

## NEWSfront

Contact,  
from  
the  
future

**L**ORD Hill-Norton, formerly Britain's Admiral of the Fleet, Chief of Defence Staff, and chairman of NATO's Military Committee, provided the incident with an unimpeachable stamp of authority when he told a British TV documentary: "I have no doubt that something landed either large numbers of people were hallucinating, or what they say happened did happen."

Lord Hill-Norton was referring, among other accounts, to an official USAF memorandum written soon after the incident by Lt Col Charles Hall, deputy commander of the RAF/USAF/NATO airbase where the events took place.

This memo, an official USAF letterhead and sent to Britain's Ministry of Defence, gave Lord Hill-Norton, and other less highly-placed researchers, all the confirmation they needed that something sinister had taken place in Rendlesham Forest.

Hill's memo emerged three years after the incident. It said three USAF personnel entered the forest in the early hours of December 27, 1980, after "unusual" lights were seen in the night sky from nearby RAF Woodbridge in Suffolk, one of two airbases in the area.

(Lights in the sky were reported across the UK that night, and during the two nights before. One amateur astrologist even recorded a comet streaking across the heavens in the vicinity of Suffolk.)

Hill's memo describes the three patrolmen entering the forest and encountering "a strange, glowing object, metallic in appearance, and triangular in shape, two to three metres across the base and two metres high."

The object illuminated the forest with a white light, had a pulsing red light on its top and a bank of blue lights underneath.

The memo continues: "The object was hovering, or on legs. As the patrolmen approached it manoeuvred through the trees and disappeared. At this time the animals on a nearby farm went into a frenzy."

The memo details events of the next day when three depressions were found in the forest. Significant radiation readings were discovered in the area. That night further, equally inexplicable, lights were seen in the sky.

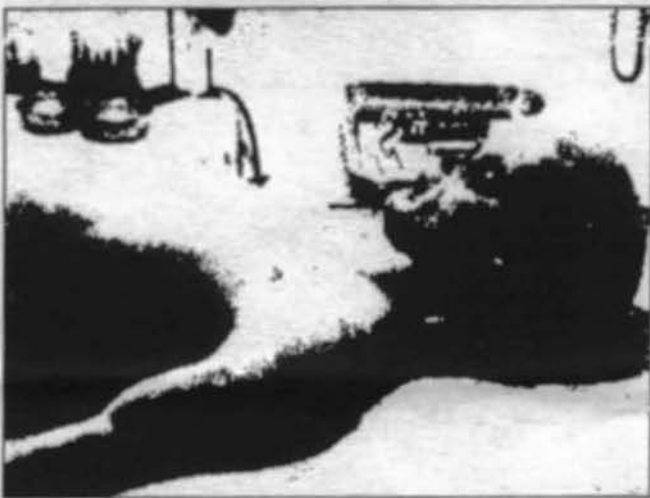
The memo, unearthed by researchers in the US, was the catalyst for witnesses to come forward, USAF personnel such as Jim Penniston, with frightening tales of official cover-ups immediately after the sightings.

More than one spoke of interrogation by special agents, threats that "bullets were cheap", and talk of drugs and hypnosis. Others were provided with new identities. Still, others were never seen again.

Georgina Bruni, a freelance investigative writer who trained as a private detective, has written a book, *You Can't Tell The People*, which describes this cover-up.

The book includes many of the first interviews to appear in public, from witnesses including Hill and Penniston.

Many will say Bruni's book falls short of final proof of the visitation and gives too much credence to conspiracy theories. Equally, few who read the interviews with Penniston and his two fellow patrolmen, Airman First Class John Burroughs and Edgard Cabanag, will not detect a ring of truth about their descriptions.



Ground zero:  
Rendlesham Forest,  
still spooky today.  
Inset: Witnesses John  
Burroughs and Jim  
Penniston.  
Pictures courtesy Christine  
Bruni and OPI.

Space invader:  
Witnesses say the  
aliens in the 1947  
Roswell incident  
looked like this.

ground and "started manoeuvring very slowly and carefully through the trees".

At the debriefing that followed, Penniston was told to forget what he had seen and not to discuss the incident.

Afterwards, Penniston and Burroughs went off duty and returned to the forest in daylight.

They found broken and scorched branches where the object had come down in the clearing and three distinct indentations in the ground where it had come to rest.

At later debriefings some of the debriefers were from the CIA.

Penniston remained quiet about the incident for years and aborted one attempt, under a false name, to provide details to researchers when they started to compromise his security.

It was not until his retirement from the USAF in 1994 that he began to detail his experience and underwent the controlled hypnosis that produced the chilling story of futuristic sperm and egg gatherers.

By the time he retired from active duty in 1993, Penniston had been awarded 27 military honours and a letter of appreciation from the US President. He served in Vietnam and the Gulf War and now lives in a small town with his wife and family.

He works as human resources director for a manufacturing company and is described by Bruni as "an intelligent, reliable witness who never changed his story".

Bruni has one final trump card to play in her battle for credibility — a card which gave her the title for her book.

Halfway through her research she attended a private function at which Britain's former Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher was the guest of honour. At the end of proceedings, Bruni approached Thatcher and engaged her in a 10-minute conversation about her findings.

"You must have the facts right and you can't tell the people," Thatcher told Bruni, leaving the author with the indelible impression the Iron Lady knew exactly what she was talking about and regarded the matter with extreme seriousness.

*You Can't Tell The People* by Georgina Bruni. Published by Selwyn and Jackson. Distributed by Pan Macmillan. \$30.

The direct involvement of more than 80 witnesses — not civilians, but highly trained military personnel — adds further credence to the story.

Burroughs' handwritten statement, made days after the sighting, describes driving into the forest with Penniston and Cabanag after the white, blue and red lights had been sighted: "We stopped the truck where the road stopped and went on foot. We crossed a small open field that led into the trees where the lights were; coming from, and as we were coming into the trees there were strange noises like a woman screaming. Also the woods lit up and you could hear the farm animals making a lot of noises, and there was a lot of movement in the woods."

Burroughs describes tracking the lights through the woods and it includes drawings of the triangular object.

Fourteen years later, Burroughs was interviewed by makers of a TV documentary and spoke of feeling as if he was moving in slow motion at the time and had little or no contact over his body.

Cabanag's statement, at the time of the incident, was almost certainly censored and altered by superior officers.

In a more recent interview his description of the triangular-

shaped object tallies closely with Penniston's.

Cabanag speaks of a "blank" in his memory of events. Penniston also discovered under hypnosis 14 years later that he had "lost" 45 minutes and Burroughs reported much the same.

**B**RUNI poses the question: "If all three men are reporting the exact same phenomenon then we must seriously consider if they were involved in something even more sinister than witnessing a UFO."

"Were they abducted or were they somehow locked in a different time or dimension?"

Penniston provides the most detailed and convincing version. He was the most experienced of the three, having been in the USAF for seven years and been involved in retrieving numerous crashed aircraft.

As he, Burroughs and Cabanag approached the lights they began to experience difficulties with their radios. Penniston and Burroughs moved closer to the lights and Penniston recalls "all around them was the commotion of animals and birds that seemed to be in a terrible frenzy."

Within 50m of the lights Penniston realised he was looking at a metallic object unlike anything he had ever previously seen.

"The air surrounding it was electrifying, causing him to think he was moving in slow motion, and the sensations of his hair and skin gave him the feeling he was surrounded by static electricity," writes Bruni from her interview with Penniston. "The birds and animals had scattered and now everything was deathly silent."

Penniston moved to within 20m and began taking photographs and making notes in a jotter he carried with him.

(His notes and jotter sketches remain intact, but Penniston made the mistake of taking his film to the base photo laboratory. He was later informed his pictures had emerged "fugged", and he never saw them. He doubts this because the camera he used was high-quality military supply.)

Walking closer to the object, Penniston realised there were no seams or openings.

He slid his hand over the surface, which was warm to the touch.

"There were no obvious life forms, but he sensed there was some sort of life presence within the object. One thing is certain — he was sure it was under intelligent control," writes Bruni.

Suddenly there was a flash of light and Penniston and Burroughs fell to the ground, burying their faces. The object then lifted silently to a metre off the