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## UFO UpDates Mailing List

### Re: UFO Report By Ex-RAF Radar Personnel

From: Jenny Randles <[nufon@currantbun.com](mailto:nufon@currantbun.com)>  
Date: Wed, 9 Jun 1999 11:49:48 +0100  
Fwd Date: Wed, 09 Jun 1999 18:33:54 -0400  
Subject: Re: UFO Report By Ex-RAF Radar Personnel

>Date: Mon, 07 Jun 1999 23:22:32 +0100  
>From: Dave Ledger <[dledger@cableinet.co.uk](mailto:dledger@cableinet.co.uk)>  
>To: UFO UpDates - Toronto <[updates@globalseve.net](mailto:updates@globalseve.net)>  
>Subject: UFO Report By Ex-RAF Radar Personnel

>Strange UFO Captured On RAF Radar In North Of Scotland

>Date: Winter 1964-1965.  
>Location: RAF Saxa Vord, Shetland Isles, Scotland.  
>Source: Retired RAF personnel. Name withheld at Witnesses Request.  
>Report and Witness Interview by: Dave Ledger

>Before I proceed to report on this significant case, I would  
>personally like to thank the witness involved, for showing his  
>willingness and courage in coming forward after 35 years to  
>discuss and log this extraordinary case report with UFO  
>Scotland. His willingness to discuss the sighting and the  
>relevant details associated, is to be commended and we hope that  
>it may set an example for other ex-servicemen to follow.

>REPORT:

>During the Month of May 1999, I was lucky enough to have the  
>opportunity of speaking with (for the record) an ex RAF member  
>who was once based at the Early Warning Radar tracking station  
>at RAF Saxa Vord in the extreme North of Scotland. This meeting  
>had been set up by my father who is also ex RAF (retired) and  
>had happened to meet my source via social circles who in turn,  
>agreed to speak with me so that I may document the event.

<snip>

Hi,

Thats a very interesting case. Of course, as a radar only sighting it lacks a certain dimension. But that was true of a very similar incident - the West Freugh, Scotland, affair of April 1957. From what little we know of that radars detected a similar object that changed course and flew vertically to a height beyond any recorded by aircraft of the day. As a result a civil defence alert resulted.

When I was making my BBC TV documentary on the MoD UFO files in 1996 I interviewed Ralph Noyes, the head of the MoD division that studied UFOs in the 1960's. He worked for the Air Minister at the time of West Freugh and the two 1956 radar cases (Lajenheath/Bentwaters and the Isle of Wight incident). Although both the latter feature string visual sightings and multiple radar trackings (see accounts in my 1998 book 'Something in the Air') Noyes told me that the West Freugh (non visual) case was

the biggest of all so far as depth of concern in Whitehall. I asked why. I never really understood the answer save that the height and actions of the UFO were such that they eliminated any prospect of a known aircraft and thus posed a real threat to the UK. This may well explain why the 1964 Shetland episode was such a big deal.

When Ralph pointed me in the right direction I found records at the PRO in Kew which referred to all three 1957/8 radar cases (with no names mentioned). This was interesting because the MoD were furious at the fact that the West Freugh case became public knowledge (as a result of the civil defence alert) and they clearly went to considerable lengths to ensure future radar incidents were kept mum.

So far as I know nothing has been traced on MoD records about the Shetland case, even though by the 30 year rule it should now be. My suspicion is that after the West Freugh debacle such cases were put in the hands of a department other than what is now Air Staff 2A and Noyes more or less agreed asd much; although Nick Pope - curiously - continues to say his team got all the UFO stuff. Sorry, Nick, I dont buy that. You didnt get to see the gun camera film taken during RAF interceptor pursuits of radar trackings. Ralph told me he did see these - but he had a civil service rank of Air Commodore as opposed to Nick's rank of Captain. This probably gave Ralph access to the other department data but Nick was restricted to Air Staff 2A - records that in my view exist as a scapegoat to deflect the public away from the existence of the real hot stuff like this Shetland case. ]

Where they are is a good question - DSTI, DI 55 - perhaps? But there are many of them. Over my 25 years I have gathered data from witnesses on about 10 other UK radar cases like the one here reported - not one of which features in any Air Staff released file. They are still happening. I lectured to RAF Shawbury a few years ago and had a long talk to the radar officer there. He mentioned two then recent radar intercepts (one over Birmingham and the other Nottingham) - then withdrew when he saw a senior officer approach. I would not be amazed if these things were happening every other week and they are, of course, being siphoned off far away from Air Staff 2A.

Jenny Randles

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