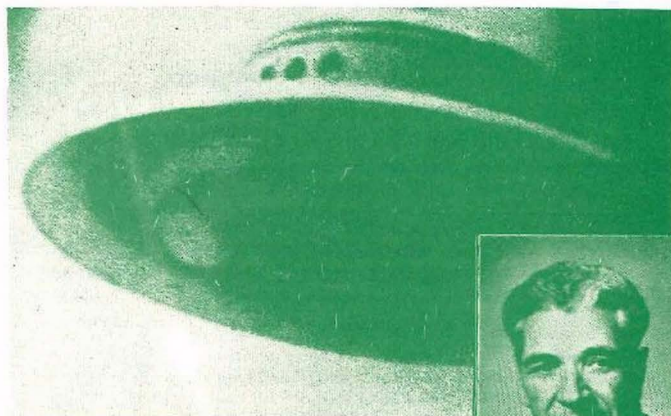


THE

PROBE REPORT

JOURNAL OF UFO INVESTIGATION

**GEORGE
ADAMSKI :**



"THE BIRTH OF THE UFO MYTH"

ALSO

RENDLESHAM FOREST MYSTERY

SCUFORI

REPORT

THE PROBE REPORT

THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF PROBE UFO INVESTIGATION ORGANISATION

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PROBE

UFO INVESTIGATION ORGANISATION

Vol 3, No 4. (Issue 12)

16 MARIGOLD WALK
ASHTON
BRISTOL BS3 2PD
ENGLAND

EDITORIAL

It is extremely sad that Charles Bowen has finally had to retire from the editorship of FLYING SAUCER REVIEW because of ill health. FSR has always been part of the furniture where UFO literature is concerned, and although it has had both its good and bad moments, Charles Bowen has always brought it out regularly. Let us hope that he enjoys a speedy recovery. But this occasion is sad for another reason; and that reason is the reinstatement of Gordon Creighton as the new editor. Creighton is certainly able to put FSR together, and has shown a loyalty to the magazine over the years as the resident translator of international reports. But his appointment is a retrograde step for FSR in that his beliefs and theories belong in the days when spaceships were thought responsible for the UFO sightings. That is perfectly acceptable, considering it was a popular idea that seemed remotely feasible to most at the time. The problem is that Creighton still seems to spout the ludicrous tripe that he did all those years ago.

I quote from Arthur Shuttlewood's WARMINSTER MYSTERY (Spearman 1967) where Creighton was writing to the author, "You are being well and truly brainwashed by powerful vested interests for whom the situation now developing is very embarrassing indeed... the public here are being grossly hoodwinked, bamboozled and brainwashed by authorities who know very well indeed what is happening. Extraterrestrial craft, call them flying saucers if you like, do exist." He could be forgiven, considering that book was published sixteen years ago, but a comment in the latest FSR shows that he has not changed his viewpoint one little bit. I quote again,

"... and now realises that there is no point or purpose in the daft practice of wasting time and energy and postage money on writing to Government departments to report UFO sightings or to try to badger them into releasing information about UFOs. For what are the true facts of the situation? The true facts seem to be that, by now, all the Governments - of the more technically advanced countries at any rate - must have bulging files and all the information they could want about UFOs. They must certainly know what UFOs are, what the alien creatures (my underlining - I.M.) are up to, and they must certainly stand in no need of UFO sighting reports from the public.

... it is a fatuous waste of time and money and energy - and daft and childish to boot - to imagine that a government is going to release some information to you just because you think YOU would like to have it."

Page 19 of FLYING SAUCER REVIEW Vol 28 No 3 increasingly gets worse until by the end of the page we are told that there is a movement out to dissolve civilian UFO groups and to remove UFO literature from the library shelves. (Certainly, that's what I think he means in

that last remark). Reading all of this out to a colleague on the telephone, he told me that it made him feel like getting out his old demob suit. He had heard this all before about twenty years ago at least.

What made me write this particular piece is Creighton's attitude towards the MOD. We have all felt their stamp of bureaucratic authority in the past, and we have received their denials that they have any interest in the subject. But just this week, PROBE received, in reply to a written request, details of UFOs that were reported to them during the September 1982 mini-flap. We are still investigating the cases, and the information they supplied (eight pages of sighting details - No. of objects, colour, No. of witnesses, weather conditions, direction of travel, aircraft activity, etc) will be used to correlate the sightings we already have on record. A letter of thanks was immediately returned. This seems a far cry from the paranoid ramblings of FSR's new editor.

Where we have found stumbling blocks lately is with organisations who were previously co-operative to a certain extent. But within the last few days we have received a request from the Cardiff Weather Centre for a fee of £20 plus VAT before they will inform us of the weather conditions over Gwent during the 1982 sightings. We also asked Bristol Airport for details of air traffic that could help us in our investigation, and they have replied with a letter asking for £50 to do this. At the moment, a UFO case is not worth £73 to us, so we are seeking alternative routes. But this has happened in the past, and it purely depends on who answers the letters.

BRISTOL AIRPORT

BRISTOL BS19 3DQ
Telephone 01454 2512 (570 0275 571 4441)
L.J. Wilson, *Area Manager*



our ref: 0/54 your ref: date: 15 February 1983

Mr. T.P. Gilver,
Probe UFO Research,
8 Eden Grove,
Whitley,
Solihull, Wilts.
SN2 3DQ

Dear Sir,

Thank you for your letter regarding UFO sightings in South Wales.

Unfortunately, due to the necessary research and staff involvement to provide this information, it will be necessary to make a charge of £50.

Yours faithfully,

L.J. Wilson
L.J. Wilson
General Manager

With FSR stepping back thirty years, cover all, have we really learned anything at all?

SIGNALS

Letters to the Editor



Dear Editor,

I read the letter from Bob Boyd (PUFORG) in your last issue with great interest, as it concerns some important points in the state of ufology. Firstly, I deprecate the personal innuendos contained in the letter; they are quite unnecessary and do nothing to further anyone's cause - and certainly do not promote an atmosphere wherein constructive discussion may take place. If one places views, opinions etc. on display, criticism must be expected, and as long as that criticism is constructive, (which the book review in question was - as I read it), then the answer is logical argument. If, as Mr. Boyd says, he has proof that UFOs exist, and knows it, then surely his best course of action is to use said proof to argue his case and convince the non-believers. I must say that PROBE and UFO INTERNATIONAL do not always agree on everything, but we do respect each others' integrity, and if necessary, agree to differ. The big problem this whole business highlights, is the degree of criticality of ufologists, or where do we position ourselves between, on one hand the 'true believers' like PUFORG to whom every light in the sky is an alien spaceship (and who preach the gospel according to Albert K. Bender) - and on the other hand, the 'explain it all away' brigade, as exemplified by the USAAF spokesmen and Dr. Edward U. Condon? Surely, the key to the problem is objectivity, which admittedly is difficult in this topic as we have here a largely subjective phenomenon. However, if we claim to be guided by scientific principles, this must be our aim. It is not a case of what we believe or don't believe, but what the evidence (and the result of as thorough an investigation as possible) says. Ideally, this sort of work should be done in a completely unbiased, unprejudiced manner, such as by a computer. It is not the investigator's brief to set out to prove that an object is, or is not a UFO at the outset of a case, but to determine impartially what the evidence says. The foregoing will be 'old hat' to many readers, but it needs repeating it seems, even in the somewhat basic terms above. Let me also say that if we err, as surely we will, let it be on the side of caution.

As someone who has had an interest in UFOs since the early fifties, (and never an MIB in sight), I find that the general standard of involvement in the subject hasn't improved as much as it should have done, given the supposed gain in experience over the years. In the fifties, not all ufologists were supporters of the ETH by any means, however a plausible explanation it might have seemed, but then, (as now), to voice doubts on the matter was to invite a barrage of criticism. One would hope any move to improve standards would be welcome - one desirable outcome would

be that the subject would become less attractive to the oddball fraternity, and groups would be spared the unpleasant experience such as told by SCUFORI in your last issue.

Yours,
Peter Tate,
UFO INTERNATIONAL,
Kingswood,
Bristol.

Dear Editor,

I have just read THE PROBE REPORT Volume 3, No 3 (January 1983) and thoroughly enjoyed its content. I am writing to comment on specific themes of that particular issue. Firstly, may I refer to 'The Alien Amongst Us' by Martin Shipp of SCUFORI. The content of this article was very good, and it is an article every ufologist should read, because an occurrence of this nature could easily happen to any of us, or our respective UFO organisations. SCUFORI took the step of investigating this case themselves, after a lack of co-operation from the police. However, it was refreshing to read how a group dealt with a MIB case in the westcountry. Their planning was good, and the problem was dealt with rationally, that finally arrived at the truth of this event. As you say, "CASE CLOSED". Not all UFO groups would go to the trouble SCUFORI went to, which is a pity as correct investigation in ufology is vital.

Secondly, I refer to 'SIGNALS', in particular Bob Boyd's PUFORG letter to you, commenting on your review of their recent booklet UFOs OVER PLYMOUTH. Your review was, we feel, accurate and sincere. Criticism, albeit hard, or "a bit over the top" as Mr. Boyd puts it, is vital if UK UFO organisations are to progress and mature. Some UFO groups are still in the land of 'cover ups, men from Mars and the Warminster Mecca', etc, and it is about time they faced reality and studied UFOs as a scientific subject. Mr. Boyd was obviously upset at your answer to the Winchester and Westbury Circles as explanatory, probably because PUFORG showed some of the 'circles' in a display they set up in a local Plymouth library in the latter half of 1982, and thus concluded that they were made by UFOs. However, we all must properly investigate UFO reports given to us, because if we try, we normally discover a perfectly natural or man-made solution for most of them. The people who work hard to investigate a case, and come up with an answer nearly every time are not trying to debunk the UFO phenomenon - we are merely doing our job properly! I cannot understand how Mr. Boyd claims "five positive unidentifieds" during his visit to Warminster a few years ago: did he check with the Army,

Navy, Police and meteorological stations? I also cannot see why you are called "devious and sinister, and a fearless pursuer of the truth" just because you take a logical and scientific approach to ufology. We must all adopt this approach IF we are to advance public knowledge and awareness of UFOs. Perhaps you are a MIB! If Mr. Boyd, and the rest of PUFORG, cannot accept criticism from time to time, then there must be reservation as to their continuing of UFO investigation.

Our final conclusion to the April 1981 case that PUFOIC were investigating (see SIGNALS column last issue) has been completed. The witness returned to Plymouth on 3rd January 1983 as planned, and we again interviewed him at great length about his experience. But we discovered a number of 'differences' from his original interview from September 1982, and there also crept in some doubt as to the authenticity of the story. We have therefore concluded that the UFO event he claimed was a mere fabrication, which, incidentally we proved. We were not disappointed at this outcome, as these things occur occasionally. We are happy we came to this conclusion sooner rather than later, and by this experience PUFOIC have gained confidence and maturity. Perhaps Mr. Boyd believes we are 'sinister and devious' like he believes you to be?

Best Wishes,
Eric Morris &
M.N. Norrish,
PUFOIC,
St. Budeaux,
Plymouth.

(As both previous letters refer to the alleged proof of UFOs at Warminster, your editor wrote to Mr Boyd at PUFORG and requested that this evidence, including the daylight photograph, be submitted to this journal for publication. At the time of writing (16/2/83) it can be confirmed that a reply has been received today from Bob Boyd in which he has offered to prepare an article detailing his experiences, together with illustrative photographs. If all proceeds to plan, this article will appear in the July (Vol 4, No 1) issue. Ed)

NOTE: To avoid reader confusion, PUFOIC (Plymouth UFO Investigation Centre) and PUFORG (Plymouth UFO Research Group) are two separate organisations operating from Plymouth. There is no connection between the two, and Eric Morris is in fact the BUFORA RIC for the South West.

Dear Editor,
I was very interested in your 'Mystery Circles-The Epilogue' article which appeared in Vol 3, No 2, as a few years ago we were confronted with the same phenomenon in the south of France. We also arrived at the same conclusions as you. There was an alleged landing of a UFO on 20th May 1977 in Aix-en-Provence (South East of France), and this photograph was taken by members of the Association d'Étude sur les Soucoupes Volantes (A.E.S.V.).



Our enquiries showed that the land-owner in fact was a firm believer in UFOs and wanted to believe totally that a UFO had landed and caused the circle. The investigation that AESV carried out showed that whirlwinds were responsible for the damage caused in the field as well as many others in the Durance Valley. It is quite interesting to note that this case received wide coverage and importance at the time and was featured on radio, local television, newspapers and many UFO groups.

Best Wishes,
Perry Petrakis,
A.E.S.V.
Aix-en-Provence,
France.

(At last! It happens elsewhere too. For so long I have been seemingly alone in trying to explain the mystery circles in terms of meteorological phenomena, and one major problem was receiving confirmation from other locations. I am most grateful for your lending me a fine set of photographs, and it is a pity that there wasn't room for them all. I'm also glad you remarked that many UFO groups carried coverage of this incident as if it were a UFO landing - it happened here. - Ed.)

Dear Editor,
With reference to THE PROBE REPORT Vol 3, No 3 (January 1983 issue), 'The Alien Amongst Us' by Martin Shipp - in other words 'The Man-In-Black Menace'. I was absolutely fascinated with the SCUFORI report, and to say the least for their brilliant piece of detection - Excellent! We, who investigate various international UFO cases, encounter quite often many obstructions, or the elusive officialdom, especially on the foreign cases where one is met with a refusal to co-operate. Although our method has the full courtesy (we request information - not demand it) we still meet with barriers.

My inner feelings tell me that the 'Raymond

Smithers' incident somewhat portrays significant intrigue, especially with regard to the question, 'WHY?'. Of course, there is the undisputed 'MIB' stigma: I am almost sure the logical-minded investigator will regard the intricate and possible intervention from MIBs as not merely a figment of the imagination. Your editorial asked, "Where does one draw the limitations on truth?" It is a sad day indeed for dedicated ufologists when they have to determine truth within their own rank and file system - whereas they should strive with condominium in harmony. It may not be perfect harmony, but it will do.

So, to the point of issue, I will revert to the 'Raymond Smithers' dilemma whom I think is an intelligent man - in fact he had to be to operate with SCUFORI's exceptional criteria and standards. Their curriculum demands a great deal of time and effort, irrespective of their personal choice, so the ailment of extreme stress cannot be totally ruled out. This can be caused by the continued dedication to ufology and the ever-demanding personal commitments, to name but a few possibilities. We, as investigators, should know our own limitations, and concentrate on the extent rather than on the truth. When pursuing the case, if one does not observe this degree of operation, then the inevitable harassment will occur. I speak from personal experience whilst investigating foreign CE11 and CE111 cases.

One tries to obtain first-class results through pure determination, but unfortunately one endures a great deal of 'annoyance' to put it mildly, when encroaching 'WHIPs', (Very High Influential People). This is where the investigator receives serious rebuke and rebuffs. One has to take one of two choices:

- 1) To heed the imminent warning.
- 2) To proceed forwardly indiscriminately.

The choice is entirely the investigator's; and if the latter choice is made, then it is obvious he will receive undue pressure by passing the point of no return, no doubt experiencing difficulty - hence the state of stress which could coincide with a visit from a MIB and, consequently the inevitable mental fatigue will occur that shrouded 'Mr Smithers' indifferent way of thinking. If one considers the facts, the possibilities give room for thought.

Regards,
Thomas J. Dunford,
Independent UFO Investigator,
Wiltshire,
Wiltshire.

(I'm not sure about one or two things in your letter, especially concerning 'Raymond Smithers'. Are you suggesting that Smithers himself was visited by a Man-In-Black because of the levels that SCUFORI go to in their investigations? Or are you perhaps suggesting that stress made him do the awful things he did to his colleagues? I would appreciate a little clarification on your theories, because you may be providing food for thought. But, going back to your two choices; I would like to submit a third that I'm sure is acted

upon by many investigators. I suggest number 3 is 'Proceed forward with courtesy, caution and a sleevefull of possible alternatives'. If one does meet with the typical attitude that those in security services have to adopt, then always try to think of alternative methods of gathering your information. Besides, my comments on 'truth' weren't meant in this context: I was referring to the reaction that is received from 'fellow' ufologists when after a case has been solved, they throw abuse at you for having explained it away. That's a different kettle of fish from your comments. Ed)

Dear Editor,
I was intrigued by the report on Adamski and Klarer in your October 1982 issue (Vol 3 : 2). Whilst of course I cannot comment on Adamski as I never knew him, I have known Elizabeth Klarer for at least 14 years and I think that Geoff Bird has hit the nail on the head when he says, "one thing seems certain, and that is both Adamski and Klarer seem to have had some sort of experience". With regard to Elizabeth Klarer, this is certainly the conclusion that I have come to, although Jerome Clark of FATE magazine in the USA seems to feel that my conclusions are totally unjustified in his critique of my book UFOs-AFRICAN ENCOUNTERS in which I have devoted 2 chapters to Elizabeth Klarer. Bird says further, "... even if both Elizabeth Klarer and George Adamski are frauds, it must take quite a person to live a complete lie ... there must be a reason for so doing". I could not agree with Bird more. Klarer comes from the sort of 'genteel' background of an older generation, not one given to living together easily and producing children 'out of wedlock'. Whatever her political affiliations (despite the various references to the black/white situation of apartheid South Africa, I do not think she feels strongly about this!) she is what most people would call 'a lady' to her fingertips, serving afternoon-tea with antique silver teaspoons and the best china, something that smacks rather of 'olde worlde Britain'. I cannot imagine, even in my wildest dreams, that Elizabeth would invent a story that could throw her into total discredit with her generation and contemporaries. When I first visited Elizabeth Klarer sometime in 1967, I interviewed her solely with regard to her trip in a 'flying saucer'. I was not aware then of the child she had allegedly borne Akon, although this was already recorded in her book. I found her to be an intelligent, warm and very likeable person. My perception of her has not changed in this regard, although I find that Elizabeth can take a fact and embroider on it - without actually lying - that makes that fact appear far more important than it is. She is not a business-like woman, I feel, and has made virtually nothing out of her story. Even the book has not paid well! She is constantly open to ridicule and puts up with some virulent press reportage. If she were indeed living a complete lie, is it possible that she would invite abuse and violent outbursts, something which is totally alien to her nature? The whole thing is so

incongruous that it has led me, in the final analysis, to accept that Elizabeth did have an experience. That she did meet a spaceship of some sort on her Flying Saucer Hill, and that indeed, she did fall in love with a spaceman. Whether UFOs are reality and 'nuts and bolts' craft (which I tend to think they are) or whether they are some strange abberation of our subconscious minds, I think Elizabeth Klarer experienced a contact

Yours sincerely,
Cynthia Hind,
Mutual UFO Network,
Zimbabwe,
South Africa.

(No doubt this will be a subject of debate for many years to come, but I think Geoff Bird was correct in his assumptions that the human mind was responsible for Klarer's 'experience' with Akon and his spaceship from Meton. In retrospect, perhaps it was unwise to link Klarer with George Adamski because the two characters seem far apart; George Adamski was a fraud (as Steuart Campbell sees it) and Elizabeth Klarer was a victim of her own mind. I personally do not think there ever was a meeting between either Adamski or Klarer and beings from other planets, even if the alleged contactees were intelligent and warm. Geoff Bird suggests that perhaps Klarer never even realised her fantasy was only in the mind, and thus would not appear to lie - she would be telling the truth as she saw it.-Ed)

THE BIRTH OF THE UFO MYTH - GEORGE ADAMSKI

STEUART CAMPBELL

In response to Geoff Bird's article on the famous alleged contactee, George Adamski in THE PROBE REPORT Vol 3, No 2, Steuart Campbell offers a more in-depth analysis of the man and his background.

One man alone was responsible for the popularization of the UFO myth and its world-wide spread. The name of George Adamski is the most notorious in ufology. But although he acquired great fame, he is hardly mentioned today. This is due to the tacit recognition that he was a fraud! He was not the first human being to claim contact with extra-terrestrial beings, but he was the first to make his claim known world-wide. However, he represents a class of 'contactee' whose claims must be viewed with great scepticism. For long, Adamski's claims were accepted as evidence that Earth was being visited, and discussion of 'flying saucers' could hardly avoid him. A Polish immigrant to the USA at the age of two, Adamski was brought up by parents who possessed an unusual and deeply religious approach 'to the wonders of creation as manifested in the many aspects of nature'⁽¹⁾. Young George must have been greatly influenced by this theosophic upbringing and his later books give evidence of it. Jacques Vallée records that Adamski was once head of a mystical cult known as the Royal Order of Tibet⁽²⁾. It is important to realise that Adamski was first and foremost a guru. Before his association with 'flying saucers', he was fairly well-known in California for his lectures and radio broadcasts. He had begun teaching and writing on so-called philosophical subjects in 1928, and in 1937 published a work called Satan, Man and the Hour. He had a following of devotees, who addressed him as 'Professor', a title he did little to eschew. But according to Frank Edwards, he was a man of meagre scholastic attainments who had excellent imagination, a pleasing personality and an apparently supply of gall⁽³⁾, and Christopher Evans calls him 'a Polish-American

of unusual ignorance, bogus astronomy and dabbler in psychics...'⁽⁴⁾ Certainly when I met him in April 1959, on one of his European tours, he was an accomplished and experienced raconteur, with an unshakable story. However, confidence should not be mistaken for veracity.

Adamski earned his living working in what we British call a 'snack bar' on the road up to Mount Palomar, the site of an observatory, where, in 1948, the largest telescope in the world was commissioned. Many thought that he was associated with that establishment. But he must have talked to visitors to the Observatory and perhaps even some of the staff. The fact that on the mountain above him, great telescopes were aimed out into space, must have had a great effect upon him. But another and perhaps more important influence would have been the publicity attached to the first reports of 'flying saucers' in 1947, and the subsequent claims of 'contactees' that they had actually met aliens. Adamski had accepted the idea of space travel in 1949, and by the middle of 1950 was actually wishing that he could see one land and speak to its pilot! He also expressed a desire to ride in a UFO!⁽⁵⁾

According to Edwards, Adamski wrote an account of An Imaginary Trip to the Moon, Venus and Mars in 1949. 'His efforts did not attract many customers but it did attract the attention of a lady writer who saw gold in them there space ships. She made a deal with George to rewrite his epic; she was to furnish the skilled writing and he was to furnish the photographs of the space ships'. Edwards claims that he was approached by this writer with the manuscript together with 'a clutch of the crudest UFO photographs I had seen in years'. Subsequently, Adamski published a book entitled Pioneers in Space.

Adamski finally came to public notice at the age of 59, when in September 1950 FATE magazine published one of his photographs as

part of their momentous article on 'flying saucers'. Subsequently, in July 1951, FATE printed Adamski's own account of his experiences (6). Here he appears as 'Professor George Adamski', owner of '20 acres of rocks and beautiful live oaks on the slopes of Mount Palomar'. In the article, 'I photographed Space Ships', he claims that he first saw a space ship on 9th October 1946 'during the meteoric shower created by the Giacomini-Zinner Comet'. He describes the appearance of a 'gigantic, dark dirigible-type object' low over mountains to the south. 'It appeared as a huge cigar-shaped object hovering in the sky...' which later '... shot up and away at a speed that seemed impossible for such a huge craft ... leaving an orange trail that remained in the air for several minutes'. He claimed that 'a well-known spiritualist medium' was prevailed upon to 'project her mind out into space', 'to find out who they were and why they had not landed on Earth. The medium reported that the ship had come from one of the other planets in our system and that its occupants had not landed on Earth because they were not sure how they would be received by Earthmen! Despite this specious reply, the same explanation appeared later in Adamski's own books!

The article continued to describe another sighting which Adamski witnessed in August 1947. He claims to have seen a bright ball of light appear from behind a mountain peak and streak across the sky towards the west 'as if shot from some gigantic cannon'. There was no sound, but a second followed the first, then a third, and a fourth ... It was when one of the balls stopped in its path, and reversed, that Adamski concluded that he was viewing 'something from out of this world'. He claims that he subsequently counted 184 such balls, and that every 32nd one would reverse, and then stop and hover a full second or more, only to disappear behind the mountains. He likened the chain of objects to those alleged to have been seen by Kenneth Arnold, except that each was like the planet Saturn - a sphere encircled by a flat ring.

If Adamski did see what he describes here it could have been ball lightning. He may have exaggerated the number of objects, and of course he saw them as space ships, but it is not impossible that ball lightning was visible from his vantage point on Palomar. Not for the first time would a natural phenomenon have created a myth.

To counter sceptical reaction to his account of the chain of 'saucers' he resolved to obtain photographs of them, and this he claims to have done in February 1949. This was the picture which appeared in FATE. As a result of this publicity he was invited to speak all over southern California, to service and Rotary clubs, throughout 1950. He developed a cohesive lecture to give to these audiences, to a large extent, telling them what they wanted to hear; that intelligent beings live on other planets and that they are watching and visiting us. His own experiences of ball lightning, reinforced by some dubious photographs, would have been wrapped-up in the

space philosophy, which was emerging from his inherent theosophy. It was to be expected that, as he records, he met more and more people who had observed strange objects moving through the sky. These reports, common enough, were naturally prone to interpretation both by Adamski and the hapless witness as evidence for his new belief in extraterrestrial beings.

Among other things, he believed that the aliens were using the Koon as a forward base. He claimed to have seen both UFOs and meteors near the Moon, the latter leading him to the conclusion that there was a lunar atmosphere. The FATE article continued at length with descriptions of his photographs which accompanied it. Most of these were of the Moon, with various additional luminous or illuminated objects, which, if near the Moon, must be at least 130 km in diameter. Of course, if nearer the camera, they could have been a mere 13 cm across. Finally, he records that his sceptical friends were convinced of the truth of his views when they all saw two space ships in front of the Pleiades on 14th October 1950.

Adamski became world-famous through the publication, in 1953, of the sensational book Flying Saucers Have Landed (7). Although many believe that Adamski co-authored this work with Desmond Leslie (8), Adamski's contribution, the last 60 pages, which included 14 photographs - 9 of which appear in Leslie's part of the book - was added by Waveney Girvan, then editor of Flying Saucer Review (9). Before publication, Leslie and Adamski never met.

Desmond Leslie, a talented writer and electronics expert, was responsible for most of the book, which is a survey of many thousands of peculiar objects which have been seen in the skies over many thousands of years, and which was, presumably, intended for separate publication. It makes an unlikely companion to what Evans calls Adamski's 'unscholarly work' in Book Two. But this alleged account of the first personal meeting between a human and an alien being became an instant best-seller and a topic of conversation across the world. Needless to say, without Adamski's contribution, Leslie's work would hardly have achieved this success.

Adamski claimed that he had got into the habit of going alone to desert areas in the hope of a contact, but on the day of his alleged contact, he was not alone. He had previously met Mr and Mrs A.C. Bailey and Dr and Mrs G.H. Williamson (August 1952) and they expressed interest in joining him on his next expedition. So two days before his trip, he telephoned Williamson to tell him the time and place of the meeting. The time was auspicious. The 1952 UFO wave was in full flood, or past it, and Adamski would have felt that there was no better time for a contact than when hardly a day past without a UFO report.

The Baileys and Williamsons lived in Arizona, so Adamski agreed to meet them near Blythe, a town near the California/Arizona border, and this they did about 8 am on Thursday 20th November 1952. Adamski was accompanied by

Alice Wells, owner of Palomar Gardens and operator of the cafe, and his secretary Lucy McKinnis. After breakfast in Blythe, the whole party set off on what appears to have been a desert jaunt and picnic. Looking for a likely landing spot, Adamski drove back into Desert Centre, through which he had passed on his way to Blythe, and turned off on the road to Parker. About 16 km down this road, he decided to stop and look around. It was 11 am.

It was after their alfresco lunch, while some pictures were being taken, that they all saw 'a gigantic cigar-shaped silvery ship'. It was very high in the sky and not everyone was convinced that they were looking at a spacecraft. But Adamski decided that it had come looking for him, and persuaded one of the others to take him down the road towards it. He was taken to a track leading to some hills and left alone there. At this point he was about 1 kilometer from his friends, who claimed later to have witnessed subsequent events.

These events, which Evans suggests, read 'like a desperate travesty of the most simple-minded science fiction' (10) began with the descent of a 'flying saucer', a scout ship, in the nearby hills. From this craft emerged a long-haired Venusian wearing ski-pants. That the whole story is apocryphal is evident from its numerous inconsistencies. For instance, he claimed telepathic communication with this being, explaining that the visitor did not speak English. Later, however, it was explained that the 'Venusian' could both speak and understand English perfectly well and had only pretended to be unable to do so to test Adamski's telepathic powers! A fine way for interplanetary contact to begin - with one of the parties deliberately deceiving the other!

Adamski claims that his visitor had 'a vital message for humanity'. But what it was, we shall never know, for it was in the form of meaningless signs on the sole of his shoe! The impression of this shoe, together with its hieroglyphics, was preserved by Adamski, who made a plaster-cast of it. He just happened to be carrying the necessary materials for making a cast on his person that day. The idea of there being a message of importance in the mystical signs of the footprint is reminiscent of the nonsense propagated by spiritism. Needless to say, no-one has deciphered this message, although it should be pointed out that Dr Williamson was not unfamiliar with ancient hieroglyphics.

Further evidence that this tale owes more to imagination than experience is revealed by Adamski's explanation for the 'unusually deep' impression made by the alien's foot. It was deeper, he claimed, because Venusian gravity is less than ours; consequently the visitor weighted more and left a deeper impression on the ground than Earthmen. This visitor, according to Adamski's own description, weighted about 60 kg and was about 170 cm high, ie, a normal slightly-built person. On a planet of lower gravity than his own, he would certainly weigh less, while his measured

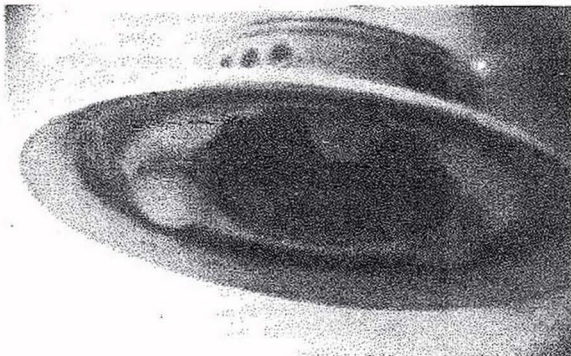
weight on Earth would have been more than the measured weight on Venus. But if his species had evolved on a planet of lower gravity than Earth, then he would have been less massive than an Earthman of the same size and volume. Creatures evolving under low gravity do not have to be so strong as those which live under high gravity, and as a result their average density will be lower. Consequently, when this alien came to Earth, he would weigh less, not more than an Earthman. And his feet would make less impression on the ground. In fact, the difference between gravity on Venus and that on Earth is so small (10%) as to be imperceptible. But this blunder illustrates the fact that Adamski was not reporting real events; that he was constructing them using his own somewhat inadequate knowledge of science. A case of a little knowledge being dangerous. Naturally, although he carried a loaded camera, was not permitted to photograph this visitor. I suppose he thought that he would not get away with a faked picture of an alien, but in this book there does appear a sketch drawn by Alice Wells. The caption claims that it was drawn while the artist watched the scene through binoculars! It is more likely that it was made following Adamski's description of the visitor.

Despite his prohibition of personal photographs, you would have thought that the alien was not in a position to prevent Adamski photographing the scout ship as it took off. But no such picture exists. The only picture taken in the desert shows the rocky valley, where the alleged meeting took place, with what Adamski alleges is the ship rising from a saddle in the hills. The 'ship' is a distant blob that could just as well be a rock! Apparently this craft was so placed that none of his friends could see it.

Neither is one convinced by the affidavits signed by the witnesses. These only state that they have read Adamski's account and witnessed the events as recorded. But strangely, the affidavits were not made until March of the following year! You would expect witnesses to such a cosmic event to have made their declarations immediately afterwards, and such a delay is suspicious. At least it gave four months in which their recollection of events could have been influenced by Adamski himself. According to Edwards, some of the witnesses later changed their minds.

But Flying Saucers Have Landed did contain an alleged photograph of a 'scout ship', which Adamski claimed to have seen at Palomar Gardens on 13th December 1952. This photograph became the most famous 'flying saucer' photograph in the world and the object it shows has been used widely since as a model of the standard 'saucer' craft. No-one doubts that the photograph was taken at Palomar, but many doubt that it shows an object 10 metres in diameter. Generally, it is considered to be a close-up picture of some conventional small object. Edwards noted that either on the day it was taken, three suns were shining, or else it was a small object taken with three floodlights for illumination. While some have

concluded that Adamski fabricated the model, others believe that he photographed some manufactured component. Edwards, for instance, after years of searching, concluded that the 'spaceship' was in reality the top of a cannister-type vacuum cleaner, made in 1937. But, according to Philip Morrison, the object was a Sears-Roebuck chicken brooder (11), and certainly it does resemble that more than anything else. Recently this question was renewed in the British press. On 19th September 1975, Richard Lawrence, then secretary of the British UFO Society, claimed that Adamski's photograph was a fake, and that what had been photographed was the top of a patent bottle-cooling machine. Since Adamski worked in a cafe selling bottles of cool drinks, this did not seem to be unlikely. He claimed to have discovered this machine in a London Restaurant. It was alleged that Adamski had used this bottle-cooler, made in Wigan, as a model for his pictures. However, the following day, the BBC interviewed Frank Nicholson, a refrigeration engineer, who stated that he was the designer of the bottle-cooler in question, and that he had been interested in the UFO mystery when the device was designed in 1959 (six years after the publication of Adamski's photographs) and that he had copied the Adamski picture for the cooler lid, or lampshade!



George Adamski's famous 'Venusian Scout Craft', photographed by him at 9.10 am on 13th December 1952 through a six-inch telescope. This was one of three photos of the alleged craft taken that morning.

Flying Saucers Have Landed was followed, in June 1956, by Adamski's own book, Inside The Space Ships (12). Here Adamski really did let his imagination full reign. Not only does he meet other aliens, he travels in their ships, and has long discussions with the Master, whose teaching closely resembles that of Adamski's own. One can only conclude that Adamski chose to make use of the growing interest in space for his own advantage. All he did was to transfer his own peculiar philosophy to the mouth of the fictional Master. In this way, his teaching gained a greater audience, and much more authority. The words of 'wisdom' in Inside The Space

Ships are not those of some interplanetary Federation anxiously watching little old Earth; they are those of George Adamski.

In this latter work, he reveals that he undertook four trips into space, which, together with his meetings on Earth, made seven contacts with aliens, as follows:

1 Desert Landing	20th November 1952
2 Palomar Gardens	13th December 1952
3 Space flight 1	18th February 1953
4 Space flight 2	21st April 1953
5 Cafe in Los Angeles	8th September 1953
6 Space flight 3	23rd August 1954
7 Space flight 4	24th August 1955

(At one point he inadvertently called No 6 his 'last contact')

Now it is curious that Adamski wrote the dedication to Flying Saucers Have Landed in July 1953, after he is supposed to have undertaken two space flights with the extra-terrestrials! Imagine publishing a book describing a mere Earth meeting, when in all that time he had travelled into space with these visitors! And are we to believe that after such momentous experiences, this Earthman kept the matter to himself, only revealing it in a book three years later? Of course the explanation must be that the idea of these flights of fancy only occurred to him while he was writing Inside The Space Ships, and he was not careful enough about the dates chosen. In fact, in the former book he did reveal that 'Their mother ships could naturally be the answer to much of this problem, but further comments, discussion and opinion on this technical phase of the phenomenon will be reserved for a later and forthcoming book' (13). In other words, he had to invent more stories to explain what he had already invented, and the legend snowballed.

Anyone who still believes that Adamski told the truth only has to examine his claims regarding the Moon and planets. Of course he was writing before the Moon landings and the close exploration of Mars and Venus by automatic probes, but even so his description of a habitable strip around the equator of the Moon defies credibility. He wrote of snow-capped, timber-clad mountains, rushing rivers, lakes and a town! He may have been repeating what he could have read in Popular Astronomy (No 45, published in 1937) where in an article entitled 'Life on the Moon', the Harvard astronomer W.H. Pickering claimed to see snow and water action, vegetation and even 'small animals swarming inside the crater Eratosthenes'. Jung wrote that Adamski's story of a trip around the Moon and his report that the other side is watered and forested, etc., was related without Adamski 'being in the least perturbed by the Moon's skittishness in turning just her un hospitable side towards the Earth'. He noted that this 'physical monstrosity of a story' was actually swallowed by a cultivated and well-meaning person like Edgar Sievers, author of Flying Saucers Über Sudafrica (Pretoria, 1955)

Venus too, Adamski claimed, was covered with mountains, snow, timber, streams, lakes, oceans, circular or oval cities, and Venusians led a life without rush or worry. Venus was Adamski's ideal world, his private Heaven! But again he was careless over details, misunderstanding the effects of gravity. He imagined that Venusian life would be smaller than that on Earth, due to the lower gravitational pull. And yet in fact it would be larger!

Among his other technical howlers are his claims that it was once believed that the Earth was 'square', confusion of magnetism with static electricity and the claim that the 'power of nature' is electromagnetic! At one point, when he is supposed to be in a space ship 80,000 km from Earth, he claims that the Earth appeared to be the same size as the Sun when seen from Earth. A simple calculation can show that for the Earth to appear the size of the Sun, one would have to be, not 80,000, but 1,360,000 km from Earth, nearly three and a half times further than the Moon! Thus, if Adamski was really in a space ship only 80,000 km from Earth, the optical equipment through which he viewed our planet would have had to reduce the image, not enlarge it as he claimed. Other astronomical discrepancies are evident in his accounts of the journeys into space, such as seeing meteors 'glowing' like those hideous lumps in bad space movies! Anyone who knew the real speed of meteors would not claim to have seen one in space, nor claim that it was incandescent outside the Earth's atmosphere.

However, despite the obvious fraud and his technical inadequacies, Adamski was in demand all over the world. As Edwards put it, '... this congenial con man sold a jillion books to those who were eager to believe that somebody from space was crossing millions of miles of the trackless void for the dubious privilege of conversing telepathically with former hamburger cooks'. He toured America on the lecture circuit and later visited Europe, where he even engaged in private conversation with Queen Juliana of the Netherlands.

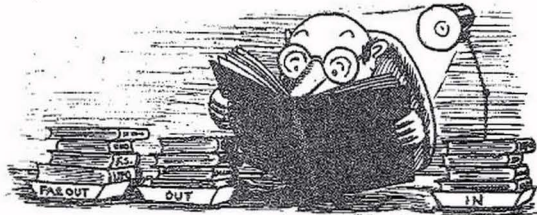
Naturally, further books were demanded. Adamski attempted to consolidate his success with two more works, Flying Saucers Farewell

(15) which included a revised version of his Satan, Man of [sic] The Hour (clearly he thought that insufficient people had read it the first time), and Cosmic Philosophy (16). The reader will rightly anticipate that the contents of these works are 'more of the same' - homespun philosophy and banal conversation with unreal aliens, and it is apparent that Adamski has returned to his real interest; the propagation of his personal beliefs. But his subsequent works never achieved the literary success of Flying Saucers Have Landed. One must conclude that the title of that book was taken as a statement of fact, an event of great significance to the world. It is ironic that it was a false alarm and that no 'saucer' ever landed. But Evans notes that Adamski's adventure struck a chord of acceptance in too large a segment of the population for it to be lightly dismissed. People wanted to believe the story. The tale represented the beginning of a shift of emphasis in ufology from quasi-serious science fiction to a mythology in embryo (17). But the embryonic myth had reached full term, and Adamski gave it birth.

References:

- 1 See Charlotte Blodgett's biography in Inside The Space Ships.
- 2 Jacques Vallée, Anatomy of a Phenomenon, p 90.
- 3 Frank Edwards, Flying Saucers Here and Now! Chapter 7.
- 4 Christopher Evans, Cults of Unreason, p 142
- 5 Flying Saucers Have Landed, p 177.
- 6 pp 64 - 74.
- 7 Published in London by T. Werner Laurie and in New York by The British Book Centre.
- 8 David Michael Jacobs, The UFO Controversy in America, p 110.
- 9 See Flying Saucer Review, Vol 21, No 3/4, November 1975, p 2.
- 10 op cit. p 146
- 11 Carl Sagan and Thornton Page, UFOs - A Scientific Debate, p 286.
- 12 First published by Arco Publishers in London, and Abelard-Schumann in New York.
- 13 Flying Saucers Have Landed, p 215.
- 14 Carl G. Jung, Flying Saucers: A Modern Myth of Things Seen in the Skies, p 13.
- 15 Published by Abelard-Schumann in 1961.
- 16 Published privately in California (possibly San Diego) in 1961.
- 17 Cults of Unreason, p 147.

BOOK REVIEWS



PROJECT IDENTIFICATION. THE FIRST SCIENTIFIC FIELD STUDY OF UFO PHENOMENA. By Harley D. Rutledge, Ph.D. Published by Prentice-Hall, Inc, Englewood Cliffs, N.J. U.S.A. 265 pp, well illustrated with photographs and diagrams. Paperback, large format 9" x 6", \$6.95.

It is a rare treat when a Journal of UFO Investigation is able to review a book that deals with on-site UFO investigation, and it is even more refreshing when that on-site work is being conducted whilst the phenomena is actually occurring. But here, PROJECT IDENT-

IFICATION offers that very opportunity. This book details a field study that was initiated in southeast Missouri, USA, when that particular state was undergoing a 'UFO flap'. 1973 was a year when dozens of witnesses were reporting seeing strange lights in the vicinity and Dr Harley Rutledge and his team from the Southeast Missouri State University in Cape Girardeau set about actually observing the lights and logging the data. Despite several problems including bad weather and finance, the team of highly qualified researchers eventually set up numerous viewing stations in such locations as Piedmont (where most of the initial sightings were occurring), Farmington and Cape Girardeau. Equipped with observation apparatus which included telescopes and cameras with 800mm lenses, the Project team began their seven-year stint at skywatching that enabled them to take memorable photographs of UFOs and to record scientific data as they observed the phenomena occurring.

With most (if not all) UFO investigation, the task is attempted after the event, and all the investigator can hope to do is to piece together the story from witness testimony and little else. Here, it was happening in front of their faces. In all, the Project recorded 157 sightings consisting of 178 objects, of which the vast majority were nocturnal lights. This represents a very high number of sightings, and critics would dismiss these as aircraft or satellites, but the Project also recorded these and many more natural and man-made phenomena. In fact, the team made great steps to identify the lights, as illustrated on page 144 where Dr Rutledge identifies a helicopter despite its not displaying the FAA regulation light patterns. (On the other hand there are several Piedmont sightings that the team believed were UFOs, based on the lack of proper lighting, although it must be said that that was not the only parameter that the team worked to).

PROJECT IDENTIFICATION is vastly different from other UFO books, as can be seen when Dr Rutledge views anomalous lights through binoculars; he doesn't follow the object like most observers would - he measures the time the object takes to traverse his angular field of vision, thus estimating the speed of the light. Through the use of the field equipment, the Project team could estimate height, velocity and direction of flight which was useful for the final summary which is contained in chapter 18. The photographs were analysed to yield information about the speeds and nature of the lights which illustrates that the team really wanted to identify the lights that they were seeing.

The book is spoiled by a couple of errors that somehow escaped the proof-reader, as I am sure that they are not the author's mistakes. The captions on plates 3 and 4 give the motion of the object as from left to right, whereas the account of the sighting (p51 & 52) and the analysis (p56 onwards) makes it very clear that the light moved right to left. In a scientific document such as this, these mundane errors become quite important. This type of error is again apparent with plates 9 through to 16

where the alleged left to right motion is an impossibility when the text and diagrams on pages 78, 92 and 93 are examined. But for the reader who is interested in the UFO phenomenon, these have no bearing on the book overall. (We may even solicit Dr Rutledge's comments on these points).

On reflection, such a high quantity of UFO sightings by one team does make the reader doubt the authenticity of the accounts, forcing the reader to either believe that these UFOs truly were seen and recorded, or to dismiss them entirely as nothing more than a means to keep the Southeast Missouri State University and the St. Louis Globe-Democrat (both of whom sponsored the Project financially and materially) happy and content. It would be cynical and easy to do the latter, but three vital factors must be considered:- Firstly, southeast Missouri was undergoing a flap without PROJECT IDENTIFICATION ever being thought of; secondly, other people outside of the Project were reporting UFOs without having knowledge of the team's existence and thirdly, Dr Rutledge and his team saw helicopters, 'planes, stars, planets, meteors, satellites and UFOs, each with their own distinction. Bearing all this in mind, and add to that the fact that the Project was operating intentionally without wide acclaim and publicity, one has to accept that southeast Missouri was treated to displays of unknown lights.

As to the origins of the lights, that is anyone's guess, but Dr Rutledge is convinced, by personal observations and recorded data, that the UFOs were intelligently controlled and certainly aware of (and reacting to) the team members' individual actions and thoughts. That will be a bone of contention for many years yet and will no doubt form the most controversial element of the book. But nevertheless, PROJECT IDENTIFICATION is a book that must be read before any conclusions are drawn, and it should be purchased by every ufologist who regards this subject with any seriousness.

Finally summing up his feelings on the UFO 'intelligence', Dr Rutledge writes; "When we understand them on a technical-scientific basis, when most of the world's inhabitants accept the reality of UFOs, then we will meet them face to face. And then we will know their mission." I hope his optimism will one day be realised.

GEORGE ADAMSKI: THE UNTOLD STORY by Lou Zinsstag and Timothy Good. Published by CETI Publications, 247 High Street, Beckenham, Kent BR3 1AB UK. Laminated soft cover, 8 1/2" x 5 1/2", 208 pp, well illustrated with 50 photographs. Price £6.95 including postage & packing. Air Mail outside Europe add \$3. Priced around £4.95 if purchased direct from specialist bookshops.

At a time when all of a sudden George Adamski has become a talking point (this issue contains a scathing attack on the man, and I have recently received correspondence from someone who met him at his California home several times), it only seems fitting to review a new book about Adamski, his life and his claims. To give this book a just and thorough going-over, more space than is available here will be required; but suffice it to

say - this is an important work. THE UNTOLD STORY is not in essence one book, but rather two individual contributions by the two authors, which are cleverly combined to form one document. Lou Zinsstag relates times of old when she worked as Adamski's co-worker in Switzerland, and Timothy Good sets out to analyse and follow up the claims that have made Adamski the most controversial 'contactee' of all.

Mrs Zinsstag's section (part 1) is nice, with reminiscent touches and tender anecdotes, and is extremely enjoyable to read, if only from that angle. Her utmost belief in Adamski's claims and philosophy is clear, and it seems that she was easily influenced by his teachings and writings. Adamski's letters to Mrs Zinsstag also carried messages and phrases that left deep marks in her memory, which she often recalled throughout her later years after Adamski's death. One incident described in the book illustrates Adamski's 'hold' on his followers, and this is where Mrs Zinsstag encounters a man in a theatre in 1961 whom she believes is from outer space, living on Earth in the guise of an ordinary Earthman. A 'telepathic' thought to the gent, and a nod and smile from him in return was enough to convince her that the man was indeed from another planet - and this of course was what Adamski taught.

Her willingness to believe in her tutor kept her working hard as Adamski's (pronounced ADamski - not Adamski - so I am told by my correspondent) co-worker, and caused her suffering at the hands of disbelievers and cynics who refuted the controversial claims. In later years, Mrs Zinsstag had to take stock of where she stood, and eventually she broke away from Adamski as she could not reconcile her inward beliefs with those of her tutor's. His philosophies gradually changed and he contradicted earlier statements - some of which were fundamental to the whole concept of spacepeople working on our behalf. Page 84 shows that Mrs Zinsstag wanted to believe in Adamski's ideals, and not the man himself - who perhaps wanted to be worshipped as a God.

Part 1 raises many talking points, some of which I will cover here. Adamski said that Medium contacts, including those of the Aetherius Society, were genuine but were with "evil impersonators" and "mock spirits", thus he tried to refute all such 'contact' stories as being untrustworthy. A cynical, and perhaps inevitable answer would be that these newcomers to the scene were receiving attention that he had so dearly cultivated over the years, and felt that was his and his alone. Money was to be made in this line, and others were aware of that.

Lou Zinsstag also writes that this psychic element turned the scientists away from ufology, and also that the scientists were accepting only the 'contact' stories where the aliens were non-human. This was to portray contact with extraterrestrials as something horrific, and something to be denied, therefore gradually turning people against everything Adamski represented. I would argue that the whole Adamski concept turned people away

from ufology, including the scientists and even those previously interested in the subject. I also strongly dispute the idea that scientists accepted only non-human contact stories so they could discredit Adamski. I am sure that they refuted all contact claims... but that is my belief. Adamski's own teachings and crude science - plus his own non-committal stance when faced with tricky questions (ie, where he keeps quiet so to keep up the trust he enjoys from his space-brothers), were what turned others away from him and ufology as a whole.

Timothy Good, much travelled in his investigation into Adamski's claims, does not succeed in convincing this writer that Adamski told the truth. What Good does manage is to create a whole new picture of the Adamski concept. Basically, the second part of THE UNTOLD STORY presents witnesses to Adamski's spaceships, and a whole host of others who had the stories confirmed by other methods, eg meeting their own spacemen. This makes the 'fraud' theory that much harder to swallow, because it would have involved literally dozens of people, all having to lie through their faces - something which is difficult to accept. The chapters on Mars and Venus are full of technical jargon that might be confusing to some, but even if all those scientists have been telling us lies, and that there are microbes living on Mars; that's still a far cry from thriving civilizations of humanoids! The Silver Spring movie footage film has not been seen by many, although there was a preview in this country in 1965, so whether or not the images of an Adamski-type craft do vindicate Adamski, it is difficult to make any conclusion from the b & w stills.

GEORGE ADAMSKI: THE UNTOLD STORY serves as a vital segment of the whole Adamski controversy. Zinsstag and Good have opened up several new avenues for discussion, and this book truly warrants several pages of this journal for such a debate. Perhaps that will yet take place.

ALIEN CONTACT by Jenny Randles and Paul Whettnall. Published by Coronet, paperback, £1.75. 207 pp, illustrated.

This book was previously reviewed in this journal when it first became available in the hardcover version, published by Neville Spearman in 1981. (Reviewed Vol 2, No 4.). The book looks into the claims by the Sunderland family which involved alleged contact with aliens from other planets, and apparent trips to these planets by the Sunderland children. The book is very complicated and the authors, who investigated the case, had no easy task in sorting this lot out. The verdict is not clear, nor is it ever likely to be, but it is an important book and well worth the small sum needed - much better value than the hardcover version.

STOP PRESS: A copy of THE GREEN STONE has just arrived, and this will be reviewed along with a few publications from William L. Moore in the next issue.

BELL-LIKE UFO FROM W.W.2.

JENNY RANGLES

Brockworth, Gloucestershire. Nov 1939.
CE 1 PSYCHO.

Note: One of the pleasures of being an Investigations Coordinator is the receipt of exciting case histories from one's investigators. These can often inject into the bloodstream that heady thrill of recognition that there is something 'damned funny' going on in this world. However rationally we might be capable of explaining some UFO events, others defy all these efforts and leave one on the tantalising threshold of an exotic theory of origin. They may not prove it; for one can always fall back on the escape route that the witness is a liar. But as each new one hammers a nail through your scepticism, you suddenly realise why you are so engrossed in this great enigma. For the question stares straight at you... what if this is completely true? This is such a case.

Introduction

Mark Brown, the investigator of this tale, is one of those people who really knows his job. Whilst it is nice to report that in the past few years the overall quality of British case histories (that is the presentation of them - in report form by the ufologist) has improved dramatically, Mark is undoubtedly one of the best people we have. I know before I open the pages that lay before me that I am in for a treat. And I know that if he cannot explain the incident, the chances are that nobody will. What makes this particular case stand out from many others, amongst several factors, is the apparent observation of a classic UFO stereotype eight full years before UFOs supposedly existed. Mark Brown's efforts at retrospective investigation earned him, in my view, the 'Nobel Prize' for UFO Investigation during 1982, for this is a superb piece of work that stands as a true model for any would-be field ufologist to follow.

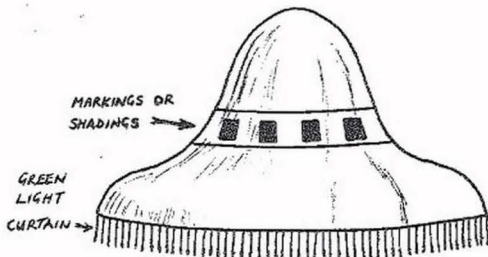
The Events

Mr. F. Price (name changed) was aged 72 at the time of the investigation, now retired and living in Leicester. However, he was still spritely and could discuss the incident with singular clarity. Much of his memory from World War 2 days is inevitably faded, but not so that of this November day. Of course, in November 1939 Britain had been at war for just two months. Price was aged 30 and living in London. Being a building contractor foreman, Price was classified as doing essential war work and between the start of hostilities and January 1940 was assigned to help create an extension to the Gloster Aircraft Company at the village of Brockworth, not far from Cirencester. Here, later in the war, the important aircraft, the Meteor, was test-flown. However, late in 1939, this area was still relatively untouched by the war, and was pleasant with hills scattered with farms and villages. Price had permission to run his own

car and so could return home at weekends, and this necessitated an early departure on Monday mornings to reach Brockworth in time for work. He would then lodge there until Friday. This particularly Monday morning was surprisingly mild and pleasant, especially as he recalls the rest of the month being wet and stormy. Price could not recall the precise date, but was sure of the month. He remembers reaching Birdlip at about 7 am and then taking his usual route along the A417 from Cirencester. Descending Cuckly Hill towards Brockworth, he passed 'The Balloon' public house and about two-thirds of the way down, he had to pass a farm. Normally, a dog would bark loudly at his passing car, but on that day, the dog was not there. The farm looked desolate and deserted.

Continuing past the farm buildings, Price began to notice a most peculiar sound; a sort of high-pitched humming that only later did he compare with a finely tuned electric motor. Price was rather puzzled by this noise but rode on a few more yards until he reached a gate at the back of the farm which led into an open field. Through the gate and the hedgerows he had an excellent view of something unusual. He saw an object which was totally new to him.

The initial impression made by the object was like that of the upper part of a child's spinning top, 'Admiralty' grey and with dark shadings or insets about one-quarter of the way up the side. Price is unsure of the precise nature of these things, but thinks they were windows or apertures of some sort. The base of the object had a skirt, giving the whole thing the appearance of a bell. From the underneath emerged a pale green curtain of light which came equally from the full width of the base.



Clearly Price was intrigued by all of this and decided it was well worth stopping for, so he pulled over onto the grass verge to have a closer look. The humming noise appeared to come from the object, which was not moving in any way. It hovered approximately 20 feet above the field, and he estimated its dimensions as 25 to 30 feet wide, and 20 feet high. Used to estimating building dimensions, Price feels his figures are quite accurate. It was

no more than 100 feet from him and as solid and real as anything else. For two minutes the object remained immobile, and nothing around Price moved. There was no traffic. He began to get a little scared by this protracted confrontation; especially when the object suddenly shifted position. This began slowly as it tilted to an angle of about 80° and moved away to the side. Just prior to this motion, the green light had faded out. This, it did in another familiar pattern ... as describing a 'solid' light. In other words, it seemed to retract from the ground towards the base of the object, taking a finite time to do so - unlike a normal lightbeam being switched off. The greenish glow also seemed to thin and 'vaporise' at the same time.

This peculiar behaviour of the UFO glow, whilst incomprehensible to Price, might have great scientific importance to our understanding of the mechanism of this phenomena. The total duration of the sighting had been about 3 minutes, but Price was now so frightened that he started his car engine and drove off, not watching where the object moved to. He drove straight into the village and told his manager that he was going back to the farm immediately. The manager did not object. Back on site, he searched for traces, finding nothing at all, but made careful notes of estimated dimensions whilst sat in the same position as he had occupied minutes before with the UFO still present. Then he walked over to the wall bordering the farm, but there was still no sign of life.

Mr Price has carried this strange tale with him ever since, but it was many years before he was able to place it in context with UFOs. However, there was one particular overtone for him; he has constantly worried about the safety of the family on the farm. For the weeks after the event, until he was transferred up north, he watched closely every time he passed along the road. But the farm never returned to normal; neither workers nor animals appeared again. It is hardly surprising that Price began to ponder whether this sudden disappearance had anything to do with the strange object.

A Sequel

After the war, Price moved to Loughborough, where he became a landlord. Whilst living in this public house in 1958 (late in the year) it seems that the UFO returned. It was 4 am when he and his wife were woken by a strange noise which was familiar to Mr Price. It echoed back across the years instantly reminding him of the incident 19 years before. Mrs Price asked what it was, quite frightened by it, and her husband said he thought it was a UFO. Neither of them got out of bed, being held firm by fear, induced because the noise was so loud it seemed that the cause of it was immediately above the rooftops. After roughly three minutes, it seemed to go softer, as if fading away. They both looked in the direction apparently indicated by the 'moving' sound and through the bedroom curtains could see a large green glowing light. It was so bright it shone through and lit up the room. According to

Mr Price, the Leicester Mercury next morning referred to local UFO sightings of that same night.

Investigations

Evidently this is a strange case, but Mark Brown found no reason to suspect that the witness was being anything other than honest. He also refused to accept the event as 'dead', despite the enormous time gap since its occurrence, and undertook a most commendable struggle to find a rational answer. He visited the location to take site photographs and track down the farm if it still existed (which it did). It turns out to probably be called Shab Hill Farm, which according to the electoral register was owned by the Barnfield family at the time in question. The police very kindly checked the missing persons file for Brown but there was no record of any unusual incidents or disappearing persons that would seem to be relevant. Nevertheless, being war time, people would be 'going missing' on quite a regular basis, as society as a whole was very mobile at the time. A local police officer even went on Brown's behalf and questioned folk around the farm but found nobody who could remember the Barnfields or what might have happened to them. Satisfied he could find no evidence for their 'abduction' Mark Brown was able to put Mr Price's mind at rest after so many years.

Extensive weather information was supplied by the meteorological library, which confirmed Price's general comments about the November 1939 conditions. Both 13th and 20th emerged as possible candidates for the exact date, but the precise details make it virtually certain that the date was 13th November - which was a surprisingly mild day following a stormy start to the month. Local newspaper archives were consulted by the council on Brown's behalf, but nothing that seemed to relate was discovered. He did enquire with the Leicester newspaper about the 1958 story, but they were unable to help and offered search facilities through their files. Brown felt, that as this was a secondary experience, the time-consuming task was not necessary. However, should any reader in the Leicester area feel inclined to make a contribution to UFO research, then a scan of the 1958 editions (starting in the winter months at late year) might turn up something valuable. If it does, please advise EUPORA c/o THE PROBE REPORT.

Mark Brown spent much time exchanging letters and talking on the telephone with air historians, especially at the Ministry of Defence. A full picture of aircraft movements in the area during 1939 were outlined, and the conclusion of both the MOD experts and Brown was that no solution could be found in this direction. Helicopters were not around in late 1939 - at least not so far as is known. The only serious option offered was that of a barrage balloon. There were none in the immediate area at the time but these protective structures were tethered around various Midlands cities and around Bristol and had been known to slip their tethers and drift away. Brown immediately realised that one could have

broken free during the early November gales. However, on checking the detailed weather maps, this seems to be very unlikely; as relevant wind speeds and directions offer no support. Price was also familiar with such balloons and saw no connection. Besides, the behaviour of the object did not appear to be that of a balloon. Nor indeed does the reported shape resemble one even vaguely.

Having exhausted all these sources, Mark Brown was forced to the conclusion that there seems no viable explanation for this case... which is probably one of the best investigated of cases which stems from the era before UFOs became a household name.

Conclusions

On balance it does look like a genuine material UFO of some kind is involved in this case. Taken at face value its description and the peculiar 'light' effects are highly suggestive of a mechanical craft of some type. And the alleged return visit 19 years later, if correct, is somewhat difficult to interpret in any way which denies both a physical, material origin for the UFO and an intelligence behind it. What is more, the UFO is a very common stereotype.

'Project Spinning-Top'

Since this case is very far from being unique in the type of UFO it describes, there is ample scope for some positive research to be done. From my own memory of past records, of cases on just the NUFON and UFOIN files, I can recollect several examples of near identical UFOs. The spinning-top is a common everyday object to which the UFO type is compared. The humming noise is very common, and an actual spinning or rotation of the object is often seen too. I believe there is much we could do by initiating 'Project Spinning-Top' to collect together all reports of this specific UFO type and search for common denominators. Who knows, it may offer invaluable clues about the nature of UFOs... or some kinds of UFO at least. Certainly it has to be useful to search for patterns in the data, rather than just go on collecting case upon case.

Anyone willing to offer assistance to this project should contact me, whether their help be theoretical or practical. And it would help if you scan your own personal records, books and magazines, suggesting cases that seem to you to be of the 'Spinning-Top' variety. Please write to:- Jenny Randles, 9 Crossfield Road, Wallasey, Wirral L44 9EH.

'LIGHTS OF FANCY' STEUART CAMPBELL

Steuart Campbell presents an alternative viewpoint towards Paul Devereux's book EARTH LIGHTS (Turnstone Press, 1982) that was reviewed by Jenny Randles in the last issue (Vol 3, No 3).

Like the traditional Christmas pudding, this book contains a bit of everything - UFOs, geology, physics, psychometry, geomancy, ley lines, ancient monuments, ESP ... - but, like the pudding, it also contains some valuable coins (see below). However, the average sceptic is likely to find the dish too rich!

With the help of an amateur geologist (McCartney), the author proposes that UFOs are a 'terrestrial discharge phenomenon' caused by stress in geological faults. (It is an idea floated by Persinger and Lafreniere in Canada, and lent credibility by the work of Brady in the USA). However, although it is emphasised that UFOs are probably a phenomenon generated by undetected stress in a fault (and there is no reason why stress on its own should produce and phenomena), it is also emphasised that UFO incidence must be related to earthquake epicentre data, 'rather than simply to faults.' Strangely, Devereux does not follow his own advice. Throughout, emphasis is placed on the coincidence of UFO sightings with fault lines, and when he does show a (population corrected) map of UFO sightings in England and Wales alongside a map of earthquake epicentres, the lack of a correlation at Warminster is outstanding. (Elsewhere he shows that there is a

fault at Warminster - as if that resolved the problem). The Warminster failure is not admitted, but he does express disappointment about the lack of a good correlation in the Manchester to Leeds area. However, this is shrugged off as an insignificant anomaly! Again, a 'close correlation' is claimed between faulting and stone circles in the Outer Hebrides, but this is not shown on the relevant map. Many circles are near no fault, and few faults run near circles. Only Callanish shows any correlation, and that could be coincidence.

Lack of rigorous scientific approach is also evident elsewhere: - In discussing distribution of UFO and 'meteorological events' in Leicestershire, he makes no mention of population distribution, except that (elsewhere) he does acknowledge that concentration around Leicester might be due to this factor. In fact, his UFO plots show concentrations around Leicester, Loughborough and Hinckley, as you would expect.

- A correlation is claimed between the distribution of megalithic stone circles and thunderstorm days per year, but if he had plotted the area of 'high thunderstorm frequency' (over 12 thunderstorms days/year) correctly, he would have found that a large belt of circles in the Peak District lies within the area!

- It is claimed that there

is an almost 100% certainty of a relationship between the distribution of stone circles and the older (pre 280 Myr) rocks of England and Wales. It is true that most extant stone circles lie in the north and west of Britain, the very areas of older rock. However, development and farming could have destroyed stone circles in the south and east, or the people who built the circles could have been inhabitants only of the upland areas! You may as well argue that there is a relationship between the Cornish language and tin! (The lack of some mathematical symbols in his Chi squared calculation is unhelpful.)

- It is claimed that there are 22 years between peaks in the solar cycle. In fact peaks occur on average every 11 years, but consecutive cycles are of opposite polarity.

- It is claimed that the Great Glen megalithic sites are so located because of the fault (which forms the Glen) and Devereux notes the story of the submerged stone circles. However, there are no megalithic sites along the Glen and the 'submerged circles' are piles of stones dumped during canal construction in the 19th century!

- It is claimed that recent research has failed to explain the 'incredible and widespread heat' to which Scotland's vitrified forts were subjected. In fact it is known that the forts were built of stone with bonding timbers, and when (eventually) these timbers, and any internal timber structure, caught fire, circumstances were produced in which the stone melted.

With such a catalogue of error, it is surprising that there are some useful insights. It will be expected that I applaud the conception of UFOs as low mass natural phenomena, 'despite their appearance', and that 'UFO entities are not occupants of a craft, but further formations of the same material.' I have long believed this to be true. Devereux also recognizes that UFOs are a protean (although he clumsily calls it 'shapeshifting') phenomenon, indicating that they are not solid objects, and that their random behaviour can be mistaken for intelligence (Klass noted this in 1968). Perceptive is his recognition that UFO witnesses require professional counselling because of the 'conceptual rape' which they have undergone. Devereux rightly recognizes that the ETH 'actually affects the perception of the (UFO) phenomenon itself.' In fact he had enough clues to draw the conclusion that witnesses interpret the phenomenon (subjectively) in terms of their prevalent cultural imagery. Instead he proposes that the UFO forms a real objective projection of the witness' subconscious mental images! This is

ridiculous.

One may conclude that this book is muddled because Devereux himself is muddled. He has some good ideas, but they are barely discernible among the bad ones. Nor does the uneven and occasionally juvenile style (eg, '... to bungle his thinking.') and complicated language help. ('The archetype constellated in spiritual realms can fan out through mental levels and appear as an essentially transient spatial or temporal fact in the material universe.')

The tone oscillates between the strictly scientific and the wildly speculative and it is disconcerting to find quotations from mystery books and scientific works juxtaposed as if they were both equally authoritative. There are also quite a few printing errors, and the lack of page numbers for quoted books and titles of quoted articles is annoying.

The only illustration of ball lightning (The Jennings photograph, but printed reversed) is not, as claimed, 'one of the few authenticated photographs of ball lightning in existence.' It was caused by a street lamp! But the book does contain two accounts of black ball lightning, one incident witnessed by the author himself, although he did not recognize the phenomenon.

The text is interrupted unaccountably by some photographs which are not referred to in the text. A frame from the Day film is shown with a caption claiming that the UFO was travelling at 300 mph! As far as I know, the object's speed has not yet been established. Then one of the Trindade Island UFO photographs is attributed to 'anon.', when surely everyone knows that the photographer was Almiro Barauna!

There is much padding by repetition of accounts from other publications, lengthy case histories and a tedious essay on prehistoric monuments and cultures. The discussion of UFO hypotheses is flawed for lack of good argument. In fact no argument was put against the Hollow Earth Theory, and the philosophical arguments against time travel were not used.

Devereux may be correct in claiming that UAPs are 'planetary ectoplasm', but he has not demonstrated it. I do not think that he has even found evidence that points in that direction. Erady has shown that rock can produce anomalous lights not when stressed, but when it actually breaks. Earth rocks break only during seismic events, and yet Devereux claims that UAPs are produced not by earthquakes but by stress either before or afterwards. There is no justification for this view and there must be suspicion that the whole concept that UFOs have something to do with geology is a false trail.

RENDLESHAM REVISITED

IAN MRZYGLOD & MARTIN SHIPP

As recent articles and rumours portray, there is a firm belief by many that something unknown crashed into Rendlesham Forest, near Woodbridge, Suffolk. Woodbridge is a small village nine miles north-east of Ipswich. The stories reveal how several people in the vicinity witnessed strange lights between 27th and 30th December 1980, and from these reports emerged gradually an account of how something came down into the woods. The nature of this alleged object has been a topic of major controversy since the very first snippets of information became available, and this is due to the small pieces of inside information that have been leaked from various personnel right from the beginning.

It seems that on one hand, there is the story that an aircraft crashed (and the possibility of this aircraft being armed with nuclear weapons has been made ripe), and the story of a UFO landing or crashing was 'leaked' to cover up the real horror of a near nuclear disaster. Another faction seem to think that the 'nuclear aircraft' story (which has also been 'leaked') was put out to take the attention off of a real UFO landing. Since this mystery began to unfold at the beginning of 1981, nothing has been made clear whatsoever by the authorities involved or by the investigators involved.

Dot Street and Brenda Butler, the two main investigators into this case, have provided a great number of summaries and interim reports, and from these have emerged several articles:

- 1) BUFORA BULLETIN No 004, Dot Street, p20-21.
- 2) NORTHERN UFO NETWORK - CASE HISTORIES, Jenny Randles.
- 3) FLYING SAUCER REVIEW Vol 27, No 6, Jenny Randles, p4-8.
- 4) THE UNEXPLAINED, Volume 9, Jenny Randles, p2101-2105.

Appreciating that this case could have extreme importance, it was necessary to visit the area and conduct an on-site survey to try and establish if the case did have some substance. With the agreement of Jenny Randles, a couple of SCUFORI (Swindon Centre for UFO Research and Investigation) investigators went to Rendlesham Forest. The two team members went to establish whether or not there was a case to answer, and that it was not just a hoax or something that had grown out of proportion from just a few rumours.

Here follows the SCUFORI report:-

Two members of SCUFORI visited Rendlesham Forest for a three-day period in late September 1982. During this stay, with the assistance of BUFORA investigator Dot Street and private UFO researcher Brenda Butler, both Martin

Shipp and Charles Affleck were able to ascertain the sequence of events which were alleged to have occurred during the last few days of December 1980.

SCUFORI's objective was not to investigate the sighting itself, but to try and determine whether the case would warrant an in-depth investigation at a later date. They managed to visit the area where the object was reported to have come down, but despite much travelling, were unable to interview a single witness who had claimed to have seen the object. Shipp and Affleck did, however, talk to several people in the immediate area in a hope that they might yield some information.

The investigators were somewhat handicapped by Dot Street (with whom they stayed) because, although she had boundless enthusiasm, she was very disorganised. Her account of the event was extremely difficult to follow and the two SCUFORI investigators had to keep requestioning her to make certain that the right information was being obtained. Brenda, however, gave clear answers to any questions posed, with the exception of those which concerned the airbase personnel. Therefore, with a limited amount of time, Shipp and Affleck set about looking into what had been prematurely termed as 'The Rendlesham Forest Mystery'. They did not expect to solve the mystery in one visit but felt that one or two 'grey areas' needed clearing up. The investigations, in their opinion, did reveal inconsistencies with the accounts given by Dot and Brenda. These need to be dealt with here as they are crucial to the credibility of the entire report. They are:

1) The 'Landing Site'.

The area in Rendlesham Forest where the object was supposed to have landed/crashed (OS map reference: Sheet 169, 362488) was visited with the intention of determining the exact spot of the incident, and to see if there were any residue effects. Dot had telephoned Affleck earlier in the week and told him that when she had visited the area recently, nothing was growing there. This was nearly two years after the event had initially taken place.

From the point where they left the car, Dot, Shipp and Affleck walked approximately half a mile to the site. This walk gave the SCUFORI members a good overall picture of the forest's make up, which consisted mainly of large areas of pinetrees planted very close to each other. These had been put there under the guidance of the Forestry Commission as a commercial venture. Between these areas were rough tracks and the occasional small opening. Arriving at the site, they were amazed to see a huge area where there were no trees or any plant life. The ground was very dry and covered in pieces of branch and dead leaves. The location was directly in line with the end of the runway at RAF Woodbridge airbase.

Using a Geiger-counter, the area was tested for signs of possible radiation, but as expected, none registered. This result was inconclusive as either there had been no radiation there at anytime, or it had been and had since washed away. The ground was then examined very closely and several examples of plant life sprouting through the dead leaves were found. The branches were also looked at and they were found to be dry and very brittle. They also had the colour of silvery-white.

Moving out from the centre of the area to the edges, the plant life, mainly ferns, was more abundant and very dense by the time the trees were reached.

The question to ask was: what could have caused such a huge area to be almost devoid of life? Dot Street was certain that this area had been subjected to radiation given off by the object as it came down, thus killing off all the life in the immediate vicinity. SCUFORI had other ideas. Firstly, it was noticed that buried beneath all the debris of leaves and branches were stumps of tree trunks. A closer look at these revealed that a saw had been the responsible instrument. The forest had obviously been developed to provide wood and therefore the trees had been cultivated in a certain way. It seemed probable that trees that once stood in the area had been cut down and taken away. Furthermore, the dead branches which were scattered about had obviously been stripped off the main trunk and discarded as they were of little use.

The two investigators decided that it would be worthwhile checking the forest to see if similar areas could be found. This had not been done by either Dot or Brenda. After searching for just a short while, a spot was found that appeared to be identical to the alleged crash/landing site. The ground was again littered with treestumps, dead leaves and branches, and the entire area was barren. However, two factors present gave this location an entirely different look. Firstly, there were several rows of tree trunks stocked into piles. They were stripped of their branches and cut to similar lengths, and looked ready for shipping out. Secondly, the ground was inundated with tyre marks from a very large vehicle. It was obvious that this area and the previous one had been subjected to the same process - tree felling - and not due to the landing of some type of craft, as claimed by Dot. Naturally, this area had only recently been worked on whereas the 'landing' site's tree felling took place some time ago. The actual felling and moving of the trees using the large machinery kills off all the flora in the immediate area, and then when the branches are cut away, they are just left on the ground and for some reason turn silver-white in colour. To find out how this felling procedure is carried out, and why the branches discolour, Shipp, Affleck and Dot set about locating the offices of the Forestry Commission. At this time, Dot was not very happy at SCUFORI's findings but agreed with them that the site was cleared through tree felling.



Example of the flora sporadically growing in the 'landing area'.

Dot thought she knew of the Forestry Commission offices whereabouts, as she had spoken to several of the forestry workers concerning the scorched tree-tops. This was another reason why SCUFORI wanted to see them. The journey to the offices took them directly past the end of the runway of RAF Woodbridge. There were notices stating 'Prohibited Place' and 'Private' so the airbase was observed from a distance. Arriving at the Forestry Commission offices, it was found that they were closed. However, Shipp and Affleck did see the large tractors and pulling vehicles parked at the rear. These were no doubt used in the felling and their size clearly indicated why the areas were so devastated. Nevertheless, it was the opinion of the two investigators that the alleged landing/crash site was devoid of life due to tree felling and not because of an object coming down.

2) The Farmer Visited by Men-In-Black (MIBs)
In Jenny Randles' reports in the aforementioned publications (previous page), it was stated that a farmer and his wife, who lived very near the airbase, were paid a visit by two 'men in black'. To quote from THE UNEXPLAINED (p 2104) "... another farmer and his wife told of being visited a couple of days after the 'crash' by two 'officials'- men in black, in the classic tradition!"

It is interesting to note that in Brenda Butler's written report there is no mention of the two gentlemen's attire, let alone its colour. She merely says, "The farmer said two men had been there asking questions about the farmer who reported the UFO." As this farmer only lived about half a mile from the airbase, it was felt that it would be useful to visit him and his wife to try and clear up this man in black situation.

After parking a distance from the farmhouse, Dot was asked to remain in the car as it was agreed that if they saw her they might not

wish to co-operate as she had seen them previously. Only the farmer was available and he said that he had not seen anything, but heard stories from other farmers in the local inn. However, he does remember two people coming to see him and asking questions about the alleged landing. The visitors were a man and a woman, and he recalls the woman wearing a blue and white scarf. He had no recollection of two men - dressed in black or otherwise - calling on him. When shown a reference to this from Flying Saucer Review, he did not know what to make of it, but was adamant that two men had not visited - it was definitely a man and a woman.

Returning to the car, Shipp and Affleck questioned Dot about this, and it transpired that it was her and a male companion that the farmer was referring to. It appeared that yet another part of the story did not fit. The farmer did mention that a farm further up the road had livestock (cattle) and it was reported that these had played-up on the night of the alleged UFO landing. This was to be the investigators' port of call.

3) Animal Disturbances

In Brenda Butler's written report it says, on the night in question, "... the farmer phoned the Base (RAF Woodbridge) again two weeks later after the first landing complaining about his cattle playing up ... he was told it was an aircraft but there was no aircraft flying on that night." This was the same farmer the investigators were destined for, and the farm was about one mile from their previous call. Unfortunately, the head farmer was out on business, but the two SCUFORI investigators were able to speak to a farm-hand. He said that aircraft pass very low over the farm all the time and the cattle were used to it. But, sometimes, cattle new to the area might have occasion to be disturbed. If some of the cattle had been affected by something in the sky, it is possible that these were indeed cattle which were not accustomed to the aircraft and were naturally scared. Without being able to discuss the matter with the head farmer, it was not possible to formulate any conclusions, but it is worth mentioning that even if the cattle were disturbed, there is no reason to connect this with the incident that was reported to have occurred at the airbase.

4) Effects on the Car

It was stated in Brenda's report that as she and Dot Street drove along a track in Rendlesham Forest on their way to see witnesses, the car (Ford Cortina Estate Mark 1) Brenda was driving appeared to act in a very strange manner. Brenda says, "It was getting late by the time we got to the forest, we entered a track which lead through the forest. ... we came to a clearing, then my car started playing up, it started vibrating like mad. I carried on further along the track and my dog who was in the back started jumping and going round and round. The car was still vibrating and picking up speed, I was telling the dog to sit down and be quiet, as she was whimpering,

but she still jumped about. The car was still going very fast, I should say about 60/70 mph. I was very worried, Dot was telling me to slow down. I told her I could not as I was not doing it, she was getting worried as she thought I was doing it to scare her, but I was not. After about $\frac{1}{2}$ mile the car stopped, I was trembling. Dot looked at me and said I looked as though I had seen a ghost, she had never seen anyone look so scared. The dog had quietened down by this time, but there were lumps of fur all over the back of the car. The dog is an alsation. When I had recovered a bit from that experience, I got out to check the car engine, I could find nothing wrong with it."



The SCUFORI investigators driving the LADA to test the conditions of the track.

Shipp drove down that very same lane in a LADA Saloon 1200 and found it extremely difficult to keep control of the car at 40 mph, although it felt as though the car was going much faster due to close proximity of the trees bordering the track. The lane was in a very bad state, with potholes everywhere. There were very few straight open sections, but numerous blind bends where it was impossible to see what was coming and even more difficult to drive round fast. Shipp had to constantly slow down and change gears.

What is interesting is, as they drove along at 40 mph, Dot (who was in the back seat and could not see the speedometer) shouted out that this felt like the speed that she and Brenda had been travelling at. She also had theories that it was something to do with water running along the track and power cables overhead affecting the electrical system of the car. For some reason, it was not affecting the Lada. That evening, Shipp and Affleck questioned Brenda about her speed and told her that the Lada could only manage 40 mph. She replied that the car's speed was definitely between 60 and 70 mph, although as stated in her report, "... the car was still going very fast, I should say about 60/70 mph." Brenda did not look at the speedometer, but Dot did and it was she who thought she could see the needle touching that speed. However, from a passenger's position, it is always difficult

to read dashboard instruments due to the angle of view. Therefore, Dot's statement cannot be taken as being too accurate. It is possible that she was actually looking at the rev-counter as this was present in Brenda's car. Depending on which gear is engaged, the rev-counter can give confusingly high readings, especially if in a lower gear, which would have been necessary at some stage on the track. Furthermore, Brenda's car is old and shaky. She said that the car could stop while in fourth gear without disengaging the clutch, although the clutch plates were not worn. It could be possible that the accelerator stuck and the vibration was simply a combination of a very bumpy road and an old car rattling under the poor conditions.

As for the dog, it does have a heart condition and this can cause convulsions during a heart attack. The excitement of the two women and being thrown about in the car may have brought on such an attack.

One will never know what really happened with Brenda's car that evening, but from the SCUFORI investigators' own experience of driving along that track, they felt that the two women's account may contain a degree of exaggeration. The lane eventually led to the house of further witnesses and it was here that they next called.

5) Television/Electrical Interference.

Two old brothers who lived in the heart of Rendlesham Forest and near the airbase of RAF Woodbridge were visited by Dot and Brenda as part of their investigations in the immediate area. The two men did not actually see anything, but said that the television and lights kept flickering during January 1981. In addition to this, they had noticed an increase in military activity during this time.

After an uneventful journey along the track, the three investigators arrived at the house. It was indeed isolated. Only one of the gentlemen was there; the other was in hospital recovering from a road accident. Their garden was full of all kinds of junk; broken-down shacks, old cards etc, and a huge aerial swaying in the wind. (It extended above the roof-top). They questioned the man and he told the investigators that the aerial was needed to receive the television signal due to the poor reception. The trees make a natural 'wall' to interfere with the signal. Apparently, television and electrical disturbances are a common event for the two gentlemen and they accept it as a price for living in the forest. That January was not really an exceptional month, although in winter, the reception is made worse as a result of the bad weather. It is the opinion of Shipp and Affleck that the interference was caused (and is still being caused) by the house being located in a dense forest. Bad weather would have accounted for the electrical disturbances.

The rest of the weekend was occupied trying to see witnesses to the actual event, but the attempts came to a dead-end.

Conclusions.

As previously stated, it was not SCUFORI's intention to investigate the sighting; only to attempt to determine if the case was worthy of a detailed follow up. The findings over the three days left a feeling of confusion, as previous readings in the other publications, Flying Saucer Review, BUFORA BULLETIN etc, all gave the impression that these events actually occurred as described.

Naturally, due to the fact that key witnesses were not interviewed, any assessment of the whole case was made worse. Nevertheless, in three days, the two SCUFORI investigators had uncovered five instances where things did not appear quite as reported. Based on this, it is quite possible that further research would locate even more discrepancies. All of the five events investigated may have occurred; the car may have reached the speed claimed, the cattle could have been disturbed and the television/electrical interference been worse than usual. But there is absolutely no evidence that these events were remotely connected to an alleged UFO.

In addition to this, the entire report hinges on one thing, and the other events are just superfluous. Brenda Butler was the only person told of the events that occurred at the airbase. The airforce personnel had confided in her, and in her alone. Brenda swore not to reveal the identities of the informants to anyone. Apparently, this was not the first time that UFOs had visited RAF Woodbridge. According to Brenda's contacts, they had been there twice before, and many other military airbases in the country had received such visitations.

Therefore, the Rendlesham Forest case relies on only the information obtained by Brenda. It does seem unusual that these airforce men should inform her of these events, knowing that she would not keep this knowledge to herself (which she obviously never). Why did they not anonymously contact the national newspapers with this sensational story instead of just telling an enthusiastic amateur UFO investigator? It must be said that Shipp and Affleck were not happy with the way that Brenda received the knowledge of the event, and believe that it may be suspect. Further research in that area could be interesting.

In summing up, it is questionable as to whether something unusual did occur at RAF Woodbridge air base, in late December 1980. However, one thing is certain, and that is that the discrepancies unearthed must cast doubts on the entire case, and in SCUFORI's opinion the case does not warrant further investigation.

- So concludes the SCUFORI report on their visit to Rendlesham Forest. They conclude that this case is suspect in that the whole concept of a crashed UFO is based on the information obtained by one person. It is true that airbase officials, one would think, would not

reveal classified information to one who was so enthusiastically involved in ufology. It must have been apparent to these informers that Brenda Butler would not (could not?) keep such an account secret, and therefore it must be surmised that the story was conceived in the knowledge that it would shortly become public.

Yet it appears that it was not only Brenda Butler who was given information. Paul Begg (author of INTO THIN AIR) also received a story that a UFO had been tracked on radar that was headed for Suffolk. The tracking station was a civil radar establishment, and a couple of days later the military arrived at the base and took away the radar tapes of the incident. Needless to say, this all happened at the time of the Rendlesham mystery.

Secondly, Norman Oliver (Director of Investigations for EUFOS) was at the time editor of EUFORA's EUFORA JOURNAL, and he received a message from America from a serviceman who had returned after a stint in the UK. He told Oliver that something big had happened at Woodbridge at the turn of the year (1980/81). In the meantime, Dot and Brenda were working on their aspect of the case and were making the enquiries which led to the publication of the Rendlesham Forest articles.

So Brenda Butler wasn't the only one who heard snippets of stories. But of course, this does not validate the story or give it any credence.

SCUFORI found other similar areas to Dot and Brenda's "Landing site", and this does pose the possibility that they happened to stumble upon just one of many areas that had been cleared by felling at an earlier date. They found out that the 'peripheral' events to the case had been exaggerated out of proportion and possibly even non-existent.

What they did not check was the main event; whether or not an object descended into the forest in late December 1980. They never had the time to do so, and it would have been extremely difficult to uncover information that was somewhat well-concealed two years prior to their visit. But overall they are not convinced anything did happen.

As with many cases that have been promising in their original presentation, much of the additional mystery is only added to give the



Martin Shipp (SCUFORI) checks for radiation traces with a Geigercounter. Dot Street is to the extreme left.

story more intrigue and interest. The famous Dyfed flap of a few years back was found to be coated in a wealth of imaginative gloss, and underneath there was found to be little foundation. It is not clear what the position is with the Rendlesham Forest case, but as one of the few investigation groups who have actually ventured into the forest itself, it is only just that SCUFORI's opinions are treated with respect. After all, they had nothing to gain or lose by their efforts; only the reward of determining as to whether or not others should spend further time and money on investigations. They feel that others would only waste that time and money on this case.

As with most UFO events that involve the military at some level or another, very little information of any satisfactory level is ever released to those interested. Rendlesham will go the way of many others in the past and it will be recorded as another great enigma of the 1980s. It has received immortal coverage in THE UNEXPLAINED (which I understand is on its third run). It has been reported in Flying Saucer Review (still the world's most famous and respected UFO periodical) and it has also been featured in other publications as well as the ones mentioned at the beginning of this article.

SCUFORI did not find out whether or not anything came down in the forest, be it an aircraft or a UFO, but as nothing is ever likely to emerge from this case, does it really matter?

SS&S Publications have produced their 1983 catalogue of books and special items. This catalogue is free to anyone who writes for a copy, to Gene Duplantier, 17 Shetland Street, Willowdale, Ontario, Canada, M2N 1K5. Well worth obtaining a copy.

Bonnie Wheeler of the Cambridge UFO Research Group, 2 Augusta Street, Cambridge, Ontario, Canada, M1R 1G1, publishes a huge quarterly newsletter packed with information of all sorts. Approximately 50 pages which should last a good week. Write for subscription details to above.

JOURNAL FÜR UFO-FORSCHUNG. The official journal of Gemeinschaft zur Erforschung unbekannter Phänomene (GEP) is highly recommended for those who can read German and take ufology seriously. For details of subscription rates, write to Hans-Werner Peiniger, GEP, Postfach 23 61, D-5880 Lüdenscheld 1, West Germany.

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