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Issue 104 pt 1 - United Kingdom UFO Network

From: **United Kingdom UFO Network** <ukufonw@FREENETNAME.CO.UK>
Date: Sun, 2 Jan 2000 23:27:46 -0000
Fwd Date: Mon, 03 Jan 2000 08:03:05 -0500
Subject: Issue 104 pt 1 - United Kingdom UFO Network

[illegible]

The United Kingdom UFO Network - a free electronic magazine with subscribers in 58 countries. This e-zine is published in 3 parts. If you are missing a part or parts e-mail us with the subject 'MISSING PARTS' and we will mail you the whole e-zine.

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Copyright: Jim Morris. 1996/97/98

Jim Morris <dx394@clara.net>

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Editorial

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Everyone here at United Kingdom UFO Network hope you all had a great Christmas and wish you all a very safe, happy and prosperous New Year.

We would like to thank John Hayes for archiving all back issue of the uk.ufo.nw e-zine. You will also find archives there for:

UK.UFO.NW / UFO Roundup / Filer's Files / AUFORN Australian UFO Reports and Experiences

John says that he is constantly on the look out for details / updates for UFO Organizations, Magazines, Conferences etc on a worldwide basis.

ufoinfo@ukgateway.net

UFOINFO:- <http://ufoinfo.com>

United Kingdom News

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[UK 1]*****

Source: BBC News

Publish Date: Wednesday 15th September 1999

From: doug@greenmen.demon.co.uk

Near Collision With UFO Baffles Aviation Expert

A UFO that narrowly avoided colliding with a passenger jet flying from London's Heathrow Airport has baffled aviation experts.

The metallic grey-coloured object was spotted by the pilots of an Oslo-bound McDonnell Douglas MD81 plane on 12 June 1998, and passed just 20-50 metres from them.

The captain said the object was the size of a small aircraft, while the co-pilot described it as a "bright light, very close".

Reporting to an air traffic controller, the captain said "a flare or something passed 20 feet from our aircraft", but nothing had been recorded on the radar screen.

Radar blank

The pilot later filed a near-miss report, known as an airprox, in which he said the object looked similar to a fighter.

But a report by the Civil Aviation Authority found no explanation for the incident, which has also confounded local military experts and local police.

"Air traffic controllers were certain that even a very small aircraft would have been detected, particularly on Heathrow radar," said the report.

Although the evidence of the unnamed airline's crew is considered to be reliable, the report notes that they only caught a brief glimpse of the object.

Fewer near-misses

The incident was included in a Civil Aviation Authority report, which found that dangerous aircraft near-misses fell to an all-time low last year.

It is the first report to include airprox incidents filed by both pilots and air traffic controllers.

The number of near-misses involving public transport flights per 100,000 flying hours in 1998 was 1.20, compared with 2.37 in 1997 and 2.87 in 1996.

Three-quarters of those misses were judged as having no actual risk of collision.

"The figures speak for themselves and show that more flying does not automatically mean more risk as a consequence," said Gordon McRobbie, director of the UK Airprox Board.

Chance miss

But he warned against complacency. "This report is aimed squarely at all pilots and air traffic controllers and I would encourage them to read about the incidents.

One of the most serious incidents listed involved two

passenger jets, which avoided collision only by chance after a mistake by an overworked air traffic controller.

The incident happened near London's Stansted Airport on 14 August 1998, and involved a Stansted-to-Cork Ryanair Boeing 737 and a Dublin-to-Stansted Aer Lingus BAe 146.

Even when a collision alert flashed up, the controller was unsure what was happening and gave no instructions to the planes to take avoiding action.

---=== a further newspaper report on this ===---

Source: Daily Express newspaper
Publish Date: 16th September 1999
From: johnniem@dial.pipex.com

A UFO came within 50 metres of a passenger plane flying from Heathrow, according to two pilots. The mystery object did not show up on radar and has baffled investigators, a near-miss report revealed yesterday. It passed within 50 metres of an Oslo-bound McDonnell Douglas MD81 in June last year. The captain reported it as being the size of a small aircraft, while the co-pilot described it as a "bright light, very close."

The UK Airprox Board's report said: "Air traffic controllers were certain that even a very small aircraft would have been detected."

[UK 2]*****

Source: Name and address supplied.

Dear sir/madam

My wife and I witnessed a sighting of a bright light, much larger than a star and moving at a very high speed from about 120 degrees from north to about 85 degrees from north. We were looking in an easterly direction from our home in Weston Zoyland, Somerset at about 0500 hours on Friday 10th September 1999.

This object suddenly became stationary for about 15 minutes during which time I viewed it through my telescope. It appeared to have a spherical underside but the top was not spherical. One side had a faint red glow. After this period of time it moved in a direct line away from us at great speed and eventually disappeared.

It has taken great courage to write this to you as neither of us have ever seen anything like this before and as a Police officer I am quite sceptical about these things.

uk.ufo.nw says: Further enquiries are being made regarding this sighting. However if any reader has further information please mail us.

[UK 3]*****

Source: BBC Online
Publish Date: Monday 15th November 1999

How on earth do you lure little green tourists?

Expecting visitors? Better do some dusting, comb your hair, mow the launchpad. A former mining town in the north-east of England is taking the brave step of pitching for visitors from Mars.

Bedlington in Northumberland, whose residents some people class as Geordies, is branching out to advertise itself to the red planet thanks to Nasa.

Traders - including mechanics Tyred and Exhausted, burger shop Best Byte and funeral directors AJ Gascoigne & Son - are expected to get together to offer the aliens special deals.

The town's chamber of trade organised the move by replying to a Nasa advert for material to be included on the Mars 2001 Lander expedition.

Chairman Malcolm Robinson said: "We'll offer any alien visitors a range of discounts, with pensioner rates for haircuts, and discounts on food and clothing.

"They won't get a warmer welcome anywhere in England."

But he added: "God knows if they'll understand our accents."

Local trader Margaret Millen was in little doubt that, if the message is picked up on Mars, Bedlington would get a good reaction.

"It's a lovely little town, very friendly. It's really a country town, even though it's only 12 miles from Newcastle and fairly close to the industry," she said.

One notable chapter from the town's history was the production of iron rails by Michael Longridge. A friend of George Stevenson, the rails were used for the world's first passenger railway.

Although the town is treating the Nasa venture light-heartedly, it is not a publicity shy place.

The chamber of trade's website directs potential customers to local businesses, and makes the most of a worldwide - particularly US - interest in Bedlington Terriers.

The site's webmaster writes: "Bedlington.co.uk was rather trying to minimise this, but there is simply no getting away from the fact that Bedlington is famous for its 'World Class' breed of dogs. If you search the Internet it is almost as if that is all it's famous for. Not so!"

The news of the Nasa CD comes 25 years after the first deliberate radio message sent from Earth to the stars. In 1974, a three-minute message about the human race was sent from the Arecibo radio telescope in Puerto Rico.

Although the message has been travelling for a quarter of a century, it's still only one-thousandth of its way to its target stars, 147 trillion miles away.

In 1973, Nasa sent a plaque on its Pioneer 10 craft with simple greetings from humans, showing male and female form, and where earth is in relation to the Sun.

It is still waiting for an answer.

ukufonw says: The BBC then asks it's readers to fill an online form in asking the question..

How would you lure Martian tourists to your home town?

[UK 4]*****

From: Paul Jones - UK.UFO.NW investigator
Source: scanner newsgroup
Date: 23rd December 1999

uk.ufo.nw are making further enquiries with John and it's British Airways contacts.

UFO in Glasgow airspace

On Thu, 23 Dec 1999 22:15:14 -0000, in alt.radio.scanner.uk "John Johnstone" <rangers@ibrox9.freemove.co.uk> wrote:

I was listening to the tower at Glasgow airport the other day and the BA [British Airways] pilot came across the speaker and said that there was something 12 miles above him and it wasn't showing on his radar! In reply the tower guy said it was actually six miles above and that he could see it although he said that when trying to contact him the signal was broken and advised him to land as it was following him. 118.800 is the frequency. This is not a joke or Hoax.

World News
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[W 1]*****

Source: Daily Telegraph
Publish Date: Tuesday 17th August 1999

X-Files version of history is backed by CIA report

By Michael Smith

THE CIA has released a secret history of its investigations into UFO sightings, revealing that there was more truth in the popular television series The X-Files than is often believed.

The highly critical report describes often bitter debates between real-life X-Files investigators who believed that "the truth is out there" and their sceptical bosses. It records tales of bumbling undercover agents whose activities fuelled a widespread belief that the government was covering up what the agency described as "extra-terrestrial visitations by intelligent beings".

The problem was eventually passed to the agency's physics and electronics division where in true X-Files style just one analyst investigated UFO phenomena. But the Fifties equivalent of Fox Mulder was constantly undermined by his boss, described by the CIA history as "a non-believer in UFOs", who tried but failed to declare the project "inactive".

While the CIA investigations eventually concluded that all the sightings could be explained, the report concludes that "misguided" attempts to keep them secret led to widespread belief of a government cover-up.

The report, written by Gerald K Haines, the official CIA historian, was commissioned by the then CIA director James Woolsey in 1993 in the wake of renewed claims of a CIA-led cover-up. It calls for the first time on documents that the agency hid from UFO enthusiasts who

obtained thousands of more mundane files under the Freedom of Information Act. The report, completed in 1997, has been released at the request of the British academic journal Intelligence and National Security and is published in its summer issue this month.

US intelligence began investigating UFO sightings in 1947 when a pilot claimed to have seen nine discs travelling at more than 1,000 mph in Washington state. The claim was backed up by additional sightings including reports from military and civilian pilots and air traffic controllers.

The first investigation, Operation Saucer, was carried out by US air intelligence which initially feared that the objects might be Soviet bombers. But some officers became convinced that UFOs existed and in a top-secret report concluded many of the sightings were "interplanetary". Air force chiefs had the report rewritten to conclude that "although visits from outer space are deemed possible, they are believed to be very unlikely".

The CIA initially dismissed the investigations as "midsummer madness". But an agency committee decided they could be used by Moscow either to create mass hysteria or to overload the air warning system, making it unable to distinguish between UFOs and Soviet bombers.

In 1955, claims by two elderly sisters to have had contact with UFOs attracted widespread publicity. A CIA agent describing himself as an air force officer spoke to them and reported that he appeared to have stumbled upon a scene from Arsenic and Old Lace. Analysis of a "code" which the women believed aliens were using to make contact with them while they listened to their favourite radio programme was morse code from a US radio station.

But when UFO enthusiasts heard of the "air force" officer's visit they became immediately suspicious that he was a member of the CIA trying to cover up the affair. One enthusiast pursued the CIA conspiracy theory and was visited by another CIA officer, who claimed to be in the air force and even wore an air force uniform. The ruse failed, making the conspiracy theorists even more suspicious.

The refusal to release 57 documents on the investigation in the Seventies, to protect sources, also fuelled the cover-up theory, Haines concluded.

[W 2]*****

Source: Daily Telegraph
Publish Date: Sunday 22nd August 1999

Lawyer to sue for release of 'real X-Files'

By James Langton

THE truth is out there, and Peter Gersten believes that he knows where to find it. As director of the Citizens Against UFO Secrecy he will launch a lawsuit this week against the United States government, claiming that its refusal to hand over secret documents on the existence of flying saucers is a violation of his constitutional rights.

While the authorities, including the Department of Defence and the CIA, continue to insist that they are not concealing details about alien incursions, their denials are undermined by growing evidence of real-life X-Files.

The British academic journal Intelligence and National Security last week published an official CIA report that documented attempts by the agency to uncover the truth behind UFO sightings over half a century.

It revealed that the CIA operated its own team of UFO investigators and that, like the television series The X-Files in which secret agents probe extra-terrestrial activity, the agency was plagued by sometimes bitter divisions between sceptics and those who believed in flying saucers.

Mr Gersten and his organisation hope that their latest lawsuit will force the authorities to reveal what they know about a large number of well-documented sightings of large triangular craft seen over Arizona and New Mexico in recent years.

The objects, some many times larger than a jumbo jet, have been observed by tens of thousands of people. One was filmed over Phoenix two years ago but later interpreted by the air force as a series of flares dropped in a training mission - an explanation few accepted.

"People have a right to the truth," says Mr Gersten, a lawyer from Scottsdale, Arizona, who believes that extra-terrestrials are trying to contact us through crop circles. "I believe that the authorities have evidence and that I can prove it in a court of law."

While such extreme opinions are only shared by a tiny minority, most Americans believe that their government knows more than it will say. Opinion polls show that more than half now believe in UFOs. And after years of denial, almost all branches of the American military now admit that they carried out their own secret investigations into flying saucers, particularly in the 1950s when UFO fever peaked.

The CIA report, by its official historian Gerald Haynes, says that the agency eventually concluded that most reports could be explained and that there were no little green men. While some CIA agents believed that there was evidence of genuine UFO activity, the official version attributes at least half the sightings to secret US Air Force reconnaissance aircraft such as the U2 and Blackbird.

Dr Bruce Maccabee, one of America's leading UFO experts who regularly met CIA agents from 1979, believes that the "real X-Files" are in the vaults of the air force and FBI. The air force also maintained Project Blue Book in which it documented nearly 13,000 sightings between 1951 to 1969, all but 700 of which it was able to explain as conventional aircraft or natural phenomenon.

The air force has also attempted - with very limited success - to end speculation that it recovered the remains of a spacecraft which crashed near Roswell, New Mexico, in 1947 and several alien bodies. It has released previously classified files which claim that the "saucer" was actually a weather balloon used to monitor nuclear tests and that the "aliens" were crash test dummies for parachute prototypes. Among UFO diehards, however, such "explanations" are seen only as evidence of a further cover-up.

[W 3]*****

Source: The Toronto Star
Publish Date: 24th August 1999

When aliens come abducting, ask for warm probe

IF YOU GET abducted by space aliens, you're going to get probed. You might as well face it. That's why they abduct you. Not that you can do anything about getting abducted. If they want to abduct you, they'll abduct you, right?

Right?

At a cocktail party not long ago, a very nice cocktail party - nobody in the room had ever watched Jerry Springer, nobody snuck up behind you and made farting noises in their armpits - in an apartment at a very classy Bloor St. W. address, I met a psychiatrist who, when I asked what his specialty was, said most of his practice was people who believe they've been abducted by space aliens.

I made sympathetic noises. Tsk, tsk. It must be difficult getting them to realize they are delusional.

``No,'' he said. The difficulty was getting them to understand that nobody was going to believe they had been abducted, and they were going to have a hard time, either forced to keep it to themselves, or enduring the reaction - that they were goofballs. Nobody was going to believe them, that is, but him.

I was so astonished that all I could think to say was, ``Does OHIP cover this?''

``If it's a referral,'' he said.

Right now an interesting dance is going on around the question of UFOs. Call it the Catch-22 Two-step. The U.S. government has always denied that all those bizarre sightings were UFOs. Because of this, people naturally believed they were UFOs. Nobody believes the government. Had the government said, ``Yikes! UFOs are everywhere! We've been invaded!'' people would've said, ``The government is cuckoo, as usual.''

So, just what is it you thought they probed? Your ears? ``Xgfyf! Kngrg dm! Frqq!'' (``Hey! Lookit this! Wax!'')

Not as I understand it.

I understand a thing or two about it because I myself have been abducted, although in my case I am one of the very few who was probed, I guess you might say, abnormally. I didn't mention getting abducted to that psychiatrist because I hadn't mentioned it to my GP, and without OHIP coverage can you imagine what he'd have charged me for our conversation at that cocktail party? He probably would've been able to dash out and buy a second Mercedes. Put down cash. In my case, I was abducted by aliens from a planet of intergalactic dentists. ``Hjfft!'' (``Bleeding gums!'') ``Kkfgzz!'' (``Abscesses!'') ``Pn!'' (``He should quit smoking!'') ``Glm mv mv!'' (``Plaque!'') ``Fzplat!'' (``Spit!'')

I came to under a bridge in Oshawa, bare-naked, clutching a floss dispenser. Nobody who's been abducted and probed in this manner ever talks about it. People think you're a goofball.

You can recognize people who have been subjected to the normal probing by the way they walk. That's my theory.

It makes sense, when you think about it. David Jacobs of Temple University in Philadelphia has written a book that explains why.

``If it's a very busy ship - let's say there are 20 tables and they've abducted 40 people,'' the aliens are what you could describe as overbooked. As a result they are brusque and clinical. ``I would use the word task-oriented.''

Get the point? They don't have time to warm up the, what do you call them, instruments. Like in M*A*S*H* where they're always so rushed they don't even rinse the scalpel between operations. Wheel in another one. Open him up.

Even if the probers had the inclination, and maybe it has never occurred to them. According to Jacobs, they have cold, rubbery skin.

If you lived on a planet of cold rubbery beings and somebody probed you with a warm whatever, you'd go, `Bgnn! Fgrnng rq urgf! Nv tdt p hkkw bn tdt p kqlqmb rbzx?' (``Ooh! That feels awful! Have you no respect for your patient's comfort?') You'd want them to use something that just came out of the fridge.

Anyway, as a result of all this, if you watch the way people walk you can pretty well tell for sure. And often the way they sit. TV anchors, for example. You notice how a lot of them stay standing during newscasts these days? I think there's been a run on TV news anchors lately. And when they do sit, they kind of lean over to one side?

Unless they've been probed by dental aliens, but I'm not going to go into that. We don't. We keep our mouths shut.

[W 4]*****

Take a Virtual Tour of the Pentagon

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Navy Executive Corridor
Hall of Heroes
MacArthur Corridor
Military Women's Corridor
African American Corridor
Hispanic Heroes Exhibit
Navajo Code Talkers Exhibit
Closing/Tour Information

[W 5]*****

Source: exoscience
<http://www.exosci.com/>
New Scientist

Publish Date: Wednesday 20th October 1999

Moon Mystery

Reports of curious flashes and fleeting clouds on the Moon may not be figments of wild imaginations, astronomers say. A new look at observations by the American satellite Clementine show that a small area on the Moon's surface darkened and reddened in April 1994. Why this happened remains a mystery.

For hundreds of years, people have reported seeing flashes, short-lived clouds and other brief changes on the Moon's surface. But astronomers have never been able to confirm the sightings. "The events were observed on many occasions, but most astronomers don't believe in them," says Bonnie Buratti of NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory in Pasadena, California.

On 23 April 1994, around a hundred amateur astronomers reported seeing a possible darkening of the Moon, lasting 40 minutes, near the edge of the bright lunar crater Aristarchus. At the same time, the US Department of Defense's Clementine satellite was mapping the lunar surface.

Intrigued by the amateur reports, Buratti's team has taken a close look at the Clementine data to see if the satellite also recorded the event. Sure enough, they found that the crater looked different before and after the amateur reports. "After the event, it looks redder," says Buratti, who announced the findings at a meeting of the American Astronomical Society in Padua, Italy, last week.

Winifred Cameron, a retired astronomer who worked at the Lowell Observatory in Arizona, thinks that brief colour changes might be caused by small gas eruptions throwing dust around. We know that there are pockets of gas in the lunar soil, and the gas may occasionally escape. "I'm pretty sure that some of these changes are due to emanations of gas that are more dense than usual," says Cameron. "The Aristarchus region is the source of about a third of all of these.

Charles Seife

[W 6]*****

Source: BBC News Online
Publish Date: Monday 5th July 1999
From: doug@greenmen.demon.co.uk

Furry puppet turns up in ET search

Greetings to the people of planet Earth

By BBC News Online Science Editor Dr David Whitehouse

The SETI@home Website, a project that processes data collected by radio telescopes in a Search for Extraterrestrial Intelligence project has been hacked. For about five hours on Sunday [during July], the home page was replaced with a single word - "WANTED" - and an image of ALF, an extraterrestrial from a US TV sitcom of the same name. Those who have not previously encountered this interstellar ambassador may like to know that he crash-landed in a garage in Los Angeles in 1986. He was named ALF, or Alien Life Form, by the humans who were involved in first contact with him. The title of the Seti Website was replaced with the words "attention people of Earth..." Good looks Officials have dismissed it as an annoying prank, pointing out that the hackers are wide of the mark when it comes to their choice of an extraterrestrial. The problem with the hairy ALF is that he is just too human-looking. Experts believe that alien life, if it exists, is probably not like us. Indeed, they believe that if evolution was re-run on Earth, it is very unlikely that anything resembling humans - let alone ALF - would emerge a second time. Not that many Seti scientists would be disappointed in finding something like ALF - they just do not expect it to happen. Project officials said that while they are satisfied with the security of their other servers, they are checking them to be certain. The SETI@home project, which opened to the public in mid-May, harnesses the downtime computer power of subscribers to sift through data obtained by a radio telescope to look for signals from space. More than 600,000 people have signed up since the project began.

-[continued in part 2]-

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