



The UFO Enigma

A Publication of the UFO Study Group of Greater St. Louis

Volume 21 - Number 2 - Oct 2000

UFO STUDY GROUP OF GTR ST. LOUIS MEETING

2 PM Sunday, Oct. 8, 2000



The meeting place will be at Grone's Cafeteria at 1269 S Laclede Station Rd. (at the intersection with Watson Rd. in the Yorkshire Shopping Center) St. Louis, MO 63119. This is a fine cafeteria and they have very good food at reasonable prices. The room is reserved so our members and visitors can have lunch there. Plan to come early and enjoy a nice Sunday meal before the meeting.

The meeting will begin with the introduction of officers and directors and a welcome and introduction of all visitors to the meeting.

We will then have an open discussion of information about old or new UFO cases or UFO related happenings from all sources. Come and join us with all your questions about the UFO phenomena.

Then we will have our program for the day.

UFO ABDUCTEE TALKS ON FACTS & FEELINGS

Beverly Trout, nationally known UFO investigator-abductee, will lecture 2 p.m. Sunday Oct. 8 at Grone's Cafeteria, 1269 Laclede Station Road (York~~shire~~^{shire} Shopping Center), free to the UFO Study Group of Greater St. Louis, Inc. and the public. Her topic: "Philosophical Mathematics of Alien Abduction." Shows that $2+2=4$ is no longer the obvious answer in UFOlogy. Her experience as MUFON State Director for Iowa and a researcher in UFO sightings, encounters, abductions, crop formations, suspected landing sites and animal mutilations leads her and her audiences to a new challenge: $2+2=$ Open-minded= Open-ended= *Change!*

Beverly Trout dialogues with audiences. She elicits responses, opinions and emotional reactions and welcomes them. She was featured speaker at the Arlington, Virginia 1999 MUFON Symposium on her own abduction experiences. She emphasized the need for change in Present human-alien interaction.



Beverly Trout

Guest Speaker

The Enigma is a publication of the UFO Study Group of Greater St. Louis, and is published monthly, September through June each year. Not affiliated with any national society, the UFO Study Group is an independent, non-profit organization dedicated to the investigation and reporting of both area and national UFO sightings and peripheral areas of interest. Yearly membership is \$20.00. You may contact the UFO Study Group or any of its members and/or submit articles for publication through the UFO Study Group of Greater St. Louis, Inc., P.O. Box 31544, St. Louis, MO 63131. Please include self-addressed stamped envelope for materials to be returned.

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LETTERS

Forget the aliens - our art is top of the crops

AS ONE of the artists commissioned 1st year by the Daily Mail, along with John Lundberg and Rod Dickinson, to create a complicated crop formation, I found the latest crop circle (Mail) a beautiful piece of artwork.

Public opinion persists in the belief that complex crop circles can't be made by humans — but this is not so.

Last summer, at night, we created a complex 300ft formation right next to Avebury stone circle. The next morning, the Daily Mail showed the result of our work. Without knowing who had made the formation, several researchers hailed it as one of the most complex designs in the history of the phenomenon.

The problem with recreating a formation under critical eyes is that the circle will always be flawed in some way to suit the believers. Observers who don't know the origin of a circle can respond to it in a more open manner, free from the prejudice which comes with knowledge of human involvement.

We cannot acknowledge authorship: the public must decide how the circle is interpreted.

We're often called hoaxers, but we

never set out to deceive and have never knowingly done so.

We, too, are believers in the phenomenon — not that the circles are made by extra-terrestrial beings (although some might be) but that the circles catalyse paranormal events and transcendental experiences.

Every year in which we and other circle-making groups make crop formations, we experience similar sensations.

The fact that the circles arrive in a locale surrounded by ancient sites with long histories of spirituality gives them an extra dimension.

But by far the most difficult thing to explain is why we do it, particularly to someone who has never made a circle.

The answer comprises many strands: it is our art and we are fascinated by the public reaction to it. Imagine making an artwork which has people experiencing nausea, dizziness, euphoria, healing, domestic electrical failure, UFOs and many more associated phenomena.

The reason why we make circles will never easily be understood. We make circles because we have to.

WIL RUSSELL, Andover, Hants.



Driven to create: Crop circle artist Wil

SOUTHERN MISSOURI ACTIVITY INCREASES

JoAnne D. Scarpellini
Field Investigator, Missouri M.U.F.O.N. and
Chief Field Investigator, UFO Study Group of Greater St. Louis
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Since publication of the description of the unusual events that occurred in early April 2000 (M.U.F.O.N. Journal, June 2000) activity of all kinds in this Southern Missouri area had diminished. During the Winter of 1999-2000 numerous aerial phenomena including white lights and orange/amber lights were reported by many witnesses. This activity continued into early Spring 2000 then abruptly diminished with only and occasional sighting of anything unusual. The property in this area that we frequently visit is a very active area but over the Summer there was a 41 day period and yet another of 47 days when nothing was seen with the exception of a small aerial white light or two.

Then in late July there were increasing reports of aerial phenomena, mostly white and orange lights. In early August sightings of lights were occurring frequently with displays of multiple orange lights and several sightings of white "strobe-like" lights that arced up from or near ground level, usually seen over trees. These lights were seen in displays of 50 to 75 lights with a large number visible at one time. They were described as resembling fireworks, except they were all alike, the same color, the same motion from the ground up and back down, were of shorter duration than aerial fireworks and were seen in uninhabited areas.

Between mid-July and mid-August there were three reported incidences of a white light at nearly ground level, witnessed by several people, including myself. In all three cases the witnesses were driving on a paved road, a US Highway, in all three cases the light was seen in almost exactly the same place, at the same hour. The light travelled the same direction, South to North, in all three cases. The only major variation was that in one instance there were two lights seen (spaced as automobile headlights), in the other two instances there was only one light.

The description is as follows and was nearly identical from all of the witnesses, each of whom related the details not knowing anyone else had seen this phenomenon. As the witnesses (myself included) were driving West on the highway a white light the size and height of a headlight/basketball appeared suddenly at the left side of the road, moving across the ditch, crossing the road, crossing the ditch on the right side of the road, then disappearing. There is no intersecting road that continues from North to South across the highway where the light was seen. (Although there is one nearby that makes a "T" - it ends at the highway and does not continue on) One side is heavily wooded, both sides fenced, so there was no possibility of a car crossing there unless one came out of a field, crossed a ditch, the highway, another ditch and then went into the woods. If that had happened we would have been the first to the wreckage. There was none. The light I saw crossed the road with a bouncing motion, a total of seven bounces from start to finish, a period of about 6 seconds. When I first saw the light coming at right angles to the road upon which I was driving it was about 250-300 ft. ahead of me. I stopped instantly on the road to avoid what I perceived as a possible collision. Then I realized it was not a car bouncing across the ditch and road, but a disembodied white light that vanished. The light was not visible long for me to get a camera out of its case on the back seat. Fortunately there is very little traffic on that road at that hour so anyone stopping suddenly to avoid what they thought was an imminent collision could probably do so without being hit by someone behind them. We have no inkling of how many times this light has been seen; it was brought to our attention that people other than myself have seen it by a person who commented on seeing what they thought was a car, and turned out to be a light, unattached to anything visible, then other witnesses followed.

The others reporting this on other nights gave the same description in every detail except in the two other cases the light did not bounce but moved smoothly. We now wonder how many other people have seen this, not knowing there is no cross road, and assumed a car had crossed the road ahead of them.

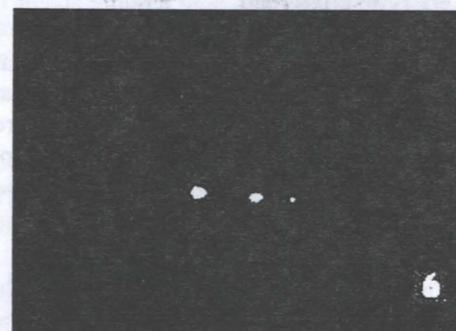
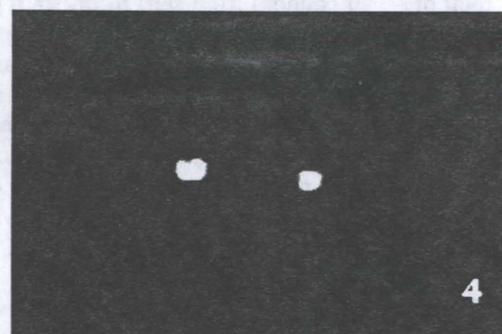
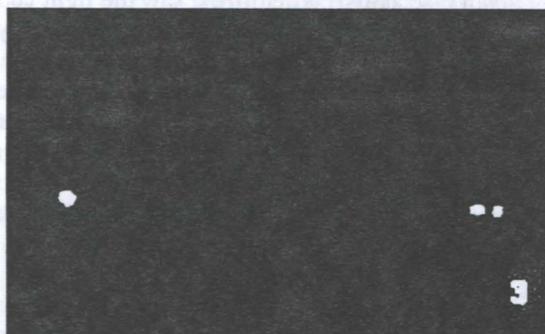
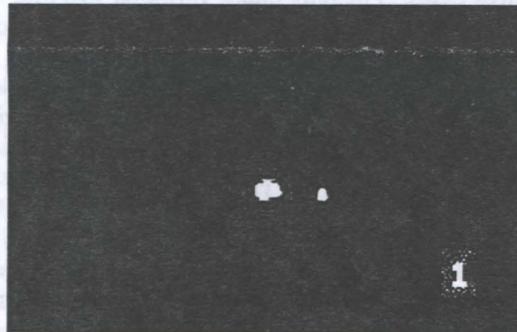
This light bears a distinct resemblance to a white light seen a number of times by numerous witnesses (including myself), hovering close over treetops or just above ground level in a grove of trees next to an open field. However, the light was moving when seen over the road and when seen over and in the trees it made only small apparently random movements, staying in the same place where it had appeared. In these instances it was visible for 10-15 seconds to as much as 15 minutes or more.

The re-appearance of the aerial lights has provided an opportunity to attempt photography, with limited success. The lights appear only briefly and it's difficult to obtain photographs of high quality for several reasons, not the least of which is a continuing problem with suddenly discharged camera batteries. However we have a series of still frame photos showing a sequence of the appearance and disappearance of a large orange light of unexplained origin. This sequence is typical of the orange/amber sights seen by persons living over a wide area (miles) in this section of Southern Missouri. A single light appears to become multiple lights, may brighten and dim, diminishes to a single light again then extinguishes. This entire sequence occurs over the space of a few seconds. Occasionally, but rarely, this phenomenon occurs over as much as 5 minutes. The print of this sequence is black and white due to the camera settings/sensitivity, but the series is of a brilliant amber/orange light.

With continued observation, photography, and measurements of other types we hope to be able to gain enough information about these lights to develop a theory about their nature and origin. These phenomena have occurred regularly over an area as much as eighty miles long, trending North-South, and a shorter distance East-West. Similar phenomena has been reported sporadically for many, many years in this area.

As a side note, in the month of July there were several reports made to local police of "black, burned appearing" circles (rings), 3-4 feet to as much as 20 feet in diameter, some quite circular, some slightly irregular. After talking to the police and obtaining samples from these "circles" it was determined that they were simply growths of fungus rings. These were reported from several locations and all were the same. Tan to pinkish white "fairy rings" are more common, but these were a dark gray/black fungus, which dried to a range of dark colors from gray to quite dark. Since these circles were on lawns they were mowed over, disappeared leaving no trace, and did not return. Grass growth has been unaffected. These were naturally occurring circles that had no connection to any of the ongoing phenomena, but we are always glad to get reports of this kind since it lets us know that the reporting persons are observant and willing to talk to the police and investigators/researchers about something unusual they have seen. We need more of this attitude ! We have received no reports of crop circles or formations in this area this year.

August 2000



Rense.com

A Year Of UFO/ET Disclosure...Or Disinformation?

By Joseph Held <alienanomalies@yahoo.com>
http://j_kidd.tripod.com
8-15-00

Since the turn of the New Year there has been a buzz of sorts amongst those in the UFO Research Field that somehow, this was to be the year of disclosure. The year that all the beans will begin to spill, in a manner of speaking. Where this hopeful and enthusiastic idea originated, I really can't say, for in my own research, I am finding, unfortunately, the exact opposite seems to be occurring.

One of the first signs that this year might be different came when Malin Space Sciences dumped an unprecedented 25,000 raw images onto the net from the MGS. Of course, this was only done after years of protest from concerned citizens to re-image Cydonia, and to release more photos. At first, this seemed like a beginning of the disclosure. But in no time, the same old routine showed itself again, as researchers started pointing out new anomalies from the Martian surface, debunkers wasted no time in slamming the new information. Nasa, and Malin both stand by their previous position, which seems to be, we can discuss the possibility of life on other planets, just not intelligent life.

Then the next big buzz occurred with hints of NASA

releasing new information about the planet Mars. Many people held their breath in expectation, thinking maybe NASA would finally admit the possibility of artificiality on Mars. While many more of us, just sighed, knowing that the upcoming announcement would more likely be a disappointment. And we were right. NASA's big announcement, "there MAY be liquid water on Mars." An announcement that stupefied many who have been following developments on Mars. Liquid water? Didn't a couple of scientist discover liquid water 20 years ago from the Viking Photos? And weren't they ridiculed for their theories? Now, with no credit to them, Nasa announces the POSSIBILITY of water. As usual, Nasa releases only enough info to get their funding going again. So, as far as NASA being part of the disclosure movement, forget it. It's business as usual for them. Even though NASA is supposed to be a civilian operation, it is obvious that over the years they have been swallowed up in the Military Industrial Complex that President Eisenhower warned about in his farewell speech.

Now, just in the last week or so, we have back to back reports of debunkery.

First, Colin Andrews, funded through a grant from the Rockefeller institute, reports that 80% of crop circles are hoaxes, and the remaining 20% are caused from Earths own magnetic field. This story appears everywhere. From the Internet, to Network television. With no evidence to support these findings published thus far. Yet, his story makes it to network TV? Big news! If a UFO researcher came forth with so little evidence, he or she would be laughed right out of business. Another point worth mentioning, is the fact that the grant came from the Rockefeller institute. Investigators already know that the Rockefeller name is tied into the UFO cover up, and the Secret World Government from as early as the 1950's.

The next item to be released comes from the ex-Soviet Union. The investigators, Dr. Yuliy Platov of the Academy of Sciences, and Colonel Boris Sokolov of the Ministry of Defense has summarized the results of the Soviet Union's official 13 year study of UFO reports.

Their conclusion. "Many people are the eyewitnesses of strange things," the writer's report, "which cannot always be precisely identified with natural or man-made effects. However, this amount is very insignificant, and from this there does not follow even a 'hint' of the probable interference of extraterrestrial forces into our lives."

According to these guys, There are no UFOs in Russia. Stories from Russia are just that. Fabricated and sold to people by desperate Russian citizens, who give the researcher just what they are looking for, all the reports from Russia are phony, and no secret operation involving Soviet Military, and UFOs ever happened. Even though many witness's claim otherwise. As usual, these witness's are just not a reliable source of information, no matter who they might be. This story also managed to make the news on the Internet, print media, and television. Wow! Try to get a story from the opposite point of view recognized. You will be lucky if anyone even notices, no matter who you are.

Next big story. The NSA releases previously classified documents regarding UFOs. Thinking this will passify the public at large, the opposite has occurred. The NSA website has been swamped by people trying to dig into these files. What are they finding? Huge portions of documents blacked out. If there is nothing to hide, why all the black outs. Kent Steadman of Cyberspace Orbit advises," use the NSA web site at your own risk. Reports indicate that the NSA is tracking all users." Why again? If there is nothing to hide? This tracking may just be a rumor, but...?

Next tidbit: Bush promises UFO disclosure. Give me a break! How many times have we heard promises during campaign time? Bush comes from the wrong side of the tracks when it comes to UFO disclosure. Father, and ex president was head of the CIA, and the family is from big oil. Two of the biggest perpetrators of the whole cover up. There would be no reason for George W. Bush to come forward if he is elected. In fact, he would be cutting his own throat. My advice, vote for the one who you think is LESS evil.

With just these few stories it is fairly easy to see that

things have not changed a bit over the last year. Anyone who professes to believe in the existence of UFOs and Aliens is still marked as a whacko. Serious researchers of the UFO phenomenon are still not being recognized. Even though there is at this time, overwhelming evidence to support the fact that this phenomenon is real, it is ignored vigorously by the mainstream scientist's, and news media.

Conclusion. All of us researcher's are here either because we have seen something that has changed our lives forever, or been exposed to someone who has. We already know, as do many more intelligent folks, that these things are indeed for real. That our Government, along with others, has worked very hard to keep this from the public at large.

What can we do? The same thing we always have. Keep our eyes, ears, and mind open, and bring forth whatever evidence we can dig up. If I said it once, I'll say it a million times. "There are too many fingers to point in too many directions for true disclosure to ever occur." There is no benefit for those involved to release this information. Therefore, it is my humble opinion that the Government will continue to undermine the public at large, and that it is up to all of us to dig a little deeper and harder, to uncover not only the UFO phenomenon, but also to uncover the atrocities committed against the citizens of this country, perpetrated by these covert operators. Joe Held

"If suddenly there was a threat to this world from some other species from another planet, we'd forget all the little local differences that we have between our two countries and we would find out once and for all that we really are all human beings on this Earth. - "Ronald Reagan to Mikhail Gorbachev"-

"In our obsession with antagonisms of the moment, we often forget how much unites all the members of humanity. Perhaps we need some outside, universal threat to make us recognize this common bond. I occasionally think, how quickly our differences worldwide would vanish if we were facing an alien

threat from outside this world. And yet, I ask is not an alien force ALREADY among us?" "There are only a handful of people who know the truth about this." - "Ronald Reagan to a full session of the United Nations- September 21, 1987".



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ACCIDENTS WITH INVISIBLE OBJECTS

(Reedited from an article By Jim Wentworth in Search magazine, Spring 1983)

While reading the 1980 book *Gateway to Oblivion* by Hugh Cochrane, I came across two cases that seem to describe accidents with invisible objects and/or UFOs.

The first one occurred in 1963. This was over Niagara Falls, at the western end of Lake Ontario, Canada, and involved a private aircraft, CF-LVJ, which, on a sight-seeing trip, slammed into "something" that had two things in common. It was *solid*—and *unseen*!

The mid-air "accident" sheared off almost half of the plane's left wing. The plane itself spun earthward. All passengers and the pilot were killed. Quoting two paragraphs:

"Crash investigators who examined the wreckage were puzzled by the fact that the sheared-off portion of the wing was never found while the remainder of the wing and parts of the cabin were found strewn along the flight path. From laboratory analysis of the remaining portion of the wing, investigators were able to determine that it had been structurally sound before the accident. The wing had not broken at the point of the shearing due to metal fatigue or any other such cause. It appeared to have been sheared off as if the wing had made contact with an invisible wall or force while the aircraft was in flight."

The second case of an aerial "accident" was similar. It took place in September, 1970, in the same area of Lake Ontario, but farther north. Again, a private aircraft, CF-OUR, solidly hit an invisible barrier. With ten feet of the right wing broken off, the plane crashed to the ground, ending the lives of four people, the pilot and three passengers.

For still another "invisible impact" incident, we must turn to John a Keel's *The Mothman Prophecies*. What makes it so startlingly different is that it did not occur aloft, but on the GROUND! Told to UFO investigator Keel in 1967 by Don Estrella, a public relations officer for the United Nations, the incident occurred in either 1959 or 1960. In Estrella's own words:

"I was taking a vacation with four friends through the New England states. We were riding in a high-powered car along a deserted country road somewhere in New Hampshire, I believe. We were going quite fast when suddenly we hit something. This was in broad daylight and it was as if we suddenly crashed into an invisible brick wall. The whole front of the car was smashed in. Luckily, none of us was hurt but we were a bit stunned. We got

out and looked around. There was absolutely nothing on the road. We never could figure out what had happened."

What we have in this unusual case could be an invisible UFO that landed on an American road. At that point, along came Estrella's fast-driven car and struck the unseen UFO.

Are there cases of UFO-car collisions where the former was actually seen prior to the impact? Yes. Such a case was told in the 1976 book, *Encounters With UFO Occupants* by Coral and Jim Lorenzen, the late co-founders in 1952 of the Aerial Phenomena Research Organization (APRO).

Robert Richardson of Toledo, Ohio, was driving a 21-year-old friend, Jerry Quay, to Whitehouse, Ohio, on Thursday, July 13, 1967. It was 11:30 p.m. Their reason for going to Whitehouse was to inquire if Whitehouse Quarry—a popular place to picnic and swim—would be open for the coming weekend.

Traveling at about forty miles per hour midway between Maumee and Whitehouse, the car rounded a bend in the road. Next came the shock of their lives. For there, blocking the road straight ahead, was a "very brilliant blue-white source of light."

Richardson's foot instinctively slammed onto the brake pedal. Both he and Quay closed

their eyes in fearful anticipation of as smash-up with the object.

And the impact came with the immediate feeling and hearing of a bump. Their eyes opened. Startled, they observed the clearness of the road ahead! The object itself was gone—vanished! Neither man was injured.

The police were called to investigate. At the scene, they found the skid marks from Richardson's car when he applied the brakes. Nothing else.

Richardson returned the next day. A more careful examination of his car, now that it was daylight, disclosed dents and scratches on the hood. Some of the chrome plating of the steel bumper had been unfathomably stripped off. Or so it seemed. The bumper also had a dent, with the surrounding area unmarred by scratches or cracks. There was no sign that the bumper had been wrenched away from the plating base metal.

An APRO investigator reported that "the sound and sensation of the impact indicated that the object was probably lifting off just as the car struck it. This is also indicated by the small amount of damage done to the automobile."

The famous Kinross UFO jet-chase of 1953 might also belong to this discussion. Here are the facts.

South of Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario, Canada, are the Soo Locks. On the night of November 23, 1953, a UFO suddenly flew over this restricted area. The strange object was caught on the scope of an isolated radar station by Air Defense Command operators.

Nearby Kinross Air Force Base in northern Michigan alerted the 433rd Fighter Interceptor Squadron at Truax Field, Madison, Wisconsin. Immediately, a U.S. Air Force F-89 jet interceptor was scrambled. Its pilot was first Lieutenant Felix E. Moncla, Jr., with radar observer Second Lieutenant R. L. Wilson in the rear cockpit.

Ground radar guided the fully-equipped, all-weather interceptor westward over the wintry waters of Lake Superior. Soon, very soon, "blips" of the UFO would be picked up on the plane's short-range radar screen.

Meanwhile, the ground radar controllers were intently watching the drama. The aircraft was now about 150 miles northwest of Kinross AFB (now Kincheloe AFB), and approximately 70 miles off Keeweenaw Point. The pursuing blip of the F-89—moving over 500 miles an hour at an altitude of about 8,000 feet—was catching up, then seen closing in on the target. Next, the two blips merged—and faded from the screen.

"It seems incredible, but the blip apparently just swallowed our F-89." So spoke a stunned radar officer.

But what about the two airmen? Were they safe? Did they have time to bail out? And was their plane ever found, totally or even partially?

Search and rescue authorities were hurriedly contacted by radio, and a search got underway. Confirmation of the plane's disappearance came from Lieutenant Robert C. White of the Air Force Press desk. Truax AFB gave this statement to the Associated Press:

"The plane was followed by radar until it merged with an object 70 miles off Keeweenaw Point in Upper Michigan. Kinross Air Force Base spokesman said the missing plane was equipped with two rubber rafts and that each officer wore a life jacket."

The *Chicago Tribune* was quick to get into the picture, as an early edition ran the AP story under the heading: "JET, TWO ABOARD, VANISHES OVER LAKE SUPERIOR."

The search that followed was intense and continued for many days. Scores of American and Canadian planes, as well as boats, checked

hundreds of square miles of the fresh water lake. But no trace of the missing jet interceptor, the two airmen, or the UFO, was ever found.

So, maybe—just maybe—the UFO that engulfed the F-89 was invisible!

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UFO ROUNDUP

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Editor: Joseph Trainor

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HIGH-FLYING UFOs SEEN SOUTH OF KANSAS CITY

On Monday, September 18, 2000, at 6:20 a.m., D.A. opened the front door of his home in Prairie Village, Kansas (population 25,000), a suburb about 20 miles (32 kilometers) south of Kansas City, and stepped onto his front walk. "I was outside to get the morning paper and noticed how bright and clear the sky was," he reported, "The moon was bright. You could see Orion's three stars clearly."

"As I perused the sky, I could see two bright white objects moving from the southwest. One, followed by another. They were really high up, shaped like a triangle. Seemed to be moving rather fast. no sound, no vapor trail, going to the northeast. I watched for about a minute and a half. There were no other airplanes in the sky, only stars."

"The two objects seemed to be white in color and triangle in shape. They were both moving very fast."

D.A. added that he contacted a TV station in Kansas City, but the receptionist wasn't interested. (Email Form Report)

FLYING HUMANOID AND UFO REPORTED IN ITALY

On Thursday, August 17, 2000, people in Carozzo, a town of Italy's La Spezia province, located about 150 kilometers (90 miles) southwest of Bologna, became excited when they spotted un umanoide volante (Italian for a flying humanoid-- J.T.) careening through the clear blue sky.

Descriptions of the entity were sketchy. Most of the witnesses described it as como Batman (like the comic book character Batman--J.T.) Three witnesses provided the most description of the fast-flying apparition. (See La Nazione for August 19, 2000.)

On Friday, August 18, 2000, at 7:30 p.m., two farm workers in Pianella, a town in Pescara province about 120 kilometers (72 miles) northeast of Rome, "observed flying in a straight direction a circular object, light gray in color, measuring 10 meters (33 feet) in diameter. On the object were four lights, green and red, blinking slowly and rhythmically." (See Il Messaggero for August 21, 2000. Grazie a Edoardo Russo, Fabio di Rahul, Gildo Persone e Roberto Labanti di Centro Italiano di Studi Ufologici per questi rapporti.)

UFO ROUNDUP

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September 7, 2000

Editor: Joseph Trainor



CANADA BRITISH COLUMBIA SIGHTINGS

WHITE ROCK -- The witness looked out of her window around midnight and saw a bright white diamond-shaped light traveling south to north on August-21, 2000. She was looking west. As soon as she saw it a car alarm went off across the street! She turned away from the window and next she knew it was 1:00, it seems that she had somehow lost an hour. Thanks to: UFO*BC <http://www.ufobc.org> and Gavin McLeod

Filer's Files #36-2000
MUFON Skywatch Investigations
George A. Filer: MUFON Eastern Director,
September 11, 2000
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LAKE COWICHAN --On August 3, 2000, between 11:00 PM and 1:00 AM three persons witnessed reoccurring UFO sightings. The witness reports, "At first there was only one that we all saw and it moved in a triangular pattern for about half of an hour moving fast then slow, but always in the same triangle shape." The object was dim and then bright all of the sudden and repeated this the entire time. We saw along the horizon just above the tops of the trees about a dozen UFOs. It was hard to count because they moved so fast, almost dancing with each other. During this time there were numerous shooting stars with a huge bright flashes that flew in the exact direction to the spot where we observed the UFOs. The UFO's were red, green, blue and orange. Most had like a blue/green tracer that followed it. These must have been UFOs since I have never seen anything move in such sporadic directions as these did. They could move across our entire field of vision in a split second and then be right back were we first spotted them."

PITT LAKE -- The witness and two companions were occupying a cabin on August 4, 2000, when they spotted a bright white light that suddenly "appeared" without warning at 10:55 PM. Larger than any star or satellite they had ever seen previously. The light appeared in the Southwest and traveled slowly and erratically to the Northwest before fading from sight.

VANCOUVER ISLAND -- A woman was on her sundeck on August 7, 2000, looking westward when she observed a shiny ball-like object that seemed to be reflecting sunlight at 4:30 PM. It was flying towards Powell River at normal speed for a commercial aircraft. She watched it for several minutes as it flew above Harwood Island. She could see it fairly clearly and was sure it was not a normal aircraft. She called for her son to come out and have a look. That was when it stopped, appeared to reverse its course, climbed at an incredible speed and disappeared in a matter of 3 to 5 seconds.

PROCTOR FERRY-- On August 17, 2000, the witnesses two dogs woke up and wanted to go out at 11:30 PM, when she saw an object with red, blue and green flickering lights around the top. Calling her partner out they watched the object move up, down, left and right without any noise. The dogs normally stay asleep all night. After twenty minutes it headed off and landed on the nearby mountain top. Its lights went out, came back on and then went out again. The witness stated there have been lots of sightings in Proctor and over Kootenay Lake.

SURREY -- The witness was driving her truck along 96th Avenue on August-21, 2000 in, heading west towards Scott Road at 10:50 PM, when she suddenly saw a bright light "appear" on her left, traveling quickly at 500 to 1000 feet. She thought at first it was a plane about to crash. It was heading north and had red and green lights on it. She had it in view for no longer than 20 seconds before it disappeared from view behind some trees.

SHAWNIGAN LAKE -- On August-21, 2000, we saw a spectacular fireball come down over the south island. The fireball was some distance to the west, over the hills, fairly close to the horizon at 10:52 PM. The center of the fireball was green, and it left a bright, glowing yellow tail. At one point it flared brightly as if it had partly exploded, and then several pieces glowed yellow as they fell.

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WEEKLY NEWS, Dundee, Scotland - Jan. 8, 2000

Mystery craft shot through the skies at fantastic speed

by Ron McManus

THE truth is out there and Nick Pope knows it.

For three years, he manned the Ministry of Defence's Department 2A — known as the UFO Desk.

As Britain's real-life X-Files man, he had the task of investigating all sightings of UFOs and claims of alien abductions.

"I went in as a sceptic and came out a believer," said Nick. "I had no interest in UFOs when I took on the job, but it has changed the way I look at the world."

Though still a senior MOD civil servant, with the equivalent rank of major, Nick has written several books on the UFO phenomenon and has just had his first sci-fi novel published.

Surprised

Operation Thunder Child is fiction, but much of it is based on what Nick discovered while working for the department which, for many years, the Government said didn't exist.

Department 2A was set up in the 50s during the Cold War to keep a watchful eye on what the Russians were doing over our skies, but baffling reports from RAF pilots and ground radar stations posed a disturbing question.

Was the real threat coming from the East or from out of this world?

"I didn't know what to expect when I took the job, but I did feel then that UFO reports were the product of overactive imaginations or came from blokes on their way home from the pub," said Nick, who ran the department from 1991 to 94.

"However, I was surprised that the department had over 200 files of UFO reports dating back to the 50s from solid, dependable

types such as pilots and duty officers at military bases.

"I was amazed to find that we had scrambled fighters to investigate these objects and had visual sightings backed up by radar to show that something which couldn't be explained was happening.

"There were also cases of RAF jets in cat and mouse chases with mystery craft. As soon as the pilot's radar locked on, they shot away at unbelievable speed."

Nick personally investigated around 300 UFO sightings a year, from both the military and public as Britain's X-files man.

"It wasn't exactly Mulder and Scully stuff, running around barns with torches, it was more methodical than that," laughed Nick.

"Most sightings could be explained, simple aircraft lights the most likely, but around 5% were unexplained and over my years at the UFO desk, I became convinced that many were extraterrestrial."

The most bizarre case he investigated happened on the night of March 31, 1993, when scores of calls, including many from police officers, came in all reporting a strange triangle-shaped craft which shot through the skies at incredible speed, then stopped instantly to hover.

But what made Nick really sit up was calls from two RAF bases, Cosford in the West Midlands and Shawbury in

Senior Ministry of Defence investigator opens his files on amazing UFO secrets



Film fantasy — but could it happen in real life?

Shropshire, saying the massive triangle-shaped craft was flying over them.

"I had reports from trained military observers saying that the craft was the size of a jumbo jet, was making a strange humming noise and was firing a beam of light which became narrower as it reached the ground," said Nick.

Scrambled

"At first, the speed was very slow, a stately 30mph, but then the craft shot away at fantastic speed.

"The case was investigated fully, I even contacted the Americans to see if they had any secret craft in the area, but in the end I could only answer that it was extraterrestrial.

"For one thing, these craft moved in a way and at such speed, the G-forces would kill a human."

"These craft moved in a way and at such speed, the G-forces would kill a human"

"Over the years, many pilots, some very senior, have told me about seeing UFOs," said Nick.

"They didn't report it officially because of a fear of being ridiculed. Now, there is a genuine interest as opposed to mockery."

One of the most curious cases in Department 2A's files happened on December 27, 1980, at the joint RAF/USAF base at Woodbridge in Suffolk.

Powerful

The airbase was one of the busiest and most closely guarded in Britain, so when strange lights were seen in a wood near the camp, guards were sent to investigate.

They returned to say that they had found a strange, metallic, triangular craft.

A larger party led by the base commander went into the woods, but when they approached the area, their radios went haywire and powerful floodlamps simply stopped working.

Awestruck, the men came upon a huge, pulsing light with what appeared to be molten metal at the edges. Suddenly, the light shattered into three pieces, each a dazzling white light which shot off into the sky where they were visible for several hours, occasionally shooting down pulses of light or energy.

The news that Nick was writing a book on his experiences, *Open Skies, Closed Minds*, raised some eyebrows in the MOD.



Nick Pope

"I went in as a sceptic and came out a believer"

"I had the manuscript officially vetted and, as I expected, changes had to be made and some files had to remain secret, but I wasn't regarded as a maverick or crackpot," he said.

"There are plenty of believers in the MOD and the military."

His second book, *The Uninvited*, investigated alien abduction, crop circles and other strange phenomena encountered in Department 2A.

Even his new novel had to get security clearance before it was published.

Knowing what he knows, does Nick still sleep at night?

"Yes, because there is no point in worrying about something you can do nothing about," he said.

"But I'm a changed person. My eyes were opened to a new world and a rather uncomfortable one which has turned the world I thought I knew on its head."

All Nick's books are published by Simon & Schuster.

LOCAL MEETINGS

UFO STUDY GROUP OF GREATER ST. LOUIS

Meets regularly the second Sunday of the month at 2 PM. at Grone's Cafeteria, 1269 S. Laclede Station Rd. in Yorkshire Shopping Plaza, St. Louis 63119. For more information call Walter Palmer at 314-771-0173 or call Spence Wolling at 314-966-4955.

MUFON MISSOURI-ST. CHARLES, MO.

Meets regularly the third Tuesday of each month at 6:30 PM at the Holiday Inn Select at 4221 South Outer Road., St. Peters, MO., 1/2 mile W. of Cave Springs, Exit 2. For more information, call Bruce Widaman at 636-946-1394.

MUFON OF SOUTHERN ILLINOIS

Meets regularly the third Sunday of each month at 2 PM at the Ponderosa Steak House in Collinsville, IL. From St. Louis take 55-70 east to Illinois 157. Turn left or north on 157 and go a short distance to an overhead sign that says Police Left. Turn left there and you will see the Ponderosa sign. For more information call Forest Crawford at 618-345-0554.

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