

27 JUL 1998

Did airman die chasing UFO?

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Picture: SUBMITTED

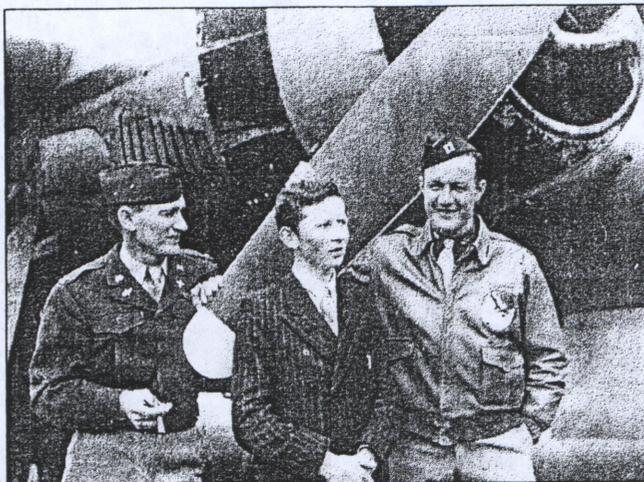
I was asked the other day what I remembered - I was then a cub reporter in Lincolnshire - of the first positioning of American aircraft in the United Kingdom after the end of world war two on July 15-17, 1948, when two squadrons of B-29 Super-fortress bombers totalling 60 aircraft flew into East Anglia.

The force, consisting of B-29s from the second and 28th Bomb Groups, USAF, was distributed between RAF Scampton, Lincolnshire, RAF Marham, Norfolk and RAF Mildenhall, Suffolk.

It was when I was looking at long-forgotten notes, which had been carefully criss-crossed with other information over 50 years, that I came on evidence that Capt L Blanchard, the figure (right) in the photograph wearing his squadron jacket patch, of Minnesota, may have lost his life in later years chasing a UFO in a fighter in America.

I wonder if someone could confirm this strange story?

The other officer in the photograph (left) was Capt E G Cassidy, of Texas, who like Capt



FLYING MYSTERY: Did Capt L Blanchard (right) lose his life in pursuit of an unidentified object?

Blanchard, was a world war two veteran.

While very serious things were at stake at the time, I believe my main story from RAF Scampton, which I visited on July 18, 1948, was the fact that one of the servicing team, while attending to an engine during the Greenland stop-over, left his wristwatch on a cowling hook - and it ticked all the way to Lincolnshire.

The official line on UFOs

The Lords must have been suffering from "end of term" fever before it broke up for the summer. Lord Hill-Norton caused a few titters among the old boys (and girls) when he quizzed the Government's Lord Gilbert about UFOs in the UK

Lord Hill-Norton: How many UFOs were notified to the MoD in 1996, 1997 and 1998?

Lord Gilbert: 1996: 609, 1997: 425, 1998: 88 (Jan-June).

Lord Hill-Norton: In evaluating reports of UFOs, [will] the Ministry of Defence routinely consult the Royal Greenwich Observatory, the Ballistic Missile Early Warning Centre at RAF Fylingdales and the Deep Space Tracing Facility at RAF Feltwell?

Lord Gilbert: They may be consulted, depending on circumstances.

Lord Hill-Norton: Why [has] the MoD installed an answering machine to report UFOs?

Lord Gilbert: It carries a message that explains that callers will be contacted only in the event that follow-up action is deemed appropriate.

As reported in **Hansard** (www.parliament.the-stationery-office.co.uk/)

The Guardian - London
(Circ: 404,616)
22 AUG 1998

South Wales Evening Post - Swansea
(Circ: 67,067)

24 JUL 1998

Truth was there on kids' UFO sighting

SIR. - As a UFO researcher, I was especially interested to read the letter of P Marchant's (Postbox, July 21).

His comments concerned a group UFO sighting that occurred on February 14, 1977 at Broad Haven Primary School, West Wales.

On this date 14 boys and a girl, observed one dome shaped, silver object that was resting on the ground adjacent to their school field and reported the incident to their head teacher Ralph Llewellyn, who instantly

separated the children and had them draw what they saw. Their diagrams matched and Mr Llewellyn concluded that the children were genuine and sincere in their claims.

From personal investigation for a research paper entitled South Wales and the UFO Enigma, I have come to the same conclusion.

I can assure the reader that the children's claims were the same and have remained the same. I have spoken with many of the witnesses and con-

sider them to be sincere and credible people.

Only two years ago, all of them were reunited for a radio programme on which each witness confirmed their sincerity and the factual basis of the story.

The incident at the school occurred in an area known as the Broad Haven Triangle, a hot spot, or window for UFO sightings, that lies between Swansea, Broad Haven and Mid-Wales.

RAF Brawdy is located not far from Broad Haven and were asked at the time as to whether their radar had detected the object at the school.

Unconvincingly, Brawdy claimed that their radar was not functional at the time and could not, therefore, confirm the validity of the children's story.

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