

UFO DATA MAGAZINE

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INCORPORATING
UFO MONTHLY



*Police Helicopter
Reports Near Miss With UFO...*



**UFO DATA MAGAZINE
INTERNATIONAL UFO
CONFERENCE**

DETAILS INSIDE

THE UK'S ONLY DEDICATED UFO MAGAZINE

UFO DATA MAGAZINE

May-June 2008



We receive many letters and emails from our readers telling us just how much they appreciate the work done by UFO DATA in keeping a published record of events pertaining to the UFO and associated subjects.

We thank you for your support. However, have you ever stopped and wondered just what is involved in producing a professionally-printed magazine such as this on the tightest of imaginable budgets.

In our last issue we offered a gift to our readers who introduced a new subscriber to the magazine and this offer is still valid, but we really do need your support. Over recent months we have faced a substantial increase in publishing costs, almost 20% since the first magazine back in January 2007 and with the last issue postage has increased by another 10%.

Nobody at the magazine receives wages and it takes a monumental effort by all involved to produce each issue.

The above costs plus increases in fuel, services and all the other things mean we need more subscribers to be able to continue in the way we started.

Please tell your friends about **UFO DATA Magazine** but don't lend them your copy tell them to subscribe and ask them to do it today.

After such a serious note I can tell you that once again TV com-

panies and documentary makers have been visiting UFO DATA and its contributors as another batch of UFO documentaries seem to be on the horizon. Specifically, a documentary about police officers could well be the first new programme for a while. It is in production for Channel 5 so it will be available to all without subscription.

Finally, we find another lull in reports. After the excitement in the press at the start of the year with events on Mars and the Stephenville sightings, things have been a little quiet. Unless you know where to look that is.

Look no further as once again we scour the newspapers and worldwide web to keep you up to date with all things ufological in this May-June issue of **UFO DATA Magazine**.

Russel Callaghan (Editor).

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NEGATIVE THINKING

actually happened.

One of the oldest stories in the Bible is that of Noah and his saving all life on Earth from the Great Flood. Ark

I feel it fair to say that to the uninformed the possibility of mankind having involvement with species and technology from another world can be a little hard to accept. That one response by both science and the general public alike, 'Where is the proof?' stands pretty tall in any debating circle.

Let's put the boot on the other foot for a while and look at the sceptics' view point.

There have been, as we are all aware, several incidents over our recent history that we as believers grasp firmly in both hands to offer as our 'proof positive' that there is something to this subject that, in our minds, convinces us as ufologists that the subject has firm ground and is indeed a reality.

By looking at the actual proof are we putting our stance with that of those who have absolute proof in the existence of God, for instance? Like us, the church has only its faith as proof that events depicted in the scriptures

investigators have had one or two moments of attention over the years, where claims that remnants of the wreck of Noah's great vessel have been discovered atop Mount Ararat in Turkey, but if we take the story literally, is it conceivable that a man from our distant past was able to construct a ship of such strength and size that would do the job in question? And as for taking two of everything with him on his family's great escape leaves little to the imagination.

There are thousands of different species alive on this planet that we know date back to well before the time of Noah and to be able to capture, house and feed them for any length of time at sea would need a vessel of enormous proportions. Probably a hundred times bigger than anything we have ever built to this day and it would have to be built from timber and crafted with hand tools. As another point of interest let's remember that only a few of the world's species lived in the Near East, but yet believers in the story accept that the whole population apart from those on the Ark perished when the whole world flooded.

There is probably some truth in the story of Noah, but retellings will have turned a truthful account into a legend within a couple of generations and the thousands of years that have since passed will have totally rewritten the account of what really happened.

Likewise, one of the only hands-on artefacts that give some credibility to the existence of Jesus Christ had been declared a fake until science



threw doubt on its own method of proving the same fake. I am referring to the Shroud of Turin.

Even so, if the Shroud can be dated back to AD 30-50 it will only prove that it was from the same time as Christ, not that it once adorned the body of the Son of God. Imagine when we have all been long gone and an archaeologist digs up a piece of Bacofail somewhere in New Mexico in, say, the year 4050. Are claims going to be made that this foil came from a crashed flying saucer 20000 years ago?

The Shroud is truly a remarkable relic and without devoting a couple of hundred pages to it, we can barely start to evaluate the is it or isn't it debate. What the Shroud has in religious terms is far more credibility than we ufologists have ever come up with as proof of our claims. Isn't it?

The world's population over the last ten or so years has had access to more instant photographic and filming equipment than ever before.

UFO reports still grace the inside pages of newspapers and even make the odd television news broadcast, but with this world full of technology, we are still crying out for our own Turin Shroud. Can we honestly believe that there are platoons of disinformation agencies lurking around all major population areas ready to





strike the minute a UFO sighting has the slightest bit of credibility or that individuals are suppressed into denying seeing anything or handing over all their proof to some bullying sergeant or black-coated man from the ministry?

Look at the evidence.

Some ufologists are quick to accept as solid proof the minute a story breaks because it has film or photographic evidence or simply because the person reporting it is of the professional observer squad i.e. a policeman or a pilot.

If you or I can be labelled by the establishment a crank or nutter using some of the nicer vernacular, then why shouldn't a pilot or policeman be assessed in the same way?

The evidence within a UFO case is one of two things.

Recorded or circumstantial.

Circumstantial evidence is hard to corroborate, as we only have the word of the witnesses, but that's not to say we can't rationally investigate the claims.

If an object is reported either in daylight or night-time hours, there are certain checks that can be made which enable a researcher to eliminate known objects that were visible in the observer's view.

The internet is a source of much useful data as to what is flying in our skies.

You can check local airport arrivals and departures. You can check for

orbiting hardware above our planet and also the celestial view for a particular time and date. If you have an aero club close by, then they might be worth calling to check their

departures etc.

Some researchers will place contact adverts in local papers, even the notice board in the local shop is a place to try, however, one has to be careful not to pre-empt answers from overactive minds.

If the evidence is recorded and you have access to the film or photograph, it is always useful to either view the film in its entirety with the witness or check out all the frames of photographic exposures either on the roll of film or off the digital camera source.

Many pieces of evidence are de-sanitized by simply copying the bit that the film maker found interesting. As a researcher you need to view the full film. Where does the object come from? What's on the film immediately before or after the sighting? If you don't check this out, you could easily miss a vital clue.

These simple rules should apply to all UFO reports and all witnesses. If someone is trying to pull the wool over someone's eyes, a good investigator will spot it a mile away, but by being assertive in your viewing of the evidence you will gain the confidence of the genuine experiencer but not necessarily the hoaxer.

I truly believe, though, that the UFO community is its own worst enemy when it comes to publicising reports. From news broadcasts on local TV and radio to accounts in documentaries, it is often said that the programme producers get their say in the way that accounts are reported.

Why is this?

Simple really. We don't present the evidence in a professional manner.

Believe you me, if you leave gaps in a story, the producers will fill them in. In general, TV and radio producers know very little about the subject, so the gaps are filled with what they do know: that there isn't any evidence to back up the claim so it must be misidentification, weather balloons, kites, aircraft or even the planet Venus.

If you investigate a case or your own experience then make sure you can back it up.

That way it becomes far more difficult to debunk a story and a case can gain the respect which in some cases it deserves, but don't, for goodness sake, present information that you yourself have doubts about.

Checking the internet and making a phone call here and there can add so much credibility to our cause.

When you're asked by a researcher or interviewer about what evidence there is to back up any claims of UFO or alien visitation, have your six-shooter loaded and quote some of the classics where research has proven that what was seen was not the norm'. Take charge of the conversation yourself and don't find yourself being dragged down the path of ridicule.

Quite simply, don't just go out there with the first piece of evidence that comes your way.

Research, investigate, collate and finally present.

There are still many valid sightings made each year and I personally am sure that far too many of these simply slip away.

One of Dr David Clarke's simple rules can be applied to all UFO sightings: 'If it quacks and waddles it's probably a duck'.

The day will come when we will be able to say once and for all:

"I told you so."

Russel Callaghan

Phoenix Lights Return?

Steve Johnson reports

Phoenix, March 13, 1997
Amateur video by Mike Krysten

April UFOs or April UFOols!?

2008 has been a busy year for ufology. In January, we had the sightings in Stephenville, Texas. Shortly afterwards, there was the alleged meeting at the United Nations about the UFO enigma and forthcoming disclosure. In April, reports of strange lights above Phoenix, Arizona, were flashed across the globe by an apparently UFO-hungry media. Shortly afterwards, there was a report from Maryland of an arrest being made concerning what were thought to be UFO sightings.

On April 21st, several online news sites reported that 'red lights' of 'unknown origin' were spotted over Phoenix, Arizona. Photographs and video footage followed shortly afterwards.

The *Arizona Republic* said: "Civilian and military aviation organizations said Tuesday the source of the strange red lights spotted over Phoenix Monday night remained unknown. An official with the North American Aerospace Defense Command, which monitors the skies

for security threats, said Tuesday the organization did not know where the lights came from.

"Ian Gregor, a spokesman for the Federal Aviation Administration said that though air traffic controllers at Sky Harbor Airport witnessed the lights, they do not know the cause. Nothing appeared on radar and Gregor said the FAA will not be investigating.

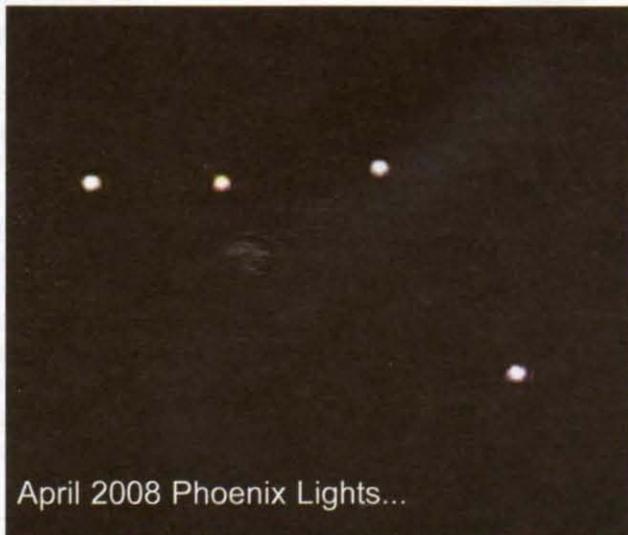
""There's nothing to look into," Gregor said.

"Several Valley residents reported seeing strange red lights in the sky on Monday night.

"*Arizona Republic* reporter Anne Ryman, who lives in Deer Valley, reported seeing four lights in a square shape that eventually became a triangular shape. The lights were moving to the east and they disappeared one by one. She said the lights were visible for about 13 minutes at about 8 p.m.

"One north Phoenix resident, who wished to remain anonymous, said he saw four or five red lights lined up in a straight line and spaced apart evenly. The lights slowly moved east and became dimmer as the witness watched. He said the last light remained in the sky the longest. Then three jets came from the west and travelled in the direction of the red lights.

"An official from Luke Air Force Base stated that they did not have any aircraft in the sky Monday night and that the lights were not part of any Air Force activities.



April 2008 Phoenix Lights...

"The Deer Valley airport officials said that the lights were not from any aircraft at that airport.

"Ian Gregor, a spokesman for the Federal Aviation Administration said that air traffic controllers at Sky Harbor Airport also witnessed the lights, but they do not know the cause." ¹

Soon afterwards it was claimed that the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) had ordered Air Traffic Control (ATC) operators not to speak about anything they might have seen over Phoenix on April 21st. The *Phoenix New Times* reported:

"Air traffic controllers in the main tower of Phoenix Sky Harbor International Airport saw last night's bizarre spectacle of red lights flying across North Valley skies, but the Federal Aviation Administration won't let them talk to the media.

"Ian Gregor, FAA regional spokesman, says the agency's policy won't allow controllers to comment even if they want to relate their experience.



Lights over Phoenix also re-appeared in June 2005.

The UFO lights were filmed on the evening of June 7th, 2005 on the outskirts of Phoenix, Arizona.

You can see several flashes in different locations that last for several seconds apiece, and then what appears to be a string of many lights that flash in a pattern. Similar to the events that happened in March 1997 called the "Phoenix Lights"

Even though the film is a little grainy and low quality, it's not bad and does have a point-of-reference. If you didn't know any better, you'd think it was anti-aircraft flak, but it's over Phoenix.

"Gregor confirmed that "several" air traffic controllers in the tower saw the staggered formation of mysterious lights moving in the sky, apparently over North Phoenix. He says he heard that second-hand, though-the tower's manager told him about it.

"The controllers didn't consider the source of the lights to be a hazard, because nothing was popping up on radar, Gregor says."

The article added: "Yet it seems clear air traffic controllers could offer a professional description of the UFOs, since they are, presumably, experts at spotting distant aircraft. Their guesses at the altitude, distance, speed and physical nature (if any) of the UFOs would carry more weight than those of the average skywatcher.

"Gregor won't budge, though. "This has nothing to do with the FAA," he says." ²

The next day, John Faherty of the *Arizona Republic* wrote: "The lights were seen by, among others, a Phoenix police-helicopter pilot, air-traffic controllers and a reporter. There was even an extended video-tape.

"But the lights were a mystery. A mystery that generated a lot of interest.

"By Tuesday afternoon, there were 125,000 page views of the story on *azcentral.com*, 600,000 page views on the photographs and 40,000 viewings of the video."

He went on: "The mystery couldn't be answered by civilian or military authorities.

"And perhaps, although this would have to be considered fairly unlikely, they were spaceships piloted by aliens.

"The North American Aerospace Defense Command, which monitors the skies for security threats, said the organization did not know where the lights came from.

"Luke Air Force Base officials said that they didn't have any aircraft in the sky Monday night and that the lights were not part of any Air Force activities.

"No agency thought it necessary to investigate the matter." ³

A short time later, it seemed that the mystery was solved, but, as we shall see later, the mystery only deepened. It was reported that somebody called Lino Mailo saw his neighbour launching helium balloons with traffic flares attached on the night in question. The *Arizona Republic* said:

"Lino Mailo, 44, said he saw his neighbour launch several helium balloons with flares attached to them from the back porch of his north Phoenix home. Mailo said the balloons took off about 8 p.m., right before the mysterious lights were spotted.

"It's pretty tricky, because the higher the balloons get, the harder it is to tell what they are," Mailo said.

"A helicopter pilot with the Phoenix police department who was flying last night also saw the objects and said they appeared to simply be some flares hanging from helium balloons. Mailo said he has no idea why his neighbour released the balloons, but he regrets not filming the act.

"I feel bad for the people freaking out about this," Mailo said. "I could've put this whole thing to rest." ⁴

Despite having a witness to a man launching flares into the sky, a possibly very dangerous activity, as traffic flares burn with extreme heat for several minutes, local law enforcement agencies said that they were not going to investigate any further. Bill Knell followed up the case and wrote in an article on *OpEd News*:

"Just a day after the lights were spotted, the *Arizona Republic* newspaper reported that Phoenix resident Lino Mailo claimed his neighbour launched several helium balloons with flares on them. Lino says the balloons went up in the sky from his neighbour's yard around 8pm on Monday night. A Phoenix Police Helicopter Pilot also says that he saw what he believed were helium balloons with flares hanging from them. Despite these claims, there are some problems with the helium balloons explanation.

"After hearing the hoax story, I contacted a friend who lives in Phoenix. He agreed to try and reach Mailo or his neighbours. Since the article came out on Tuesday, attempts to contact Lino Mailo have failed. He does not answer his door and his neighbour wasn't home when my friend stopped by on two occasions. In fact, people living two houses down from Mailo say that they know Lino's next store neighbour and he was not home on Monday night.

They claim they were out in their own backyard that evening and would have seen balloons with flares being launched. They also agreed to ask him about the flare story when they next see or speak with him." He concluded: "Apart from the holes in the hoax story, the FAA issues and Luke Air Force Base denials that jets were in the air when residents living near Luke say jets taking off, there are other things that point to the fact that strange lights have been back over Phoenix for some time. All told, there have been hundreds of reports about strange lights and unidentified objects in the Phoenix area since the original March 13, 1997 infamous 'Phoenix Lights' event. Many of the reports include photos, video, and come from credible witnesses." ⁵

So, were these lights all down to a prankster's hoax or is the hoax story itself a hoax?

On April 30th, an *Associated Press* report went out concerning an arrest made in connection with lights and 'explosions' witnessed in Pikesville, Maryland. It read:

"Mysterious middle-of-the-night blasts and flashes of light had residents puzzled for months - and now a man has been charged with fireworks-related violations.

"Frederick Lee Mackler, 59, was being held on \$1 million bail, facing charges of possession of fireworks without a permit, reckless endangerment and controlled dangerous substance violations.

"Neighbours said they had heard the noises repeatedly since September, always between midnight and dawn and accompanied by bright flashes. Neighbour Barbara Friedman said

the first time she heard the blast she thought someone was shooting at her.

"Utility workers had ruled out electrical problems or gas leaks that could explain the problem.

"Police had also looked in vain for burn marks on the ground." ⁶

Curiously, even though no mention of UFOs are made in the article, the headline clearly uses it to garner more hits!

On May 1st, the *Reporter-Herald*, a Colorado newspaper and website, told of more red lights in the sky: "Mary Aldrich still is hoping to find an explanation for the bright red orbs she spotted in the sky Sunday night.

"She would love to hear they were a balloon or a flare or even just a prank.

"But so far, no one can tell her exactly what the strange lights were.

"For Aldrich, they remain unidentified flying objects.

"I would love an explanation," the 61-year-old said. "But I don't have any hopes of getting one."

"Aldrich was getting her mail at her south Loveland home about 8:45 Sunday night when she glanced out the night sky and saw something strange: two red lights floating side-by-side.

"Bright as halogen lights, the orbs were diamond-shaped, although she couldn't see any shape beyond the vibrant light.

"Watching the objects intently, Aldrich saw the two orbs begin to glide in unison, staying perfectly spaced.

"It looked very foreign to me," she said.

"There was no sound, no smoke, no trail - there was nothing. They didn't belong there."

"She grabbed a friend - who wished not to be identified - and they

watched as two more orbs joined the group and began gliding in unison.

"Another pair followed, making a perfectly spaced cluster of six.

"Aldrich had been watching them for about 13 minutes when a single light swept near the group.

"The entire cluster quickly moved from the northwest to southeast.

"Then they disappeared." ⁷

Will a hoaxer be blamed for this latest sighting? The headline clearly asks that question. Is this a new weapon in the arsenal of debunkers and the disinformation camp? Distract attention away from UFO reports by producing hoaxers?

It is odd that only a few weeks after there was widespread interest in the reports that the UN is considering a disclosure program, we have a collection of UFO stories, closely linked with hoaxes. Is there some kind of 'back room' war going on between those people who want the UFO subject out in the open and those that want it kept in the dark?

These are interesting times.

SJ

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7 - http://www.reporterherald.com/news_story.asp?ID=16506 - UFO sighting or just a prank?

Local newspaper publishes UFO photographs...

Kevin Paterson is a reporter for *The Ayrshire Weekly Press* and also a keen UFO enthusiast. He has shared several reports with us over the years and contacted UFO DATA for a comment on a report that was accompanied with a couple of half-decent photographs.

The images have featured on a couple of websites and even made it across the Atlantic.

There is a short video sequence online at the following URL:



<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xJZpJQry2sc>

My comments to Kevin were as follows:

Thanks for pointing me at the footage and the images.

What is it?

Firstly, I think we say what it isn't. I don't think we are looking at regular aircraft. The visible lights don't cor-

respond with regular aircraft lights. Neither do we see any structure associated with the light formation.

This leads me to suspect that what we are seeing are four individual light sources and that whatever the objects are, are what we see, four illuminated spheres.

The UFO subject has been plagued over recent years with observations by unsuspecting witnesses of Thai lanterns, paper balloons with a heat source attached underneath, turning it into a small hot-air balloon. These can be bought easily via the internet and make a great party gimmick. They can burn for 20-plus minutes, developing considerable lift, thus propelling the balloons to fairly impressive altitudes.

Although the film clip is short, you don't get the impression of powered movement. They seem to just hang there.

It could well be that our sharp-eyed observers have captured just that, a formation of Thia lanterns.

It could, however, be something entirely different, but without more evidence to go on, we have to use the knowledge available to us to make decisions.

From what I have seen so far, I think we have the culprit.

If one or more of the objects had darted off at breakneck speed. like so often described by witnesses, then I think we would be looking at another explanation but not this time.

Great video, though, to show when you have friends round for a beer.

The sighting was reported thus:

TWO Herald readers have been stunned after seeing what they believe to be alien space crafts hovering through the skies of Saltcoats.

Alex Gibb, 34, had been sitting in his home on Saughtree Avenue when he spotted the four strange lights at around 9pm.

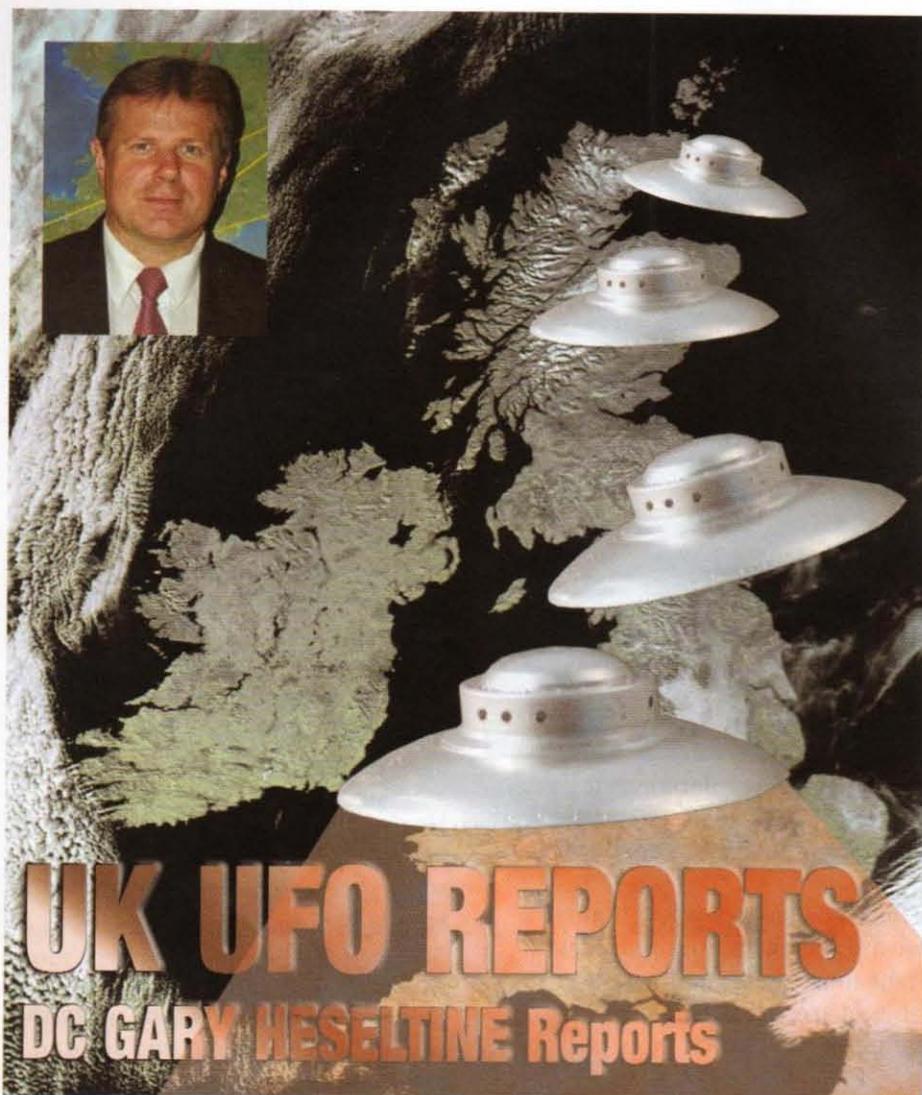
He doesn't believe in UFOs and so he went outside to investigate and took some shocking footage which can be seen below.

Alison Kelly was in Adams Road in Saltcoats at the same time when she saw the unusual sight and she and her family were gobsmacked at the sight.

UFO DATA is grateful to Kevin for sharing this story and respect all copyright on the story and images.

Russel Callaghan





We cover the fact that the attitude towards the UFO subject can be negative when it comes to media reporting in most issues - it is a fact of life.

But, as researchers into the subject and publishers of the only dedicated journal to the subject in this country, we know that interest in the subject still has its reasons to be positive.

Co-editor of the magazine, Detective Constable Gary Heseltine, scours the internet and news reports every issue to bring together a collection of recent reports and sightings....

UK SIGHTINGS

April 10th 2008 :

Location: Towards Kirkhamgate Wakefield UK
Date: 10/04/08
Time: 10.00pm
Number of witnesses: 2
Number of objects: 2
Shape of objects: 3 red triangle shape lights and 1 white oval shape
Weather Conditions: Fine

Description:

There were 3 stationary very red bright lights in a triangle shape and to the left a large oval shape white coloured. This oval was as if through the cloud and was making movements at high speed then disappearing and appearing in another position then back to the first position.

This was not a helicopter or plane, and there was no sound. Suddenly the white shape sped off at speed Southwards and the red lights sped off after it.

TV/Radio: Have not heard any reports.

April 12th 2008 :

Location: Honiton, Devon
Date: 12 April
Time: 22.45
Number of witnesses: 4
Number of objects: 1
Shape of objects: Circular/Oval
Weather Conditions: clear.

Description:

Might run in conjunction with sight-

ing in Seaton - driving along A35 into Honiton we noticed a bright orange light that appeared to be just above some trees, as we drove passed these trees it was now much higher.

We pulled in as did the car behind us and watched it travel north easterly over a local tv mast before eventually fading. It looked to be flame like and from looking at the UFO balloon site could be one of these, although at first glance it appeared bigger.

April 12th 2008 :

Location: Stoke Bishop, Bristol. U.K.
Date: Saturday 12th April
Time: approx 9.15pm
Number of witnesses: 2
Number of objects: at least a dozen, maybe 15
Shape of objects: round
Weather Conditions: evening sky, a little cloud. Sun had gone down, but still some light to the west.

Description:

My friend and I were driving home along the Shirehampton Road, in the Sea Mills direction. It was about 9.15pm. Just before reaching my turning I noticed a series of orange lights coming over the horizon.

At first we thought they were fireworks, but when we realized they were not fizzling out and that there were more appearing we pulled over to get a better look.

We both watched as one after another passed above the Kingsweston tree line.

These objects were round and orange, and glowed like street lamps. They could have been mistaken for a constellation if they had not so obviously been moving, and quite quickly too. They appeared in ones, twos and threes but not in any particular order.

By the time we had reached my house the last few were vanishing into the darkening sky. They had come from the west, and moved in a direct way in a north easterly direction. They did not pass across as a plane might, in that you could follow it's course across the night sky. Instead they faded away, so they must have been going up as there was no cloud in that area just clear

sky and stars. I've never seen anything like this, the consistency in which these lights moved, the orange colour and the number seemed so unlike planes or helicopters. I knew we could not have been the only people to see this.

TV/Radio: I emailed the Bristol Evening Post, but have had no reply.

April 12th 2008 :

Location: Lawrence Weston, Bristol, UK.

Date: 12 April 2008

Time: 2100-2130

Number of witnesses: 5

Number of objects: approx 20+

Shape of objects: Round-ish

Weather Conditions: Clear night.

Description:

Large number of orange roundish lights seemingly flying west to east. Appearing in several waves.

UFOINFO Note: As with other similar reports I asked the witness to have a look at the UFO Balloons website to see if this is what might have been seen and received the following reply:

Hi John, thanks for getting back, This could of been what we seen but on a much larger scale, and they were being propelled not just drifting. The wind last night wasn't strong enough to make them move at the speed they were going. I live in Seamills, Bristol, UK and these were spotted flying over Lawrence Weston, very high up. Hope this helps.

April 12th 2008 :

Location: Seaton, Devon, England

Date: 12 April 2008

Time: 2235

Number of witnesses: 6

Number of objects: 10

Shape of objects: gold coloured

lights with no defined shape

Weather Conditions: clear and calm.

Description:

There were up to 10 gold lights rising very slowly from the what seemed like the top of the cliff at Beer Head. They formed no distinct or unformed pattern. There was no sound and they were rising too slowly to be fireworks. They appeared to be inside the

Cameraphone photo from 'Beerhead Nr Devon'...

atmosphere as I estimated their height to be around two to three thousand feet and as they got to what appeared to be above my head they simply disappeared.

TV/Radio: I reported the sighting to the BBC in Devon.

UFOINFO Note: As with other similar reports I asked the witness to have a look at the UFO Balloons website to see if this is what might have been seen and received the following reply:

Hi John
I'm pretty sure what I saw wasn't the balloons as they didn't flicker like they had a flame inside them and their movement was much different. I have attached a picture I took with a mobile phone ... its not very good but it's the best I could do.

April 12th 2008 :

Location: Stoke on Trent, United Kingdom

Date: 12th April 2008

Time: 9.05 pm

Number of witnesses: 3

Number of objects: approximately 15

Shape of objects: round, pale orange

Weather Conditions: clear night.

Description:

We were travelling in our car out of Stoke on Trent about 9.05 pm when we noticed a series of round orange lights in the sky in a straight row.

At first we thought they were lights from the top of a crane, but then they moved slowly and were spread quite

far apart. There was about 15 lights, which gradually disappeared, till 2 were left, which moved then faded away. We watched this for about 2 minutes.

UFOINFO Note: As with other similar reports I asked the witness to have a look at the UFO Balloons website to see if this is what might have been seen and received the following reply:

Thanks for your reply. I looked at the ufo balloon link with video footage you sent and came to the conclusion that the 15 or so orange lights we saw were most probably that. How disappointing, thinking we had see some ufo spectacular in the sky.

April 17th 2008 :

Location: Barnstaple - North Devon England

Date: April 17, 2008

Time: Approx 9.30 p.m.

Description:

Just out of interest. I thought I'd let you know that something's being going on in our skies here tonight. Approx 9.30pm tonight, I was sat watching TV when I had the weirdest feeling and our dog started to pace the room (I was in our kitchen/dining room at the rear of our house) I felt really weird, this feeling precipitated the next sensation/sound, which was almighty roaring of aircraft flying above our houses.

Our dog didn't bark, but started pacing around the room looking bothered and he whimpered a few

times. At first, I thought it was probably nothing very much to get alarmed about and thought that it was probably something to do with RAF Chivenor marine base.

I called to my husband to ask him what he thought it was. He commented that it was nothing very much, just practice for the military probably.

Then it started-up again, even louder this time. It sounded as though it was right above our roof! I got outside the back door as fast as I could, my husband followed me saying that it's probably RAF Chivenor doing some kind of training. (Over top of peoples homes?) We could clearly hear the roaring of jet aircrafts, however, we couldn't see anything - not a thing! We could see lots of "stars" as the sky was so clear and the moon was very bright, but we couldn't see any aircraft at all even though we could clearly hear them.

It was more than one aircraft, it just had to be, by the sounds we heard, either that, or one hell of a big aircraft of some kind! It went on for several minutes and then the whole sky seemed to come alive with the roaring. I didn't see any next-door neighbours looking out their windows.

I even went up stairs to look out the windows to see if anyone else was looking out with curiosity like I was, I couldn't see anyone at all. They probably all had the same opinion as my husband and so didn't even bother to look see.

Maybe my husband's right, maybe it was some kind of military exercise? It's just that I had such a weird feeling and our dog behaving like that was odd too, he's always ok when a helicopter fly's over nearby as it never bothers him. It was no way a helicopters, not making sounds like that!

There's something else I will tell you. In the very early hours of Wednesday morning, my husband decided to drive up to our local 24 hours grocery store, it's just up the road here from us, as he had realized that we had run out of milk, he wanted to go

buy some. My husband told me that something strange had happened on his way back from the store (it was still dark - only 3:30am. He told me that as he was approaching the round-about, the bonnet of the car had lit-up a violet/electric white blue colour, this light, he told me, was all across the road directly in front of the car.

He said that at first, he thought that it must be a police car driving up and reflecting lights ahead or an ambulance or some such emergency type vehicle.

However, he said he could hear no sounds of emergency sirens or anything, the road was completely empty, he had even got ready to pull-over in case an ambulance wanted to rush past him, as he was coming up to the traffic lights.

That's when he thought that it was very odd, as he checked in his mirrors, he could see absolutely no emergency vehicles, no other traffic on the roads at all, he then thought that he must be hallucinating or something, but quickly realized that it was in fact, very real, he said he then saw one vehicle on the road ahead in the distance from him.

It was a white Mercedes van, which he said he saw turning-off to his right. My husband said that after noticing the van driving down towards the town centre, that this violet/electric white blue light, that was lighting up the road directly in front of him had totally gone now.

I just thought that this might be of interest to you some way, and I have to say that I'm now wondering whether these two events may be linked in some way.

April 18th & 25th 2008 :

Location: Fenton Stoke on Trent
Date: 18th April 2008 and 25th April 2008

Time: 9.20pm

Number of witnesses: 2

Number of objects: 1 18th April and 1 on the 25th April

Shape of objects: Round with orange lights

Weather Conditions: Dry clear night.

Description:



Reconstruction.

Hovering in the sky not far from my house, the object suddenly disappeared and had a faint smoke shield near it.

This is the same type of image I saw on Friday night this week and Friday night the week before.

April 25th 2008 :

Location: Dorchester, Dorset, England

Date: April 25th 2008

Time: 8:30pm

Description:

On Friday 25th April at about 8:30pm my girlfriend and I were having a meal at the Imperial Garden Restaurant in Dorchester.

It was my 25th birthday and we had hired a cottage for the weekend for a break.

During the meal my mobile phone went off and I went outside to speak. I was halfway through a conversation with my father when a strange orange orb flew in front of me in a Northerly direction.

I would estimate the height as between 3/5000 ft. There was no noise that was discernible.

I told my father at the time of exactly what I had witnessed.

Looking at your picture of the incident in Fenton, March/April UFO DATA Magazine, the thing I saw appears to be the same thing.

April 25th 2008 :

Location: Harrogate, North Yorkshire, England

Date: April 25th 2008

Number of witnesses: Several

Number of objects: Apx 30

Description of objects:

Orange lights

I have received several e-mails and

phone calls regarding sightings on Saturday night last (April 25th). Many people in Harrogate, North Yorkshire report seeing approximately 30 orange lights fly over the town centre very close together. No sound was heard and the lights stayed in formation around the area of the Town Centre/Railway Station. Any reports from elsewhere?

Chris Bell
Programme Controller
97.2 Stray FM.

Although we are receiving regular reports of unknown objects being observed in the skies above the UK there seems to be an ongoing similarity in what people are reporting.

On the negative side I would suggest the most of these reports are of the UFO researcher's worst nightmare, Thai Lanterns.

However to play devil's advocate, what if these are unknown objects and we are just clutching at the lanterns for a simple explanation.

One would expect the remains of these floating lights to be discovered but this does not seem to be the case to date.

If, however, these are genuine unknowns, the only reports we are receiving are of night-time observations. Judging by the number of reports of 'orange lights in the sky' then there must be a lot of UFO activity going on and if we are experiencing a 'flap', then statistics alone would expect some of the sightings to be in daylight. Let's not forget at this time of the year, we only have about five hours of real darkness.

My gut instinct is that lanterns are indeed responsible for the bulk of these sightings, but the violet light experienced in one of these recent reports suggests something really weird was happening in that particular case.

More information is required but I am sure it will be forthcoming.

Russel Callaghan
UFO DATA.

Announcement

UFO DATA wish to apologise to all our readers for the delay in the publication of this issue. Due to circumstances beyond our control we were unable to confirm the printing of this issue on its normal day. We must thank our printer MPC for their understanding and help.

We would like to assure readers that the situation is now resolved and that printing and publication of the magazine will be in a more timely manner for future issues.

You are all aware that the magazine operates on a subscription only basis and is therefore unavailable anywhere else.

Over the next couple of issues we will be able to offer readers some brilliant exclusive merchandise that we hope you will enjoy, it is guaranteed to fill any UFO enthusiast's Christmas stocking or just a welcome gift for yourself or a friend.

A fully-illustrated brochure will appear in the next issue of *UFO DATA Magazine*.

We are also excited at the possibility of exclusive TV programmes, videos and documentaries becoming available to subscribers in a unique manner. More in the next issue...

WEBSITE

The UFO DATA website is also undergoing a rebuild to enable easier access to products and merchandise and that should be complete over the next few weeks.

Finally.

Please help promote UFO DATA at every opportunity. We need the subscribers. Remember, this is our only outlet and you are our best advertisement.

Please tell your friends and help promote this unique title.

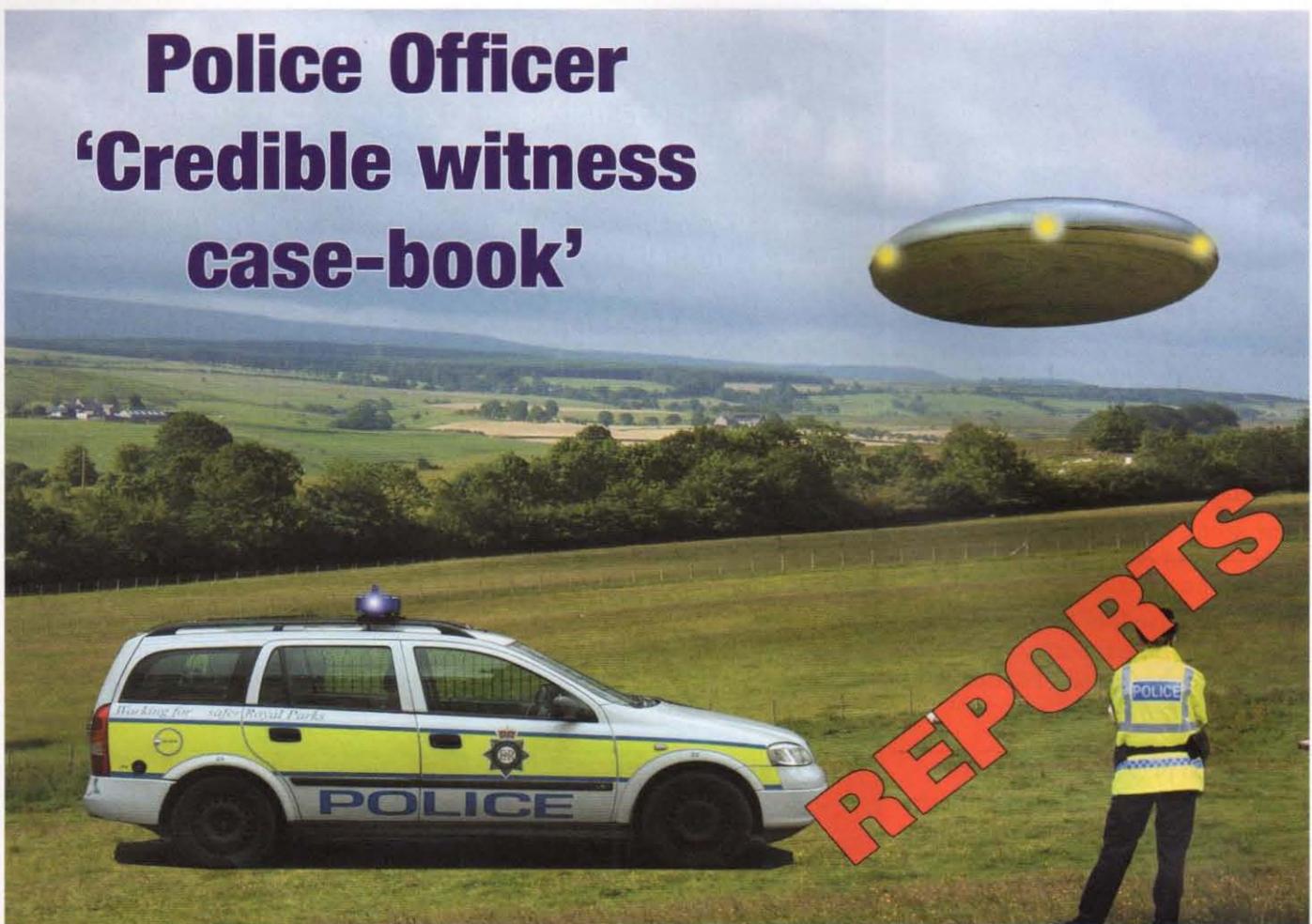
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Police Officer 'Credible witness case-book'



Hard work and accurate reporting has gained Gary Heseltine the trust of fellow police officers.

Gary has for several years compiled many reports from both serving and retired officers from police forces around the world.

As part of a regular feature in UFO DATA, Gary presents selected cases from his files.



THE LESTER STENNER POLICE UFO SIGHTING 1966

In my experience of television and radio interviews during the last six years of being an active UFO researcher, rarely do producers' promises to feed back information to you ever come to fruition.

However, in December, 2007, I was pleasantly surprised to find an exception to the rule.

In early December, I made a brief appearance on the BBC regional news programme, *Look North*, where I talked about my work with police officers who have witnessed UFO sightings.

A few days afterwards, I got a call out of the blue from the producer of the show, saying that two former police officers had rang into the studios asking for my contact information.

To my surprise, the man gave me the two officers contact telephone numbers and their names. Having thanked him, I then set about calling both numbers and spoke with the two men involved.

One was former West Yorkshire police officer, Patrick Tunney (his story is also featured in this issue), and the other was former Avon and Somerset officer PC Lester Stenner.

What follows is his remarkable UFO encounter.

Police Background

Lester Stenner is now 66 years old, having served in the Avon and Somerset police force (formerly the Somerset Constabulary) between 1961 and 1994, when he retired. At that point he became the Chief Constable's driver until March, 2007.

He remained a police constable throughout his 33 year police service career. His collar number was 153. He served at a number of places including Weston-Super-Mare and Taunton.

The Sighting

At 0300 hours, I cannot remember the exact day or date (1966), but possibly February, I was in company with PC 220 ANTHONY PURKISS.

I was driving a Ford Zephyr 6 patrol car along the A38 at Lulsgate Bottom, south towards the airport which was closed. We were in the dip between Potter Hill and the airport. We were just a few yards south of West Lane that leads to Felton Common and approximately 50 metres north of Downside (Brockley

Coombe Road) on our right with the 'Airport Tavern' (public house) on our right. (See photo 1).

Looking up the slope towards the airport and approximately 400 yards ahead of us and approximately 100 feet above the ground appeared a very vivid white and bluish light. It was approximately 100 yards across and 50 yards high, oval in shape, but blurred around the edges. I cannot say it looked like a flying saucer.

Within seconds, all the street lights went out, the lights of the patrol car went out as did the ignition of the car along with the car VHF radio. Within 10 seconds everything came on as if nothing had happened. When all the lights went out so did the light ahead and it went very cold.

When the lights came on, I remember we both looked at each other and said words to the effect of, "What the hell was that!?"

We drove off towards Bridgwater. As we passed the airport there were no lights on as it was only open between 0630-2130 hours in those days. I do not remember if I started the car after the lights went off and the engine stopped or if it started on its own. (See photo 2)



Photograph 1

We never told anyone of this experience because we thought everyone would think we were daft or had been drinking.

Although the light was very vivid it did not dazzle us. There are several houses in the vicinity but when all the lights went out there was only total darkness i.e. no moon or building lights.

There were no electricity sub-stations nearby or electric pylons and the object was nothing like a distress flare or similar.

To my knowledge there were no reports of explosions in the area at the time. We did enquire when we were next on duty in the Felton, Winford, Potters Hill area if anyone had seen or heard of anything unusual happening, without ever relating our story, but no information was obtained.

As with all the officers I talk to I ask them to complete one of my PRUFOS Police Database report forms as this often jogs memories and more information is obtained. I also speak on the telephone with the officers before and after I receive their report.

Here is some additional information arising from that process:

Additional Material

At the time of the sighting the weather was clear and dry.

The UFO was first seen looking due south from their location.

Significantly when probed Lester said the object simply 'appeared' from nowhere. They didn't see the direction it came from or to where it went. One second it was there and the next it was gone (this has flight characteristic has arisen in several other police sightings).



Photograph 2

The object was seen through the windscreen of the patrol vehicle.

Lester described the size of the UFO as being that of a large tin lid held at arms length.

Significantly neither officer heard any sound whatsoever as the object hovered in front of their vehicle.

After their sighting the officers talked about what they'd seen and sought out UFO documentaries to watch.

To this day Lester has told no-one about the sighting - not even his wife!

Sadly the only other person who can corroborate the sighting, PC PURKISS, died several years ago.

Lester rules out aircraft, helicopters, and any kind of atmospheric anomaly for what they saw.

In conclusion, given the size and shape and the flight characteristics of the object, Lester Stenner believes that the UFO must have been of extraterrestrial origin.

Note for photo 1 - Looking north from near airport entrance, approx position of light.

Note for photo 2 - Looking south from Potters Hill towards Bridgwater, our position when we saw the light.

During the last year I have spent time submitting a number of Freedom of Information requests regarding police UFO sightings to the MoD and on one occasion I got more than I bargained for - a batch of police sightings that I knew nothing about!

One of the most fascinating cases from that unexpected gift was one that involved several Kent police officers in 2003, in the area of Bromley, in Kent.

There are three things that make this case particularly interesting to me -

1. The involvement of the Kent police helicopter.
2. The way the MoD interpreted the sighting.
3. The case is supported by documentary evidence i.e. a number of official MoD documents.

Let's now look at the details of the sighting:

At 0225 hours on 17th November, 2003, two adults and a child reported seeing 20-30 red and white flashing lights in the sky above Bromley, Kent. Not only that, but they had heard a whirring coming from the objects and had even managed to capture the sighting on videotape!

They reported the sighting to the police and an officer was despatched

to the area to check out the events.

No doubt to the surprise of the police officer, a sergeant based at New Scotland Yard, he or she also witnessed the 20-30 red lights in the sky and by using a lamp-post to check the movement of the lights the officer was able to determine that the lights were indeed zig-zagging and turning across the night sky at speeds that were estimated to be faster than conventional aircraft (See Figure 1). The officer's sighting report is timed at 0330 hours.

The officer must have then advised Kent police control because we know that the Force was asked to check in the area for the strange lights. A short time later the Force police helicopter crew confirmed the sighting of the mysterious lights however they suggested that the lights were probably that of an inbound aircraft to LHR (London Heathrow). This event is confirmed in the second document about the incident (See Figure 2).

It is clear that Kent Police did check for aircraft in the area by contacting Swanwick Mil ATC who confirmed that the only aircraft in the area were at high altitude and not at the reported height witnessed by the public and the police officers. They also confirmed that there was no radar return in the area where the lights were being seen.

Handwritten at the bottom of the second document are some interesting additional details.

"Message left on DAS answerphone at 0534 hours Monday 17th by xxxxx of RAF Neatishead. UFO sighting details as above reported to Neatishead at 0400 hours by Swanwick ATC. The sighting was confirmed by the police and Scotland Yard reported it to Swanwick Mil. Police helicopter in the area thought they were aircraft approaching Heathrow but Swanwick say there were no such aircraft in the area."

Note also that the second document is dated and timed at 170612zNov 03. In lay terms at 0612 hours on 17 Nov 03.

Now let's look at the timeline of the events based on the two documents

The Bromley Police Helicopter

sighting...



mentioned so far:

0225 hours - 2 Adults 1 child report the sighting.

0330 hours - Attending officer also witnesses the lights and makes submits police/MOD report. Kent police report the incident to Swanwick Mil.

0400 hours - Swanwick Mil contact RAF Neatishead.

0534 hours - RAF Neatishead leave an answerphone message with DAS.

0612 hours - Follow-up UFO report submitted.

We now have a third MoD document to examine. Simply called 'Loose Minute' the document is highly significant to me (See Figure 3).

Dated 17 November 2003 it appears to have been made by someone in the D/Sec(AS)/64/2 office.

It reads:

CREDIBLE WITNESS REPORT
DATED 3 NOVEMBER 1999. (The date is clearly wrong and someone has handwritten the correct date 17 Nov 03).

"1. In line with our current policy, please find below a 'UFO' report which you may wish to be aware of. Although the report was originally from a member of the public, these lights were also seen by Police Officers and a Police helicopter crew. Swanwick and RAF Neatishead have also become involved. I would be grateful if you could let me know if the report represents anything of air defence interest."

DAS-Sec3

Now I do have one more document to present but that can wait for a minute while we digest the first three.

Several things leap out for me.

For example we clearly have a corroborated UFO sighting of multiple lights/objects seen by members of the public and the police. The public confirm having videotape evidence of the lights.

The police take it serious enough to alert the police helicopter crew who also witness the lights.

The police take the matter serious enough to contact Swanwick Mil ATC to check for aircraft in the area. They are told there are none in the relevant area.

Swanwick Mil are interested enough to contact RAF Neatishead who confirm that nothing was seen on radar in the area of the sighting report.

The incident is reported to Directorate of Air Staff who raise a minute sheet regarding a 'credible witness' report who then seek a response from D UK-SO1 AIR.

What the documents don't mention:

Given that the sighting is corroborated by police officers why do the documents make no mention of trying to seize the video tape of the incident?

If the helicopter crew observed the lights did they record footage of them?

Despite there being clear confirmation of an object or objects in the sky over Bromley why does no-one question why they weren't picked up on radar and try to determine what they were?

Now given the authenticity of the incident i.e. confirmed object(s) in the sky above Bromley you might be thinking that the response by D UK-SO1 AIR would have to regard the incident as a matter of 'defence significance' but you would be WRONG! (See Figure 4).

The last document dated 18 Nov 03 and to me it quite staggering in its implications for the security of the United Kingdom.

It reads:

"At Reference, you asked whether the report submitted by Sgt xxxxx from New Scotland Yard, through Plt Off xxxxx at CRC Neatishead, regarding '20-30 red flashing lights in the sky accompanied by a whirring noise' at 0225 hours on 17 Nov 03 at Bromley in Kent, represented anything of air defence interest. CRC Neatishead

have reviewed the radar tapes for the time period specified and other than routine air traffic in the area, nothing additional was detected in the area despite good radar coverage. Therefore, I can now confirm that the incident does not represent anything of air defence interest."

Signed on CHOTs

XXXXX
Wg Cdr
DUK SO1 Air Ops 2

Once again there is a handwritten annotation at the bottom of the document.

It reads:

Action:
Sgt xxxxx at New Scotland Yard not on duty. Message of outcome passed to control room. No details of the other people reporting this sighting so unable to reply direct. Police given my telephone number in case Sgt xxxxx wanted to contact me or pass us the address of those reporting the sighting.

19/11/03

My interpretation of the above is:

Unless it's on radar we aren't the slightest bit interested in what the object(s) were! You can pass us the details if you want to. Our minds our made up!

What!?! Surely they can't be serious? Why is no-one interesting in following up the leads?

Conclusion

The MoD's decision-making process of this incident and UFOs in general is quite staggering! Despite the fact that there was clearly an object or objects in the sky above Bromley during the early hours of 17th November 2003 they were not the slightest concerned. Why not?

Would they be saying that if terrorists had devised a new kind of aircraft that was radar invisible? I don't think so. No, I think their stance is based on some 60 years of research and knowledge of the subject.

I think it is not unreasonable to infer from this casual position that the reason why they are so unconcerned is because they are fully aware of UFOs and their unique characteristics (i.e. being able to evade radar for one) and have been for many years.

I believe the MoD know that the UFOs do not pose a direct threat to the British people and show no hostility. I have no doubt in the higher echelons of the MoD and the Armed Forces there are people who accept UFOs as a reality and of an extraterrestrial origin and literally do nothing because they know that they are powerless to do anything about them.

If ever there was a case that makes the MoD catchphrase 'OF NO DEFENCE SIGNIFICANCE' totally worthless, it is a case like this.

I intend to follow-up on the leads mentioned above and see what transpires.

Gary Heseltine
Co-Editor *UFODATA Magazine*
Founder of the PRUFOS Police Database

P1:1

Follow-up UFO Report - 170612z Nov 03

UFO report relayed to STCDO from the Duty Surveillance Officer [redacted] RAF Nantishead who had received the report from [redacted] [redacted] has also passed this report to MoD Sec (AS) 2a and to CAOC [redacted] [redacted] had received the report from [redacted] Scotland Yard Ref. No CAD [redacted] contact Tel No [redacted]

'At 2.25am 17 Nov 03 2 adults and 1 child in Bromley, Kent saw 20-30 red flashing lights in the sky accompanied by a whirring noise and they recorded the occurrence on video tape. The family called the police who confirmed the sighting. The policeman using a lamppost as a marker concluded the lights were zigzagging / turning across the sky at a speeds faster than any man-made aircraft. A crew of a police helicopter airborne at the time also confirmed the lights but they thought they might be lights of aircraft on the approach in to LHR. However Swanick Mill declared that there were no aircraft in the approach pattern at that time all aircraft on their radar were at high level.'

[redacted]

[redacted]

Message left on DAS answeringphone at 05.34 Monday 17th Nov by [redacted] of RAF Nantishead. UFO sighting details as above reported to Nantishead at 04.00 by Swanwick ATC. The sighting was confirmed by the Police and Scotland Yard reported it to Swanwick ATC. Police helicopter in the area thought they were aircraft approaching Heathrow but Swanwick say there were no such aircraft in the area.

[redacted] is on Nantishead Crew Room [redacted] on mobile number [redacted]

LOOSE MINUTE
D/Sec(AS)64/2
17 November 2003
D UK-SOI AIR

FOI documents obtained by Gary.

CREDIBLE WITNESS REPORT DATED 3 NOVEMBER 1999.

1. In line with our current policy, please find below a 'UFO' report which you may wish to be aware of. Although the report was originally from a member of the public, these lights were also seen by Police Officers and a Police helicopter crew. Swanwick and RAF Nantishead have also become involved. I would be grateful if you could let me know if the report represents anything of air defence interest.

NFA. Report already received & processed.
24/11/03

Unidentified Flying Object (UFO) Reports

Report of Unidentified Flying Object	
Date	17 NOVEMBER 2003
Time	0225
Sighting Duration	UNKNOWN
Description of Object	20-30 FLASHING RED+ WHITE LIGHTS MAKING QUICKLY RESIDENT VIBRATED THE INCIDENT.
Exact Position of Observer	BROMLEY KENT
How Object was Observed	NAKED EYE
Direction in which Object was First Seen	UNKNOWN
Angular Elevation of Object	UNKNOWN
Distance of Object from Observer	UNKNOWN
Movement of Object	ZIG ZAGGING
Meteorological Conditions During Observations	UNKNOWN
Nearby Objects	UNKNOWN
To Whom Reported	NEW SCOTLAND YARD SET [redacted] REF CAD625
Name of Informant	UNKNOWN 2 ADULTS + 1 CHILD
Address of Informant	UNKNOWN
Background Information on Informant that may be Volunteered	UNKNOWN
Other Witnesses	A BRIGHTMAN SENT TO IMMEDIATE COMPANIES THE SIGHTING OBJECTS WERE MOVING FASTER THAN ANY MAN MADE AIRCRAFT
Date of Receipt of Report	0330 17 NOVEMBER 2003
Time of Receipt of Report	0330

D UK/270/1/13
18 Nov 03
DAS-Sec3

CREDIBLE WITNESS 'UFO' REPORT - 17 NOV 03

Reference:

A. D/Sec(AS)64/2 dated 17 Nov 03.

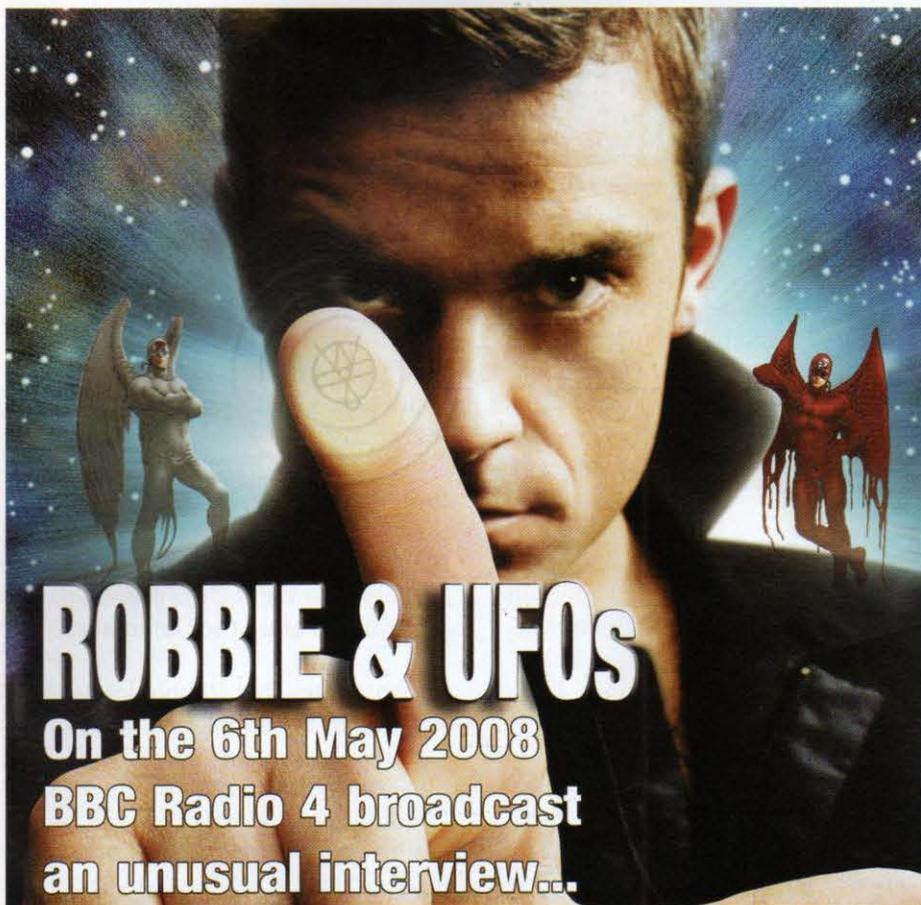
At Reference, you asked whether the report submitted by Sgt [redacted] from New Scotland Yard, through Plt Off [redacted] at CRC Nantishead, regarding "20-30 red flashing lights in the sky accompanied by a whirring noise" at 0225hrs on 17 Nov 03 at Bromley in Kent, represented anything of air defence interest. CRC Nantishead have reviewed the radar tapes for the time period specified and other than routine air traffic in the area, nothing additional was detected in the area despite good radar coverage. Therefore, I can now confirm that the incident does not represent anything of air defence interest.

Signed on CHOI'S
[redacted]
Wg Cdr
DUK SOI Air Ops 2
[redacted]

Action:
Sgt [redacted] at New Scotland Yard not on duty. Message of outcome passed to control room. No details of the people reporting this sighting so unable to reply direct. Police given my telephone number in case Sgt [redacted] wanted to contact me or pass us the address of those reporting the sighting.

17/11/03.





ROBBIE & UFOs

On the 6th May 2008
 BBC Radio 4 broadcast
 an unusual interview...

Robbie is worried about the interview he is to have with Jon Ronson because he tends to forget what he thinks a lot of the time. I'm not sure why we had to know that!

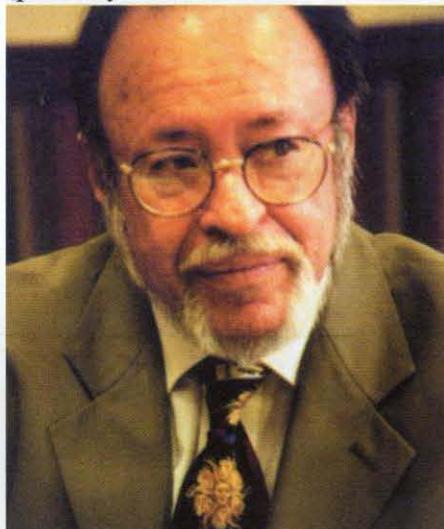
Robbie unexpectedly emailed Ronson a few days before the programme was recorded and asked him if he wanted to go with him to meet with UFO enthusiasts in Nevada. When Ronson arrives at Robbie's home, he hardly recognises the singer because he sports a huge beard. Robbie thinks he might shave so he doesn't look 'too mad'.

Robbie is in his TV room watching a UFO documentary with his girlfriend, Ayda Field. Ronson wonders if the star hasn't gone a little crazy "like David Essex at the end of *Stardust*", but concludes that he is just interested in the paranormal. Robbie admits that he spends a lot of time at paranormal websites. Now he has some time off, he wants to go 'out there' and be part of 'it'.

They head out to the International UFO Congress in Laughlin, Nevada. Ronson is keen to speak to Dr Roger Leir. Leir has removed numerous objects from people claiming to be abductees. Some are said to be of an

extra-terrestrial origin - alien implants. Ronson wants solid proof about the phenomenon. He asks why aliens do not reveal themselves openly. Robbie replies that he believes that when UFOs and aliens are seen, it's a mistake on their part. They let their guard down and were noticed. "They're there all the time," he says. He also goes on to say that he doesn't want to hear any 'debunking stuff' because he wants to believe.

Robbie first contacted Ronson in 2005 to see if he could arrange for him to spend the night in a haunted house. Robbie had read a book by Ronson about conspiracy theorists (probably *The Men Who Stare At*



Goats, which was released in 2005 and covers conspiracy theories about black ops and the War on Terror). Ronson explained that when he mentioned Robbie's name to people, offers flooded in! In the end, it never happened due to Robbie's work commitments.

Now Robbie has time on his hands (not if you read the press - Robbie's supposed to have an album out this year!), he wants to pursue his interest in the paranormal.

With Ronson and Robbie are Robbie's girlfriend, Ayda, and her friend, Brandon. Brandon doesn't believe in alien abductions.

They arrive at the Aquarius Hotel & Resort. They are told that a few nights earlier, there had been a battle between two reptilian beings and that a vial of blood had been collected. Nobody had photographed the event.

Roger Leir is said to have the vial of blood, but he denies this and says he has a skin sample allegedly from a seven-foot reptilian that somebody saw in his kitchen! He only got it the day before. He shows Robbie and Ronson the sample. Leir says after showing them, he will store it elsewhere to keep it safe. It is, according to Ronson, 2 by 1 centimetre, brown with a black line running through it. He says it could be a reptilian scale or part of a moth wing.

Robbie asks Roger if he is excited by it. Leir replies that he isn't because he's been stung too many times. He once spent \$25,000 testing an implant that turned out to be a piece of wood!

When they return downstairs, Anne Andrews is speaking about her son, Jason. Anne has written a book called *Jason: My Indigo Child* (Ronson gets the title slightly wrong). Robbie says that Anne reminds him of his mum. She was a tarot card reader and he was, as a child, terrified of all the paranormal things she was interested in.

Ronson suggests in a roundabout way that he thinks that 'indigo children' simply suffer from attention deficit hyperactivity disorder



(ADHD). The numbers of cases of ADHD have risen dramatically in recent years and many of these kids are on drugs to stabilise them. He says that he once went to a meeting of 'indigo children', where they said they would blindfold each other and guide themselves round the room using telepathy. Obviously, they were bumping into stuff all the time. Ayda found this very funny and laughed heartily.

While sounding sceptical, Robbie asks why would these people lie?

Anne shows the conference audience some blurry photos. She says the pictures are bad because she only has a cheap, disposable camera. Brandon asks why she doesn't get a better one. He then asks her if she has ever had a psychiatric evaluation.

Ronson describes Brandon as the 'Hitler of Debunking', but he is unrepentant. Robbie said his toes were curling when Brandon got up and asked those questions, but he still felt that they were valid.

Afterwards, Robbie introduces him-

self to Anne, who is at a signing table. She doesn't recognise him at first. Anne tells him about Jason's encounters with small 'drone' Greys and taller ones that appear to be in charge. Robbie asks if she ever questions her sanity. She says that she often does.

Anne tells Robbie that people in England are often spiteful towards Jason. He has even lost a job because of his experiences. Robbie feels that more compassion should be shown towards people who have abduction experiences.

Anne then recognises him. She tells Robbie that her family had a terrible time with ridicule and Robbie chips in, saying that being in Take That was like being on a spaceship. I'm sure that helped no end!

Anne used to speak at conferences with Jason, but now she goes solo. Brandon is very sceptical of her and believes she has something of an ego. He's annoyed with her because even though Jason does not speak publicly anymore, she feels the need to continue.

Robbie was very impressed with Anne and felt very sympathetic. For her own sanity, he says, she had to believe in Jason's experiences. He believes she's telling the truth.

Robbie shows his friends some 'orb' photos that he has taken with his mobile phone. Ronson suggests they are just dust particles. Brandon says they are sunlight reflecting off the lens. Ayda doesn't believe those

explanations.

After attending the buffet, Robbie is spotted by fans and spends time signing autographs.

Ronson tells of Robbie's encounter with psychic, Derek Acorah (although his name is not mentioned). Robbie said that the psychic used Robbie's name from self-promotional purposes. Robbie became disillusioned with psychics, thinking that many were charlatans.

Robbie buys fifteen UFO DVDs and they head for Los Angeles. Among the DVDs are ones about the Stephenville Lights, the secret space programme and other anomalies.

Ronson notes that Robbie knows his stuff about the subject and the singer says he likes to keep up-to-date. 'Real news' or the stuff in the tabloids used to upset him and he had to stop looking himself up in the media. Now he looks into the paranormal instead.

He is a little worried that people might think he's gone mad, because he knows how the press can manipulate celebrities' public images.

Ronson says that Robbie seems happy right now. SJ.

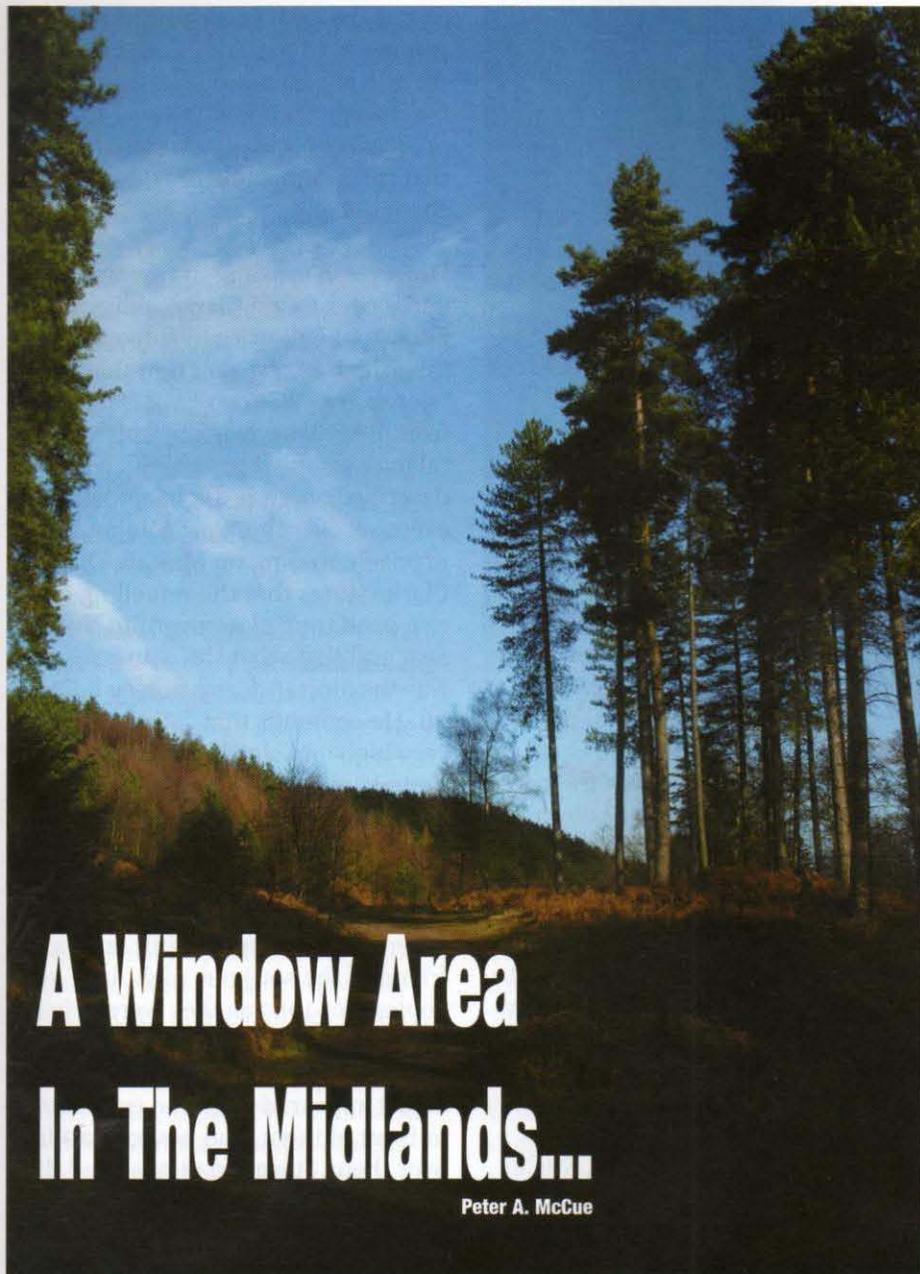
UFO DATA

I'm sure delegates at the International UFO Congress were surprised to see Robbie in attendance but his just being there made newspapers and magazines around the world. If someone who has had the success that Robbie has enjoyed seriously got behind our subject we could take massive steps forward.

UFO DATA would take any contact with Robbie very seriously indeed, if you see this Robbie please get in touch.

russ@ufodata.co.uk





A Window Area In The Midlands...

Peter A. McCue

Introduction

'Window areas' are localities that reportedly host an unusually high number of UFO sightings and/or other strange events. But deciding whether an area is really home to a disproportionate number of odd happenings can be problematic. For example, if UFO sightings in a particular area receive publicity, hitherto silent witnesses might then come forward with their own experiences. The total number of sightings (reported plus unreported) could be no higher than elsewhere, but the increased level of reporting might give an impression that the area is a hotspot.

Several places in the UK have been identified as window areas, although they don't all appear to be currently

active. From 1965 until about 1977, the Warminster area in Wiltshire was a hotspot for alleged UFO sightings, as was the Bonnybridge/Falkirk area in Scotland in the 1990s. The central and southern Pennine region of England was reportedly the setting for a good number of UFO sightings and paranormal experiences in past years; and the Rendlesham Forest area of Suffolk may be a hotspot. In terms of apparitional and poltergeist phenomena, if

not UFOs, the Suffolk/Essex border area around Sudbury may be a window area, although I don't know whether anything significant has happened there of late.

Recently, I've been looking into suggestions that the Cannock Chase area in the English Midlands is a hotspot.¹ Internet searches with entries such as 'Cannock Chase - UFOs' and 'Cannock Chase - paranormal' bring up numerous items, many of them authored by Nick Redfern, who has written extensively about UFOs and mysterious animals. Although he was brought up not far from Cannock Chase, he's currently based in the United States. But he continues to take an interest in, and to publicize, accounts of strange phenomena in the area.

Articles about the alleged goings-on in this part of the Midlands have appeared in local newspapers, with predictably lurid headlines ('UFO scare in the sky for woman', 'Beast on the prowl', 'Are there cavemen on Cannock Chase?', 'My encounter with Bigfoot!', etc.). But do just as many strange things happen in areas that don't receive such attention and publicity? That may be hard to answer. At any rate, the alleged phenomena are of interest in their own right. The reports cited below are an illustrative selection.

The area

Cannock Chase is a 26 square-mile area of woodland and heath lying to the south-east of Stafford. It's part of what was once a large hunting ground created by William the Conqueror and known as the King's



Brocton Coppice



Forest of Cannock. The development of settlements in the Middle Ages led to the clearing of woodland, which gathered pace in the sixteenth century when trees were destroyed to produce charcoal. Fortunately, there's still a scattering of oaks, which are most abundant in Brocton Coppice (in the north-western part of the Chase). But much of the woodland is now coniferous rather than broadleaf.

[The 1:25,000 (2½ in. to a mile) OS Explorer Map no. 244 (Cannock Chase & Chasewater) depicts the area in some detail. Internet users can get an aerial view of the locality via Google Earth. Despite the proximity of large conurbations, Cannock Chase is classed as an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. But it's intersected by numerous roads and tracks; and a railway line runs through the Chase, roughly parallel to the A460 road between Hednesford and Rugeley.

Castle Ring, the site of an ancient hill fort, lies at the south-eastern end of Cannock Chase, and marks its highest point (801 ft/ 244 m). It's next to the village of Cannock Wood, and has reportedly been the setting for UFO sightings and ghostly phenomena (see below).

UFO sightings

Stefan Lobuczek and Cherill Penton are the co-founders of the Midlands-based Paranormal Awakening Scientific Study Association (PASSA).² Penton informs me that

many people, including herself, have seen UFOs from Castle Ring. She tells me that she's seen them disappear and then reappear elsewhere in the sky, and that she's seen them change colour. In February 2008, she informed me that her sightings at Castle Ring had spanned a three-year period.

During a visit by PASSA members to Castle Ring one night in September 2005, some triangular-shaped UFOs were reportedly seen. Video footage from the visit can be seen on the group's website (in the section labelled 'Feature'). However, Stefan Lobuczek has explained to me that, "The video edit and upload are of a much lower quality [than] the original footage", and "we were not expecting to see this unusual display of lights in the sky and hence our equipment to hand was less than favourable [for recording] these events." He notes that the UFOs "kept on jumping all over the place", so focussing on them "was most frustrating".

According to a short internet item concerning a documentary, there was a spate of UFO sightings in Staffordshire between 1988 and the early 1990s, and on the evening of 16th May 1988 two 'flying triangles' descended to about a thousand feet. This was reportedly recorded on radar and caught the attention of an official at Birmingham Airport. Dozens of witnesses reportedly saw the objects moving slowly and silently across the sky towards Cannock Chase, and numerous other witness-

es saw the craft (which exhibited varying light patterns) hovering silently at times and "play[ing] tumble" at others. People closest to the proceedings told of structured craft that turned abruptly or suddenly disappeared.³

However, according to researcher and writer David Clarke, diligent and persistent enquiries by objective investigators revealed that the UFOs "were... 'two VC-10s of 101 Squadron from RAF Brize Norton' which were taking part in what was officially described as 'an in-flight refuelling exercise' over the West Midlands at precisely 10 p.m. on May 16." But Clarke states that the refuelling exercise itself took place over the North Sea, and that what the witnesses saw was the aircraft formation as it lined up. He contends that "aircraft flying very high and slowly were misinterpreted... as low-level, silent objects which even appeared to hover."⁴

Jenny Randles refers to an experience that befell a party of four (two parents, their son Dominic, and a friend of the son) one night in September 1987 as they were driving past Bagot Forest, a few miles north-east of Cannock Chase. A huge aerial object appeared from the east, shot in front of them, and hovered 20 feet over them. It was triangular and displayed pulsing white glows and a flux of multicoloured lights. The engine and lights of the car were unaffected, and as the car drove away from under the object, the UFO banked slightly, climbed vertically in com-



This video still frame is available on Youtube and claims to have been retrieved from a damaged tape after some six years. If it's real it's amazing but being a regular user of Photoshop it looks like a soft brush effect on the lights and they all look similar. Russ.

plete silence, and was gone.⁵

David Clarke and Andy Roberts quote a description of the above incident given by the aforementioned Dominic to an investigator called Clive Potter. But the quoted material doesn't describe the UFO as huge, doesn't say that the craft hovered 20 feet above the car, and doesn't say that it climbed vertically before disappearing. Clarke and Roberts contend that Dominic "appears to [have given] a classic description of the Stealth fighter".⁶ The more dramatic account in Jenny Randles' book is perhaps based solely on what Dominic's parents reported.

Derby-based UFO researcher Omar Fowler has sent me details of a sighting that reportedly occurred near Rugeley one night in July 1997. He believes that it may have involved a stealth aircraft rather than something exotic. The witness heard a noise outside his home, similar to that of a high revving two-stroke engine. He went outside and saw lights hovering approximately 150 yards away and 150 feet above the ground. After going indoors to fetch binoculars, he was able to make out the shape of a black helicopter in the vicinity of the lights. He went back indoors and returned with a night vision scope that was equipped with an infra-red beam emission facility. He could see the helicopter clearly, since it was illuminated by the flashing strobe and navigation lights. When he turned on the infra-red beam, he saw a blacked-out triangular craft next to the helicopter. It was similar in size to the helicopter, but it reflected no light from the strobe and navigation lights. Looking through his night scope, the witness approached the two hovering craft. Suddenly, the helicopter shot away "at an incredible rate of knots". The triangle remained for a moment, but then moved out of sight.

It appears that something similar was witnessed in Lancashire the previous year. Omar Fowler informs me that the 22nd August 1996 edition of the Wigan Reporter carried a story about a low flying Chinook helicopter attracting the attention of people in Wigan, who noted that it was following (controlling?) a small black triangular-shaped craft a few hundred

yards ahead of it.

However, Fowler doesn't think that all the triangular UFOs seen over our skies are man-made. There are reports of huge triangular craft, often well-lit, which travel slowly and usually silently. Fowler believes these are of extraterrestrial origin.

During a visit to Cannock Chase in April 2008, I spoke to a woman who told me that about six years previously she'd seen three triangular-shaped aerial objects in formation. But accounts of people seeing UFOs on or near Cannock Chase go back to the 1950s, at least. Several articles on 'flying saucer' sightings in the West Midlands, originally published in the *Express & Star* newspaper in 1954 and 1955, are available on the internet.⁷ One of the reported sightings involved a "shining object" seen over Penkridge Bank on Cannock Chase; and later that same year (1954), some schoolboys allegedly saw a "black dome" over Rugeley.

However, some of the sightings from around that time occurred significantly further afield (e.g. over Wolverhampton).

A catalogue of UFO reports from the Midlands and other parts of the UK is available in the 'Sightings' section of the website of a Midlands-based UFO group. But judging from the entries, the Cannock Chase area doesn't stand out as an obvious hotspot.⁸

Omar Fowler is the author of two booklets concerned with sightings of triangular-shaped UFOs. He cites numerous British cases (including many from Derbyshire), but none from Cannock Chase itself.⁹ (On p. 22 of the second booklet, there's a one-line entry pertaining to a sight-

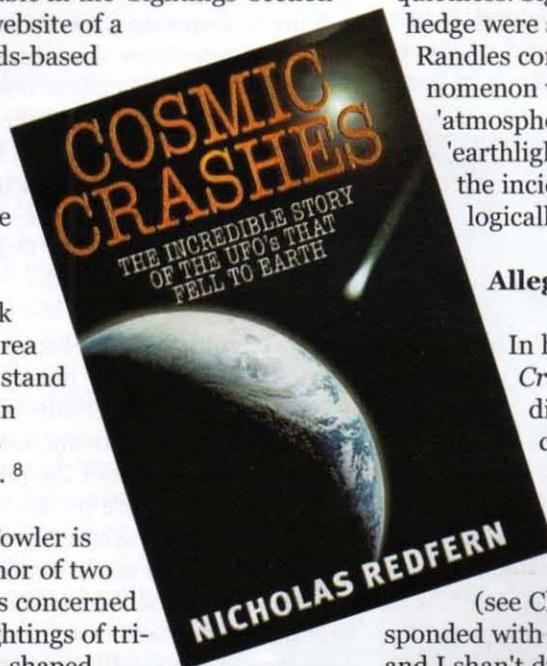
ing of a spherical UFO in Lichfield, which is fairly near Cannock Chase; and there's a one-line entry pertaining to a UFO sighting in "Stonebridge", Staffordshire, although I'm not sure whether there's actually a place of that name in Staffordshire.) But caution is warranted, since the number and distribution of reported or recorded sightings over a given period might not accurately reflect the number and distribution of actual sightings.

It's been suggested that some UFO experiences may arise from energy effects related to local geological conditions. The following case, mentioned by Jenny Randles, could fall into this category.

A couple were driving at night in August 1988 on a road skirting the northern end of Cannock Chase. They saw a circular mass glowing with a deep reddish colour that pulsed, and there was a surrounding cloud or mist, which touched the top of a hedge. A semi-solid object seemed to emerge from the cloud or mist. After about half a minute, the pulsing mass disappeared, only to reappear further north a few seconds later. Then it disappeared. While it was present, the witnesses felt a strange sense of calm and sudden quietness. Signs of damage to the hedge were subsequently found. Randles concludes that the phenomenon was probably an 'atmospheric plasma' or an 'earthlight'; and she states that the incident occurred in a geologically faulted area.¹⁰

Alleged UFO crashes

In his book, *Cosmic Crashes*, Nick Redfern discusses two UFO crashes that allegedly occurred on or near Cannock Chase, one in 1964 (see Chapter 4) and one in 1974 (see Chapter 6).¹¹ I've corresponded with Redfern about them, and I shan't dwell on the alleged crash in 1974, because it appears that the testimony of the informant (who claimed to be a first-hand witness) was very inaccurate. Indeed, Redfern no longer believes that the 1974 incident occurred.



Redfern first heard about the other alleged crash in 1991, from a friend and colleague. The latter thought that Leonard Stringfield (now deceased) knew about it. Stringfield, a former USAF intelligence officer, had a particular interest in reports of crashed UFOs held by US authorities. Three days later, Redfern received Stringfield's latest 'status report', which mentioned the event in question. Redfern subsequently contacted Stringfield, who agreed to let Redfern to make use of testimony from his source, who is referred to with the pseudonym 'S. M. Brannigan'. But Redfern had no direct contact with Brannigan himself.

In 1964, as a third class petty officer in the US Navy, Brannigan reportedly translated an intercepted Soviet military transmission which referred to a UFO that had malfunctioned and fallen to earth in two parts. The larger section had reportedly come down at Penkridge, on the western side of Cannock Chase, the rest of it having crashed in West Germany. As Brannigan continued his work, further details allegedly emerged: US Air Force Intelligence had been involved in the recovery operation; three dead bodies had been found; and as the significance of the incident became evident, other US forces, and elements of NATO, had become involved.

Irene Bott, an associate of Redfern's, mentioned the alleged crash during an interview with a local newspaper in 1996, and she subsequently received a letter from a man who claimed to have seen the recovery operation in progress. He's given the pseudonym 'Harold South' in Redfern's book.

Bott and Redfern interviewed South at his home. He claimed that he'd been driving towards Penkridge from Cannock on a weekday morning in February or March 1964 when he came upon a roadblock manned by Army, RAF and police personnel. He reportedly saw an aircraft transporter in a field. He drove back towards Cannock. But curiosity possessed him, and after about half a mile he parked his firm's van and made his way back over some fields, taking his camera with him.

He allegedly saw a large, delta-shaped object, partially covered with a tarpaulin, on the trailer of the transporter. He took a couple of photographs. Noticing that he'd been spotted by the police who were co-ordinating the roadblock, he quickly retreated to his van and drove away. When he got home, his mother told him that he was required to report to the police in Bloxwich, ostensibly in connection with a motoring infringement. While he was at the police station, officers called at his home and took away the camera, which was eventually returned to him, but minus the film.

During the interview with Bott and Redfern, South claimed that he'd received a telephone call from the Ministry of Defence police that very day. There was some mention of a complaint. He was given a number to ring back on, although he hadn't done that. The call had allegedly come about 15 minutes after Bott had telephoned him from Redfern's home (but using her own mobile phone) to confirm the arrangements for the meeting. To ascertain the number of the caller, Bott rang 1471 from South's telephone, only to give a different number from the one he'd been asked to ring back on. Bott rang the number (the one she'd obtained by dialling 1471) and found herself talking to someone who claimed to be from a telephone operating service that channelled calls to and from military establishments in the Midlands! When Bott dialled the number that had been given to South, she was told that she was through to the Ministry of Defence Guard Service in Lichfield.

This intriguing account raises the possibility that one (or more) of the participants was under surveillance, with telephone calls being monitored. But in respect of the phone call supposedly made by the MoD police to South, it seemed that no attempt had been made to prevent the caller's number being found (by dialling 1471). Redfern infers that someone in the intelligence or defence community wanted to signal that he and Bott had opened a can of worms by enquiring into the Penkridge crash.

But could South have been involved

in a hoax? I raised this with Nick Redfern, but he doubts whether South was a hoaxer. He explained that Irene Bott was able to verify that the telephone number given to South was indeed one for the Guard Service.

As noted above, the Penkridge incident allegedly occurred in February or March 1964. Recently, I sent an e-mail to Cannock Library, explaining that I was doing some historical research and I wondered whether the library held local newspapers from 1964. I explained that I was interested in knowing whether there was a press report in February or March of that year concerning military and police activity between Cannock and Penkridge, or of a possible aircraft crash in the locality.

Ian Parker, from the library, informed me that they held copies of the *The Cannock Advertiser* and *The Cannock Courier* for 1964. However, he indicated that he'd looked at the editions from February through to April without finding any reports of such an incident. That doesn't, of course, rule out the possibility that there was some truth in South's story. It's conceivable, for example, that South was wrong about the time of year in which the alleged incident occurred.

While the matter of a possible UFO crash is interesting in its own right, it doesn't necessarily have a bearing on whether the Cannock Chase area is a UFO hotspot. If some sort of exotic craft (or part of such a craft) did indeed crash there in 1964, it could have been a chance event.

Mysterious animal forms

A BBC internet article, dated 10th February 2003, describes Cannock Chase as a "veritable big cat hotspot [where] there have been many supposed sightings over the last few months." It states that witnesses report seeing a large black cat with a long tail, and that the "nearby village of Stretton [a few miles west of Cannock Chase] is also a regular haunt of the creature...[which] is the suspected killer of two geese."¹² During a visit to the Chase in April 2008, I spoke to a woman who was walking her dogs. She told me of an

occasion, some 10 years previously, when she saw what she took to be a big cat while she was driving in the area. It crossed a road and jumped over a hedge. (This was the same informant who told me about seeing three triangular-shaped aerial objects in formation.)

Cherill Penton informs me that despite having lived in the area all her life, she's never encountered a strange animal there, except on one occasion - in 2002 - when she thought she saw a large cat near the entrance to Nun's Well, in the village of Cannock Wood. But she concedes that it could have been an ordinary large dog. In any case, big cat sightings are widespread throughout the UK.¹³ Therefore, without confirmation from reliable statistics, it might be wrong to assume that the Cannock Chase area gets more than its fair share. Indeed, the aforementioned BBC internet article states (no doubt with a degree of hyperbole) that "20 miles down the road in a village near Tamworth, sightings are so frequent that everyone's got a tale...to tell".

Whether or not real big cats have been seen on Cannock Chase, some of the reported animal sightings there sound like visionary or paranormal experiences rather than encounters with flesh-and-blood creatures. For example, in an article in the August 2007 edition of Fate magazine, Nick Redfern relates that a man was driving over the Chase late one evening in 1972 when he saw a ball of glowing blue light hit the ground ahead of him amid a torrent of bright sparks. He slowed down. Approaching the approximate area where the light had descended, he saw a very large, menacing-looking dog looming before him. After 20-30 seconds, it headed for some tall trees, but without taking its eyes off him.¹⁴

In another article, Redfern describes an experience that reportedly befell a man who was walking around Castle Ring one morning in December 1991. He noticed a small area of dense fog and went towards it. When he got within about 20 feet of it, he felt his hair become "static and electrified", and he experienced an intense smell of burning metal. A monstrous black

dog - about the size of a young horse - loomed out of the fog. The man and the dog slowly backed away from each other, with the latter retreating into the fog. When the man was maybe 150 feet from the fog, he saw a small ball of light zoom in over it and cast down a column of vivid blue light towards it. In an instant, normality was restored - the fog, the ball of light, and the dog were all gone.¹⁵

A 'Bigfoot' or yeti-type creature (or perhaps more than one) has supposedly been seen on Cannock Chase (for example, at Hazelslade). However, according to a newspaper article in 2006, Derek Crawley of the Staffordshire Mammal Group had speculated that the sightings could have been caused by a big cat lounging in the trees, with the witnesses mistaking branches for arms!¹⁶ But hoaxing may account for at least some of the sightings. Dramatically entitled '*Bigfoot almost made me lose my baby*', a local newspaper article in March 2006 claimed that, "Police chiefs [had] hit out at the dangers posed by [a] spoof 'Bigfoot' craze after a teenager almost lost her baby when a joker clad in a gorilla suit jumped in front of her car." According to the article, hoaxers had been tempted by the paper's offer of a free meal for anyone who caught "the elusive Chase Bigfoot" on film!¹⁷

About three years ago, members of PASSA investigated claims that people had seen a "large, dark spectre" at the back of the Star Inn at Great Wyrley, which is a few miles south of Cannock Chase. There's a small lake about half a mile east of the pub. Stefan Lobuczek and some other members of the group reportedly saw a 'mothman'-type figure flying over it one moonlit night. However, Lobuczek believes that he had a brief encounter with a similar type of entity at his home in Sutton Coldfield in about 2002 or 2003; and he mentioned an experience that someone else had reportedly had about two miles away. Accordingly, it would appear that mothman-type encounters in the

Midlands haven't been confined to the Cannock Chase area.

Human apparitions and ghostly sounds

Cherill Penton informs me that apparitional servicemen have been seen on Cannock Chase, and that members of PASSA have heard gunshots and singing there. She relates that she's seen apparitional figures at Castle Ring; and Stefan Lobuczek tells me that he saw a ghostly figure there at one point. In a letter published in the 16th June 2005 edition of The Cannock Chase Post (shown in the 'News' section of PASSA's website), a J. Richardson reported having seen ghostly figures at Castle Ring. He stated, for example: "Both my wife and myself have witnessed and followed a white figure round the ring to then just vanish."

In June 2007, a newspaper carried a report about a ghostly experience that a motorist (referred to as 'Linda') had had one night the previous November. This had allegedly happened near Springslade Lodge on Cannock Chase. Linda had to brake hard to avoid hitting a person standing in the road. Illuminated by the headlights of the car, the figure appeared to be that of a tall, pale grey female, who seemed to be naked, but without visible breasts or genitalia. Linda was reportedly transfixed by the figure's large hypnotic



Alleged Bigfoot caught on camera 1977...

eyes. She felt that she was being "mentally examined" and that there was nothing she could do to prevent it. After a couple of minutes, the figure turned and walked into the nearby woodland. Linda was unable to move until the figure had disappeared, and she then "accelerated away in panic".¹⁸

Linda's reported experience is similar to that of the motorist who allegedly encountered a 'big dog' on Cannock Chase in 1972 (see above). It would appear that both drivers were alone at the time of their respective experiences, which are therefore uncorroborated. And Linda's account is essentially anonymous, since hers is a common forename, and may have been a pseudonym, anyway. But 'road ghost' experiences have been reported from other areas. (See, for example, Sean Tudor's interesting website.¹⁹) As with UFO sightings, however, many cases may go unreported. Consequently, there are unlikely to be any reliable statistics giving a geographical breakdown of such experiences. Therefore, unless there's been a torrent of apparition reports from the Cannock Chase area (and I'm not aware that there has), it's probably impossible to say for sure whether the locality has seen more than its fair share of ghostly incidents.

Electronic voice phenomena

The PASSA investigation team have reportedly obtained electronic voice phenomena (EVP) at locations in the Cannock Chase area. During the team's visit to Castle Ring in early September 2005, for example, Cherill Penton said to Stefan Lobuczek: "Stefan, you tell me there isn't something black moving along that path!" This was recorded on the audio-track of a video camera, in analogue form, and also recorded, digitally, by an MP3 player containing a microphone. The playback from both included a sound that could be interpreted as someone replying, "There is!" (The sequence can be heard by visiting the 'Feature' section of PASSA's website.) However, the voice wasn't heard at the time.

Is the recorded 'voice' really just a bit of background noise that lends itself to misinterpretation, or did someone

present at the time actually say, "There is!"? Alternatively, is the 'voice' indicative of a paranormal event in which some sort of external agency interacted with the investigators' equipment? Or could it be that one or more of the investigators unwittingly affected the recording equipment by psychokinesis? If the latter is the case, the phenomenon may have had nothing to do with Cannock Chase per se - if the session had been conducted in another county, EVP might well have occurred there.

Concluding comments

What are we to make of accounts such as those cited above? Some could, of course, be pure fabrications. Where testimony is judged to have been given in good faith, it's necessary to bear in mind the possibility that witnesses have succumbed to misperception or been the victims of hoaxes. Regarding misperception, for example, the illusion known as the autokinetic effect could induce someone to misinterpret a stationary star or a bright planet as a UFO moving about the night sky.²⁰ And, as already noted, some 'UFOs' may be secret military aircraft.

Even if a substantial number of the available reports reflect truly anomalous events, it doesn't necessarily mean that Cannock Chase and its immediate environs get more than their fair share. Without reliable figures for the area, and reliable comparative data from elsewhere, proper statistical comparisons can't be made. If the locality is a window area, it doesn't necessarily follow that the different types of phenomena have the same underlying cause.

If the area really does host a higher-than-expected number of UFO sightings and strange experiences, could it be because the Chase is a green oasis in an over-populated and over-developed region? In busy, built-up areas, there may be more light pollution, and people might be less likely to look at the sky and see UFOs (whatever their nature). Driving in busy areas where there's a constant need to attend to other vehicles, road signs, traffic signals, etc., might not be conducive to the right state of mind for paranormal experiences,

whereas travelling on quiet roads in an area of woodland and heath might be.

And if some of the unusual animals seen on Cannock Chase are real flesh-and-blood creatures, they could be there because the Chase provides more tree cover than the surrounding areas.

But there could be additional factors. In previous articles, I've suggested that localized paranormal phenomena, including UFO sightings, could arise from people's minds interacting at a subconscious level to produce hallucinatory experiences and psychokinetic effects.²¹ The notion of a network of interacting subconscious minds is analogous to computers interlinked via the internet, and I've therefore called this idea the psychic internet theory. The phenomena created by psychic internets might resemble theatrical productions, with the manifestations being generated in response to a collective wish for there to be evidence of UFOs, ghosts, etc. If this theory is valid, Cannock Chase's reputation for being a hotspot could, in itself, be helping to generate phenomena there; and investigators could be inadvertently contributing to the process!

Notes

1 By 'Cannock Chase area', I mean the Chase itself plus the immediately surrounding area (including, for example, the towns of Cannock and Rugeley).

2 PASSA's website address is: <http://www.navigatortm.com/>

3 <http://www.tracieaustin.com/viewspecificpast-show.asp?ID=35&guestID=35>

4 Clarke, D. (2000). Spearhead from space. In J. Randles, A. Roberts & D. Clarke, *The UFOs That Never Were*, pp. 76-93. London: London House. (See pp. 86-88.)

5 Randles, J. (2002). *Supernatural Pennines*. London: Robert Hale. (See pp. 202-203.)

6 Clarke, D. & Roberts, A. (1990). *Phantoms of the Sky: UFOs - A Modern Myth?* London: Robert Hale. (See pp. 38-39.)

7 The articles can be located by going to the following website and searching under 'flying saucer': <http://www.midlandsmemories.com/>

8 <http://www.uform.org/main.htm>

9 *The Flying Triangle Mystery*, published in 1996, is available on the internet (http://dbarkertv.com/FTM_Fowler.pdf). A follow-up publication, from 1997, entitled 'Flying Triangle' UFO's - The Continuing Story, is available from The Phenomenon Research Association, 94 The Circle, Sinfon, Derby DE24 9HR, for £5, including postage (UK only). See, also, Fowler's article 'The mysterious flying triangles' in *UFO DATA Magazine*, July/Aug. 2007, pp. 28-32.

10 Randles, op. cit., pp. 203-205. A slightly different description of the sighting can be found at: <http://www.wunderkabinett.co.uk/damndata/index.php?/archives/196-Cannock-Chase-Some-back-ground.html>

11 Redfern, N. (1999). Cosmic Crahes: The Incredible Story of the UFOs that Fell to Earth. London; Simon & Schuster.

12 http://www.bbc.co.uk/insideout/westmidlands/series2/big_cats_sightings_puma_panther_west_midlands.shtml

13 Harpur, M. (2006). Mystery Big Cats. Loughborough: Heart of Albion.

14 <http://theunexplainedmysteries.com/phantom.html>

15 <http://www.ufomystic.com/the-redfern-files/black-dogs-and-ufos/>

16 http://iccannock.icnetwork.co.uk/news/bigfoot/tm_headline=bigfoot-or-big-cat-the-expert-s-speak-out&method=full&objectid=16763911&siteid=75673-name_page.html

17 http://iccannock.icnetwork.co.uk/news/bigfoot/tm_headline=bigfoot-almost-made-me-lose-my-baby%26method=full%26objectid=16854477%26siteid=75673-name_page.html#story_continue#story_continue

18 http://iccannock.icnetwork.co.uk/news/local-news/tm_headline=mysterious-figure-spotted-on-chase-&method=full&objectid=19332640&siteid=75673-name_page.html

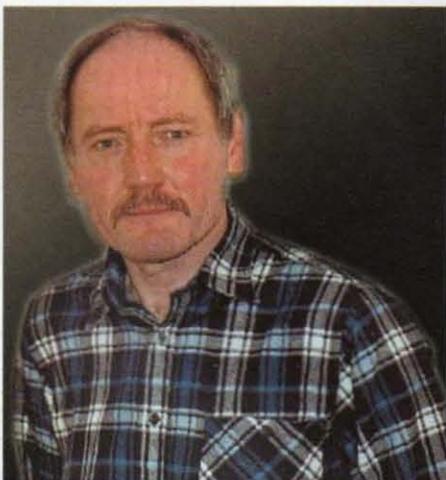
19 <http://www.roadghosts.com/>

20 A stationary point of light set against a dark or featureless background, with no reference point, might be seen to move about. This illusion is known as the autokinetic effect, and evidence shows that judgements about the direction or extent of the perceived movements can be influenced by suggestion.

21 See, for example, 'UFOs and the "psychic internet"' in UFO DATA Magazine, July/Aug. 2007, pp. 3-5.

Acknowledgements

I'm grateful to the following for the help they have given me in my research for this article: David Clarke, Omar Fowler, Mark Fraser, Stefan Lobuczek, Joe McGonagle, Ian Parker, Cherill Penton, and Nick Redfern.



Peter McCue is a guest speaker at our conference 25th -26th Oct 2008

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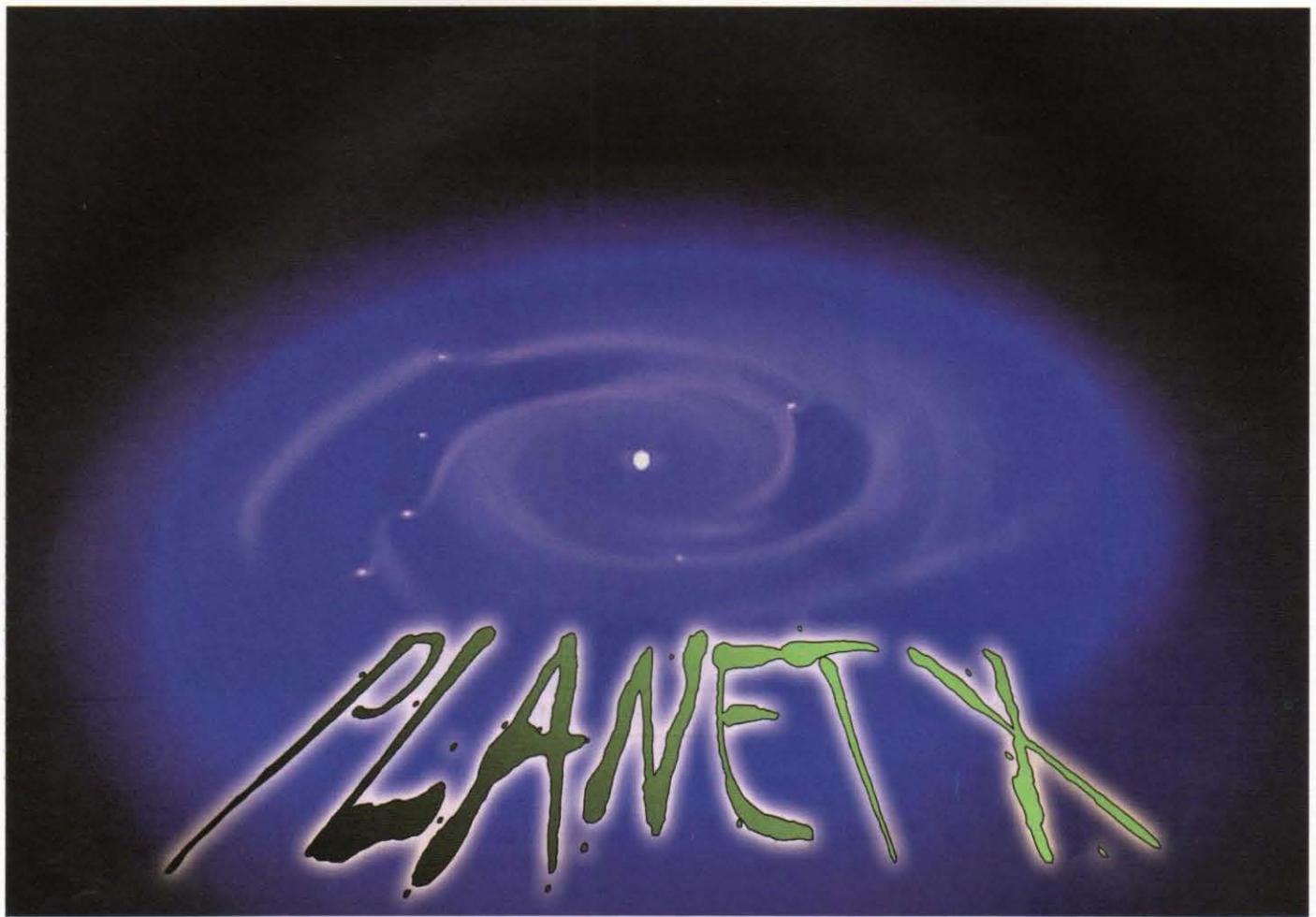
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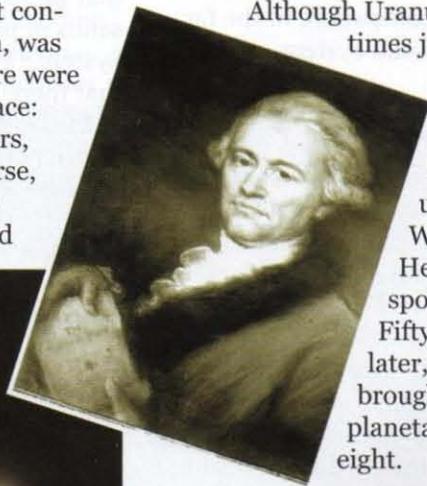
**Planet X:
What's Going On In The
Outer Solar System?**

By Steve Johnson

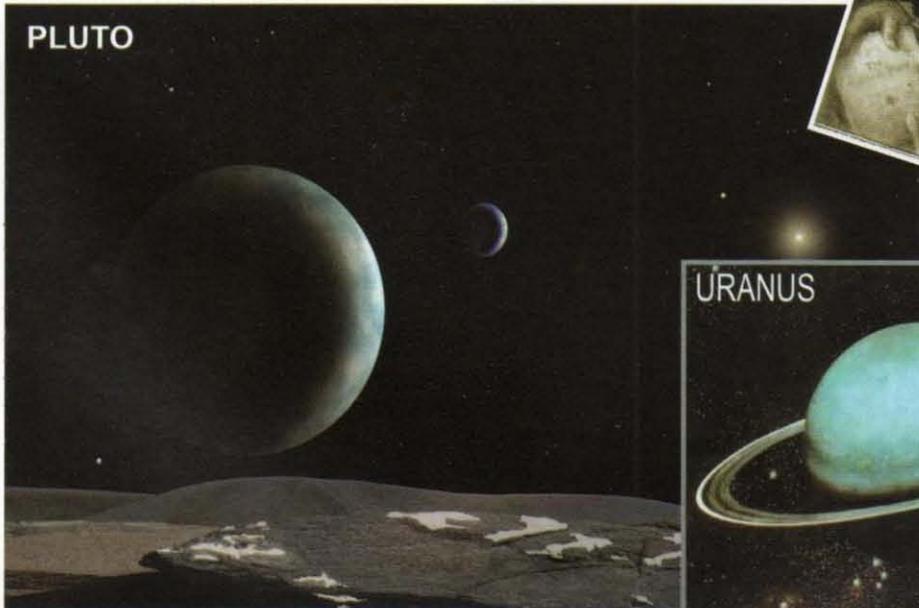
The theories about Planet X are among the most popular in ufology. There are many, many websites, books, videos and magazine articles about this mysterious, and possibly mythical, member of our solar system.

Before we proceed further, let's take a potted history of the solar system's 'back of beyond'... The term 'Planet X' came about when astronomers were looking for a planet beyond the orbit of Neptune. The 'X' simply meant 'unknown'. The first contender for the term, though, was Uranus. For millennia, there were only six planets sharing space: Mercury, Venus, Earth, Mars, Jupiter and Saturn. Of course, our ancestors didn't realize they were planets and called

them 'wandering stars', which is what 'planet' means. Their orbits make them move quite quickly against the background stars, you see.



Although Uranus is sometimes just visible to the naked eye, it wasn't 'officially' discovered until Sir William Herschel (left), spotted it in 1781. Fifty-five years later, Neptune brought the Sun's planetary tally up to eight.



PLUTO



URANUS

When Pluto was discovered in 1930 by Clyde Tombaugh, we suddenly had nine planets orbiting the Sun, so the search for Planet X became the search for the tenth planet.

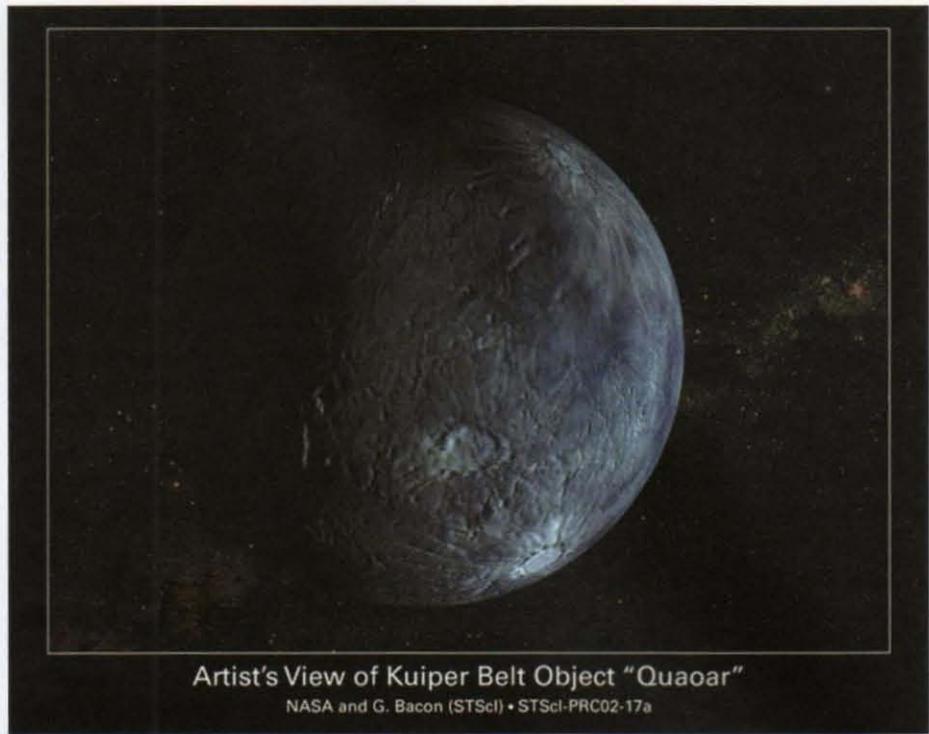
'X' is ten in Roman numerals, obviously.

For over seventy years, Pluto was held as the outermost member of the Sun's family, a tiny, rocky/icy body that had an orbit like none of the other planets. Its orbit brought it inside that of Neptune for several years and its orbit is at an angle very different to that shared by its eight cousins. The other eight planets orbit in what is called 'the plane of the ecliptic'. They all share this orbital slice of space within a few degrees of each other. You might liken the solar system to a dinner plate, with the Sun being a big baked potato in the middle and the planets being, say, peas placed on the plate at regular intervals.

Pluto, though, is a pea that some naughty kid is throwing at the plate from above. Its orbital inclination is seventeen degrees from the ecliptic. Pluto was also much smaller than expected, being only 2,390km (1,485 miles) in diameter. The search for Pluto was sparked by an apparent eccentricity in the orbit of Neptune. It seemed that something was tugging at the gas giant and affecting its orbit. Pluto was way too small to have this kind of an effect. It turned out that an error had been made and Neptune was not being pulled by a massive body somewhere in the far reaches of the solar system.

In 1992, the first Kuiper Belt object was discovered. The Kuiper Belt is a swathe of rocky/icy bodies that lie beyond the orbit of Neptune. They are often referred to as Trans-Neptunian Objects (TNOs). Since then, many more TNOs have been found, with at least one being larger than Pluto. This created a quandary for the International Astronomical Union. If there were objects out there more massive than Pluto, then why should the ninth planet be called a planet at all?

In 2006, there was a radical redefinition of what constitutes a planet and Pluto got demoted to the status of a 'minor planet'. Loads of TNOs also fell into this category. So far, over a thousand Kuiper Belt objects have been discovered and it is thought there may be at least seventy thousand of them out there in the dark,



cold reaches of space where the Sun's light is a tiny fraction of what we have on Earth.

So, we're down to eight planets in the solar system again. But are we?

In February, 2008, speaking at the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS), NASA's Alan Stern said, "Our old view, that the Solar System had nine planets will be supplanted by a view that there are hundreds if not thousands of planets in our Solar System." He went on: "It could be that there are objects of Earth-mass in the Oort cloud but they would be frozen at these distances. They would look like a frozen Earth."

The Oort cloud is a theoretical region



around the Sun where comets are said to reside before being shunted into closer, solar orbits by passing stars. It is much further out than the Kuiper Belt, stretching perhaps a light-year out into space.

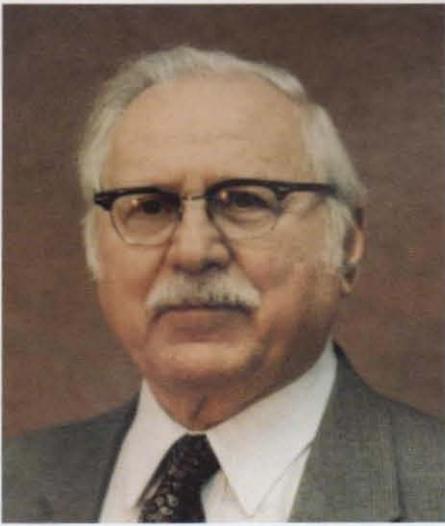
At the same meeting, it was declared that between twenty and sixty percent of stars may have rocky planets orbiting them. That's a heck of a figure. If only a small percentage of those planets fall into the so-called 'Goldilocks Zone', the region where liquid water can form, then there may be literally billions of life-bearing planets in our galaxy alone.

Anyway, back to Planet X...

We have seen that the outer solar system is more heavily-populated than we could have imagined half a century ago. We have also seen that Earth-sized bodies might be out there waiting to be discovered.

Where does Planet X fit into ufology?

Search the internet for Planet X and you will also find words like Nibiru, Nemesis and numbers such as 2012 being used. What do these mean? Nibiru, as students of the works of Zecharia Sitchin will know, is a theoretical planet that has an elliptical, 3,600 year orbit around the Sun. Sitchin claims that thousands of years ago, a race known as the Anunnaki travelled from Nibiru to



Earth when it entered the inner solar system, created humans as a slave race and then left when their home planet began its outward trek once again. It has been suggested that Nibiru will return in the year 2012 (Sitchin has said the year 2085 is more likely), the date forecast by the Mayans as the end of an age. The Anunnaki needed us to mine gold for their planetary shield. This prevented their atmosphere from freezing as they moved further from the Sun.

According to Sitchin ((above) and others that agree with his hypothesis), Nibiru and its moons collided several times with Tiamat, a planet that existed where the Asteroid belt now resides. These collisions created the Earth and Moon, the Asteroid Belt and many comets. Sitchin has also suggested that Nibiru may be a brown dwarf. It's all very complicated...

For many, Nibiru is Planet X. It is widely believed that in 2012, Nibiru will return. That's only four years away and you would think that astronomers would have spotted such a large body heading this way. Even amateur astronomers with modest equipment should be able to see it. We'll see.

So that's Nibiru and 2012 out of the way. What is Nemesis?

More often than not, stars form in multiple systems i.e. binary, triple, quadruple systems etc. with more than one star. In fact, lone stars are in the minority in the galaxy. Many scientists and astronomers believe that the Sun may have a faint companion, a red or brown dwarf star.

This has been given the worrying name, Nemesis. Nemesis was the goddess of revenge in Greek mythology. Said to orbit at a distance of up to nine trillion miles (about fourteen and a half trillion kilometres) from the Sun, the presence of Nemesis may explain the perturbation of cometary orbits and also mass extinctions that affect the Earth every few million years.

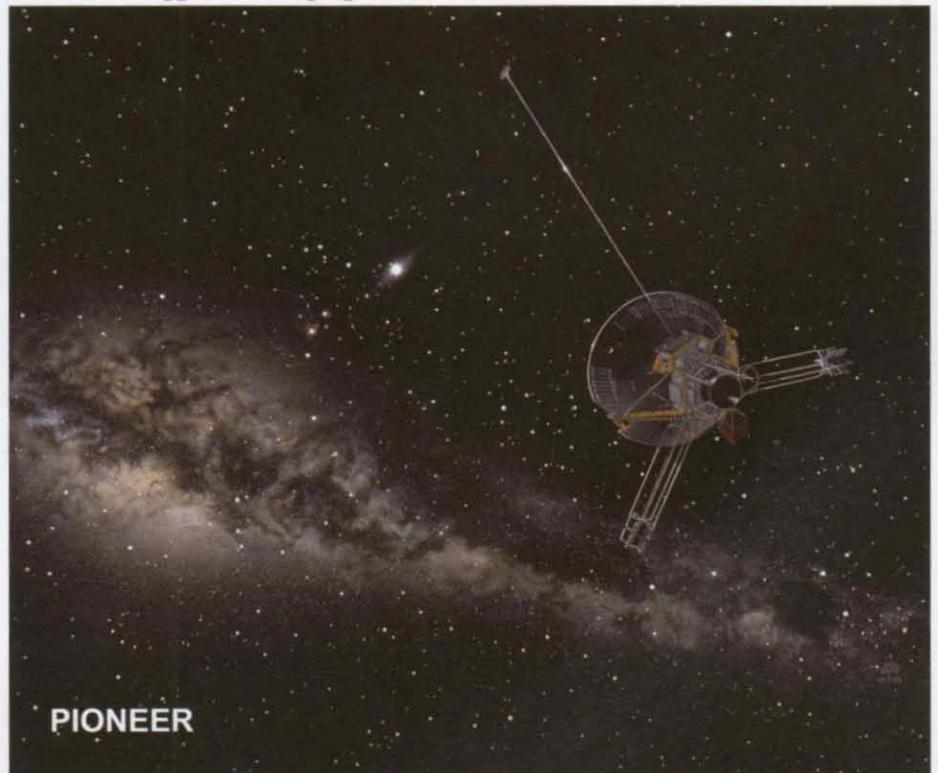
It is more likely that Nemesis, if it exists, is a brown dwarf (remember Sitchin's Nibiru?), a star that has failed to ignite, as a red dwarf so close to us would probably have already been spotted. In 2009, the WISE satellite will be launched. This is the Wide-Field Infra-Red Survey Explorer and is five hundred times more sensitive than previous mission such as IRAS. It will scan the entire sky over a seven month period and if a brown dwarf does orbit the Sun a little more than a light year away, then WISE should find it.

It is well-known that the two Pioneer probes are hurtling out of our solar system into interstellar space. Currently, they are still well inside the boundaries of the Sun's influence, about six and a half billion miles (about a hundred and five billion kilometres) away. Something is slowing both of these probes down. They are about a quarter of a million miles short of where they should be. What is happening? Many theories have been suggested, ranging from

dark matter or dark energy to trans-dimensional membranes intersecting our solar system and affecting the probes to, of course, Planet X. The simplest explanation (and therefore the most likely), suggested by astronomers at the National Autonomous University of Mexico, is that both probes are still well within the domain of the Kuiper Belt. It is thought that streams of material are being pulled towards the orbit of Uranus from the Kuiper Belt. While this material is extremely rarefied, it is spread evenly throughout the belt. Even this very slight matter would, over time, create drag on the probes, slowing them down slightly. It's just a theory, but one that explains why each probe is being affected identically to the other, despite them being on opposite sides of the solar system.

My sub-heading for this article is 'What's Going On In The Outer Solar System?' What is going on out there? New discoveries are being made all the time and it seems to be becoming increasingly crowded the further out we go. Does Planet X exist? I think so. In fact, I think there are likely to be many Planet Xs. If one of them has the Anunnaki living on it, we'll just have to wait until it swings back into our neighbourhood again.

Steve Johnson.



Mystery Circle in South Korea...

**Chungnam Boryoung City,
South Korea.**

A complex crop formation has been discovered in South Korea. We don't have too much information as the web report is in the native language but complex it is.

Interesting comparisons have been made with this and a formation that appeared in the UK on 7th July 2007 in East Field Nr Avebury. That circle has been associated with the four month lunar calendar.

Something that intrigues me is the date of the Avebury circle is just 12 months to the date prior to the Police helicopter UFO encounter in Wales. (see cover story).

Do the numbers mean anything? Well on too many occasions there have been strange links between events throughout the history of UFO reporting...

You can read more on the comparison of the two formation on the Crop Circle Connector website.

www.cropcircleconnector.com



*Pictures courtesy
www.cropcircleconnector.com*



ROMANIAN MIG COLLIDES WITH 'UFO'...

Once again news that should be on our screens seems to avoid news editors' selections. With our cover story breaking news that a police helicopter in the UK had a close encounter with an unknown object in June this year and made the daily newspapers, you would expect 24-hour news channels would at least use the story as a filler. The world voice on news acknowledged to be the BBC News website we find a very watered down version of the events covered in The Sun for example.

This does not seem to be the case in other countries.

Last October, the Romanian Air Force publicly announced that one of their fighter jets had been involved in a collision with an unknown object. They were prepared to face Romanian news reports and allow the damaged aircraft to be photographed.

Although the term UFO is not mentioned in the report by the military researchers and observers may take a different view.

Report:

The Romanian military has announced that their airplane was hit by an Unidentified Flying Object on October 30th last year. The aircraft camera captured 4 Unidentified Flying Objects which could not be made out on video due to the speed and due to the impact. The MIG 21 Pilot announced that he and another airplane was doing a routine exercise 6km away from Gherla, Romania when this object came from under the clouds and hit his airplane. The object which hit the plane at an altitude of 6300 metres was initially thought to be a bird. The idea that was later ruled out as it was thought to be highly unlikely that a bird would cause such damage to the military plane.

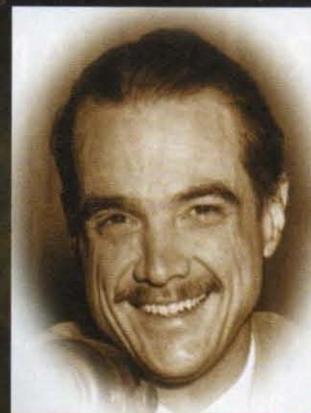
Mystery was to increase along with investigating the case, led by Lt. Nicholas Comandorul Grigorie, himself MIG pilot and graduate of the French Institute for Security Aeronavelor therefore one of the Air Force specialists to investigate such incidents. The Officer reported that all assumptions that could provide a scientific explanation of chance were cancelled.

First, have been excluded natural causes: the device has not been hit by a bird (in Romania because the birds not to fly at the height of 6,500 meters, and the body of the plane was not found any trace of organic matter), nor a piece of ice (because the sky was clear and did not contain any conditions that would cause water to freeze) or by a meteorite, because no astronomical data confirms entry of such bodies in the air that day. Then, have been excluded the chance of the body being a result of human activities. There were no civilian flights at that hour at about 30 km from Gherla. It cannot be fallout of exercises with artillery cannons or missiles.

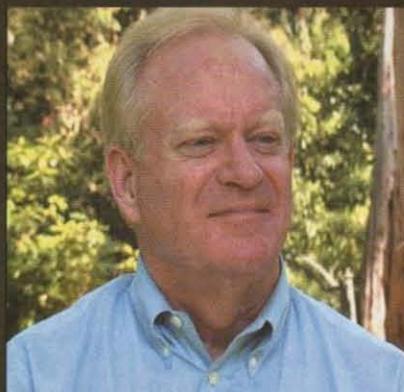
The object that struck the device was a motion of rotating around its own axis. "We can say with certainty what was not, but not what it was - an object that struck the MIG - but we do not know what material was or origin", Grigorie said, refusing to make any speculation about a possible "Extraterrestrial origins."



DID HOWARD HUGHES SEE THE ROSWELL WRECKAGE?



There is much speculation and secrecy surrounding the late multi-billionaire and recluse Howard Hughes. His strange lifestyle was depicted recently in the blockbuster movie, *The Aviator*, and for several years the UFO community has pondered over whether he could have had access to 'alien technology' while helping the US military develop secret aircraft during the 40s and 50s.



Bill Knell is a UFO researcher and writer of some standing and he has been in contact with a woman claiming that her father worked closely with Hughes on the giant Hercules transporter project (better known as the Spruce Goose).

What follows is an intriguing article from Bill, recalling the conversations and his own research into this fascinating possibility that Hughes indeed was privy to the greatest military secret of all times with the lady who brought the claims to him.

More from Bill at his website <http://newsletter.ufoguy.com>

Did Howard Hughes View a Captured UFO and Its Occupants?

By Bill Knell

Did Howard Hughes ever get a chance to view a captured or crashed UFO and its occupants? I have long pondered this question and there may now be an answer to it. According to a former employee of Hughes Aircraft, he did. The visit allegedly occurred not long after the crash of an alien spacecraft near Roswell, New Mexico, in 1947. You may think this story belongs in the BELIEVE OR NOT file and you may be right, but I feel compelled to pass it on to you anyway.

After a recent radio show guest spot, I received an email from a person that claimed to be the daughter of a former Hughes Aircraft employee. Having grown up on Long Island, where many government contactors are located, I am somewhat familiar with that part of the aircraft industry and have known many people that have worked on various U.S. Government contracts over the years. That helped me to make the decision to write this article and tell this story.

Linda is a retired teacher. She taught in public and private schools for over thirty years and has emailed me an impressive array of diplomas and certifications. She also emailed a few photos and some paperwork that ver-



ifies the fact that her father probably worked for Howard Hughes. Because she asked for anonymity, I cannot say much more about her or divulge where she currently lives at this time. I have encouraged her to come forward at some point and tell her own story in her own words.

Linda says that her father was involved with Hughes Aircraft as early as 1942, but the timeframe that concerns this story is the year 1947. It was during the summer of that year that Howard Hughes was obsessed with getting his oversized wooden seaplane nicknamed the "Spruce Goose" ready for a test flight. Officially known as the H-4 Hercules, the aircraft flew only once on November 2, 1947. The amount of time and work that went into getting the Hercules ready for that flight was unbelievable.

Her father worked closely with

Hughes during the Hercules project and later became a full-time employee of Hughes Aircraft. The two men met after he was referred to Hughes by a mutual acquaintance just after the USA declared war on the Axis powers and entered World War II.

Linda told me that Hughes used as her dad as a "problem solver." He had a knack for being able to look at most any mechanical problem and quickly suggest a practical solution. He also had the kind of temperament that allowed him to work with the eccentric billionaire.

Hughes was besieged with a number of problems during the summer of 1947 including a U.S. Senate inquiry into the way he had managed funds for the Hercules and XF-11 Photoreconnaissance Aircraft projects. Linda says that shortly after he testified at the Senate hearings, Howard Hughes returned to oversee work on the Hercules and spoke to her father about his possible involvement in an important government project.

"My father and I frequently spoke on the phone during the early 1970s," Linda told me. "We were very close and often bounced ideas off of one another. I do not recall the exact date, but I phoned to ask dad some questions about one thing or another and the subject of Howard Hughes came up. Howard's face was constantly on the cover of most of the supermarket tabloids during that time and we began talking about the *National Enquirer* and how they kept hounding him (Howard Hughes)." Linda's father scolded her for wasting her money on the



National Enquirer, but she said that her mother also purchased the tabloid. "

My mother thought it was amusing that the bogus stories about Howard almost always appeared on the same page as their standing reward for proof that UFOs and aliens existed," Linda continued. "Dad told me that Howard Hughes could have claimed that reward if he needed the money and laughed about the fact that he didn't. When I asked him what he meant by that, he told me the story."

According to Linda, Howard Hughes and her father were not friends and her dad would probably not be considered a part of Hughes' inner circle if such a thing existed. However, he did spend a lot of time with Hughes during the Hercules project and the two had a casual working relationship as long as her father delivered the goods. She told me that her dad said he was busy brainstorming with some engineers when Hughes summoned him into an empty office. Hughes had a kind of inquisitively stern look on his face and that usually meant that he wanted some advice on how to solve a problem or was about to start a new project.

Howard stepped away from the door to the office, but didn't close it. There was enough noise outside of the office so that no one could hear their conversation anyway. Howard sat down on a stool near the window. Linda's father stepped over to where he was sitting and listened intently. Hughes hated repeating himself and despised people that were not good listeners. Hughes told her dad that he had been contacted by a "high ranking member of the United States Armed Forces" while he was in Washington, D.C.

The billionaire was used to receiving unusual requests from the military. He was known as someone that could keep a secret and solve complicated problems. According to Linda's father, this one might have been the mother of all the most secret and complicated situations that the government ever faced. Hughes said that he visited a military base on the way back from the congressional hearings. He didn't mention where it was located and provided few details

about what happened there. Linda's father said that Hughes seemed uncomfortable talking about his visit to the base. He hated situations that he couldn't personally control and seemed to indicate that the entire event was orchestrated and controlled by the military. With the exception of Hughes, no civilians were present. Howard said that they showed him a new type of aircraft. Most of it was in pieces and it was obvious that the thing had crashed or been shot down. Hughes assumed it might have been something that the Russians cooked up.

It wasn't until Hughes got closer to the material that he noticed it was anything but conventional. He didn't pick up or touch any of it, but told Linda's father that it looked like "the damnedest stuff I've ever seen." The military officers present told him that despite the fact that it was in pieces, the material was extremely resistant to heat, cold and pressure. They also said that it was almost impossible to penetrate, yet it might have been an implosion that caused the crash. Howard never said if it had any writing on it and provided no further details about the material or the aircraft.

Hughes told Linda's father that the dead bodies of the crew members from the aircraft had also been recovered by the military and were mostly intact. He said they allowed him to view the bodies and described them as looking like "dwarves" or "deformed midgets" wearing seamless flight suits. He added no details about where or how they were being kept. Instead, he got right to the point. "They want me to figure this thing out and I want you on board," Hughes explained. That was the end of their meeting.

A few weeks later Hughes took Linda's father aside again and told him to forget about their previous conversation in the office. He gave her dad the impression that there were too many hassles and not enough money for him to get involved with that project. Her father felt it was more plausible to believe that Hughes wouldn't have been able to run the show and didn't want to get involved with something he couldn't fully direct. Or, perhaps he

knew or had learned something more about the project that turned him off to it.

It wasn't until many years after their conversation in that office that Linda's father came to realize that Hughes might have been talking about a crashed UFO and, specifically, one that probably crashed or was shot down during the summer of 1947. Her dad had never shown any type of interest in UFOs or aliens. Linda believed he might have come across the information about one of the UFO crashes from the tabloids that his wife read. The timing would have been correct because I saved issues of the *National Enquirer* and other supermarket tabloids during the 1970s and recall articles about alien and military encounters and UFO crashes.

I asked Linda if her dad might have been kidding her about the Hughes incident. "Oh, no," she said, "Dad never told tale tales. He had enough true stories about Hughes and other important people he met throughout the years... He didn't need to make up stories... I am certain he was telling me the truth." I also asked Linda how many times they discussed that story after he first told it to her. She replied, "Not more than a couple of times... He wasn't interested in UFOs... He told me the story on a whim because he thought it might give me a chuckle or two... Dad had nothing to add to the story and I believe that's why we never discussed it much."

Unfortunately, her father passed away a few years ago. I doubt he realized the impact that the story had on his daughter. Before she heard it, Linda barely gave the subject of UFOs a second thought. Afterward, she slowly became fascinated with the subject and told me, "My father told me that what Howard said he saw sounded a lot like what the tabloids were describing as crashed alien spaceships... and the bodies that he viewed fit the descriptions of aliens... I do not believe everything that politicians tell me, but I never saw a reason to disbelieve what they were saying about UFOs. What would they have to gain by lying about them? It wasn't until my father told me the story about Howard and

the material that I began to doubt their denials..."

Linda said that she started reading UFO articles published in some of the mainstream newspapers and magazines. Those tidbits awakened a casual interest in learning more about the subject. However, after retired Colonel Jesse Marcel came forward to expose the Roswell UFO cover up, she went out of her way to learn as much as she could about UFO crashes and military encounters. "I purchased a used copy of a book by Donald Keyhoe and read it cover to cover," Linda told me. "That book opened my eyes... I now believe there is much more to the subject than what we're being told."

I asked Linda why she waited so long to tell the story she heard from her father about Howard Hughes and the strange aircraft. "I am a very private person... I believe in doing all I can to promote education and to encourage students to stay in school. I want them to go as far as they can in life... I do not want to become the poster child for government conspiracies... You seem legitimately interested in discovering the truth about UFOs and Aliens. I believe that if people have a chance to learn about the story that my father told to me, they might feel compelled to come forward and share their own experiences and information with you."

I have a million more questions for Linda, but it is obvious that her father was given little more than a thumbnail sketch about Howard Hughes experience with a strange object and its occupants. He was only able to tell her what Hughes had told him. Not the best scenario, so I cannot say for sure that this story involves a crashed UFO and it's occupants.

I can say that I believe Linda's dad heard a story about a strange aircraft and unusually tiny crewmembers from Howard Hughes and that he told it to his daughter just the way he heard it, straight from the horse's mouth.

I have been researching Linda's story for about a week. I have spoken with her over the phone on several occasions. With her permission, I record-

ed the calls and subjected them to a voice stress analysis using an inexpensive testing unit I purchased a few years ago. If accurate, the results indicate that she was not being deceptive during our conversation. As a experienced UFO researcher, I was pleased that she cooperated with various requests I had for more information. That is almost always a good sign.

Linda has emailed enough documentation to make me believe that she is who she claims to be and that her father was employed at Hughes Aircraft. The materials she provided indicate that he probably worked for Howard Hughes on specific projects as a consultant before he became a full time employee. Because Hughes never told him that he actually saw an alien spacecraft or referred to the

dead crewmembers as aliens, we have to fill in the blanks with some careful speculation.

If Linda's story does anything, it proves that people out there are sitting on important information about UFOs because they still fear the repercussions that can result from coming forward to share it. The blame for that may be placed on the doorstep of a news media that seems incapable of covering anything deeper than where politicians attend church or how old they are.

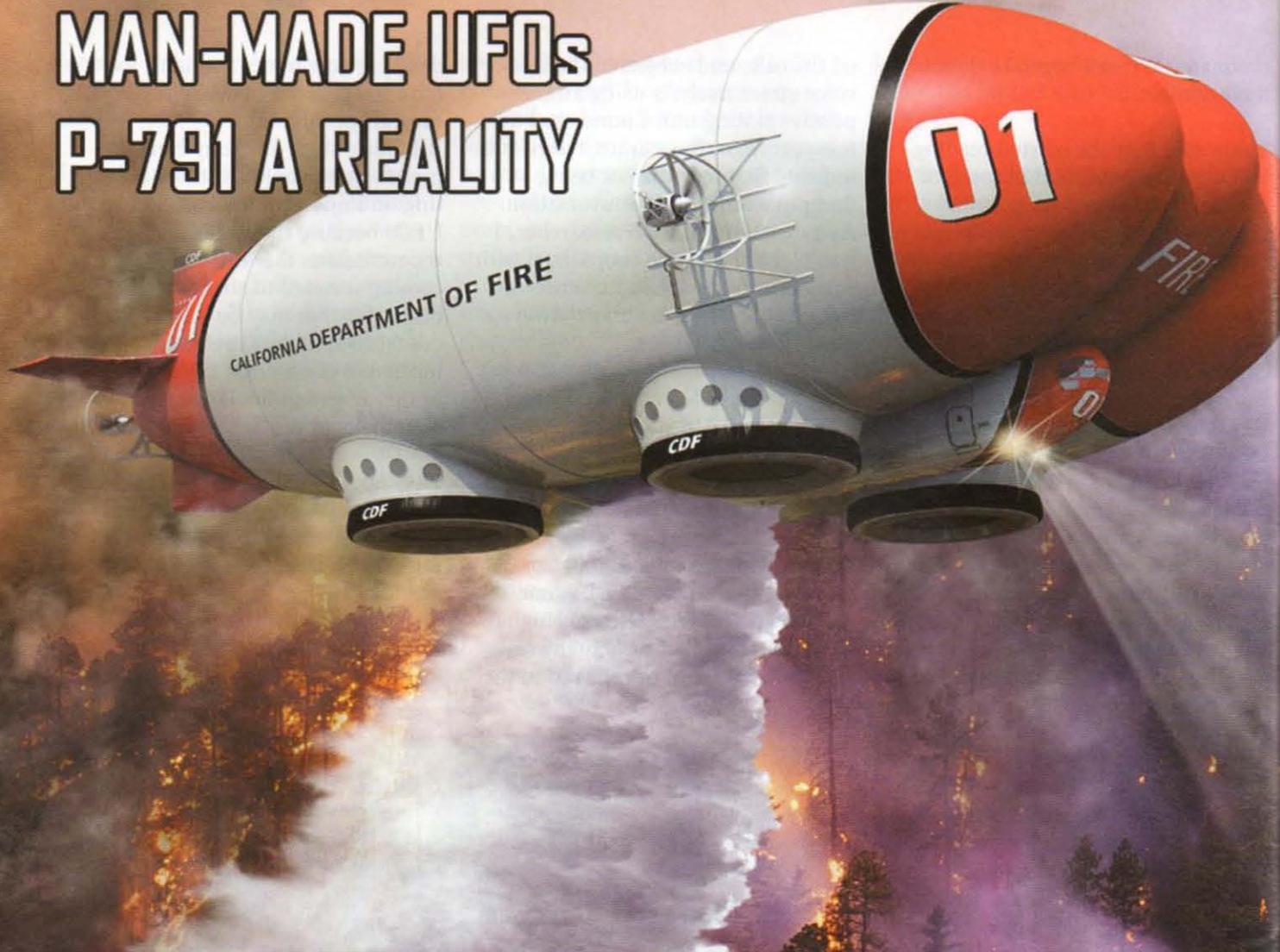
They ignore real news and issues in favor of serve serving statements from government flunkies bent on forwarding an increasingly outdated agenda.

Bill Knell.



MAN-MADE UFOs

P-791 A REALITY

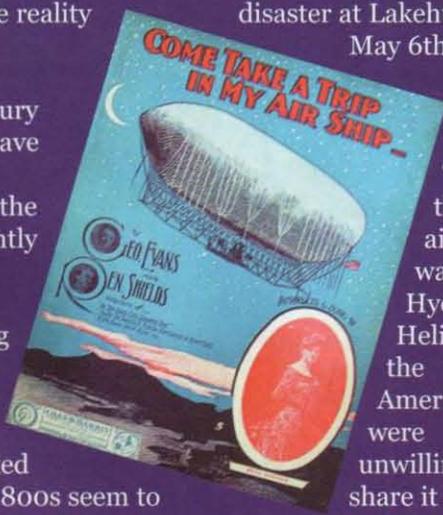


The image above might only be an artistic impression and even overdramatic but read on. The reality is here...

Since the turn of the century unsuspecting observers have often been confused and sometimes frightened by the sight of giant objects silently crossing the skies.

We are of course referring to airships. Most of the early development came out of pre-war Germany but reports from the United States as far back as the 1800s seem to confirm that airships in some form or another may have been responsible for sightings of UFOs.

As the technology was developed, even as early as the first world war these giants of the sky flew at high altitude thus drowning out the sound of their heavy diesel engines but their sheer size made them silent visions in our skies. The ill-fated *Hindenburg* was the largest flying object built by man and was witnessed by thousands if not millions of observers on its continental trips from



Europe to the U.S until the demise of the airship industry that was written by the disaster at Lakehurst, New York on

May 6th, 1937, when the giant ship exploded in a ball of flames whilst landing.

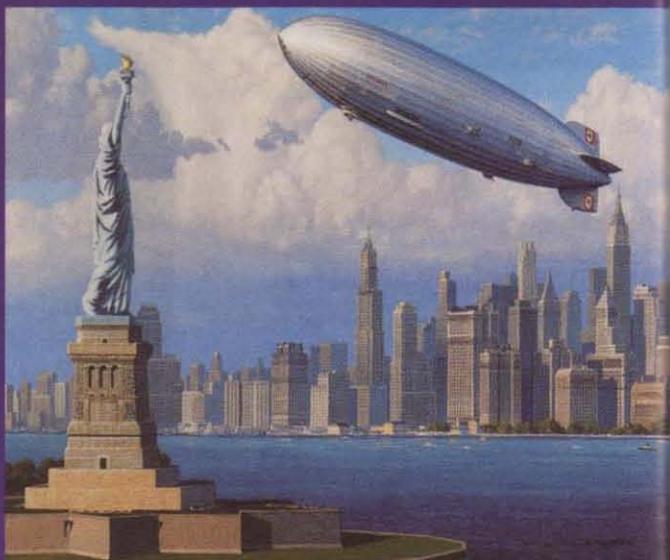
The problem was that the lifting gas used by airship manufacturers was highly flammable Hydrogen gas. Inert Helium was available but the Americans were unwilling to share it with the Nazi ruled Germany.

Germany.

In the seventy or so years that have passed since the *Hindenburg* disaster futurists have long predicted that even bigger airships would solve the mass transportation of people and goods by offering an economical

alternative to fuel guzzling jets.

Most of us will have seen advertising blimps and successful they may have been because how many times is the term 'Fuji' blimp used in reference to modern airships. But these craft are tiny in comparison of the 1930s giants of the sky, used by industry as camera platforms or flying advertising hoardings. Until now.



There had been several speculative projects, though none ever seemed to leave the drawing board, but in 2006 Lockheed Martin test flew The P-791 on January 31st, 2006.

Hoping to test the craft in secret was an impossibility as several witnesses couldn't help but notice the strange craft flying across the skies of Palmdale, California.

Net-based *Aviation Week* published the following detailed report on the 'secret' test:

SKUNKS WORKING

Lockheed Martin Advanced Development Projects is making perhaps the first realistic tests of a hybrid airship--a concept that dates back many decades but that is just now being tried at a significant scale. The Skunk Works had secretly built the craft and hoped for a quiet first flight at its Palmdale, facility, but a few passers-by noticed the strange object in the sky.

The Defence Dept. is showing interest in two categories of airships--those that can carry large cargo at low altitude, exemplified by the Defence Advanced Research Projects Agency (Darpa) Walrus program, and those that can operate in high-altitude low-wind conditions and remain on station for long periods of time.

The configuration of the Skunks Works ship indicates it is the former--a hybrid heavy-load carrier. The interest is across the services and the notional applications are diverse, ranging from logistics--delivery of an integrated fighting unit within theatre, for example--to sensor, communications and even laser-weapon relay platforms.

But airships aren't there yet. Major unresolved issues could derail the airship dream, such as their traditional delicate ground handling, and possibly prohibitive economics and vulnerability. These issues have been debated endlessly on paper, and now Lockheed Martin, a prime airship proponent, is investing to seek real answers.

A hybrid airship derives most of its

lift by being filled with a lighter-than-air gas such as helium. Overall, it is heavier than air and gains the final 20% or so of lift by flying like an aircraft, but with slow takeoff and landing speeds that allow operations from short unprepared strips.

The Skunk Works made the first flight of its "P-791" test bed on Jan. 31 at its facility on the Palmdale Air Force Plant 42 airport. The manned flight was about a 5-min. circuit around the airport in the morning and appeared to be successful. The company did not announce or want to discuss the flight.

The P-791 is not part of a government contract, but rather an independent research and development project by the Skunk Works to better understand airship capabilities and technologies, such as materials, a company official says. However, it may also be a quarter-scale prototype of a heavy-lifter.

To gain more span to act like a wing, the P-791 is three pressurized lobes joined together. An observer of the first flight says it was about the size of three Fuji blimps blended together. The Fuji blimp, a Skyship 600 model, is 206 ft. long. That suggests the P-791 would have a gross lift of roughly 3-5 tons.

The observer saw the craft performing very tight 360-deg. turns while taxiing. It made a brief takeoff roll, climbed to a low altitude, made a few banks--including a long sweeping turn--then came back and landed. The landing approach had a nose-down body attitude that levelled for the flare. The flight was very smooth, the observer says. The craft was flown by P-791 Chief Test Pilot Eric P. Hansen.

The speed of the test bed was estimated at about 20 kt. A full-scale version would be able to go much faster, over 100 kt. Lockheed Martin has long proposed a large transport airship, at one time called the Aerocraft, which was halted around 2000 (*AW&ST* Feb. 22, 1999, p. 26). That design was about 800 ft. long and was to carry 1-1.2 million lb. at 125 kt. The Skunk Works was one of two contractors to receive one-year, \$3-million Darpa contracts in August 2005 to study Walrus. The second

Walrus phase would be a three-year demonstration effort.

Hybrid airships have a long history. The Aereon Corp. in New Jersey started experiments in the late 1950s, but they were small scale (see www.aereoncorp.com). The company tested the "deltoid aerobody" shape, also called a deltoid pumpkinseed, with a 1,200-lb. manned demonstrator in 1970-71. That was followed by several studies funded by the military at less than \$1 million. In the U.K., the Advanced Technologies Group built a 40-ft.-long unmanned SkyKitten hybrid airship and flew it in 2000 (*AW&ST* Sept. 23, 2002, p. 30). Nothing in the field has progressed to the size or apparent sophistication of the Skunk Works test bed.

The P-791 uses four air cushions as landing gear, located on the outer lobes. Taxiing the vehicle could be like flying a hovercraft, except one with greater exposure to winds. An advantage of the air cushions is they could be reversed to suck the aircraft onto the ground to resist winds for cargo operations. Air pressure may also be the best way to spread landing loads into the inflatable structure. It's not clear if there are any devices, such as wheels, to keep the airship from sliding sideways when taxiing in crosswinds.

The craft has a special towing system.

GROUND HANDLING IS A MAJOR ISSUE...

facing hybrid airships. Conventional lighter-than-air craft require large ground crews and, because they are especially sensitive to winds on the ground, the airstrip is an area ripe for accidents. Hybrids are only slightly heavier than air, and a hybrid must show large improvements in ground handling over a standard blimp to be successful. The P-791's current limits are to remain in the hangar if winds are above 5 kt., and there is a 10-kt. limit for taxiing and flight.

That could restrict its flight test in windy Palmdale. It's not clear how the pilot was performing the balletic spins on his taxi-out--whether purely

with vectored thrust, or by spinning around one sucked-down air cushion, or other means.

The P-791 appears to have four propellers--two at the tail and two on the sides. The tail units appear to be able to pivot for yaw vectoring, and it's unclear if the ones on the sides can move. One knowledgeable individual says there are four vectored propulsors used for ground handling, but it's not clear if these are the main propellers, or separate units perhaps connected with the air cushion system. The rings around the motors may be shrouds for the propellers and/or gimbal rings for vectoring. Vectored thrust can be useful for lighter-than-air blimps, which lose conventional control authority as they approach zero airspeed while landing, but a hybrid airship lands with some airspeed that may keep the tail control surfaces effective. But for control during low-speed air cushion taxiing, vectoring would seem essential.

The P-791 appears similar to the proposed full-scale version of the British SkyKitten, called the SkyCat. They have similar overall shapes--though the Skunk Works design is wider--and similar propulsion layouts, and both use air cushion landing gear. Perhaps the two programs have people in common.

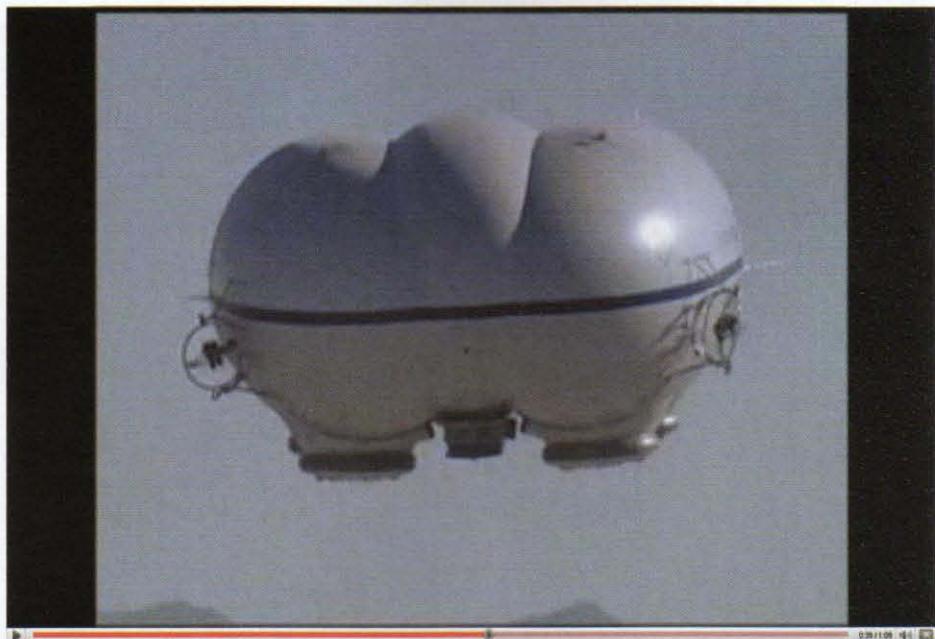
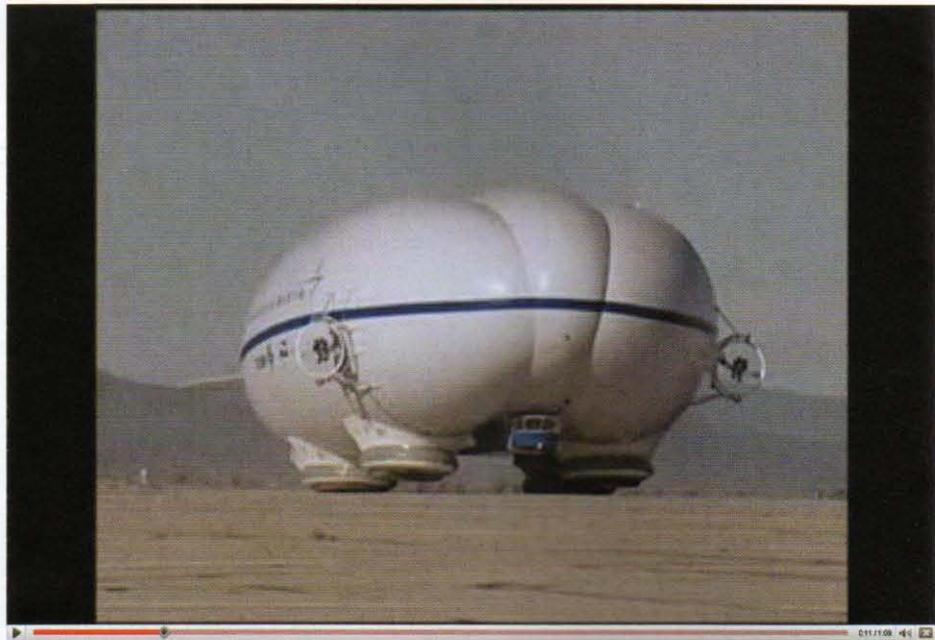
One of the partner names on the side is TCOM, which makes aerostats and envelopes for airships.

"Hybrid airships have been the subject of studies and questions for half a century," one expert says. "Now it stops being hype and they will meet reality."

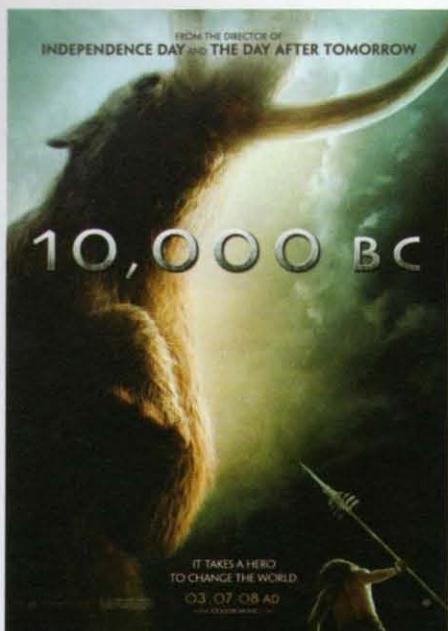
As you can see from the images the rigid body of the aircraft could easily be mistaken for the classic UFO or flying saucer if observed from a distance at altitude.

This is not to suggest that all UFOs are simply mistaken observations of mundane craft, far from it, but what it will do over the coming years is add more 'it might be's' to the ever growing list of things we have to consider when ruling out the possibilities associated with UFO sightings.

Russel Callaghan



You can view this video by searching P791 on Youtube



In 1994, director, Roland Emmerich, and producer, Dean Devlin, brought us a movie called *Stargate*. It was a great success, taking over \$200 million worldwide and spawning several TV series. Later, after several more blockbusters such as *Independence Day* and *Godzilla*, the team parted ways and went on to do other things. Emmerich seems to have become obsessed with disasters on a global scale, with *The Day After Tomorrow* showing us what the dawn of a new ice age might look like and his upcoming feature, *2012*, being about the end of the Mayan calendar and the problems that may bring.

This year, Emmerich co-wrote and directed *10,000 BC*, a \$100 million blockbuster that seemingly continues what he began with *Stargate*. In fact, while I watched it, I constantly thought of it as a kind of prequel to that movie, a kind of *Stargate Zero*, if you will.

Set in the epoch of twelve thousand years ago, the story focuses on a group of Ice Age hunters, the Yagahl. Their speciality is hunting the mammoths that frequently crossed their land. Unfortunately, the Ice Age is ending and mammoths are becoming scarcer. One day, a girl is brought into their village. She has blue eyes and tells of demons with four legs coming and murdering or capturing her people. The Yagahl take Evolet in and she grows up to fall in love with a young hunter called D'leh.

When the marauders that decimated her village arrive and capture or kill

many of the Yagahl, taking away Evolet and several others, D'leh and his mentor, Tic'Tic, set off to rescue them.

Along the way, they pass from the icy wastes of the Yagahl homeland, through lush jungle and into arid, deserts. Adventure ensues as we are finally brought to the home of the marauders, (very) Ancient Egypt. Huge pyramids are being constructed and the captured natives are used as slave labour by the Almighty. Great ramps stretch out into the desert and mammoths haul blocks of stone while slave drivers whip the thousands of workers into submission or sacrifice them to their god.

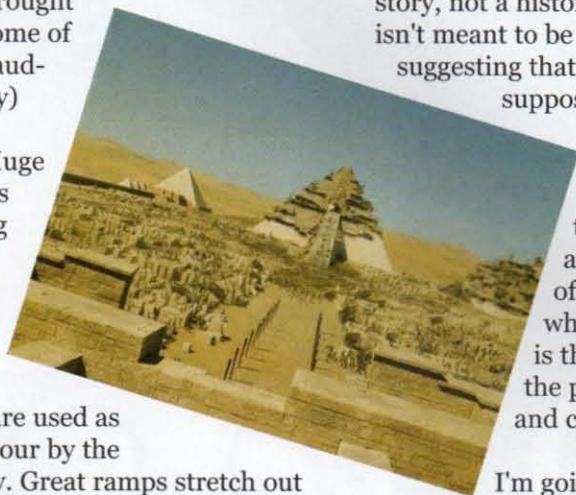
To free his friends, D'leh must inspire an uprising and defeat the evil taskmasters and their ancient, mummy-like deity.

There are several great set-piece action sequences, including a mammoth hunt, a battle against fierce terror birds (phororhacos, if I'm not mistaken), a sequence with a huge sabre-tooth cat and the final battle against the pyramid builders. I thought it was terrific fun.

It's obvious that *10,000 BC* borrowed heavily from the work of researchers such as John Anthony West, Robert Bauval and Graham Hancock, as did *Stargate*. West maintains that the Sphinx is thousands of years older than Egyptologists tell us, while Hancock and Bauval suggest that the Giza pyramids are laid out to commemorate an epoch going back to around 10,000 BC. The three main pyramids at Giza resemble the belt

stars of the constellation of Orion the Hunter and Orion plays a major role in both this movie and *Stargate*.

The movie has been criticized for being historically inaccurate. When I read comments like that about this kind of movie, I cannot help but laugh out loud. It's an adventure story, not a historical document and isn't meant to be accurate! It's like suggesting that *The Mummy* was supposed to be historically accurate, when it wasn't. Sure, the writers and production designers try and make these sorts of movies look somewhat authentic, but it is the story that drives the picture, not the sets and costumes.



I'm going to go out on a limb and suggest that

Emmerich intended this movie to show what might have happened after Ra from the *Stargate* movie was defeated and left Earth. The void left by Ra was filled by despots, who took over as 'gods' and began building the pyramids in memory of the evil extra-terrestrial's huge pyramid starship. Unlike Ra, they could not regenerate themselves, so they

grew old and died, leaving only one remaining. With the aliens and their technology gone, they had to use what they had to build these edifices and that meant lots and lots of slaves.

Thousands of years later, the pharaohs of Egypt completed the pyramids and continually restored the Great Sphinx (which is also seen briefly from a distance in the film).

That's my take on it anyway. I'm probably completely wrong, but it's fun to speculate.

All-in-all, I enjoyed *10,000 BC* and I look forward to what Roland Emmerich can deliver for *2012*.

SJ

POLICE COPTER IN NEAR MISS WITH UFO

Cover Story



The world of Ufology is sometimes devoid of new stories. Not to say that reports are not made, but for far too long we have relied on what seems to end up as another case of 'Thai Lanterns' but not always. Well as happens all too rarely, a very interesting story made the papers here in the UK as we approached the first day of summer.

Claims that a police helicopter had seemingly been attacked by an unknown aircraft on its approach to RAF St Athan in South Wales made the national press and, of course, we were interested...
(see following page)



RAF St Athan

courtesy Google Earth

Remember the mysterious Welsh coast object in Mar-April's issue. It is situated just off the coast less than two miles away from RAF St Athan...

On Friday 20th June, 2008, we had another big UFO story to hit the mainstream media. Many newspapers, ranging from *The Sun* to *The Telegraph* picked it up and television news reports also ran the story.

Initial reports told us that a helicopter operated by South Wales Police had to take avoiding action when an unidentified object approached the aircraft. The surprised officers in the chopper gave chase, pursuing the UFO across the Bristol Channel into North Devon, before running low on fuel and being forced to return to base.

At the time of the near-miss, the helicopter was waiting for clearance to land at the military base at St Athan, near Cardiff, and hovering at about 500 feet (152 meters).

The Telegraph Online reported: "A spokesman for South Wales Police said: "We can confirm the Air Support Unit sighted an unusual aircraft. This was reported to the relevant authorities for their investigation."

"It was reported that the aircraft closed in at great speed, aiming straight for the heli-

copter which swerved sharply.

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

The Sun went on: "After the near-collision they decided to follow it to find out what the hell it was. They belted across the Bristol Channel in pursuit, but it was too quick. They got to the North Devon coast and had to turn back because they were running low on fuel."

"The chopper is crammed with hi-tech cameras and surveillance gear, but the UFO somehow avoided being caught on film.

"Strangely, the crew could not see the craft with night-vision goggles - but all said it was "clearly visible" to the naked eye on the night of June 7."

The BBC reported: "A South Wales Police spokesperson said: "The crew are very experienced and responded in a professional manner in relation to what they saw.

"In today's skies, there are a wide variety of aircrafts which come in a range of different shapes and sizes and in all probab-

ity, this sighting has just confirmed that one of these was in the area at the relevant time," the spokesperson added.

"A Ministry of Defence spokesperson said they had heard nothing about the incident.

"But it is certainly not advisable for police helicopters to go chasing what they think are UFOs," the spokesperson said."

An amendment to the BBC's initial report contained the following:

"George Withrington, of St Mellons, said he reported the sighting to police and was given an incident number.

"The ex-RAF glider pilot said he was sitting in his garden reading a book on 8 June when he spotted the object at around 1620hrs.

"I was looking at an aeroplane overhead when I spotted this thing was in the corner of my eye.

"It shifted direction very quickly, in the blink of an eye.

"I looked at it for quite a while, I was

watching it for at least 10 minutes. It flew off towards the east, towards Newport."

UFO DATA Magazine contacted South Wales Police (SWP) and asked them for any information they could pass on to us. Oonagh Moore from the SWP Press Office replied the very same day. The email read:

"South Wales Police can confirm the South & East Wales Air Support Unit sighted an unusual aircraft. This was reported to the relevant authorities for their investigation. In today's skies, there are a wide variety of aircrafts which come in a range of different shapes and sizes and in all probability, this sighting has just confirmed that one of these was in the area at the relevant time."

"Extra information:

"**It was not a flying saucer and has not been described as so.

"**The helicopter did not chase it.

"**The police helicopter was not attacked.

"**The unusual aircraft did not speed straight at the helicopter.

"**The helicopter did not have to swerve sharply to avoid being hit and the crew would not have been "dead" as stated in *The Sun*.

"**The helicopter did not follow it, or chase it, across the Bristol Channel and the North Devon coast.

"**We haven't confirmed any of the details in *The Sun* story and a lot of the details are inaccurate.

"**The South & East Wales Air Support Unit is a facility shared between South Wales Police and Gwent Police."

I never mentioned *The Sun* in my initial contact with SWP, so I do not know why they have picked on that particular newspaper. The same basic story appeared in several other places, such as *The Telegraph*. Perhaps it's because *The Sun* is the most widely-read newspaper in the country.

What was this mystery aircraft that almost collided (or didn't) with a police helicopter? Was it a secret, military aircraft or drone? Was it a genuine unidentified flying object? Well, as it has not been identified yet, that's exactly what it is.

Did the pilots pursue the UFO? Early reports suggested they did, but the South Wales Police press release says that they did not.

What sources furnished the news media with the details of the encounter and can they be trusted?

We contacted the author of the article in *The Sun*, John Coles, asking about his sources. He replied that he could not identify the source, but did say that "they are well-placed".

SJ

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AUSTRALIA

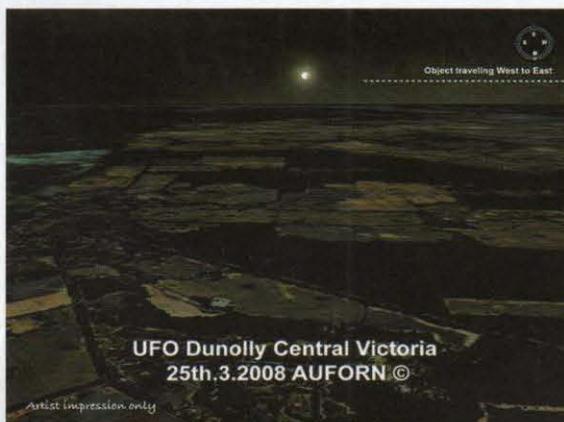
March 25th 2008 : Dunolly, Victoria
25.03.08 DUNOLLY VIC (NL)
Source: 1800 UFO HOTLINE CALL-
IN#6488

Witness Name: John X
Number of witnesses present: 1
Sighting Time: 21:00hrs
Sighting Duration: 10
Seconds

Observation: I was sitting on chair beside my new shed I'm building on my property in Central Dunolly I was taking a rest when this

object the size of cricket ball cut a path through the hazy of cloud cover and flew past my field of view. I was facing south the bright cream-white ball came into view from the West and travelled East it was about 1000 feet up not much more.

I have never seen anything like this before, I was pretty much a sceptic but I have had a few days to think about what I saw and this thing has



rocked my foundation so to speak, changed my mind about UFOs because it was nothing like I have ever seen in my travels.

In my younger years I was a high powered business consultant and travelled the world. I have talked with many pilots who say they have seen UFOs but are told not to talk about them. Those were the good old days when you could sit up with the pilots.

This thing scared the hell out of me and I don't scare easily that's why I reported it.

Description: No sound, the light wasn't very bright
Apparent Size: Cricket Ball Altitude: 1000 feet - Object Origin: West
Object Destination: Heading East.
Weather: Clear but Hazy
Other Experiences: My wife said she saw a strange lights up high in the sky while out on the property.
Investigator Diane Frola AUFORN WA

April 7th 2008 : Mermaid Beach, Queensland
UFO Mermaid Beach Qld 2050hrs (CE-1)

Date: 07.04.08
Sighting Duration: 50 minutes
Caller: Mr. Daniel W
Location: Mermaid Beach
Number of witnesses: 2
Number of objects: 1
Shape of object: 1
Weather Conditions: Overcast.

Observation

I saw a light out over the sea. Also noticed at least one or possibly two other aeroplanes "circling" the objects with floodlights on I believe they were observing it too!

Description: I went out to the beach to watch for UFOs! Saw no other light except that of what looked like a massive ship out on the water also an aeroplane above that was circling the area with searchlights on.

The lights on the UFO seemed to rearrange themselves. Then it would disappear under the water. It looked like a submarine with submerged lights.

Then I watched it appear on the

waters surface and sit there for a few minutes, then it rose off the water and went directly up what looked like a few hundred meters then move sideways what seemed like 1 kilometre or so and would lower back to the surface and proceed to go under water again.

It did this several times. After 45 minutes of this it went underwater and went North quickly.

I rang my girlfriend who was working in Surfers Paradise she went out onto the beach and described in my direction out at sea a ship that looked like it had "excessive lighting, it was huge but it didn't look like a normal ship." Also the plane surveying the area was travelling really slowly, hardly made any noise and looked different to any plane you usually see in the sky.

I believe they were watching it too. There was no sound, it went underwater, it was doing something underwater.

Size: I estimated it was around the length of 4 Busses back to back. It was shaped like a large naval ship from what I saw the lights seemed to move and manifest into different position on the craft, the light were bright yellow or white. It was 90deg to the beach, directly in front when looking out East.

I believe it was a USO It would look like a submarine with its lights underwater. The object seemed to manifest like it was sitting on the water, then it would raise directly up, more sideways and lower back to the surface and then go underwater again, several times.

At around 9.45pm it seemed to be underwater then it went North along the coast and I could see it in the distance near "The Spit". It was moved around 50 kph when it went under water it moved North very quickly (440 Kph+) it was there a moment, then it was gone.

Lights: Pulsating moving around themselves Size: 4 busses back to back.

Other experiences: A few weeks before both my girlfriend and I

watched what looked like a big star in the sky moving around, going in circles and flying along then instantly stopping and hovering ect. In the same areas as this but much higher and further away.

Report compiled by Diane Frola AUFORN from snail mail UFO report form.

CANADA

April 6th 2008 :

Parlee Beach, New Brunswick Star

Like And Orange Bright Light

Date: April 6, 2008

Time: 8:30 p.m.

Location of Sighting: Parlee Beach

Number of witnesses: 2

Number of objects: 2

Shape of objects: Star like and orange bright light.

Full Description of sighting: On Saturday, March 29 2008 my husband and I saw a UFO shoot across the sky and I reported it early in the day on April 06 2008, however I signed off by typing , "to be continued. I hope"! Well, later on that night at about 7:45 pm my husband and I were walking on the beach and it was a clear, starlit night. We walked for about 45 minutes, observing the sky the whole time. I had my flashlight and was flashing it towards a certain "stars" that look different in colour or brilliance and I always do a Morse code thing while I'm aiming the flashlight towards these "stars" and I'll say, "Come on, give us a show"! I repeat this every time I do the Morse code thing.

My husband was getting cold and wanted to go home to watch the Juno Awards, so we started to make our way back home. We were still observing the sky when suddenly I noticed,{in the sky, just above an island in the bay, not far away} a very bright orange "star" I said to my husband, "Wow, did you see that"? He said, "What"? but was looking in another direction and missed it.

It appeared like a star except it got bigger and much brighter and glowed orange, then suddenly shrunk back to a tiny dot and disappeared. This lasted no more than 2 or 3 seconds.

He was sorry that he missed it, so we

left the beach area and walked onto the grassy area when suddenly, we both noticed a very bright and sparkly "star". It was coming from the direction of the island and was low in the sky and moving very, very slowly from west to east in front of us. It had a golden or yellow hue. So I started to do the Morse code thing the whole time we observed it and kept flashing towards it, when after about 3 or 4 minutes it suddenly stopped.

WOW! We just stood there watching it and I said to my husband, I'm not leaving yet, I want to see what it's going to do next. It just hovered there, so after about 15 minutes we slowly walked towards our house and kept observing it to see if it was going to move again, but it stayed there hovering for the next 3 hours. It was awesome! It was low enough in the sky that when it was moving over the bay we could see the stars it passed behind it.

There was absolutely no sound coming from this "star". I had no idea that when I signed off by typing, "To be continued, I hope"! that we would have another sighting on the same day.

It was amazing and we feel very lucky to have had the sightings that we have observed since October of 2007.
Brian Vike, Director HBCC UFO Research.

MEXICO

March 19th & 21st 2008 :

State of Guerrero

The Journal of Hispanic Ufology

March 31, 2008.

Source: www.analuisacid.com, "El Matutino de Guerrero", "La Cronica de Chilpancingo"
Date: 30.03.08

EASTER WEEK UFOs

Ana Luisa Cid writes: According to a report furnished by journalist Francisco Rangel, UFO activity was reported over the Mexican state of Guerrero.

These cases involve images of "chance" UFOs that appeared in the "El Matutino de Guerrero" weekly and the "La Cronica de

Chilpancingo" daily papers.

Photograph 1 (opposite) was taken by young Irving Francisco Guerrero on a journey to the town of San Miguel el Progress, Municipality of Malinaltepec, dated March 19, 2008, approximately 14:00 hrs. He used a 5 mpix Kodak EasyShare.

Photograph 2 was taken by the same author. It is interesting to note what appears to be a disk that leaves a wake as it moves.

Photograph 3 was taken on March 21st by Lic. Javier Francisco Reyes, editor of the abovementioned publications, when taking photos of the premises where a Chedraui supermarket is to be built in Tlapa. An object that the journalist was unable to identify can be seen in the background, against the mountains. Lic. Reyes employed a Samsung S630 camera.

(Translation (c) 2008, S. Corrales. Special thanks to Ana Luisa Cid, Francisco Rangel and Javier Fco. Reyes)

Pics 3 4 5

NEW ZEALAND

April 10th 2008 : Clive, Hawkes Bay, North Island

Date: 10th April 2008

Time: 2.45am

Number of witnesses: 3

Number of objects: 1

Shape of objects: disc shaped

Weather Conditions: perfect clear sky, cold crisp air.

Description: It was my friends 22nd birthday, and we live on a house right next to Clive beach. After sobering up from a few drinks we decided to go to the beach and watch the stars for a while. As we rose over the bank, one of us spotted a orange and white light flickering on the horizon. we dismissed this as a boat travelling towards the harbour.

As we got closer to the waters edge, a low humming sound, almost like a rumble could be heard, again we dismissed this as a boat.

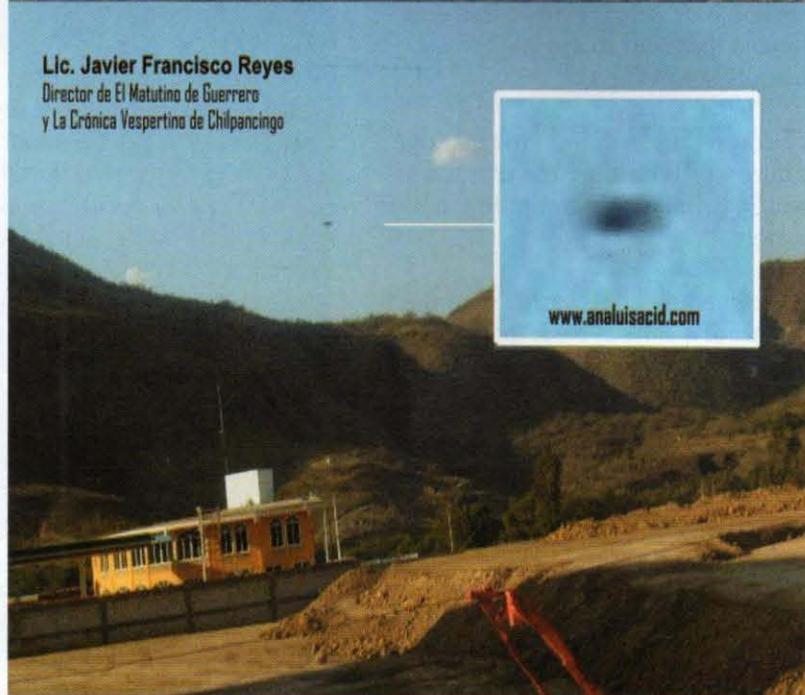
Each of us began to look more closely at the object and we all became more uncomfortable by it, as it was flickering in and out of focus and began to look like it was coming closer towards us.

The key point was when the lights rose out of the water, and got higher in the sky. It was like the lights were scanning the water, this was definitely not a helicopter or a boat.

We became quite afraid, and what went from a nice late night trip to the beach became a scary



FOTO DE IRVING FRANCISCO GUERRERO
CORTESIA: FRANCISCO RANGEL CRUZ
MUNICIPIO DE MALINALTEPEC, GRO.
MEXICO, 19 MARZO 2008



Lic. Javier Francisco Reyes
Director de El Matutino de Guerrero
y La Crónica Vespertino de Chilpancingo



FOTO DE IRVING FRANCISCO GUERRERO
CORTESIA: FRANCISCO RANGEL CRUZ

experience. We have a short video clip of the three of us running away, which shows a small light hovering in the distance.

The noise could be heard for around 20 minutes after getting louder and quieter, until there was sudden silence.

I have contacted maritime rescue, and they have said there was no search party out that night, so that rules out that answer!

SOUTH AFRICA

April 28th 2008 :

Milnerton/Somerset, West Cape Town

Milnerton/Somerset

West Cape Town, Africa UFO

Flashing Colours

Date: April 28, 2008

Time: Approx 6.45 p.m.

Location of Sighting: Above suburb of Milnerton/Somerset West.

Number of witnesses: 3

Number of objects: 1

Shape of objects: Spherical/craft.

Full Description of sighting:

At around 6:45pm my mother, brother and myself noticed a light flickering above the suburb of Milnerton in my home town of Cape Town South Africa.

At first we thought it was a really bright star, but after a few minutes it was glowing incredibly brightly, still completely motionless. I went to grab my binoculars but by the time I had focused them on the object it had dimmed out almost completely and a craft flashing red, blue and white lights began moving away out of our sight (a building was obscuring the view).

It wasn't a jet/plane.

USA

April 8th 2008 : Border Of Utah/Nevada

Border Of Utah/Nevada Eyewitness Films UFOs (Pictures)

Date: April 8, 2008

Time: 3:15 p.m.

(Images opposite)

This happened on 8th April 2008 at 3:15pm. I heard a jet going over my home and ran outside with the camera to see what it was.



It wasn't a jet, as it was a perfectly round ball of metal with a mechanical leg on each side. The leg came up vertically from the centre of the 'ball' and then down, like an upside down V. It was going slow towards the south. As I was trying to view this on my camera screen, I kept seeing the orange spheres flashing back and forth, in different directions, as though it was trying to flee perhaps the military jet, as often reported..

I then saw the two orange spheres come side by side and the 'jetball' sitting still in front of these orange spheres. That's when I snapped the picture. It happened so fast that I was unable to get any further pictures. I heard a very loud super sonic sound, then saw the two black trails of smoke. All 3 objects then disappeared...and the smoke dissipated quickly.

The orange spheres appeared as lights or orbs, they did not seem to be a solid object.

I did not hear the 'jetball' take off or go in any direction. It was just gone." If you have anymore questions, feel free to ask. I have a heavy plate right now but as yourself I'm for the truth.

April 17th 2008 : Kokomo Mall,
Kokomo Indiana Orange Coloured
Objects Hovering

Date: April 17, 2008

Time: 9:36 p.m.

Location of Sighting: Kokomo Mall.

Number of witnesses: 4

Number of objects: 1

Shape of objects: Circular orbs.
(photographs opposite)

Full Description of sighting:

I came all the way from Dayton, Ohio to try and catch this UFO on video. My family is from Kokomo and I knew what was going on as it happened.

Wednesday, the 16th I was talking to my mom who lives on the Howard and Tipton county line road around 10:30 when she told me about the big sonic boom. She said I wouldn't believe it, but that she was looking north from her bathroom window and was watching two white glowing UFO's.

I called several people in town



because I wanted someone to go take a picture of it. My mother doesn't use a camera. She watched the strange sighting hovering over WWKI and one in the direction of the Flowing Well road from her house for about 45 minutes until she went to bed.

Then after my daughter called and told me weird things were going on and I needed to get up there and I decided to come up the next day.

I came to Kokomo with my 14 year old daughter and her friend, equipped with my video camera, and two cameras. Thursday night we decided to go west of town since a lot of reports were happening there. We just left Cici's pizza and were just crossing US 31 on Boulevard road when to the right I noticed a bright orange object just above the roof of the Kokomo mall.

It was approximately 9:35 p.m. I had

the two teenagers, my 27 year old daughter and her baby in the van with me. I screamed to them , "Look" there it is". I yanked the van into the parking lot as fast as I could and said, everyone grab your cameras. We jumped out and I video taped and my oldest daughter took pictures. It looked like two orange orbs just over the roof of the mall.

One light would come on then the other one next to it. Then they would go out one at a time and then repeated this again. All the girls perception was a little different than mine. They saw the lights and then something like the look of a lava light globbie string between the two orbs as they separated and then went out before the globes would come back on again one at a time again.

My daughter caught a picture of it over the roof. It doesn't look like orbs though. I have a 7 second video of it.

All I know is this was strange indeed. Some men from the Chrysler building across the street were on break and must of seen this too, because they were pointing over to where it was. We went out all night until 4:00 a.m. in the country and never saw anything more that night.

Also as we were watching the orbs this overwhelming metallic smell was burning in our nostrils. Really strange.

April 19th 2008 : Lincoln, Nebraska
16 Circular Large Silver Shiny Objects
Date: April 19, 2008
Time: 7:00 p.m.
Location of Sighting: Lincoln, NE.
Number of witnesses: 2
Number of objects: 16
Shape of objects: Circular.

Full Description of sighting:
My roommate was sitting outside at 7:00 PM and the sky was clear, no clouds, still plenty light. It doesn't get dark around here until 8:45 or so. He came running into the house and said "you have got to see this!" I thought he might have been talking about the birds in our yard as we feed many species of wild ones.

I walked out and he pointed up in the sky to the east. I saw a plane leaving a chemtrail. He said, "No! Those silver things!" As I looked, above the plane (higher) I began to see what I thought were stars. They were silver and shiny and sitting still. They were also lined up. At the beginning there were three. Then, they slowly started moving to the east (we were using the tree branches as reference) and more seem to "appear" and follow the others. They were extremely slow, but definitely in a line. I thought maybe they were balloons, but they were just too high up and were in such a uniform line that it had to be impossible for them to be balloons! They also had to be extremely large as we compared them to numerous planes flying from east to west above us.

They were very shiny and silver and seemed to be circular. In all, we saw 16 total craft. The whole episode took 10 minutes. We were sitting looking for more, much to our surprise, one came back heading west at a high

rate of speed and much lower (about a planes altitude) and it went from horizon to horizon in about 15 seconds.

There was also a plane in the sky and it appeared to be moving at a turtle's pace compared to this circular craft. Very weird!

Later on in the night at about 10:00 pm we went out again, and saw something else that was equally weird. We saw a white light moving from north to south and it looked like a satellite. Then, coming from the south, heading north another white light. As they approached each other, the one heading south turned off it's light until it was past the other one!

Now, I can not explain how one would black-out and the other would stay lighted, but it was definitely an intelligent move! I have never seen a satellite go "black" as another one passed by it! The sky is really getting hot around here and I hope someone else has witnessed these events! Will be looking more often now. Thanks, and let me know if you get anymore reports from this area, would be interested to know.

April 25th 2008 :
Round Lake, Illinois Police Officers
And Many Witness To UFO Sighting
Date: April 25, 2008
Time: Approx: 8:45 p.m.

When I got to work this morning, my co-worker was acting a bit odd. When I greeted him he said ", I gotta tell you something really bizarre. I didn't even tell my wife because she'll think I'm crazy."

My co-worker lives in Round Lake, Illinois which is rather far north. He was a short distance from his home on route 120 (I believe he said) which has some farm area and quite a bit of space. He tensed up and got very wide eyed and intense. This is what he told us (another employee and myself), not

verbatim but this is rather close.

As I was driving I saw this huge light at ground level but still above the field it was over. I kept driving but I saw cars pulled over with people out of their cars watching so I pulled over. I asked some people what they thought and I said I thought it was some equipment being used or kids screwing around. But the light just sat there for awhile. Nothing happened so I started to drive away when I noticed the light wasn't getting any smaller.

I saw more cars pulled off up ahead again so I pulled over again and watched it for awhile. By this point a cop showed up with his lights on. He asked everyone what was going on, I told him what I thought it was but that something was weird about it. So then another police car pulls up and says, 'You can only see it from the one side, I drove around the property.' Now, we all think it some sort of lighting rig.

So the cops head out across the field towards the light when it shot directly up in the air like 20 feet and disappeared, it didn't fly off, it disappeared.

The cops came running back pretty freaked out. I hung around while they searched the area and found not a trace of anything out there. At this point is was 11:30pm."

We get off work at 8pm, which would have put him in that area at 8:45. My co-worker has a wife and a three year old son that he adores.

He is an incredibly nice and reliable person. In five years of working with him I have never heard him exaggerate any details nor have we ever discussed my passion for UFO's and chemtrails.

All sightings courtesy of UFOINFO and Brian Vike of HBCC Research

www.hbccufo.org
HBCC Research





KECKSBURG Documents released...

Opening NASA's X Files: The Kecksburg Incident

Author: Leonard David

Call it NASA's X files if you must, but investigative reporter, Leslie Kean, is hot on the trail of what in the world (or out of it) took place in Kecksburg, Pennsylvania in December 1965.

It took the winning of a lawsuit against NASA in U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia, but now the investigator has her hands on a load of files that may - or may not - offer new clues about the Kecksburg incident.

For years, Kean has been seeking documents about the purported crash of an unknown object in that locale over forty years ago.

Witnesses described seeing a fireball in the evening sky, some sort of a controlled landing, followed by a military recovery of a spacecraft-like object. As reported by local radio and newspapers, U.S. military

personnel cordoned off the area, investigated the site, and left without ever providing a full report of the incident - other than to dismiss it as a meteor.

Since the settlement of the lawsuit in October, Kean has been following the steps laid out in the settlement agreement. Both sides needed extensions at various times due to the volume of work selecting which files to pull, and then for NASA to conduct the search, the investigative journalist explained to me.

Helping to open this case, Kean has been working with the Coalition for Freedom of Information.

In her on-going research campaign, Kean culled through 689 detailed pages of file-inventory lists.

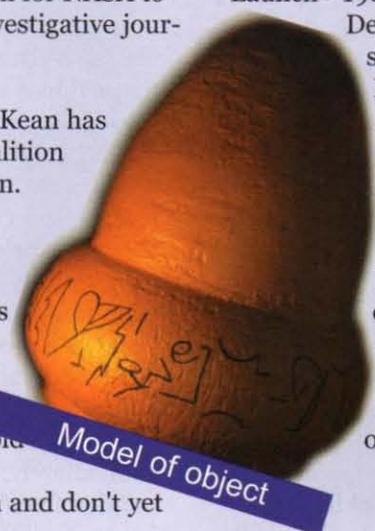
The documents just arrived over last weekend, Kean told me, "so I haven't yet had a chance to go through them and don't yet know what I'll find."

NASA searched 297 boxes of files, Kean

said via email. A sampling of a few of the more interesting files from these boxes, which she requested - and which could shed light on one or more of the many facets of the Kecksburg event - gives a flavour of what the files contain.

The data haul includes files on Navy and NASA Recovery Operations - Trajectory and Orbits Panel; Russian Vehicle and Launch - 1962-1965; Department of Defence (DOD)-NASA relationships; Recovery Sites - NASA/DOD FY 65 Facilities; and a series of files on orbital debris and fragments.

"Even if not specific to Kecksburg, they will very likely inform us about interesting aspects of NASA's space program related to the retrieval of unidentified objects during this time period," Kean said.



Leonard David.

APOLLO XX Update...

Apollo 20: The Controversy Continues...

In the Jan/Feb, 2008, issue of *UFO DATA Magazine*, we took a look at the controversial claims of William Rutledge. He claimed to be a former US test pilot and mission commander for a secret mission to the far side of the Moon in 1976. That mission was dubbed Apollo 20 and launched, according to Rutledge, in August, 1976, from Vandenberg AFB in California.

The mission, conducted by the US Air Force, not NASA, and including three crew members, was to locate and explore an object on the lunar far side that was photographed by Apollo 15. The object (and it is real) appears as a cigar-shaped 'whatever' sticking out of the ground and is completely unlike anything surrounding it. Could it be a derelict, alien spacecraft?

Under the username of 'retiredafb', Rutledge posted several videos to YouTube, claiming them to be from the Apollo 20 mission. They were impressive, but few people thought they could be real. They just had to be hoaxed. Didn't they?

Italian researcher, Luca Scantamburlo, conducted an email interview with Rutledge, who said he was retired to Rwanda, and, while still sceptical, thought his story had

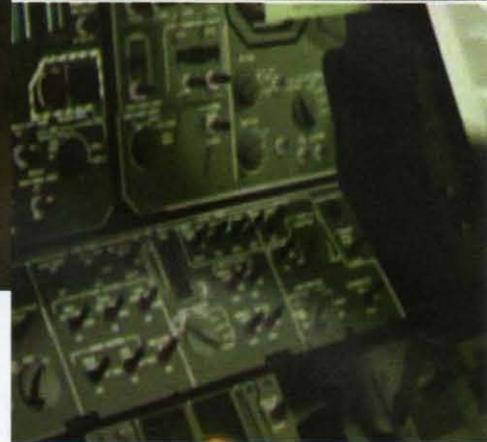
merit. Luca has now stepped back from active investigations, but his work can be found at his website: <http://www.angelismarriti.it/ANGELISMARRITI-ENG/home-ENG.htm>

The YouTube videos depicted the launch of the Saturn V from Vandenberg, a fly-over of the 'spacecraft' and some shots from the lunar surface. Some of these, particularly the surface shots of an alleged ruined alien city, have been shown to be fake. But does that mean the whole story is untrue?

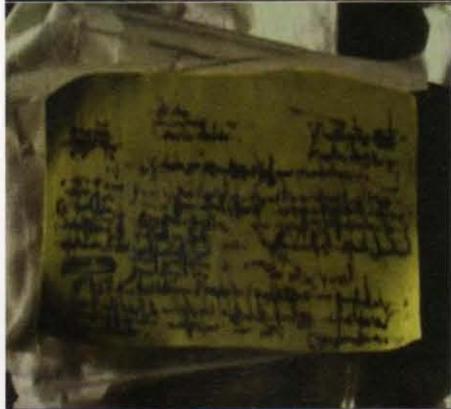
Rutledge has removed his videos from YouTube and moved them over to another video hosting site. This can be found at <http://revver.com/u/retiredafb/>

On April 7th and 8th, 2008, two more videos were added to the revver.com website. Titled *APOLLO 20 E.B.E. Mona Lisa TV unscheduled transmission* and *APOLLO 20 E.B.E. Mona Lisa 16 mm film*, they show the inside of the lunar module (LM), one of the astronauts, probably famed Soviet cosmonaut, Alexei Leonov, a piece of yellow paper with some odd markings and the body of a female 'alien'.

Immediately, cries of "Fake" resounded from around the web and it is easy to see why. The interior of the LM looks impressive, as does the



view out of the window, but the 'body' just doesn't look right. It looks manufactured and plastic. Let's cut Rutledge some slack, though. After all, 'Mona Lisa', as she was dubbed by Leonov, according to Rutledge, had been inside the alien craft for millions of years. He also said she



was still alive, but she doesn't look very sprightly in the video.

Okay, let's look at the video itself, rather than its contents. It was allegedly on 16mm film, but there are periods that look like interference on picture. How is this possible with a film camera? The image is captured onto film chemically, not electronically, as with video, so electromagnetic interference should not be a problem.

The marks on the film, giving it the appearance of age, look like the sort that can be added in video editing software, rather than genuine scratches and dirt.

During the shot out of the LM window, there seems to be a dissolve, as though the shot of the approach to the window and the shot of the outside are separate pieces of film spliced together. Outside, there appears to be some sort of wheeled vehicle. An eagle-eyed member of the Above Top Secret (ATS) forum, 'olegkvasha', identified the vehicle as the Soviet Lunokhod rover.

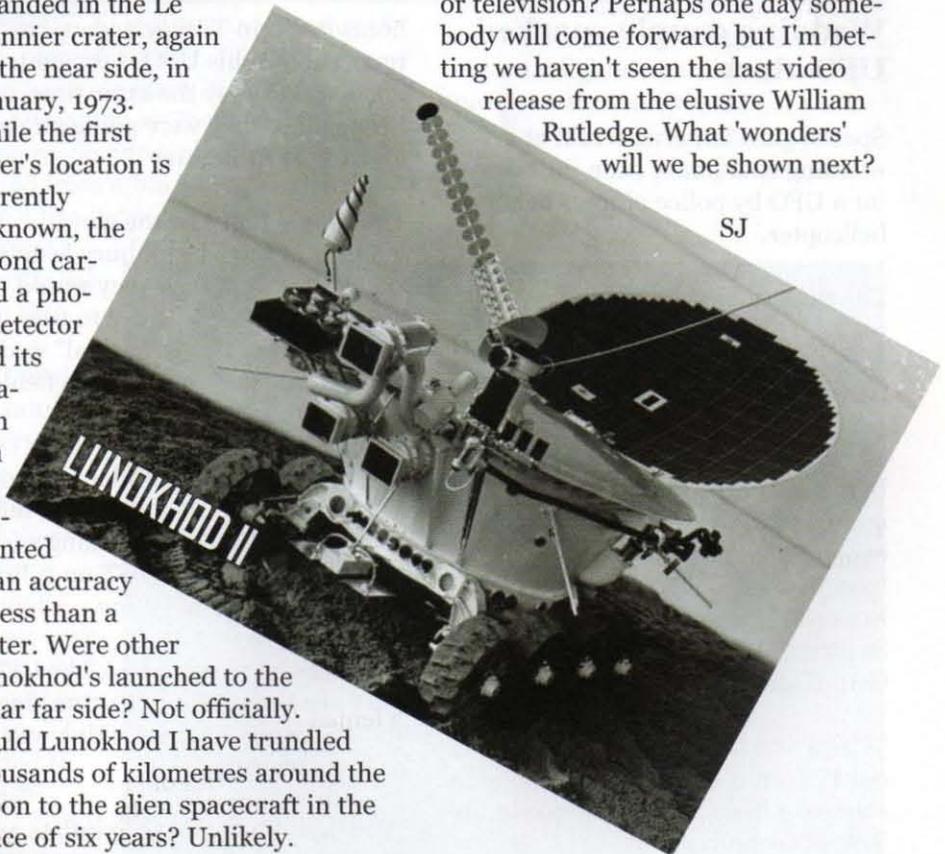
Lunokhod I set down in Mare Imbrium on the near side of the Moon in November, 1970. Lunokhod II landed in the Le Monnier crater, again on the near side, in January, 1973. While the first rover's location is currently unknown, the second carried a photodetector and its location can be pinpointed to an accuracy of less than a meter. Were other Lunokhod's launched to the lunar far side? Not officially. Could Lunokhod I have trundled thousands of kilometres around the Moon to the alien spacecraft in the space of six years? Unlikely.

The interior of the LM looks very

clean. The Apollo astronauts told us that lunar dust was a major problem for them. It got everywhere and they tracked lots of it back into the LMs after their EVAs. Why isn't there any lunar dust in evidence in the film? Also, why go to all the effort of creating an impressive LM interior and then bodge together an alien body that looks so fake?

Rutledge also told Luca Scantamburlo that the head of another alien (a dead one) was taken back to the LM. Why isn't this in the clips? If this female alien they returned to Earth is still alive, will Rutledge release 'film' of her walking about?

The whole Apollo 20 saga smacks of an elaborate hoax, but one wonders why the hoaxers have done this? How much money can they expect to make? After the Santilli Alien Autopsy debacle, I doubt the major networks would touch it with a barge pole. Maybe it was done simply for fun or to create some notoriety. Whoever did it (if it is a hoax) can certainly make good models (the LM interior, the lunar surface flyover, the lunar surface on the ground, the Lunokhod rover and, to a lesser extent, the 'Mona Lisa' body), so is it somebody with a background in film or television? Perhaps one day somebody will come forward, but I'm betting we haven't seen the last video release from the elusive William Rutledge. What 'wonders' will we be shown next?



SJ



Breaking News Wedding party clue to Copter near miss...

Wedding couple sparked UFO alert ...

Special glow lanterns set off at a wedding could have been mistaken for a UFO by police officers in a helicopter.

The three-man crew spotted an unusual object in the sky above St Athan on 8 June in the Vale of Glamorgan.

It made headlines around the world but it was only when newlyweds Lucy and Lyn Thomas saw reports on honeymoon that they realised what could have happened. The lanterns were lit in Cowbridge and floated off towards St Athan, close to an RAF base and Cardiff airport.

"There's no doubt in my mind it was our lanterns," said Mr Thomas, 30, a salesman from Llantwit Major in the Vale of Glamorgan.

"We went on the internet on our

honeymoon in Turkey and saw a report about this UFO. I thought, 'oh no, it was exactly the same time and I remember they were going straight towards St Athan way'."

The couple first saw the glow lanterns at the Glastonbury festival last year and thought they would make an ideal alternative to fireworks for their "mini festival" wedding party for 150 guests in a field near Cowbridge.

Mr Thomas bought 100 lanterns on an internet auction site and set off about 30 - with guests making wishes - from about 2300 BST on 7 June until 0200 BST on 8 June.

"I can see how they'd look like UFOs. They are about 2ft 6in (0.79m) high and are paper lanterns with a wax ball underneath.

"You light them and they inflate and float off - exactly the same principle as a hot air balloon," said Mr

Thomas, who said he checked aviation regulations and made sure the lanterns were set off five miles away from Cardiff International Airport.

"You can't judge their size [in the air] because they're so bright. They just look like a big ball of light. When you light them they just go up and up and up.

"Strangely enough we saw them in Glastonbury last year and sat there for hours trying to work out what they were."

He said he could not believe the coverage the UFO sighting had had in the media.

"It's just gone mad," he added. "But everyone we've spoken to since said there's no doubt that they [the lanterns] were what they spotted."

UFO DATA.

Always the simple option seems to convince our major media reporters when it comes to UFOs.

The BBC kept this whole incident in a very sober frame, unlike the country's best selling daily newspaper 'The Sun', who spoke to highly placed sources (so we have been told) in their version of events.

How can highly-trained expert observers with hi-tech instruments at hand mistake a paper balloon and a fire lighter for a fast moving 'unknown aircraft' heading towards them in a manner that required evasive action by the crew to avoid a collision. What's more how come the thermal camera couldn't pick up what is essentially a naked flame in front of it..

This leaves me two choices.

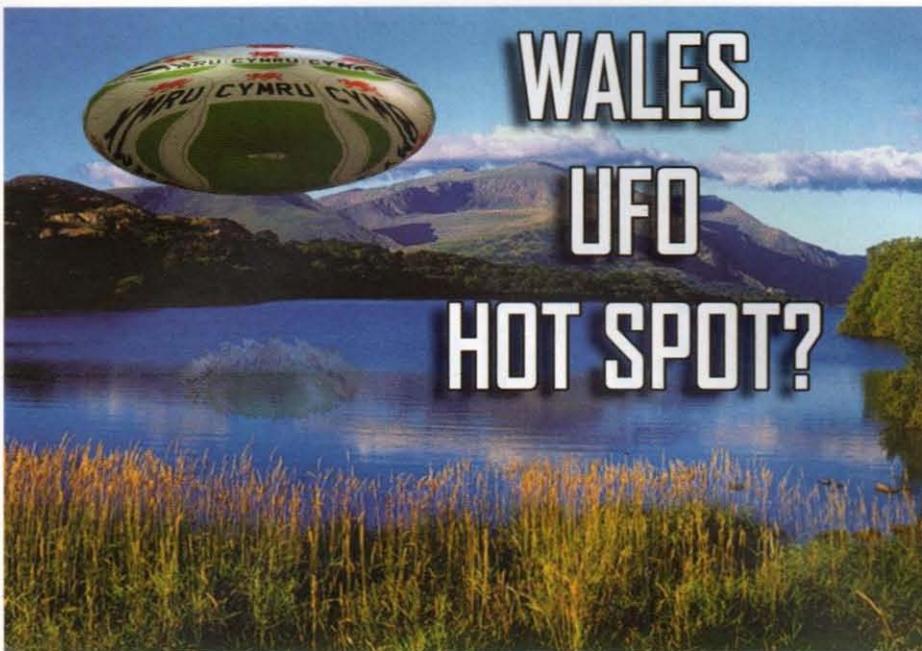
1 The Sun fabricated their version of events.

2 The balloons are not responsible for this incident.

Judging by the reaction of the police and the RAF base I will go with the latter on this one.

Russel Callaghan.

WALES UFO HOT SPOT?



UFO DATA Magazine received an email from Daniel Johns of the *Brecon and Radnor Express* on Monday, 23rd June, 2008. The email contained brief details of a UFO sighting and some photographs.

Mr Johns wrote:

"Please find attached the images taken on June 12. They were taken on a mobile phone at approximately 23.40. The gentleman had picked up his son from Cardiff Airport and [they] were heading home to Llangynidr. They were driving through when they saw the objects in the sky in the direction of Talybont-on-Usk. After about 15 minutes they began to vanish.

"How valid are these photographs? If you could give us a comment on behalf of the magazine, [it] would be greatly appreciated."

The photographs are reproduced here.

Russel replied:

"I expect the witnesses got quite a surprise on seeing the strange light formations in the sky and taking the option of photographing the

experience means at least they have something to prove their encounter really happened.

"It is unusual to see tight formations of lights

like this unless associated with normal aircraft. There have been however many sightings of what we know as Thai Lanterns, home made hot-air balloons, furnished from a bin bag or similar, with a fire-lighter or other solid fuel burner to give the balloon lift.

"Although the initial observation does not appear the way these lanterns normally do, we have a clue when the witness states, 'They started to vanish'.

"One photo shows four

lights, the second three and this could point to the fact that one of the balloons' fuel sources had run out. You can also see in one image something above the light. Could this be the infamous lanterns?

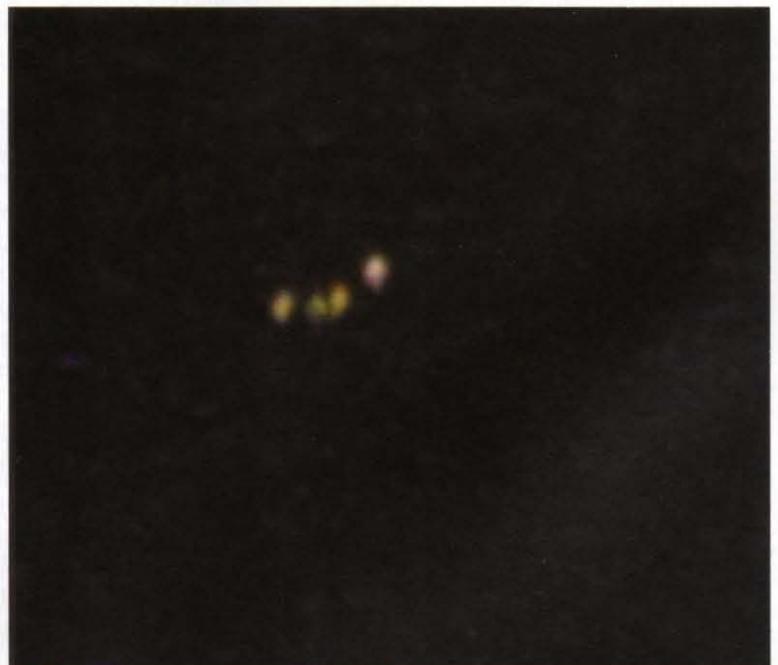
"It could also be unusual aircraft turning away from the witnesses' viewpoint, hence the lights going out.

"Obviously there is a lot of interest across the country at this time since the release of the police helicopter report, and it seems people are taking more notice of what is in the sky.

"I'd like to remain on the fence on this one, but, if pushed, I would suspect the Thai Lantern option, they are being reported every week."

There is no doubt that the witness saw something and photographed it. The digital photographs provided by Mr Johns show that they were taken with a Sony Ericsson W810i mobile phone (a pretty good one going by the online reviews). The W810i has a 2 megapixel camera with autofocus and a 4x digital zoom. The photos were taken three minutes apart on the 12th June, 2008 at 23:36 and 23:39, respectively.

In the final analysis, though, what we have here are two photographs of nocturnal lights: interesting, but unfortunately inconclusive.



The BADGE of BARLOK

RICHARD
HOLLINGWORTH

The Badge of Barlok

Author: Richard Hollingworth

Publisher: Blenheim Press Ltd

ISBN: 978-1-906302-00-9

172 pages

The Badge of Barlok is a book aimed at children by Richard Hollingworth. As you might guess from the cover, the story revolves around the UFO enigma and the author certainly packs in as much UFO lore as he can.

Twelve-year old Simon Hall discovers an old badge in the loft of the new family home. The badge contains an image of an old gentleman and an owl. To Simon's surprise, the old man appears in a mirror and begins speaking with him. His name

is Barlok and he tells Simon that he is very special.

What ensues is a series of episodic adventures for Simon, his family and his friends. Simon learns that he is a Star Child and blessed with amazing powers. Despite being told not to say anything about his new status, Simon blabs to everybody he meets and even ends up on the telly! Barlok doesn't seem to mind, though, and even takes Simon to his home planet, Velo, which orbits Zeta Reticula. Yep, Barlok's a Grey, appearing to young Si as a kindly, old gent.

The book is actually quite an entertaining read. It is written in an innocent, almost Blyton-esque style and

this adds great charm to the story. Short, snappy chapters will ensure that children don't get bored and Simon's exploits, both on Earth and on Velo are interesting, if a little short, descriptively.

The Badge of Barlok is a great introduction to the UFO subject for young children, who might find the traditional literature heavy-going. Although I enjoyed reading Simon Hall's adventures (and I got the feeling that more may come), I felt that the book could have done with a bit of editorial tidying. There are quite a few mistakes and a decent proof-read would have sorted them out, particularly as the book is aimed at youngsters, for whom this may be their first stab at a 'proper' novel.

Despite this, I recommend *The Badge of Barlok* for young and old alike. Well done to Richard Hollingworth for bringing the subject we love so much to a wider audience.

SJ

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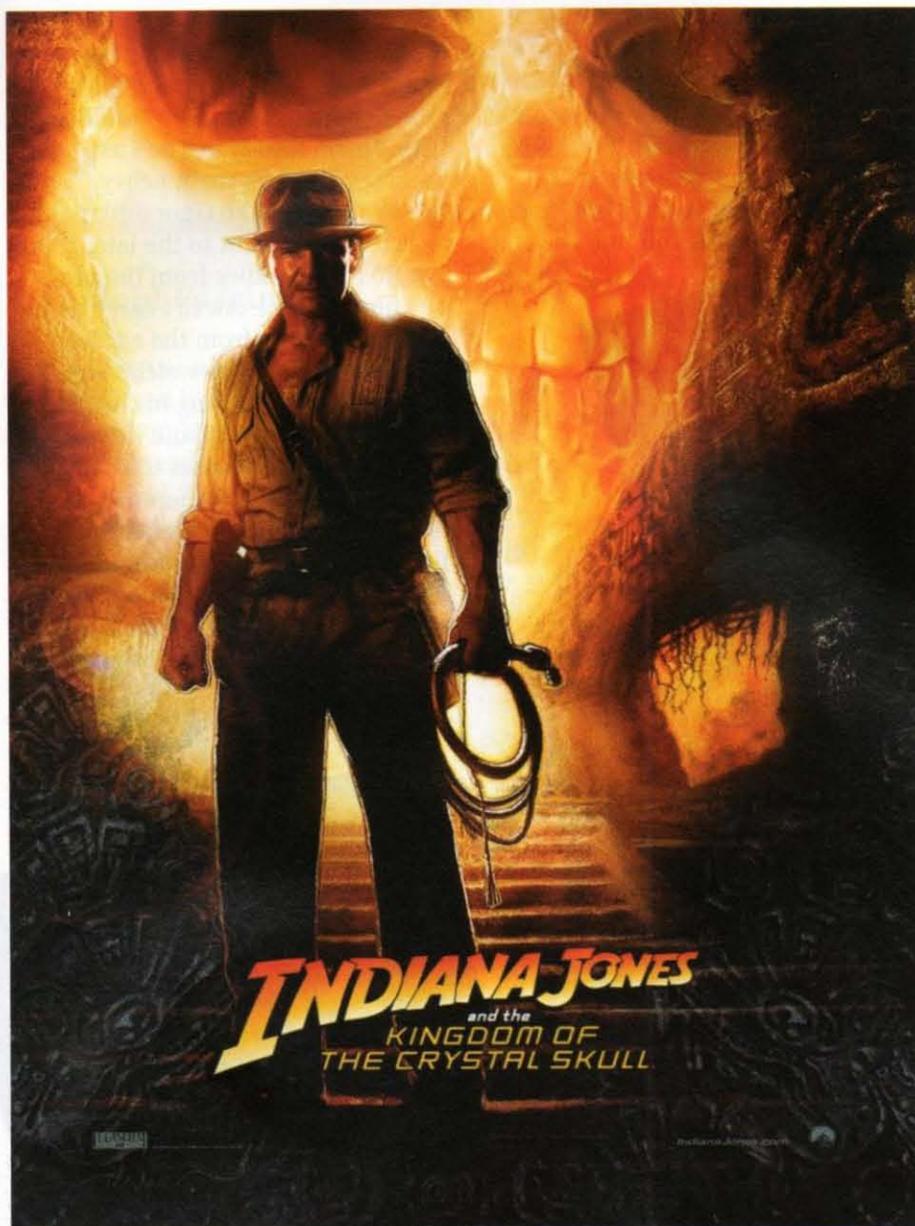
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Indiana Jones and the Kingdom of the Crystal Skull

Nineteen years ago, Indiana Jones rode off into the sunset at the end of what we thought would be his final adventure. The three films, *Raiders of the Lost Ark*, *Indiana Jones and the Temple of Doom* and *Indiana Jones and the Last Crusade*, helped propel Harrison Ford into mega stardom after his stint as Han Solo in the original *Star Wars* trilogy had ended. Now he is back, older, wiser, but still providing whip-cracking, rip-roaring adventure on a scale most movies cannot even approach.

Indiana Jones and the Kingdom of the Crystal Skull (pew) opened in the UK on Thursday, May 22nd, 2008, and I just had to see it. The media hype has been similar to that

of the return of George Lucas' other project back in 1999. Back then, *Star Wars Episode I: The Phantom Menace* sent fans into a frenzy of anticipation, but, ultimately, many were left disappointed, feeling the new trilogy didn't have the magic of the originals. Would Lucas and director, Steven Spielberg, be able to recapture the spirit of Indy's original adventures?

This review will feature many spoilers, so if you don't want to know what happens, stop reading now. For those who want to know the plot, here it is:

We begin in Nevada in 1957, twenty years after the incidents of *The Last Crusade*. Indy (Harrison Ford) and his partner, Mac (Ray Winstone), have been captured by Soviet agents, led by Colonel Doctor Irina Spalko (Cate Blanchett). These agents have

tricked their way into a Nevada test site known as Hangar 51, an obvious forebear of Area 51 and Groom Lake. Here, hangars full of crates, containing America's secrets, are the target for Spalko and her goons.

Apparently, Dr Jones had been press-ganged into attending the Roswell crash site in 1947 and something from that incident had been stored at Hangar 51. Indy, under duress and after being betrayed by Mac, helps the Soviets find the crate in question and manages to escape aboard a rocket sled just before being caught up in a nuclear test. They certainly don't make fridges like they used to - you'll see what I mean!

Found by the American security agencies, we learn that Jones was with the OSS, the predecessor to the CIA, during World War II and earned many medals. We also learn that he was forbidden to speak to anybody about what happened at Roswell. Bailed out by an army buddy (Alan Dale), it is clear that FBI do not think much of Indy. In fact, they put pressure on his college and force him into paid leave. Indy's boss and successor to Marcus Brody, Charles Stanforth (Jim Broadbent) was also forced to resign. Here we learn that in the past two years, both Brody (played in the originals by the late Denholm Elliott) and Indy's father, Henry Jones Sr. (Sean Connery) have died.

Before long, though, a young man called Mutt Williams (Shia LaBeouf) pops up and explains that an old friend of Indy's, Professor Oxley (John Hurt), and his mother, Marion (Karen Allen, but we don't learn that until later, but it's easily guessed at), have been kidnapped and forced to find a magical crystal skull.

The rollercoaster begins here as Indy and Mutt head for Peru and the Nazca Lines. Here they find the crystal skull, an elongated, large-eyed thing with magnetic properties, but are almost immediately captured by Spalko and Mac.

Then it's off down the Amazon, in search of the mythical city of gold, Akator, also known as El Dorado. At camp in the jungle, Spalko reveals to Jones that the skull is not an arte-

fact, but is an actual skull from aliens with crystalline skeletons. She produces a Grey-like alien corpse (which was in the crate from Hangar 51) and opens up the skin on its head to reveal the quartz-like cranium beneath.

Indy and Mutt are reunited with Marion and Oxley (who appears to have gone quite mad) and, of course, they manage to escape with the skull. A huge chase through the jungle ensues, featuring terrific stunts, quick sand, killer ants and numerous waterfalls. Oh, and we found out that Mutt is Indy's son.

Eventually, we arrive at Akator and learn that it is a repository for artefacts from all around the world. It seems the aliens were archaeologists themselves. In a deep chamber, thirteen crystalline skeletons, one of them headless, are seated in a circle, facing each other. Before our heroes can replace the skull (it is promised that the person who does this will receive all the power of El Dorado), the Soviets arrive, thanks to Mac again (grrr!).

Spalko takes the skull and plonks it back on the headless skeleton. In a scene reminiscent of the climax of *Raiders*, all hell breaks loose, with the skeletons coming to life and melding into one, fully-skinned interdimensional alien. Spalko, Mac and the other Russkies all pay for their bad deeds, it seems.

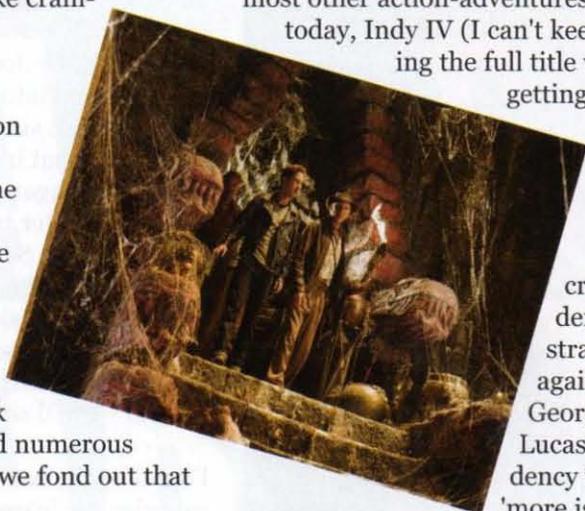
Indy and chums flee the disintegrating chamber as a dimensional portal opens high above them.

They get outside just as the ground caves in and a huge, silver flying saucer emerges and vanishes into 'the space between spaces' (as described by the now-sane Oxley).

Back home, Indy and Marion are

married and all ends well.

So, is the film on a par with the originals? Unfortunately, I would say that it isn't. While it wipes the floor with most other action-adventures of today, *Indy IV* (I can't keep typing the full title without getting finger



cramps!), demonstrates, again, George Lucas' tendency towards 'more is bet-

ter'. The plot has everything from aliens to ancient astronauts to psychic spying to government conspiracies and everything in-between. Was it all necessary? Was it in the spirit of *Indiana Jones*? Not in my estimation. Why introduce aliens into *Indy* lore at all? I know some of our readers will suggest that this is yet another aspect of *UFO Disclosure*, and maybe it is.

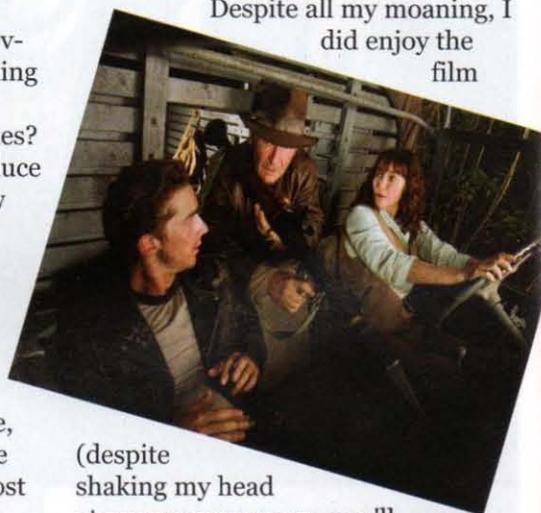
As an adventure, it's terrific stuff, but as an *Indy* picture, something just doesn't mesh. Sure, all the characters are there. All the action set-pieces are there and most are fantastic to watch. The jungle chase is breath-taking (except when Shia LaBeouf starts swinging, Tarzan-like, on vines amid a host of monkeys) and the opening fight and chase at Hangar 51 is great. It's all a bit too much at times,

though. As I said, Lucas tends towards 'more is better' with his franchise resurrections and that's not what the fans want. They want *Indy* going against the odds. They want the humour of the character interactions.

None of this is present in *Indy IV*. There's a spark between Harrison Ford and Karen Allen, but LaBeouf, Winstone, Broadbent and Hurt

appear to be there simply to keep up the numbers. Cate Blanchett is excellent as Irina Spalko, conveying sexy menace with much more confidence than Alison Doody in *The Last Crusade*. Spalko's main heavy, Colonel Dovchenko (Igor Jijikine), is a clear replacement to the late, great Pat Roach's baddies from the previous films, but he doesn't carry it off. Those fist-fights from the earlier movies were great to watch, with *Indy* usually outwitting his bigger foe, but Ford and Jijikine just stand there and hit each other until one wins. There are self-referential nods to the other films (references to Brody and Jones Sr., a glimpse of the *Ark of the Covenant* at Hangar 51 etc.), as if Lucas and Spielberg have to keep reminding us that this is an *Indiana Jones* story.

Despite all my moaning, I did enjoy the film



(despite shaking my head at numerous scenes - you'll know what I mean when you see them) and I think it sits behind *Raiders* and *Crusade*, but above *Temple of Doom*, so it's not a complete disaster. Far from it, *Indiana Jones and the Kingdom of the Crystal Skull* (ouch), is a great reminder of how films used to be and how adventure films could be in the future.

Before the movie started, there was a trailer for *The Mummy: Tomb of the Dragon Emperor*, which opens in August. It will be interesting to see how that film compares with its mega-hyped competitor. Both films had similar budgets - \$185 million for *Indy IV* and \$175 million for *Mummy IV* - so it will be interesting to see which film gives more 'bang for its buck'.

S J



A Tabloid Fascination

Blame it on the so-called 'Silly Season', if you like, that time in mid-summer when 'important' news tends to dip and more stories appear from left-field. Whatever the reason, the UK's best-selling tabloid daily, The Sun, had a strange fascination with UFO stories during the back end of June, 2008.

The Currant Bun's coverage, whether down to genuine journalistic interest or pure UFO-induced sales, has once more sparked the debate about unidentified flying objects across the nation. In fact, interest in UFOs in general appears to be way up there again, with Channel 5 starting a new series on the subject in early July. This series features UFO DATA Magazine's own Russel Callaghan, Gary Heseltine and Philip Mantle.

But back to the super, soaraway Sun.

On June 20th, it was reported that a police helicopter operated by South Wales Police (SWP) had to take avoiding action when a UFO appeared in front of them. Journalist John Coles wrote that the chopper then pursued the unidentified aircraft across the Bristol Channel into Devon, before having to return to base to refuel.

The next day, Mr Coles reported that hundreds of UFOs had been spotted by airline pilots over the Bristol Channel and that The Sun had been 'bombarded with calls' from people saying they saw UFOs on the same night as the SWP helicopter incident.

The report contained the following:

Dawn Williams, 45, feared an Independence Day-style alien invasion when she spotted a sinister shape in the sky above Aberdare Country Park hours earlier, on June 8.

She said: "It came over the horizon and was travelling for about a minute and a half before it disappeared.

"It was circular and had a dome on top - it looked like a planet with rings. I didn't say anything at the time because I didn't think anyone

would believe me."

Cabaret duo Katy Cunnion and Russell Quinn said a weird light in the sky FOLLOWED them on the A5 near Shrewsbury an hour after the 'copter scare.

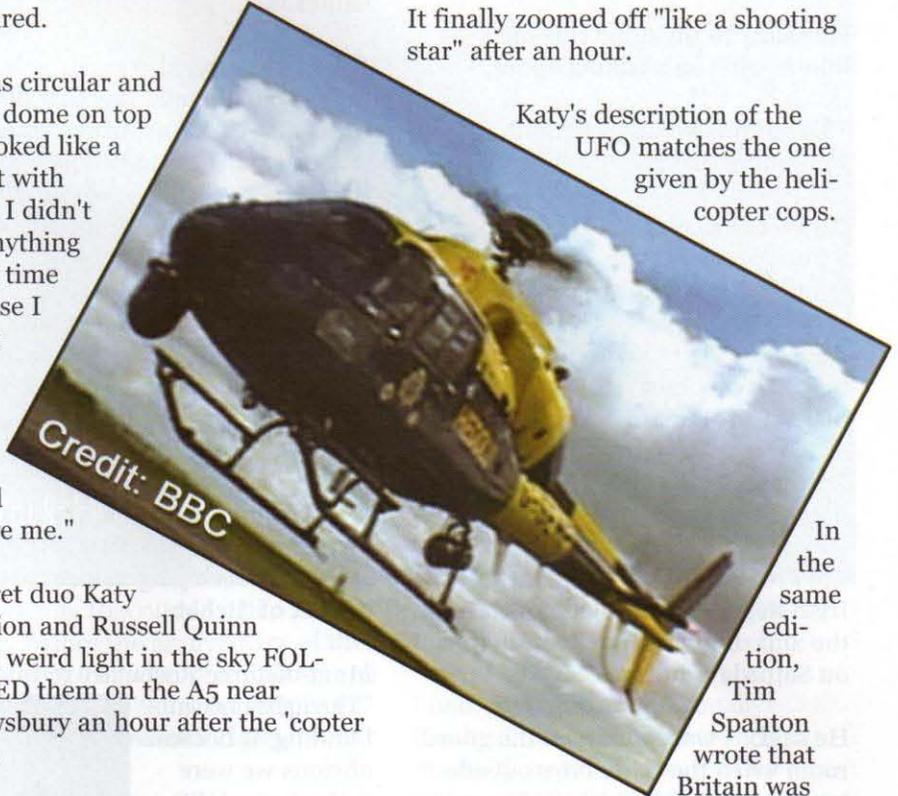
Katy, 25, said: "It was hovering. At first I thought it was a helicopter, but every time I changed direction it was in the same place.

"It disappeared, then I got a bit freaked out when the light came back close enough for us to see it was saucer-shaped with lights which flashed from one to another in a chain.

"It looked like no plane or aircraft I had ever seen."

It finally zoomed off "like a shooting star" after an hour.

Katy's description of the UFO matches the one given by the helicopter cops.

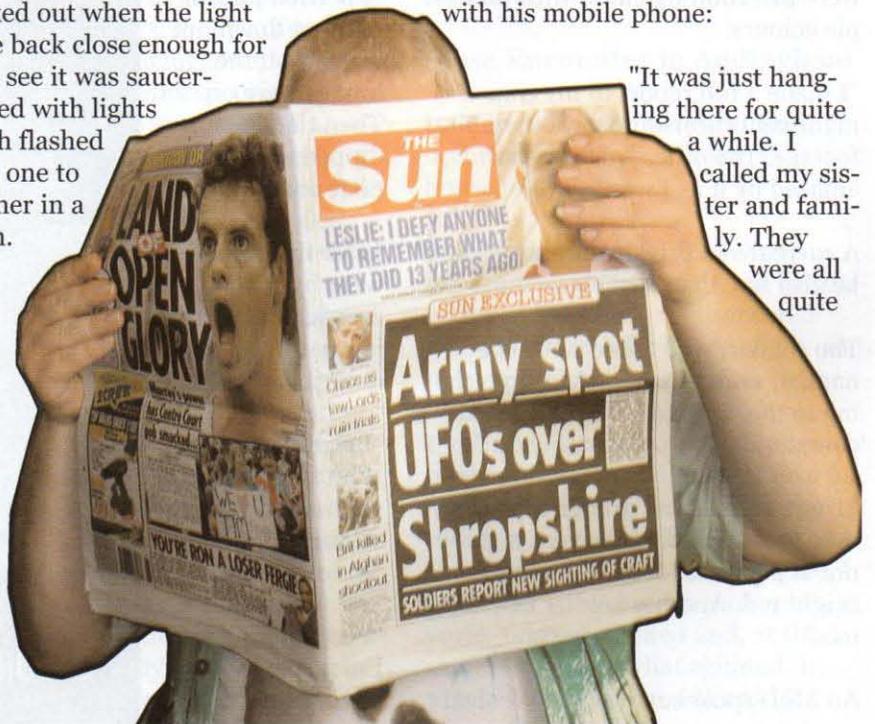


In the same edition, Tim Spanton wrote that Britain was

now the world's top UFO hotspot.

On June 24th, The Sun's Sebastian Lander told us that John Clamp, of Bristol, had captured a UFO on video with his mobile phone:

"It was just hanging there for quite a while. I called my sister and family. They were all quite



dumbfounded by it.

"We were trying to think what it could possibly be.

It is completely bizarre."

UFO expert and chairman of the London UFO Studies (LUFOS) Roy Lake was excited about the sighting.

He said: "In my mind this man knows what he's talking about.

"It's definitely not an aircraft. It's something that shouldn't be there."

On Wednesday, June 25th, they had a huge front-page headline: "Army Spot UFOs Over Shropshire".

Andrew Parker and John Coles reported to us that thirteen objects had been caught on video by squad-dies over their barracks in Market Drayton, Shropshire. The article noted:

Cpl Proctor, 38, of the 1st Battalion Irish Regiment, recalled how he saw the amazing "craft" just after 11pm on Saturday, June 7.

He said: "I was on duty in the guard room when the other boys outside began shouting. I went out to see what the commotion was about and could see thirteen craft in the skies.

"They were zig-zagging, but I filmed two before they disappeared. They were like rotating cubes with multiple colours.

"I made a full report to my commanding officers and gave them my footage. The other lads were as amazed by it as I was."

A 19-year-old private on patrol said he also saw the "fleet".

The soldier, who asked not to be named, said: "I saw these things flying in the sky and I told my guard commander.

"There were about 30 lights passing over for a few minutes, very high but not at a great speed. They were bright red. Another soldier saw them too."

An MoD spokesman said: "We deal

with any UFO sightings to see if there was a military threat."

On June 26th, several UFO stories were included in the newspaper. A young boy had caught what he thought was a UFO with his digital camera. Looks like a bird to me. Several people from Liverpool saw glowing orbs over Merseyside. Lanterns?

The main story, also making the front-page, though, was that of Rosemary Hawkins, who claimed that in 1981 she and two pals were abducted by four-foot aliens while driving their car down the A5 in Shropshire:

Rosemary, Valerie Walters and Viv Hayward, all in their late-20s at the time, were heading home to Telford from a Shrewsbury disco where they only drank cola.

It was around 2am and Viv was driving her Avenger saloon when they spotted hovering lights near the hamlet of Atcham.

Mum-of-three Rosemary recalled:

"The lights became blinding. It became obvious we were looking at a UFO. It followed us along the road. We were very frightened.

"Viv tried putting her foot down but it was as if the brakes were on. Then the lights dipped and the craft disappeared."

Later they underwent hypnotic regression and this is what Rosemary described:

"Bright lights. White tinged with yellow and red. So strange it's there. No sound.

"I am floating and I'm not in the car any more with Viv

or Val. I feel big and bloated.

"There's something coming. It's metal. It doesn't walk - it sort of rolls on wheels. It's about 4ft tall, round on the top with a round body and round legs.

"It's looking at me, there's more coming. It's the same noise. They haven't got a face. Their heads move up and down that's how I know they are talking. They don't seem to be nasty."

Valerie said she saw "a woman-like creature dressed in long green robes.

"The creatures kept feeling my clothes and hair. I wasn't afraid of them but was frightened of what was happening. The aliens spoke in monotone deep robotic voices."

This was the latest story to appear in The Sun as we went to press. I am sure more stories will appear in the newspaper and, if they are any good, we will tell you all about them in the next issue of UFO DATA Magazine.

SJ



Credit: The Sun

APPLETREWICK Revisited...

Nigel Mortimer recalls a classic Yorkshire mystery...

Appletreewick Revisted!

In the heady days of the 1980s, there were a number of 'classic' UFO photographic cases reported to the group I represented then, Connect UFO Investigations, in West Yorkshire, England. One of these, although extensively investigated at the time by myself and others from the IUN (Independent UFO Investigations Network), has lain away from public

I am writing this on May Day 2008, shortly before the anniversary of the day (May 30th) when the photograph was taken at the North Yorkshire village of Appletreewick in 1983.

The location is steeped in myths and folklore. The tradition of Morris Dancing goes back to pagan routes and celebrates the phallic pro-creational worship of the nature gods from ancient times. Although mainly for entertainment these days, groups of men dancing around a pole on this specific day of the year, reflects a recognition of early man's communion with nature and energies that we are yet to fully understand.

The Craven Arms public house was owned and run by Jane in 1983, and the only significantly unusual thing about the pub at that time, was that it already had a smoking ban inside the building, some twenty-three years before our current government restrictions - some foresight by Jane! There had already been a spate of UFO sightings around the Apple-

treewick region in the weeks before the photograph was taken.

I had, myself, been personally involved in one of these, which involved my family too. OBOL (Orange Balls Of Light) phenomena had been reported at a camping site to the south of the pub only four days earlier. The descriptions of these reported UFOs were similar to that which appeared in the photograph later in the week.

Close Encounter in Addingham

In March of 1983, a very strange occurrence took place in the Mortimer household!

It was mid-morning, the following day from an uneasy night out investigating at the newly re-discovered Backstone Circle on Ilkley Moor, to the south of Appletreewick.

I had been sleeping in bed for several hours and, upon waking, I heard the voice of Susan (my wife at the time) as she left the house to go out shopping. Closing the garden gate, I heard her speaking. I heard another voice; this one excited and, at the same time, somewhat agitated. In urgent conversation, I heard Mr



scrutiny for the past two decades. The photograph itself is an amazing example of the kind of phenomena that frequents the north of the country to this day, but behind it, there lies a bizarre and even stranger story.

Sparcer of Green Lane say, "My mother was woken up in the early hours of this morning at about 3:30am, after hearing a loud droning noise. Did you hear it too?"

He continued, "I got up myself to see what all the commotion was and I couldn't believe what I was looking at! It was a large, oval object with loads of smaller lights that gave off a strange, orangey-red glow, which flooded down onto your rooftop. It was no aircraft I've ever seen before, I'm sure of that."

He went on, "Whatever it was, it moved away as soon as I looked at it, towards Beamsley Beacon (north-west of Addingham) and suddenly there was no sound coming from it. All was very quiet indeed."

Seemingly, this was the same OBOL that I had observed on my way down from the moors earlier that morning, but what was it now doing over my very rooftop?

My wife listened with half-interest, quickly making her excuse to catch the bus and obviously putting any talk of UFOs and such things to the back of her mind for the rest of the day. Probably the safest place for such things in an uncertain mind? No, she would wait until later, when she could talk to me about it and try to rationalise an answer to this madness. By then, our children would be safe in bed and out of earshot, Susan not wanting them to be worried that ET had paid a visit to the Mortimer household!

But, the two children were holding secrets of their own and both Susan and I had no idea just how involved they were already in what had occurred whilst I had been out at Backstone Circle.

Sara, then our five-year old daughter awoke from her sleep a little earlier at 3:15am. She opened her eyes and jumped with a start! Looking through the half-opened bedroom door, she found it difficult to keep her eyes open, as if she was being forced to slip back into slumber. Raising her hand to cover her face and peeping through protective fingers, Sara stared at the ghostly humanoid figure that was ascending

the stairs, reaching the top and then vanishing into thin air! The heavy sleepiness finally overcame her and she gave in.

Susan returned home and we all had tea together. The children kept quiet and Sara was as normal as ever. For the children's sake, we had decided to put the whole experience behind us, for it seemed that this thing was becoming too close for comfort and the last thing I wanted, was to impose my 'obsession with UFOs' onto the innocence of her youth. This was made difficult, in that the local press had run a front-page piece, describing reports of the UFO being seen by a number of other people up and down the Wharfe Valley around the time of our own experiences.

One of these had been seen within fifteen minutes of my own sighting of an OBOL as I came down off the moor. It seemed to have been the same object I had seen and no matter how we tried to turn away from it, the family found itself the focus of something which became increasingly intrusive!

The following night at about 1900hrs, Sara was back in her bed again.

As if to play out some kind of repeat sequence, events began to unfold once more and silently, the darkened figure appeared at the top of the stairs a second time, less than nine feet from her bedroom. Expecting it to vanish as before, she fought with her senses as the form floated just above the floor towards her, getting closer - close enough to see that this entity was a female! Now, she got the impression that the first had been a male, due to the stern-looking features compared to this more elegant apparition. Both had been wearing what she took to be a tight-fitting, black, one-piece diving suit, a cowed hood over the head and the whole of the face exposed.

Others have described something similar. Some witnesses are very frightened. Yet others feel secure, inwardly knowing that whatever they are gazing upon, it seems to mean them no harm. These feelings are very apparent during the experience and throughout the observation, as if

the witness is meant to acknowledge them and take note of how they are feeling.

Many reports indicate that, in particular with OBOL sightings, there is this strange, almost personal interaction, something that would suggest that rather than the UFO being an object, it acts and causes a reaction we would associate with an encounter with another person!

In 1981, around the Wharfe Valley region, not many miles from where the late David Barclay (author of *UFOs - The Final Answer*) had his encounter with an OBOL. Another witness to this phenomenon, Steve Hart, was travelling home on public transport. Close to Addingham, he noticed hanging in the sky over the local moorlands, a large orange ball of light. Suddenly, as he watched it, an intense feeling of sorrow and dread overcame him which lasted as long as he had the object in sight.

When Steve later arrived home in Leeds, he was devastated to learn that his grandmother had passed away. She had died at the same time that he had been watching the OBOL so the encounter that Steve Hart had, and its associate 'coincidence' of his grandmothers death at the time of the experience, is puzzling.

What is even more amazing is that this very same thing happened again, at almost the same location, and this time the OBOL was caught on film!

The end of 1983 became increasingly difficult for all of the family. We knew that we shared something, an awareness of things that should not take place, so we tried to ignore this, but it just would not go away. Sara and her brother, Ben, were seeing figures in the house that would mimic the looks and movements of Susan and myself. On one occasion, Sara watched as one impersonator of her mother, dressed exactly the same, walked right through a wall unit in the living room, while Susan was busy working upstairs! We all felt that we were being watched, even when there was nobody physically there!

The pressure became too much. My involvement was affecting my work-

ing life and everyday chores became pointless to me. There was something bigger behind all this. Connect Investigations was born through a desperation to find out just what was going on! Within months, I received the Appletreewick photograph through the post,

Investigating Appletreewick

A crowd had gathered outside the pub to watch, as the Leeds-based Morris Dancers began to entertain at 2.30pm. Jane brought her camera with her to film the dancers, and 'sensed' that something had moved across the viewfinder with a rapid motion, but, to her eye, nothing was seen apart from the dancing Morris men. She felt a sudden 'vacuum', like displaced air around her, only for a second, then everything was as normal. It seemed that nobody else had noticed this and the dancers continued without any break. When Jane had the photograph developed, she was amazed to see something unusual to the left of the dancing group, which looked to be a large orange-coloured ball of light.

The West Yorkshire UFO Research Group (as part of Connect) conducted an investigation later that year into this photographic case, involving Kodak. After an extensive study, they proclaimed that whatever the object was, it was there when the photograph had been taken. You can see branches from the tree in the foreground, yet the OBOL covers part of the hillside behind it. Interestingly, directly below its position, investigators found the site of an ancient well.

Above this position, the branches of the tree had been damaged by heat and vegetation growth around the well looked to be 'feeble' compared to the same some meters away from where the phenomena had been photographed.

I have found that this OBOL phenomena seems to be linked with the many ancient sites (mainly megalithic) that abound the moorlands in the Appletreewick region and none more so than at Ilkley Moor. I propose that these places, stone circles, ancient wells, etc. hold a key to how such phenomena manifest in our reality.



A Death in the Afternoon

Later that day, Simon Grey (pseudonym), the Morris dancer seen below the OBOL, headed home to Leeds. In a re-run of Steve Hart's experience, he too found bad news awaiting him there. He learned that at the very same time the photograph had been taken, his brother had suddenly died of a heart attack!

It would seem that these OBOLs are aware of our human affairs. Maybe they know what is about to happen and have the ability to tune-in to our human feelings? Was this pure coincidence or is something else happening here?

Whatever these OBOLs are, they seem to have an impact on our lives.

I know this from personal experience. Many people who encounter such, become different in ways not expected. They change and, through that process, often become more aware of other possibilities. They begin to question life and their purpose. I feel that this change is intended and, whatever the truth behind the OBOLs, the facts behind the Appletreewick photograph seem to be far stranger than what is actually depicted in the picture itself?

Nigel Mortimer - May 2008

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www.return.to/IlkleyMoor

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