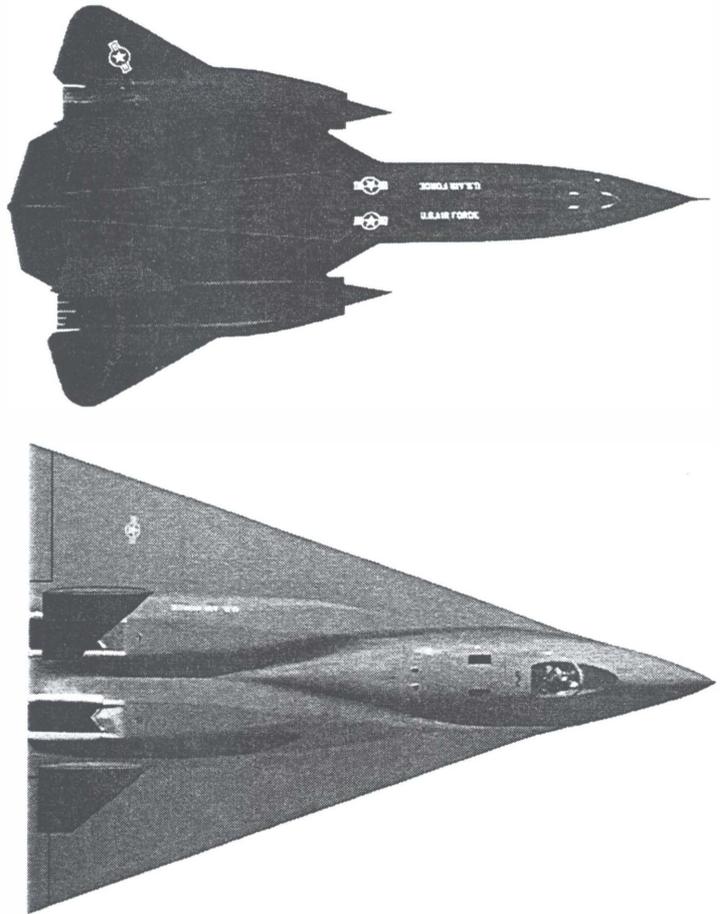
PRECEDENCE

This situation was well known to intelligence officers during the Second World War. An example of the "3-in-1" situation dates back to 1944 and involves the V-1 Doodlebug. As the V-1 offensive began, it was thought that there were three different types of V-1. In actual fact, as the situation evolved, the Doodlebug's true shape became apparent. Earlier in the war British Intelligence produced a great deal of information and graphics on a German fighter design, the Focke Wulf FW-198. It later transpired that this aircraft was a complete fantasy despite reports from agents and pilots who claimed to have encountered it.

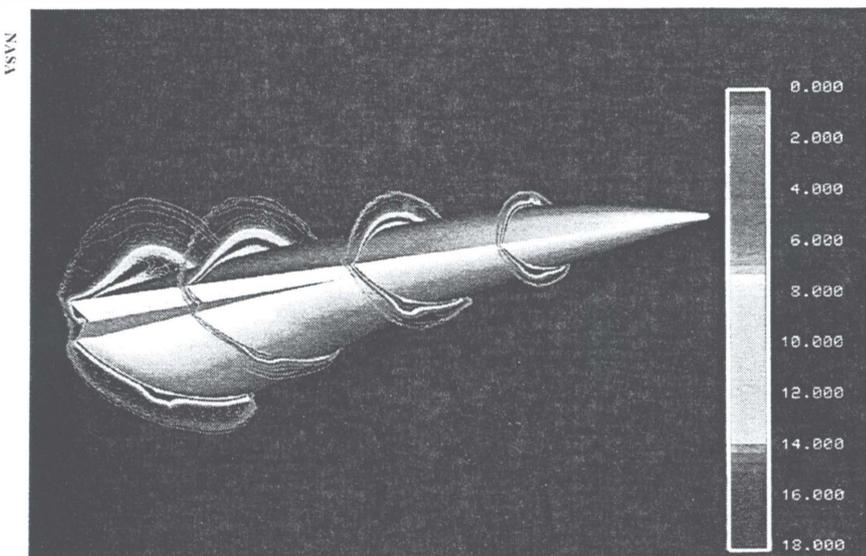
Even a quick look at the black aircraft scene gives the impression that there is a multitude of types, some of which could, like the FW-198 be complete fantasy. That there was not enough finance in the budget to build and procure all of these types is fairly obvious (you can only destroy so many spy satellites during abortive launches).

Either there had been limitless finance to produce a plethora of types, or as is more likely, less funding for a restricted range of vehicles. Even in

BILL ROSE



Possible appearance of the Mach 3.5 Astra which would be a logical replacement for the retired Lockheed SR-71 spyplane. (Top) Featuring a 75 degree delta shape, the Astra would cruise at 100,000 ft, relaying data in real time to analysts in the U.S, via relay platforms in geostationary orbit.



Complex studies were carried out by NASA during the late 1980s to determine the viability of single-stage-to-orbit spaceplane, which some took to be a "white" side of the alleged Aurora spyplane project. Whether or not a covert hypersonic vehicle has been built and tested remains a matter of speculation. Note the usual 75 deg delta shape!

the 1980s when the black budgets were flush with funds, the number of projects would be limited. The diversity of vehicles is more likely to be due to varied circumstances of the individual sightings.

So, consider the case of the 75deg deltas. Are these descriptions of the same vehicle and if so, what is it? A hypersonic reconnaissance vehicle would hardly be playing follow-my-leader through the valleys of Nevada at 250ft. But would a high-speed attack jet be taking on fuel over the North Sea more than 6 years before its existence was even postulated? If the North Sea vehicle was the F-111 replacement, would it have the necessary performance to generate a sonic boom capable of damaging a church roof on Texel island? The former is unlikely, while the latter suggests a highly successful covert develop-

ment programme on a par with that of the F-117A. The initial observation that reality is more mundane than the speculation probably favours the F-111 replacement, Aurora being the most exotic of the pair.

Hypersonic flight (Mach 5+), particularly the cruise, is incredibly difficult. Gas dynamics characteristics change as Mach number increases, affecting engine combustion and performance. Aircraft structures require special construction techniques and materials. Aurora would be a very exotic beast indeed.

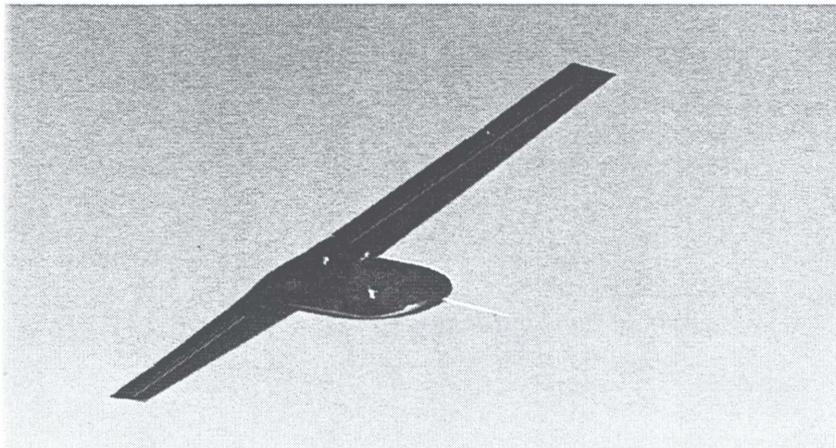
The TR-3A poses a completely different question. There is consensus on the role for a TR-3A vehicle, that of reconnaissance, target illuminator and data relay platform for the F-117A.

The reported triangular configuration may have been a prototype for the cancelled US Navy's A-12 Avenger II attack aircraft, which is rumoured to have been built under the project name Sneaky Pete. Alternatively, the flying wing could have been a sub-scale B-2 proof of concept vehicle, though this has been discounted by the B-2 manufacturer, Northrop. This leaves the mantaray shaped vehicle. Its broad, lifting body design and resultant high internal volume would allow a respectable payload. Combine those with stealthy characteristics and you have an ideal high-altitude, long endurance reconnaissance vehicle.

Why develop and produce such an aircraft when a U-2R could fill the same niche? Possibly the workload of such an aircraft is too high for one pilot, which is probably the reason the F-117As need this targeting assistance in the first place, if this is actually required.

Perhaps the U-2R's mixture of 1950s concept and 1960s airframe did not possess the requisite capability to fulfil a 1990s mission. An aircraft design cannot be updated forever, changing threats and new systems will eventually require a new airframe. Of which more later.

As a concept, V/STOL strike aircraft such as the F-121 make a great deal of sense: witness the BAe Harrier. A Lockheed proposal, the MMSA



USAF

The Lockheed-Martin Tier-3 Darkstar is an unusual looking long winged, relatively small high altitude unmanned reconnaissance drone. There has been ongoing speculation that the alleged TR-3A came about because someone mis-heard the designation of this aircraft. (Tee-arr-three?)

(Multi-Mission Support Aircraft) has been proposed to fill a variety of roles such as combat search and rescue, special forces support or light transport. A V/STOL strike aircraft using an advanced propulsion system would be an exotic beast indeed, but why develop it?

Yet again we have a mundane (TR-3A) and an exotic (F-121) solution to the identity of the equilateral vehicle.

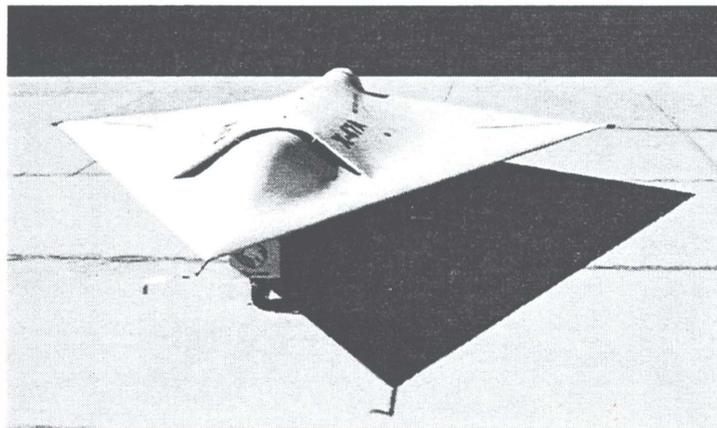
NUMBER 10 - THE BEAST OF BODMIN

In the spring of 1996 a British angle to the mystery aircraft conundrum appeared on the scene. An anonymous report described a bizarre series of events at RAF St Mawgan, the former Nimrod base in Cornwall. The events were so odd (the report smacked of a "Bloke-in-a-pub" story) that it was thought best to leave well alone, but

here is the tale as related to me. A witness described a black-coloured aircraft making a "Khe San" (steep approach used by C-130 crews in high-threat tactical situations) landing on what might even be a taxiway.

Three braking chutes were deployed to slow the aircraft. As the aircraft rolled out, a hatch in the runway opened and the aircraft taxied under the runway. A Royal Air Force C-130K Hercules then taxied up to park on the hatch.

The aircraft itself was equally bizarre. A cigar-shaped fuselage with long (estimated to be +/- 40m) high aspect ratio mid mounted wings. The cockpit was described as being similar to a German wartime Arado 234 Blitz jet bomber. (Witnesses invariably describe aircraft by referring to features of aircraft they are familiar with) A single jet engine was mounted under



NORTHROP GRUMMAN

There is now a move away from manned aircraft and we can expect to see more designs coming along like the stealthy diamond shaped Northrop-Grumman X-47 prototype combat aircraft.



A Lockheed U-2R leaves RAF Mildenhall on an operational mission during the mid-1980s. Still in USAF service, the original high altitude aircraft was built in secret during the early 1950s with black budget funding to monitor military activity in the Soviet Union. This continued until 1960 when Gary Powers was shot down over Sverdlovsk.

each wing. A butterfly tail and bicycle undercarriage with outriggers completes the description.

Take-off involved the Hercules moving off the hatch, the hatch opening and the aircraft emerging to take off after a short roll. Afterburners were employed for take off and climb out, which was very steep.

If events in this story are basically true, what about the aircraft? The roll out of the TIER 2 / Global Hawk showed this Uninhabited Air Ve-

hicle (UAV) to have a bulbous "cockpit", long straight wings and a butterfly tail. It does, however have a single dorsal engine and not underwing engines.

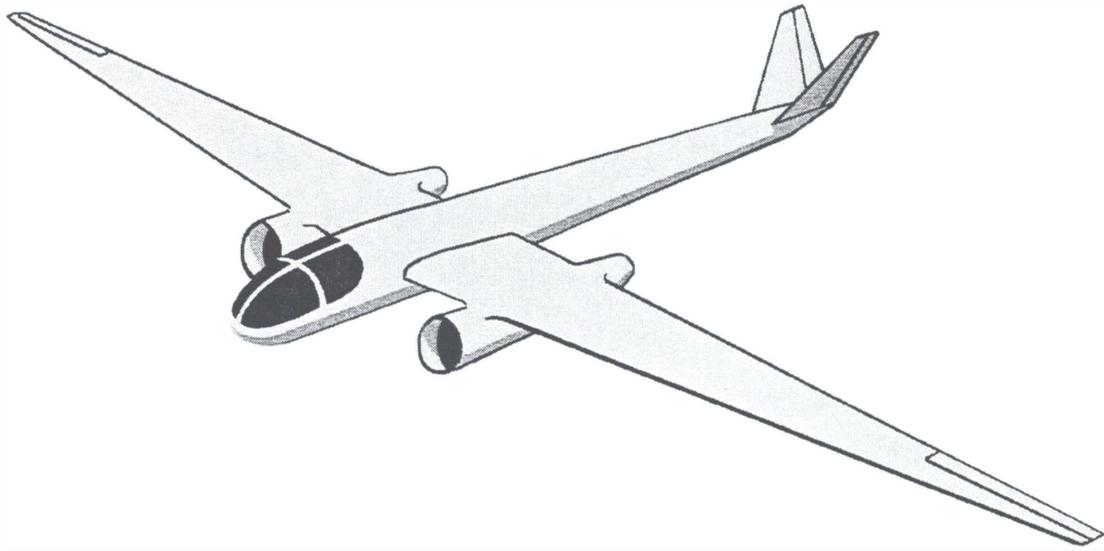
Perhaps the underwing afterburner engines were RATO (Rocket Assisted Take-Off) pods. Was Global Hawk the Beast of Bodmin? Could the Global Hawk have been lurking in an underground hangar for years before its "first" flight? Doubtful, but perhaps this story is just too strange to be

a hoax. Perhaps the Beast of Bodmin is the missing link in the black aircraft chain. A high supersonic strike aircraft such as the FB-119 / A-17/ AS-TRA might require a stand-off targeting platform. As I previously mentioned, the U-2R is becoming an old and restricting design, despite mid life updates and re-engineing, so a replacement for what has been a workhorse of the last 30 years would be a priority.



USAF

The unmanned Global Hawk spyplane. Is there a connection between this large remotely piloted vehicle and the mysterious aircraft glimpsed at RAF St Mawgen?



The Beast of Bodmin. An unacknowledged experimental military aircraft operating from a UK base?

Interestingly, a Boeing proposal for the Advanced Technology Bomber (ATB), a very early title for the studies that led to the Northrop B-2, looks rather similar to the aircraft described. Apart from the wing being of much higher aspect ratio and being straight rather than crescent, the basic aircraft is the same.

So there you are; a single sighting produces a completely new black aircraft. How often has this happened?

CONCLUSION

As has been demonstrated above, a case can be made for the existence of any of these vehicles. Those who doubt the existence of the high-speed vehicles should look no further than the seismic data, which provide evidence of some kind of high-speed vehicle. The TR-3A vehicles do not provide such convenient testimony to their reality, but the frequency of sightings suggests such vehicles exist. The British aspect is most interesting, as the activity related in this document constitutes the only "evidence" for such a vehicle, apart from a recognised long-term association between the UK and USA on military technology and facilities dating back to WW II. As with any theoretical field, the various factions attempt to undermine each other through healthy de-

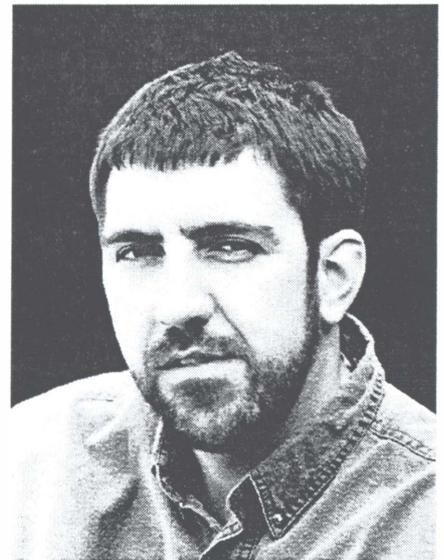
bate. Meanwhile those in the know continue to grin, happy with the current state of "divide and rule". The vitality of Herr Schrodinger's black cats is still open to debate and answers are not likely to appear in the near future. I'm happy to play the long game and wait for the opening of the box. I'm sure we'll all be surprised.

Schrodinger's cat? Edwin Schrodinger was an Austrian physicist whose work on quantum theory laid the foundations of modern nuclear physics. His most famous work involved a hypothetical cat that was sealed in a box with a radioactive source. If the source emitted a particle, a detector would trigger the release of cyanide, killing the cat. The experiment can only be brought to a conclusion by opening the box and observing the cat's state of health. Until the box is opened it is impossible to determine the result.

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BILL ROES



Chris Gibson is an oil exploration engineer and geologist. He has always been interested in aircraft and was an active member of the Royal Observer Corps until it was disbanded in 1991. He is still widely acknowledged as an expert on military aircraft identification.

Since his accidental sighting of what may have been a secret U.S prototype aircraft over the North Sea in 1989, Chris has become increasingly interested in the world of black budget aviation. He has appeared in several TV documentaries and written numerous technical articles on the subject.

PROJECT HESSDALEN

SCIENCE V THE UFO

While tales of alien abduction and government cover-ups are rife, little is heard of the most common of UFO sightings, lights-in-the-sky' (LITS).

It is true that most LITS reports can be easily explained away, usually as aircraft lights, but also astronomical bodies such as bright stars and planets. But there is a small residue of such LITS reports that are not so easily explained.

These often haunt certain geographical areas such as the Pennine Hills of Northern England, Marfa, Texas in the USA, and Hessdalen in central Norway. It was the LITS in Hessdalen that attracted the attention of UFO researchers from Norway and Sweden in the early 1980s, and since then many others from around the world.

The Hessdalen LITS were the first to be subjected to scientific scrutiny using a whole host of hi-tech equipment.

Hessdalen really was the scene of 'Science versus The UFO.

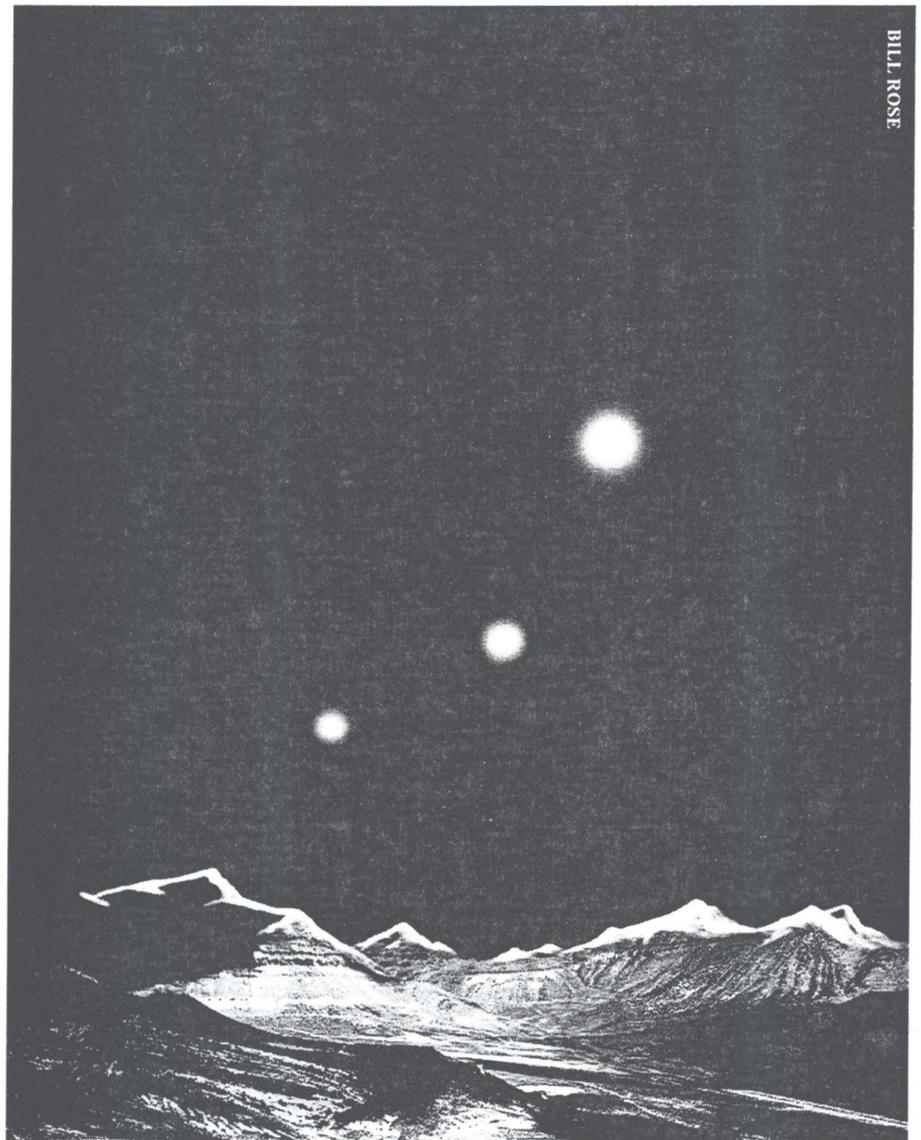
Hessdalen is a valley in central Norway. It lies to the south-east of Trondheim and about 30 kilometres north-west of the town of Roros. The whole valley stretches 12 kilometres in length and has only around 200 inhabitants. The valley is special for one very unusual feature; mysterious lights.

THE FIRST APPEARANCE

In December 1981, unknown lights suddenly started to appear in the skies above Hessdalen. They would sometimes remain stationary for more than an hour.

These lights were also seen to move around slowly before stopping, and sometimes they were observed travelling at a fast rate of speed. At one time they were tracked on radar and estimated to be travelling at approximately 8,500 meters per second.

The lights were observed just about everywhere and more often than not they were below the horizon down in



BILL ROSE

PHILIP MANTLE

the valley and not high up in the sky. It has to be said that the vast majority of the lights were reported to be below the tops of nearby mountains.

No one in Hessdalen could offer an explanation for these strange lights.

THE SHAPE OF THE LIGHTS

The lights themselves appeared to have several different shapes. This was something that became quite apparent when the lights were photo-

graphed. The main shapes were; bullet shaped with the sharp end down, a round football shape, and an upside down Christmas tree shape. There were other shapes but the above three were the main ones.

The colours of the lights were mostly white or a yellow/white. Sometimes a small red light could be seen amongst the white. On a few occasions the lights were made up of every colour in the rainbow. The lights could be observed several times a day, but

they were seen more during the night.

At the most they were observed four times a day. There were more reports of the lights in the winter rather than the summer. One reason for this might be the fact that in summer Hessdalen has almost perpetual daylight.

THE COLOURS OF THE LIGHTS

The lights could be split into three groups:

1. Small and strong white or blue flashes which could show up everywhere in the sky.
2. Yellow or yellow/white lights. These lights were mainly observed in the valley on and seen below the horizon.

However in the Autumn of 1984 sightings began to increase.

As there was no official or government interest by Norway into these strange lights, five individual researchers began their own research project: Project Hessdalen.

Their aim was simple; to conduct scientific research into the mysterious Hessdalen lights. The project consisted of a working committee, which had the responsibility of running the project, and an advisory committee to assist the working committee on the theoretical part of the project. The advisors were also there to act as an 'expert' group and to answer questions from others involved in the project.

PROJECT HESSDALEN TAKES OFF

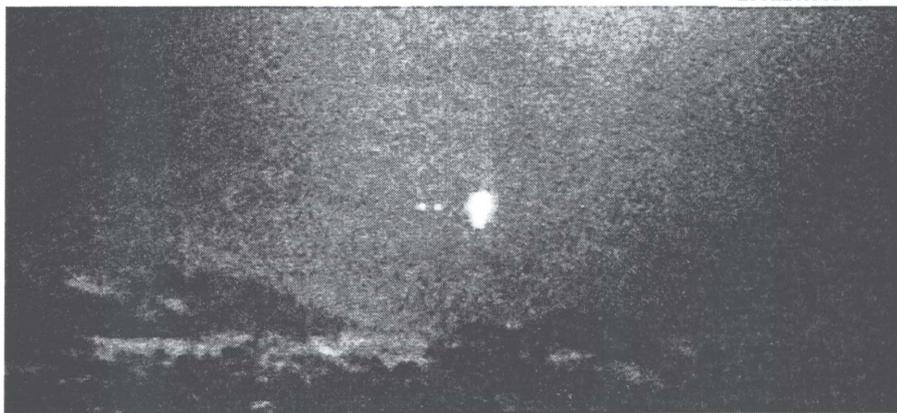
Project Hessdalen managed to obtain good contacts in a number of institutions in Norway including the Norwegian Defence Research Establishment, The University of Oslo, the University of Bergen and also the University of Trondheim. Some of the Project's team had made contact with these establishments in the past in the course of other research.

The UFO research groups of both UFO Norway and UFO Sweden, along with many volunteers, began their field studies of the Hessdalen lights in January 1984.

A wide variety of sophisticated instrumentation was to be used in order to try and get to grips with the unknown lights. Such instrumentation included a battery of cameras, radar, spectrum analyser, geiger counter, and much more.

No sooner had the field study begun in snow-bound Hessdalen valley than the project began to obtain some positive results. On January 27, 1984, the lights were seen by project members and on radar. At 5.32 pm an oblong-shaped light was observed. The light was observed moving away over the mountains and out of sight. The light had a white and red colour to it, which blinked at uneven intervals. On January 28 at 3.49 pm something was detected on radar but nothing was seen

VIA THE AUTHOR



Sometimes they were just above the rooftops and even down on the ground.

They could appear stationary for more than an hour before slowly moving off around the valley, and sometimes appeared to have extremely fast acceleration and very rapid speeds.

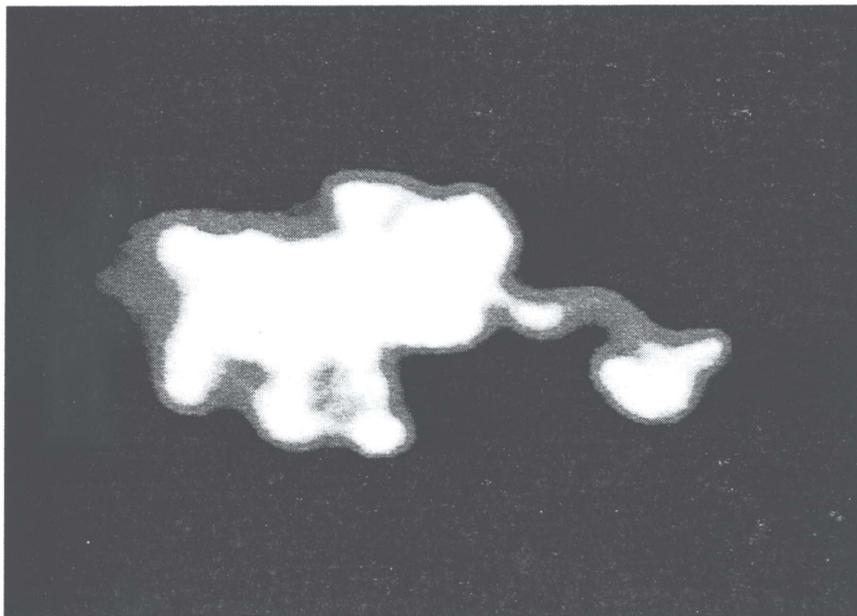
3. Several lights together at a fixed distance from each other. Mostly these were yellow or yellow/white lights with a red light at the front. These lights could move slowly around the tops of the mountains.

THE SIGHTINGS CONTINUE

The reports of the strange lights carried on throughout 1982, but suddenly in the spring of 1983, sightings of them dropped rapidly. By the summer of 1983 there were no reports of the lights at all.

However, in the autumn and winter of 1983 the sightings began again but in far fewer numbers than before.

(Above) A mysterious group of lights hangs above the Hessdalen Valley in 1984.



VIA THE AUTHOR

Captured on film, this highly enlarged section shows the extraordinary shape of one particular Hessdalen light as it floated above the ground.

with the naked eye. On January 29 there was again an echo on the radar but again nothing was observed by the crowd of people who had gathered there. On the February 1st, numerous radar returns were made but again the lights remained elusive to the ground observers.

Later that night an oblong-shaped light was observed by 11 people and it was also photographed. Throughout the remainder of the project numerous observations of the lights would be made and they were photographed on many occasions.

INSTRUMENTATION

The instruments used for the project were many and varied. They included:

A camera with a special filter which could be used to analyse the light spectrum.

A seismograph was used to measure any movements in the Earth's crust, just in case the lights were related to small earthquakes. None were registered.

Radar recordings totalled 36, three of which coincided with observations made by the projects observers. Two photographs of the radar screen were taken depicting the returns.

The project also used a spectrum analyser connected to an antenna so that all radio signals could be monitored on a screen. At no time did this instrument pick up anything unusual.

A magnetometer was used to measure any variations in the Earth's magnetic field. There were none.

A laser was pointed at the lights a total of nine times. Eight out of the nine times the lights seemed to respond to the laser by altering the way they were flashing.

Geiger counters were used to measure any radiation but nothing unusual was recorded.

An infrared viewer was also used but on the two occasions when the lights were observed using this instrument there was no infrared radiation visible.

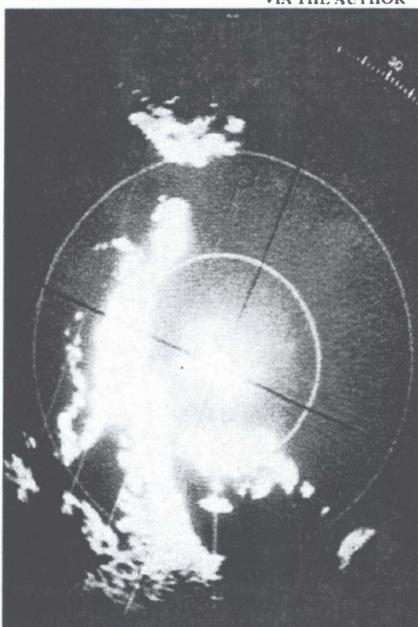
The camera was probably the most effective of all the instruments used. Dozens of colour photographs were taken.



A wide range of cameras and scientific instruments are prepared for use during the initial attempts to discover the cause of the Hessdalen LITS.

Those taken by using a long exposure showed the round or oval lights. All the cameras were tripod mounted to reduce blurring. The lights were photographed in the sky, just above the mountain tops and of course down in the Hessdalen valley itself. Computer analysis of some of the photographs was inconclusive.

VIA THE AUTHOR



To date, radar has played an important role in attempting to monitor and understand the mysterious lights.

UFO LABORATORY

A similar exercise was attempted again in the winter of 1985, but due to extremely bad weather conditions it was not possible to repeat the success of the 1984 project. American UFO researcher, the late Dr J. Allen Hynek, who was at one time a consultant to the official United States Air Force UFO study Project Blue Book, visited the 1985 Hessdalen project.

It was to be one of his last field trips before he died the following year. Dr. Hynek described the project as "a UFO laboratory" and was extremely impressed by the results of the 1984 project and of the efforts of all those involved.

Since that time Project Hessdalen has been discussed and debated in many countries around the world. The lights, although still there, are not in such profusion as they were in 1984. Some equipment still monitors the area and the researchers involved still hope to set up camp in the Hessdalen valley once again should the lights return in large numbers.

It has been speculated that the strange lights could be related to some kind of weather phenomenon, or to lights produced by faults in the

earth's crust termed 'earthlights'. Some believe that a solid structure lies behind the lights, but no one knows for sure what they are. They remain truly unidentified.

STILL UNIDENTIFIED

In the spring of 1994 a group of 20 scientists attended a workshop in Hessdalen which lasted for four days. These included Professor Boris Smirnov from the Institute of High Temperatures in Moscow, Russia, Professor David Fryberger from the Stanford Linear Accelerator in the USA, and Professor Yoshi Ohtsuki from Waseda University in Japan. All agreed that the Hessdalen lights were 'real' and not illusions of any kind and that they were worthy of further scientific study. UFOs had been promoted into the scientific premier league.

UK based researcher Paul Devereux, who is part of the Project Hessdalen consultancy team and was at the workshop in 1994, continues to work closely with Project Hessdalen leader Erling Strand. Both have ventured far and wide to research similar types of light phenomena in other parts of the world.

Today seventeen years after Project Hessdalen, and UFO Norway and UFO Sweden's alliance to conduct one of the most rigorous scientific studies of UFOs conducted by any civilian UFO group, sightings are still being reported.



This photographic image clearly reveals one of the strange lights hovering above the ground.

Image Via the Author

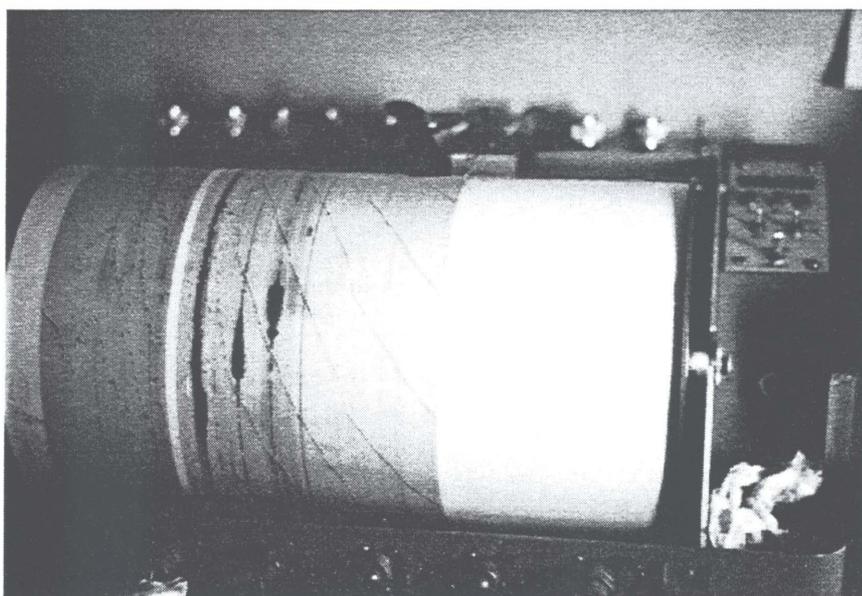
The local population still regularly report sightings directly to UFO Norway. Local people have reported both lights-in-the-sky and apparent structured, cigar-shaped UFOs. Recent sightings (year 2001) include a report by Mr. F. Moen on April 13. In a valley west of Hessdalen his son observed a fast moving light for over 20 minutes. Throughout the sighting the light continued to change colour as it moved about the sky. Earlier in the year, on March 28 Mr Tor Gaserud was driving towards the town of Roros when he observed a blue-green light close to the mountain ridge. The light was observed for around 20 seconds. Right at the beginning of the year Mr Peder Gronas and his grand-

son Bjarne Lillevold were driving towards Hessdalen when they observed a bright light just above the mountain. Whatever these LITS are, they continue to be observed in and around the Hessdalen region as these few sightings clearly show.

AUTOMATIC MEASUREMENT STATION

Equipment still monitoring the Hessdalen valley includes an Automatic Measurement Station (AMS). This is a video camera linked to a video recorder and a computer system. The camera takes photographs at regular intervals but it is also triggered if a light source appears. An improved AMS is on the drawing board but funds are required to upgrade the equipment already there. When such plans can be accomplished is solely dependent on how much money can be raised from sponsors. The main sponsor today has been Ostfold University College in Norway. The amount of money so far generated has not yet achieved the desired result to solve the Hessdalen Phenomenon. Further plans for Project Hessdalen include:

- Expanding the Automatic Measurement Station.
- Develop and run a database, with a web interface.
- Analyse data and begin the necessary activities to find the answers to the Hessdalen Phenomenon.
- Develop small AMS that can be in-



The seismograph at work recording local activity in the Hessdalen Valley.

Image Via the Author

stalled in other places with high UFO activity.

HOW TO BECOME A SPONSOR OF PROJECT HESSDALEN

Project Hessdalen is run mainly on a voluntary basis, with individuals spending their own time and money to try and resolve the puzzle of the Hessdalen lights. Proper funding could enable more research to be conducted and further equipment to be bought in order to find a possible solution to this enigma and extremely important research project.

Financial assistance is required to purchase the right equipment, install it and set it to work. Money is also required to pay people to work on the project, which in turn will speed things up rather than having to rely on volunteers.

Project Hessdalen, the "UFO LABORATORY" as termed by the later DR Hynek, needs your support. Donations and sponsorship both large and small are very welcome. If you would like to become a sponsor you can contact Mr. Erling Strand on:

Telephone: +47 41425 411

Fax: +47 69168018.

Or you can write to him c/o:
UFO NORWAY, PO BOX 124, N-31363 Borgheim, Norway.

More information on Project Hessdalen can be found on the web site:
www.hessdalen.org

The mysterious lights in and around the Hessdalen Valley continue to amaze and mystify people. Attempts to pin them down scientifically have not yet fully succeeded, but information of a wide variety has already been obtained. With the rights sponsorship it is hoped that an answer will be found. Until that time, the Hessdalen lights do remain truly 'unidentified'.

THE INSTRUMENTATION USED DURING PROJECT HESSDALEN

Camera with grating.

Special gratings were used in order to try and establish what kind of light



Shortly before his death in 1985, Dr J Allen Hynek (right) visited Hessdalen. Standing next to him (left) is the Project Hessdalen leader Erling Strand.

source was present. Ordinary 35 mm cameras were also used to great effect. The cameras fitted with the special grating were used to try and obtain spectral analysis of the LITS. Only four photographs taken using the special grating proved to be of any use. The results of these pictures were inconclusive.

Seismograph.

A MEQ-800 portable seismic system



Project Hessdalen and UFO Norway researcher Odd-Gunnar Roed, photographed in his office during 2001.

was used in Project Hessdalen. It has been suggested that the LITS were the result of earth movements and the seismograph was used to check to see if there was any correlation between earth movements and manifestations of the LITS. No seismic movements were noted in connection with the LITS.

Radar.

An Atlas 2000 radar was used as part of the project. It had a maximum distance of 33 kilometres and at times did make recordings. A total of 36 radar recordings were made.

Spectrum Analyser.

This piece of equipment was used to check and see if there was any electrical interference caused by the LITS. A Hewlett Packard spectrum analyser was used which swept from 150 kHz to 1250 MHz continuously. Nothing was recorded in connection with the LITS.

Magnetometer.

There were some suggestions that the LITS may be associated with a magnetic field. Could the LITS be caused by magnetic storms for example? A Fluxgate Magnetometer, model FM100, serial 73 was used. No correlation was found with the LITS.



One of a number of mysterious imprints found in the snow, which some researchers claim to be evidence of a UFO landing.

Laser.

A 633nm laser from Spectra-Physics Inc. was used to see if the LITS would react to a strong light source aimed at them. The laser was aimed at the LITS on nine separate occasions. Eight out of nine times the LITS reacted as a result, usually changing the pattern of their flashing.

Geigercounter.

Used to measure background radiation they were also used to check for any increase in radiation readings in locations where the LITS had been seen close to the ground. None were recorded.

Infrared Viewer.

Two FJM, model 80045 IR - viewers were used to check for any IR radiation from the LITS. None was detected.

INTERVIEW

One of the leading researchers for UFO Norway and Project Hessdalen is Mr. Odd-Gunnar Roed from Tonsberg in Southern Norway. I recently caught up with Mr Roed in Norway and what follows is an extract from an in-depth interview I conducted with him in August 2001.

Philip Mantle (PM).
Odd-Gunnar Roed (OGR).

PM: When did you first become interested in UFO's.

* OGR: AS far back as I can remember, when I was about 4-5 years old, I can remember being in the cellar with my Granddad, and asking him about the universe and the possibility of life in space. Luckily he was interested in the subject and he did not put me off. so sometimes I feel as if I was born with this interest in a way.

PM: What part did you play in the Project Hessdalen team.

OGR: My title was Project Coordinator. Mostly I was responsible for the results of our research being distributed to people in Norway and around the world. I prepared a bulletin, which was distributed to selected scientists and large UFO groups.

PM: Have you witnessed the Hessdalen lights yourself.

OGR: Yes. I have. In January 1984 during the project everyone attending could see the lights, you could almost set your watch to the phenomenon. For several weeks the lights appeared almost every 2 hours around the clock. I saw the typical orange-red lights travel through the valley from south to north and I also observed a rare sight which appeared like a dozed flash bulbs going off in one and half seconds and then nothing and then the same thing happened a little further to the north.

PM: What do you believe causes the

Hessdalen lights.

OGR: Well that is almost an impossible question to answer. First these lights appear intelligent then on the other hand they don't appear to be that intelligent as they are travelling through this remote valley doing absolutely nothing. We never witnessed anything of a structured nature, only lights. However, the local people have reported close encounter type cases and close-up UFO sightings of cigar shaped objects. We have had the lights react to us, for example, we decided to turn off our instrumentation and the sightings increased, when we decided to turn it back on again the sightings decreased. This was when we decided to do this not when we actually hit the switch. So you can see, it is very difficult to answer this question but I would go as far to call these lights an intelligent natural phenomenon.

PM: Do you think that science will find an answer to the Hessdalen lights or will they remain unidentified.

OGR: I think that science will find an answer. The question comes down to money. If we remove the term UFO and go down the route of trying to locate a new form of energy then companies from around the world will undoubtedly come on board. These lights could open up a new avenue of physics and we have had scientists from the USA and Russia comment on the lights and have ruled out conventional explanations such as ball lightning. The world of science must continue to study these lights without a doubt.

PM: Do you believe that Project Hessdalen has obtained enough evidence to prove the existence of such an anomalous phenomenon to the scientific community.

OGR: Yes and No. We have several hundred photographs that have baffled scientists and a number of these have been computer analysed and some of them have shown that the lights illuminated the landscape beneath and we have regular photographs captured by an automatic field station there. Erling Strand of Project Hessdalen is the expert behind this and it really is worth a visit to our web site to see all

these photographs and more. So I am convinced that we have enough evidence to prove to scientists that these lights do exist and that they remain unidentified.

PM: UFO research in Norway is not just about Project Hessdalen. What other significant cases are there in Norway?

OGR: Like most countries there are a lot to choose from. We had an interesting 2 weeks in November 1981 in

fore it actually touched the ground 3 times all the while illuminating the snow. The next day they all went to investigate the area and they located 3 marks in the snow. They were round marks, which were circles within circles. They formed a triangular pattern. They were about 50cm in diameter and there was a yellowish-brownish colour to them as well. About 2 weeks later one of the witnesses took me to the site and I located the marks. I took samples from the marks, within the marks, and one from about 215 meters

bunch of fanatics, but in Hessdalen they helped us a great deal.

PM: Apart from the Hessdalen lights, what do you believe is the nature and origin of UFOs.?

OGR: This is another impossible question to answer. I think it could be a combination of things. Of course there is a large degree of unidentified natural phenomena but we must not rule out some of the testimony from abductees. Some of this information is very puzzling and if taken literally I would not rule out extra-terrestrial visitations but I can't be 100 % positive about this.

PM: Last but not least, what do you have to say to the sceptics?

OGR: Take off the blinkers and keep an open mind because there is something very strange going on and we must keep an open mind at all times.



Arendal; the same lights occurred there and then appeared in Hessdalen. Again, a lot of photographs were taken in Arendal. If you travel further south in Norway we had 30 witnesses observe a 'necklace' of lights in-between the islands. It looked like a large ship all lit up. It went on and off several times and other lights seem to land in the sea and a purple light illuminated the seas from underneath. There were also 2 searchlight-like beams pointing inland but they did not seem to cast any shadows. The light was very bright and very puzzling. This has gone on for over 10 years and we can't figure it out.

PM: What is the most baffling UFO case that you have personally investigated.

OGR: In the mountains of central Norway in the Easter of 1991 I was shown a picture from a newspaper showing some strange marks in the snow. Apparently there were 7 friends taking a vacation in the mountains over the Easter period, and they were staying in a cabin above the snowline. They observed this large orange circle of light with a red light underneath. It floated around in the air be-

away. We had the samples analysed at a college and they stated that the control sample was fine, the sample between the marks was just about normal, but the sample from the marks was completely sterile, they suggested that this could have been caused by radiation. Our geiger counter showed no adverse radiation readings, so we were completely at a loss to explain it. This is probably the most baffling case that I have ever investigated.

PM: Are there any interesting UFO photographs from Norway?

OGR: We have one taken by an elderly lady in 1983 which resembles a 'flying dustbin'. The negative was originally sent to the authorities here who 'lost' it. The lady in question saw the object and photographed it and it looks like a flying dustbin with a light on it.

PM: What cooperation, if any, have you had from the Norwegian military?

OGR: We have had quite good cooperation with them over Project Hessdalen so we can only compliment them. I believe they checked us out first just to make sure we were not a



Philip Mantle is the former Director of Investigations for the British UFO Research Association and was the MUFON Representative for England.

He is a well known international lecturer on the subject of UFOs and is the co-author of '**WITHOUT CONSENT**' and '**BEYOND ROSWELL**'.

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TOUCHING THE UNDERCURRENT



Throughout our lives we experience coincide and usually think little of it. But every now and then, a string of seemingly unconnected events will link together in such a bizarre way that we wonder if some supernatural force is revealing itself, or sending us mysterious messages.

Scientists and mathematicians will explain coincidence and synchronicity in terms of statistics and insist that events of this nature are bound to occur from time to time. They will add that it would be even stranger if they didn't!

Perhaps this is true, but since the beginning of recorded history, there have been some truly baffling coincidences that seem to defy common sense and logic, like the following story, which I uncovered during a search of old newspaper records.

On Whit Sun May 26 1817, Mary Ashford, a 20 year old woman who lived in the West Midlands travelled to Birmingham. She arrived at a friend's house in the city, changed her dress and went on to a dance.

At some time during the early hours of the following morning, she was sexually assaulted and murdered in

BILL ROSE

Chester Road, Pye Hayes. The local constabulary arrested a man called Thornton, but he was acquitted at his trial.

On Whit Sun, May 26 1974, Barbara Forrest, who was 20 years of age, travelled into Birmingham from her home in the West Midlands. She changed her dress at a friend's house and they went to a dance. During the early hours of the following morning, she got off a bus in Chester Road, Pye Hayes and shortly after this, she was sexually assaulted and murdered.

The police arrested a man called Thornton. He was charged with her murder and acquitted at his trial.

History is always repeating itself. We are creatures of habit with established preferences, continually making the same mistakes. But when a series of truly amazing coincidences take place, it challenges our perception of reality and makes us question the natural order of things.

NUMEROUS CONNECTIONS

Without doubt, the most widely documented series of coincidences link the lives and assassinations of American Presidents Abraham Lincoln and John F. Kennedy in a number of extraordinary ways, which are too numerous to fully list.

Both men were concerned about black civil rights and each had seven letters in his last name.

In 1858, a public proposal was registered that Lincoln should be the Republican candidate for president. The Navy's Secretary John P. Kennedy was also endorsed for the position of vice president.

Lincoln was elected to Congress in 1846 and Kennedy was elected to Congress in 1946, exactly 100 years apart.

Abraham Lincoln and JFK became the U.S. President in 1860 and JFK became the U.S. President in 1960, exactly 100 years later. Each president was assassinated on a Friday in the presence of his wife.

Lincoln was shot dead in Ford's Theater, while Kennedy was shot in a Lincoln built by the Ford Motor Company.

Both presidents died from a gunshot

to the head. Each suspected assassin used three names: John Wilkes Booth and Lee Harvey Oswald, with fifteen letters in each full name. Booth was born in 1839, while Oswald was born in 1939, again, one hundred years apart.

Booth apparently shot Lincoln in a theatre and ran to a warehouse, and Oswald allegedly shot Kennedy from a warehouse and ran to a theatre.

They were both shot dead before they could stand trial by men armed with Colt pistols.

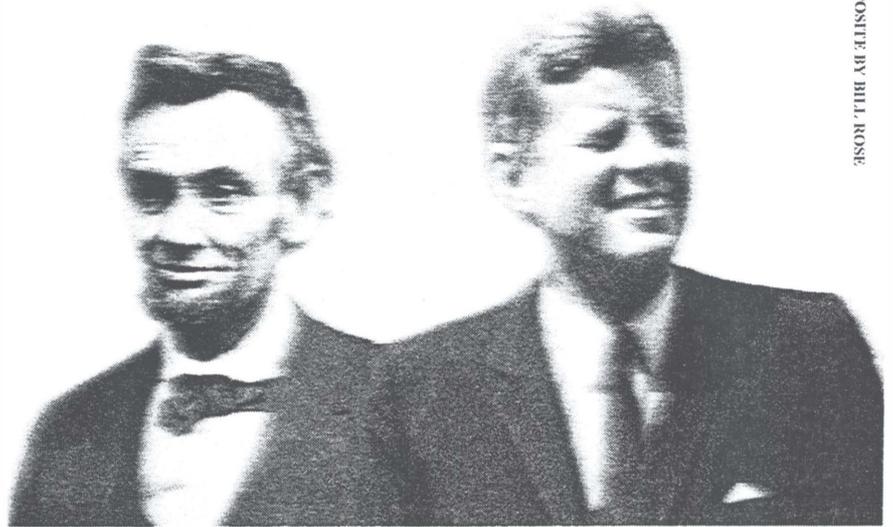
A Southerner with the surname Johnson succeeded both presidents. Abraham Lincoln was replaced by Andrew Johnson, born in 1808, while JFK was succeeded by Lyndon Johnson, born in 1908.

Again both dates are 100 years apart. Each Johnson had 13 letters in his name and they both served in the U.S. Senate.

Mary Lincoln and Jackie Kennedy had children who died during the time their husbands were in office. Lincoln and Kennedy both studied law. Kennedy's secretary was called Miss Lincoln, and Lincoln's secretary was called John Kennedy.

Prior to each assassination, Lincoln and Kennedy made extraordinarily prophetic statements. A few hours before visiting the theatre, Lincoln said to his bodyguard, "If somebody wants to take my life, there is nothing I can do prevent it."

Just before Kennedy arrived in Dallas, he said to his wife Jackie, "If somebody wants to shoot me from a



window with a rifle, nobody can stop it, so why worry about it?"

Both presidents were probably the victims of a conspiracy and when Lincoln was shot, all telegraph lines out of Washington D.C. were shut down for three hours on the orders of a high level official who has never been identified.

Similar tales have been told about telephone exchange blackouts following the Kennedy assassination and in each case, a number of key witnesses to the shootings met with a mysterious death or simply vanished.

Two weeks before JFK was assassinated, a new dollar bill was issued in Dallas, which falls within the 11th of 12 Federal Reserve Bank districts.

This bill carries the letter K, the 11th letter of the alphabet, and the number 11 is printed in each corner. The serial

number begins with K and ends with A, which some have seen as denoting the Kennedy Assassination.

Eleven also stands for November, the 11th month of the year; two 11's equal 22, the date of the tragedy. And the series number is 1963, the year the assassination occurred.

Seven years later, an unlucky number was linked to NASA's Moon flight programme when Apollo 13 ran into serious trouble. It had been launched on April 13 at 13.13 hrs. NASA would never use this number for another mission.

Coincidental numbers also featured prominently in the September 2001 terrorist attacks on America and many people have commented on the significance of 911.

The N.Y. attacks happened close to



NATIONAL ARCHIVES

John Wilkes Booth, (left) who allegedly shot President Lincoln in Ford's Theater and Lee Harvey Oswald (right) under police escort in Dallas, after allegedly shooting JFK from the Texas School Book Depository.



(Left) President John F. Kennedy in the motorcade through Dallas shortly before he was killed by a sniper's bullet. Ford's Theater (right) was the location in Washington DC where President Abraham Lincoln was shot and killed with a Derringer pistol at close range. The alleged assassin John Wilkes Booth fled to Virginia, but just like Lee Harvey Oswald, he was killed before he could stand trial.

9AM on 9/11 (U.S date layout) and September 11th is the 245th day of the year. (2 + 5 + 4 = 11)
 Following September 11th, there are 111 days remaining in the year.

911 is the phone number used by all U.S Emergency services. (9 + 1 + 1 = 11, or simply 9 + 11) Ramadan falls on the ninth month of the Islamic calendar, finishing eleven days back each year to coincide with the Moon's phase.

The country code for Iran and Iraq is 119. (1 + 1 + 9 = 11) The first Boeing 767 to hit the WTC's North tower was designated Flight 11. This aircraft carried 92 people. 9 + 2 = 11 and it was airborne for 45 minutes. (4 + 5 = 9)

The North Tower took 90 minutes to collapse. After it was hit, the South Tower stood for 45 minutes. (4 + 5 = 9)

Both towers of the WTC looked like the number 11 and each had 110 floors. The second Boeing 767 carried a total of 65 people. (6 + 5 = 11)

On September 19, The Daily Mail reported that 11 hijackers had been aboard both aircraft that hit the WTC. The total number of hijackers on the four aircraft was 19, and 11 of them passed through London. New York is the 11th State and "New York State" is formed from 11 letters.

Eleven letters make up the name "Afghanistan. The Pentagon" and

"George W. Bush." This also applies to "Delrey Beach," Florida, where the terrorists lived, in a house with the number 10001.

Flight 77, which hit the Pentagon, carried 65 people. (6 + 5 = 11) United flight 93 which came down near Pittsburgh carried 38 passengers (3 + 8 = 11) plus five flight attendants and two pilots. (38 + 7 = 45: 4 + 5 = 9)

It may also be worth noting that one of the first letters containing anthrax was sent to NBC's Tom Brokaw, who's name contains 9 letters. It was posted on September 18. (1 + 8 = 9)

Many other letters containing anthrax were mailed from New Jersey on October 9.



Video footage showing Osama Bin Laden, the Saudi terrorist responsible for orchestrating a number of attacks on America.

Putting all this strange data to one side. I should now mention that the second issue of Strange Times magazine was also linked to these events in a very peculiar way.

At some point in May or June 2001, I began work on an article about future terrorist threats. I wanted to broaden the scope of this magazine with grittier, more topical material and I began to look for an appropriate illustration to use on the front cover.

The article contained detailed research and professional opinions on terrorism, primarily focusing on the threat posed by chemical, biological and improvised nuclear weapons. I talked about the al-Qaeda group and there was a picture of Osama Bin Laden towards the end of the piece.

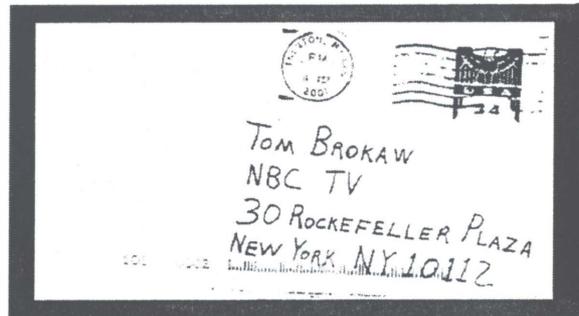
I discussed the direct impact of a major terrorist strike on our lives, the consequences to global economics



The World Trade Center burns, after being hit by two airliners hijacked by al-Qaeda terrorists on September 11 2001. Hundreds of millions around the world watch in horror as events are relayed directly to their living rooms.



A fire crew arrives on the scene, moments after a third hijacked airliner smashes into the side of the Pentagon.



The letter containing lethal anthrax spores, mailed to NBC presenter Tom Brokaw on September 18. It seems impossible to ignore the repetition of the same numbers in this historic cluster of events.

and the emergence of authoritarian governments that would restrict our civil liberties. I went on to suggest that it was only a matter of time before something really dreadful happened.

When the layout was complete, issue #2 of Strange Times carried my front cover artwork of an American city in flames.

At the exact time when the WTC and Pentagon were attacked, Strange Times magazine was at the printers and they were preparing to start the print run.

Those members of staff handling

issue #2 of Strange Times, were shocked by the magazine's content, especially the couple of individuals who read my closing remarks. For obvious reasons, we immediately scrapped the magazine and I brought forward another article on SETI that was already in development.

I didn't think too deeply about the coincidence, until I started hearing about all the other premonitions linked to the U.S attacks that emerged afterwards.

These range from ordinary individuals suffering nightmares and newspaper astrologers making fairly accurate pre-

dictions (for a change!) to travellers sensing disaster and cancelled flights to N.Y.

A triple CD album by "Dream Theater," with the release date 9/11/01 (U.S. Date) carried cover artwork which showed a flaming apple with N.Y. skyscrapers and one of the tracks was "Live Scenes from New York." Apparently, this artwork had been completed in 2000. The album was immediately withdrawn from sale after the attack.

Another CD by "Coup & DT" showed a fireball enveloping the WTC and a recent computer game



Sir Edmund Berry Godfrey, who lived in Green's Lane London. He was murdered in unexplained circumstances on Greenberry Hill, by three men called Green, Berry and Hill.

called "WTC Defender" features a kamikaze aircraft attack on the building with the player having to shoot it down before it reaches the target.

As a curious footnote to all this, I now realise that the original layout for Strange Times placed my article on terrorism at page eleven and it then ran for a further nine pages. Just one more weird coincidence I suppose!

HISTORICALLY SPEAKING

Since the beginning of recorded history, there have been chains of coincidences that are so bizarre they challenge our perception of reality.

One particularly intriguing series of events took place in seventeenth Century England, although the facts have become grossly distorted as the story has been distributed around the Internet. So I'm going to take this opportunity to set the record straight.

In 1678, King Charles was on the throne and the country was alive with rumours of Catholic plots to overthrow the monarchy. (As it had been throughout that century) On August 13 1678, the King received information that originated with Dr Israel

Tonge and Titus Oates that Spanish Jesuits were funding a plan to assassinate him and orchestrate a massacre of Protestants.

They claimed that this coup was organised by Pope Innocent XI and supported by the French who intended to launch a simultaneous invasion of Ireland. Once Charles had been killed, James, Duke of York was to be installed as the new English monarch, who would answer directly to the Jesuits.

Sir Edmund Berry Godfrey, who was a magistrate and the Duke of York's Secretary soon became involved in the affair and warned the Duke of these claims and accusations being aired by Tonge and Oates.

At the start of October, this story leaked to the press, generating widespread public concern, and then on the 12th, Berry Godfrey vanished without trace.

He had left his home in Green's Lane, walked up St Martin's Lane and apparently headed towards Marylebone. Five days later, his body was found in a ditch on the south side of Primrose Hill in nearby Hampstead. Berry Godfrey had been killed with the sword he carried for personal protection.

The finger of suspicion finally pointed towards a Roman Catholic silversmith called Prance who was away from home during the time of

Berry Godfrey's murder.

Taken to Newgate as the prime murder suspect, he finally confessed to knowledge of a plot involving servants working at Somerset House, called Green, Berry, and Hill.

The three men were then arrested, tried, found guilty and hanged in February 1679. No hard evidence emerged to substantiate a plot to overthrow the monarchy and Titus Oates eventually received life imprisonment for falsely accusing the Duke of York of treason.

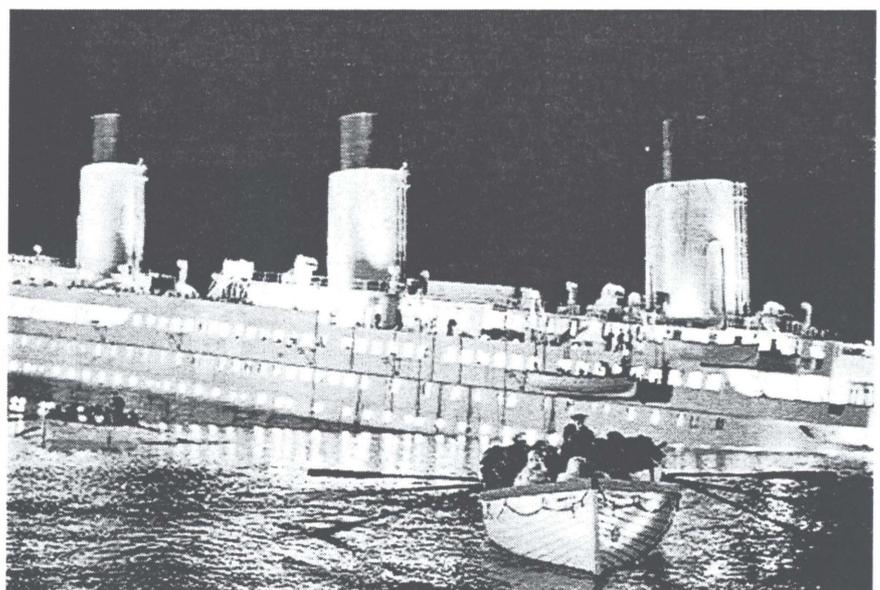
Whether or not there really was a Jesuit plot has never been satisfactorily answered but the whole affair generated considerable unrest within England.

The names of the alleged assailants form an extraordinary coincidence, especially when you consider the fact that Primrose Hill had been called Greenberry Hill in earlier times.

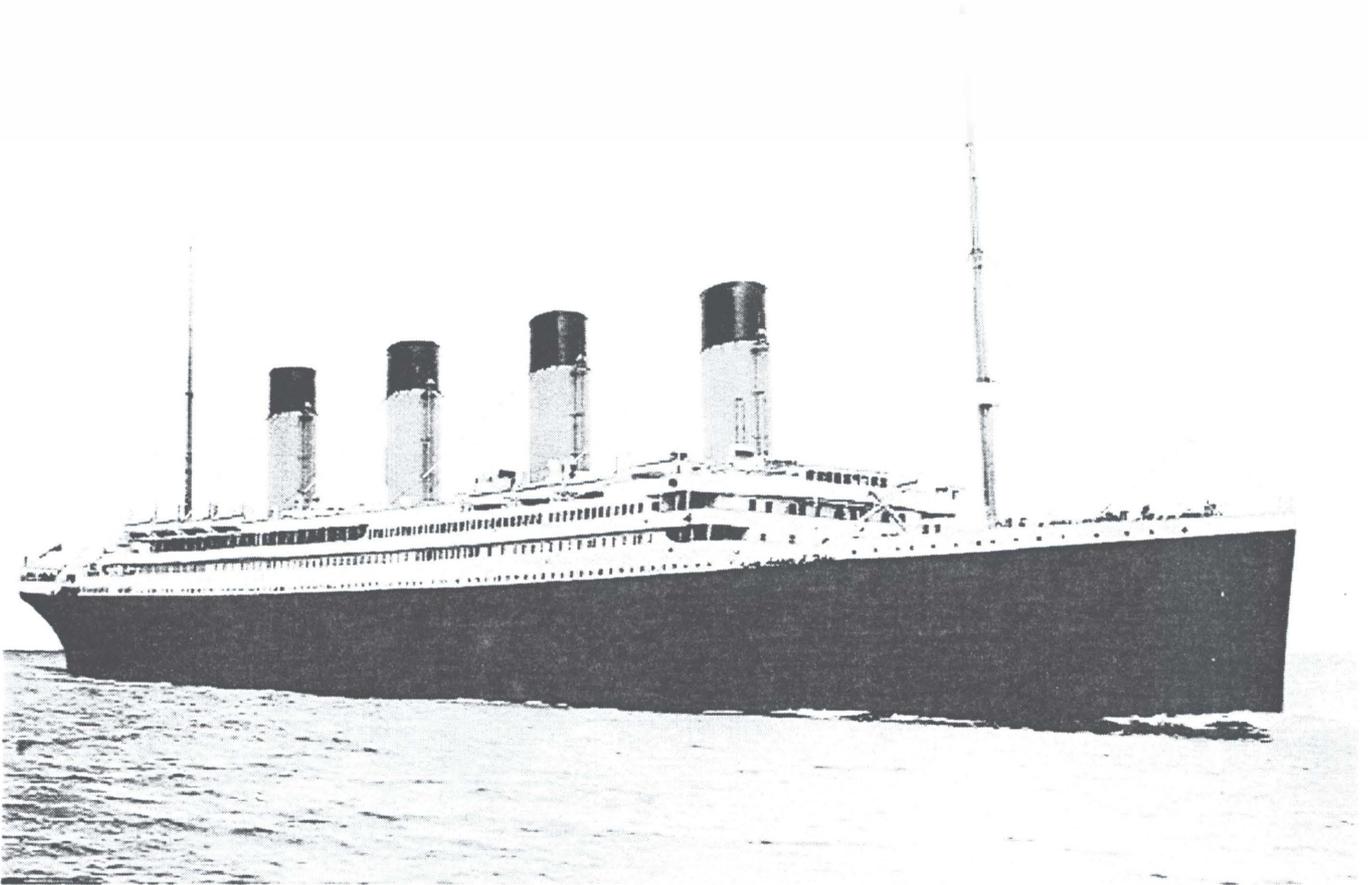
A little closer to modern times in the late nineteenth century, a pulp fiction novel would eventually raise many eyebrows with its stunningly prophetic tale of a futuristic ocean-going liner that sank on its maiden voyage.

The title of this story was "The Wreck of the Titan, or Futility" and author Morgan Robertson described a supposedly unsinkable transatlantic liner called Titan, which struck an iceberg and sunk with a huge substantial loss of life.

COURTESY PARAMOUNT 20th CENTURY FOX



A still from the movie "Titanic" showing the last moments of the ocean liner as she slipped into the icy depths of the North Atlantic.



The "Titanic" on her maiden voyage across the Atlantic. Details of the ship and its collision with an iceberg were accurately portrayed in a novel written over a decade before the event. A coincidence or premonition?

Fourteen years later the unsinkable Titanic struck an iceberg on her maiden voyage and there was a massive loss of life.

The list of similarities between the story and real life are surprisingly close. Robertson accurately placed the accident in April and the impact speed for his fictitious Titan was 25 knots, while the Titanic struck the iceberg at 23 knots.

Titan was equipped with 24 lifeboats and Titanic 20. Each ship had three propellers. Titan was 800 ft long, while the real Titanic was 882 ft long.

Robertson guessed the Titan's tonnage at 75,000, although the Titanic was 66,000 tons. Nevertheless, he was very close on most counts, including the large number of passengers and crew. Intuitive writing, precognition, or just another coincidence?

Further research has uncovered two more distantly related events. The first took place in 1939, when a ship called the Titanian was crossing the Atlantic in thick fog. Apparently, the helmsman had a premonition of disaster and brought the vessel to a stop in ap-

proximately the same location as the Titanic went down in 1912.

This avoided a disastrous collision with a huge approaching iceberg, although there was some damage as it struck the side of the ship.

The second weird incident occurred in April 1975 while the Melkin Family who lived in Dunstable, England were watching a movie on TV about the sinking of the Titanic. As the liner collided with an iceberg in the film, a substantial chunk of ice that had fallen from the sky smashed through their roof! Presumably it came from a passing airliner.

MORE PERSONAL QUESTIONS

I've only discussed a handful of well documented bizarre coincides and related events, but there are literally hundreds of others on file. (A good source is "The Coincidence file" by Ken Anderson. Pub: Blandford) Most of these events have no logical explanation, although some hint at precognition or telepathy.

But it's the minor personal incidents

that tend to have a profound effect on our thinking. As a child, I often knew what tune would be playing on the radio when it was switched on. There have also been many occasions when I've phoned people after not seeing them for several months, only to find the number busy. It's then transpired that they've been calling me at exactly the same time.

Let me add that I'm not claiming some unique ability and know many people who have had similar experiences.

One friend of mine travelled half-way around the world, only to meet their neighbours from across the street. In another instance, a pal of mine bumped into two old school friends that he hadn't seen for thirty years in a remote area of tropical jungle on the far side of the World. They were all there by complete chance.

I remember one particularly weird experience that took place during the mid-1970s. I was in the middle of a decorating project, when a framed picture fell off the wall and dropping onto several others I had



The world famous Swiss psychiatrist Professor Carl Gustav Jung, who formulated a controversial theory to explain coincidence, which suggests a hidden underlying force that links all living things to nature.

just taken down.

All the pictures were of cars and the glass in each frame shattered. The following morning, I was out in my company car and had quite a serious accident.

Afterwards, the lasting slow motion image in my mind was the windscreen shattering and being hit in the face by pieces of flying glass.

STATISTICS

Life appears to be built on an endless cascade of totally random chance events, which society attempts, often unsuccessfully, to organise and regulate.

Perhaps you secured the perfect job that was advertised in a discarded newspaper, which you found on a railway carriage seat. What caught your eye about the job advert was the company address that reminded you of your home phone number. After joining the company, you went on to meet the love of your life. Your future partner was only in the building by chance, running an errand for a sick friend who once lived at your old address.

You might have avoided that car accident by letting a driver turn out of a side road into your line of slow moving traffic, but you didn't and your car ended up in the wrong place

at the wrong time.

How is possible for some individuals to throw a pair of dice six times and come up with the same numbers on each occasion? The odds against doing this are astronomical, but every now and then, it does happen. Sometimes, you really can be on a roll and it seems impossible to make a mistake, but there are other times when you seem to instinctively know that you can't win, whatever you do.

I would bet that most readers of this article have met individuals who are just luckier than the rest of us. They regularly avoid accidents, never seem to suffer major illness and literally can't put a foot wrong in any respect.

These are a minority of people who beat all the odds and can enjoy several large wins on the lottery, survive major catastrophes and land the best jobs.

At the other extreme, are those individuals who lead disastrous, miserable lives and seem fated from the outset. Statisticians who analyse risk and probability can make unusual occurrences seem far more reasonable when they are broken down into values expressed as mathematical percentages.

For some reason, the majority of people I know have very similar birthdays to mine, irrespective of the year they were born. I simply have no idea why this is, but there may be some hidden factor at work, such as a peak in births during early June.

When "Skeptical Inquirer" took a serious look at coincidence in September 1998, they discovered that within any random selection of 23 people, there was a 50 percent chance of two sharing the same birthdate. Using the same mathematical calculation, it seemed there was the same probability that two people in any similar random group would have birthdates that fell within one day of each other.

To guarantee a 50 percent chance of finding someone with a specific birthday requires a random group of 253 people and there is also a 50-50 chance of finding two people with the same specified birthdays if you increase the random sample to 613 individuals.

Clearly, there are well proven ways of calculating probability, which are routinely used within industry, the military, financial organisations and by betting companies.

To quote the same Skeptical Inquirer



Professor Wolfgang Pauli, the Nobel prize winning physicist who collaborated with Jung on a synchronicity theory.

article, "the point is that the very nature of randomness assures that combining random data will yield some pattern."

But when "high strangeness" is added to the equation, it is hard to escape the feeling that some external force is playing games with us. Is it possible we are simply acting out parts in a massive unseen script, with godlike writers who occasionally make mistakes and repeat themselves, or could something else be taking place?

HIDDEN DEPTHS

During the 1950s, Swiss psychiatrist Professor Carl Gustav Jung and the Austrian born Nobel Prize winning physicist Wolfgang Pauli corresponded in great depth on the issue of synchronicity.

Jung had spent many years considering the whole idea of coincidence and Pauli expanded the debate to include topics such as quantum mechanical theory.

Jung began to formalise his theory that an unknown underlying force ex-

ists which constantly attempts to impose order on our muddled everyday world.

To many people, Jung's ideas sound bizarre and perhaps a little disturbing.

Nevertheless, towards the end of his life, Jung became increasingly convinced that a supernatural "collective unconscious" links us all together.

He felt that it might be responsible for telepathy and precognition, while sometimes giving us knowledge that we couldn't possibly learn in any normal way.

Jung concluded that synchronicity was actual proof that our minds are linked to this powerful hidden force, which flows through the Universe and connects all living things together.

Jung and Pauli seem to have agreed that synchronicity was a manifestation of this underlying force, which occasionally demonstrates that events with no causal or rational linkage can be meaningfully related.

Even if you don't like the sound of Jung's theory, it would be short sighted to dismiss the idea and arrogant of anyone to suggest we have an understanding of what makes every-

thing in the Universe tick.

Many of us who own domestic animals will testify to the uncanny way they routinely pick up on things we don't. Animals like cats and dogs enjoy heightened senses, which are far superior to ours.

In fact, these senses can be so sharp they sometimes appear to verge on ESP. It is also possible that animals inherit some of their knowledge and are programmed via their DNA, but there are often hints that animal groups have a collective awareness.

In eastern religions, the concept of a Star Wars movie type "force," has long been accepted. Within Hinduism, our egos are visualised as floating separately in a vast ocean, but connected indirectly to each other, by a seabed, which supports the water.

Although I regard myself as a down-to-earth "nuts and bolts" person who always looks towards science and rational analysis for answers, I firmly believe there are powerful forces all around us, which we barely perceive and have absolutely no understanding of. Will we ever identify and comprehend them? Well, that's anybody's guess. Maybe I'll just stick with statistics for now.



Bill Rose is currently the managing editor of Strange Times magazine. He runs a small photographic business specialising in P.R photography and computer graphics, but is probably better known as an aviation, astronomy and space writer.

FOR THE BIBLE TELLS ME SO

Brian Allan

Throughout history, there can be little doubt that for a book purporting to represent the word of God, the Holy Bible has been used to justify many shocking and bloody events. That the bible is an accurate portrayal of events occurring more than two millennia ago is also open to question, however this does not deter the tenets of fundamentalism. According to this seminal book, Almighty God is omnipotent and omnipresent, all merciful and all-powerful. It teaches that all races are equal and professes salvation for all... except if one subscribes to certain extreme fringe beliefs founded on warped interpretations of Christian Scripture.

Prior to the abomination perpetrated on the 11th September 2001 at The World Trade Centre and the Pentagon, the tragic loss of 168 lives during the attack upon the Alfred P. Murrah Building in Oklahoma City, the then worst terrorist outrage in American history, led directly to the execution of Timothy McVeigh at Terre Haute Prison, Indiana. The repercussions from this act created ripples of unease that have not calmed.

This act of sheer madness has focused the eyes of the world as never before upon those who perpetrate deeds of this kind. It may therefore come as a surprise to discover that the alleged perpetrator McVeigh, was not a fundamentalist Muslim, but was closely connected to a nominally Christian community, Elohim City, in the Ozark Mountains of Oklahoma.

Elohim City was founded in 1973 by a Canadian Mennonite pastor Robert Millar shortly after he moved to the area with his wife, four sons and thirteen followers seeking a spiri-



BILL ROSE

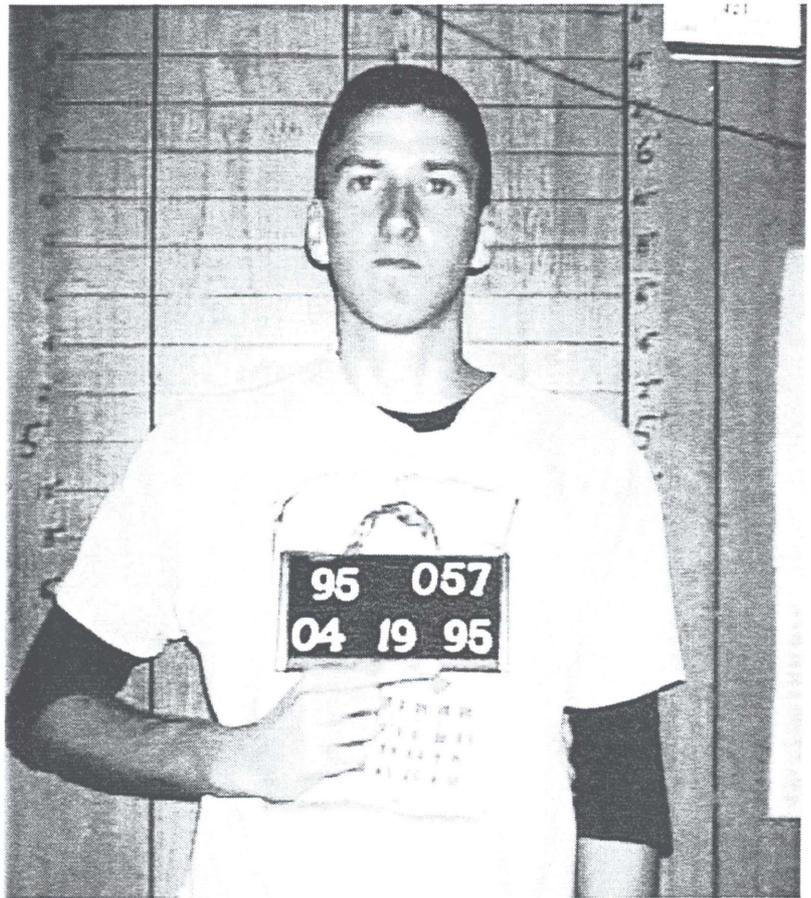
tual retreat. Currently, Elohim City harbours around seventy-five men, women and children, all allegedly armed to the teeth, and all apparently not afraid to use their weapons.

This 'Christian' community also has some highly unusual politics: the government is the enemy; the secular, the multicultural society in which we live is a modern Gomorrah and Elohim City is a redoubt in the ongoing battle between the children of darkness (the Jews) and the children of light (the Aryan race). In their belief system, racism is enshrined in Scripture.

They believe that African and Asian peoples were originally the offspring of the fallen angels and human women, the biblical 'beasts of the field.' An order of humanity predating God's eventual creation of Adam 'In his own Image.'

According to their beliefs, Adam was not the first man, but the first white man. In this version of creation, Satan, disguised as a white man creeps into the Garden of Eden and seduces Eve, who in turn bears a son, Cain. It is from this point that that Judaism emerges.

Although Western history has a long tradition of demonising Jews, the followers of Millar and likeminded sects are convinced that the bible provides incontrovertible proof that Jews are the 'Spawn of Satan'. According to their thinking, their 'evidence' carries much more authority than 'The Protocols of



The enigmatic Timothy McVeigh, who was found guilty of bombing the Alfred P. Murrah Building in Oklahoma City and subsequently executed. His links to fundamental Christians based at Elohim City have raised many worrying questions.



In 1995, the Alfred P. Murrah Building in Oklahoma City was destroyed by a terrorist attack, which sent shock waves racing across America.

Initially, Islamic Fundamentalists were blamed, but it soon became apparent that the perpetrators were Americans with a twisted sense of patriotism.

the Elders of Zion,' the faked 19th century document allegedly proving the existence of a worldwide Jewish conspiracy promoting world domination. Their 'evidence' carries the approval of God, it is enshrined in the bible and is the ideology of the racist belief system: Christian Identity.

Millar's Christian Identity teachings are based on a highly selective use of scripture. The origins of this extreme movement are founded in a 19th century belief in the benign concept of 'Anglo-Israelism,' sometimes called 'British-Israelism'.

This branch of theology taught that the British, and by extension Canadians and Americans, were the physical and spiritual descendents of the ten lost tribes of ancient Israel. Following the invasion of Israel by the Assyrians, the tribes were driven out and eventually settled in the Caucasus

Mountains, (the origin of the term 'Caucasian') slowly migrating into Europe where they eventually settled and became established.

This, then, is the belief system hijacked by a variety of right wing allegedly Christian groups to justify their racist stance. The groups preaching this distorted version of scripture include: 'Posse Comitatus,' 'The American Nazi Party,' 'Confederate Hammerskins,' 'The Church of Jesus Christ Christian,' 'The Order,' 'The Covenant, Sword and Arm of the Lord' (which drew many of its members from Pentecostal Baptist circles and was also the organisation behind the Oklahoma bombing) and of course 'The Ku Klux Klan'.

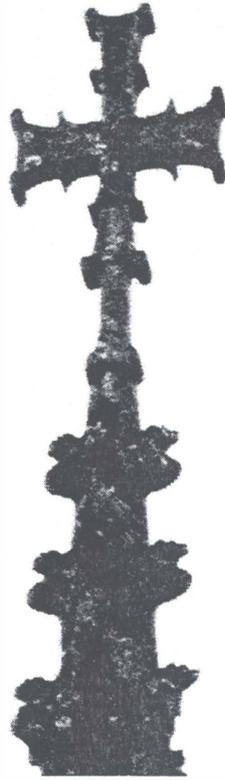
The Klan, which was founded in the early 18th century, fell from popularity but was reorganised in 1915 by a Christian pastor, the rev, William Simmons, who was apparently inspired by D.W Griffiths film 'Birth of a nation, which portrayed The Klan as the saviours and champions of white civilisation.

The Klan once again slid into obscurity prior to the second World War, but was once again revitalised in the 1950's following the imposition racial integration in the southern states of the USA. Although the Klan is still active, other groups more suited to the current political climate have largely superseded it.

American academic Professor Michael Barkun, author of the book, 'Religion and the Racist Right,' comments that when he talks about his book to religious groups, "It's as if they're hearing about it [Christian Identity] for the first time... It strikes them as so unimaginably distant from the intellectual universe they inhabit, that I might as well be talking about a subject from another planet".

Another belief held by these groups, although not exclusively, is the certainty of a 'New World Order,' a secret cabal who will assume control of the entire world for their own purposes.

Again, they see the 'Children of Darkness' behind this alleged organisation. Beliefs such as this are commonplace among conspiracy theorists, and in the isolated, enclosed communities that are home to these extremist sects, beliefs such as this find fertile ground in which to flourish.



Very real fears for public safety caused the FBI to commission a survey on domestic terrorism entitled 'The Megiddo Report' into the workings and motivation behind this and similar groups. Extracted from the report we find the following... 'Wesley Swift is considered the single most significant figure in the early years of the Christian Identity movement in the United States.

He popularised it in the right wing by combining British Israelism, demonic anti-Semitism and political extremism. He founded his own church in California in the mid 1940's where he could preach this ideology. In addition, he had a daily radio broadcast in California during the 1950's and 60's, through which he could proclaim his ideology to a wider audience.

With Swift's efforts, the message of his church spread, leading to the creation of similar churches throughout the country. In 1957, the name of his church was changed to The Church of Jesus Christ Christian, which is used today by Aryan Nations, (AN)'.

'One of Swift's associates, William Potter Cole, was far more militant than Swift and brought a new element

to Christian Identity Churches. He became the leading figure in the anti tax and paramilitary movements of the 1970s and 80s. There are numerous Christian Identity churches that preach similar messages and espouse more violent rhetoric than others, but all hold fast to the belief that Aryans are God's chosen race.

We should perhaps, because of similarities in origin, examine one of these movements in some detail: Posse Comitatus is a good example. As with Christian Identity, the genesis of this organisation was in England, where under King Alfred in AD 871 the constabulary of the shires or 'shire reeves' eventually became known as sheriffs. It was the duty of a sheriff to maintain order in his 'tun' or group of ten families.

However, it was also the duty of the citizenship to assist the sheriff in apprehending criminals and maintaining law and order in general. In times of extremis, the sheriff would sound the 'hue and cry' and it was the legal obligation of any citizen who heard the cry to assist the sheriff in his duty.

This example of direct action by private citizens still survives today in the form of 'Posse Comitatus,' or citizens response to criminal behaviour. The term 'posse comitatus' translates to 'posse of the county' or the force of the county. Another aspect of it exists in the right of the public to perform citizen's arrests.

The introduction of posse comitatus in the United States was because of the practise of using troops to enforce civil laws. During the election of 1876, President Grant ordered federal troops to oversee elections in the Southern states because of alleged corruption.

The US Congress responded to this with the 'Posse Comitatus Act' of 1878 which, briefly states, 'Whoever, except in cases and under circumstances expressly authorised by the Constitution or Act of Congress, willfully uses any part of the Army or a force as a posse comitatus or otherwise to execute the laws shall be fined under this title or imprisoned' (18USC 1385). In short, the use of the army was forbidden when civilian constabularies would better serve the maintenance of law and order. The

Another facet of Christian Identity ideology is a wholehearted belief in the 'End Times' and Armageddon.





title of this sensible and farsighted piece of legislation became distorted into the religion known as 'Posse Comitatus.' As with the inhabitants of Elohim City, they see themselves as a civilian force righting the wrongs of government and upholding 'Christian' values in the face of adversity.

Another facet of Christian Identity ideology is a wholehearted belief in the 'End Times' and Armageddon. Quoting from the FBI Megiddo Report we find: 'Christian Identity also believed in the inevitability of the end of the world and the Second Coming of Christ.

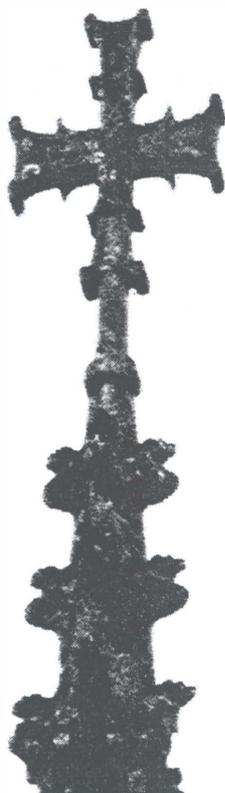
It is believed that these events are part of a cleansing process that is needed before Christ's kingdom can be established on earth. During this time, Jews and their allies will attempt to destroy the white race by any means available.

The result will be a violent and bloody struggle, a war in effect, between God's force, the white race, and the Jews and non-whites. Significantly, many adherents believe that this will be tied into the new millennium and the years immediately following'.

'The view of what Armageddon will be is varied among Christian Identity believers. Some contend there will be a race war in which millions will die; others believe that the United Nations, backed by the Jewish representatives of the anti-Christ, will take over the country to promote a New World Order. One Christian Identity interpretation is that white Christians have been chosen to watch for signs of the impending war in order to warn others. They are then to physically struggle with the forces of evil and other violations of their interpretation of God's law, (i.e. race mixing and internationalism). Many will perish and some of God's chosen will be forced to wear the Mark of the Beast to participate in business and commerce. After the final battle is ended and God's kingdom established on earth, only then will the Aryan people be recognised as the one and true Israel'.

'Christian Identity adherents believe that God will use his chosen race as his weapons to battle the forces of evil. Christian Identity followers believe they are among those chosen by God to wage this battle during Armageddon and they will be the last line of defence for the white race and Christian America. To prepare for these events, they engage in survivalist and paramilitary training,

BILL ROSE



storing foodstuffs and supplies and caching weapons and ammunition. They often reside in compounds located in remote areas'.

It was plain that in the run up to the millennium there were many such apocalyptic groups preparing for 'The Endtimes' and the second coming of Christ. One group in particular travelled to Jerusalem with the intent of destroying the Al Aqsa Mosque at the Millennium and if Armageddon did not occur as scheduled, they would attempt to bring it about thereby fulfilling the prophecy.

Fortunately, Mossad the Israeli Intelligence Service intercepted them and they were arrested then deported. In the USA, Christian Identity cultists executed a spate of armed robberies prior to the Millennium to raise funds to finance their desire for the acquisition of weapons and other items essential to their plans.

Abortion clinics in the US have also been among their targets, Christian Identity member Eric Rudolph was a suspect held during investigations into bombings at a clinic in Birmingham Alabama and attacks perpetrated during the 1999 Atlanta Olympics. Other

suspected Christian Identity inspired attacks include the arson of three synagogues in Sacramento during July 1999, the murder of two homosexuals near Redding, California and the murder of five people at a Jewish community centre in Los Angeles.

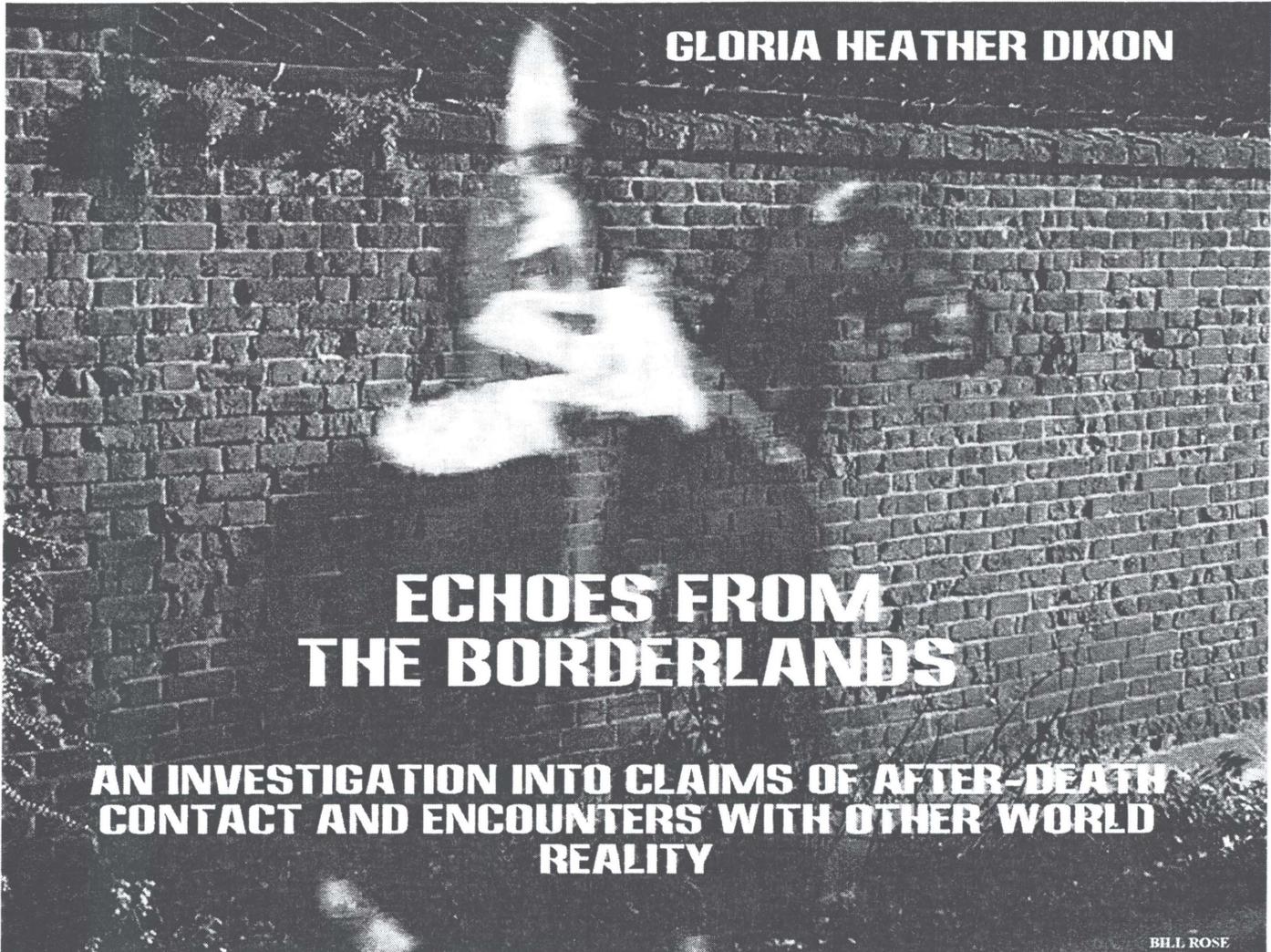
The upsurge of interest in extremist religious movements like Christian Identity may be a social phenomenon generated by the society in which we live. As religious and moral values are continually degraded it is probable that some people are unable to deal with life in a society over which they have increasingly less control.

In their view, the only course open to them is to withdraw from mainstream life and begin associating with like-minded people within a secluded environment, rather like a club mentality taken to extremes. Hopefully, as time passes and no Armageddon or New World Order takeover appears these groups will eventually realise that their beliefs are a delusion, and although there is no guarantee of this of course, perhaps they will eventually leave their fortified compounds and join the rest of humanity.



Brian Allan resides in Alloa, Scotland. He has had a lifelong fascination with the paranormal field of study and has been an active researcher for the last thirty years.

Brian runs Strange Phenomena Investigations (SPI) in Scotland together with his colleague, Billy Devlin. He has also been involved in several cases where exorcisms have been carried out.



GLORIA HEATHER DIXON

ECHOES FROM THE BORDERLANDS

**AN INVESTIGATION INTO CLAIMS OF AFTER-DEATH
CONTACT AND ENCOUNTERS WITH OTHER WORLD
REALITY**

BILL ROSE

A THEATRE OF DREAMS

Recent research by a Dutch team of doctors studied 344 heart attack survivors and found that more than one in ten had experienced out of body experiences, visions and lucid thoughts while they were 'clinically dead'. Dr. Peter Fenwick, a consultant neuropsychiatrist at London University told *The Sunday Telegraph* "If the mind and brain can be independent then that raises questions about the continuation of consciousness after death". (For more on this check www.ananova.com/yournews/story/sm_469102)

Since the beginning of time people have reported experiences and events which lie outside the boundaries of scientific knowledge.

These include many remarkable human experiences such as claims of after death contact, near death experi-

ences, ghosts, visionary experiences, precognitive dreams and all manner of extraordinary events that lie on the very brink of our understanding.

At times we catch a glimpse of these wonderfully mysterious and life changing incidents.

In examining the essence of these experiences, we need to explore the nature of reality itself. What is reality? Is reality the way we observe the world around us? Or is the consensus reality that we are taught to understand not the way it really is at all leading to the idea that there is no such thing as an objective reality and therefore we need wide-ranging and unanimous ideas of how the world looks, stocked with images and models, in order to be able to communicate and make the world go round so to speak. It is an interesting thought, is it not, that without language and a way to express our perception of the world around us, reality and interpretation would be a totally subjective one. Even with a consensual reality we still perceive some things in our

own very personal way and this can vary enormously from person to person hence the old cliché of several witnesses to a road accident and how their individual understanding of specific events leading to the accident can differ. There are an infinite number of possible realities out there all part of the whole and all very real to each one of us.

This brings me to some of the central issues of this article, which will be discussing claims of after-death contact.

People now have instant access to the internet where they can share and discuss a whole range of experiences like this and it is evident there are literally millions of stories out there, which record experiences of this kind.

What is going on? Could there be any substantial evidence to suggest that people have indeed had communication with dear and departed loved ones in the empirical sense, or is this due wholly to imagination and wishful thinking during the course of

bereavement.

Many of us have heard anecdotal stories from people who feel they have undergone extraordinary experiences from seeing their dead loved one to hearing them speak or sensing their presence in a very powerful way.

These people are convinced that what they have seen, heard or felt was absolutely real and happening for a specific purpose, often so the person left behind knows that their loved one is okay and continuing in a different form. Apparitions of this nature can often look physically real to the receiver as though they are actually here in our space-time as a biological entity; that is until they fade or seem to disappear.

THROUGH THE LOOKING GLASS

The crucial idea is to explore the possibility that a form of consciousness survives the physical body after death.

There are many definitions as to what this actually could be, such as the soul, the spirit, the very essence of us; and if so whether any of these forms embody our personal identity as it was in physical form. Old and familiar religions teach many variations of this particular belief including the hypothesis

that we are old souls and have been in physical form many times before.

Indeed within the Christian church we are taught that our spirituality is of primary importance for our physical well-being. And yet in Western religions we continue to regard any suggestion of an independent continuity of consciousness after physical death as being quite extraordinary.

Stories of ghosts or apparitions of departed loved ones are often viewed as psychological problems or hallucination due to bereavement and a longed for wish to see that person. And yes, this can of course be an explanation for some of these claims.

However the floodgates on reports of after-death communication have opened wide since advancing technology has infinitely increased the vast number of sites into these areas of reports.

We are touching just the tip of an iceberg in our understanding of what these claims could mean and tell us about ourselves, and more importantly whether there is a possibility that these contact claims show evidence for realms that exist outside of our physical borderlands where the 'soul' resides after death

Many questions are being asked and there are people, who are convinced beyond a shadow of doubt that they have indeed been contacted by their departed relatives and friends and that these experiences were not due to imagination or a desire to see those they have lost. They remain utterly persuaded that they have indeed seen, spoken or sensed the presence of their dead relative and in some cases this has involved an actual interaction where a message has been conveyed to them.

So, just what is going on here and what do these claims of ghostly visions really mean. There are many people who report observing apparitions of people unknown to them at specific locations or haunted areas, but for this article I largely want to define reports documenting claims of contact with people with whom the experiencers have had a close relationship.

All events documented below are based on reports where I have personally spoken with the people, or those close to them, who have experienced events of this nature. I have chosen these specific cases to illustrate the range of contact that is reported. All



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names have been changed, but every case has been reported as reliably and honestly as the person's perception and interpretation has allowed.

A NEAR DEATH EXPERIENCE?

A journalist from the North East area related a specific account of her near-death experience to me in 1996. She had contacted me initially to help her with some research on a UFO article she was writing for a local paper.

From there she told me of several unusual events in her life one of which had a profound effect upon her.

Amanda was on holiday in Almeria Spain with her boyfriend in July 1993. After a few days they hired a car and decided to visit Granada the next day, but were dismayed when they woke up to gale force winds and torrential rain.

They decided to make the trip anyway and set off along the mountain roads. Unfortunately they never arrived at their destination because the car hit a rivulet on a bend and couldn't hold the greasy road as they aqua-planed into a tree.

She fractured both the bones in her right forearm, and elbow and her blood pressure dropped to an extremely low level as she lay unconscious. She clearly remembers at this stage somehow 'lifting out of her body' and seeing her body laid in the ambulance from above.

At this point she explained that she noticed some blood on the front of her blue gown, which apparently was caused by an injury to her stomach that she had suffered in the crash. Some time after the crash, when discussing it with her boyfriend, he seemed amazed when she mentioned the blue gown from the crash scene. This gown was apparently put on her while she was unconscious because her own dress had

been ripped to shreds, but because of the blood it was changed as soon as they reached the Spanish hospital.

Amanda told me that this incident has changed her a great deal and the way she interacted with people particularly wanting to help and show kindness to them rather than just dismissing them. After this incident she developed an acute ability to sense negative or ruthless thoughts from people and also felt as though she had developed in a spiritual way.

Amanda moved to America about three years ago to work as a journalist I believe and I last saw her at a Conference here in Newcastle in 1996, where we spoke again of this incident and her feelings about it.

These feelings and dramatic life changes are reported by a high percentage of people who undergo what has become identified as a near-death experience.

Research into these experiences was pioneered by Dr. Raymond Moody in the 1970s and he wrote two best selling books on the subject leading the way for further research by the medical profession and others who have investigated these claims since the 70s.

GATEWAY TO THE BORDERLANDS

In examining the nature of after-death communication known hereafter as ADC, I would like to begin with a compelling and unusual incident, which I learned of quite recently via a work colleague, Mike.

A Precognitive vision and note from a bookcase

In the late seventies, Mike had and still does have a very close friend,

who was one of a family of thirteen from the Newcastle area. This friend (Andy) told him a very strange story relating to his eldest sister (Elizabeth), who died in the seventies. It was New Year's Eve and Elizabeth, Andy and their respective spouses were driving in their car to go out for the evening.

Andy, Elizabeth and their families lived in Rotherham, South Yorkshire but had come to Newcastle as their mother, who lived there had been very unwell. Andy expressed his anxiety about his mother to his sister in the car and Elizabeth immediately responded with the words *don't worry about mother. I will be there waiting for her when she finally goes.* Andy asked what she meant by these words, but Elizabeth dismissed them with a light hearted *never mind, let's enjoy the night*

At the end of February, Andy received a telephone call telling him that his sister, Elizabeth had died very suddenly. Andy went to help with the funeral arrangements at Elizabeth's home and her husband told Andy about a strange incident that occurred on the day of her death. Elizabeth and her husband used to walk together down the side of the hill from their home in Rotherham to go to work in the mornings where Andy would then get his bus and Elizabeth would continue down the hill.

On the morning she died, Elizabeth ran back to her husband before he got on the bus and threw her arms around his neck saying *thanks for everything Andy.* She died before she got to work that morning of a heart attack. She was in her early fifties at the time. While Andy was at Elizabeth's home helping to sort things out on that day, he noticed they had a bookcase built into the wall with many books on it. He picked up a book and out fell a piece of paper with a message from Elizabeth to Andy. She had written the following words.

I tried to tell you on New Year's Eve that I would be waiting for my mother and because you are reading this you now know why.

An unusual account indeed and according to my colleague, Andy was astounded by these events.



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EXPERIENCE WITH NURSING PROFESSIONALS

I believe it is significant that nurses who are often on the front line of death report some very unusual anomalies and I can honestly say I have never spoken with a nurse, who has not had a story to tell relating to various patients they have nursed who have subsequently died.

Even the most hardened and pragmatic nurses have sensed or observed curious features prior to and at the moment of death of their patients; events that they just cannot explain in any terminology at all. To illustrate this I can relay a particular story from a friend, who is a senior lecturer in nursing studies here in the Newcastle

She told me recently of the time she worked in a hospital in Scotland where she was nursing a lady close to death. As everyone knows hospitals are invariably too hot and on this night it was very hot on the ward. The lady was in a ward off to the side and Leanne was sitting with her, when she became aware that room had become ice cold.

This was not the case in the rest of the ward, where it was still extremely hot. At the same time as the ward became cold Leanne had a very strong sense of a presence in the room. Just after that her patient died and the room returned to its original temperature.

OBSERVED BY NEIGHBOURS

A close friend and colleague of mine told me of the following events soon after his father died four years ago. Jeff received a telephone call from a neighbour of his father to report that he had noticed that the curtains had not be drawn in his bedroom.

It was a Monday morning and Jeff arrived at his father's home at around midday. He had to force open the front door and unfortunately found his father dead in bed. The doctor established that his father had died in the early hours of that Monday morning.

On Tuesday, Jeff was back at his father's home sorting things out and making arrangements for the funeral etc. and was putting some things in his car when one of his father's neighbours said she was 'sorry to hear about your Dad' and went on to say that the last time she saw him was yesterday morning around 9am coming out of his house



and walking across the footbridge to the Post Office.

Jeff realised that this would have been impossible as his father had died in the early hours of Monday morning. Jeff dismissed her comment believing she must have been mistaken. However later that day Jeff was approached again while coming out of his father's house to his car by another neighbour, a young lady, who said how sorry she was to hear about Jeff's father and then went on to say that she had seen him stood at the door of his home sometime after 9am the previous day (Monday). Jeff asked if his father had spoken to her, but she informed him that he had said nothing.

Jeff obviously felt that this had now become curious. Neither neighbour could have observed his father at around 9am or afterwards on that Monday morning, as his father had died during the night. He told me he felt slightly unnerved by

this.

Of course it is a possibility that both neighbours were mistaken and had their days confused, but it is puzzling is it not that not one, but two neighbours spoke with Jeff to tell him that they had seen his father the previous Monday morning around 9am. Jeff did not inform either neighbour that his father had died during the early hours of that morning and therefore they could not have seen him..... or could they?

A DOCTOR CALLS

In 1995, I was contacted by Emma from Cleveland. Emma had experienced many extraordinary events during her life, and wanted them to be recorded.

One of these events is very closely linked to the focus of this article.



In 1963 Emma's marriage of twenty-one years ended and she left Hertfordshire with her teenage children, and moved to Bedfordshire. While on a course in London she met John and began a close relationship. Emma described him as a lovely person, the eldest of six and several years younger than herself.

One warm Sunday evening in June 1964, Emma and John were walking together in a cornfield, when suddenly Emma describes being in pitch darkness.

When her eyes grew accustomed to the gloom, she could see tallish houses facing her across a fairly narrow street that she had never seen before. In front of one of the houses were a group of shadowy figures, excitedly talking and pointing towards her right, where the road curved away into the distance. Slowly she could see better and was surprised by the appearance of these people.

The men wore hose and buckled shoes, breeches and jackets in a coarse material and women were dressed in long black dresses and long white aprons, buckled shoes and lace caps. Although they appeared to be talking very animatedly she could not hear their voices and everywhere seemed silent. Emma felt as though she was in a different century and couldn't understand what she was doing there.

Taking stock of her own appearance Emma realised that she too was wearing these clothes and felt frightened. Looking behind her she realised she had been standing in front of a stone cottage, which appeared like a shadow as did the people.

She then heard the sound of an

approaching horse and a large carthorse pulling a hay wagon appeared with a man walking beside it and stopped in front of her. The man looked at Emma and said "John and his brother Edward are both dead on the cart". Emma ran around to the back of the cart and on the hay lay John and his brother Edward. Emma burst into tears and shadowy figures crossed over the road and hands touched her and voices said "I am so sorry, so sorry. They were both so young"

Instantly Emma was aware of walking in the cornfield with John again, who was talking about the same subject he had been discussing before Emma had experienced this very unusual incident. John had not observed anything at all and Emma made the decision not to mention her bizarre experience..

In June of 1965, a year to the day after these experiences, Emma and John were sitting in her dining room discussing ideas for their honeymoon, as they planned to marry the following year. John suddenly broke off in mid-sentence and stared past Emma with a look of wonder on his face saying "Where am I? It's so beautiful".

He fell back without another word and Emma ran for help to her next door neighbour, who was with the ambulance service. Her neighbour ran towards her house telling Emma to ring for a doctor at the telephone box. Emma did this and was informed that an emergency doctor would be straight over.

She ran back to the house where her youngest sixteen-year-old son opened the front door and said that her neighbour (the ambulance man) had asked her to wait upstairs. Emma went upstairs and then remembers hearing a

car and the front door closing and believed that the doctor had arrived to look at John.

After a while and feeling that the doctor was taking a long time, she felt that maybe the doctor was calling for an ambulance from the local call box to take John to the hospital. However the phone box and street were deserted and the house seem to be very silent when suddenly a man's voice called to her from the bottom of the stairs, "I'm a doctor, can I come up?"

Upon running to the landing Emma saw a tall, athletic young man, about thirty, with short sandy coloured hair and wearing a tweed jacket and grey trousers climbing the stairs two at a time.

He asked Emma to sit down and she sat side by side with him on her bed while he put an arm around her shoulders to comfort her. He said "John is dead. It was over in less than a minute after he collapsed and he felt no pain. A small clot of blood blocked his artery" he explained. He then proceeded to tell Emma that she would see John again and that there was life after death and that this is only our training ground and we go on from here.

"Don't worry" he said, "you will be helped". Emma then remembers seeing him rise to his feet ready to leave and again he told her not to worry. He paused at the door and said "your own doctor will be along later when he gets back. He will give you something to ease the pain"

John was buried at the church that week and on the Sunday Emma attended an evening service at another



church with John's family (mother and five brothers). She had been home for only a short time after this when John's mother and one of his brothers arrived with terrible news. Edward, the brother Emma had seen dead on the haywagon beside John, had died in the same way as John, without any warning. They are both buried at the same church. John was aged thirty-nine and Edward, aged thirty-seven.

FOOTNOTE...

About one month after these events Emma felt the need to thank the young sandy-haired doctor who had comforted her so much at her home after John died. As she had not asked his name she asked the ambulance man who it had been. He informed her that it was a Doctor Robinson and told her where the practice was in town.

When Emma went to see him at his surgery, she was astonished to see a much older man with white hair, and asked for the sandy-haired doctor, who had come to her home on the Sunday evening her fiancé had died. "John Taylor", he said at once "Yes, I remember, he was young, such a pity, he was dead when I arrived".

He looked at Emma with curiosity and said "I didn't see you". Emma replied "No I didn't see you either, but I saw the other doctor with you, who came upstairs to talk with me and comfort me"

"There was no other doctor" he said. Emma then told him about the sandy-haired doctor and that he had explained the cause of John's dying so suddenly. Dr. Robinson stopped her in amaze-

ment and told her that she had been informed of the exact cause of death as recorded at the post-mortem.

GHOST OF HER MOTHER?

Julie's mother died when she was only seventeen. A short time after her mother's death she had just got into bed when she saw her mother come through the bedroom door towards her in the bed and appeared to be reaching out to touch her. Julie told me she was terrified and proceeded to pull the bedcovers up over her head and then realised that she wanted to see her mother again, but when she pulled the covers away the figure of her mother turned and moved away out of her bedroom. She felt desperately upset about having been so afraid of someone she had loved so dearly.

A TELEPHONE CALL FROM THE DEAD?

In 1994 Moira's mother passed away.

About a month after her death an incident occurred at home in the presence of her husband. Their telephone rang and when Moira picked up the phone, a voice which Moira recognised and was convinced was her mother's voice said the following...

"Moria, Moira... I'm going, I'm going now..."

Moira described her mother's voice as very laboured and slow as though she was finding it difficult to talk. Obviously she was very shocked and her husband, who was in room while this occurred felt that this experience may have been due to the impact of bereavement.

However, Moira does not feel this was the case at all as she emphasised that she clearly heard this voice on the telephone and that it was indeed her mother.

Moira and her mother are very well



known to me. I have spoken with both her and her husband and Moira feels strongly that the telephone call she received on that day was indeed from her mother.

A QUESTION OF HEALING

Within my own experiences I also had the great fortune to meet a deeply spiritual man many years ago now. He was a healer and held a clinic in a suburb of Newcastle.

There was no charge and he con-

ducted healing on many people who visited the clinic from all over the area, sometimes travelling long distances by bus to see him.

During his healing sessions, he also underwent an enormous transformation and his facial features appeared to take on different characteristics, but the really astonishing part was the way he spoke and his voice.

He was a real Geordie with an accent to go with it, but when he started healing his voice took the sound of cultured Indian enunciation with an extensive

vocabulary.

This would continue throughout the healing sessions, which sometimes went on for hours. The explanation was that he was acting as a medium for an Indian doctor to speak and heal through him and there was a lot of specific background to who this doctor had been. As I experienced this myself, there is no doubt in my mind that this man was genuine.

He helped an enormous amount of people and did not make a penny from his clinic. A small collection box was available if anyone wished to contribute a small donation. He was able to locate any problems that his visitors were suffering from immediately and his hands generated enormous heat, when he conducted his healing sessions.

I heard many stories from those who worked with him and the healing that had been generated on people with very serious health problems. From a personal point of view I felt heat for days afterwards on a specific area of my abdomen.

It was quite extraordinary. He told me that in order for healing to continue, I had to picture his face in my mind and focus on this. This worked for me and whether this was created by a positive energy because I believed this would occur was probably unimportant.

The point is that suggestion and the power of the mind is an essential part of any healing, but this does not negate the original source of the healing.

This good and gracious man died of a heart attack several years ago. The only way you knew of him and the clinic was through word of mouth. He was unknown otherwise.

TALES OF THE UNEXPECTED FROM WORLD WAR TWO

Elvington

*Small English place, forsaken and apart,
Horizons fogged, whose grey pervades the heart:*

And ceaseless winds that speak of days long gone,

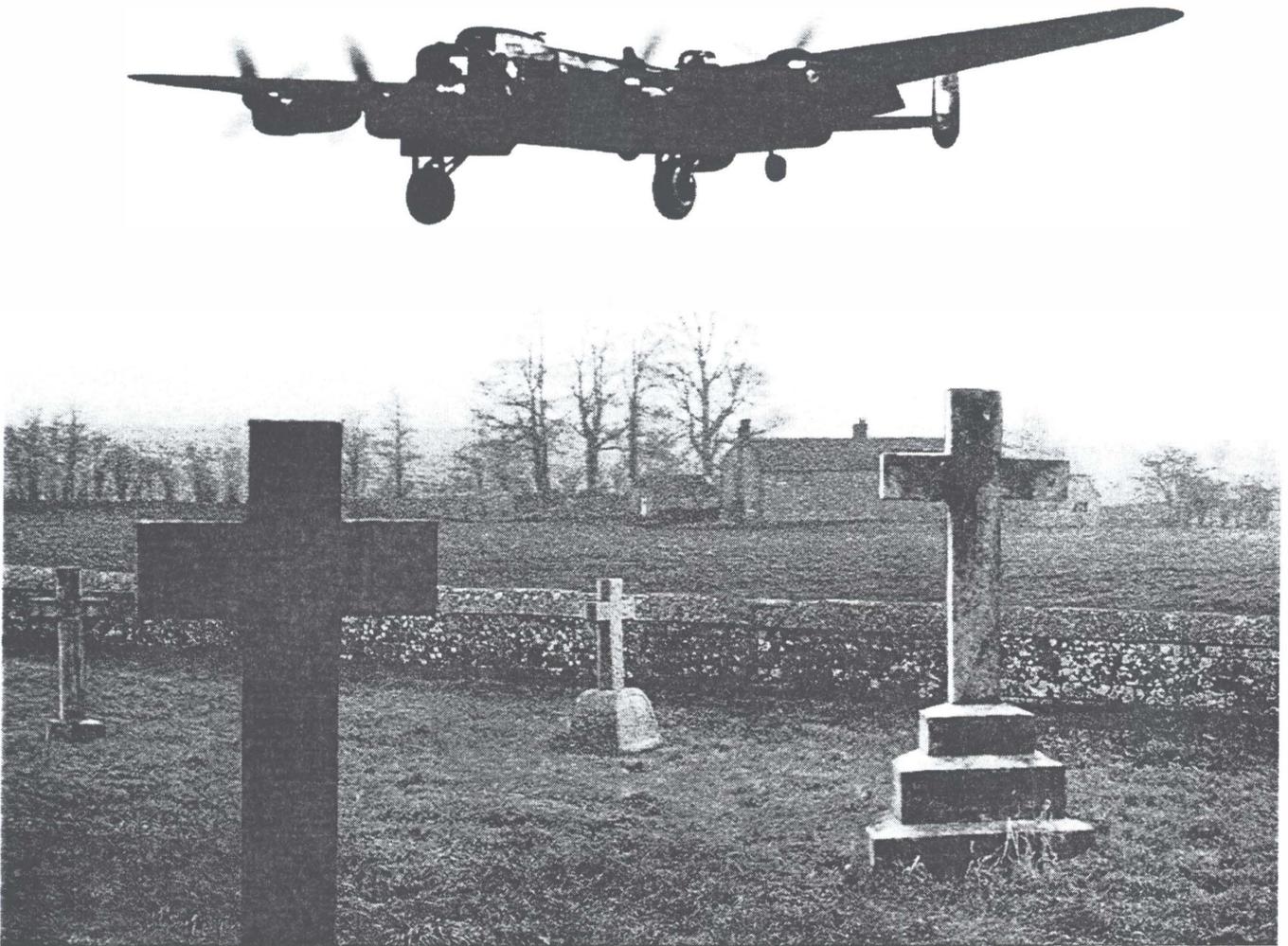
*And skies that talk of sadness: and no sun,
Where bombers fly and take into the night
Abandoned dreams of happiness and light.*

(Extract from 'Elvington' written by Lt. Col. Louis Bourgain D.F.C. Ex-pilot 346 Squadron, Patron of the Yorkshire Air Museum)

The Yorkshire Air Museum at Elving-



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ton, near York captures the very essence of a wartime flying station. It reverberates with an atmosphere from long ago days when the Halifax and Lancaster bombers took off on the runway with their pilots and crew flying into the night on their bombing missions. There were too many who never returned. This section of the article is dedicated to all those men....

FROM THE LONDON GAZETTE

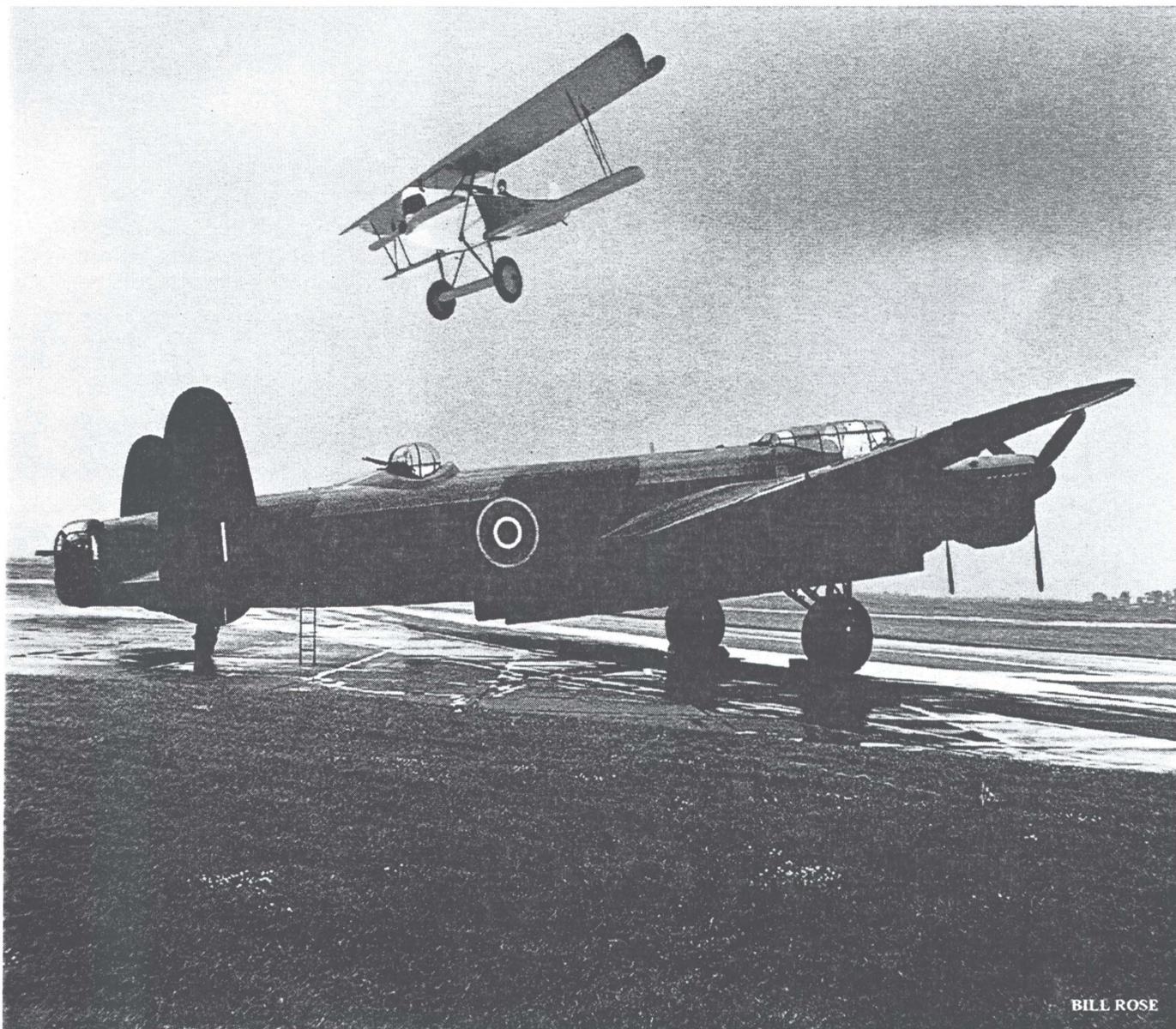
Pilot Officer S.F.C. Judd - 77 Squadron

One night in June, 1944, this officer was pilot and captain of an aircraft detailed to attack Sterkrade. On the return flight the aircraft was intercepted by a fighter, which attacked

with much persistence. In the engagement, Pilot Officer Judd manoeuvred with great skill and finally the attacker was driven off and believed to have been destroyed. The bomber had sustained extensive damage, however, and one wing was on fire. Nevertheless, Pilot Officer Judd set a course in an attempt to reach home. Before the English coast could be reached the fire had spread considerably and Pilot Officer Judd was forced to bring the crippled aircraft down on to the sea, a task he skilfully accomplished. All the crew got safely aboard the dinghy and were subsequently rescued. In the face of most harassing circumstances, this gallant pilot set an example of the highest order.

On the night Pilot Officer Judd, his crew and plane were shot down, his parents experienced a curious event. They were asleep at the time and were both awoken by footsteps coming along the gravel path, which led to their house. As they prepared to get up, they heard the doorbell, which kept on ringing. Anxiously wondering who was at their door in the middle of the night, they rushed downstairs to discover there was no-one at their door, nor was anyone in the area at all.

The footsteps and constant ringing of their doorbell occurred at the exact time that their son's Halifax and crew ditched hundreds of miles away into a very cold North Sea.



Pilot Officer Judd flew on his sorties out of Elvington with 77 Squadron

Another eerie story that Syd Judd related to me during a day I spent at Elvington occurred in Lincolnshire at a wartime RAF bomber station. During World War II, there would always be an airman in a caravan at the end of the runway. He would be responsible for the aircraft taxiing out on their missions just before take-off.

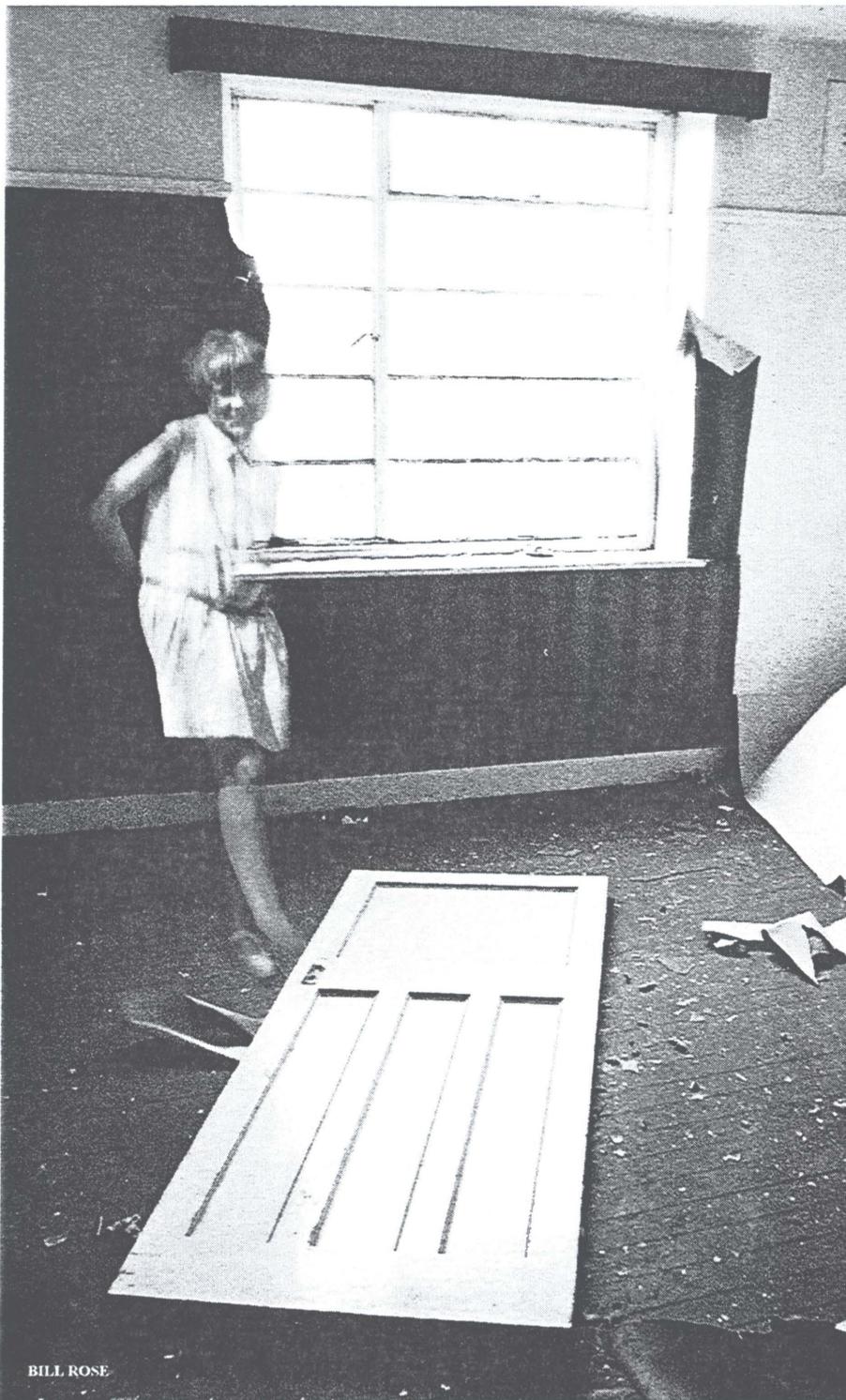
On this particular night I, the airman in the caravan was very puzzled to see a first World War biplane land on the runway at this airfield. The pilot, dressed in full World War One flying

kit, climbed out of the cockpit and walked toward the caravan, where he handed the stunned airman a note, with the number of a specific Lancaster that had taken off on a bombing raid that night. He proceeded to inform the airman that this Lancaster had crashed and all crew were killed. He then left the caravan, got back into his plane and took off. The airman radioed the control tower to give them this information and he was immediately replaced and taken off duty!

Several hours later the control tower received information that this specific Lancaster as recorded on the paper given to the airman had crashed and all crew had been killed. The crash

had occurred at the precise time of the visit from the pilot in the biplane!!

Another incident was recounted to me by Sqn.Ldr. Blackwell and occurred in the 1970s when he was staying at an old wartime bomber station. One night he awoke and needed the bathroom. Walking along the Officers Mess corridor to the bathroom he saw a fair-haired young man walking towards him and then past him. He was dressed in full World War II flying kit of boots, jacket and helmet. It occurred to him several seconds later that this was rather odd and the next day whilst having a drink in the bar he mentioned it to the other officers, who informed him that this person had been seen by many other officers dressed in exactly the same



way. They said that this was someone who had been killed in action during a mission from this flying station.

CONCLUDING THOUGHTS.

All of the above accounts are people's perception and interpretation of experiences that they cannot just file away and cannot fully explain. Their experiences were totally palpable to them and they feel absolutely convinced of the reality of these incidents

although they are happy to explore all possibilities in order to find an acceptable answer to define the experience and shed the mystery. But there are mysteries that remain despite objective and extreme efforts to establish what these experiences are.

Is it possible that claims of contact with the dead are indeed plausible? Are they happening at a level of reality that we access very briefly from time to time and where we enter an

altered state of consciousness in order to reach this other world reality? If there is indeed only a subjective reality, then everything we experience could be part of a much bigger picture: a magical mystery tour of the living Cosmos with you and I only experiencing a minuscule part of this. In fact maybe this life is but a dream or a hologram and those glimpses we receive at times in our lives are part of something infinitely more real than anything we have experienced during our physical life cycle.

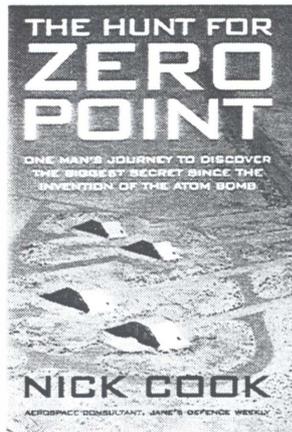
There is no doubt that the relevant scientific disciplines try to explain the issues surrounding near-death experiences and claims of after-death contact and unlike Eastern religions, Western cultures have a real problem in accepting the possibility that some form of consciousness survives death. Maybe we make these compelling encounters far more complex than they should be when there is a simple truth out there somewhere. As Bernard Gittelson said in *Intangible Evidence...*

What we are learning about paranormal phenomena flies in the face of everything we have been taught about the nature of reality.



Gloria Heather Dixon is the editor of *Strange Times* magazine and Director of Investigations for the British UFO Research Association (BUFORA). She has had a lifetime interest in extraordinary human experiences specifically focusing her research into claims of near-death experiences and after death contact.

BOOK REVIEWS



Title: The Hunt For Zero Point
Author: Nick Cook
Published by: Century. Hardback.
292 pages. B&W images.
Price: £17.99 Available from
Amazon U.K at £14.39 & P&P.
Paperback Edition published by
Arrow due in September 2002.
RRP £7.99 384 p.

Aviation consultant Nick Cook, who spent many years with Jane's Defence Weekly as a senior technical editor, has written "The Hunt for Zero Point," in a very pleasing style that falls somewhere between slick, informative journalism and the kind of fast paced thriller you simply can't put down.

He begins this book by explaining how he accidentally became interested in the idea of machines that generated a force to repel gravity. Before long, the reader is pulled into a claustrophobic world of high technology, conspiracy and intrigue, that develops into a relentless quest for the truth about big budget black sciences.

After some lightweight introductory discussion of anti-gravity theory, Nick Cook assembles a clear picture of the American scientist Thomas Townsend Brown, who is widely acknowledged as the pioneer of this research, which is known as electrogravitics.

He briefly touches on Townsend Brown's alleged involvement with the mysterious wartime Philadelphia Experiment, which has always been denied by the U.S Navy.

In the early nineteen fifties, Townsend Brown convinced the U.S military to take notice of his

outlandish anti-gravity experiments.

This work had such an impact on the Pentagon's brass, they immediately classified most of it as top secret and provided millions of dollars to defence contractors for further development.

Physicists and engineers were soon predicting that Townsend Brown's ideas would change the world forever. Then at the height of all this activity, the entire programme came to an abrupt halt and little more was heard of Townsend Brown or his anti-gravity theories.

Was electrogravitic theory an impossible dream that could never be achieved? Alternatively, is it conceivable that this research produced results that were so impressive they were buried in the black projects domain? Was there already some form of anti-gravity development underway and had it been applied to deeply classified experimental aircraft that were occasionally glimpsed in remote locations and reported as UFO sightings?

At this point, Nick Cook shifts his attention to several unexplained UFO reports dating back to the Second World War and early German research into flying discs.

He considers the many perplexing accounts of "foo-fighters," which he believes to have been examples of advanced German wartime technology.

This takes him into the difficult and increasingly controversial area of alleged German wartime research into disc shaped aircraft.

Is it possible that some of this technology was captured by the Allies and eventually used by a specialist team working for Avro-Canada in the 1950s?

Nick Cook clearly thinks this may have happened. He then attempts to bridge the gap between the advanced Avro-Canada flying disc proposals and Townsend Brown's anti gravity technology, which was to have been used in a high performance disc shaped fighter known as Project Winterhaven.

Like a good detective story we are carried along by his relentless search for the anti-gravity Holy Grail, which involves meetings with shadowy former defence specialists, top aerospace engineers and scientists working on cutting edge space projects.

One of these high flying specialists is NASA's George Schmidt and during an interview at the Marshall Space Flight

Center in Alabama, Nick Cook asks him if he believes anyone outside NASA is working on anti-gravity technology.

"That's always a possibility," replies Schmidt. "I'm not one for conspiracy theories, but we've learned about things that government and organisations have been involved with in the past." Before this fascinating discussion can progress any further, Nick Cook's PR escort brings proceedings to an abrupt halt.

Evidently, he has touched a raw nerve and it encourages him to press ahead with his investigation into zero point energy and its relationship with gravity.

We are now swept into the world of present day military aerospace secrets as Nick Cook turns his attention to the widely rumoured electrogravitic propulsion system fitted to the Northrop B-2A stealth bomber, the alleged Aurora hypersonic spyplane and Lockheed-Martin's mysterious Skunk Works.

Could there really be something to all these stories of multi billion dollar black budget projects and is there an obvious missing link?

Back in London, the author delves through records at the Imperial War Museum on the advice of his enigmatic source Marckus who has encouraged him to take a further look at certain German wartime aviation experiments.

He is soon on the trail of a particularly unpleasant Nazi general by the name of Hans Kammler, who took charge of special defence projects for the SS and promised Hitler wonder weapons that would win the war.

This takes Nick Cook to Germany and he arrives at the remains of Hitler's satanic underground Nordhausen factory where thousands of slave labourers died building missiles and jet fighters. The description of this terrible place sets a chilling picture of how the Nazis operated to attain their twisted goals.

Travelling east, the author arrives in the Polish capital and meets up with the researcher Igor Witkowski, a former defence journalist who has spent many years investigating wartime German secrets.

While looking for evidence of a

hidden Nazi nuclear programme, Witkowski stumbled across a seemingly bizarre series of experiments that took place in a deep mine near the Czech border. A strange bell shaped contraption had been set up and everything pointed to pioneering research into anti-gravity technology.

Had Nick Cook finally stumbled across some real answers to his relentless quest?

An expedition to the mysterious Wenceslas Mine reveals a peculiar henge type of structure that has stood in place since the war. Its purpose remains a mystery, but Witkowski is convinced that it was part of the Bell Experiment.

At every turn, there are more questions and Nick Cook's quest now takes him to Austria, where he meets members of the Schauburger family.

Viktor Schauburger has long been associated with German wartime flying disc experiments and a series of seemingly "off-the-wall" ideas about fluid dynamics and free energy.

At one point while describing his visit to the Schauburger Estate, Nick Cook says, "It sounded more than a little like New Age craziness." I have to say that I found it quite refreshing to realise that Nick Cook had retaining his normal common sense approach to this subject.

However the discussion with Schauburger's son reveals many previously unknown details of his father's wartime research. We learn all about Schauburgers energy generation experiments and the intriguing links to Heinkel, (aviation company) which seems to slot in with the alleged flying disc project of Rudolf Schriever and later Richard Miethé.

By now, there is an obvious convergence of circumstantial evidence, which seems to be leading in one direction. On his return to England, Nick Cook meets with the Russian anti-gravity scientist Dr Eugeny Podkletnov and a further piece of the jigsaw puzzle falls into place.

After talking with "black projects" aircraft designer Bob Widmere in America, Nick Cook takes us right to the fringes of science and meets with the Canadian researcher John Hutchinson who's bizarre experiments almost defy belief and sound like something from a sci-fi "B" movie.

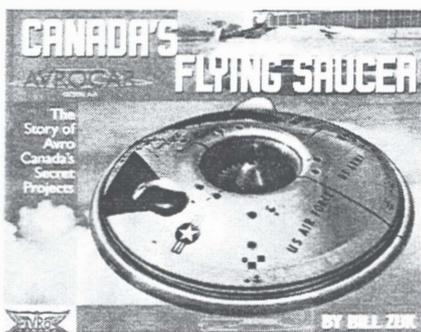
Is there a black world of anti gravity research underway? If so, will this

force be harnessed for good or evil? Is the technology actually simpler than we image and might there be massive corporate pressure to suppress it?

Although I was involved with some aspects of this best selling book, I had no real idea what form the manuscript would take until it was almost complete.

To date, this book has received glowing reviews in many technical journals such as Air International and New Scientist. It has also been favourably reported in newspapers, and enthusiast publications like UFO Magazine (UK).

Okay, I'm a little biased, but I do consider this book to be an excellent read and I would thoroughly recommend it. Bill Rose



Title: Avrocar - Canada's Flying Saucer

Author: Bill Zuk

Published by: Boston Mills Press, Canada. Paperback. 112 pages. B&W images.

Price: \$24.95 CDN \$19.95 U.S.

Available from Amazon U.K

Discount price £12.49

This book tells the fascinating story of Canada's Avrocar project and discusses the initial attempts to build a supersonic flying saucer.

At the height of the "Cold War," a small talented group of engineers were brought together at Avro-Canada's Toronto plant to design a supersonic flying saucer for the Royal Canadian Air Force. After a promising start, the team ran into serious technical difficulties with their Project Y design and the Canadian government decided to call it a day.

Then the Americans stepped in, providing enough money to continue with the programme.

This led to the more ambitious, highly classified Project Ladybird and

MX 1794 flying saucer programmes for the USAF. These were followed by the WS-606A supersonic strike aircraft and finally Avrocar, which was envisaged as a cross between a hovercraft and small utility plane.

Avrocar - Canada's Flying Saucer is the first book to document this secret history and the author kicks off with a very useful outline of the contractor, before moving on to briefly discuss their early aircraft.

Avro-Canada were responsible for the little known Jetliner, the sturdy CF-100 Canuck all-weather interceptor and the superb, but ultimately ill-fated CF-105 Arrow, which was unquestionably the most advanced combat aircraft of its day.

Having set the stage, Bill Zuk examines the highly classified flying saucer projects and talks in some depth about the chief designer, John Frost.

Frost was an Englishman who had previously worked on a number of famous military aircraft that included the Whirlwind, Mosquito and Vampire jet.

We learn many interesting details about the kind of man Frost was, while Bill Zuk also provides some good insights into company politics at Avro-Canada.

Frost had a serious interest in German WW11 cutting edge aeronautical research and Zuk learnt from official government documents that he participated in at least one secret meeting with an engineer who worked on a German flying disc project near Prague.

The author examines all the known designs belonging to this highly unusual flying disc programme, which all proved to far ahead of their time to fly, or so it would seem!

Having spent many years researching the history of Avro-Canada's special projects, I feel well placed to judge this book. While there are some minor issues we disagree on, I consider Bill's book to be a fine piece of work, which draws on much previously unknown and unique material, including some rare company artwork and newly discovered photographs.

This is a fascinating and valuable reference for any aviation enthusiast interested in unusual military aircraft, or the serious ufologist who is looking for detailed technical information on the largest known postwar MMUFO project.

Bill Rose

FEEDBACK

READERS COMMENTS

Dear Gloria

I do not think it was a coincidence (with the Attack on America) that you were about to run Bill Rose's article in "Strange Times" on terrorism! On Sunday I went to World Angel Day, which was arranged in February to send peace to the world, and the major meditation was scheduled for 4 pm. Not only the right day, but even the right time! One cannot and certainly should not ignore this kind of thing, if one is serious about parapsychology. The revelations about Georgina Bruni's motives in ST confirms my suspicions that we are being manipulated. I find ST highly informative and worthwhile because it sticks to the facts in a sober manner and enables the reader to get a clear picture of what is going on.

Regards

Michael Lewis
Association for the Scientific
Study of Anomalous Phenom-
ena (ASSAP)

Dear Gloria

Thank you for Strange Times. I loved the excellent interview with J.J. Bill Rose piece was good too. The Puppet Masters was creepy, as was the foot and mouth stuff (we suffered

terribly up here).
Keep up the good work

Roy Sandbach

Hi Gloria,

Thanks for sending me my copy of Strange Times #2. Your interview with Judy Jaafar was first class and gave me much to think on. I also found many of Bill Rose's photos excellent, he must have a great archive! Congrats!

Best wishes.

John McDonald

Dear Heather,

You asked for comment in your S.T. No.2 editorial and I politely remind you that you do not publish readers' letters. Surely people write in with useful information that supplements articles previously published? Incidentally, the James Dean car anecdotes were fascinating. Judith Jaafar thinks we have not progressed much in 50 years of ufology. As a long-time UFO-buff and bookseller, I feel that few people fully appreciate the history of the subject and the mind-boggling volume of the literature. I currently am able to offer over 400, yes 400! UFO-related books from

stock. However, this is probably less than 5% of the published data. Ufology has progressed, but so often this is at subtle levels, that collectively it is overlooked.

Judith raises the question of whether we are studying UFOs or human behaviour. I don't have a problem with this. We are studying UFOs, and a good investigator filters the report data taking into account human perception and cultural beliefs. Contact reports have always been a minefield. Just tread carefully and carry a long stick!

Kind regards,

Sincerely

Lionel Beer
The Travel and Earth Mysteries
Society, Hampton, Middlesex

The Editor welcomes letters and readers comments, which should be sent to our office address or can be emailed directly.

See inside the front cover for contact details.

BUFORA LONDON LECTURES, 2002

THE BRITISH UFO RESEARCH ASSOCIATION (BUFORA)

WEB-SITE www.bufora.org.uk

BUFORA is pleased to announce a brand new programme of events for 2002. At the time of going to press some details were still being finalised but please make a note of some key dates for these lectures.

In a departure from previous arrangements, BUFORA is teaming up with Malcolm Robinson 's Strange Phenomena Investigations UK (SPI-UK) to sponsor a series of informal **Phenomenal Afternoons in London**.. The venue will be the Function Room of the **Sols Arms Public House** 65-68 Hampstead Road, London, NW1 2PN. **It is literally around the corner from Euston Tower.**

In addition, BUFORA is running three seasonal mini-conferences as special events at other locations.. The **Phenomenal Afternoons in London** series, presents an opportunity to explore a wider range of subjects, as it is impossible to consider UFOs without touching on wider aspects of the paranormal.

Please note the following dates and speakers (correct a the time of going to press)

Saturday 16th February	To Be Announced
Saturday 16th March	Roy Lake -London UFO Cases
Saturday 13th April	Maxine Pearson - Remote Viewing
Saturday 11th May	Carol Cochrane – CropCircles
Saturday 8th June	Elaine Waite and John Hanson
Saturday 13th July	To Be Announced
Saturday 10th August	To be announced.
Saturday 5th October	John Spencer - Ghosts and Poltergeists - The Impertinent Questions
Saturday 2nd November	To Be Announced
Saturday 7th December	To Be Announced

All the above lectures will be held at the Sols Arms, 3pm-6.30pm with Buffet included
Further guest speakers to be announced for all the above dates soon.

In addition to the above lectures, BUFORA will be presenting the following events:

Saturday 2nd March:	AGM followed by UFO video afternoon Venue: Westminster Harrow Campus 2pm-5pm
Saturday 1st June	Roswell Conference with guest speaker Philip Mantle Venue: Westminster Harrow Campus –2pm-5pm
Saturday 7th September	BUFORA's 40th Birthday Conference Venue: Kensington Central Library 1pm-4pm

Please Note

All of these events are admission by ticket at £6 unless otherwise stated. Members of BUFORA and SPI can obtain these tickets for £5 for advance booking through the box office at:

Evolution P.O.Box 633 Beaconsfield Bucks. HP9 2GL

Cheques and Postal Orders should be made payable to BUFORA Ltd. It cannot be guaranteed that tickets will be available on the door and only advance books secures the concessionary rate.

BUFORA UFOCALL 09068 121886

News updates, forthcoming lectures, special events, how to report a sighting and how to join BUFORA.

Just dial and listen

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STRANGE TIMES

There exists in our cosmos a dynamic element, imponderable and invisible, diffused through all parts of the universe, independent of matter visible and ponderable, and acting upon it; and in that dynamic element there is an intelligence superior to our own

... Camille Flammarion in The Unknown.