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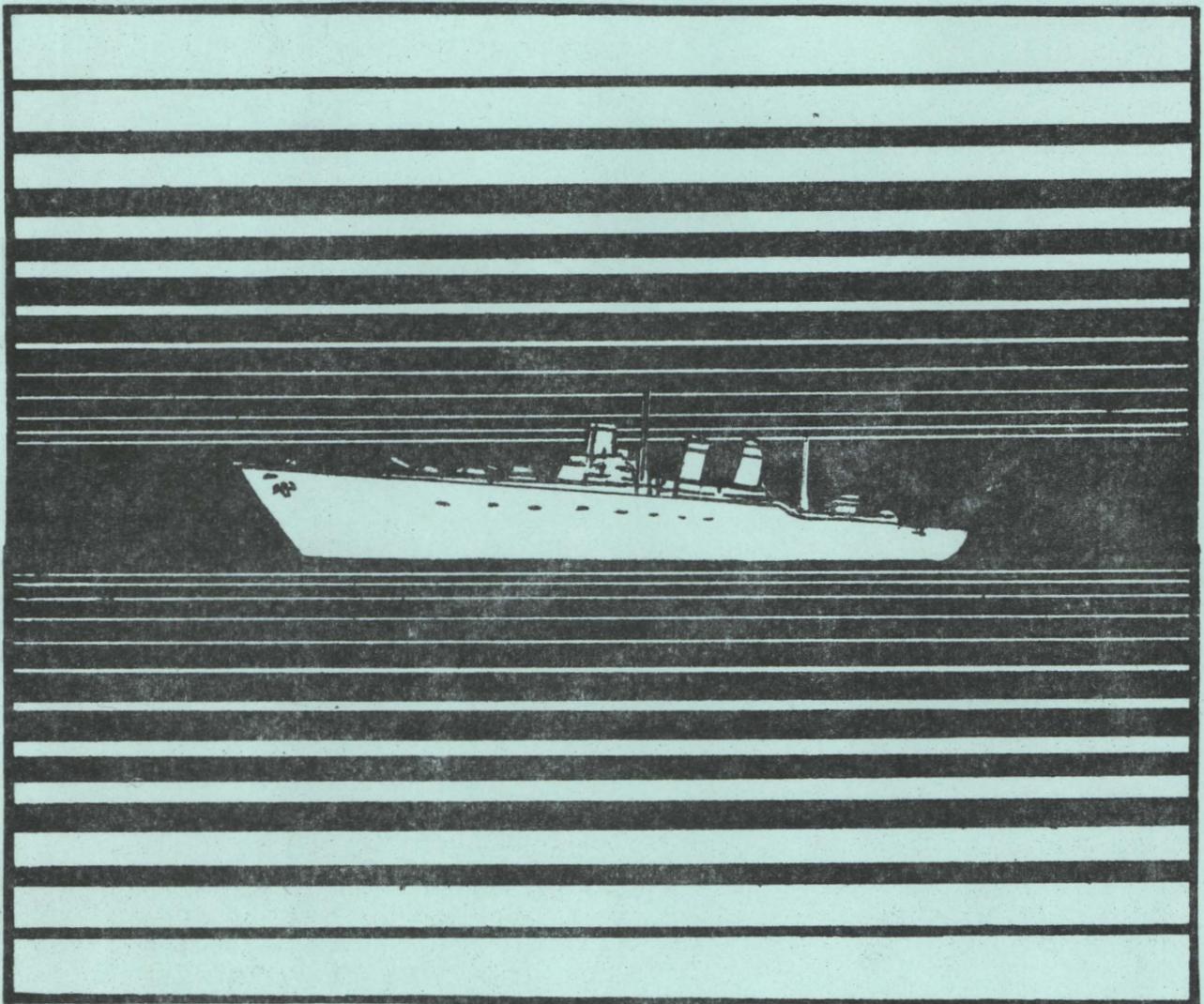


WESSEX ASSOCIATION FOR THE STUDY OF UNEXPLAINED PHENOMENA ©

JOURNAL

No.8

ARBETSGRUPPEN FÖR UFOLOGI



THE
PHILADELPHIA EXPERIMENT

—
WAS IT PRECEDED ?

25p

W.A.T.S.U.P. JOURNAL

JOURNAL OF THE WESSEX ASSOCIATION FOR THE STUDY OF UNEXPLAINED PHENOMENA

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EDITORIAL

Ufology has always been rife with unconfirmed rumours, and indeed, some of these have been in circulation for so long that they have now reached almost legendary proportions. Take for example the crashed U.F.O. examined at a U.S. Airforce Base for six months. Or, if you're of a less conservative turn of mind, perhaps the account of yet another crashed object, claimed to be in the custody of the U.S. Forces, and containing the bodies of numerous spacemen, will appeal to your credibility. And, of course, an incorrigible few will swoon over the story of a hairy extraterrestrial given a conducted tour of the Pentagon.

Is it fair, however, to look on all these stories as mere U.F.O. mythology? Already the U.S. Aerial Phenomena Research Organisation (a respectable body, incidentally), claim to have the sworn testimony of one person, as to the truth of the crashed U.F.O. story. Hardly proof, perhaps, but none the less intriguing.

Personally, I had always considered the Philadelphia Experiment in the same light as these other bizzare stories. Too good, or possibly, in this case, too unpleasant to be true. But now, it seems, W.A.T.S.U.P. finds itself in a similar position to A.P.R.O., in that we have a possible witness to one of the great U.F.O. 'myths', or at least, to a similar, and equally startling event which preceded it.

While it can be said that many of the 'legendary' U.F.O. stories have a certain entertainment value, this has never been true of the Philadelphia event. In short, it reads like the scripts of a 'B' Grade horror film, with an element of fantasy which was always somewhat re-assuring. However, it should be made plain that the forthcoming article is not presented by Tony Wells in an alarmist or sensational intent, but in a perfectly objective manner.

If the event did indeed occur, it was, above all, a horrifying tragedy, and for that reason alone should not be treated lightly.

Nick Maloret

THE PHILADELPHIA EXPERIMENT:
WAS IT PRECEDED?

In November 1943, at the Naval Base at Norfolk, Virginia, U.S. sailors, civilians and officials standing on the pier were astounded to see appear, from out of nowhere, a small ship.* It remained in view for only a few moments before vanishing from their astonished gaze.

At Philadelphia Naval Base some 375 km** away to the North a small ship which lay at anchor beside a pier vanished from sight for a few moments, then reappeared.

Related to the above incident is an experiment allegedly conducted by the U.S. Navy at sea, also in 1943, in which a destroyer was rendered invisible to the accompanying observer vessel. The experiment is said to have been concerned with magnetic or electro-magnetic fields. According to witnesses the destroyer became invisible. The only indication that the vessel was still there was a depression in the surface of the sea showing the outline of her hull from the water line down.

Reports and rumours began to circulate around Philadelphia Naval Base after these two events described. It is said that over half of the crew members of the ship in 'the Philadelphia Experiment' were taken to and remained in a Naval psychiatric hospital. Others are reported to have died on board the ship during the 'trip' from Philadelphia to Norfolk and back.

Members of the destroyer's crew, concerned in the experiment at sea, are also reported to have died, some as raving lunatics. Still others seem to have had even more bizzare things happen to them such as bursting into flame, constantly appearing to disappear and reappear uncontrollably.

The whole affair becomes even more clouded and mystifying when one considers the involvement and comments of Dr. Morris K. Jessup and the annotations to his book 'The Case for the U.F.O.' which are better known as The Allende Letters. I do not intend to go into detail regarding Dr. Jessup's book or the Allende Letters but suggest that the reader studies them for his own or her self, together with the other books listed.

What I have tried to do is to set the scene as it were, for the main point of this article.

During a conversation with a friend some months ago, the question of disappearing ships arose. My friend asked if I had ever read a particular book about a disappearing submarine. I replied that I had not, and a day or two later he brought the book to me. Sadly I found it was a fictional account of a submarine, but written in a semi-documentary fashion. Quite out of the blue he said that the way the sub' in the book had appeared reminded him of a peculiar experience he had had during his service in the Royal Navy in World War II.

I listened patiently as he told me the following account of his experience.

"We were posted to Norfolk, Virginia in the States around about April/May 1943. Our job was to bring back to Great Britain some Liberty ships. I remember we spent about a month or so at Portsmouth Naval yard in Norfolk, because the ships we were to help crew had not been fitted out completely. As we had a lot of times on our hands we used to wander about the base quite a bit and became friendly with a few of the Yanks on the base. It seems that there was a lot of

experiments going on with a new type of de-gaussing equipment. You know, the device against magnetic mines. Anyway, this particular day there seemed to be a sort of security clampdown and all British personnel were ordered out of the area where this ship with the new gear was. We wandered onto a jetty about 400/500 yards away from the fenced off security area, and just sat there chatting. I think there were 4 or 5 of us at the time and we were all looking towards the ship.

Now you may not believe me, but one minute it was there and the next minute it wasn't. I turned to my mates and said "Did you see what I saw?" We all sat there looking bloody daft when suddenly the ship was back in her berth. Honestly, we did not know what to make of it, a ship that size, I suppose you would call her a light cruiser, certainly bigger than a destroyer - well, it just doesn't disappear in broad daylight, does it?"

He goes on to tell how there was an immediate clampdown on anyone entering or leaving the security area at the Portsmouth yard. How a few days later stories began to circulate that a large number of U.S. sailors had been killed on board the ship and others had been taken to hospital.

Without any prompting on my part the witness told me that he had heard stories concerning a destroyer which the Americans had made invisible at sea. He said he had been told that all one could see was the wake left by the ship as it moved through the water. He was unable to put a date to this incident except that it was the same year i.e. 1943.

The foregoing are the facts of the story as related to me. For reasons which I must respect the witness does not wish to have his name disclosed. However, I feel sure that his story is as factual as he says it is. I have known him for approximately 6 years or so and this is the first time we have ever discussed such subjects, our common interest in the past having been photography. It was obvious to me that whatever this man had seen had made a lasting impression on his memory.

Summing up then, what have we?

An eye witness to an experiment in teleportation some months before the Philadelphia incident? If this is so, why has this event not received the attention devoted to the event in November 1943?

I am in no position to answer these or the many other questions which arise and leave it to you, the reader, to draw your own conclusions.

Tony Wells

NOTES: * No two sources of information agree on the size or type of vessel involved in the incident. Types quoted are: Tender to a destroyer i.e. about the size of a tug. Convoy ship. Probably a Liberty ship. Warship. Destroyer?

** All sources of information quote that the distance between the sites of the incident as being "about 1,000 miles", "over 1,000 miles away". Norfolk, Virginia is approximately 375 km due South of Philadelphia.

Recommended reading related to this article:

The Mysterious Unknown by Robert Charroux (Corgi).

The New U.F.O. Breakthrough by Brad Steiger and John Writenour (Tandem).
(Contains quotes from 'Allende Letters')

Journey to Infinity by Johannes von Buttlar (Fontana).

The Case for the U.F.O. by Dr. Morris K. Jessup.

U.F.O.S - A VISION OF THE FUTURE

A great deal is written on U.F.O.s, theories expounded and great truths unfolded. However, after over ten years of delving into the subject, I can only honestly make two definite statements about them. One is that they exist, the second is that they represent a technology that is almost beyond our comprehension. Dull, isn't it? Unfortunately, I've not been in the privileged position of having been treated to joy rides in mother ships, endowed with the ability to communicate telepathically with the president of Saturn or entrusted with the secrets of the universe. Obviously, yours truly is not one of the 'chosen ones' and will just have to keep on sticking to the evidence.

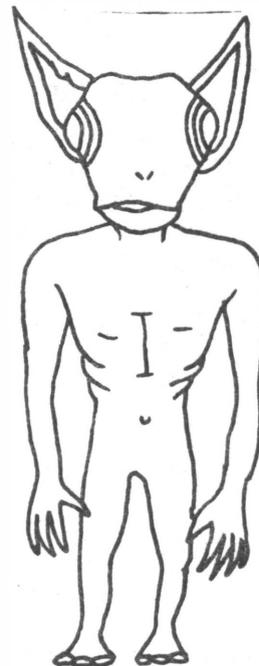
The U.S.A.F. is constantly chided for its remark that they have no evidence that U.F.O.s originate from outer space. The simple fact is, they are right, there isn't any proof (although it is difficult to imagine what such irrefutable proof would be apart from overt contact). It is interesting to note that the authorities are no longer inclined to make statements saying that they don't exist, just that they have no proof that they are extraterrestrial. This however, leaves us with plenty of alternatives - one of which I shall discuss here.

I was recently involved in a discussion concerning the possibility that past, present and future exist simultaneously and our theories and ideas about ghosts, fourth dimensions etc., are just 'grey areas' where times tend to overlap. This inevitably, led to the idea that U.F.O.s are from our own future, and the occupants are our distant descendants.

At first, the main reason for finding this acceptable was simply that I couldn't imagine any intelligent race doing anything so daft as to project themselves back in time, considering the risks and problems it would entail. However, it could well be that there are physical laws which prevent the alteration of the future. Not only that, but there may be the possibility that the future method of propulsion and travel at incredible speed may produce a time distortion effect that is not controllable - just as jet lag and G-forces are an accepted nuisance to modern pilots. The inability to control such a phenomena conjures up the image of a U.F.O. landing in somebody's back garden, and a despairing wail of 'Oh Hell, it's happened again!' emanating from the hatch. Is it not surprising that entities attack people and act aggressively at times - how would you feel if you arrived at a vital appointment 5,000 years late, and in the wrong part of the Solar System? It would certainly explain the horrified looks on the faces of the occupants, and the frantic scramble back to the ship!

There is another side to this - biological development. The sightings of occupants show a vast range of creatures which, it has usually been assumed, originate from numerous areas of the universe. But isn't it equally possible that they

present not a variety of ethnic types, but table of racial development? Compare Australopithecus with modern man and you'll have an idea of what I mean. This only takes into account natural progression and doesn't cover the possibilities of genetic and ecological 'mishaps' that could very well occur. The Kelly Hopkinsville sighting is one of the most bizarre and yet best authenticated. Completely alien, wierd, non-human and not exactly the type you'd want as a son-in law. But just think about it - at the rate we're going it won't take long to develop those skinny little legs and feeble arms. The human body appears to be adapting itself to a push button world with alarming speed. He has no apparent nose. Who needs it? It not only tells you on the packet what it is, it also tells you when it's gone off. Besides, with the fumes and chemicals floating about, one could argue that you're better off without, and complete nasal amputation at birth would be an act of mercy. He is the possessor of large, bulging eyes. Hardly surprising - after 1,000 years of Crossroads and the Generation Game, it's enough to make anyone's eyes bulge. And, of course, those magnificent ears. Daily, we are bombarded by ultrasonics, traffic noise, bigger and better aircraft making bigger and better bangs, radio, stereo, TV, intercome, loudspeakers - you name it, it can be adapted to scream at you. Lock yourself in the outside loo in the remotest part of Siberia or the Himalayas, and you will hardly have had time to lift the seat before you are assailed by 'musak' and exhortations to make sure that you are done up properly before leaving. The human of the future will have to either go deaf to preserve his sanity or develop ears like dustbin lids to cope with it all. If you think I appear flippant, you're right. Nor have I done any research on it, but I may do in the future. However, this doesn't preclude the possibility. Someone once said that an original thought is more valuable than the sum total of human knowledge, because it serves to advance that knowledge. So don't forget - next time a U.F.O. causes your house to black out, your car to conk out or the cat to go off it's milk, don't be too annoyed. It may be one of your great grandchildren trying to get back before they call last orders.



The Hopkinsville Sighting (1955)
Looking for his roots?

Bernard Smith

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PRODUCTION TEAM OF THE W.A.T.S.U.P. JOURNAL

The following people who have been the production team for the W.A.T.S.U.P. Journal, wish it to be known that this issue is the final one with which they will be involved. They are therefore disassociating themselves completely from any future Journal productions.

Malcolm Handley, Brenda Handley, Pete Elbro, Nick Maloret, Ron Weighell.

MAKING AN EXHIBITION OF OURSELVES

On August 26th this year, W.A.T.S.U.P. will be holding it's annual exhibition at St. Johns Ambulance Hall, Kings Park Road, Southampton. A great deal of thought and planning has gone into what it will contain, and how it will be presented to the public.

It is no good bombarding the viewers with thousands of facts and figures on a large number of boards. It is virtually the equivalent of expecting someone to walk through the centre of town whilst trying to read a science textbook of the Guinness Book of Records - and at the same time trying to assimilate it all. The emphasis of the 1978 exhibition will be an equal blend of information and visual stimulation. To this end, colourful graphics have been used, along with the use of relevant photography from various sources. It must be accepted that there are bound to be a large number of people there who know little or maybe nothing about the subjects, and we are obliged to see that they leave the exhibition having been educated, not bewildered. It would serve no use them being buried under a mass of seemingly disconnected snippets of information. An example of how the subjects are to be presented can be shown by a brief summary of the U.F.O. exhibition. The boards will be set in a 3-D layout (as will most of the others) and begin with the title board. It will start with a simplified description of the size of our known universe and the Earth in relation to it.. From there, it will go onto a board showing examples of sightings and descriptions from the remote past, and then progress to three boards which will each give the definitions, and examples of, Close Encounters of the First, Second and Third Kind. This will be followed by illustrations of reported craft and occupants. There will also be a board of newspaper clips, a summary of the subject, and possibly a display or two of Spielbergs 'Close Encounters of the Third Kind' - although this may be presented separately. In effect, the observer will be taken through the subject and given a general grounding. More detailed information will be available to them in the form of duplicated sheets and photocopies of newspaper clippings etc.

There will also be an exhibition entitled 'Our Mysterious World' which will be comprised of an amalgam of the wierd and wonderful people, places and happenings that seem to abound on our planet. It will be a general thing, designed to whet the imagination, and contain exhortations to view other relevant and more detailed exhibitions. The board entitled 'Return of the Gods', for example, will urge the viewer to visit the areas covered by U.F.O.s, Atlantis and Lost Civilizations and Folklore, as this pertains to the possibility of our distant ancestors having had contact with extraterrestrials.

There will be a showing of a 30 minute colour film - Appollo II, Giant Leap for Mankind. We hope this may act as a draw for a number of people. (I shall want to see it myself, as I still haven't seen a decent film of the first Moon landing and walks, and I'm sure that I am not alone in this). There will be experiments in telepathy, precognition and dowsing as an attempt to get members of the public involved. Of course, this will be done more on the basis of a 'fun' thing as the conditions on the day will hardly be conducive to serious scientific research and analysis. However, if we do come across somebody who repeatedly produces a 100% success rate we shall be extremely interested!

We are particularly lucky in Southampton, in that we have been given a couple of excellent chances to do some pre-exhibition publicity. To coincide with the opening of the film 'Close Encounters of the Third Kind' in Southampton, there is to be a film/U.F.O. Exhibition produced by members of the group to be held at Debenhams store in the town centre. It will comprise of the W.A.T.S.U.P. U.F.O. exhibition, film colour stills etc., and the backdrop will be a ten by

twenty foot poster of the film. It will be placed in such a position as to get maximum viewing from anyone using that particular floor. It will be advertised in Debenhams, the Odeon Cinema, libraries etc., The manager of the Odeon is happy, the manager of Debenhams is happy, and I'm ecstatic! There is also to be a smaller exhibition of boards, covering a wider range of subjects, in Hammicks bookshop starting fairly soon. This particular shop stocks a wide range of books dealing with unexplained phenomena, and the manager was more than glad to be provided with a window display of this kind - and at such a topical time. To me, all this goes to show the value of 'going out' to people with our information and ideas.

So what do we hope to gain out of all this, apart from maximum publicity? Albert Einstein once made a remark to the effect that a fish spends all its life swimming in water, yet never understands the element. Perhaps after 1978, we may have succeeded in producing a new strain of highly enlightened fish.

Bernard Smith

THE TRUTH VERSUS THE TRIANGLE

PART 3

Editor's Note:

As noted in the first part of this article, the spate of books on the subject lead us to believe that every ship passing through the Bermuda Triangle is liable to disappear. Starting from 1960, Roy and Tina Goutte show how the Triangle really compares with the rest of the world. The number of vessels posted missing since that year make it necessary to split the article into several sections. This is the third and last. The listing concentrates on ships of at least 100 tons.

As in Part 2, we will firstly determine where the disappearances have occurred between 1960-1967 before listing the same up until 1973.

1960-1967

North Sea	13 disappearances
China Seas	8 disappearances
East Atlantic	5 disappearances
N.E. Atlantic	4 disappearances
English Channel	4 disappearances
Mediterranean	4 disappearances
S.W. Atlantic	2 disappearances
Arabian Sea	2 disappearances
N.W. Atlantic	2 disappearances
North Atlantic	2 disappearances
S.E. Pacific	1 disappearance
Caribbean	1 disappearance
Gulf of St. Lawrence	1 disappearance
Gulf of Alaska	1 disappearance
Barents Sea	1 disappearance
Baltic Sea-Gulf of Bothnia	1 disappearance

English Channel-North Sea 1 disappearance
East China Sea-Sea of Japan 1 disappearance
Gulf of Mexico-West Atlantic (Bermuda Triangle) 1 disappearance

The Bermuda Triangle still seems to be holding the 'wooden spoon' as far as the disappearance league is concerned, so let's see what the next six years bring forth. Remember, this is for vessels of 100 tons or more only.

1968

OU VAS TU. France

Description. Trawler 153 tons. Sailed on January 8th for the fishing grounds off the Hebrides. Reported by radio on the 14th giving her position. Not seen or heard since. Last known position, latitude 55 50N longitude 8 20W to the North of Ireland. Crew of ten, weather bad. North East Atlantic.

HEIDRUN Iceland

Description. Freighter 154 tons. Lost off Iceland in February. Temporary crew. Stormy conditions. Arctic Circle.

KINGSTON PERIDOT. Hull G.B.

Description. Steam trawler 658 tons. Sailed from Hull for the Iceland fishing grounds on January 10th. On the 26th she reported off Grims Island in the Arctic Circle. Not seen or heard since. Crew of 20. Fitted with radio telephone and W/T. Weather bad. Arctic Circle.

ITHACA ISLAND. Liberia.

Built 1947. Description. Freighter 7,500 tons. Sailed from Norfolk, Virginia on the 1st October bound for Manchester, England. Reported by radio on the 8th and 11th. Not seen or heard since. Crew of 29. Cargo of grain. Weather stormy. Mid Atlantic.

RAKUYO MARU. Japan.

Built 1959. Description. MS.452 tons. Disappeared whilst on voyage from Yokkaichi to Tsukumi. Cargo of ballast. Left Yokkaichi on 13th February and Onomichi on the 14th. Not heard or seen since. North West Pacific.

IRMA. Finland.

Built 1947. Description. MS 361 tons. Cargo of Anthracite. Disappeared between Klaipeda and Rauma. Sailed from Klaipeda on the 23rd October, and last reported by wireless on the 25th having passed Market Light, Understen. Baltic Sea.

RYUOZAN MARU. Japan.

Built 1960. Description. MS 460 tons. Cargo cement. Sailed from Tubato to Sakai on the 23rd December, and not seen or heard since. North West Pacific.

OOSTMEEP. Netherlands.

Built 1967. Description MS 500 tons. Cargo of steel billets. Left Brussels for Monfalcone on the 22nd October. Passed Gibraltar on the 29th and last reported off Cape Bougaroni on the 31st. Mediterranean.

1969

MILTON LATRIDIS

Built 1952. Description. M.Tanker 10,009 tons. Cargo of caustic soda and vegetable oil. Left New Orleans for Kwinana on the 14th November. Last reported by radio in position latitude 2S longitude 37W on the 25th. Not seen or heard since. South Atlantic.

TRANSVIN. Panama.

Built 1935. Description. M.cargo. 388 tons. Sailing from Iraklion to St. Louis (Rhone). Left Iraklion on the 21st October and not since reported. Mediterranean.

SEIYO MARU Japan.

Built 1960. Description. M.Fishing. 240 tons. Left Samoa on 14th March, and last reported in position latitude 2 S longitude 160W on the 8th April. Central Pacific.

No disappearances in 1970.

1971

BANALUNA Liberia

Built 1961. Description. M.Ore carrier. 8,198 tons. Cargo of Magnetite iron concentrate. Sailed from Tolosa on 9th November for Kokura. Last reported in latitude 19 24N, longitude 127 24E on the 20th November. East China Sea-North West Pacific.

SENG LEE Panama

Built 1952. Description S.Cargo. 1,694 tons. Cargo of cement. Sailed from Kaohsiung on 30th September for Bandar Seri Begawan, and last reported in latitude 14 24N longitude 119 43E on the 6th October. South China Sea.

KIKI Cyprus

Built ? Description. Freighter, 3,750 tons. Passed through Straights of Gibraltar on 31st January on voyage from Poland to Yugoslavia. Never seen again. Cargo of coke. Mediterranean.

JUNIOR KL Philippines

Built 1951. Description. M Cargo. 2,470 tons. Sailed from Tandjong Mam on the 30th September for Hong Kong and last reported in latitude 13N longitude 112 46E on 5th October. Cargo of logs. South China Sea.

ILIGAN BAY Philippines

Built 1943. Description. M Cargo. 5,203 tons. Sailed from Antwerp to Manilla on January 20th and last reported by radio 120 miles NNE of Cabo Villano at 3 p.m. GMT on the 24th. Cargo of chemicals and general. Pacific?

STARSHINE. GRC

Built 1952. Description M Cargo. 499 tons. Sailed from Mogadiscio on the 28th July for the discharging port of Jebel Dhanna with a general cargo, and not since reported. Indian Ocean.

WAN CHI Ch (T)

Built 1966. Description. WM Fishing. 174 tons. Sailed from Pago Pago, American Samoa on the 27th July for the tuna fishing grounds in the South Pacific. Last reported in latitude 11 19S, longitude 177 8E on the 8th August.
South Pacific Ocean.

CARIBE Liberia

Built 1945. Description M. Cargo. 3,864 tons. Sailed from Barranquilla to Santo Domingo on the 9th October, and last heard by radio on the 10th. Cargo of clinkers.
Caribbean.

1972

PUERTO LIMON Panama

Built 1956. Description. M.Cargo. 853 tons. Sailed from Houston, Texas on December 14th bound for Port Limon with a cargo of fertilizer. Not seen leaving Galveston the same day.
Gulf of Mexico-West Caribbean.

HSIUN SENG Ch (T)

Built 1963. Description. M.Cargo. 418 tons. Disappeared whilst on route to Kaohsiung with a cargo of White clay and granite. Left Kinmen on 10th November, and last reported in latitude 24 10N, longitude 118 45E the same day.
South China Sea-East China Sea.

ITSUKISAN MARU Japan

Built 1964. Description. M.Cargo. 268 tons. Sailed from Mizushima for Nagoya in January. Not seen or heard since.
North West Pacific.

1973

SANTA ANA Philippines

Built 1970. Description. M.Cargo. 4,736 tons. Sailed from Kemaman for Akita on the 14th November and last reported in latitude 21 31N, longitude 119 20E. Cargo of logs.
South China Sea-East China Sea.

TA TONG Taiwan.

Built 1967. Description. M.Cargo. 273 tons. Sailed from Kaohsiung for Makung on the 30th November, with a cargo of cement, gas and general. Not seen or heard since.
East China Sea.

DAUNTLESS. U.S.A.

Built 1967. Description. M. Fishing. 186 tons. Sailed from Ketchikan for Kodiak on the 16th October, Not seen or heard since.
Gulf of Alaska.

GULF BANDAR. Com.(Cyprus).

Built 1962. Description. M.Cargo. 496 tons. Sailed from Ipswich on the 31st March for Tripoli. Passed Algiers at 22.50 hrs., on the 8th April, and not seen since. General cargo.
Mediterranean.

ANITA Norway

Built 1966. Description. M.Bulk Carrier. 12,946 tons. Sailed from Newport News for Bremen on the 21st March and last reported by radio in heavy weather on the 22nd. Only a life ring found. Cargo of coal.

NOTE: Re: ANITA

Two hours prior to the Anita disappearing, her sister ship, the NORSE VARIANT broke in half in the same storm in approx. the same location, being on the same run. Only one survivor picked up clinging to a door.

West Atlantic.

EXPRESS 1. Com. (Cyprus).

Built 1957. Description. M. Cargo. 877 tons. Sailing from Piraeus to Leghorn. Departed on the 13th December and last reported in latitude 37 54N, 18 15E on the 15th. Cargo of Magnesite. Mediterranean.

VATNANES. Norway

Built 1969. Description. M. Cargo. 199 tons. Cargo of stone and general. Sailed from Leixoes on the 9th March for Newhaven and not seen since. North Sea.

THEODORE AS. Com (Cyprus).

Built 1958. Description M. Cargo. 13,884 tons. Sailed from Narvic on the 3rd November for Gijon with a cargo of iron ore. Last heard by radio on the 4th. Part of life boat found. North Sea.

ANTJE JANSEN GFR.

Built 1962. Description. M. Cargo. 424 tons. Voyage Par to Gustausberg with a cargo of china clay. Sailed on the 4th December and reported by radio telephone near Texel on the 6th. Not seen or heard since. North Sea.

EMS. GFR.

Built 1961. Description. M. Cargo. 424 tons. Sailed Sauda on the 13th November, bound for Rotterdam with a cargo of Ferro Manganese. Anchored North of Kopervik on the same day due to heavy weather. Last reported under way again on the 14th. North Sea.

ABBREVIATIONS

AUX = Auxiliary. F = Ferro-Concrete. IRN = Iron.
RP = Reinforced Plastic. T = Oil Tanker. C = Composite.
M = Motor ship. S = Steamship. W = Wood.

Tina Goutte
Roy Goutte

.....
B O O K R E V I E W S
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THE HYNEK U.F.O. REPORT. Sphere Books. 95p

Basically, this is the gist of the Project Blue Book information which has been released due to the new freedom of information laws recently introduced in America. Hynek is in an excellent position to write on the subject for two reasons. He has had access to almost all available U.F.O. information and witnesses, and he has been involved in official military and scientific evaluations, having spent twenty years as official consultant to Project Blue Book itself. On the latter point, his description of the official workings of Projects Blue Book, Sign and Grudge - along with the Condon Report - make excellent reading, and give a fascinating insight into the official attitude towards U.F.O.s and the methods employed to debunk them. Whilst some of these methods were crude in the extreme e.g. the arbitrary dismissal of committee members and researchers who refused to toe the line of official policy, others were simple and effective. One such was the habit of categorising easily explainable sightings as U.F.O.s., the obvious result of this being a massive distortion of the 'solved' cases against those which were to remain a mystery. While this may seem simple and obvious now, it was extremely effective when employed in the 'numbers game'. If anyone has ever believed in the notion that the phrase 'official cover up' was born of paranoia or frustration, then Hynek's book will put them straight. After reading the relevant sections of his book, it is little wonder that Blue Book was once described as the 'Society for the Explanation of the Uninvestigated'. All this makes excellent reading, and is as necessary and valuable in the study of U.F.O.s as the research and analysis of hard data.

The Hynek U.F.O. Report is not for the cultist. If you want your extra-terrestrials to be blonde-haired angels from Venus, little green dwarves from the centre of the Earth or your bank manager, then I can only suggest you stick to reading George Adamski and Brinsley (every-one-a-gem) Trench. In a current trend of the wierd, wonderful and ridiculous, with a great deal of hysteria and little evidence, Hynek's common sense and scientific approach must be anathema.

J. Allen Hynek began as a sceptic - it was his job to explain away reports as astronomical phenomena (he is a professional astronomer - Patrick Moore please note) - and confesses in his book that he took great pleasure in this. However, he is a classic example of someone who was persuaded, by the sheer mass of evidence presented, that the U.F.O. phenomena was a serious and important subject. One gets the impression, however, that the mass of evidence not presented to him was just as instrumental to his conversion. Hynek propounds no theories or answers to the mystery, just a genuine wish for the subject to be treated by the authorities in an intelligent and scientific way. His style is refreshingly honest, and he is never slow in admitting his own mistakes, prejudices and weaknesses.

In all, The Hyneck U.F.O. Report is a well-written, well-documented and extremely valuable book which must stand as one of the best produced on the subject. No serious U.F.O. researcher can afford to be without a copy.

Bernard Smith

Book Reviews - continued.

MORE LIVES THAN ONE? THE EVIDENCE OF THE REMARKABLE
BLOXHAM TAPES. JEFFREY IVERSON. PAN 75p. (Illustrated).

Arnall Bloxham is a hypnotherapist who has taken a number of people under hypnosis, it appears, back to incidents during previous lives. Bloxham made over 400 tapes, and this book is a selection of the most interesting examples and those which contain enough detail to enable some verification of the facts. It also contains general discussion on the subjects of reincarnation, hypnotic suggestion etc., and it all makes for some fascinating reading.

One of the most interesting regressions is that of a woman whose name is given as Jane Evans (she did not want her real name given in order to avoid adverse publicity). According to the evidence of the tapes, she existed in six previous lives until being 're-born' in 1939. These include a tutors wife in Roman Britain, a Jewess in York, a servant to Jacques Coeur, a servant to Catherine of Aragon, a London sewing girl in the reign of Queen Anne and a nun in Maryland U.S.A. Of all these, the one which interested me most was the Jewess of York, and for two reasons. Firstly, the wealth of detail she produced about York in 1189, the Jewish community in England and the attitude of the common man - and the Church - toward it. She cites dates, people, incidents, names and places which - in my mind - could only have been known by somebody who has studied that particular subject in great depth. Or, of course, somebody who was alive at the time. Jane Evans is not an historian or even a superficial student of the subject, and does not claim to be. The second reason relates to the incident of the horrifying massacre of the Jews at York in 1190. According to the tape, she hid from the butchery in the crypt of a certain church which she describes very well. At first, there was some doubt over this as the only church it could possibly have been had no crypt. However, six months after the tape was made a crypt was accidentally discovered in that very church, and its architecture predated it to 1190 or before.

Another very interesting example is the regression of a certain Graham Huxtable to the life of a pressed seaman during the Napoleonic wars. Again, he claims no knowledge - or interest - of the sea or naval history, yet details, phrases, naval slang etc., which he used in abundance has been verified as authentic by Admiralty historians. It is a particularly gruesome tape, the culmination of which is the shattering of Huxtables leg during an exchange of cannon fire with a French ship. The effect of this on Huxtable is dramatic and terrifying - even more so if you have heard him go through it in the B.B.C. documentary on the tapes, as I have. Needless to say, it helps a great deal to actually hear the words spoken and witness the transformation of character.

There have been various attempted explanations of the tapes, and the suggestion that Bloxham 'put the words into the subjects mouths'. One only has to read the transcripts to see that this is not the case. Cryptoamnesia is another favourite given by psychiatrists. In effect, this means that the subject learned all the details over a long period of time and used them to create a mental fantasy world with themselves being a central character. In my view, this falls apart on two counts. First of all, a mass of the information and detail is just not available to the average person - it could only be obtained by long, deliberate and painstaking research. Indeed, some of the information seemed to come as a surprise to the qualified historians interviewed in the book.

Secondly, is it likely that this character should, in many counts, be a literal nobody? The examples cited in the book are the most interesting ones, even

though the details of the characters tend to be day to day and pretty trivial. It appears that the vast amount of regressions on tape seem to be not just trivial, but pretty boring. It seems highly unlikely that anyone would create a fantasy, escapist life as a downtrodden factory worker or disillusioned nun. None of the people claim to have had previous lives as anyone eminent, and in cases like Jane Evans and Graham Huxtable they appear to come to a most unpleasant and painful end.

What, then is the answer? In my own view it narrows down to either reincarnation in the accepted sense - rebirth into another body, or racial or inherited memory. Racial memory to me is the central pool of knowledge and experience into which every human mind is connected, and is in no way subject to time or space. As for inherited memory, if talent and personality, we are told, can be passed down genetically, then why not memory? This would seem quite reasonable in the cases of those who remembered the events leading up to death - for what memory is more likely to be indelibly implanted than that of the transition from one existence to the next?

In this respect, I found it a great pity that Iverson had not gone into the backgrounds of the subjects in greater depth. Whilst the subject of reincarnation was discussed, it tended to be done so on a very academic level. Iverson constantly posed questions, and I could not help feeling that he could have produced a few more answers had he pursued the possibilities mentioned above. There remained a feeling of being presented with a fascinating mystery without the means to find an answer.

Despite all that, it is a fascinating book and well worth reading. Iverson is fairly non-committal and weighs up most of the pros and cons, and the style is easy to read. I sincerely hope that more work is produced on the Bloxham tapes, and in greater depth and detail. On the subject of reincarnation, I shall conclude with a quote from the American Walt Whitman which is contained in the book:

'I pass death with the dying, and birth with the new washed babe,
And am not contained between my hat and my boots.'

Bernard Smith.

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SOLENT SKYWATCH - SATURDAY 3RD JUNE or SATURDAY 10TH JUNE.

Weather permitting, it is hoped that the Skywatch will take place on the first date - the second is an alternative.

The intention of this Skywatch, through taking up vantage points along and around supposed Leylines, is to attempt to discover whether any correlation exists between these alignments and U.F.O. flight paths. As you may already know, it has often been suggested that the objects use Leylines for the purpose of navigation. As there are a number of these alignments in the Portsmouth and Solent area, this would seem a good place to look for any verification of this idea.

I would like to hear from anyone who is interested in taking part, so as to have a co-ordinated group scanning the sky at the same time. A few vantage points along the coast have been selected, but if these seem unsuitable for you, I would like to hear of any further suggested sites. Perhaps a site nearer your home would be preferable, or even your back garden, if you have a good

uninterrupted view of the night sky. The Leyline I would mainly like to cover runs parallel with the Haslar Wall at a point where a number of U.F.O. sightings have been made. The object of this exercise is to take account of any unexplained phenomena, and to note its direction, height, speed, description etc. It will also be helpful if planes, satellites, shooting stars and other known objects are recorded, so that information can be checked against that noted by the other groups involved.

Suggested observation sites:

Calshot
Lee on Solent
Haslar Wall
Sally Port
Southsea Castle
Eastney
Hayling
Portsmouth Hill
Butser Hill

Suggested equipment:

Area maps
Compass
Binoculars (10 x 50)
Tape Recorder
Camera (with fast film)
Pen and paper
Torch
Warm Clothes
Refreshments
(Dedication! - Ed.)

Each group should have a member of W.A.T.S.U.P. in attendance. If interested, please contact:

BILL PAFFORD - Portsmouth 24124

U.F.O. OR POLYTHENE BAG?

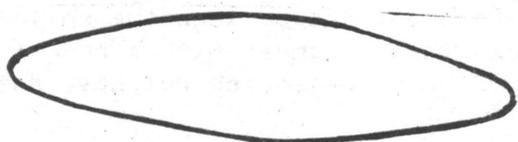
On the 7th January, 1978, the Southern Evening Echo (Southampton) and The News (Portsmouth) contained reports of a 35 square yard polythene bag, which, much to the concern of Airport Officials, drifted over Eastleigh Airport the day before. Reaching a maximum height of 1,500 feet, it eventually landed in a field outside the airport boundaries. Naturally enough, several people in the area witnessed something unusual in the sky that day. However, at least two witnesses are sure they were not watching a large polythene bag. Tony Jones of the Southampton Branch has investigated one of these reports and has doubts of his own concerning the polythene bag explanation. Posing the question, in fact, which came first - the bag or the U.F.O.? Included below is Tony's summary of the report, followed by additional comments on the plastic bag issue.

Nick Maloret

THE ACCOUNT

FRIDAY 6TH JANUARY, 1978. Bitterne, Southampton. 1400 hours. Weather: Dry, Dull, High Cloud.

A Bitterne housewife spotted a U.F.O. from the kitchen window of her house, which stands on a hill overlooking the River Itchen (1/2 mile distant). The objects shape was described as a silver-grey, flattened rugby ball, and was approximately 150 ft., above the river when first spotted. The witness rushed to the end of her garden, by which time the object was moving slowly at a height of about 40 ft., behind Vospers Yard. It then moved gracefully forward and hovered over a British Rail ferry-boat for approximately 2 minutes. By comparison with the boat, the object was estimated to be 30-40 ft., wide. The object then moved off climbing at an angle of 45°, and disappeared into the clouds at 1406 hours. In the last few seconds, the witness observed a design on the base of the object, as shown in the sketch.



BITTERNE
OBJECT



DESIGN
ON
THE BASE

DEBAGGED?

The witness telephoned a railway worker whom the Southern Evening Echo had named as also having seen the 'polythene bag'. He, it seems, was equally convinced that he had been watching a U.F.O., but had gained few details from the Eastleigh Police.

Vosper Thorneycroft was then contacted by the witness, and she was informed by them that someone had asked for a report to be made to the Police of a large 30' x 30' polythene bag in the boat lane. The individual had been concerned that the bag would become airborne and endanger aircraft. (Amazing foresight?)

To sum up: Tony confirms that the Police were cagey regarding U.F.O. sightings and that he was unable to ascertain whether the bag was blowing about or just 'conveniently appeared', adding that there was no wind on the day of the sighting.

Names and addresses on file with W.A.T.S.U.P.

Nick Maloret

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PHOTOGRAPHS TAKEN OF DISTANT CIGAR

Monday, January 2nd, 1978 at 16.15 hours near Winchester.
Weather: Dry, Clear, Cold, Red Sunset.

A bright flash was spotted by a Winchester couple travelling along the Corhampton/Winchester Road. Stopping the car on a hill overlooking Winchester, (known locally as Stinkpot Hill, due to the noxious emanations from a nearby sewage works), they saw a cigar-shaped object about one mile distant towards the S.W., near Twyford, on an inclination of 45 °.

The object was the colour of a light bulb, and estimated to be the size of a large jet aircraft. According to the wife, the object was vertical, but the husband saw it as slightly inclined.

It remained stationary for approx. 10 minutes, during which time, the husband took 4 shots with an instamatic camera loaded with colour negative film. Several aircraft were spotted on the horizon, one passing behind the object emitting a vapour-trail.

At approx. 16.25 hours, the object commenced movement on a circular path, emitting a slight vapour trail, tilted over until horizontal, then moved off towards Petersfield (Easterly). The sighting ended after 15 minutes at 16.30 hours. No more pictures were taken as the film, at this point, had been used up.

POSTSCRIPT

The complete film was passed to W.A.T.S.U.P. and subsequently developed by Tony Wells. A very tiny object was visible on each negative as described by the husband, slightly off vertical, when magnified considerably. The negatives were sent to Kodak for printing and on all 4, the object could just be discerned with the naked eye. It is unfortunate that contrast between the yellowish object and the bright sunset was poor, and that a camera with a powerful lens had not been available. Enlargements have been considered but have not been made as any detail would be lost completely.

Names and addresses of witnesses on file.

Tony Jones

A CATALOGUE OF ALLEGED HAUNTED LOCALITIES IN HAMPSHIRE
PART 3

HAWLEY: THE OLD MALT HOUSE, CHAPEL LANE

The stairs of the 350 year old building are reputed to be haunted by the ghost of an old woman, who in the past was employed in carrying water to the upstairs rooms. For this reason, the ghost is held responsible for the small amounts of water which mysteriously appear on the stairs overnight.

Ghosts of London by Jack Hallam

HINTON AMPNER MANOR

The Manor became the centre of a great deal of ghostly activity in the middle of the 18th century, according to a well-documented account from the time. The reported phenomena included the ghost of a man in a drab coat, a woman in rustling silk, slamming doors, knocks and unaccountable screams. Eventually the building was pulled down and re-built fifty yards away. However, some of the activity still continued.

Haunted Britain by Antony Hippiisley Cox

HOOK

The fields surrounding the A.30 at Hook were at one time reputed to be haunted by the figure of a cavalier. Although not having made an appearance for 15 years, the ghost is said to have been frequently seen before this time. According to witnesses, the figure was only visible on the Southern sides of fields and lanes, and carried a broken sword, whilst walking as if in a daze.

- * It may be worthy of note that the intersection of the A.32 and A.30 at Hook was the scene of a low level U.F.O. sighting, involving vehicle interference, on 26th October, 1967.

Hampshire Magazine. December 1973.

- * Flying Saucer Review. Volume 13 No. 6.
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KIMPTON: KIMPTON DOWN INN

The building suddenly became plagued by poltergeist-like activity while undergoing structural renovations during the mid-sixties. Bottles of beer were swept from a shelf to smash on the bar counter and plates of food were turned upside down. 'The faint outline of a figure' was then reported by the Licensee's wife and daughter and a number of customers - usually during the afternoon or evening.

Haunted Inns by Jack Hallam

LYMINGTON, THE ANGEL HOTEL

Early in the morning the shadowy figure of a coachman has been seen standing in the kitchen, staring through the window into the yard.

A tall grey-haired figure, wearing a Naval-style coat with brass buttons fastened to the neck, has also been witnessed by a relief manager at the hotel. The figure appeared momentarily at 11.30 p.m. and is alleged to have been seen by several others on various occasions.

One female visitor was disturbed during the night by the sound of a piano being played. Only to discover later that the instrument in question had been removed and broken up the day before.

Haunted Inns by Jack Hallam

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LYMINGTON. NR. ARNWOOD FARM

Writing in Wessex and Hampshire Life, Patricia Morrell relates an experience described to her by her grandfather. It seems that many years ago he was driving a horse and trap near Arnwood Farm, late at night, when the horse shied and refused to move. However, after some persuasion he managed to get the horse moving, but meanwhile became aware of a curious sensation of fear, and could feel the hairs lifting beneath his cap. It was naturally presumed that the 'White Lady', who traditionally walks the grounds of nearby Arnwood Manor, had been the cause of the trouble.

Wessex and Hampshire Life. September 1974.

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MEONSTOKE. MEONSTOKE HOUSE

When in November 1975 new owners moved into the building, they were dismayed to find that their usually calm English sheepdog became continually agitated. The dog's unsettled behaviour rapidly worsened and once when confined to the hall, it went beserk. Given away reluctantly, and taking up residence elsewhere, the dog quickly resumed its normal calm nature. It was then learned from an elderly local man that no resident of the house, in the fifty or more years he had known it, was able to keep dogs there without them going wild. Following these events, and beginning in early 1976, the front door bell began to ring at various times while no-one was present. The last reported occurrence of this was in February 1977, when the bell rang five times in the same evening. Another peculiarity of the house concerns a door on the first floor landing which refuses to stay closed during the night.

Ghosts over Britain by Peter Moss.

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OAKLEY

The apparition of an old woman allegedly haunts the lanes around Oakley. Appearing suddenly, she peers into the face of the startled witness, and then disappears just as suddenly. No recent witnesses are mentioned in the brief account.

Hampshire Magazine. December 1973.

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PART 4 - PORTSMOUTH

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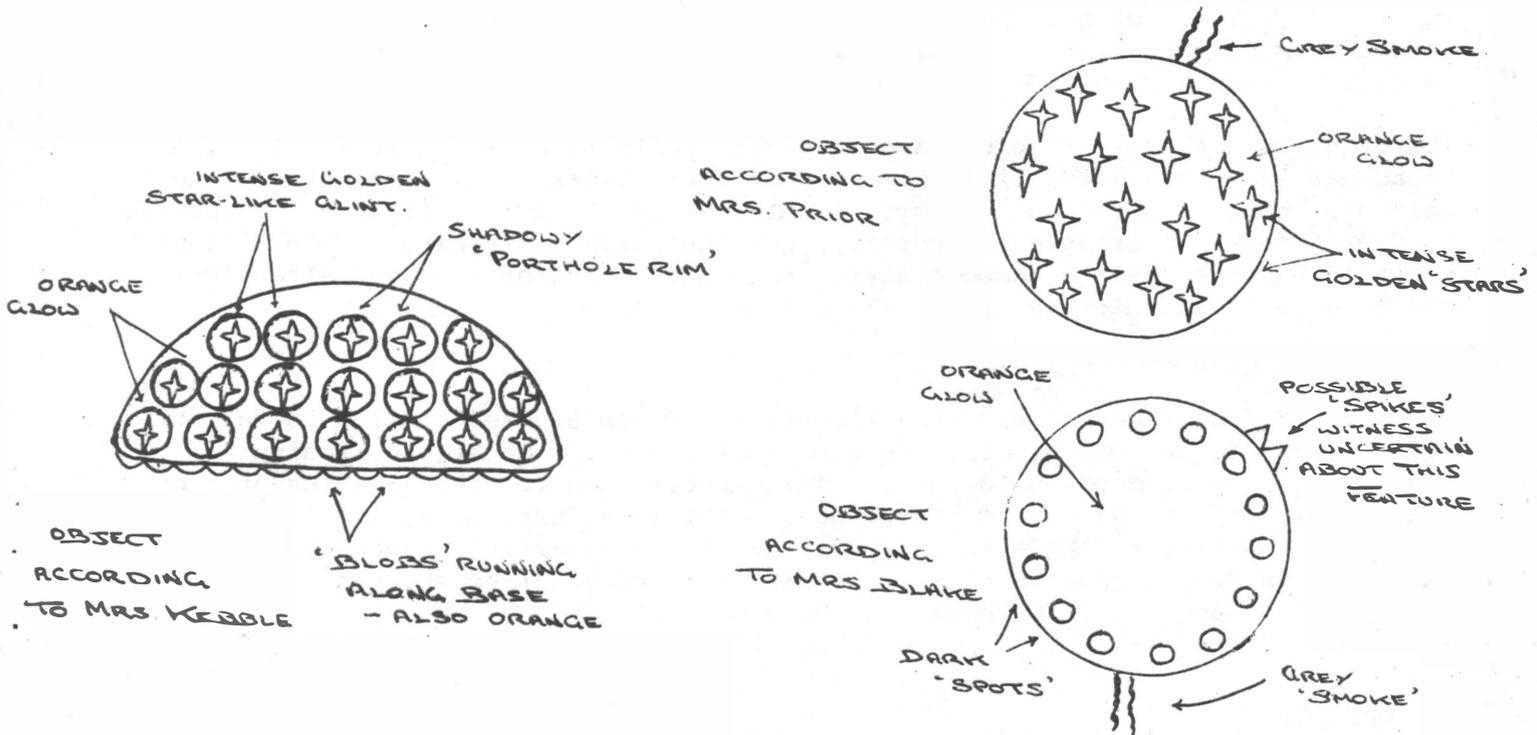
LOW-LEVEL U.F.O. OVER MILTON

At 9.00 p.m. on Monday 18th July, 1977, Mrs. Hilda Kebble, aged 76, was in the living room of her flat, situated on the ground floor of a three storey block in Broom Square, Milton, Portsmouth. It was beginning to get dark outside and the street lights had just come on, when through the window, (facing West), she noticed a large, brilliantly illuminated object moving into view from above the building. Her first impression was that the object was a plane on fire.

Meanwhile, Mrs. Rose Prior, a neighbour in her early 40's, had also witnessed the phenomenon from outside in the street, and intending to alert Mrs. Kebble, rapped at her window. Opening the window and leaning out, Mrs. Kebble then watched the object in the company of Mrs. Prior.

The object was completely silent and glowed a brilliant orange, comparable in intensity and colour to the sun. It appeared to be extremely low, (just above roof height, according to Mrs. Kebble), and proceeded to move very slowly over the road and directly above the witnesses. The best view was attained when the object was above an opposing three storey block of flats. To Mrs. Kebble, at this point, the object was plainly visible as a half disc, ("Like half a sun"), with the flat edge downwards. She further describes the whole thing as being covered in 'portholes', or at least, shadowy circles which gave this effect. However, the feature that most impressed the witness was that within each 'porthole' a vivid 'cross' was visible. This phenomenon was compared to light glinting on a reflective surface. Evidently, these points of light were gold in colour and of far greater intensity than the overall orange glow of the object.

Mrs. Prior's description of the object, and that of a third witness, Mrs. Blake, are altogether different from Mrs. Kebble's view. Mrs. Prior agrees regarding the colour of the object, but describes it as a disc covered in golden stars. Furthermore, she places it higher, and its apparent size a little smaller than Mrs. Kebble has done.



Mrs. Blake, aged 75, lives in the same block as Mrs. Kebble and observed the object from the window of her flat, situated about 100 ft., to the right of the position of the other witnesses. She describes the object as an orange disc with dark spots around the perimeter, and agrees with Mrs. Kebble and Prior, that its apparent size was much larger than the full moon.

From its original Westward course the object then began to move slowly towards the South, and it was noticed by Mrs. Prior and Blake (not by Mrs. Kebble), that a trail of grey 'smoke' was emitted from it. Mrs. Prior thinks that this trailed from the top of the disc, but Mrs. Blake seemed equally sure that it came from the bottom. All the witnesses agree however, that seconds later the lights on the object began to go out several at a time, until within a further period of seconds nothing was visible. It seemed that the object had not moved far when this occurred, as its apparent size appeared no smaller than when it was first observed. It was further noticed that just before its disappearance a nearby street-light dimmed to a weak glow. It is not certain whether the light brightened again following this, but I was able to verify that it was working normally on the evening of the 25th July, when I interviewed the witnesses. No other street-lights or house-lights are known to have been effected at this time. However, Mrs. Kebble noted that occasional interference was experienced on her television for the rest of the evening. This continued on the following night and took the form of "zig zag flashes". The object had been in view for 25-30 seconds.

A DISAPPEARING 'ZEPPELIN'

IN MID-JUNE, 1977, Mrs. Kebble experienced an earlier sighting of a U.F.O.

She recalls that it was a warm, clear afternoon, and at about 3 o'clock she had decided to take a glimpse out of the living room window. Immediately, she noticed an object 'hanging' in the Western sky, at an elevation she later estimated to be approximately 40°.

Mrs. Kebble described the object as looking exactly like the Zeppelins she had seen during the war, except that it was minus an 'undercarriage'. As soon as she saw the object the witness had opened the window, and unable to believe her eyes, looked away several times, but to no effect. In desperation, she even took off her glasses for a moment.

The object was silver in colour and seemed to reflect the sun brilliantly. No sound was in evidence and it appeared to be quite stationary. Suddenly, without warning, the object vanished as Mrs. Kebble was watching it. It neither appeared to fade from sight or move off quickly, but instantly disappeared. The witness compared this process to someone having turned the page of a book. Altogether the object had been in view for 25/30 seconds.

THE BROOM SQUARE TRIANGLE?

A further U.F.O. sighting from the vicinity of Broom Square occurred in July or August of 1975, and was briefly reported in Issue No. 6 under the heading "...Like a Wide-Brimmed Bowler Hat." This report involved the sighting of a grey indistinct, hat-shaped object by two boys walking in Furze Lane, adjoining Broom Square. According to the witnesses, the object momentarily disappeared above the flats in Broom Square at a point not too far removed from the position where Mrs. Kebble's second U.F.O. ceased to be visible.

AN INVISIBLE VISITOR

Around 1973, W.A.T.S.U.P. was contacted by a lady living in Broom Square regarding a series of strange incidents she had experienced in her home. The following is a brief summary of these incidents as related by the witness to Dave Almond who investigated the case at the time:-

THE ACCOUNT

The witness, who I will refer to as Mrs. M., was middle-aged with two children - a girl and a boy aged about 8 and 10 respectively. She lived alone with the children at the time and worked for Portsmouth City Council. The incidents spanned a period of just over one year and at the beginning were of a fairly innocuous nature.

Lights would be found on when Mrs. M. had been certain she had turned them off. Three kitchen items disappeared on the same day - a kettle, dishcloth and a tea towel, all of which were, incidentally, coloured orange. At a later date, numerous brass ornaments vanished without trace. Then, without warning, the events took a more positive and unsettling turn.

One evening Mrs. M., was in the living room when she heard the front door open. Footsteps were then heard to proceed along the passage, sounding as though someone were walking on bare boards, despite the fact that the passage was carpeted. At this point, the living room door opened and although nothing was visible to Mrs. M., her small dog appeared to watch something move across the room. The dog then jumped onto a chair near the corner of the room and gave the impression of intently staring up at something that had positioned itself in the corner. No amount of verbal persuasion on Mrs. M's part could move the dog, until eventually it jumped down from the chair of its own accord and resumed its normal behaviour. This event was to be repeated on about five other occasions.

A pet hamster, owned by Mrs. M's children, was present in the room during one of these later 'visitations', and at the time the dog was going through its routine of following the intruder, the hamster suddenly let out a squeak and died.

At another time, immediately prior to the sound of the front door opening, Mrs. M's dog began to race frantically in circles around the room.

At about this time Mrs. M., decided to have the flat exorcised by a local vicar. This, however, seemed to have only a short-lived effect, as within three days things continued to happen.

Whether soon after the exorcism ceremony, or sometime later, is not certain, but one day on returning home from work, Mrs. M., entered her bedroom and discovered that a large quantity of cosmetic items had been removed from the top of the dressing table and arranged neatly on the floor. Along with these was a portable television set which had also previously been situated on the dressing table. The only items left untouched being a pair of candlesticks.

Eventually, Mrs. M., consulted a Medium, who, after visiting the flat and conducting a seance on the premises, concluded that the ghost was that of a man who had died at a nearby sanatorium. In attempting to verify the above, through the name given by the Medium, Dave Almond subsequently learned that the records of nearby Langstone Sanatorium (now a private house) had in fact been destroyed during the war.

The last reported occurrence at the flat involved the discovery, one evening, of the budgerigar's cage tipped over on its side and the bird inside dead. No marks at all were visible on the body. Understandably Mrs. M., had by now taken all she could endure and within a short time moved elsewhere.

POSTSCRIPT

It is tempting to ponder on a connection with the later U.F.O. sightings in this area, but it must be said that up to now there seems to be no suggestion of this. In fact, the only real conclusion we can come to is that Broom Square appears to be yet another of those peculiar localities where things tend to happen.

Nick Maloret

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A "CLOSE ENCOUNTER" IN SOUTHAMPTON?

The following account was given to me by a very good friend of mine whom I hadn't seen for about two years. Due to the rather sensational and frightening details he wishes to remain nameless for fear of ridicule, but I can vouch personally for his good character and the concern he showed when relating the account to me:

The incident occurred in mid-January (actual date unknown) at 10.30 p.m. The witness was driving down Upper New Road, West End in a 1975 Datsun Cherry 100A. He was making a normal visit to his parents. Just before reaching September Close his headlights picked out two figures (men) walking towards him on the left hand side of the road. One of the men was holding what appeared to be a neon tube approximately 12 inches in length. The tube was illuminated, the same colour as a normal household fluorescent light. The man holding the tube appeared to direct the light towards the car as it approached and drew level with him. At that moment, the car lights dimmed to practically nothing and the car engine began to drag. The witness knocked the car out of gear, but this had no effect on the drag. The vehicle felt like it was still in gear but had slowed unnaturally violently. The car was now down to a virtual crawl, but he managed to reach his parents' house a short distance further on. On reaching the house the car engine had died and the ignition and oil lights were on. The panel lights appeared dim. He tried to start the car without success. The battery appeared to be flat, as the engine turned over very slowly. By this time, the witness was very frightened and kept looking out of the rear window for the two men, who appeared to have gone. After a couple of minutes trying to start the car without success the witness got out of the car and went inside the house. He related the story to his father, and after about a quarter of an hour came out to the car again. The car still refused to start, and would hardly turn over. He lifted the bonnet and checked the electrical system but found no faults. (Witness is an Electronics Engineer by profession.) Witness then inspected fuel line but again found nothing wrong. He then got back into car and attempted to start it up again. No luck. He was about to give up and go back into the house when the engine roared into life as though nothing had happened. The journey home was uneventful (although in the opposite direction).

The most disturbing part of the encounter was the witnesses' description of the humanoids. They were dressed in light coloured track suit type trousers pinched in tightly around the ankles, with dark 'donkey-type' jackets. They gave the

appearance of having somewhat pointed heads with NO FEATURES on the face. He was able to notice this in particular as the light which was being held by one of the beings illuminated them as one would expect. Apart from being very frightened, the witness could not recall any other details of relevance as it all happened very quickly.

FOOTNOTE

One week before the encounter, the Witnesses' car was serviced at a local garage and had been functioning perfectly up until the incident. Since the encounter, the car has performed quite normally.

Interview carried out on 7th March, 1978.

Roy Goutte

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INCIDENT AT LYCHETT MATRAVERS, DORSET

Lychett Matravers is a small village approximately 8 miles from Wimbourne Minster in Dorset which is rapidly growing, due to the large housing estates being constructed in the area.

The Whispering Corner, as it is now known, is situated along the foot-track connecting the village with the Parish Church, and is at a distance of approx. a quarter of a mile from the village itself. It is here that 'mumblings' are heard, which are said to be those of the Pallbearers who once carried bodies to the cemetery during the Plague. As story has it, they would stop and rest at this point.

On the night of Saturday 27th August, 1977, six Southampton members of W.A.T.S.U.P. attended a vigil at the site.

THOSE PRESENT: Roy Goutte (Chairman W.A.T.S.U.P.)
John Postans (Member W.A.T.S.U.P.)
Miss Lesley Lawrence (Treasurer W.A.T.S.U.P.)
Mrs. Joan Lawrence (Librarian W.A.T.S.U.P.)
Martin Symes (Sightings Co-ordinator W.A.T.S.U.P.)
Martin Coad (Secretary W.A.T.S.U.P.)

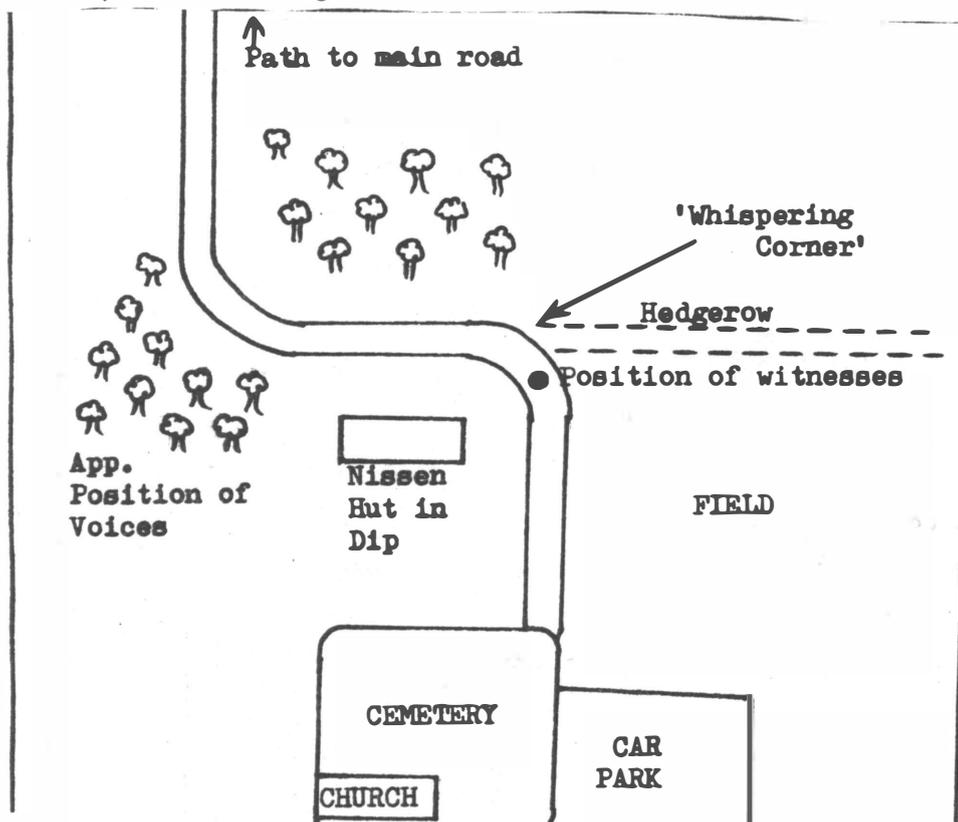
THE ACCOUNT

We arrived at 8.15 p.m. and gave the area a preliminary investigation. We took up watch positions at 9.15 p.m./9.30 p.m. The weather was clear and dry with a full moon and good visibility. At about 10.45 p.m. the tape recorder was switched on. At approx. 11.00 p.m. John Postans, Martin Symes and Lesley Lawrence heard a mumbling sound coming from the copse opposite. Roy Goutte and Joan Lawrence heard nothing due to the fact that they were positioned in a different spot from the rest of the Group. Martin Coad heard nothing at all. The tape was played back, but nothing could be heard on it. However, Roy Goutte's dog appeared to hear and sense something in the copse. His tail went down and ears went up, and the hair on his back began to rise. Martin Coad examined the nissen hut nearby, but it was not occupied. We waited until 2.00 a.m. then left. The mumbling sounded like two people talking to each other, but the contents of the conversation were not distinguishable. The tape was played back again on return but again, nothing was heard on it, even when turned up to a maximum volume.

There was no atmosphere of fear at the site before, during, or after the incident.

It appears that we are not the only people to have heard these sounds, as this place is a recognised haunting.

We are hoping that we may be able to have a return visit this summer, and hopefully, we may hear them again.



Martin Symes

READERS' LETTERS

CRADLE HILL INCIDENT - EXPLAINED?

With reference to your offer for an explanation regarding The Eyes in the Copse report in the W.A.T.S.U.P. Journal No. 7, I may in this letter have the answer.

Myself, my sister Veronica Collis and a friend Chris Harrison, on a recent Skywatch visit at Warminster witnessed the eyes on Cradle Hill. As like your team after parking the car at the white gate, we ascended the hill to the first copse. After looking around the barn and trees we proceeded to walk the track to the second copse. The time was approx. 11.15 p.m. Strong winds blew force 4-6, but the sky was clear except for the occasional groups of clouds passing in front of a bright moon. We had reached 100 yards from the first copse, looking through my binoculars (7 x 50) at the second copse, I saw by the edge of the trees what appeared to be an eye. My sister Veronica had only that afternoon visited the W.A.T.S.U.P. Exhibition at Fratton Road, Portsmouth (Saturday 1st October, 1977 - Ed.) and had bought your magazine. We had read the Eyes at Warminster report before leaving. When I told them that I could see the eye(s), there was much laughter and micky taking on me, so I offered them a look. The laughter soon changed to all serious when they too saw the eye.

We talked it over and decided to investigate. We proceeded along the track towards the wood checking through the glasses every few yards. Veronica suggested that it could be the moon shining on a piece of metal on reflective material, but then the moon went behind some clouds and still the eye could be seen. When we reached opposite the front of the wood we stopped and had a good look. The eye (light) appeared to be pulsating or flickering. It was above the grass and corn stubble. Again talking it over we decided that Chris and myself would go over the fence into the field. Chris would wait by the fence and I would go down to the light. With caution, I proceeded down the field, taking photos every few yards. When approx. 50 ft. from the light I could hear a noise. It sounded like a generator going with a flapping or fast clicking (eggs and bacon frying). I walked to within 20 ft. of it and could see beams of light on the ground and also coming out of the sides. Lifting my torch from my side I shone the beam at the lights. I at once saw a shape of a black cone, then walking quickly up to it I put my foot under it and knocked it over. I could now see that it was some kind of hoax. I called to Veronica and Chris that it was a hoax. I picked it up and carried it back to them. Not wanting to attract attention, I found some switches underneath and turned them off. We then moved off to the hangar behind the copse, as an Army jeep was coming up the road and a man got out and closed the gates at the check point down on the road. While waiting by the hangar, Chris thought that he heard someone moving about inside. When the jeep had gone we all shone our torches into the hangar, but could only see bales of straw. We then moved over to the copse. When standing there Chris and Veronica thought they could hear voices coming from the hangar, but we saw no-one.

On arriving back home and examining the object, I found that someone had gone to a lot of trouble to make this hoax U.F.O. It measured 2'6" high and 2ft. round. The covering around it is of large sheets of exposed negative film, forming patterns, a single light bulb shining yellowish in the top and four lighted bulbs shining down from under the flange bottom onto the ground. In the centre of the cone is a bright light bulb which is also covered by a drum suspended from an electric motor. The covering of the drum is also made of photo negative film with a slot cut in one side to allow the light to flash out as the drum revolves. The base and stand is made of $\frac{1}{8}$ " sheet plastic covered with matt black plastic tape. The power supply is provided by three large batteries, two of 6 volts., and one of 4.5 volts.

Who put it there? There were two cars parked by the gates which left as soon as we arrived. Or maybe there was someone in the hangar watching us all the time. If the hoaxer owner comes clean about it I will try and return it to them.

The object at the moment is in the hands of my friends at U.F.O. INFO. I hope this letter sheds some light on some of the strange noises and lights seen there recently.

62, Victoria Road,
Emsworth,
Hants.
PO10 7NJ.

Chris Franklin

CRADLE HILL INCIDENT - UNEXPLAINED?

Tony Wells, author of the article 'Incident on Cradle Hill' in Issue No. 7 comments on the previous letter:

.....

I have read the letter from Chris Franklin, obtained via Tony Jones, and I am replying as requested.

Firstly, I found the incident an interesting one but cannot see how the author can possibly equate this hoax with the original account of the 'eyes'. Basically, his description is of a single pulsing or flickering light. This light is yellowish in colour and as he does not say that it moved, one must assume it was stationary.

In the original 'eye' account we have a much different description as T. Jones states he saw a "pair of yellow eyes" - they move from side to side - appear to dart behind tree trunks and reappear.

Mrs. J. Lawrence also states that she saw a pair of "yellow eyes".

As you know, I did not see a 'pair' of 'eyes' only individual ones, one being yellow in colour and the other red. None of us can recall hearing any noise at all.

If we were the victims of a hoax on the 1st May, 1976, how can you explain the inability of the fourth witness to see what the rest of the party saw? Summing up, I would say that from a personal point of view the May 1st incident is still unexplained, at least to my satisfaction.

My final comment is that I regard the action taken by Chris Franklin i.e. when seeing the object he "put his foot under it and knocked it over" rather foolhardy to say the least.

61, Tremona Road,
Shirley,
Southampton.

Tony Wells.

.....

INCIDENT ON CRADLE HILL - A FURTHER COMMENT

I was very interested to be reminded of the Cradle Hill incident of 1st May, 1976 by Tony Wells' well documented account (Page 2-3 Journal No. 7.) I have one minor correction of detail to put the record straight. My binoculars were 7 x 30, not 7 x 40. Otherwise I would like to confirm all that Tony says as correct, to the best of my recollection. To speculate, it would seem that, as three of four observers saw something, and their observations are remarkably similar, we have one of two possible hypotheses. Either (a) the phenomenon was objective but I failed to see it or (b) the sighting was psychological and was transmitted from

Tony Jones to the other two eye witnesses by auto-suggestion or by telepathy, accentuated by fear. I would have thought hypothesis (a) the more probable but have no explanation for my failure to observe anything. Possibly, the light was so near the end of the visible part of the spectrum that I have less vision than normal. This suggests the value of infra-red photography on such occasions.

1, Cambridge Gardens,
Leith, Edinburgh.
EH6 5DH.

Peter Hill,
Secretary Edinburgh
Branch B.U.F.O.R.A.

UNIDENTIFIED ANIMALS

Your readers may be interested to know that Wessex and Surrey have no monopoly of unidentified cat-like animals in these islands. It was recently reported in the Scottish press and on radio news that unidentified animals are in Scotland and have destroyed sheep.

More than one sighting has been made, including by the Police, and Police marksmen have been searching for the animal. A veterinary surgeon, interviewed on B.B.C. Radio Scotland (Radio 4) said that the animal appeared to be feline. He considered it unlikely to be fox, dog or wildcat and could not put a name to it.

Apparently, it is of great strength, judged by the way it could strip a sheep of all its flesh.

1, Cambridge Gardens,
Leith, Edinburgh.
EH6 5DH.

Peter Hill.

BIOLOGICAL IMPOSSIBILITIES

With reference to the article 'Biological Study of Soil Samples from 'landing' near Winchester' (W.A.T.S.U.P. Journal No. 7.) I should like to make the following comments. After reading the report, it left the question 'What was the point of it all?' Surely, a scientific study should contain hard facts which reach a firm conclusion or at least point towards a possibility. The article could be precised into: If a craft landed and gave off some kind of emanation this had no noticeable effect on the bacteria population, or if it did, then the soil must have recovered on its own. In short, it was the study of a possibility based on an alleged sighting which then gave possible reasons why absolutely nothing was found. Even if a change was found in the bacteria population, how could anyone be certain - after three weeks - what had caused it? (Unless a definite trace of radiation or something of that nature was found).

Whilst it is a good and necessary thing to test, experiment and analyse, it must be kept in mind that it should never be done in such a way as to give the impression that W.A.T.S.U.P. members or their associates do so in order to play as scientists, preferring a page or so of scientific jargon to hard facts and firm conclusions.

Bernard Smith

Police hunt scorched earth UFO

DOWN IN the forest something glowed... and yesterday police were searching for a UFO which started a fire.

But first they swept the area with a radar counter for possible radio-activity.

The UFO came down in the Kingstanding area of Ashdown Forest, near East Grinstead, Sussex, on Wednesday night.

It was seen by Mrs M. R. Knotting, of Yew Tree Farm, Clockhouse Lane, Nutley.

She reported a mysterious ball of light dropping through the sky at a low trajectory and break into two as it hit the ground. The time: 10.30.

Immediately fire broke out in two areas—one spreading

By JACK HILL and GILL MARTIN

Inwood's daughters, Jacqueline, 18, and Christine, 15.

Together, they saw the UFO change colour from red to blue to white to green.

"It was moving erratically over Twesdowen, Aldershot.

"My first impression when I stepped out of my Panda car was that a very bright white star was overhead," said Constable Inwood.

"It appeared to be moving up and down and then across the sky.

"And all the time it was changing colour.

"I saw passing aircraft because the night sky was very clear and I'm absolutely emphatic that this was not one.

"I didn't believe in UFOs before, but now I have an open mind on the matter."

He wound up making an

to three acres, the other to one acre.

Firemen put out the blaze. And as police combed through the scorched earth yesterday, came reports from other people who had witnessed the strange sighting.

In neighbouring Surrey, Police Constable Alan Crags had answered an emergency call from a baffled school caretaker. The time: 9.50.

Colours

He ended up booting a multi-coloured UFO. The 24-year-old officer stationed at Ash, near Aldershot, stood watching the object for 25 minutes.

With him was the caretaker, Peter Inwood, aged 50, a former member of the Royal Observer Corps, and Mr

official report to county police headquarters in Guildford.

Caretaker Inwood told how he focused his binoculars on the bright flashing object.

"All I had to drink that night was Lucozade," he said.

"This was no aircraft or helicopter, I'd stake my life on that.

"Eventually, after more than two hours, it dropped behind some trees on the horizon and we went to bed."

Scared

The strange encounter was also witnessed in Farnborough by housewife Mrs Maureen Slater, of Hindle Close, and her 11-year-old son, Andrew.

The boy, and two pals, were playing on a local recreation ground when, as Andrew told his mother, "We saw a large, cigar-shaped object hovering over the playing fields."

The time: 9 o'clock.

Scared, the boys raced to Andrew's home. His mother walked outside to stare into the sky... and disappearing into the distance she saw flashing lights she could not explain.

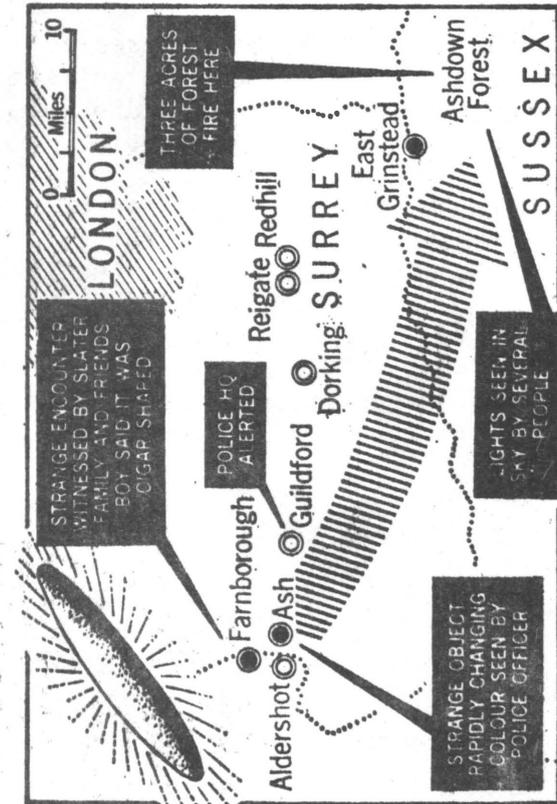
Meanwhile, back in Sussex, police, who have called off the UFO hunt suggest two explanations: aircraft from nearby Gatwick or Army flares.

The Ministry of Defence confirms that flares could have been used by a cadet force camped in the forest.

And flares were certainly fired by soldiers on exercises near Ash.

But the flares are white—not like the multi-coloured lights sighted—and only last 10 seconds.

"So if anyone saw anything else it must have been one of those famous UFOs," said a Ministry of Defence spokesman.



Re: 'Biological Impossibilities' - in all fairness to Julian Goble who conducted the experiment, it should be pointed out that he is, in fact, fully qualified in the field of biology.

Nick Maloret