

# UFONEWS UK

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**UFONEWS UK MAGAZINE IS 1 YEAR OLD...**



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Pat Delgado slips away...1919 - 2009.

The Men in Black: The Early Days.

Black Helicopters are Here to Stay.

THE MYSTERY UFO IN THE SKIES OVER MANCHESTER. Steve Mera (MAPIT).

The Problem of Hoaxing by Peter A. McCue.

June 2010... I close the doors for the final time. Steve Gerrard (Editor)

MoD X-Files By Nick Pope.

## Editors Corner...

**Please, go to page 27 and read about the future of the magazine and mine....**

Another issue comes and goes, but this I suppose is a historical time for UFONEWS UK magazine as this is the 4th issue and I have now published the first 4 issues and now the magazine is one year old. It has been tough with myself producing, editing, publishing, printing, mailing etc the magazine and trying to get it out on time. But as you can see, this issue is a bit late!!! Sorry about this, but with trying to paint the house and the summer being a rather busy time for me at work ( I am a caretaker at a college for my sins...) time just runs out. Also having 2 sons (Over 18's), a demanding dog and oh yes, the wife... As you can see, I don't get a lot of time to myself.

Anyway, back to the magazine... HAPPY BIRTHDAY!!!! And hopefully there will be a few more in the future. On the good side, membership is rising slowly, but rising it is. The costs of the magazine are to be kept down hopefully for the coming months, but this may depend on the postage prices as we recently saw a hike in postal charges and the magazine went from around 66p per issue and rose by 10p to 76p an issue to post!!! So, hopefully the prices I will be able to hold for another 12 months, but 2011 may see a rise in membership and cover price but lets see.

The end of the year is fast approaching... Where have the last 6 months gone!!! But in August I will be going to Warminster in August for the Weird99 conference. From this hopefully I will do a special article in the December issue and also catch up with some old friends. I have my bed booked for the weekend and I have been given permission to sell the magazine and some other items over the weekend. Hopefully I will be printing some fliers for the event to attract new members and some needed funds to keep the magazine going on into 2010/11. There is to be a skywatch in Warminster over the night of the Saturday, Sunday morning but not sure if my old body would be able to take the cold. But hey, nothing to lose by going along and who knows what we may see.

The world of UFO's have seen I think somewhat a rise of reported sightings especially in Southern England (See Page 4 & 5). Local hunter Bob Schindler and his crew have been out and about catching the weird and sometimes wonderful images in the skies around Portsmouth and the surrounding countryside. But, where have all the TV programs gone about UFO's? We currently see some great programs being screened on American TV but nothing, not a thing in the UK. The last thing I can remember was that dribble shown on Channel 5 (Britain's Close Encounters) back in 2008 (Can't remember the exact date). Yet, a great program entitled UFO Hunters is one of those programs that as a UFO researcher MUST see and it shows how UFO Researchers should get off their backsides and get out and investigate the sightings and not from the end of their phones or via Email. I think that the art of UFO research has lost its course and because we have other medias at our fingertips, UFO cases are only investigated half heartedly. What was the old Southampton UFO Group must hold its hands up to this and it became armchair UFOlogists group towards the end of its life. A lot of the problem is the cost of traveling to see witnesses when it is just as easy to either phone or email without having to travel miles.

In the August and December issues of the magazine, I will be looking at providing some DVD's for sale only available to magazine subscribers for around £6.00 each including the postage. So hopefully you will be able to enjoy some of the latest UFO material available OUT THERE... Well on the Earth that is.....

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## **UFO Researcher, Witness & Author Tony Dodd Dies.**

I am sure UFONEWS UK readers are aware that UFO researcher Tony Dodd died on the 24th March 2009, from the consequences of an inoperable brain tumour initially detected in August 2008. He was aged 74. His funeral service took place on March 31<sup>st</sup> at Linton Parish church.

Born in the Crystal Palace region of London on the 2<sup>nd</sup> January 1935, Anthony ("Tony") Dodd - following National Service and several diverse short term positions - joined the West Riding (later West & North Yorkshire) Constabulary in 1962. During his time in the force Dodd acquired a reputation as a tough, competent police sergeant in a sometimes hazardous carrier spanning 25 years of service.

Tony Dodd's involvement in Ufology was instigated in January 1978 by a personal sighting of a glowing domed disc with three hemispherical projections on its underside. He thereafter observed numerous other apparent UFOs around the Skipton area; both incidentally and while on skywatch vigils. The most significant of these was the sighting of a glowing form near Bolton Abbey on the 7th November 1983, the photographs taken by Dodd subsequently assessed by Ground Saucer Watch as "one of the few genuine photographs from the UK". In 1982 Dodd joined the Yorkshire UFO Society (YUFOS); later Quest International, publishers of "UFO" magazine. He intermittently served various roles within the organisation - most notably as Director of Investigations - leaving in 1998 to pursue his own Ufological interests. Among his post Quest projects was the writing of his semi-autographical book *Alien Investigator; the case files of Britain's leading UFO Detective* (Headline, 1999).

Pre-eminent among his many notable case studies, Dodd - along with "Armen Victorian" - played a significant role in the alleged 1989 Kalahari Desert UFO retrieval, now generally dismissed as a hoax. Being well known within British Ufology for his proactive stance towards alien abduction claims, Dodd played a key role in documenting the controversial Jason Andrews case. As UFONEWS UK readers are all too aware, Tony Dodd had an unflinching conviction that "True UFOs" had an extraterrestrial origin; the evidence for which he believed was suppressed by an official cover-up of global proportions. To support this, Dodd cited numerous apparent instances where he was observed and sometimes threatened by individuals he identified as government agents. Most significantly, he believed this alien presence on our world took the form of various coastal UFO bases, the most notable of which were located just off South America and Iceland. Tony Dodd also documented various instances of animal and human mutilation which he ascribed to extraterrestrial activity.

Coming only 6 years after the demise of **Graham Birdsall**, Tony Dodd's death marks the passing of another notable figure from the contemporary British UFO scene.

Robert Moore. ©2009

## **Hampshire UFO Reports : 15th March - 15th June 2009.**

**Date : 23rd March 2009 :**

**Location: Southampton.**

**Shape: Light**

**Duration :15 mins**

Moving lights in the sky high up but moving very quickly backwards and forwards.

I was having a cigarette on the door step of my house it's a very clear night no clouds in the sky you can see the stars but over to the left hand side of the house of which I will get later I could clearly see some lights moving around then there are other lights coming up from behind the front ones I could count about twelve at first but then there were more and they are sort off shooting forward then darting backwards just like they are playing catch me if you can there is one big light out front of the others with one dull light in front of that but the ones behind are all moving around moving backwards forwards side to side and when I mean fast I mean fast they are very high up in the sky but i have never seen a star move before or move around like these are the big one moves quick but it comes backward slowly but moves forward very very quick I will let you know the position in the sky later I could not get any video recording or photos due to being high in the sky sorry but my girlfriend did see it as well. They were in a arrow head formation with about 10 or more behind in like a dice number four with the others side by side.

**Location : Overton.**

**Date : 27th of March, 2009.**

The day after Derek secured his giant orb footage, film of an incredible object seen hovering above Overton, Hampshire, he noticed this very bright object in a field in Hannington, (nearby to where D lives and home to a military establishment also), whilst out on a country walk during the day. Luckily he has taken to always carrying his Sony camcorder after all of his previous strange experiences and managed to film this self-lit, glowing object, which he claimed began to move forward just as it disappeared down into "nothing". Is this the same object that D filmed just a day ago? it could be. that is a theory worthy of consideration... because the following day, (28th), he went back to the field to double-check if the object had returned, and there was nothing to be seen. Sceptics out there, please send in all the insults you like, but I for one believe in this witness. Incidentally, before anyone says this is a cgi trick, let me say that D doesn't even possess a pc...nor does he know how to use one. He is simply a pensioner who lives very humbly, on his own, and keeps his eyes on the skies...as more of us should do.

Weather conditions intermittent sunshine and cloud. Source : <http://www.uk-ufo.co.uk/>

**Location : Waterlooville, Hampshire.**

**Date : 29th March 2009.**

**Time: 21:37.**

Witness Statement: I saw a bright orange object almost like a ball of flames, travelling at the speed of a plane. It eventually disappeared some few minutes later.

I have video footage of the object if anyone wants to investigate further I also have a couple of still pictures too.

Here is one of photos sent in by Lisa with cropped enlargement.

Source : <http://www.beamsinvestigations.org.uk>

**Date : 4th April 2009.**

**Location: Portsmouth.**

**Shape: Light.**

**Duration :15 seconds.**

Bright large white ball of light fell through clouds and pulled up then vanished of IBM headquarters in Portsmouth in the UK

I am a taxi driver (obviously sober). We were travelling northwards in Hilsea, Portsmouth (UK) in my taxi - saw a bright white sphere about the same size as the moon which was full at the time to my left (east). I had 3 passengers who were chatting to themselves. The passenger on the rear nearside saw the sphere. It travelled down through the clouds and dropped very quickly downwards in a 70 degrees angle but pulled upwards at about 100 feet but disappeared from view over the motorway bridge toward IBM North Harbour buildings.

So not to coerce each other about what we saw, man in back told the other rear passenger what he saw and I told my front passenger what I saw. We then both concluded we saw the same event at the same time. freaked us out. Was far to fast for a helicopter, and the movement was to fierce for a jet or plane when it pulled up. It also could not have been a meteor or asteroid as it pulled up and change direction. Another person I spoke to about this saw a similar event but the light was orange not white.

**Date : 5th April 2009.**

**Location: Basingstoke.**

**Shape: Light.**

**Duration : 2 secs**

**Time : 01.00 hrs.**

At 1:00 am precisely very bright light travelled south to north just east of Basingstoke, Hampshire, England. I report this simply to give reference point for other more detailed possible sightings. it may have been a meteor, the Korean missile or something else. it was brighter and bigger than other meteors I have seen.

**Location : Winklebury, 10-20 miles NWW of Basingstoke.**

**Date : 9th April 2009.**

**Time: 8.45pm.**

Witness Statement: Driving to Basingstoke on the A339, approx 2 miles from the outskirts of Winklebury, I looked left and saw 5 or 6 orange lights in the sky, assuming almost the exact form of the 'Plough' (constellation). I was very surprised to see it so low and even more surprised to see all the 'stars' were a distinct orange colour. Even more unusual because it was a completely overcast night with no stars showing at all.

I'd estimate the formation to be approx over the Reading/Burghfield area, but my distance estimate may well be wrong, as I had no frame of reference for the size of the lights. The lights were stationary. I watched for about 5 minutes and didn't notice any perceivable movement. Photos from my phone look rubbish I'm afraid.

Source : <http://www.uk-ufo.co.uk/2009>

**Location: Waterlooville.**

**Date : 12th April 2009.**

**Time: 21.30.**

Witness Statement: We saw a pale patch in the sky shaped a little like human lungs; it was huge, started flashing then it moved very quickly to the right and then up and then to the right again and disappeared. We viewed it for more than 15 minutes before it disappeared. Source: <http://www.uk-ufo.co.uk/>

**Location : North Hampshire.**

**Date : 13th April 2009.**

**Time: approx 21.00.**

Witness Statement: A very bright large orange light travelling silently northwards. It endured for its entire transit of the sky to the low horizon. I had time to summon companions from indoors to see its final 15 seconds or so. Source: <http://www.uk-ufo.co.uk>

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**Isle of Wight County Press...**

**24<sup>th</sup> April 2009...**

A RYDE woman who said she saw a late night UFO 'near miss' has appealed for other witnesses to come forward.

She said at 11.10pm on Saturday the police spotter plane, circling the south of the town, was involved in a low-altitude 'near miss' with three other craft. Police, who confirmed their spotter plane was in the area and that three officers were on the ground searching for occupants of a stolen car, who ran off after a crash, said none of the officers reported seeing any unusual activity.

A police statement said: "The pilot, observers and police officers on the ground did not see, hear or come into contact with any other aircraft while flying over the Island at this time. "We are satisfied that Hampshire Police Air Support Unit was not involved in an air near-miss incident."

But the woman maintained: "I was watching from

the bedroom window, which faces east, at 11.10pm. "What appeared to be three jets came very fast from the west and flew even lower towards the plane. "If these had collided, half the houses in Ashley Road would have been wiped out. "The strange thing is, the three craft didn't make any noise. "I do not want publicity, do not drink and have never taken drugs. Somebody must have a record of what these craft were up to?"

"The spotter plane had lights under each wing and one on the nose. The three, that appeared as fast as the Red Arrows, had only one light.

"Surely someone else must have been watching at the same time?"

This report follows a Sandown woman describing a bright orange circular object making its way silently across the sky on Wednesday last week. Meanwhile, on Bank Holiday Monday, a Bonchurch resident reported seeing a luminous ball of light in the sky. Again, it made no noise.

10th May 2009 - Cowplain - Two orange balls that hovered at plane distance in the sky then three others came along chasing the other two.

15th May 2009 - Southampton - What looked like a bright star started moving away, gained speed and disappeared.

16th May 2009 - Southampton - 4 orange lights in a row (like looking from the end of a busy run way).

23rd May 2009 - Aldershot - We saw three bright orange, large lights to the left of our house.

28th May 2009 - Southampton - A large round glowing object coming across the sky towards me. it was around 600 feet to 1,000 feet off the ground.

29th May 2009 - Portsmouth - An orange ball moving fairly slowly and change direction several times quite quickly.

30th May 2009 - Yateley - A glowing orb which was moving South to North. The colour of the object was a blush orange.

2nd June 2009 - Aldershot - Sighting was of 4 orange/red/amber flame-like objects in the sky.

4th June 2009 - Lee On Solent - unusual orange ball in the sky, initially I thought it might be plane. But there were no flashing lights just an orange ball. It was travelling at slow speed with no noise from a SW direction.

10th June 2009 - Gosport - Object travelling North Easterly direction before stopping, changed intensity as if turning, then "corkscrewed" away into cloud while appearing to become "four points" and shrinking.

June continues with further reported sightings of UFO's over Hampshire and there will be a further update in the August edition of the magazine...



## UK UFO NEWS...

Scotland On Sunday...  
22<sup>nd</sup> March 2009...

### Close Encounters Of Pitlochry Kind...

Government ministers were alerted over a UFO photographed hovering over the Scottish countryside, it has emerged.

Newly released Ministry of Defence files reveal they took the unusual step of informing senior Cabinet figures after an unidentified object was captured on camera in Perthshire.

While most reports of flying saucers are quickly dismissed by defence chiefs, the previously classified papers show the sighting, which took place near Pitlochry in 1990, was taken extremely seriously.

A former MoD official who investigated the case told Scotland on Sunday that despite strenuous efforts they could find no earthly explanation for the craft.

Witnesses reported seeing a large, diamond-shaped object hanging in the air next to a RAF Harrier above the A9 at Calvine, north of Pitlochry, on August 4.

The UFO is said to have hovered for about 10 minutes before zooming skywards at high speed and disappearing from view.

The apparent close encounter of the Caledonian kind was photographed by members of the public whose images appear to show a blurry, diamond-shaped craft next to a jet.

Fearing the pictures would spark significant media interest, the MoD decided to bring it to the attention of the Government.

A Whitehall official wrote in a memo: "Such stories are not normally drawn to the attention of ministers.

"On this occasion, however, the MoD has been provided with six photographic negatives of an alleged UFO... and has been asked for comments almost certainly for inclusion in a forthcoming story."

The memo suggested the media should be told that "no definite conclusion had been

reached regarding the large diamond-shaped object".

It has also emerged the MoD went on to commission a series of line drawings of the object the following year, noting that the "sensitivity of the material suggests very special handling".

Former MoD civil servant Nick Pope, who dealt with UFO reports, described the image as the "most impressive" ever shown to his department.

He said: "The MoD has all sorts of equipment and expertise that we used to analyse and enhance imagery to tell whether there were any signs of fakery.

"This picture was assessed by our digital experts, who concluded it was a real photograph showing a solid-structured craft which was estimated as being around 25m in diameter.

"There were no wings and no visible signs of any propulsion system.

"It was exotic and unknown in a way far beyond even the most modern stealth aircraft being trailed at that time."

Pope, who served in the MoD for 21 years until 2006, claims they were unable to come up with any firm answers about the craft and its origins.

"I remember going to a briefing with the defence intelligence staff where the photograph was discussed.

My opposite number in defence intelligence pointed his finger to the left and said, 'It is not the Americans,' then to the right, saying, 'It is not the Soviets,' and finally, he said, 'That only leaves...' and pointed his finger directly up."

During his time with the ministry, Pope had a blown-up copy of the photograph on his office wall until it was personally taken down by his superior. He recalled: "My head of division removed it and put it in his drawer because he was convinced, wrongly in my opinion, that it showed a top secret prototype craft.

"Somewhere along the line the photo disappeared, but I have no idea whether it was genuinely misplaced or whether it was treated as something we shouldn't have seen and put through a shredder."

Meanwhile, another newly released file reveals how efforts to create a computer database of UFO reports were halted amid fears of a potential public relations disaster should its existence come to light.

The aim was to produce a database which could supply information and explanations when ministers were asked questions in Parliament about sightings.

A memo from March 1988 revealed the project was to be ditched because it "contravened" statements from ministers saying UFOs did not pose a threat to the UK.

The official wrote: "I also understand that there was some concern about public reaction if knowledge of the work being undertaken emerged in the media."

A further file insists that the death of an US Air Force pilot attached to the RAF was a "tragic accident" rather than the result of a UFO encounter.

Captain William Schaffner's fatal crash into the North Sea on September 8, 1970, made headlines over allegations he was on an secret operation to intercept a glowing, unidentified craft.

But an MoD report concluded: "There is no reason to suggest there is any sort of UFO incident in any way connected with the tragic crash."

### **The Hastings Observer... 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2009...**

#### **Alien Expert From Hastings VIP Guest At UFO Conference...**

A paranormal expert from Hastings has just returned after speaking at the one of the world's biggest UFO conferences in America.

Malcolm Robinson, who lives in the Old Town, was treated to an all expenses paid trip of a lifetime by the organisers of the International UFO Congress, held in Nevada.

The 51-year-old Scot was asked to talk about UFO and paranormal activity in his native Scotland - a subject he is considered a world authority on.

In fact, such is Mr Robinson's stock, he was once approached by film director Steven Spielberg to launch a multi-million pound hunt for the infamous Loch Ness Monster.

Mr Robinson, who grew up in the little Scottish town of Alloa before eventually settling in Hastings in 2007, got hooked on the paranormal after reading ghost story books as a young boy. >From there it flourished and, in 1979, he formed Strange Phenomena Investigations - a group which is still running today.

As he explained: "It got into this business initially to disprove things - and 99 per cent of UFO or paranormal cases are easily explained. However, I soon found the one per cent that can't be explained and it is these cases which fascinate me."

In recent years Mr Robinson has filmed a host of documentaries for television, been interviewed on dozens of radio shows and become something of a regular in the national press - commenting on hundreds of UFO and ghost stories.

However, he says appearing at the Nevada conference was one of the high points of his career so far. This was their 18th year for the conference, but the first time a Scot had been invited to lecture in the USA - an honour which was not lost on Mr Robinson.

Mr Robinson said: "Being at this conference gave me an opportunity to meet fellow researchers and there were 30 of them from all parts of the world, the best in their field, each who were sharing the information from their own countries.

"We had speakers from Turkey, Brazil, Italy, Croatia and elsewhere and I had a great time meeting them all.

"My own presentation went off fantastic and I was warmly received by the large audience.

"The response after my lecture was great and I was signing autographs and smiled as a number of American women all commented on my warm and lovely Scottish accent.

"Some of the other guest speakers gave incredible lectures and some of the UFO film footage that was shown at the conference just had to be seen to be

believed.

"I made loads of new contacts who will remain friends for life and they now know the name of Malcolm Robinson. I'm pretty sure that America has not seen the last of me, I'll be back.

So, does Mr Robinson think the truth is still out there? "The information provided at this conference clearly showed that there are vehicles operating in the skies of the world, which clearly are not our own." said Mr Robinson. "UFOs are real, of that there is no question.

"There have been literally thousands of first class UFO reports coming from all parts of the world. "We are at the bottom of a long ladder of understanding and each day brings us closer to the truth."

### **The South Wales Echo... 24<sup>th</sup> March 2009...**

#### **Police Helicopter Crew's UFO Encounter...**

Last summer alien-hunters descended on South Wales after a police helicopter crew reported a UFO above RAF St Athan in the Vale of Glamorgan.

The pilot was at 500ft awaiting clearance to land when he spotted what appeared to be another craft hurtling towards him from below.

A source said: "The chopper had to swerve sharply to avoid being hit.

The guys said if they'd stayed where they were, they'd be dead - it would have been a direct hit.

They are convinced it was a UFO. It sounds far-fetched, but they know what they saw.

These guys are hardened professionals and know people will take the mickey, but they are certain they saw a UFO."

The source added the mysterious craft flew towards Cardiff and out across the Bristol Channel.

South Wales Police reported the sighting, which has yet to be officially explained, to the "relevant authority".

### **The Wrexham Evening Leader... 24<sup>th</sup> March 2009...**

#### **Wrexham Woman Thought Aliens Were Coming After Spotting UFO...**

A couple have been left baffled by the identity of a set of strange lights they saw in the sky above their home near Wrexham on Sunday evening.

The man and wife, who do not wish to be named, had just returned to their home in Sontley Road, just outside Wrexham in north east Wales, at about 7.40 pm and parked their car on the driveway when they looked up and saw the lights passing overhead.

The man said: "At first there was just one of them. It looked like the underside of a helicopter and was at about the same height you see them travelling. But while helicopters usually make a lot of noise, there was absolutely no sound coming from this object.

"My wife and I got out of the car to get a better look and, as we did, another two of these things - just the same as the first - passed over our home, then two

more.

"As they passed overhead some of them just seemed to vanish into thin air but one or two appeared to shoot off at high speed."

The man added: "We couldn't believe what we were seeing, so I called over our neighbour and he saw the last two of these things.

"We tried to think of a logical explanation but there doesn't appear to be one and at the time I'd only had half of shandy!"

His wife said: "I really thought aliens were going to come and get me.

"Watching all this was fascinating and took about three to five minutes. I know our home is under the flight path for Manchester Airport but this was definitely not a plane we saw.

"These lights were coming from the direction of Rhostyllen and heading towards Marchwiel, and we would love to find out if anyone else saw them at the same time."

According to the Helilog of North Wales Police the lights are unlikely to have been those of the force helicopter which, at the time, was patrolling over the Denbigh area, from where it had travelled from Conwy.

The lights over Sontley are just the latest in a long line of possible UFO sightings over the Wrexham area.

In a similar incident last September, the Evening Leader was inundated with calls after strange, dazzling lights were seen flying slowly through the night sky over Rhos, Johnstown and Borrass

Janet Bancroft, 28, and partner Mark Pluke, 24, both witnessed the dazzling lights from their home on Maes-y-Ficerdy, Rhos, after Mark had gone to put the rubbish out.

According to the couple, the lights, spotted at about 7.40 pm, formed into a slow-moving triangle before eventually disappearing from view some 20 minutes later.

### **Bournemouth Daily Echo... 3<sup>rd</sup> April 2009...**

#### **I Saw A UFO Over Bournemouth And I'm Not Craze...**

Don't accuse him of being all craze now - but rocker Noddy Holder of Slade says he felt the noise when he had a close encounter with a UFO in Bournemouth.

The colourful star, most famous for the ubiquitous festive hit Merry Xmas Everybody, said he saw a circular flying saucer, emitting beams of light, flying over the sea while staying in the town.

Recounting the tale on Radio 2, he said his Bournemouth hotel room had suddenly filled with "white light" at midnight, which at first he thought was coming from a police helicopter.

"I puts my paper down, looks out and it was a flying saucer," he said. "I'm serious here - it was a flying saucer. It whizzed across the sea, just like you

see in the movies. It was circular with all beams of light coming out of it."

He described how it raced over the surface of the water a such speed that "massive waves came up". But his wife wasn't so convinced.

"She would not believe I'd seen this flying saucer," he added. "She said 'Ah, you're drunk you fool' - it's one of them police helicopters'."

But the day after the sighting, which happened some five years ago, he said he turned on the BBC news to see reports of UFO sightings "in a straight line" from Gloucester to Bournemouth and along the south coast.

It is not the first time the area has experienced such a visitation - in fact it appears to be somewhat of a UFO hotspot.

Strange lights spotted in the sky over the festive period prompted a flurry of calls to the Daily Echo newsroom. They were described as "moving around like an insect. It was as bright as a car headlight".

And in February last year, there were a number of sightings of a cigar-shaped object in the sky over Poole Harbour and Swanage.

### **The Bristol Evening Post... 15<sup>th</sup> May 2009...**

#### **Is This The Answer To Bristol UFO?**

An eagle-eyed Bristol Evening Post reader thinks she may have uncovered the mystery of the UFO filmed over Knowle.

In the story we featured the object flying over houses filmed by video game maker Andy Hadlington.

But people were quick to point out that it looked like airborne rubbish.

Nicola Saunders, a 45-year-old mum of three, who lives on Wells Road, Knowle, thinks she might have found a possible explanation.

She said: "A couple of weeks ago our neighbours were having a velux window fitted to their roof.

"As stones were falling onto our garage roof, the builder put the large cardboard box that the velux window came in on top of our garage roof to protect it from the debris.

"Last week, either Thursday or Friday, the day that we had strong winds, I heard a loud bang and looked out to see the cardboard flying through the air.

"It landed up in the tree in our garden. When I looked out again it was somewhere else in the garden.

"The cardboard was about a metre in length and width, maybe bigger. It may be a coincidence."

Mr Hadlington, 36, said: "It was the freakiest thing I have ever seen in my life. I was sitting in my office and saw it out of the corner of my eye.

"It appeared to come past twice and the second time I got it on camera. I thought it was a piece of metal but it was too far away to tell."

### **Portsmouth News... 28<sup>th</sup> May 2009...**

#### **Is a lantern cause of the Hayling UFO?**

Emergency services were called after strange, glowing, orange orbs were spotted in the night sky.

The flying objects were seen whizzing over the south of Hayling Island at 10.30 pm on Saturday.

David Powell and his son, Lawrence, had just parked up in Sandy Point Road when they saw the six orb-like spheres high up above the sea.

The 63 year- old businessman, said: 'What we saw was so shocking it felt like we were cemented to the ground.

'We got out the car, looked up and there they were, perfectly still, very similar to The Plough constellation.

'I went into my back garden and there were just three or four of them left but they had moved position. I went upstairs to look at them through binoculars and all I can say is that they looked like stars. They must have been there about eight minutes before they disappeared. I've simply never seen anything like it before.'

Alan Campbell, 72, was so shocked when he clapped eyes on the strange UFOs that he stopped a passing cyclist to make sure he wasn't seeing things.

'I was so puzzled by what was in front of my eyes. There were six really big, glowing, orange lights that came from the sea end.

'There didn't make a single sound. The cyclist couldn't believe what he was seeing either. They were still there when I got home a few minutes later and my wife was shocked.'

Solent Coastguard received a call at 10.24 pm on Saturday from a woman who saw them but an investigation showed no one was in distress at sea.

Helen Chivers, a meteorologist at the Met Office said there was no weather explanation for the lights and it was a clear night.

But Richard Judd, president of Hampshire Astronomical Group, was sceptical. His members received reports but he believes they were either Chinese lanterns – mini hot air balloons, pictured above, made of paper with their own fuel block – or maroons, a type of flare or firework.

He said: 'We have had a few calls about this but I'm sure there is a very physical and earthly reason for them.'

Mr Powell, of Sandy Point Road, is not convinced. 'They were not Chinese lanterns,' he said. 'All I know is I saw something very strange in the sky and there is no explanation for it.'

### **The Shropshire Star... 2<sup>nd</sup> June 2009...**

#### **UFOs? Bah Humbug! Probably...**

Another day, another sighting of a UFO and, unless I'm very much mistaken, yet another set of "Why on earth does Shropshirestar.com publish this rubbish?"

emails on the way.

So, why on earth does Shropshirestar.com publish this rubbish?

In short, it's popular. That's why.

People are genuinely fascinated by the unexplained, by UFOs, by ghosts, by rumours of wild cats loose in the countryside - you know the sort of thing; it's probably of interest to you, too.

Have a look on YouTube and you will find hundreds - possibly thousands - of UFO videos. Some appear genuine; some appear genuinely rubbish, but most of them are fascinating to look at.

Of course there are those with minds more sealed than a spaceman's helmet. As far as they are concerned there is nothing out there and anyone who dares to dream is a fool and an idiot.

Fair enough, we're all entitled to our opinion.

But Shropshire does seem to be particularly blessed with such strange phenomena. UFO sightings come in on an almost weekly basis.

But thanks to the magic of the internet there are readers around the world who log in to see what's going on in this small, green patch of England.

And possibly, there are beings somewhat further away logging in as well.

And slowly, but surely, they're drawing their plans against us.

(Possibly).

#### **The Rutland and Stamford Mercury... 11<sup>th</sup> June 2009...**

##### **UFO Spotted Over Stamford...**

A mystery has been sparked by the sighting of strange objects flying over Stamford.

Janet Garratt and her friend Margaret Fox saw two oval-shaped objects falling above Lonsdale Road before stopping mid-air and then zooming off into the distance.

Mrs Garratt described one of the objects as being yellow, orange and red while the other was black and said that they flew at the same height on Wednesday last week.

RAF Wittering said that they were flying on that day but no military activity happened over Stamford.

Mrs Garratt, of Cottesmore Road, Stamford says that she would like to know what these objects are.

She said: "I don't really know what it was. It was nothing I had seen before.

"I am open-minded on what it is but I thought perhaps the Mercury might find out that something was going on.

"There might be somebody else who might have seen it."

Mrs Garratt was visiting her friend Mrs Fox when they spotted the objects falling at about 11 am before stopping at an estimated two house lengths above the ground.

Mrs Garratt said: "All of a sudden they just stopped dead in the air and did a bit of hovering

and were both level at the same height. "Then they took off at speed.

"I couldn't believe what I was watching."

Wittering spokesman Flt LFT Kerry Shardlow said: "We did have flying on that day but our aircraft would not do low flying. They do not fly over Stamford.

"There were no military operations taking in the area that we know of."

#### **The Daily Star... 10th April 2009...**

##### **Guess Who's Causing Most UFO Sightings...**

Doctor Who is being blamed for a big increase in sightings of UFOs.

The total across the UK has doubled in a year, according to the Ministry of Defence.

And the rise has been particularly noticeable in Wales, where Doctor Who and its spin-off Torchwood are both filmed.

In 2006, 97 UFOs were reported across the UK, rising to 135 in 2007 and 285 in 2008, with 18 sightings in Wales.

In the last three years there have been 28 reported sightings in Wales, none of which can be explained by the MoD.

And there have been nine already in the first few months of this year alone.

Reports detail bright white objects over Anglesey, black disc-shaped objects in the skies over Neath Port Talbot and objects like footballs moving over Pontypridd.

And a UFO reported in Old Colwyn, Conwy, was described as "bigger than a helicopter".

The MoD's former UFO expert Nick Pope said: "Doctor Who and Torchwood are filmed in Cardiff, so everyone in the area has aliens on their mind.

"Doctor Who captures people's imaginations and makes them wonder about alien life and look to the skies.

"Any strange light in the sky becomes a spaceship.

"There have been quite a few sightings in Cardiff, Barry, Swansea and other built-up areas in the south of the country.

"People think of UFO sightings as taking place in a deserted and dark part of the countryside, but many of the Wales sightings are from cities and towns."

He also claimed it is not the first time events on the screen have affected the number of UFO reports lodged with the MoD.

He said: "The MoD received more UFO reports in 1978 than any other year and it was when Close Encounters Of The Third Kind was released here."



*UK NATIONAL  
NEWSPAPER REVIEWS.*

**Daily Mail...**

18th March 2009...

Lights In The Sky: Builder On Rooftop  
Snaps Four 'UFOs' Flying Over  
London...

**The Guardian...**

22<sup>nd</sup> March 2009...

New UFO Secrets Are Revealed In MoD  
Files...

**The Sunday Independent...**

22<sup>nd</sup> March 2009...

UFO: Secret Records Show There Were  
Almost 1,200 Mysterious Sightings  
Between 1987 and 1993...

**The Daily Telegraph...**

22<sup>nd</sup> March 2009...

Dog Walker Met UFO 'Alien' With  
Scandinavian Accent...

**The Daily Telegraph...**

24<sup>th</sup> March 2009...

ET Tracked Down On Google Street  
View...

**The Daily Star...**

10th April 2009...

Guess Who's Causing Most UFO  
Sightings...

**The Daily Telegraph...**

1<sup>st</sup> May 2009...

'Alien Skull' Spotted On Mars...

**The Daily Telegraph...**

13<sup>th</sup> May 2009...

UFO Spotted Over Bristol...

**The Daily Telegraph...**

27<sup>th</sup> May 2009...

Dozens Report Seeing UFOs Over  
Merseyside...

Copies of any of the newspaper  
articles (Word Documents) mentioned in the magazine are  
available at 10p each plus 70p postage up to a max of 20  
copies. For more than 20 copies, postage is then an extra 10p  
per 10 copies ordered.

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**Six Top-Secret Aircraft Mistaken For UFOs...**

Spy and stealth planes - some with bizarre, bat-shaped wings, others with triangular silhouettes that imply otherworldly designs - have long generated UFO sightings and lore. And official denials feed rumours that the government isn't telling us about alien ships.

The CIA estimates that over half of the UFOs reported from the 1950s through the 1960s were U-2 and SR-71 spy planes.

At the time, the Air Force misled the public and the media to protect these Cold War programs; it's possible the government's responses to current sightings of classified craft - whether manned or remotely operated - are equally evasive.

The result is an ongoing source of UFO reports and conspiracy theories.

Source: Fox News - New York...

<http://www.foxnews.com/story/0,2933,524997,00.html>

Wednesday, June 03, 2009...

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**Pat Delgado slips away...**

1919 - 2009.

Whilst checking for any crop circle formations in Hampshire on [www.cropcircleconnector.com](http://www.cropcircleconnector.com) I noted the passing of Pat Delgado on the 23rd May 2009. Along with Colin Andrews, he became an early pioneer in crop circle research and along with Colin set the world on fire with their research. They wrote a number of books together and appeared on National and international TV.

The site went on to say that he died of cancer that struck very rapidly taking his life. I never met Pat Delgado in the flesh but in the early days of crop circle research I followed him and Colin closely. I always remember the time whilst on holiday reading in the Today newspaper that the crop circle creators had been 'unearthed'... This being Doug Bower and Dave Chorley and I remember afterwards both Pat and Colin appearing on TV programs and watching as the sparks flew. Pat dropped out of the world of crop circle researcher and I understand continued with his interest in healing. Yet another researcher slips into the other side and who knows what kind of re-union party is going on.

**Crop circle formations April - June (16th 2009)...**

Well, the 2009 crop circle is in full flow (especially if you live in Wiltshire) but none in my neck of the woods yet. Visit the below website to look at the 2009 images including a giant jellyfish and much more.

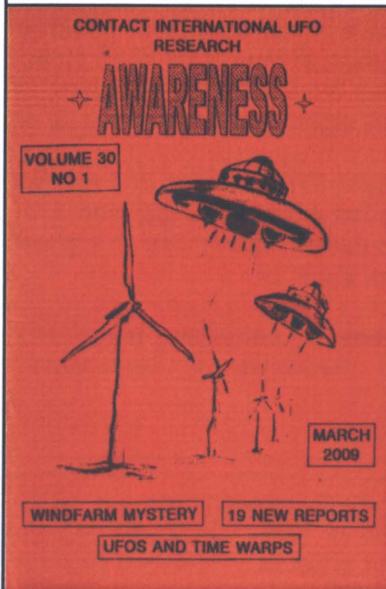
**Wiltshire** : 23 (April - 6, May - 8 & June - 9)

**Oxfordshire** : 2 (May - 1, June - 1).

Source - [www.cropcircleconnector.com](http://www.cropcircleconnector.com)

## Magazine Reviews.

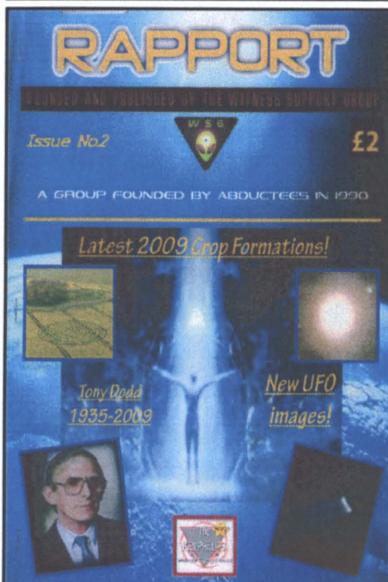
The first magazine for review is one of the very few British UFO MAGAZINES available and not available as an internet download. **Contact International UFO Research magazine Awareness Vol. 30 No. 1 - March 2009** contains as ever some great material and opens with an interesting article - 'Will the man reveal the truth? - President Obama being that man.



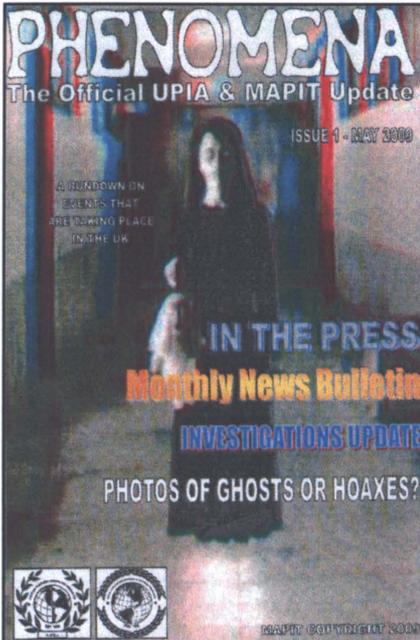
Then an interesting item of 'UFO seen at Obama inauguration'... So, will he or won't and are they saying here we are Mr. Obama so tell the world... As of the 5th July 2009 - Nothing! There is a great section of 19 new UFO reports that have been received by the group from all over the country Oxon to Coventry to Colwyn Bay (Wales) and Slough... There is an interesting article by Frances Copeland that looks at the 'UFO flap in USA/Canada 1997' with sightings from the 11th March through to the 17th March. Michael Soper then goes on to look at the story that NASA is to release Kecksberg Papers'. This relates to a sighting at Kecksburg in the USA in December 1965 when an alleged UFO crash landed and was recovered under a tarpaulin on the back of a low rigger by the military and still remains today as intriguing as it was back in the 1960's. Finally my great friend and fellow researcher Margaret Fry includes a great article (Featured in UFONEWS UK Magazine) - UFO's and Time Warps. IF you are new to the subject or want a magazine to keep up with what is happening in the UFO world, then this is a must have...Contact Awareness, Contact International UFO Research, PO Box 23, Wheatley, Oxon, OX33 1HL. UK.



What can I say about this publication... Any serious UFO Researcher would be mad NOT to have this on their book shelves... I have known Omar Fowler (Editor) for many a year and as ever, he packs the magazine **OVNI (May / June 2009 Issue)** up to the gunnels. What I like about this magazine are the local sightings and reports that Omar includes in the magazine each issue and this lives up to the mark. There are sightings over Buxton (April) and photographed, Cornishmen see UFO lights in January 09, Photo captured UFO over Ely Cathedral (Picture included and I must say as ever - It looks too good to be true...). We go to Ilkeston on the 21st April of 4 hovering bright orange lights, and a UFO over Pewsey, Wiltshire May 2009. And, whilst in Wiltshire, the first crop circle formation appears near the Avenue, in April 09. There is a look at Natural phenomenon - Mammatus Clouds and an Oregon couples encounter of a Flying Triangle in 1988. I could go on, but you would have nothing to look forward to. Contact Omar Fowler, 94, The Circle, Sinfin, Derby, DE24 9HR who I am sure will be happy to oblige with subscription details etc.



**Rapport - Issue 2 of 2009** is a colourful impacting magazine and I certainly was impressed by its front cover and colour pages. The magazine was founded and published by the Witness Support Group and membership is free with no paid officers and no group leader. So donations gratefully received. Anyway back to the contents. Helen Sanderson starts with an article entitled 'Fate of Humanity'. Then, a short article by the late Paul Vigay who died on the 19th February 2009 in mysterious circumstances (His body was recovered from the sea). There is an article taken from the Times newspaper concerning an interview with Klaus Heinemann, probing the paranormal who is researching the 'Orbs' phenomenon. There is an article concerning Dodd 1935 - 2009, ex-police sergeant, UFO researcher for UFO Magazine formerly Quest International, an independent UFO researcher and UFO Author who passed away in March 2009. There are further UFO reports, Chemtrails, ghostly photographs and much more. Again I want to leave something for you to read when you get your own copy. For more information please contact Mike Rutter, 19 Knaresborough Court, Whaddon Way, Bletchley, Bucks. MK3 7DS



I know this is not a UFO magazine, but due to the lack of UFO Magazines one must branch out and a good friend of mine Steve Mera sent me the first 2 issues and this is Issue 1 - May 2009. The only disappointing thing for me is that as far as I am aware it is only available as an emailable magazine. This is the official UPIA (Unknown Phenomena Investigation Association) & MAPIT (Manchester Association of Paranormal Investigators and Training) Update. Not many pages, but a small thing that packs a punch. There are a few UFO items with the filming in May 2009 of an object over Sledmere in East Yorkshire. Then on May 3rd 2009 over Cheshire, of a group of lights seen at 9.15 p.m. and then sighted in Wythenshawe at 11.20 p.m. - yep, Chinese Lanterns.

There are other items but concern ghostly paranormal events and articles that appeared in the Sun Newspaper on the 3rd April, 14th April and 13th May 2009 with headlines of 'Ghost-hunters in double take...' 'Salon's ghost is hair-raising'... and 'We captured 'the hand of God'...'

For more information about this and the groups, try contacting the MAPIT Head Office, 85 Royal Oak Road, Baguley, Wythenshawe, Manchester, M23 1DZ.

## UFO

**NEWSCLIPPING SERVICE**  
 May 2009 - Number 478  
 Editor: David Mearns  
 Co-Editor: J.D. Scarpaletti South Gate & LaVonne Benhamann  
 P.O. Box 1001, Edwardsville, IL 62025

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[ufo.news@hotmail.com](mailto:ufo.news@hotmail.com)

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**American Chronicle**  
Former astronaut says Roswell UFO crash true

April 20, 2009



This article originally appeared in the June News Study Group and Transmitter TV & Media sites.

According to a CNN report April 20, 2009, former astronaut Edgar Mitchell told an audience at the National Press Club in Washington, D.C., that the basic story of a 1947 UFO crash at Roswell, New Mexico, is true.

Mitchell was an astronaut on the Apollo 14 mission in the summer of 1971 and he spoke at the National Press Club after the 60th anniversary of the crash. Mitchell, an event focused on research involving UFOs.

CNN reported that Mitchell told journalists that there is one knowledge that governmental officials and the information is being held back from the general public in the U.S. and internationally.

Mitchell was related to Roswell and knew many of the newspapermen there. He said that...

**ROSWELL AND SICIETY**

ROSWELL's existence are not surprising to many researchers and average citizens. Other people might find Mitchell's announcement surprising because there is a solid scientific report on what came of the UFOs and whether it really is being more often (Roswell) and (Roswell).

Claims of that kind coming from a reporter and highly-esteemed person like Mitchell are not easily dismissed.

Information also not as simple as that of a government program by which things have been covered for decades. Roswell, military, nuclear and TV shows have told the story.

However, thinking about the possible truth of such a claim can lead to many other questions: What else has happened in the area of UFOs? Are we really connected with other civilizations, or planets? Are they friends or foes? Can you see and understand the problems of the future now? Why has there been so much secrecy?

in the story in... Mitchell said that about the Roswell incident, it is clear that in the summer of 1947 the U.S. had just ended a disastrous period during World War II. Military security and security had been of the utmost importance during the war.

Some of the first people to learn about the Roswell crash were Army Air Corps (Department of the U.S. Air Force) personnel from the nearby Roswell Army Air Field, including non-military officials.

Despite an air traffic probe release that was issued in the middle of the 1970s, the U.S. government officials about a flying saucer being obtained by base officials, began communicating to the media and the story as a case of mistaken identity - the debris found was actually a weather balloon-type device, never reported to the public.

I have a saying of leaving the best to last... Well I wouldn't say it is 100% the best, but for a research tool, then yes, this is 100% UFOlogy and as a UFO researcher you MUST have this on your shelves... This is a monthly publication and the one pictured to the left is **UFO Newsclipping Service - Number 478 - May 2009**. What makes this invaluable in my opinion is that it covers items mainly from America and the UK with the odd article from around the world. Also there is a Fortean section that looks at such things as Lake Monsters, Cattle Mutilations, Sasquatch and many more strange and wonderful things.

With regards to the UFO scene, this issue article concerning Roswell, Exeter (USA) UFO festival, a UFO reported near Lafayette (USA) in 1897 and more. Also what makes this invaluable is that there is a section featuring articles from the Archives and in this edition, March 1973. The Australian Herald Sun featured an article - Did aliens visit Bendigo?, Swedens 'The Local' talks of Swedish group opening worlds largest UFO archive. There are a number of British newspapers featured in this issue with headlines such as 'Can anyone explain UFO above harbour?', 'Visitors from the stars are filling our sky' and 'I saw a UFO and I'm not crazee...'

For subscription details contact : UFO Newsclipping Service, PO Box 1001, Edwardsville, IL 62025 USA. I think 1 years subscription is about \$50.00 for 12 issues.

**To all of you out there that have exchanged magazines / publications with me over the many years I thank you. I will still be sending out review copies of UFONEWS UK Magazine up until the June 2010 issue, but after this there will be no more, so please go to page 18 for more on this. I hope to subscribe to those magazines featured in these reviews because although I am hanging up the binoculars and calling time, I still have a great interest, so I want to support those of you out there that are left (and that is not many!!!).**

**I have been asked by a couple of magazine editors as to whether I would consider writing articles for their publications in the future. This I will take on board and have a good think about, but who knows. But remember, you can still see my name making headline news in the National papers and on TV - 'Steven Gerrard does it again'... And who knows, maybe he will one day.**

# DOWN TO EARTH MAGAZINE [ ]

## *The UFO Enigma!*

Written by

Roy Hale (Editor: Down To Earth Magazine)...

Research into UFOs is carried out by a vast network of groups and organizations, which are spread quite evenly around the globe, and who are all aiming for the same goal! That is the answer to the elusive question 'just what it is that is being witnessed by thousands of people from each corner of the world, and under a multiple of different circumstances? Yes you've got it; I am of course referring to the UFO enigma!

Now please let me explain to you the reason I found myself part of the UFO puzzle. Some years back I had the occasion to view a very strange and large airborne object (UFO). It was a very big object which was red and orange colored, it seemed to be approaching the ground from the sky very fast. And just in case you thought that I was looking at a meteorite, this object was the size of a house. For a further look at this sighting please go to my web site and read my article "**Just a Coincidence**" <http://www.thelosthaven.co.uk/JustAcoincidence.htm>. I was 12 at the time this event took place, and had anyone taught me about strange things that could have been seen in and around our skies, I am sure it may have prepared me to handle it this event a bit better than I did

I also am the editor of the online UFO magazine "Down To Earth" and have been researching UFOs for over ten years. I have in this time, been in contact with numerous groups, researcher's, and of course the general public. And the common thread which still seems to underlie, the reporting of UFOs to researcher's like myself by the public is the "**I don't want to sound crazy, but I think I saw a spaceship**" mentality! And I of course, reassure those people who do take the time and effort to, phone, e-mail, or write to me concerning such events, that they are not crazy.

You see, I personally think that part of the problem from the public's perspective is two fold: One, they see UFO researchers as a group of anoraks, who get together and look at the sky with blinkered religion waiting for ET to land. Or they (*the public*) are in fact taken in by the mainstream tabloid media description of the UFO subject and its inevitable attachments (*Heavens Gate cult etc.*)

So how does the public become more aware and more understanding, of just what modern UFO research entails? I often find myself as a UFO researcher, reassuring people that they are not nuts, and that the world populous does in fact report these things (*UFOs in many forms*) again and again, year after year? For example, does the public know that, even more prevalent in research in to UFOs today, is the adding of

Science to the investigation. Although science has been used in past cases, it is clearly being used more so today than it has ever been. And one must say that there have been some cases, which have been revalidated, and new answers given, this mostly from science based research. We must as UFO researchers get this message across to the world public.

But of course science cannot answer everything. If this were the case, surely we would have no UFO puzzle today? Science is a tool which can be used for exploring the methods behind such amazing aerial displays, and hopefully find the answers to some of these cases, but the physics behind such more exotic UFOs (*Mexico UFOs comes to mind*) and their behavior often show, can and is being theorized by many individuals across the globe, that we may have the possibility of other worldly intelligence's that we have no conception about actually visiting earth.

So where does this leave us all today regarding the ever-increasing reports of UFOs seen around the world? I can only speak for myself, as someone who has had many personal sightings and weird experiences within my years of UFO research, and that is the UFO enigma is in fact still just that 'a huge puzzle, which over the last 40 or so years has still yet to be fully pieced together. Authors are still writing new books about the Roswell incident, indicating that the search for new evidence is for ever ongoing in such cases. But today we do have a sharper and refined professional take on the investigation of UFOs, and to this we can surely gain the answers we are seeking regarding the whole UFO enigma.

I would like to show my respect and appreciation to all those UFO researchers and investigators across the UK and the world, on committing their time and effort into unraveling and piecing together the huge UFO Enigma!

"Watch the Skies" Roy Hale

(Editor of Down To Earth Magazine on the Net)

<http://www.thelosthaven.co.uk>

**The Men in Black: The Early Days--Paranoia,  
the Paranormal, and Alien SS**  
**By Brad Steiger...**

On Monday, September 1, my colleague Paul Dale Roberts sent me an email stating that he was going to interview an individual who claimed to have been a "Man in Black," one of the infamous MIB, tormenters of UFO witnesses and researchers. I told Paul that I couldn't wait to read it. A few hours later, I was reading his extraordinary interview with "Mr. Q," and today I was enormously pleased to see that the ever-alert Don Allis had run the piece in *Alien Seeker: Reporting Anomalous News*.

Paul's excellent interview--which I felt set just the proper tone for such an interview with an individual who may be lying and deliberately spreading disinformation or who may be telling the truth and providing us with another piece of the Great UFO Puzzle--got me to recalling some of the encounters with the MIB that my fellow researchers and I underwent back in the late '60s.

In the period from 1966 to 1970, dozens of UFOlogists, contactees, and chance percipients of UFO's claimed to have been visited by ominous strangers--usually three, usually dressed in black--who made it painfully clear that they would violently enforce their orders to see to it that investigators discontinued flying saucer research and surrendered all photographs or artefacts. Often the threats were punctuated with the assertion that cooperation with the men in black was essential for the good of "your family, your country, and your world." In many ways, the MIB seemed as though the spirits of the Nazi SS had been resurrected as enforcers for Alien invaders.

By June 24, 1967, a number of us UFOlogists gathered at the Commodore Hotel in New York to celebrate the twentieth anniversary of the UFO sighting that brought the term "flying saucers" to our language (Kenneth Arnold spotted the saucer-shaped craft near Mount Rainier, Washington, on June 24, 1947), paranoia concerning the MIB was climbing toward an all-time high. The final match to be thrown on the psychological tinder was the announcement of the death of Frank Edwards on that same special anniversary day.

Edwards was a radio personality who for many years had made a hobby of broadcasting stories on UFO's and psychic phenomena. At the time of his death Edwards was recognized as the King of Communicators in the field of UFOlogy. Suddenly he was dead. What were the causes? Cerebral hemorrhage, agreed many UFOlogists in the crowded corridors of the Commodore Hotel, for that was the principal means of dealing death to UFO witness in the popular television series of the day, *The Invaders*, starring Roy Thinnes.

Before his death, Frank Edwards had made several comments about attempts to silence him. He had had a highly successful radio program

sponsored by the American Federation of Labor. Then, according to Edwards, the show had been dropped and he had been given his walking papers for devoting too many program minutes to discussions about flying saucers. It was his contention that his constant mentions of the UFO enigma had become irritating to the Defense Department--Edwards consistently maintained that the Air Force was guilty of a gigantic cover-up on the subject--and that they had brought pressure to bear on George Meany, President of the AFL.

Had the UFO silencers eliminated Frank Edwards? A lot of UFOlogists thought so, and that we were being infiltrated by some powerful agency from another world, and that the three men in black were representatives of this group's intelligence arm.

In an issue of *Saucer Scoop*, a UFO newsletter published by Joan Whritenour, John A. Keel stated in an "Open Letter to All UFO Researchers" that he considered the MIB professional terrorists who included among their duties, "the harassment of UFO researchers who become involved in cases which might reveal too much of the truth." Keel commented that the victim of the MIB appeared to be subjected to "some sort of brainwashing technique that leaves him in a state of nausea, mental confusion, or even amnesia lasting for several days."

Keel went on to declare: "Contacts are being made ... then suppressed .. on a dizzying scale. Information is being gained... and lost... at an ever-increasing pace. One of the ironies of all this is that no policeman in his right mind associates black cars, kidnappers, amnesia victims, and black eyes with the UFO phenomena. Many of these cases never get beyond local police departments. Neither the FBI nor any other central government agency is engaged in collecting information on these aspects. Even local newspapers seldom take notice of these cases.

"Because the official law-enforcement agencies are unwilling or unable, to cope with this growing situation, it becomes the responsibility of the private civilian investigator to collect and collate the full details on these incidents. The hazards of such investigations are obvious, but the job must be done .... We must switch our attention from the vehicles to the occupants. The menace is not in our skies. It is on the ground, and at this moment it is spreading like a disease across the country and the world."

Most of the UFO percipients and investigators reported being threatened by (most often) shortish men with dark complexions, somewhat Asian features, and heavy accents. A number claimed to have received later contact with "aliens" through their home television or radio sets. According to numerous accounts, the aliens' frequency interrupted normal programming. Robed figures instructed the saucer sighters to cooperate with them and to keep their information confidential. In exchange for this silence and cooperation, the aliens promised that the UFO percipients would be permitted to work with them on certain marvelous projects that would benefit humankind.

Now I have no doubt that there was/is a physical aspect to the MIB phenomenon. I have no doubt that in many cases the mysterious interrogators may have been associated with the military, some black branch of the government--and in certain instances over-eager and possessive UFO researchers from civilian groups attempting to claim certain cases as their private property.

But I am also convinced that this phenomenon--like so many associated with the UFO enigma--also has a paranormal aspect that may very often become extremely powerful, perhaps overwhelmingly so, to the investigator who has not prepared himself carefully for the remarkably complex interlocking realities of the UFO mystery.

In the spring of 1968, a magazine writer asked me to come along as an expert observer on an interview with a contactee who claimed a particularly vivid experience aboard a flying saucer. We left on a Friday, planning to spend the weekend in a motel, and since the contactee lived in a large city with numerous motels, we did not make any reservations.

At the same time, since I had been hearing rather eerie reports about the harassment of UFO researchers, I had decided to pick a motel at random and not even tell our wives where we were staying. To check with our respective homes and be certain all was well, we agreed to call from pay telephones, rather than the telephone in the room.

We met the contactee, recorded his most interesting (and greatly convincing) story, and returned to our homes three days later.

Shortly after I had returned home (I had 200 miles farther to travel than the magazine writer), I received a telephone call from him. In very disturbed tones he told me he had received a call from a rather unctuous (if anonymous) individual who had detailed our every action of the past few days, including the name of the motel we had stayed in and the food we had ordered for our meals. The writer concluded that all the time that we thought we had been carefully covering our tracks, we had been under close surveillance. A few days later, after midnight, the writer telephoned me again, obviously distraught. Books had been jumping off the shelves in his office, he told me. He was aware of mysterious presences. On two nights he had been awakened by a smallish man cloaked in shimmering light, who, like some intergalactic travelling evangelist, attempted to sell him on the idea of working with them in their cause. "Become one of our workers in the vineyard of Earth," my friend claimed to have been proselytised. "Join us. Work with us."

It was about that time that crucial data that fellow UFO researchers had sent to me in the mail either never arrived or came on the scene days later than the postmark would indicate that it should. All sorts of mail began to arrive taped shut with "Opened by Mistake" either stamped or written on the envelopes. On the other hand, some pieces arrived overnight from great distances--without a postmark.

Once while speaking to a fellow researcher on the telephone, our conversation was interrupted by a

metallic-sounding voice chanting: "Ho, ho, UFO!" Strangely enough, my friends seemed to endure the most peculiar telephone nonsense. An officer in the Navy Reserves, who had expressed an interest in the UFO enigma, finally asked me please not to discuss UFO's with him on the telephone ever again. Both at the office and at home, he found he was "sharing" his private line with some undetermined other parties. On two occasions when I had been speaking with him, a voice had broken in, mumbled a few words, then apologized for the intrusion. His wife absolutely refused to permit me to discuss the subject in her presence because of the bad dreams she had been suffering in connection with UFO's. In another city a businessman who had been doing a great deal of research on my behalf told of the time when he was anticipating a visit from me. He picked up the telephone to make a call on his private line, only to hear the following bit of conversation: "Has he arrived in town yet?"

"Not yet."

"What motel will he be staying in?"

"The [correct name of the motel in which I had made reservations]."

"Don't worry. Everything is set."

At this point my friend broke in and asked who the hell was on his private line. There was a stunned silence, a click, then the steady buzzing that indicated a clear line.

One may build a case, I suppose, that any or all of the above was simply a series of rather remarkable coincidences.

The following incident is a bit more difficult to explain away, however.

A friend of mine was travelling in England before continuing on to Vietnam to visit his son in the armed forces. He was walking near a railway station in London when he noticed three men dressed completely in black staring at him.

When my friend returned their collective stare, they approached him and asked him which train they should take for such-and-such a city. My friend calmly pointed out that he was a tourist, and it made a good deal more sense for them to ask at the information booth just a few feet away.

My friend turned on his heel and walked away from the odd trio, but a glance over his shoulder told him that they were still standing there staring at him, disregarding his advice to check with the information booth. Suddenly ill at ease, my friend hailed a taxi and went directly to his hotel.

When he got to his room, an uncomfortable sensation prickled the back of his neck and he glanced out his window.

On the street corner, looking up at his room, were the three men. Baffled, he tried to push the incident from his mind.

A day or so later, though, he was confronted by one of the men as he walked to his hotel who told him straight out: "You are a friend of Brad Steiger. Tell him we shall visit him by Christmas." My friend had only a peripheral knowledge of the

UFO can of worms, but he returned to his hotel room and wrote me a long letter with the above details. How could three odd little guys in London know that he was a friend of mine?

Not long after I had received his letter, I visited an associate in another city and told him about the bizarre experience that my friend had encountered in London. "Humph!" Jim snorted over the lunch we were sharing. "If those monkeys come to see you this Christmas, send 'em down to talk to me. I'd love to get one of those characters in my hands. I would solve this man-in-black mystery you've been telling me about!" I warned him that he had better be careful or he might get his wish.

Later, Jim told me that I had no sooner started my homeward journey than he was told that a gentleman wished to see him. A secretary ushered a man of average height into Jim's office--a man, my friend said, who was the thinnest human being he had ever seen. "He was cadaverous, Brad," Jim told me. "But he seemed alert enough, and so involved in his mission that he ignored my offered hand of greeting. In fact, I tried to push shaking his hand, but he refused to touch me.

"I hear you want to be the head of UFO's in Iowa," he said quickly.

"He took out a wallet, flipped it open, then shut, before I could see any identification. I can't really recall anything else he said, because it was all so damned nonsensical. Soon he was gone, and I was still sitting there dumbfounded.

"I jumped to my feet, though, when I heard his car starting. I got a good look at his automobile, and I wrote down its license number. I can't tell you what make of car it was. It looked like a combination of three or four different makes and models, but it didn't really look like anything I had ever seen before. And the license number didn't check. The Highway Patrol said there was no such Iowa plate registered. A friend in another branch of state government, who owed me a favour, said the plate wasn't registered to any government agent, either."

Steve, a UFO investigator, had an experience with unidentified and mysterious interrogators in September, 1966. He was working the night shift in a large pulp-and-paper plant in northern Michigan when he was paid an enigmatic visit by two dark-complexioned men dressed completely in black.

"The first thing to come to my mind was the odd hour of the visit--three o'clock in the morning--and the rather puzzling appearance of the intruders," Steve told me. The two men asked him about the UFO case that he was investigating, but Steve played it cautiously and told them he had given up flying saucer research. "The two evidently seemed satisfied with my replies, for they suddenly turned and walked out of the room. By this time I had an inkling of who they were--or rather, who they were not. (My first impression was that they were from the government.) I jumped up from my chair and hurried out the door in pursuit--not more than twenty seconds behind them.

"Upon reaching the doorway, I paused and looked

down the corridor. They could only have gone in one direction--but they were not in sight. They had vanished.

"I moved forward slowly. About ten feet from the door I experienced an odd feeling--a sense of dissipated energy, or a residual electrical current, somewhat akin to the sensation one experiences when standing in a very powerful magnetic field. I rechecked the spot every few minutes, and noticed it ebb and fade) until it was completely unnoticeable in half an hour.

"I talked with fellow workers in and around the building in which I was working, and they reported seeing no one. Checks with the plant guard substantiated my belief--no one had signed in at the industrial complex that night."

Although I didn't become as deeply embroiled in MIB activities as certain of my fellow researchers, I did tread on the periphery of their vortex of swirling, nightmarish games. And from time to time I did slip into the court where the contest was being played. I endured the "smellies"--vile, odorous attacks of some invisible entity not in the least concerned about personal hygiene. And closely associated with the disagreeable odours were regular poltergeistic plunderings of my office.

But then I stumbled on a clue that may just solve the puzzle of who at least some of the MIB might really be.

The revelation occurred one night as I sat in my office, desperately working over Lucretia, my faithful 1923 Underwood typewriter. I heard the heavy sound of footsteps at the top of the stairs. A quick glance told me that no one was there. A favourite painting of Edgar Allan Poe fell to the floor. I became irritated. I had to work to meet a deadline on a magazine article. I had no time to play. Papers began to rustle off to my side. A single sheet became airborne.

I had had enough. I looked up from my typewriter, rolled my eyes upward in disgust, and shouted: "Just cut it the hell out!"

Everything stopped. There was literally the sound of silence. I experienced the same kind of sensation one has when he walks into a crowded, noisy room, and everyone suddenly stops talking. The very air seemed less crowded and oppressive. I went back to my writing without taking any further notice of anything other than the work at hand.

Every kind of intelligence, regardless of how high or how low, wishes to be recognized. Nothing shuts up any thinking entity faster than to ignore it. But I hadn't ignored it. Rather, I had commanded this poltergeist like force. I had refused to go along with its framework of reality, and my own change of attitude---from passive fear to rage---had apparently done the trick.

In weeks to come I wondered about the other less fortunate victims of both poltergeists and the MIB. Had they had simply gone along with the "game," refusing to see themselves as the equals of their otherworldly adversaries? The cessation of odd

activity in my office had been so abrupt that it was almost like some kind of lesson was terminated. Could it be that some intelligence was trying to teach me something all along--and satisfied that I had learned it, departed to seek out other pupils? If so, what was the lesson exactly? What had I done right?

Not long after my "lesson," I sat one evening reminiscing with a farm family who had endured the entire gamut of the flying saucer mystery.

UFO's had become a part of this family's life several years before when one of its male members became a "channel" for an entity who claimed to be from another world. The invisible telepathic being had begun communicating with the entire family because they had been "selected before they had been born" to assist him in doing "His" work and in protecting Earth from another group of intelligences who sought to enslave humankind.

The communicating entity led the various members of the family circle on a number of "assignments" designed to save the Earth and to serve the benign entity and his kind. But always, the entity warned them, there was the enemy group with its men in black, seeking whom they might devour.

The family, who became "flying saucer missionaries," saw mysterious fellow passengers board airplanes with them--then disappear somewhere in mid-flight. Automobiles appeared out of nowhere to follow and harass them.

A man claiming to be from a state educational division arrived at the high school and talked for over an hour with one of the teenaged girl members of the family. The only questions he asked had to do with whether or not she would be able to recognize a spy. When suspicious adult members of the beleaguered family checked with school administrators, they were informed that they had no knowledge of such a man nor of such a division within the state educational system.

The girl who had been interrogated by the unidentified man also developed into a "channel" for the communicating entity, and soon several members of the family were practicing automatic writing. UFO's swooped low overhead at night. Eerie lights were seen to dance about in the fields. Invisible entities snatched keys from their resting places and jangled them about the room, terrifying the children. Unseen hands lifted a mattress on which one couple lay sleeping, under which were some "secret" papers that the principal communicating entity had dictated. Their farm work was being ignored. Their lives had become a living nightmare in which every stranger was suspect, every sound in the night that of an invader, every strange coincidence imbued with desperate and weighty significance.

At last the full realization that they had been deceived--that they had been led into a silly game--jolted them into determined action. They too said collectively, in essence: "Cut it the hell out!" And they resumed meaningful living.

I have advised many beginning "ghost hunters" or UFO researchers that when one feels himself set upon

by marauding entities and begins to cross himself, recite prayers, sing hymns, or bellows out his favourite rock song, he "jams" the frequency in his brain on which the entities have been trying to establish contact and control. It may well be that a determined demand to "Knock it off!" might have the same frequency-jamming effect and permit the percipient of the phenomenon to regain control of his own cerebral equipment.

Whenever I review those days of UFO yesteryear when there seemed to be men in black lurking in every shadow, I am also led to think of the mythological figure common to all cultures and known generically to ethnologists as the Trickster. The Trickster plays pranks upon humankind, but often at the same time he is instructing them or transforming aspects of the world for the benefit of his human charges.

Most cultures view the Trickster as a primordial being who came into existence soon after the creation of the world. A number of Amerindian tribes referred to their Trickster figure as "Old Man," because they saw him as someone who was ageless, as old as time.

The Trickster is usually viewed as a supernatural being with the ability to change his shape at will. Although basically wily, he may behave in a very stupid, childish manner at times, and may often end up as the one who is tricked. The Trickster lies, cheats, and steals without compunction. He seems often to be the very essence of amoral animalism. The Trickster figure is often credited with bringing death and pain into the world; yet, in some recitations, his own son was the first to die as a result.

Because of his introduction of death to the world and because of his animalistic and amoral attributes, the Trickster is sometimes identified with the Devil as a personification of evil. Carl Jung saw the Trickster as a mythological shadow figure who provides the reverse image of the saint, the angel. The animalistic Trickster serves as the impish, dark opposite of the bright conscious mind and establishes a balance without which psychic wholeness may not be achieved. Sounds like the poltergeist or MIB, certainly. And yet, most cultures do not cast the Trickster in the role of the Evil One. He is often seen as a once high god cast down from the heights of pure divinity.

In an article on the Trickster figure in *Man, Myth and Magic*, Douglas Hill writes that the many tales of the Trickster blend and fuse. "Trickster is comic relief; he is psychic catharsis on a deep and vital level; he is a hero whose own evolution perhaps mirrors that of humankind toward a higher consciousness and social maturity. And, embodying all these essentials, he is deathless--no ethnological museum piece but just as alive and flourishing today as in the primeval past."

Date : 5<sup>th</sup> July 2009

Dear subscriber,

This letter signifies the end of my involvement within the UFO field and research of the subject. After some deep soul searching I have decided to retire from the subject and hang up the binoculars. Therefore, UFONEWS UK will only be published up until the June 2010 issue to cover all outstanding subscriptions received to date and I will no longer accept any new subscriptions and renewals as of the 5<sup>th</sup> July 2009.

There are a number of reasons why, but I suppose I have served my time to speak and after the closure of the Southampton UFO Group in 2008, it has just taken me time to realise I cannot go on publishing a magazine on my own. Fear not as the content of the magazine over the coming issues will not change and I will try and go out with a big bang.

I have had requests since sending this letter out from fellow researchers and magazine editors to possibly submit articles for publication within their journals and not drop out completely. This I must admit is a very interesting thought and one that I will chew over carefully over the coming months.

I must thank you all for your support and I have met some great people along this journey, but all journeys must come to an end and mine has.

If you have any questions or queries, please do not hesitate to contact me, but please use my email address: [Southampton@sufog.freemove.co.uk](mailto:Southampton@sufog.freemove.co.uk)

All the best and good luck in the future with your search, as mine has finally come to an end.

Steve Gerrard

#### A Quick Quiz...

- In which year did this formation appear?
- Where did it appear?
- Date and location of the UFO encounter and subsequent abduction of Ted Pratt & Joyce Bowles.

Prize : 2 x DVD's from my personal collection.

Email your answers or send them in by post to the editorial address by the 15th August 2009.



**Black Helicopters are Here to Stay.**  
**By Paul Dale Roberts, HPI General Manager/**  
**Ghostwriter...**

Ever heard of the Night Stalkers? No, I am not talking about Richard Ramirez aka the Night Stalker, nor am I talking about Kolchak: The Night Stalker. I am talking about the 160th Special Operations Aviation Regiment (Airborne) in Ft. Campbell, Kentucky.

When I had an H Identifier in the US Army, I was assigned to OPFOR (Opposing Forces). H Identifier classifies me as an instructor. I taught the Soviet Threat. I wore a Russian uniform, ski mask, black gloves and called myself Corporal Dowbowski. I had a fake Russian accent and pretended to be a Soviet defector. I taught Special Operations personnel how to use a variety of Russian weapons from the AK-47, AKS (Chinese Modified Version of AK-47), SVD Sniper Rifle, RPG-7, RPG-2. I taught them the W.E.F.T. System, of identifying Soviet aircraft by identifying them through the Wings, Engine, Fuselage and Tailsection. I taught them various kill zones on Soviet armored and amphibious vehicles and tanks. I taught them Soviet callisthenics. I taught them everything about the Soviet Soldier, his culture, his ambition, his attitude, his weapons. I would begin my speech, by saying: "The Soviet Soldier is and must be considered a formidable foe, we must understand his attitude, his culture, his history and his weapons, let's look at his weapons, this is the AK-47...."

Some of the Special Operations personnel that I taught were: 82nd Airborne, 101st (Screaming Eagles) Airborne, Army Rangers, US Army Special Forces, Delta Force, Air Force Special Operations, Marine Recon, Navy Seals and the Night Stalkers! Out of all the Special Operations units I trained, I knew the history of most of them. In fact I had orders to go to the 82nd Airborne and Special Forces training in Ft. Bragg, North Carolina. What stopped me from going to this training is when my mother passed away from breast cancer and I found myself going back home to Sacramento. I would not be a Green Beret in this lifetime...sigh. My family needed me at home.

Out of all the special operations units, I knew about the 82nd Airborne the best, because my uncle Jose Causing was part of this unit during the Korean war. There was one Special Operations unit, I didn't know too much about and that was the Night Stalkers. I later learn they are set out for attack, assault and reconnaissance. They are a very secretive unit. Their motto is: Night Stalkers don't quit! They have units not only in Ft. Campbell, Kentucky, but also in Georgia and Ft. Lewis. They are prepared for short notice operations and have expertise in night flying.

George Knapp recently said on a recent episode of History Channel's UFO Hunters, that the black helicopters that are seen near cattle mutilation sites are the Night Stalkers. He did not elaborate on how he has this proof. But, from what I see is that everything points to the Night Stalker's as being the culprits. Here is my list for my reasons why.

1. They are a secretive outfit.
2. They have black helicopters.
3. They are experts in night flying.
4. They have a swift response team and can be at any location quickly.
5. They are the only secret helicopter unit in existence.

Perhaps, the aviators of the Night Stalkers know the truth of cattle mutilations and if they do, will they ever speak out?

When I got out of the Army, the Night Stalkers impacted my life in one way. When I got out of the Army, I took lessons to fly a helicopter and later a Cessna airplane. The 82nd Airborne inspired me one way too. I parachuted once in my life at Sky Dance in Davis. I jumped out of an airplane once in my life and I will never do it again.

If any retired Night Stalkers would ever care to do an interview, please contact me. I have a few questions I would love to ask you!

Now that this article is ended, I would like to update you on the last scouting mission we had. This is some more evidence we obtained from the Dyer Lane/Mark Greer's Apartment Investigation, see below:

Scouting Missions compared to regular investigations are absolutely amazing. It appears that we get more evidence during scouting missions than we do at regular investigations. I think it's because there are more people involved. Sometimes scouting missions can have up to 30 people. The last scouting mission at Dyer Lane/Mark Greer's House, we had a zillion EVPs. Some of the EVPs we obtained are:

EVP: Baby crying - Dyer Lane. By David Mace.

EVP: Paul: Where are you? EVP Woman: In the next life. By John Shue.

EVP: At Mark Greer's apartment, woman's voice: Leave Now! By John Shue.

And we have a lot more, you will be able to hear those

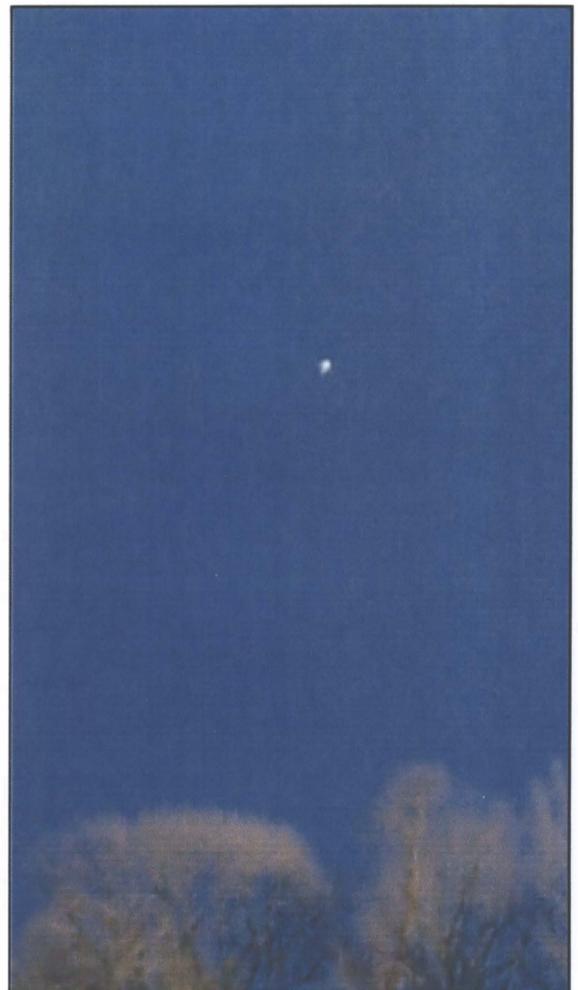
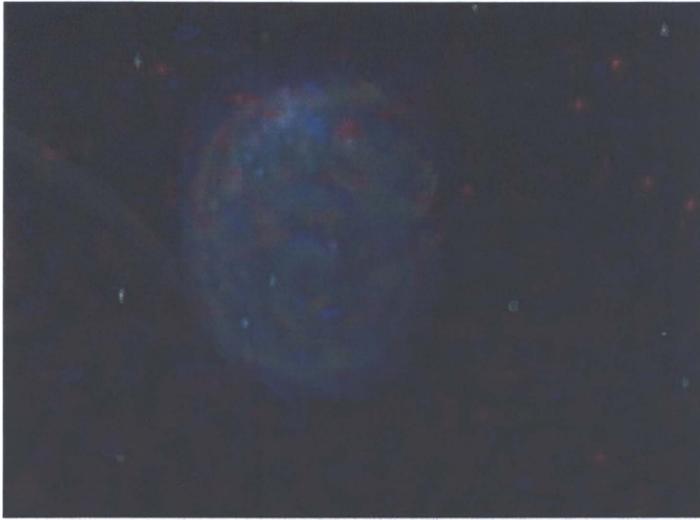
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EVPs at [www.hpiparanormal.net](http://www.hpiparanormal.net)

At Dyer Lane, check out our photos, David Mace got what looks like a Shadow Person leaning up against a tree at Dyer Lane. Paul Dale Roberts, HPI General Manager, Paranormal Investigator & Ghostwriter...

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**More images from Bob Schindler & SPI (Southern Paranormal Investigations) based in Portsmouth.**



# Close encounter?

**Strange case of the councillor and the friendly alien wearing ballet shoes. . .**



**STRANGE ENCOUNTER:** Winchester City Councillor Adrian Hicks pictured in the city centre with an artist's impression, above, of the alien.

Echo picture by Matt Watson. Order no: 8290841

By Andrew Napier

andrew.napier@dailyecho.co.uk  
For up-to-the-minute news and  
information - dailyecho.co.uk

### THERE was no space ship or typical little green men.

Just a pretty blonde, dressed strikingly in a white ballet outfit, whose penguin-like walk made her stand out from the crowd.

Yet she is no average Hampshire girl - but the vision that has left one city councillor believing he met an alien.

Winchester councillor Adrian Hicks claims to have experienced a genuine close encounter with extra-terrestrial life during a stroll down the city's busy High Street on a Saturday afternoon.

He said: "I was near The Works bookshop when I saw this strange woman, a humanoid walking with a penguin-like gait. She had very large prominent eyes and was twirling her hands in a circular motion.

"She seemed friendly and totally at ease with us. She wasn't scared, she was smiling, and seemed to be enjoying herself among us. She walked very



### 'She was human enough to get away with it - everybody's heads were turning'

slowly up the High Street. I remember she was very interested in the clock over Lloyds Bank. She was taking it all in.

"She was human enough to get away with it. Everybody's heads were turning."

Cllr Hicks, an orthopaedic technician in the A&E department at the Royal Hampshire County Hospital for some 35 years, said he saw the creature at about 1.30pm on a Saturday in late

January or early February 2004.

For five years he remained silent about his experience because he did not want it to jeopardise his chances of election to the city council.

Now, two years after securing a place for the Liberal Democrats covering the St John and All Saints ward of Highcliffe, St Giles Hill, Bar End and Winnall, he says he is willing to risk ridicule as he tells of the encounter for the first time.



## The day I met an alien - strange case of a city centre encounter

Have you had an alien encounter, or did you see the ballet shoe-wearing woman in Winchester? Call our reporters on 01962 833 145 or e-mail [newsdesk@dailyecho.co.uk](mailto:newsdesk@dailyecho.co.uk)

Urging others who witnessed the spectacle to come forward, including a woman whom he is certain took pictures, he added: "This was definitely a close encounter of the first kind.

"I was very confused and shocked. I was going to say 'excuse me, you're not from around here?' but I thought it best to leave her alone.

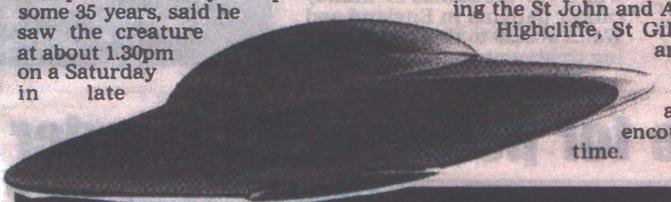
"I think we have established contact, because I have seen this 'being' in the High Street. Other people will have seen her. I would like them to come forward."

Cllr Hicks, of Granville Place, Wharf Hill, said he thinks the sighting of the alien is linked to the appearances of lights in the sky over St Catherine's Hill. He said several other residents in Winchester have regularly seen the lights, at about 10,000 feet.

In August 2004 he saw five vertical lines rising over Chilcomb military ranges before scattering away.

Mr Hicks has a theory that the extra-terrestrial is linked to covert US and British military at Chilcomb and the pyramid at Intech which may be some kind of signpost.

He said: "Clearly there are UFOs flying around and I'm keen to set up a UFO watch group for Winchester."



"She walked like a penguin. . ."

● To see Councillor Hicks demonstrating the alien's "penguin gait" log onto [dailyecho.co.uk](http://dailyecho.co.uk) and click on the Daily Echo Video News section.

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## THE MYSTERY UFO IN THE SKIES OVER MANCHESTER. Steve Mera (MAPIT)...

After about four hours of research and investigation I reached my conclusion! Was it a UFO, or was there a more mundane explanation? I first became aware of this incident after MAPIT Member Sheila Waddington informed me that she had seen something strange in the sky last night. I looked up at the clock, it said 9.45 am. Time was ticking and I wanted the answer as soon as possible! Apparently Piccadilly radio (Gold 1152) were giving mention to it on the hour ever hour.

I grabbed the phone... my first point of contact... the Manchester Evening News and the Metro News. I informed reporters of the incidents that had taken place the night before, and asked them to inform witnesses that we were looking into the matter and that they could contact us if they wish. Then... a swift call to my contact at the Sale & Altrincham Messenger. Afterwards, I talked with a news-team reported at Piccadilly, unaware I was being recorded for the purpose of playing on air. I have to admit, my first suspicions were not that of meteorological phenomena, however, I kept my options open, at told the reporter I required more data. I finished by telling them that they could pass my telephone number on to witnesses if they wish. Well..... lets just say I never got to sit down for the following hour.

No sooner had I put the phone down, it rang. It was a man from Urmston, claiming to have seen a UFO around 7.30 pm. He described the object as a white rocket like object with a tail travelling across the sky from West to East. There was no unusual odour reported nor any sound. The object travelled in a horizontal position about 25% above the horizon. I told him I would look into the matter and get back in touch.

I then immediately telephoned the Ministry of Defence and left my telephone number on their answer phone machine along with details of reported sightings, asking them for any information they had. I then telephoned Manchester International Airport block tower and talked with a Civil Aviation officer, who informed me that they had not picked anything unusual up on radar last night, nor saw anything unusual. However, they were aware of reported sightings by the following morning and presumed some type of meteorological phenomena.

I then telephoned the Meteorological Office in Stockport at asked them if they were aware of such meteor or bolide sighting last night. I was told, no one knew anything of the sightings. Hmmm.... Well... I then phoned the Manchester Astronomical Society and Salford Astronomical Society... Guess What! No one knew anything. Then a few minutes later the telephone started ringing again.

More witnesses... In fact quite a number of them telephoned. Ian from Urmston, followed by Tracy from Audenshaw, Julie from Prestwich, Mark from Ashton Underline, Andrew from South Reddish, Sean from Salford and Jack from Wilmslow.

Tracy had seen a strange light in the sky between 8.00 pm and 8.30 pm. She described it as rocket like with a tail with bits of it falling off. (This I immediately recognised as 'Splintering'). This is often mentioned when sighting bolides. Julie from Prestwich said that the object was a blue or green colour and moved towards Heaton Park around 6.30 pm - 7.00 pm. Mark... well... curious one this is... Mark a security officer working at Bel-Vue last night looked up in the night sky to see a strange object that was multicoloured and as an approaching Openshaw Police Helicopter switch its search light on, it just simply vanished, as if it had suddenly blinked out. Strange one Eh! Mark finished by telling me that the UFO was heading towards Sheffield. Andrew from South Reddish claimed to have watched the object around 8.30 pm - 8.45 pm. Described it as a bright white light that seemed to be sparking. Sean and his wife watch a strange object with a tail from their lounge window in Salford. They described the object to be moving backwards and forwards. Jack... well... what would I have done without Jack. Jack said he saw a meteor and was steadfast about his observation. Good one Jack! I take my hat off to you.

I then was to find a small article on teletext regarding the strange incident. A particular Doctor from Jodrell Bank Science Centre had claimed to have confirmed a meteor burn-up over Manchester last night. I of course telephoned Jodrell Bank to ask him how did he confirm it and where and when did it take place. No one answered the telephone at Jodrell, so I'll find out more maybe tomorrow.

Finally, I received a telephone call from a MAPIT investigator who informed me that they knew some people who had watched a large bright white UFO in the skies over Stretford around 11.30 pm and that the object shot off at high speed. Well... what's going on? Could this be the same thing? I doubt it seriously. A bolide meteor could not have been seen in the night sky over a 30 square mile radius for over five hours. That's highly improbable. Bolides meteors don't change direction and are not often described as multicoloured. What about that damn helicopter Eh? Could we be dealing with two events. Sounds ridiculous, but not impossible though. I mean come-on.... what's the chance a UFO will fly over Manchester letting hundreds see it, let alone a bolide meteor just happen to pay Manchester a visit. Well... what ever went on last night I'm going to try to get to the bottom of it.

Can people make terrible observations about time, direction and colour... I suppose so, but then again, there seems to be some interesting information to suggest something else was around that night. I have attached two pictures. One, of a similar bolide meteor seen by witnesses not too long ago and a map of where sightings occurred and where I believe, the flight path the bolide meteor took. If anyone has any further information then please feel free to send it me. Otherwise.... keep your eyes on the skies. Now I'm off to bed.... you could say its been a bit of a busy day.

Conclusion : Bolide Meteor Burn-up in low atmosphere.

Aug 2008...

## The Problem of Hoaxing

by

Peter A. McCue...

Separating the wheat from the chaff is an abiding problem for researchers interested in UFOs and other anomalies, and investigators need to be wary about the possibility of hoaxing. It's helpful, I think, to distinguish between two types of hoaxing, which I'll describe as *Type I* and *Type II*. *Type I* hoaxing is straightforward lying (e.g. reporting a non-existent UFO sighting), whereas *Type II* hoaxing entails some sort of physical activity aimed at deception (e.g. releasing balloons with attached lights, or fabricating documents). However, *Type II* hoaxes might include *Type I* elements. That would be the case, for example, if someone sent a faked UFO photograph to a magazine along with a spurious sighting report.

### Type I hoaxes

In *Alien Heat*, a book by Steve Dewey and John Ries, examines the Warminster UFO flap, which began in the mid-1960s, and started with people hearing unusual sounds.<sup>1</sup> The authors adopt a sceptical stance, interpreting the case in terms such as misperception, suggestion, and a will to believe. They identify a local man, David Holton, as having played an important role in facilitating the flap. He suggested, in a local newspaper (the *Warminster Journal*), and in a television interview, that the mysterious sounds were associated with alien spaceships. In so doing, Dewey and Ries argue, he induced people to think they were seeing UFOs.

In a letter published in the *Warminster Journal* in 2005, Holton claimed that he'd fabricated stories that he'd previously sent to that newspaper. His aim had allegedly been to test the idea "that the public mood of the time was yearning for some demonstration of the unseen realms [*sic*] presence" (Holton, quoted by Dewey and Ries, *op. cit.*, p. 168).

### Type II hoaxes

Arthur Shuttlewood's book *The Warminster Mystery* contains a blown-up version of a photograph that was allegedly taken by 19 year-old Gordon Faulkner in August 1965 outside his home in Warminster.<sup>2</sup> The grainy image shows a disc-shaped object with a domed top. The picture was published in the *Warminster Journal* and the *Daily Mirror*, although Shuttlewood noted that the science reporter and air reporter at the *Mirror* were sceptical about it. It has since been claimed that the photograph was indeed faked (see Dewey and Ries, *op. cit.*, pp. 158-162).

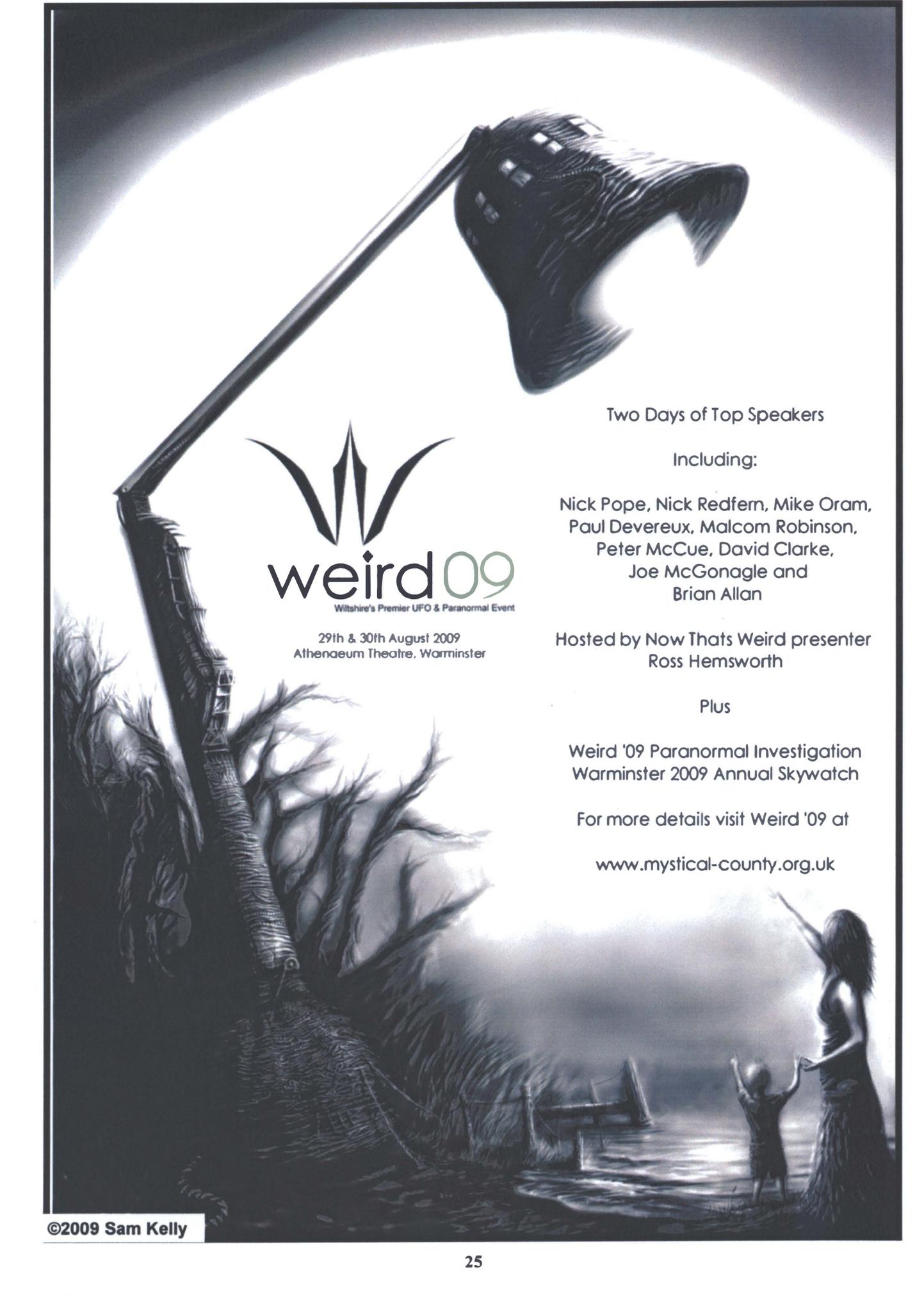
On 12th October 1965, an electronics engineer called Michael Rae allegedly photographed some UFOs in Warminster. His pictures were developed

by a professional photographer, who opined that they were genuine. But Rae subsequently admitted to Shuttlewood that he (Rae) had faked them: "I stuck the shapes cut from cardboard to the window, shone a hooded torch on them and had the camera set at long focus so that they would come out blurred, with trees clear" (quoted by Shuttlewood, *op. cit.*, pp. 91-92).

Members of an organization called the Society for the Investigation of UFO Phenomena (SIUFOP), formed in 1967, carried out some 'experimental' UFO hoaxes in the Warminster area. For example, during a night in June 1969, a bogus UFO (battery-powered torch bulbs attached to a helium-filled plastic bag) was released from Sack Hill, which is about a mile from Cradle Hill, where there were people skywatching. The balloon rose slowly and drifted over a nearby Army range at tree-top height. The skywatchers were apparently impressed. Indeed, David Simpson and Ken Raine, describing the night's events, claim that "it was generally rated the best sighting ever seen there."<sup>3</sup> Later that night, another balloon was released, on the western side of Cradle Hill. It drifted much closer to the skywatchers than the previous one, producing excitement that was "electric and emotional". Simpson and Raine (*ibid.*) state that, "Telepathic communication was claimed with the light bulb, which was said to be as bright as a searchlight and also to be metallic with portholes." Over the next few weeks, SIUFOP members visited Cradle Hill, to pick up on gossip. Shortly after the hoax (Simpson and Raine don't say exactly how long), a SIUFOP member let slip what had actually happened. But the explanation wasn't generally accepted, because the objects had apparently changed direction against the wind,<sup>4</sup> and because there was a sighting, the following evening, of an object just like that of the previous night.

Simpson and Raine conclude that hoaxes have been useful for testing observational skills and ufologists' investigative abilities, and have clearly shown that people see what they want to see, and that the general quality of UFO investigations is very poor. However, their reporting is somewhat sketchy. For example, they don't specify how many skywatchers were on Cradle Hill, and what percentage of them believed themselves to be in telepathic contact with the bogus UFO. And it might be wrong to draw conclusions about the general quality of UFO investigations from the behaviour of skywatchers. After all, for many people, attending a skywatch might be a social event and a bit of fun rather than a serious investigative undertaking. For my part, I don't think the Warminster phenomena can be entirely dismissed in terms such as suggestion, imagination, misperception, and hoaxing.

Continued on page 40...



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# Daily Express

LONDON EXPRESS NEWSPAPER LIMITED

FLEET STREET - LONDON

TELEPHONE  
CENTRAL 8000

November 17th, 1953.

Commander D.H. MacMillan,  
Hydrographic Department.,  
Town Quay,  
Southampton.

Dear Commander MacMillan,

In answer to your letter of the 11th instant, the best book so far published on substantiated saucer sightings is Major Donald Keyhoe's work entitled "Flying Saucers From Outer Space."

It is not yet available in this country but will be published here next year.

The best British book on the subject is "Flying Saucers Have Landed" by Desmond Leslie and George Adamski, which gives a comprehensive history of saucer sightings throughout the ages and theorises on methods of propulsion.

Despite its science fiction title it is well worth reading as it is intelligently presented and well thought out, although you might not agree with Adamski's claim to have seen and met a man from Venus.

Enclosed herewith is a cutting from our Scottish edition which is more comprehensive than that published in London.

Trusting this information will be of assistance to you.

I remain,

Yours sincerely,

*Derek D. Dempster*

Derek D. Dempster.  
Air Correspondent.

## SCOTTISH DAILY EXPRESS

Tuesday November 10 1953

FOUNDED BY LORD BEAVERBROOK

Weather: Cold; showers

**ROBBERY** £14,000 jewels vanish  
in train

**SAUCERS** The R.A.F. starts  
new probe

**CRASH** Tram-bus collision  
—14 injured

### SAUCERS AGAIN

*Jet fliers see one  
from 20,000 ft. up*

Express Air Reporter DEREK DEMPSTER

**FLYING OFFICER T. S. JOHNSON**, pilot of a two-seat Vampire jet night-fighter and his navigator, Flying Officer C. Smythe, were flying at 20,000 feet over Kent when they saw an object which at first appeared to be a star or a bright stationary light.

They could not estimate its altitude, but it was very much higher than they were.

Within a few seconds of sighting it—last Tuesday morning—they saw the object move towards them and pass over the aircraft moving at tremendous speed.

The object was maintaining level flight. It was perfectly circular in shape, and appeared to be emitting or reflecting a fierce bright light around the edge but not at the tail or in the centre.

**UK NEWS HEADLINES...**  
(15th March 2009 - 15th June 2009)

**Scotland On Sunday...**  
22<sup>nd</sup> March 2009...  
Close Encounters Of Pitlochry Kind...

**The Hastings Observer...**  
23<sup>rd</sup> March 2009...  
Alien Expert From Hastings VIP Guest At UFO  
Conference...

**The South Wales Echo...**  
24<sup>th</sup> March 2009...  
Police Helicopter Crew's UFO Encounter...

**The Wrexham Evening Leader...**  
24<sup>th</sup> March 2009...  
Wrexham Woman Thought Aliens Were Coming  
After Spotting UFO...

**Bournemouth Daily Echo...**  
3<sup>rd</sup> April 2009...  
I Saw A UFO Over Bournemouth And I'm Not  
Craze...

**The Bristol Evening Post...**  
15<sup>th</sup> May 2009...  
Is This The Answer To Bristol UFO?

**Hampshire Chronicle**  
Crop circle researcher dies...  
(Pat Delgado)  
28th May 2009...

**Romsey Advertiser...**  
Crop circle researcher dies...  
(Pat Delgado)...  
Thursday 28th May 2009...

**The Shrophsire Star...**  
2<sup>nd</sup> June 2009...  
UFOs? Bah Humbug! Probably...

**The Rutland and Stamford Mercury...**  
11<sup>th</sup> June 2009...  
UFO Spotted Over Stamford...

**Copies of any of the newspaper articles  
(Word Documents) mentioned in the magazine  
are available at 10p each plus 70p postage up  
to a max of 20 copies. For more than 20 copies,  
postage is then an extra 10p per 10 copies  
ordered.**

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June 2010...

I close the doors for the final time...

This, for me, has been something coming, but I have kept hold of the dream, until now. I have decided to retire from the UFOlogical race and slip into obscurity. I will keep in touch with those I have known many a year and subscribe to a couple of UFO magazines as a thank you for their support over the many years. I have also decided to try and sell the copies of SUFOG magazines I have going back to the first edition along with my DVD collection. All of this will be completed with the final issue of UFONews UK in June 2010. Why...

- Part of the UFOlogical dream died with me when the Southampton UFO Group closed its doors in January 2008 and the so called friends that I thought I had dropped me like a stone.
- The other part of my UFOlogical dream of a great magazine, building more contact with groups around the country also has hit a brick wall. So many British groups have promised but not delivered and I am fed up with wasting my time on UFO groups that seem to think they are above the rest.
- I am finding it very very difficult editing and publishing the magazine on my own but I had to do it for my own piece of mind. Membership has not grown as I thought it had and I am finding very difficult to find material without using the internet and to be honest the Internet is killing the magazine.
- Things in my own life have also effected my decision and this is not the place to go into this, but to say that my direction in life has changed and this has also effected my decision.

So, this is it I am afraid, June 2010 will see me and the magazine slip into obscurity, but I will contact 3 magazines and subscribe to them and support UFOlogy in some way and my friends I have stayed with over the years I will still contact.



## MoD X-Files

By Nick Pope

### Abstract

Late in 2007 the UK Ministry of Defence (MoD) gave an undertaking to release its entire archive of UFO files. On May 14 2008 the National Archives released the first batch of files, leading to worldwide media coverage, including articles in the New York Times and coverage on CNN News. On October 20 2008 the National Archives released the second batch of files, again generating global media coverage, including a feature on ABC News's Nightline. I used to work at the MoD on these files and although I left government service in 2006, I assisted the National Archives in the release process by reviewing the files, selecting cases of potential interest to the media and acting as someone to whom they would refer journalists wanting to discuss the files. I will set out the background to this release and explain how the French government's 2007 decision to release its UFO files was a major factor in the UK decision, as was the fact that the MoD receives more FOI requests on UFOs than any other topic. I will then give detailed information about the files, explaining how much material there is, what it comprises and what the timeline is for full disclosure. I will also discuss the level of classification involved and the various FOI exemptions that mean certain information will not be released. Finally, I will pick out some cases from the newly released files and discuss the wider implications of this release.

### Introduction

I used to work for the MoD in the UK and for 3 years I ran their UFO project. My remit was to investigate UFO sighting reported to the British government, looking for evidence of any potential threat, or anything judged to be of any "defence significance". In 2007 the French government released their archive of UFO files and this was followed by many stories suggesting that the British government was about to do the same. This process has now begun and has commented upon extensively in the media and in the UFO community. However, the situation is more complex than many suppose and some of what's been written has been misleading or wrong. Accordingly, I'll clarify the position, explain what's already happened, what's happening now and what future developments people can expect to see.

### The Public Records Acts

Before the UK's Freedom of Information Act came fully into force in 2005, the Public Records Acts set down the rules on access to government files. The best-known feature of these acts was the so-called 30

Year Rule, which did pretty much what it said on the tin and meant that most files wouldn't be opened until 30 years after the most recent document. Some more sensitive files were withheld for longer, while some would never be released. The 'default position', as it were, was not to release. It was a totally different culture, and when I joined the MoD in 1985, it was a closed organization with limited public and media interface. The Department I left in 2006, after a 21 year career, was virtually unrecognisable from the organization I'd joined over two decades ago.

### 1967

There was a major wave of UFO sightings in the UK in 1967 (and indeed in the US and elsewhere) and the subject enjoyed extensive media coverage. There was parliamentary interest too and one of the key decisions in relation to MoD UFO documents was taken in that year. It was agreed by Defence ministers that in view of the historical/public interest, all UFO files would be kept permanently and considered for eventual release. Prior to that, files on the subject had been reviewed 5 years after closure and might be either destroyed, sent to MoD records management divisions or sent to the Public Records Office (now renamed the National Archives). What this meant was that prior to 1967, few UFO files had survived this process and with a few exceptions, UFO files from the Fifties and early Sixties had been destroyed. There was nothing sinister about this and such decisions were made all the time on a wide range of subjects. It was a subjective business and I've done it myself: administrative staff would bring me files and I'd have to decide whether to authorize destruction, permanent retention or a further review. I never authorized the destruction of a UFO file and following the 1967 ruling, nobody should.

### Freedom of Information

The introduction of the Freedom of Information Act (passed in November 2000 and coming fully into force in January 2005) effectively reversed the default position and the presumption now is that information is released, unless any of the formal exemptions apply. I was trained in this and have dealt with Freedom of Information (FOI) requests myself, so have first-hand experience of this. Ufologists have used FOI (and the Code of Practice on Access to Government Information, which preceded FOI but attempted to apply some of the principles) extensively and researchers such as Georgina Bruni and Timothy Good have achieved some high-profile successes. The file of the Rendlesham Forest incident and on the Cosford incident, the Flying Saucer Working Party and Project Condign (a highly classified UFO study sponsored by the Defence Intelligence Staff and undertaken by a defence contractor) were all obtained using the Code or FOI. All these files and more besides are now available on the MoD website, [www.mod.uk](http://www.mod.uk). Go to the Freedom of Information

section and search the Publication Scheme and the Disclosure Log, using keywords such as UFO and UAP and it's all there, alongside documents and files on a vast range of other fascinating subjects including MoD's 2001 remote viewing study.

### **FOI or Investigation?**

The MoD receives more FOI requests relating to UFOs than on any other subject, including the war in Iraq or Afghanistan. The section where I worked is now so busy dealing with FOI requests that this has taken precedence over the research and investigation that was done in my day. Few UFO sightings are currently investigated in any meaningful sense of the word and most sightings elicit little more than a standard letter. A major case such as Ray Bowyer's sighting over the Channel Islands on 23 April 2007 will at least be investigated, but not to the extent that has previously been the case. The case file on the Channel Islands UFO sighting ran to 9 pages. Compare that with previous major cases such as Rendlesham Forest or the Cosford Incident, where the case files ran to over 100 pages of documentation. Investigations are suffering because of the workload being put on staff due to FOI, but FOI is taking priority because if it fails to comply, MoD would be breaching the law.

### **Disclosure**

By 2007 the workload involved in dealing FOI requests was becoming intolerable and I know that staffs were getting increasingly frustrated. Accordingly, because of the administrative burden involved in responding to UFO-related FOI requests on a case by case basis, MoD decided to proactively release its entire archive of UFO files. As mentioned earlier, the French government did this in 2007 (and the dedicated server crashed due to the volume of hits as around 220,000 people attempted to access the material on the day of release) and this was another reason for the release, as was the hope that the move would help deal with accusations that MoD was covering up the truth about UFOs. Indeed, both the MoD and the National Archives hope that this will be a good news story about open government and freedom of information. MoD confirmed to me in December 2007 that the final decision had been taken and I duly broke the story in the media.

### **The Details**

There are around 160 files in all, covering sighting reports, public correspondence, policy files and files detailing with how the MoD handles the subject when raised in parliament and in the media. MoD decided not to release the material all in one go, mainly because of the administrative burden of redacting the files, i.e. deleting any information covered by the various exemptions to the Freedom of Information Act, ensuring that classified information and personal data isn't released. Names, addresses and other personal details relating to witnesses and officials have to be removed, to comply with the Freedom of Information Act and the

Data Protection Act. Other exemptions cover categories such as defense and national security and examples of the sort of information that is being withheld include classified information such as the capability of military radar systems, information passed to the UK in confidence by allies, commercially-sensitive information and information which, if disclosed, would reveal intelligence sources or methods of gathering intelligence. It's a massive job: MoD has received over 11,000 UFO reports to date and case files on major incidents can run to over 100 pages of documentation. The entire process is likely to take 3 - 4 years.

### **The Asbestos Files**

While most files are ones from the secretariat branch that has the policy and investigative lead on UFOs (i.e. the division where I worked) 24 Defence Intelligence Staff (DIS) UFO files are also being released. The DIS provided specialist advice and assistance on a number of areas related to specific investigations. These 24 files were part of a batch of several thousand DIS files that had been contaminated by asbestos. It was feared originally that they'd have to be destroyed. Historians were outraged and conspiracy theorists smelt a rat. But at a cost of around £3M all the files have now been decontaminated and scanned onto CD-ROMs. Many UFO researchers have made Freedom of Information Act requests relating to these files, so the material can now be considered for release in the usual way.

### **What's in the Asbestos Files?**

The 24 files cover the period 1975 to 1999 and cover a wide range of material, including both policy and investigations. Many of the UFO sightings detailed are mundane, but there are some more interesting ones, including sightings by civil and military pilots and sightings corroborated by radar evidence. And of course the period covered means that there will be documents on Rendlesham Forest, the Cosford Incident and Project Condign. Some of the documents will be new, but many will be copies of ones in the secretariat division's file. This is because the DIS UFO files mirror those of the secretariat division responsible for setting policy and leading investigations, because the secretariat and the DIS were looking at the same cases and corresponding with each other about them. Some documents I wrote are in the files and some documents are ones that were written to me. Brief details of these 24 files are available on the MoD website, in the Disclosure Log. A search on the phrase "DIS UFO Incident Files" will turn up the information.

### **The First Batch**

The first batch of files were released on May 14 2008. They covered the period 1978 - 1987. There were 8 files in this first batch, which led to some

misunderstanding as many people thought this was the same as saying that there were only 8 individual cases. In fact, most of the files were sighting report files and each file contained several hundred pages of documentation, consisting mainly of one or two page summaries of individual sightings: the raw data, as it were, recorded in a standard format by the person receiving the UFO report. Overall, therefore, there were thousands of pages of documentation in these 8 files, detailing several hundred sightings. Most cases had mundane explanations and were clearly misidentifications of ordinary objects and phenomena, mainly aircraft lights, satellites and meteors. But some were more difficult to explain, including cases where the witnesses were pilots and police officers, together with instances where UFOs had been tracked on radar. There were also some more light-hearted cases, which were almost certainly hoaxes or instances where some practical joke had got out of hand. Some of the more interesting incidents included:

26th April 1984: Members of the public report a UFO in Stanmore. Two police officers attend the scene, witness the craft and sketch it.

13th October 1984: a saucer-shaped UFO is seen from Waterloo Bridge in London by numerous witnesses.

11th September 1985: 2 UFOs tracked on a military radar system travelling 10 nautical miles in 12 seconds.

4th September 1986: a UFO passes an estimated 1.5 nautical miles from the port side of a commercial aircraft.

The release made the news all around the world and within a couple of months the material had been downloaded around 2 million times. The National Archives regarded this as one of their most successful proactive events of all time.

### **The Second Batch**

A second batch of Ministry of Defence UFO files was released on October 20 2008 and are now available at the National Archives. There are 19 files, many of which contain several hundred individual documents. The files date from 1986 to 1992 and therefore include cases from my tour of duty on the MoD's UFO project (1991 to 1994). It's fascinating to see these files again - it's a real blast from the past. As with the first batch, most of the UFO sightings in these newly released files can be explained as misidentifications of ordinary objects or phenomena, with around 5% being more difficult to explain. The cases that concerned me most were those involving near misses between UFOs and commercial aircraft. There are several such cases in these files, along with more sightings from

police officers and more cases where UFOs have been tracked on radar. I did a seemingly constant stream of TV and radio interviews, appearing on most TV news programmes (including a number of US shows such as ABC News's Nightline) and on others shows such as GMTV, The Alan Titchmarsh Show and Newsround, as well as prestigious radio shows such as Radio 4's Today programme and BBC World Service's The World Today. I appeared twice on this latter show, once giving a conventional interview and the second time reading a science fiction story they asked to write, based on the files, which listeners were then invited to continue. The fact that such extensive media coverage resulted not only from the first release but from the second illustrates the appeal that this subject has with the media. The British file release is helping move the UFO phenomenon out of the fringe and into the mainstream.

### **Close Encounter Over Kent**

One of the most interesting cases from the second batch of files occurred on 21st April 1991. I remember this incident very well and indeed I was involved in the official investigation. We were informed by the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) - the UK equivalent of the FAA - that there had been a near miss involving a commercial aircraft. The aircraft was an Al Italia MD-80 with 57 passengers on board. It was a height of around 22,000 feet over Kent, near Lydd, when a brown, cigar-shaped object passed so close to the aircraft that the pilot shouted "look out, look out". In the normal course of events, any near-miss would be investigated by the CAA. However, most such incidents involve other aircraft, and as the crew were not able to identify the object, it was treated as a UFO incident and passed from the CAA to the MoD. We launched a full investigation and eliminated all the usual possibilities, including weather balloons, military aircraft, etc. We even checked to see whether we had accidentally fired off a missile of some sort. We drew a complete blank and the incident remains unexplained to this day. This incident had a profound effect on me, because I realised that a commercial aircraft had come within seconds of being blown out of the sky over the UK. This illustrated that whatever one believes about UFOs, the phenomenon raises important defence and air safety issues. However, some people at the MoD and the CAA did not treat the incident as seriously as me, simply because of their automatic reaction to hearing the word "UFO". This was deeply troubling and convinced me that I should make every effort to ensure that all UFO incidents were investigated thoroughly, in a proper scientific manner. It also convinced me that I should make efforts to ensure the subject was taken more seriously within government, the military and the intelligence community.

### **Milton Torres**

Another case from the second batch that I discussed in my various media interviews was that of Milton Torres, a United States Air Force pilot who stated that on 20th

May 1957 (in fact, the date is the subject of some confusion/debate) he was ordered to open fire on a UFO that was being tracked on radar. He was based at RAF Manston in Kent and was scrambled to intercept a UFO that had been tracked over Kent. He claims that he came within seconds of firing off a salvo of 24 rockets when the UFO accelerated away at a speed of around Mach 10. Torres stated that he was subsequently warned to stay silent about the incident and only mentioned it years afterwards, at a reunion. While Torres has gone on the record and given a number of media interviews, following the release of the documents from the MoD files, most people have not realised that the account in the MoD file is not an official USAF or MoD witness statement. It is a transcript of an interview with Torres, undertaken years after the event and forwarded to MoD by a ufologist. The ufologist then speculated that the incident was part of some secret test, which is patently false, as such tests would be conducted in the restricted airspace of various ranges over the sea. Needless to say, one does not conduct tests involving the potential firing of live weapons over the mainland UK! Torres is clearly an honourable man, recalling a difficult and potentially life threatening mission. But I would suggest that ufologists need to track down the original paperwork if they are to get to the bottom of this incident. Torres is not the only pilot to have been ordered to open fire on UFOs. General Parviz Jafari (Iran, 1976) and Comandante Huertas (Peru, 1980) were placed in similar positions and their stories, in their own words, can be found on the Coalition for Freedom of Information website. Check out [www.freedomofinfo.org](http://www.freedomofinfo.org) for further details.

### **Other Highlights From The Second Batch of MoD Files**

There are plenty of other fascinating cases from the MoD UFO files. These include a case from 5 November 1990 when a number of RAF Tornado aircraft were overtaken by a UFO. There is a case from Scotland where a spectacular UFO photo was sent to the MoD. It was on my office wall for years, but was removed by my Head of Division, who had convinced himself that it showed Aurora - supposedly a prototype aircraft, the existence of which has never been confirmed. Additionally, there is a file that I opened on alien abductions and alien contact cases, with a series of bizarre letters. There is also material on crop circles, including papers showing how the MoD tried to get the military to stop flying over crop circles and photographing them, as it undermined the line that we were desperately trying to push at the time, i.e. that we weren't interested in the phenomenon!

### **Summer of the Saucers**

At the same time as these file releases, the

summer of 2008 has seen a massive upsurge in UFO sightings in the UK and - perhaps fuelled by the release of the government files - an increase in media coverage, as journalists become increasingly aware that there's a serious story here of interest to a vast number of people. I shall highlight the two cases that have attracted most media attention. Both are to be covered in Series 2 of the History Channel series UFO Hunters.

### **UFO in Near-Miss with Police Helicopter**

A spectacular encounter between a UFO and a police helicopter took place on 8th June in South Wales, over the military base at RAF St Athan, close to Cardiff International Airport. The helicopter, with a crew of 3 on board, was about to land when it was in near collision with a UFO. Initially described as being disc-shaped and covered in lights, early media reports suggested a chase had taken place, with the helicopter pursuing the UFO south over the Bristol Channel and only breaking off pursuit when the UFO proved too quick and when they ran low on fuel. After the story broke on 20th June the story changed and the police were careful to use the phrase "unusual aircraft" as opposed to UFO. Additionally, while confirming the sighting, they denied a chase had taken place. Perhaps the most extraordinary aspect of the story was a quote from the MoD Press Office, where a spokesperson made the following comment: "But it is certainly not advisable for police helicopters to go chasing what they think are UFOs". It has now emerged that numerous other people in the area saw the UFO. The story generated massive media coverage and numerous FOI requests have been made to the MoD and the CAA, so look out for further developments on this story. Whatever one believes about UFOs, incidents like this illustrate the phenomenon raises serious defence and flight safety issues.

### **UFOs Filmed Over Military Base**

The police helicopter story was followed by an even bigger story, when it transpired that a few hours before the police helicopter incident, soldiers at Tern Hill barracks in Shropshire saw several UFOs fly directly over their base. One of them filmed the objects on his mobile phone. The Sun (the UK's best-selling national daily newspaper) ran the story on the front page under the headline "Army Spot UFOs Over Shropshire". Again, investigation into this sighting is ongoing. The film is inconclusive and may even just show so-called Chinese lanterns, but the media coverage has been almost without precedent.

### **A Vision of the Future**

Once all the files have been released, most FOI requests can simply be dealt with by a standard reply that refers people to the National Archives and/or the MoD website. At that point, it is entirely possible that MoD will attempt to disengage from the subject altogether, as the United States Air Force did when Project Blue Book was terminated in 1969. The DIS

disengagement that followed Project Condign is a possible model and precedent for this. Whether MoD will need a new review, or will simply rely on Project Condign, is open to debate. But something has to give. There's no point in investigating UFO sightings if you're not going to do it properly. I once wrote a paper on this for the MoD Press Office (after I left the UFO project but before I left MoD), who were having difficulty reconciling Directorate Air Staff's public line that they "weren't interested" in UFOs with the fact that they had a telephone line for people to report sightings and did investigate sightings from pilots.

### No Smoking Gun

So far as the files are concerned, don't expect a smoking gun. There isn't one. The files contain no references to spacecraft in an air force hangar or alien bodies at a government laboratory. No back-engineering, no deals with extraterrestrials and no alien autopsies. If such things have happened (and I have no knowledge that they have) I don't believe they have happened in the UK. I'm accused of being part of a cover-up when I make such statements, but they're true, whether people like it and believe it or not. Much of the material is mundane - when I joined the UFO project each case looked different, but when I left they all seemed the same. It's not all gloom, of course and there's some amazing stuff in amongst the mass of more routine material: UFOs seen by police officers and pilots, UFOs tracked on radar, craft seen performing speeds and manoeuvres significantly in excess of those of our most advanced military aircraft, intriguing photos and videos, etc.

### The Limits of a Paper Trail

A word of warning. Documents and files can never tell the whole story. The written word has its

limitations. Reading a book about war doesn't mean you truly understand what it's like to be under fire in a war zone. Unless you've been there and done it, you can only - at best - have an outsider's view - a second-hand understanding, as it were. It's the same at the MoD. Journalists and members of the public who make FOI requests relating to UFOs (or on any subject, for that matter) may get to see some documents and files, but that only tells part of the story. Documents and files don't generally capture the politics, the personalities and the intrigue. They don't capture the unminuted discussions that take place every day, in the office, the corridor, the canteen or at social functions. Think about it from a personal point of view. How much of what you do at work each day is ever written down? If an outsider was to read some of your files, would they really understand all the business of the organization? Ufologists who specialize in document research make a valuable contribution to the subject, but an experienced journalist will tell you that the paper trail can only lead you so far. In any organization, but especially in a fundamentally secretive one like MoD, documents and files can only ever tell part of the story.

### Conclusion

I am always reluctant to use the word disclosure, because in ufology the word is often associated with the work of Dr Steven Greer, whose Disclosure Project has become something resembling a political campaign (as has Exopolitics) aimed at ending the UFO cover-up in which many conspiracy theorists believe. But I do use the word (with a small d and not a capital letter!) because in a very real sense, disclosure is precisely what the MoD is doing in relation to documents and files. Much has already been released and there's more to come. These are exciting times.

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**UFO'S Over Hampshire...**  
**(Part 13).**

**LOCATION : GOSPORT.**

Date : 15th JANUARY 2002.

TIME : 22.30.

WITNESS : UNKNOWN.

DURATION : 5 - 6 SECONDS.

2 DIM LIGHTS TRAVELING VERY FAST.

SOURCE : NATIONAL UFO REPORTING CENTRE.

**LOCATION : GOSPORT.**

DATE : 27th OCTOBER 2003.

TIME : 18.00 HRS.

WITNESS : AMANDA POOLE (32 YRS).

DURATION : 10 SECS..

3 LIGHTS FLYING PARRALLEL OF A YELLOWISH COLOUR - NOT FLASHING, NO SOUND. FLEW SILENTLY AND QUIETLY INTO THE DISTANCE.

SOURCE : CONTACT UFO WATCH WEB SITE.

**LOCATION: GOSPORT.**

DATE : 11th JULY 2004.

SHAPE : DISC.

DURATION : 3 MINUTES.

TIME : 23.45.

METALLIC DISC ABOUT 60 FEET IN DIAMETER, HOVERING OVER SEA AT ABOUT 500FT ALTITUDE, NO SOUND MOVED FROM LEFT TO RIGHT SLOWLY THEN CLIMBED VERTICALLY INTO THE CLOUDS VISIBLE FOR ABOUT 3 MINUTES.

SOURCE : NATIONAL UFO REPORTING CENTRE.

**LOCATION : GOSPORT.**

DATE : 26th JULY 2008.

TIME : 22:00.

SILENT CRAFT PASSED OVERHEAD CLEARLY VISIBLE WITH SMOOTH CURVING COURSE.

SOURCE : MOD RELEASE 2009.

**LOCATION : GOSPORT.**

DATE : 1st JANUARY 2009.

TIME : 01.00

WITNESSES : 3

LARGE ROUND ORANGE LIGHT MOVING W TO E AT A FAIR SPEED. STOPPED AND STATIONARY.

SOURCE : <http://www.uk-ufo.co.uk/>

**LOCATION : HAM LANE, GOSPORT.**

DATE : 1995 OR 1996.

TIME : UNKNOWN

WITNESS : FEMALE & SEVERAL OTHERS

DIAMOND SHAPED LIGHT IN DUSK SKY. STAYED IN SKY FOR 5 MINUTES THEN CLOSED WITHIN ITSELF.

SOURCE : <http://www.uk-ufo.co.uk/>

**LOCATION : WINCHESTER TO STOCKBRIDGE.**

DATE : 1977.

TIME : NIGHT.

WITNESS : UNKNOWN.

VERY BRIGHT ORANGE GLOW. THE UNIDENTIFIED ROSE VERTICALLY THEN MOVED FAST HEADING IN A WESTERLY DIRECTION.

SOURCE : BEAM SOCIETY WEB SITE.

**LOCATION : NOT DISCLOSED.**

DATE : 23rd APRIL 1994.

TIME : 23.15 P.M.

WITNESS : J & D. BENTHAM.

TWO LIGHTS, PING PONG BALL SIZED, 6 INCHES APART, 2 MILES AWAY.

SOURCE : AUPIN NEWSLETTER NO 5 06/94.

**LOCATION : CHURT ROAD, HAMPSHIRE.**

DATE : 5th OCTOBER 2003.

TIME : 12.50 A.M.

WITNESS : JOHN IDE.

DURATION : 2 MINS.

LONG, THIN, FLOATING, NO WINGS. BLACK WITH PINK GLOW FM UNDERNEATH. STOPPED, LOWERED INTO WOODS FOR 30 SECS, WENT QUIET, TOOK OFF AT INCREDIBLE SPEED.

SOURCE : CONTACT UFO WATCH WEB SITE.

**LOCATION : HAMPSHIRE.**

DATE : 5th AUGUST 2004.

TIME : 10 P.M.

WITNESS : UNKNOWN (1).

ALTITUDE : 14 - 15,000 FT.

LONG THIN, WHITE, SLOW OVERHEAD. HEADING NORTH. NO NOISE. NO LIGHTS ON OBJECT.

SOURCE : PETER DAVENPORT WWW.UFOCENTER.COM

**LOCATION : HAMPSHIRE.**

DATE : 10th MAY 2005.

WITNESS : UNKNOWN (1).

TIME : 9.25 P.M.

ALTITUDE : 00 - 600FT.

2 CIRCULAR AMBER/ORANGEY LIGHTS. NO SOUND, HOVERING FOR ABOUT 25 SECS. LIGHTS WENT OUT THEN NUMEROUS LIGHTS APPEARED.

SOURCE : FILERS FILES. MAY 25 2005.

**LOCATION : HAMPSHIRE.**

DATE : 11th JUNE 2006.

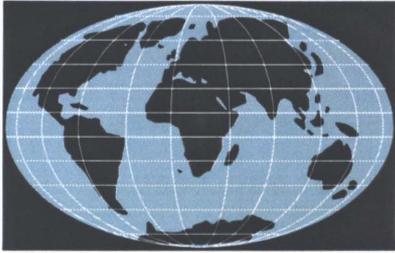
TIME : UNKNOWN.

WITNESS : UNKNOWN (1 SCHOOL CHILD)

YELLOW LIGHT FLY ACROSS FIELD ACROSS FROM HOUSE, STOPPED FOR APPROX. 2 SECONDS & THEN DISAPPEARED (NOT VERY BRIGHT YELLOW).

SOURCE : UFOEVIDENCE.ORG.

# WORLD REPORTS...



**Pensacola News Journal – Florida...  
23<sup>rd</sup> March 2009...**

**Did You See A UFO?**

A group of Booker T. Washington High School students say the truth is out there.

The students say they watched a strange circle of red lights dart around the sky around 8:30 p.m. tonight in the vicinity of Pensacola Gulf Coast Regional Airport.

The students said they were gathered outside the school waiting for their ride home when the mysterious lights appeared. One student shot some video of the lights on his cell phone and showed them to a Pensacola News Journal editor.

The video shows a bright light moving around the sky for several minutes.

The students said they saw helicopters appeared around the same time and seemed to be searching for the lights.

Meanwhile, according to a report posted on the Mutual UFO Network Web site, the lights were seen from Nine Mile Road at the same time the students reported them.

"I was sitting on my back porch, which faces east, at my home on Nine Mile Road and Ashland Rd. in Pensacola... At approximately 8:30 p.m. a "spiral," for lack of better term, of lights began glowing a very bright red-orange in the east sky. This was not a helicopter or plane. It would glow for approx 1 - 4 seconds then fade out from tail to the center of the "spiral," the report said. The report is posted at: <http://www.mufon.com/>

**The Middletown Journal – Ohio...  
29<sup>th</sup> March 2009...**

**Kept 30 Years, Supposed UFO Piece Now 'For Sale'...**

MIDDLETOWN - It's been 30 years since Greg Kirby, of Middletown, lied to local police officers and federal agents when asked if he turned over all the unidentified pieces he found in Blue Ball.

Today, he doesn't sound scared: "Let them come and get me."

Or, as he said a bit later, "I hope I can get home safely without those guys in the dark sunglasses pulling me out of the car and throwing me in the back

seat." He was only half-kidding.

Thirty years ago today, Kirby, then a 21-year-old minding his own business, found himself embroiled in the middle of controversy and UFO speculation when he watched a white-hot mystery object fall in Blue Ball.

Kirby was driving north on Old Ohio 25 about 7:30 p.m. on March 29, 1979, when he saw the fireball go down in a parking lot at the Robin Springs apartment complex.

After the pieces cooled off, he called Middletown police, and turned over "all" the items to Federal Aviation Administration officials.

Stories about the fireball mystery made headlines for several days in The Journal, Dayton Daily News and Cincinnati Enquirer. Kirby was interviewed by three local television stations and received a phone call from ABC News in New York.

"It was a mystery with capital letters," Kirby said.

A UFO buff from Maryland drove to Middletown and visited him, and a man from Kentucky asked Kirby if they were long-lost cousins.

Thirty years ago, Kirby said his only regret is that he didn't keep a piece of the metal as a memento.

Now he tells a different tale.

Kirby, 51, who calls himself "a hippie," recently came forward and admitted he still owns one lightweight piece - smaller than a dime - and it's for sale. He said his mother recently gave him the item after his father, Thomas Kirby, a Franklin and Springboro attorney, passed away.

"Cha-ching, cha-ching," Kirby said when asked the item's value. "If this really is as rare as they say, and rarity is the key component of economic, this is worth a lot of money."

Kirby said a rich investor - he kept mentioning Bill Gates - may want to buy the item, then donate it to a university or space museum.

Kirby won't give it away.

"The bottom line," he said, "is it's for sale."

He wants someone - anyone - to definitely tell him the origin of the item.

"The one person I know who won't tell me works for the United States government," he said.

He recently spoke with a friend who worked for Aeronca Inc., a company that built airplanes in Middletown. The man specialized in honeycomb patterns and the man said he never had seen anything that resembled the item.

"That's what they all say," Kirby said.

When Kirby first discovered the items, he said many people didn't believe him.

"For many years," he said, "there was a lot of ridicule."

He was an admitted "prankster" who was known to set off cherry bombs from time to time.

Police, he said, knew him by his first name.

As Kirby told childhood tales, he smiled and said: "I wish these things would have been found by a carload of nuns. It would have been more credible."

**The Los Angeles Times Magazine – California...  
April 2009...**

**The Road To Area 51...**

After decades of denying the facility's existence, five former insiders speak out...

by Annie Jacobsen...

Area 51. It's the most famous military institution in the world that doesn't officially exist. If it did, it would be found about 100 miles outside Las Vegas in Nevada's high desert, tucked between an Air Force base and an abandoned nuclear testing ground. Then again, maybe not' the U.S. government refuses to say. You can't drive anywhere close to it, and until recently, the airspace overhead was restricted' all the way to outer space. Any mention of Area 51 gets redacted from official documents, even those that have been declassified for decades.

It has become the holy grail for conspiracy theorists, with Ufologists positing that the Pentagon reverse engineers flying saucers and keeps extraterrestrial beings stored in freezers. Urban legend has it that Area 51 is connected by underground tunnels and trains to other secret facilities around the country. In 2001, Katie Couric told Today Show audiences that 7 percent of Americans doubt the moon landing happened - that it was staged in the Nevada desert. Millions of X-Files fans believe the truth may be "out there," but more likely it's concealed inside Area 51's Strangelove-esque hangars - buildings that, though confirmed by Google Earth, the government refuses to acknowledge.

The problem is the myths of Area 51 are hard to dispute if no one can speak on the record about what actually happened there. Well, now, for the first time, someone is ready to talk - in fact, five men are, and their stories rival the most outrageous of rumours. Colonel Hugh "Slip" Slater, 87, was commander of the Area 51 base in the 1960s. Edward Lovick, 90, featured in "What Plane?" in LA's March issue, spent three decades radar testing some of the world's most famous aircraft (including the U-2, the A-12 OXCART and the F-117). Kenneth Collins, 80, a CIA experimental test pilot, was given the silver star. Thornton "T.D." Barnes, 72, was an Area 51 special-projects engineer. And Harry Martin, 77, was one of the men in charge of the base's half-million-gallon monthly supply of spy-plane fuels. Here are a few of their best stories—for the record:

On May 24, 1963, Collins flew out of Area 51's restricted airspace in a top-secret spy plane code-named OXCART, built by Lockheed Aircraft Corporation. He was flying over Utah when the aircraft pitched, flipped and headed toward a crash. He ejected into a field of weeds.

Almost 46 years later, in late fall of 2008, sitting in a coffee shop in the San Fernando Valley, Collins remembers that day with the kind of clarity the threat of a national security breach evokes: "Three guys came driving toward me in a pickup. I saw they had

the aircraft canopy in the back. They offered to take me to my plane." Until that moment, no civilian without a top-secret security clearance had ever laid eyes on the airplane Collins was flying. "I told them not to go near the aircraft. I said it had a nuclear weapon on-board." The story fit right into the Cold War backdrop of the day, as many atomic tests took place in Nevada. Spooked, the men drove Collins to the local highway patrol. The CIA disguised the accident as involving a generic Air Force plane, the F-105, which is how the event is still listed in official records.

As for the guys who picked him up, they were tracked down and told to sign national security nondisclosures. As part of Collins' own debriefing, the CIA asked the decorated pilot to take truth serum. "They wanted to see if there was anything I'd forgotten about the events leading up to the crash." The Sodium Pento-thal experience went without a hitch - except for the reaction of his wife, Jane.

"Late Sunday, three CIA agents brought me home. One drove my car; the other two carried me inside and laid me down on the couch. I was loopy from the drugs. They handed Jane the car keys and left without saying a word." The only conclusion she could draw was that her husband had gone out and gotten drunk. "Boy, was she mad," says Collins with a chuckle.

At the time of Collins' accident, CIA pilots had been flying spy planes in and out of Area 51 for eight years, with the express mission of providing the intelligence to prevent nuclear war. Aerial reconnaissance was a major part of the CIA's pre-emptive efforts, while the rest of America built bomb shelters and hoped for the best.

"It wasn't always called Area 51," says Lovick, the physicist who developed stealth technology. His boss, legendary aircraft designer Clarence L. "Kelly" Johnson, called the place Paradise Ranch to entice men to leave their families and "rough it" out in the Nevada desert in the name of science and the fight against the evil empire. "Test pilot Tony LeVier found the place by flying over it," says Lovick. "It was a lake bed called Groom Lake, selected for testing because it was flat and far from anything. It was kept secret because the CIA tested U-2s there."

When Frances Gary Powers was shot down over Sverdlovsk, Russia, in 1960, the U-2 program lost its cover. But the CIA already had Lovick and some 200 scientists, engineers and pilots working at Area 51 on the A-12 OXCART, which would outfox Soviet radar using height, stealth and speed.

Col. Slater was in the outfit of six pilots who flew OXCART missions during the Vietnam War. Over a Cuban meat and cheese sandwich at the Bahama Breeze restaurant off the Las Vegas Strip, he says, "I was recruited for the Area after working with the CIA's classified Black Cat Squadron, which flew U-2 missions over denied territory in Mainland China. After that, I was told, 'You should come out to Nevada and work on something interesting we're doing out there.' "

Even though Slater considers himself a fighter pilot at heart - he flew 84 missions in World War II - the opportunity to work at Area 51 was impossible to pass

up. "When I learned about this Mach-3 aircraft called OXCART, it was completely intriguing to me - this idea of flying three times the speed of sound! No one knew a thing about the program. I asked my wife, Barbara, if she wanted to move to Las Vegas, and she said yes. And I said, 'You won't see me but on the weekends,' and she said, 'That's fine!' " At this recollection, Slater laughs heartily. Barbara, dining with us, laughs as well. The two, married for 63 years, are rarely apart today.

"We couldn't have told you any of this a year ago," Slater says. "Now we can't tell it to you fast enough." That is because in 2007, the CIA began declassifying the 50-year-old OXCART program. Today, there's a scramble for eyewitnesses to fill in the information gaps. Only a few of the original players are left. Two more of them join me and the Slaters for lunch: Barnes, formerly an Area 51 special-projects engineer, with his wife, Doris; and Martin, one of those overseeing the OXCART's specially mixed jet fuel (regular fuel explodes at extreme height, temperature and speed), with his wife, Mary. Because the men were sworn to secrecy for so many decades, their wives still get a kick out of hearing the secret tales.

Barnes was married at 17 (Doris was 16). To support his wife, he became an electronics wizard, buying broken television sets, fixing them up and reselling them for five times the original price. He went from living in bitter poverty on a Texas Panhandle ranch with no electricity to buying his new bride a dream home before he was old enough to vote. As a soldier in the Korean War, Barnes demonstrated an uncanny aptitude for radar and Nike missile systems, which made him a prime target for recruitment by the CIA - which indeed happened when he was 22. By 30, he was handling nuclear secrets.

"The agency located each guy at the top of a certain field and put us together for the programs at Area 51," says Barnes. As a security precaution, he couldn't reveal his birth name - he went by the moniker Thunder. Coworkers traveled in separate cars, helicopters and airplanes. Barnes and his group kept to themselves, even in the mess hall. "Our special-projects group was the most classified team since the Manhattan Project," he says.

Harry Martin's specialty was fuel. Handpicked by the CIA from the Air Force, he underwent rigorous psychological and physical tests to see if he was up for the job. When he passed, the CIA moved his family to Nevada. Because OXCART had to refuel frequently, the CIA kept supplies at secret facilities around the globe. Martin often travelled to these bases for quality-control checks. He tells of preparing for a top-secret mission from Area 51 to Thule, Greenland. "My wife took one look at me in these arctic boots and this big hooded coat, and she knew not to ask where I was going."

So, what of those urban legends - the UFOs studied in secret, the underground tunnels connecting clandestine facilities? For decades, the

men at Area 51 thought they'd take their secrets to the grave. At the height of the Cold War, they cultivated anonymity while pursuing some of the country's most covert projects. Conspiracy theories were left to popular imagination. But in talking with Collins, Lovick, Slater, Barnes and Martin, it is clear that much of the folklore was spun from threads of fact.

As for the myths of reverse engineering of flying saucers, Barnes offers some insight: "We did reverse engineer a lot of foreign technology, including the Soviet MiG fighter jet out at the Area"—even though the MiG wasn't shaped like a flying saucer. As for the underground-tunnel talk, that, too, was born of truth. Barnes worked on a nuclear-rocket program called Project NERVA, inside underground chambers at Jackass Flats, in Area 51's backyard. "Three test-cell facilities were connected by railroad, but everything else was underground," he says.

And the quintessential Area 51 conspiracy—that the Pentagon keeps captured alien spacecraft there, which they fly around in restricted airspace? Turns out that one's pretty easy to debunk. The shape of OXCART was unprecedented, with its wide, disk-like fuselage designed to carry vast quantities of fuel. Commercial pilots cruising over Nevada at dusk would look up and see the bottom of OXCART whiz by at 2,000-plus mph. The aircraft's titanium body, moving as fast as a bullet, would reflect the sun's rays in a way that could make anyone think, UFO.

In all, 2,850 OXCART test flights were flown out of Area 51 while Slater was in charge. "That's a lot of UFO sightings!" Slater adds. Commercial pilots would report them to the FAA, and "when they'd land in California, they'd be met by FBI agents who'd make them sign nondisclosure forms." But not everyone kept quiet, hence the birth of Area 51's UFO lore. The sightings incited uproar in Nevada and the surrounding areas and forced the Air Force to open Project BLUE BOOK to log each claim.

Since only a few Air Force officials were cleared for OXCART (even though it was a joint CIA/USAF project), many UFO sightings raised internal military alarms. Some generals believed the Russians might be sending stealth craft over American skies to incite paranoia and create widespread panic of alien invasion. Today, BLUE BOOK findings are housed in 37 cubic feet of case files at the National Archives—74,000 pages of reports. A keyword search brings up no mention of the top-secret OXCART or Area 51.

Project BLUE BOOK was shut down in 1969—more than a year after OXCART was retired. But what continues at America's most clandestine military facility could take another 40 years to disclose.

### **The Local - Stockholm, Sweden... 11<sup>th</sup> May 2009...**

Swedish Association Opens 'World's Largest' UFO  
Archive...

The world's largest UFO archive, with over 18,000

Swedish reports, pictures and foreign reports over mysterious happenings was opened to the general public in Norrköping in eastern Sweden on Sunday.

"There was a great interest," said Clas Svahn at UFO Sweden.

A Swedish pilot in a Draken plane was flying over Småland in a training exercise in the 1970s. He received the order to break the exercise and fly towards an unidentified object lying still on the water.

As he approached the object suddenly shoots straight up - and the pilot takes up the chase. Despite full speed the pilot soon loses the object and it is never identified.

The event which confounded the pilot, is just one of the reports recorded in the world's largest UFO archive in Norrköping in southern Sweden. It is one of up to 1,000 reports worth taking a closer look at, according to Clas Svahn.

The Swedish UFO association held a series of lectures on Saturday in connection with the temporary opening of the archive.

"175 came to listen and there was a great interest. There were more than we have seen in recent years and there was a serious interest. We are very happy," he said.

There were then around 70 people in Norrköping for the opening of the archive on Sunday.

The archive is now closed once more, as the association works on a voluntary basis and does not have the time to do more than show the archive to, for example, researchers.

"One can come and have a look but in that case you have to arrange an appointment."

In response to the question over whether he believes in the existence of UFOs, Svahn answered:

"I am completely convinced that there is life in space. If life can exist here then it can exist elsewhere. But can they travel here? There is no conclusive evidence, but I do not want to answer for certain. There are mysterious phenomena that we can not identify, and they are not only optical illusions," Clas Svahn said.

#### **The Houston Chronicle – Texas... 2<sup>nd</sup> June 2009...**

##### **FAA Looks Into What Pilot Saw Over Liberty...**

The FBI, the Federal Aviation Administration and the Liberty County Sheriff's Department met Tuesday to compare notes on an unidentified flying object reported late last week by an Express Jet Airlines pilot.

The pilot reported a "missile or rocket" flying near his airplane Friday at 8:09 p.m., shortly after takeoff from Bush Intercontinental Airport, according to sheriff's officials.

"The FAA then contacted the Liberty County department dispatcher and reported their pilot reported an object flying straight at his aircraft and

passed 100 feet under it," said Ken DeFoor, chief deputy for the Liberty County Sheriff's Department.

FBI spokeswoman Shauna Dunlap said the agency was aware of the sighting.

"While we have no information to indicate there was a criminal act we certainly do not rule anything out and certainly would not want to speculate on what it may or may not have been," she said.

The flight was over the southern edge of Liberty County flying at 13,000 feet when the incident occurred, officials said. Express Jet flies regional routes for Continental Airlines as Continental Express.

"We haven't found anything yet - either something on the ground where it launched or on the ground where it came down," said Liberty County Sheriff's Cpl. Hugh Bishop.

DeFoor said the agencies consolidated their notes and information at the meeting.

"The FAA is in the process of debriefing the pilot today (Tuesday)," he said. "We are going to try and come up with a more definite track of this object and its path. We are trying to find out where it came from, where it went, and who may be responsible for it."

The Continental Express jet was on a commercial flight to Greenville, S.C.

"No people were injured and no evasive action on part of the airplane was taken," DeFoor said.

DeFoor said he was aware of local hobbyists who fire rockets but did not know if any were in the area at the time.

"Were checking with club owners and presidents," he said. "If we can get a correct track of what this object was there is no need to check with hobby fields."

DeFoor said if the object was a rocket, it was fired illegally.

"They have to have permits to use the airspace," he said.

In May 2008, a Continental Airlines pilot reported a similar incident.

"It was the same situation, almost identical," DeFoor said. "The FBI are pulling their records on that one. It was roughly in the same area almost a year ago."

The Boeing 737, en route to Cleveland, Ohio, with 148 passengers, was not damaged.

"We looked into that, along with the FAA and some local law enforcement," Dunlap said. "To my knowledge, it was never determined what may of been observed during that incident."

The FAA referred all questions about Friday's incident to the Liberty County Sheriffs Department.

**United States & World NEWS HEADLINES...**  
**(15th March 2009 - 15th June 2009)**

**The McGill University Daily - Montreal, Canada...**  
16<sup>th</sup> March 2009...  
Prof Talks UFO Science...

**The Philadelphia Metro – Pennsylvania...**  
16<sup>th</sup> March 2009...  
Investigators Busy With UFO Sightings...

**The Tonawanda News - New York...**  
16<sup>th</sup> March 2009...  
NCCC: Renowned UFO Expert To Speak At NCCC...

**Southwest Virginia Today – Virginia...**  
17<sup>th</sup> March 2009...  
UFO Class On Tap At SVHEC...

**The Denver Post – Colorado...**  
19<sup>th</sup> March 2009...  
UFO Investigator Finds Mystery...

**The Sarasota Herald Tribune – Florida...**  
20<sup>th</sup> March 2009...  
So Long, Mr. Reiss...

**Pensacola News Journal – Florida...**  
23<sup>rd</sup> March 2009...  
Did You See A UFO?

**The Carroll County News – Arkansas...**  
24<sup>th</sup> March 2009...  
21st annual Ozark UFO Conference To Include  
Eight Lectures...

**The Sarasota Herald Tribune – Florida...**  
24<sup>th</sup> March 2009...  
More Yawns From The MoD...

**The Durango Telegraph – Colorado...**  
25<sup>th</sup> March 2009...  
Destination Aztec...

**The Sarasota Herald Tribune – Florida...**  
26<sup>th</sup> March 2009...  
Hoaxers Are Getting Boring...

**The Colorado Springs Gazette...**  
27<sup>th</sup> March 2009...  
UFO Investigator Finds Mystery At CO Springs  
Park...

**The Middletown Journal – Ohio...**  
29<sup>th</sup> March 2009...  
Kept 30 Years, Supposed UFO Piece Now 'For  
Sale'...

**The Farmington Daily Times - New Mexico...**  
29<sup>th</sup> March 2009...  
Plenty Of True Believers At 2009 UFO Symposium...

**Sarasota Herald Tribune – Florida...**  
30<sup>th</sup> March 2009...  
Depends On How You 'Say' It

**The Galena Gazette – Illinois...**  
31<sup>st</sup> March 2009...  
UFO Convention Set For Galena...

**The Los Angeles Times Magazine – California...**  
April 2009...  
The Road To Area 51...

**Sarasota Herald Tribune – Florida...**  
2<sup>nd</sup> April 2009...  
Close Call At SAC Base...

**The Parsippany Daily Record - New Jersey...**  
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**The Galena Gazette – Illinois...**

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FAA Looks Into What Pilot Saw Over Liberty...

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UFO Sightings Raise Familiar Question: Are We  
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Swedish Association Opens 'World's Largest' UFO  
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**Cheesefoot Head, Hampshire - 20th June 1994**



There have, of course, been other UFO-related hoaxes over the years. For example, British UFO researcher Philip Mantle recently reported that he'd been the victim of a hoax involving a fabricated laboratory report and the misappropriation of an American scientist's name.<sup>5</sup>

### The crop formation controversy

As well as having been home to the Warminster UFO flap, Wiltshire has been the setting for a large number of crop formations (CFs) since the 1970s, although some commentators have suggested that *all* complex CFs are man-made. In Chapter 4 of his well-illustrated book *Vital Signs*, Andy Thomas disputes this.<sup>6</sup> He states that about 10 per cent of each season's CFs are claimed as hoaxes, but no more than an average of three per cent of any year's CFs can actually be *proven* to be man-made. He asserts that people who have claimed CFs to be their own work have rarely provided any evidence of their skills, and have seldom given a credible motive for their alleged efforts. Mostly, he notes, alleged hoaxes aren't witnessed by anyone, and the alleged activity is very rarely filmed. He states that surprisingly few traces of hoaxing are found, and that on occasions when CFs have appeared in a lineless canvass, or between tractor marks, entry marks haven't been visible. He claims that there's evidence that some people want to promote the notion of hoaxing in order to debunk the CF phenomenon.

On the other hand, Matthew Williams, who became involved in CF research in 1992, and who eventually became a CF-maker himself, claims that there's a calculated effort on the part of hardcore crop circle believers "to deny the existence of human crop circle makers and to stop the spread of their information".<sup>7</sup> For his part, Thomas (*op. cit.*, p. 158) notes that in respect of CFs that appear overnight, there would be insufficient hours of darkness during the summer months to provide cover for people to create some of the large and highly complex CFs. He refers (*ibid.*, pp. 158-159) to a large formation that appeared at Stonehenge in 1996 within about 45 minutes, in daylight hours. "Even here," he states, "the sceptics deny to the last, preferring to believe the formation was visible all day, but only noticed at teatime, despite the testimony of those who *know* it wasn't there before then."

Although Thomas and Williams take opposite positions on the extent to which CFs are man-made, they agree that anomalous phenomena sometimes occur within them. For example, Thomas (*ibid.*, p. 140) relates that Derek Carvell and some friends carried out some experiments in July 1995 involving a CF at Winterbourne Bassett in Wiltshire. Over three nights, around 1.00 a.m., a digital stop-watch was placed inside the CF. An identical, synchronized stop-watch was left in a car. On the first and second nights, the stop-watch in the CF gained 31 and 21 minutes

respectively, while on the third night it *lost* four minutes. Thomas doesn't say whether Carvell and his friends carried out any control experiments (e.g. leaving a stop-watch overnight in a field of *undisturbed* crop, to see whether it, too, would gain or lose time). Matthew Williams claims to have been given "countless tales of UFO activity and even strange synchronicities which took place in [...] manmade crop circles, and which made the crop circle makers wonder if they were being influenced by a higher, guiding hand" (quoted by Redfern, *op. cit.*, p. 50).

### Notes

<sup>1</sup> Dewey, S. and Ries, J. (2006). *In Alien Heat: The Warminster Mystery Revisited*. San Antonio, Texas: Anomalist Books.

<sup>2</sup> Shuttlewood, A. (1976). *The Warminster Mystery*. London: Tandem. (First published in 1967.)

<sup>3</sup> See: <http://magonia.haaan.com/2009/ufo-hoaxing/>

<sup>4</sup> Observers may have misjudged the wind direction in the immediate vicinity of the balloons.

<sup>5</sup> See: [http://www.outtahear.com/beyond\\_updates/Mantle/Case%20Files/Anomalies%20in%20the%20New%20Mexico%20Desert/Anomalies%20in%20the%20New%20Mexico%20Desert\\_update.html](http://www.outtahear.com/beyond_updates/Mantle/Case%20Files/Anomalies%20in%20the%20New%20Mexico%20Desert/Anomalies%20in%20the%20New%20Mexico%20Desert_update.html)

<sup>6</sup> Thomas, A. (2002). *Vital Signs*. Seaford, East Sussex: S. B. Publications.

<sup>7</sup> Quoted by Nick Redfern on p. 49 of his book *There's Something in the Woods* (San Antonio, Texas: Anomalist Books, 2008).

Orbs captured during the Southampton UFO Group Skywatch in the New Forest (Hampshire) 1st August 2004.



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**The Daily Telegraph...  
27<sup>th</sup> May 2009...**

**Dozens Report Seeing UFOs Over Merseyside...**

They claimed to have seen glowing orange lights moving slowly across the sky between 10.30 pm and 11 pm on Sunday evening.

Sightings were reported from Southport to South Liverpool, and at spots including Ainsdale, Garston and Mossley Hill.

All had seen up to four glowing, orange-red balls hovering in the sky some time between 10.30 pm and 11 pm.

An air traffic control source said similar lights had been witnessed previously in the north west - but had failed to appear on radar.

Jackie Hardaker, of Mossley Hill, said: "They were like red balls, they looked like fire and when planes went past they just dimmed.

They went past the window and just faded. When I looked out again one went across Rose Lane and dropped something that looked like fire.

It was so interesting to watch them but at the time it totally freaked me out."

Other callers also reported an object dropping from one of the lights, describing it "as if a plastic bag was on fire".

Phil Daley also saw something similar from Allerton Road at the same time. "They appeared similar to stars, but were much brighter," he said,

As they passed over us, each light appeared to be made up of either two or three smaller lights.

I initially assumed they must be satellites since their arc suggested an orbit, but I was surprised at the speed and pace which they moved across the sky."

They were photographed by Liverpool Echo's head of images, Barrie Mills.

"Apparently there have been quite a few sightings of these orange lights in recent years," said Mr Mills,

I was indoors watching the TV, with the lights on, so the light in the sky had to be quite bright for me to notice it at all."

Another witness described three orange lights appearing to move slowly in formation from South East to North West.

One then remained stationary for several minutes before heading in the opposite direction.

The Ministry of Defence said that although it is not unknown for military aircraft to fly across Merseyside, it would not speculate on the cause of the lights.

Mike Howell, air traffic services manager for Liverpool John Lennon Airport, said: "We have checked and are not able to associate the reports with any aircraft movements at Liverpool at those times."

A coastguard source speculated that any orange glow could be attributed to the annual Eta Aquarids meteor shower. Liverpool-born UFO expert John Rimmer said it was a "rule of thumb" that mysterious lights in the sky generally turn out to be floating Chinese lanterns.

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