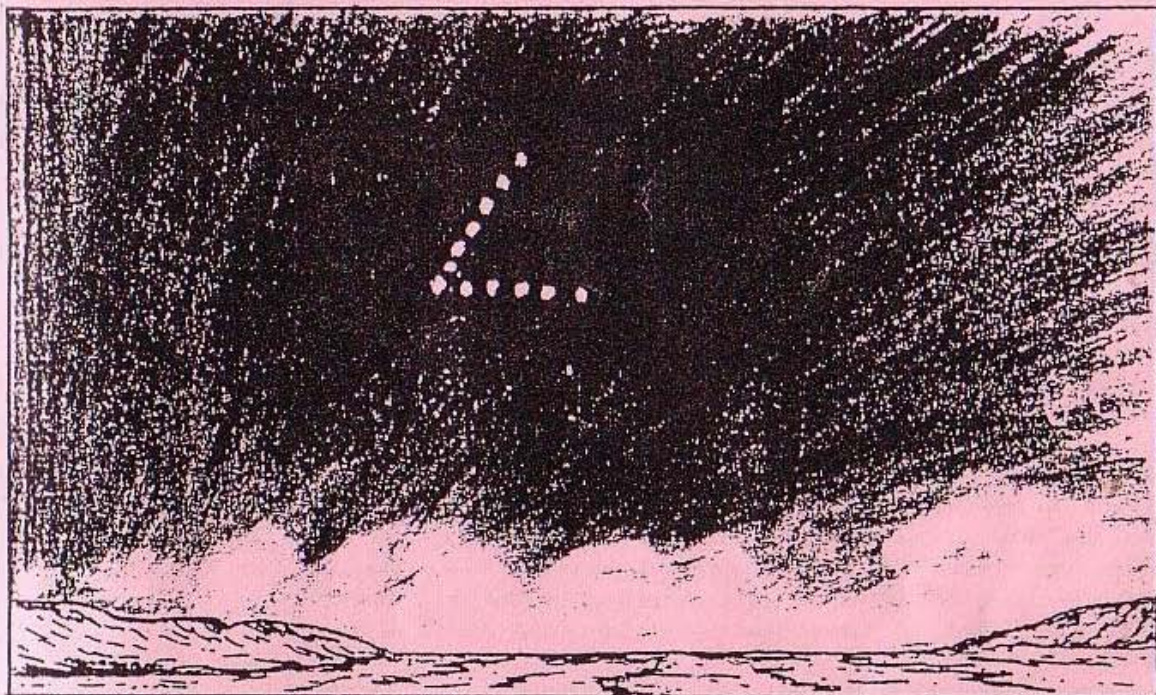


NORTHERN UFO NEWS

1 6 6

Summer 1994



SEE CASE 5720

COVER BY: BILL CALLAGHAN

EDITED BY: - JENNY RANDLES

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37 HEATHBANK ROAD CHEADLE HEATH STOCKPORT CHESHIRE SK3 0UP

It is time for the now customary 'sorry we are late' announcement. I do hope that the very long piece below will go some way towards explaining the special circumstances this time around, but also work on 'Strange but true?' (see later in this issue) is taking up more time than expected. I realise how frustrating these delays are to subscribers, but I promise you will not miss out. This is (believe it or not!) the April issue. You will still get your full quota of issues on subscription for the year and I will have that anniversary special some time during 1994. Things will hopefully start to get back on track from now on...at least that's what I keep telling myself.

J. R. Comments. . .

As many of you know, the past few months have been personally very difficult for a number of reasons. I have said little about what went on within BUFORA late last year, in the hope that things would sort themselves out, and, indeed, because I have continued to support that association as Britain's premier national group. My grievance is with its governing body, not with the association itself, whose aims I continue to endorse.

However, BUFORA's decision not to tell its membership why I left the council now gives me little option but to comment. In the August 1994 issue of the magazine, UFO Times, I am still listed as a member of the BUFORA board of directors, despite the fact that I was forced to resign in November 1993! Moreover, readers have had no 'Investigators Diary' for several issues of that publication without any explanation. This was my regular job, so members must surely suspect that this omission is my fault.

In fact, I had to quit against my wishes as BUFORA's Director of Investigations - a post held since 1981. This was because Philip Mantle raised a vote of no confidence in me, citing a private phone conversation which I had with a senior BUFORA director as cause. That director had, it seems, taped my call, during which I noted some worries that Mantle - as secretary to BUFORA's investigation team - was attending a meeting launching a national UFO investigation body in his capacity as that other groups chairman. More directly, this group had arranged their launch date to be the same as our long scheduled, regular meeting of BUFORA's investigation team.

My job brief included the need to keep BUFORA's investigation team together, so I had to be concerned by these events. As such I consulted our investigators and we then chose to take the matter no further. I advised the man who had taped my call of our reasoning; we had made our point and did not want to alienate Mantle from BUFORA, as we felt he had much to offer the group. But - eight months later - that same officer secretly played his tape to Mantle, who almost immediately resigned his post with the other national group and within a few days brought his vote of no confidence against me.

At a private meeting with Mantle and this other BUFORA officer soon afterward I tried to resolve the matter amicably by offering to resign from my director of investigations job, if the investigations team concurred, and to support Mantle in this role if he wanted to do it. In exchange I could do other things for the association on council. This was a genuine offer - not made out of any guilt - as I stand by my actions completely. Rather I wanted to avoid a public split amongst senior BUFORA personnel and was willing to put self interest behind that need. But Mantle insisted he wanted me out of BUFORA council - full stop - giving me no realistic option but to resign. My resignation was not contested by council. Mantle immediately took on the investigators post as well as other BUFORA work and I have avoided dealing with him since. I am simply unable to condone his actions.

In a June 1994 letter to investigator Margaret Fry - one of several valued colleagues (including BUFORA director Mike Wootten) who did offer support - Mantle describes my failure to accept his offer to just forget what occurred six months ago as being reminiscent of a 'pathetic child'.

You may agree with this, or not, but please decide for yourself. I just consider it all unbecoming of those invested with the power offered when you have control over a large organisation such as BUFORA.

For me, after devoting years to BUFORA, I feel rather let down by former council colleagues. There was no payment, in case you were wondering, as some evidently were, since only the BUFORA office gets expenses; although it does cost a fair bit to attend bi-monthly meetings by train in London.

In his letter to Margaret Fry, Mantle talks of a rebellion that never happened. I should make clear that I have not encouraged BUFORA members to quit. Indeed, by stating firmly that I was staying with the association, continuing my work on UFO Call and refusing entreaties to launch a rival network, I discouraged that prospect. Yet about half a dozen accredited investigators did still quit, as their conscience would not allow otherwise. Several joined Quest. The Irish branch separated itself from BUFORA over this issue, which most BUFORA members have never been told about. Other AIs remain with BUFORA but have expressed their views to council and UFO Times, although no such concerns have been published for the membership to read.

There is no rebellion, which has failed or otherwise (although, if I were still investigations coordinator, I would not be complacent about the loss of six key investigators plus an entire BUFORA branch - a large chunk of the active team). I wish (and intend) to stay with BUFORA, as an ordinary member, but cannot take part in a governing body in whom I have no faith.

To some this may seem academic. Indeed Magonia magazine has already implied this is just an irrelevant power politics squabble. I disagree. BUFORA is Britain's premier UFO group. How it is run, what decisions it makes, where it goes in the future, all matter a great deal to me - as they should to any serious UFOlogist in this country. Even if you are not a member, BUFORA reflects your work and image to the world at large by virtue of being seen as a mirror held up to very public gaze.

The above set of incidents were but the final confrontation. Other worthy figures quit council in recent years; eg Paul Fuller - who left a few weeks before I did. There is a general malaise of which this ultimate furore was but a symptom. The launch of 'The New UFOlogist' (first planned at a meeting in Sheffield in August 1993) was a response to those worries and had nothing to do with my departure from BUFORA some months later. There are bigger issues at stake here than petty squabbles within the BUFORA council.

I just hope that this sets the record straight around the world.

However, on a completely different level, something else happened which illustrates the unsavoury side of UFOlogy and thus delayed this issue. I will now discuss it, whilst emphasising that I have no idea who was behind it. Indeed I stress that I am in no way inferring that any named (or unnamed) past (or present) BUFORA officer had any role in the events that took place, other than - perhaps - very indirectly and unintended, as noted below.

As some of you may have known for years, as many others may now be learning for the first time in this editorial and as more than one or two probably discovered from the News of the World in June, I have a medical problem known as trans-sexualism. No doctor yet knows what causes it, except that it starts at birth, and it is believed to be genetic in nature.

Without going into great detail, and this is not the place to do so, this problem required years of treatment and many painful operations to correct - a process that occurred in my case 20 years ago. It completely altered my life, resulting in what is often incorrectly called a sex-change. In fact the scientific term is gender reassignment, and this more accurately describes the terrible course of treatment that is involved.

I have never been ashamed or unduly secretive about this. In the past 20 years I have lived a normal life and it has simply faded into the background. It has no major day to day relevance any more. However, in 1975 I felt that the BUFORA council needed to know about my condition when I was first invited to become a member of their board. It seemed proper that they find out from me rather than be exposed to difficulties if they heard of it in future. So I shared this with them in the same confidence that all board members would describe any relevant personal aspects of their lives.

However, it seems not to have remained confidential. Over the years I have found that many UFOlogists heard tales about my past. Sometimes BUFORA personnel were cited by them as a source. I guess that this kind of thing escalates from rumour and just becomes rife. I know it was probably to be expected and was indiscretion, not anything sinister. Rarely does anyone challenge me directly on this issue. Once a British UFOlogist (not a BUFORA officer I stress) tried a form of blackmail, offering £10,000 to reveal the truth to the Sunday Sport. I refused to take notice and they went away.

There has been one reason why I have never discussed this openly. As a writer, I would have appreciated the chance to help others by talking about my condition and describing how I faced its terrible difficulties. However, there were young children in my family who had been born in the past 20 years and who knew nothing of what had occurred. As I was lucky enough to have a close family - something many victims of this disease lose because of its inevitable stigma - I had to respect their wishes.

A family meeting had decided that when all of these children were old enough to understand they would be told. That would have happened in the near future. But our hands were forced by someone whose identity remains unknown and who risked turmoil for these children by doing what they did.

I was visited out of the blue by a News of the World reporter, who claimed he was on a UFO story. Without an appointment or being told what it was about, I refused to let him in. Next day he phoned to announce that he knew all about my past and the paper were carrying the story to its 5 million readers three days hence, whether I talked to them or not.

I explored all options. However, there was little to be done. All I could discover was that a UFOlogist (and even the newspaper claimed not to know that persons identity) had worked with a freelance journalist (whom they did know, but refused to name, because of 'journalistic ethics!'). The journalist and UFOlogist had obtained various official records about me. They even had my parents marriage certificate. The paper were paying their sources for their submitted story but really wanted to talk to me.

After a family meeting the one important factor we saw was to prevent the children suffering abuse at school. The paper agreed to let me vet the story in advance if I talked to them. So I did. We cut it down appreciably, they removed things I asked to be cut and excised reference to BUFORA, as they came to me knowing all about my split with the association and last years council meeting when I was forced to resign. Whoever their source was knew more about these events than did most of the BUFORA membership; another reason I had to write this long editorial. There was no way a tabloid was going to know more than members of an association I have respected so long.

Who would perform this kind of shabby act? I have no idea; although I gather others in UFOlogy are pretty fired up to try to find out. Frankly, I am less concerned for now about that than in containing how this effects the rest of my family. I guess that whoever did this was attempting to destroy my credibility, presumably for their own uncertain ends. But what anybody says about me, personally, does not worry me one bit. I can answer any questions on that and it only bothers me how it effects other people.

So there you have it. All I can say is that, if you are a UFOlogist and there are things that you would rather not see aired in public, then either get out of this field or closely watch your backs. This subject has some people in it who will evidently stop at nothing to get their own way.

Already I have heard the tale that this is an MoD plot out to weaken UFOlogy. Flattering as such nonsense may be, I am sure this was just the act of a nasty UFOlogist - what Philip Mantle might well call a pathetic child.

NB: BUFORA and Philip Mantle have right of reply, of course, if they want a say.

THE NEW UFOLOGIST

In June a new UFO venture was launched in Britain, which has been planned by a group of people since last years Yorkshire conference.

The New UFOlogist is primarily a magazine, but with quite a bit more to it than that. It aims to plug a gap as a glossy format but serious journal that will reflect scientific aspects of UFOlogy - with research reports and in-depth case histories. It has no set views and will not reject well reasoned arguments on any theme, including the ETH, but it is fair to say that you are more likely to find down to earth material in here.

This publication is different. It is not tied to a group of any kind. The first issue has been funded by - and put together under the auspices of - six investigators and researchers. Their names show the diversity.

They include Mike Wootten, BUFORA director of publications, and Michael Hudson (who edits BUFORAs excellent news cutting service - UFO Newsfile). This demonstrates clearly this is not an anti-BUFORA venture in any sense.

Other participants are Rodney Howarth, the last remaining director of the erstwhile IUN, noted investigator and researcher, Albert Budden, editor of 'The Crop Watcher', Paul Fuller, and myself. From issue two much missed perceptive UFO writer, Andy Roberts, former editor of 'UFO Brigantia', will be back to offer his wry insights on the passing UFO scene.

This is only the start. Aside from articles by Paul Fuller (with a major status report on crop circles), Albert Budden (a remarkable look at the possible link between ball lightning and animal mutilations) and a new Todmorden window area CE 3 from Roy Sandbach and I, Paul Devereux contributes the lead article to issue one with a significant discussion of the relationship between abductions and earthlights.

Every issue will add a column devoted to letting the skeptics have their say. We have promises of possible support from the likes of psychologist Dr Sue Blackmore and physicist Dr Paul Davies. We plan to produce issues that nobody will be afraid to leave around the lab or in the university office, without becoming unduly dry or academic as a result. Improvements are scheduled for issue two onward (including more photographs and illustrations and a little bit more humour).

Overall, where 'The New UFOlogist' goes from issue two will be dictated, not by any editorial panel, but by its readers.

We intend to stage gatherings at which key UFOlogical issues will be discussed and readers can recommend material for the journal, even making editorial decisions on who should write each piece. In this way the content of 'The New UFOlogist' will not be selected by editors, but by its readers.

Moreover, having no group tied to it and no need to fund peripheral events like lectures, ALL profits will create a central fund purely used for investigation and research. Anyone can submit an idea for a research project or for funding to help work progress on an interesting case. At the fully open gatherings monies from the fund will be allocated by democratic vote to those projects deemed most worthy. The work will remain property of those who conduct it. They can then do what they want with it. The only condition of the central fund will be its option to publish in the journal.

Anyone who investigates a report and feels it deserves a wider audience can submit a case history, or briefer details for a 'digest'. Whilst 'The New UFOlogist' has no intention of becoming a group of any kind or launching investigations of its own, it is intended to set up a central repository of submitted files. This will not be in somebody's house, but at an open and accessible venue where any researcher can visit to utilise the data in their own work. Options for locations are presently being explored.

There are few pretensions behind 'The New UFOlogist'. It will appear approximately quarterly, and some mail order sellers and possibly a few bookstores hope to market it. But we will not sacrifice format to the gods of retail commercialism. The journal's main focus will be via subscription.

Those interested are reminded that you will not only be subscribing to a new magazine but helping to fund (via subscription and donations) real UFO research in the UK. With your help this will be to everybody's benefit.

'The New UFOlogist' costs £8 for 4 issues (plus any donation you might want to offer to help boost the research fund) (issue 1 is out now).

Pay 'The New UFOlogist' c/o 71 Knight Avenue Canterbury Kent CT2 8PY

NEWS ROUND UP

:: The IUFOPRA, former BUFORA Ireland branch, have gone from strength to strength this year. One of their most intriguing new initiatives began in June. On the fourth Wednesday of every month they have arranged to place an information desk at a major Dublin area hotel. Members of the public can report their experiences in complete confidence to an ID badged group member at this venue. This is a wonderful idea and the sort of service to the public which all groups should be happy to provide. IUFOPRA (which means, by the way, the Irish UFO and paranormal research association) now have an excellent detailed magazine describing their work. If you want to know what happens in Eire, then that is certainly the place to start. You can contact the group c/o PO Box 3070 Whitehall Dublin 9 Ireland.

:: Further north a little, Excalibur Books have taken on the role once fulfilled by Enigma in Burnley as the sole UK outlet for FATE magazine. In June this changed its format for the first time in decades, now being A4 in size (but with all the usual features). Heading for issue 550 (!), this is the worlds only monthly newsstand magazine about the paranormal and there is at least one UFO article in every issue. I believe issues cost about £2.75 from Excalibur (but they are 100 pages plus long). Contact them at:-
1 Hillside Gardens Bangor Co Down BT19 6SJ Tel: 0247 - 458579

:: Midnight Books also have a new catalogue with lots of old and new titles across a range of subjects. UFO goodies that caught my eye this time around include early works from Adamski and Keyhoe, a rare hardback of one of the first ever British books (science journalist Robert Chapman's 'UFO' - with good coverage of the 1967 wave) and you can get the Berkley paperback of my book on the Rendlesham Forest affair, only published in the USA - 'From out of the blue' (with an added chapter from the Global Communications edition updating things to early 1993). Send a large SAE for a catalogue or phone (Mon to Sat 13.30 to 20.00 only) via: - Midnight Books The Mount Ascerton Rd Sidmouth Devon EX10 9BT Tel: 0395 - 515446

:: Incidentally, on the subject of the Bentwaters affair, Colonel Charles Halt is making a flying visit to the UK late July to film an ITV interview and he'll be giving a couple of lectures. One is on 31 July at the Centenary Hall in Leeds. Another is in Manchester a day or so earlier. All I know...

:: Steve Gerrard of the Southampton group hopes to organise a conference in Spring 1995 in Portsmouth. He is looking to see how many of you might be interested in attending. If you want to offer help or advice then contact: - 25 Weston Grove Rd Wooston Southampton SO2 9EE Tel: - 0703 - 448194

:: One amazing postscript to last issues editorial on the Elite files. A few days after the NUN appeared, I received an anonymous Elite letter (same style as the rest so clearly genuine). They apologised for their expose of my role as a double government agent! It was done 'to show that we have all knowledge'. They then sympathise with my departure from BUFORA council and add; 'From the information we have, BUFORA will never be the same again.'

:: Regular readers of my books will know my delight in February when I was able to fulfill one of my ambitions, flying to Belfast to appear on the BBC-1 chat show 'Anderson on the box'. Fellow guests were David Jacobs (the other one!) - allowing me to explain that his October 1983 sighting with politician Shirley Williams (which he had just described to TV viewers on the 'Countdown' quiz show) was really a 'bolide'. He rolled the word around a few times and finally got it right. The other guest was one of my heroes - folksy singer-songwriter Al Stewart, and it made my day listening to he and guitarist Peter White's tales of woe about the music biz. I told him I'd plug his new album (Famous Last Words) - his best in years, which (not unusually) has several tracks about the paranormal, though a favourite past song of many is 'Licensed to steal', dedicated to legal eagles. '...Blow a lawyer to pieces, its the obvious way. Don't wait for a thesis, do it today...' Al had nobody particular in mind, it seems.

STRANGE BUT TRUE ?

Since March we've been working flat out on Strange but true?, based on the successful pilot aired last September (with the highest autumn rating for a TV documentary). The 7 week long series, fronted by Michael Aspel, will feature 14 cases, with dramatisations and witness interviews. This includes some UFO material. The ITV network will screen the episodes later this year.

On 18 October ITV's 'Network First' has a one-hour documentary about the UFO cover-up, BBC-2s Horizon has a programme this autumn on 'Abductions' and Channel 4's 'Equinox' comes up with one on the use and abuse of regression hypnosis. So stay inside and watch TV seems pretty good advice!

CIRCULAR LOGIC

Perhaps the big news recently is the massive windfall by Reg Presley. Reg - who? - you may be saying (if you are under 35). In the sixties he was a member of the rock group 'The Troggs' (named after some visually impaired folk living in the past) who had hits with 'Wild Thing', amongst others. Reg has now decided to focus on crop watching and UFOlogy and is a regular in the Wessex cornfields. After the success of the movie 'Four weddings and a funeral' and the number one hit 'Love is all around', covered by Wet! Wet! Wet!, but written and originally recorded by Reg, he is anticipating £1 million or so - much of which he intends to plow back into cereology and UFOlogy (including a trip to South America to spot spaceships). Reg is completing a book on his early research (working title - 'Wild Things you aren't supposed to know'). I suspect we haven't heard the last of him and how about 'Circle Aid' - the live concert. Just think of the possibilities - from covering the Beatles ('Help me if you can, I'm feeling down - and I do appreciate you being round') to a rousing chorus of 'We'll wheat again'...

The discovery and sale of a version of the Mowing Devil woodcut, uncovered a few years ago and seeming to refer to crop circles in Hertfordshire in August 1678, went to auction in Salisbury this spring. The auctioneers had thought this to be an original and set a reserve price of £700, but Paul Fuller talked to them and explained the background. As such it was decided this was an 1810 reproduction (one of about eight, it seems), with the original from 132 years earlier confirmed as being in the British Museum. As such the auctioneers reassessed its value and it went for £280.

However, this is actually very good news for cereologists. The auctioneers book and prints specialist, Bill Hoade, told Fuller that it seems very likely this wave of early 19th century copies must have come about as a result of something awakening interest in the original. The most likely something is reports around that summer of similar 'devil circles'. The hunt is now on through the available records and literature of 1810 to see if any hint emerges to give further proof of unfaked circles long before Doug and Dave were a twinkle in their great great great grandfathers eyes.

The circle magazines continue undaunted. I managed to see the Winter 1994 'Cereologist' (now edited by George Wingfield) (£7.50 for 3, from 20 Paul St Frome Somerset BA11 1DX). With a piece on simulacra (images on walls and things) it seems to be diversifying; although there is the usual avant garde material too (eg a piece discussing the range of assorted ET visitors to earth - we are told these include Sirians, Reticulan and Orionian greys, Ashtars, Pleiadeans - of two kinds - Ummites, etc, etc). But my favourite is the one suggesting yet another sober theory - that the circles are made by the plants themselves, who are apparently living emotional creatures known to communicate with one another. One wonders what a cornfield is saying when it lays out a pictogram with two fingers pointing skyward... Most remarkable, though, is a revised review of 'Crop Circles: A Mystery Solved' - the book that Paul Fuller and I first published in 1990 to multiple howls of derision, not least from this mag. Now it is termed 'a book of considerable substance' and 'one of the most relevant to be published on the subject'. How times change when you are being had on...

The March 1994 'Circular' (editor Barbara Davies) (£10 for 4, same address as the Cereologist) is the neatest looking, with glossy photos and smart layout. Mostly readers reports on circles what, where, when and how, and data on techniques; although there is some laboratory analysis work from the USA and it too diversifies a bit into Kirlian photography experiments.

Unchanging is 'The Crop Watcher' (£6, for 4, Paul Fuller: 3 Selborne Ct Tavistock Close Romsey Hants SO51 7TY). A neater layout, well typeset but illustration-free, it remains the home of rationality and neo-scepticism about the circles. In the Spring 1994 'Crop Watcher' is a fact packed data base and statistical analysis of historical Canadian circles provided by Chris Rutkowski, an assortment of letters and notes (eg a 1951 case), but in the main an in-depth (perhaps too in-depth) assessment of John McNish's new book and his recent lecture to BUFORA in which he did a complete about face from his videos and TV shows. No longer promoting circles he now seems to be out to prove that all of them are hoaxes. Paul was delighted to tell me that he sold this issue to none other than Jeremy Beadle. One dreads to think of the implications of that, especially as Beadle was also one of the first purchasers of 'The New UFOlogist' hours after it arrived from the printers!

FOR YOUR PERUSAL

Major articles elsewhere



One new magazine, if you can call it that. Unsolved UFO Sightings is the fourth title from Tim Beckley (UFO Universe being amongst his others). I am listed here as 'UK Editor', along with various other editors (John Keel, Antonio Huneus and Bleu Ocean (?) included). Given that the first I knew about the magazines existence, let alone my alleged editorship, was when a copy of issue 3 arrived through my letterbox, you need to bear that in mind somewhat. I have seen reference somewhere (in Annals, I think) questioning my association with the Beckley mags. I don't have one, as they would have found out had Annals asked me. Put simply, UK publishers have sold books to this company who own US rights in some of my material, and they have published (and republished) it. The Bentwaters article from me in here has already appeared at least once. I recognise much of the rest of the pieces in Unsolved UFO Sightings from earlier UFO Universes too - including a wonderfully quaint (ie out of date) circles article from Judith Willms. This is all American lightweight stuff (alien bases, UFOs piloted by the souls of the newly dead, the day I met a venusian, etc). But if you are interested single issue price is \$4.95 from GCR 1700 Broadway New York NY 10019

Awareness (No price given... 11 Ouseley Close New Marston Oxford OX3 0JS)
Interesting reflections on UFOlogy's earliest days by J Bernard Delair.

UFO Reporter (£7 for 6, N. Mortimer 5 Stocks Hill Menston W. Yorks LS29 6ND)
May: Issue 2 of this new mag has lots of data on Yorkshire sightings and Nigel Mortimer's latest thoughts on the Ilkley entity photograph.

IUFOPRA Jun (IR £2.50 for one: PO Box 3070 Whitehall Dublin 9 Ireland)
The Kilakee curse... Was mankind seeded by aliens?... Area 51 & Stealth... etc

Strange Days Apr (No price given... 9 Broderick Close Newcastle NE3 3SG)
A new small circulation publication from the Northern UFO Research and Investigation team with cases from the North East and general articles.

Newsletter (No price given: Steve Gerrard 25 Weston Grove Rd Southampton)
A monthly digest of who said what in the press and on TV which is in the form of a small duplicated newsheet. Always worthy of a look.

BAE (\$25 US for 6: D. Gotlib 2 St Clair Ave West, Suite 607, Toronto M4V 1L5)
Jun: Keeping up its winning formula with reports on the latest in multiple personality disorder, mass hallucinations, indeed everything new in relevant areas of psychology. No abduction researcher should miss reading this.

IUR Mar (\$30 US for 6: CUFOS 2457 W Peterson Ave Chicago IL 60659 USA)
A look at Roswell: The Movie - on TV in the USA in August and due for a cinema release here this autumn! Also important detailed reviews of John Macks new book and of the early phase of the Hill abduction memories.

MUFON Journal ((\$30 US for 12: 103 Oldtowne Rd Seguin TX 78155-4099 USA)
Apr: Can spy satellites pick up UFOs from earth orbit? May: Pictograms in New York State! An abductee questions the direction of US abduction research and interesting negative evidence on the now infamous Canada video

Just Cause Mar (\$20 US for 4: CAUS Box 176 Stoneham MA 02180 USA)
Great stuff - perhaps relevant to that Mowing Devil reference earlier - documents uncovered about an official investigation into New England 'blue light' UFOs in 1812/1813 - a sort of 1812 overture for the UFO subject.

Aura Z 3 (50 Swiss F for 4: AESV Case Postale 25 CH-1800 Vevey 1 Suisse)
Technical data on the new Ekip (the Russian UFO craft), UMMO in Russia, UFO propulsion systems and a look at UFO visits millenia ago... all in English.

UFO Afrinews 9 (No price given: PO Box MP49 Mount Pleasant Harare Zimbabwe)
Cynthia Hind again produces a terrific review, filled with case reports and investigations from around Africa. Her work is amongst the best in the world and but for her we would know so little of such a rich continent.

Annals Jun (£6 for 4: G. Lovell 8 St John St Wells Somerset BA5 1SW)
A nice round up of stories, many with UFO relevance this issue. After its garish designs of the early days Annals has settled into a neat and always fascinating digest. A 'scoop' is another closet witness coming forth and telling the truth about what caused the Bentwaters case. It was a top secret helicopter that crashed in the woods. Maybe so. Thats solution 99, now, I think

Folklore Frontiers (£6 for 4: P Screeton 25 Egton Dr Seaton Carew TS25 2AT)
Similar in some respects to Annals but focusing on urban folk tales, FF has a fine journalistic tradition thanks to its editor Paul Screeton. Its like Fortean Times for those so busy they can only skim. Rampantly sexist however

Skeptic Jan (£12 for 6: Dept B PO Box 475 Manchester M60 2TH)
About the only mag currently further behind than NUN - appropriate, as they attempt yet another rewriting of crop circle history. This is a field the skeptics ran a mile from until years of hard slog by serious rationalists had passed by. When the fighting stopped they rode in, saying 'told you so'. Bet that never gets a mention in their new series recounting 'the truth'.

GEM 18 (£5.75 for 3: GEM PO Box 258 Cheltenham Glos GL53 0HR)
For UFOlogists this is probably the most friendly of the earth mystery mags and its excellent in content and design too. There is always UFO and circle material in here, unsurprising given its editorial team (Jo-Anne Wilder ad Danny Sullivan). This issue also features a report on latest UK 'big cat' sightings as well as the more standard fare on leys and stone circle sites.

FATE (£2.75 via Excalibur Books - see note on page 6)

May: Last in old A5 format includes a look at Soviet UFOlogy... Jun: First to new large size updates happenings on the Roswell investigation.

AFU 37 (120 SEK PO Box 11027 S-600 11 Norrköping Sweden)

The best source of Scandinavian data; although infrequent. It appears in English. Has a major report on aircraft and 'missile' encounters (see my data on this subject in the new chapter in the Berkley edition of 'From out of the blue'). AFU have come upon several more in this worrying trend.

UFO Nyt (207 DKr for 4: SUFOI Postbox 6 DK-2820 Gentofte Denmark)

Not in English but with English pull out booklet summarising the main items within - a much appreciated feature of a few Euro mags these days. Well designed with more case histories than AFU (which is mainly research).

Phenomena (150 FF for 6: SOS OVNI Box 324 13611 Aix-en-Provence France)

France's top glossy UFO review; also with the four page English summary to help your French along. Highly recommended. Now on sale in French newsstands.

Philip Klass rightly took exception to my summary of the March Skeptics UFO Newsletter (SUN) in the last issue of NUN. I implied that he was not happy about the newly launched official search for government records about the Roswell case. In fact, he is in favour and presumably feels that a search may help disaffirm the story if it fails to come up with the smoking gun that UFOlogists imagine to be out there. I am glad to set the record straight - my misreading was at fault - and recommend the SUN as a source of objective criticism on the UFO field... I just hope that he starts sending it again.

ASSAP UPDATE

As one of the original founding committee of ASSAP I am delighted to see that it is still going from strength to strength in its quest to relate various paranormal phenomena together and conduct field studies of spontaneous cases. It was the disaffection with this aspect of the work of the SPR (who had become rather academic and lab orientated) that led to members like Hilary Evans coming up with the ASSAP concept in 1981. I was sorry to have to leave when my D of I job at BUFORA took my full attention.

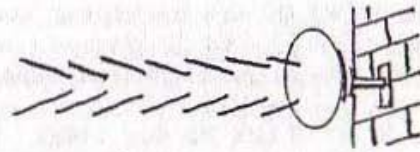
ASSAP publish a newsletter and an excellent detailed journal called Anomaly - featuring in depth reports on case follow ups. It is also a registered charity because of the groups educational work.

It was nice to see the Blackpool ASSAP branch put together a fine one day conference in May, even if the room would not black out to let anyone show slides! A diverse range of speakers took part and ASSAP were obviously happy with the efforts of Melanie Warren and her colleagues, as they have decided to hold their Annual General Meeting and lecture programme in the same town on 29 October. What with the LAPIS two day conference in August (see page 20) that will be three weekend events here by the seaside in 1994 - Blackpool clearly making its pitch as the conference capital to replace the sadly missed annual jamborees in Sheffield.

You can find more on the AGM/lectures in October from Melanie Warren at 14 Gresham Rd Thornton-Cleveleys Blackpool FY5 3EE. As for ASSAP and Anomaly (£2 each for non members) you can get details via 20 Paul St Frome Somerset BA11 1DX. ASSAP, by the way, is the Association for the scientific study of anomalous phenomena - now you know why we call it ASSAP!

MEDIA MATTERS

A look at UFOs in the public eye



Aside from all those documentaries and our new home grown reality TV series, *Strange but true?*, media interest is really booming. Sky One shows both the US leaders - NBC's *Unsolved Mysteries* (a sort of cross between *Crimewatch* and *Close Encounters*) and *Sightings*, based on a Linda Moulton Howe concept and recently axed but now taken over by Paramount Pictures who are working on a new 26 part series - as many UK researchers know by now! Two other shows are *Encounters*, a new one from the US Fox network (bound to make it on Sky sooner or later) and an Australian/US co production which I think is called *The Extraordinary*. I had a day with Jim Davidson's ex - Alison Holloway (just before she emigrated to the US to take over fronting a new show there) - filming for this forthcoming series, which again I wouldn't bet against Sky discovering some time. All this plus the Discovery Channel's 26 part production of a third series of 'Arthur C Clarke' mysteries. A bit of overkill, wouldn't you say?

My favourite though has to be the US drama series called *X-Files* - every paranormal researchers dream - two investigators (one sceptical and one a bit like an enthusiastic Quest member) who have a limitless budget to chase aliens, ghosts, what have you, around the US in the attempt to clear up the FBI's unsolved cases (X, presumably meaning, paranormal, as that's what they all turn out to be). Sounds naff, but it works - even if one wonders at times about the 'factual' data introduced. I loved it when the FBI guy called CUFOS in Chicago for an instant list of sightings to help in his chase for a truck ferrying a crashed spaceship and dead alien pilot across the US highway network - by the time he got anything out of any British UFO group equivalent the spaceship would have been back on Alpha Centauri.

X-Files has just concluded its first series, but was a success in the US and here (where it vied with another great quirky US import - *Picket Fences* - for top series ratings). A second series airs in the USA in the autumn (and here on Sky early next year). If you are thinking of getting satellite then Sky promise to reshoot the first 26 *X-Files* episodes before they show series 2, so its worth it just for that (not to mention the constant screenings of 'Unsolved Mysteries' and 'Sightings') and the fairly common documentaries on Discovery (eg a recent hilarious load of tosh on crop circles from Australia - which was funnier than Monty Python).

Unsurprisingly, the press have been busy with UFO stories lately as well. Sightings covered include 'a flashing strip of lights like a fairground ride' drifting over Richmond, Sheffield on the evening of 16 March (my guess an airship). On 18 May a man in a houseboat on the River Ouse at Skeldergate, York, saw 'black blob like a helicopter' fly silently over at 20.40. Through binoculars it resembled a hot air balloon, a similar description being offered by another witness who saw it half an hour earlier. Perhaps that is exactly what it was?

The media also went oddly crazy about a meteor shower early on 29 May. Serious papers like the Times, the Telegraph and Mail all carried stories the day after. Thames coastguard received over 500 calls because of the many green, orange and silver lights lasting 30 minutes or more. Aircraft and ships saw them too, as far away as Holland and Belgium. It was diagnosed as a rock the size of a dustbin exploding into fragments way above the earth. Astronomers are keen to see any holiday video film of this.

One video that was captured appeared in the Bucks Herald (21 April). A couple took it over Aylesbury (a UFO rich area) at 20.40 on 10 April. It was a stationary 'bulge of light' that hovered then shot away. The media went on about a 'firework exploding and contracting' on screen, but it is obvious once you have investigated any of these camcorder cases that that is just a result of the automatic focus struggling to get hold of the light source and has nothing to do with the shape or motion of the object itself. London UFO Group are quoted as terming it the best UFO evidence in half a century - presumably journalistic licence. Its only a light, so hardly that. Various possible options spring to mind; although I would not presume to prejudge the investigation and Nick Pope at the MoD is reported to be testing the video with top secret hi-tec equipment... We will see what happens.

The biggest debate was over Stuart Campbell's new book 'The UFO Mystery Solved' - of which the title says it all. His solution is that UFOs are optical mirages of stars and planets - even if they are reported as alien contacts (like the Alan Godfrey abduction), daylight landings with physical traces (like Socorro) or multiple daylight photographs (like Trindade Island). It was hardly surprising to see the rational media jump on Stuart as a folk hero and UFOlogists, especially in Scotland, fight back.

The Guardian (9 May) did him proud with a big feature story - although it was fairly well balanced and Campbell made his point by stressing that he was not really aiming his book at UFOlogists ('most of them don't believe in me') but at science (which has 'ignored the UFO phenomenon for 10 years' ???) The Glasgow Herald (14 May) also had a big story - in which, amazingly I fear, he now seems to be implying he has the only solution to UFOs ('I am claiming that I have found a universal explanation, barring the 10% of sightings which are hoaxes. If you can explain 90% of the reports and the others are hoaxes, then you have nothing left.')

'Preposterous' was Ron Halliday's reaction (in the Edinburgh Evening News 11 May) and Bob Taylor (the Livingston witness whom Campbell says saw a mirage of venus and then had an epileptic fit) says he has never had such a seizure in 75 years of life and notes undiplomatically; 'I told him he was talking a load of rubbish. This claim is absolute nonsense'.

Steuart, having already published 'The Loch Ness Monster Solved' a few years ago is working on a third book due soon tackling another of the worlds great myths. Apparently this will reassess the story of the life and crucifixion of Jesus... Place your bets on how he explains that one!



BOOKS OF THE MOMENT



Abduction by Dr John Mack 430pp No photos Simon & Schuster £16.99

This is a long awaited but ultimately very disappointing book by one of America's best respected and undeniably gifted psychiatrists. Mack - of the Harvard Medical School - is a Pulitzer prize winning author for his bio-analysis of T.E. Lawrence (of Arabia) and he was paid a huge advance (I believe a quarter of a million dollars) to write this in-depth assessment of one of todays most taxing mysteries of the human mind.

So influential is he that the BBC-2 Horizon programme is only occurring because of this book. After ignoring the issue for years, now that a 'great man' has written on the theme it becomes scientifically legitimate for a stuffy BBC science show to tackle this theme, even if they are adopting a predictably sceptical line to it from what I have seen so far.

There are two massive let-downs in this book. The first is evidenced by the title. Clearly, Mack was totally unaware of my book of the precise same name only 5 years ago. Far more importantly, Mack seems unaware of much of UFOlogy. His relative naivety about the field pours out from these pages. Whilst, to a point, that is good - giving him the ability to 'look fresh' at the subject - it works against, because he has no familiarity with some of the data painfully accrued over thirty years of research into this topic.

His appreciation of abductions beyond the USA is, to my eyes, pretty feeble also. He sees no cultural differences or anything much that is not part of the stereotypical pattern found mostly in the USA. This, of course, means that he misses out on the human dimension to the phenomenon - arguably the most important aspect, but certainly not an irrelevant one.

The second let down really follows on from his limited familiarity with the field outside his own set of 13 cases. The book is long and dense but contributes very little new to the debate - crossing familiar ground, stating and restating in immense (and by the end very tedious) detail what X or Y said in countless hypnosis sessions.

This is leavened by some unusual perspectives from the author about human life. He seemingly argues, for instance, that the aliens are close to God but target Western materialism (which he appears to find distasteful). Unlike Budd Hopkins' hurtful alien scientists having their way with poor, unsuspecting earthlings, the aliens here come over more like ecologically sophisticated space gods, teaching the nasty, planet destroying USA and western Europe a thing or two about the real meaning of life.

Mack was a key figure behind the MIT symposium in June 1992. The proceedings from that epic event still have not been published, but when they do come they will, sadly, be far superior to this yawn-inducing text (but, of course, will be infinitely less well read and influential worldwide).

At the close of the five-day MIT symposium Dr Mack got a standing ovation from the abductees, who seemed to regard him as their new found figurehead - possibly because he has the sort of new age quirkiness to some of his views that you find within many American spacenap victims. Right then I knew that UFOlogy was heading for a vital crossroads, as what Mack says and does will effect the abduction phenomenon incalculably from now on.

What a terrible, possibly irreparable, pity, therefore, that he has rushed into print within a couple of years of discovering the phenomenon. I think - or at least, I hope - that three or four years down the track (assuming he had looked beyond the lives of his handful of personal cases more than he seems to have done so far) that this obviously intelligent, brave, decent and charismatic man would have written a very different book about abductions. It would have also likely been far more valuable, providing the insights and nuances that he must surely be in a position to bring once he sees more clearly the true breadth of the problems that we are up against.

Unhappily, this did not happen and so we have to contend with a flawed book instead. UFOlogy must face the consequences of that misfortune.

Allergies and aliens by Albert Budden 72pp illustrated by M. Buhler 1994
Copies are £5, post inc: Discovery Press, 270 Sandycombe Rd, Kew, Surrey TW9 3NP

This is a taster for Albert's full length book ('UFOs: The electromagnetic indictment') to be published by Blandford Press in March 1995. Since they postponed its release by a year (I have no idea why) Albert felt a burning desire to get something in print now and self published this softback to A5 format, well typeset with some nice line drawings.

It introduces his thesis that UFO encounters (the visitation experience as he terms it) may be the product of an environmental health problem. He collates evidence for multiple allergy syndrome and other new age health issues, looks at unusual sensitivity to electrical fields and publishes unusual data suggesting that hallucinations as well as physical symptoms can be triggered if someone finds themselves bathed in the ocean of invisible radiation swarming around our modern western civilisation.

All these things are done well, thus cementing a bond with the research of Devereux, Persinger, Meaden, et al. It is also personally gratifying to see someone else finally taking note of the importance of the Oz Factor state - and sense the clues that this affords to what may be going on.

I am convinced that the author is exploring the right areas here. In the last two years I have been drawn into them (and its usually a good sign when several people pick up on a coming trend). I have only dabbled with such things as yet - the sections of 'Spontaneous Human Combustion' where Peter Hough and I relate invisible energy fields to that phenomenon, glancing sideways at UFOs in the process - the cases of unusual atmospheric energies and Japanese circle research that Paul Fuller and I compiled in our updated edition of 'Crop Circles: A mystery solved' - the section on the mystery hum (notably at Stroud in Gloucestershire) and its recent investigation by environmental health specialists that I included in 'The Paranormal Year: 1993 edition).

These things were mere pointers. Now Albert Budden has unified a set of other ideas (without even touching the three mentioned above). We have since talked to one another on the phone, having both noticed the pattern from recent clusterings of that much debated killer skin disease. They appear to correlate with window area hotspots. So further new clues must be out there.

I gather that the author has had some excellent feedback (he showed me a letter that Dr Ken Ring sent which suggests that this work is important). I agree and look forward to Albert's full length book next year. Meantime for original UFO thinking this is well worth £5 of anybody's money.

Seekers of the linear vision by Paul Screeton 128 pp illus 1993
Copies are £5.95 post inc:- Specialist knowledge 20 Paul St Frome BA11 1DX

From the stable of Stonehenge Viewpoint in California, this is a well illustrated and supremely well referenced book.

In effect it is a series of articles from 1981-1984 published in that US journal, written by the British ley hunter and editor of Folklore Frontiers. Together these build into a comprehensive account of the investigation of these landscape features. These include some references to UFOs and their association with leys and stone circles.

Aside from the authors papers, Stonehenge editor Donald Cyr adds some related articles of his own to provide a fascinating pot pourri.

The Anomalist 1 (ed Dennis Stacy/Patrick Huyghe) 126pp a few illus 1994

First of a new venture aimed at providing a twice yearly book length digest. It has sober contributions on a range of scientific anomalies. These cover research into whether dinosaurs defied gravity in standing up and an analysis of cases involving alien writing... a freak tidal wave in Florida, SHC and fire suicide clusters, etc. Authors include Loren Coleman and Ingo Swann. A very promising start - copies \$15 (air mail) (international money order or dollar bills) to Dennis Stacy Box 12434 San Antonio TX 78212 USA

BRIEF CASES

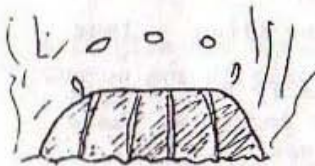
Some current investigations



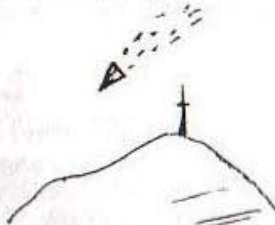
More Welsh wonders from Margaret Fry (2)

The hovering jelly: Case 9234 involves Mrs E - a farmers wife - at a remote location at the foot of a hill near Ruthin, Clwyd. It was November 1992 and a sunny morning, when she was out in her back yard and spotted something through the leafless trees in a copse. It was dull grey and shaped like a jelly mould - either on the ground or hovering just above it. There were vertical silver struts down the side, bent to reveal a curved surface. The struts also appeared to be raised slightly from the object itself. On top a circle of silvery balls were rotating around the flattened upper surface of the device. Mrs E rushed inside to get her camera and posed for a shot, but as she was about to take it the object shot upwards and vanished in seconds. How often do we hear that account from a witness? Margaret notes that Mrs E has a fascination with earth energy and insisted they move from a previous farm on the Denbigh Moors because she believed that a negative ley was passing through it.

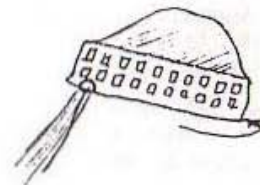
A family history: Case 9235 comes from two boys (aged 15/16) who were cycling on the A 543 at dusk (18.30) on 21 December 1992, passing the TV transmitter on Bodfari Hill in Clwyd. A blue/green triangle shape was seen slowly falling downwards and ejecting bluish/white sparks from the side. This all covered a huge area of sky (equivalent to two houses). About 30 minutes later in Bodfari village they saw a white 'triangular star' high in the sky which ejected two smaller objects. A similar thing was seen by them a week later when cycling into Denbigh and near Bryn Bella. They were very reluctant to talk about the matter, just wishing to forget it ever happened. But Margaret uncovered quite a family history of sightings to match these repeater events. One of the boys fathers, for instance, claims to have seen a dark object hovering by the roadside in 1972 (when he was 15). He went right up to it - but here the story peters out. Perhaps it hides something further? Around the same time as the 1992 triangles the father's brother-in-law also had a close encounter near Wrexham, when in the car with his young son. A black object swooped low over the front of them, hovered above the hedging ahead and then shot away across the open fields. The boy was terrified and screaming. This is not the first time families have been singled out and, if Budd Hopkins is to be believed, of course, it may mask deeper levels of activity.



9234 Ruthin



9235 Bodfari



9322 Trefnant

The tin hat UFO: Case 9322 concerns Mr J, a nurse, who was on the A 525 driving three-quarters of a mile south of Trefnant at 21.30 on 17 January 1993. Suddenly he became aware of lights in a rural hilly area where he knew - from regular journeys past this spot - that nothing should be there. He then saw a man by the road staring up at the thing but could not stop as a car was close behind. However, Mr J let the car pass then returned back to the scene and found an object shaped like a soldiers tin hat was hovering over some scrub near a farmhouse. He took the narrow dirt track off the main road leading to the farm (and the UFO!) but was blocked by cars. Bands of light were travelling up the body of the craft which was itself dimly illuminated. There were also two rows of square windows on the base. A brilliant searchlight beam was being projected downward and was sweeping the ground in a circle, but there was no sound at all despite the proximity of the object. Mr J was now out of his car watching from the lane but he was late for a concert that he was participating in and had to drive off, leaving the object and the other two parked and watching cars behind.

Margaret believes that there are so many sightings in this area because of fault lines in the local hills. However, she argues differently from Paul Devereux that this is not because these create the energy that triggers natural UFOs, but because the intelligence behind the UFOs uses the fault energies to manifest from their dimension into ours.

Case 5720 March 1957 Ramsbottom, Lancashire

NARO

Mr C was aged 8 at the time and he was standing in the back door of his house at 18.00 when he saw a group of star-like lights high in the sky. They moved in a perfect V formation from north to south and were in view for an hour, he claims, before he got fed up and went inside leaving them still there. They were several times the diameter of the full moon in the angle they subtended and were near Orion in the star-filled sky. Mr C went on to become interested in astronomy and UFOs and says they were just like the Lubbock lights case. He rejects the theory about them being migrating birds, because of the time of year and their extreme slowness of motion.

The MoD and a UFO both in trouble over Fylde

Case 9236 21 November 1992 Hambleton, Lancashire

Joe Dormer / FUF0IG

This is a simple, but fascinating, case, given the FUF0IG follow up to test out the prowess of MoD reporting system! The witness called Manchester Air Traffic Control - from whom it reached the MoD - who then put the witness in touch with Jenny Randles. The FUF0IG investigation followed.

Mrs D was in her garden at 02.45 with her dog when she saw a light in the northern sky heading south (ie towards her from the far end of the garden). As it came closer it resolved into 3 lights - the upper and lower ones being dimmer than the main one. The lower one was 'bobbing from side to side'. There was no sound at all. When the lights were nearly overhead Mrs D said she went back inside and later regretted not going around to the front of the house to watch the further passage of the lights.

The witness was strongly committed to the ETH (taking seriously the 'Alternative Three' spoof TV show, for instance) and claiming that the 'bobbing' UFO was an alien craft 'in some sort of difficulty'. This added a note of obvious caution to the enquiries.

However, by fortune FUF0IG had another sighting from a very credible witness. This had occurred at 02.50 on 28 November - ie precisely a week later. The story, from Marton, Blackpool, of three lights 'navigating a winding, pleating type formation' from north to south is evidently identical and must refer to the same basic phenomenon. It suggests a normal scheduled aircraft flight (FUF0IG propose a military exercise but MUF0RA experience with Air Cargo 101 over Rossendale - see The Pennine UFO Mystery - might infer a civil one as candidate instead). Either way it evidently passed this area at the same time on that particular day of the week. It seems unlikely that either witness had mistaken the date, so these are two separate cases.

When Mrs D called Manchester ATC later during 21 November they told her she must have seen lasers from Blackpool tower reflecting off cloud! This seems ridiculous in the middle of a winters night, especially when the tower is south of Hambleton (a village on the Wyre estuary), and not north.

FUF0IG then wrote to Manchester ATC, who could only confirm that their radar would have picked up any object over Hambleton, but no longer had records to say if they actually had. However, they had forwarded the case to Air Staff 2A. So - the MoD were given the second sighting and asked for any supportive cases to back this up. They returned to FUF0IG what was clearly Mrs D's report that the Manchester ATC had submitted. This was a masterpiece of incompetence. It has the witness situated in Blackpool facing south east and the UFO 7 miles west of Blackpool Tower (which is in the middle of the Irish Sea!) Joe Dormer argued this out with Nick Pope at the MoD, but he stuck by his Blackpool laser light solution as being most likely, even when all the errors made by the ATC in the report were pointed out to him.

Obviously, this is a trivial sighting - almost certainly with a conventional explanation. But the laser lights idea makes no sense even if the ATC report to the MoD had been accurate. Given how inaccurate its details are, the theory is little short of absurd. This is the quality of material with which even an interested and objective bureaucrat like Nick Pope gets to work. Most others at the MoD would know (and care) a lot less.

It seems likely the Manchester ATC operator, disinterested in UFOs, located the sighting near Blackpool, jumped to the easiest conclusion possible without thinking it through and came up with the laser theory so as to write off the story. This was transmitted to the MoD from whence the idea became a reality. But for Joe Dormer's intervention and the existence of the second sighting, then this case would have been (indeed still may be) registered in Whitehall quite falsely as - solved: -Blackpool laser lights'.

How many other MoD cases involve similarly shoddy data and theorising?

UFO video taken over Manchester

Case 9324 15 November 1993 Baguley, Manchester Michael Ross / NARO

At 15.45 on this sunny day Ms S was recording some CDs by her panoramic window when she saw a light in the sky. Realising at once that it was odd she thought of using her nearby still camera, then recalled that it had no film inside. However, she remembered the Sony camcorder was also downstairs, having been used the day before. It took her several minutes to wind this on and find some free tape - by which point the object had been in view at least 4 minutes. She now filmed it through the big window but the camera had problems focusing on auto-setting, as is common when sky is filmed through window glass. Convinced that sceptics would write the case off as an object on the window pane, Ms S decided to take the camera outside and film further in the open. She also switched off the auto-focus.

The object had gone behind some cloud, but reappeared as she filmed - switching her position for a better view. She then went onto her patio at the rear to continue as the object moved past the chimney. All told some eight minutes of video were secured; although the object was still visible for a few minutes (now very faint) after she ceased. Ms S used the zoom setting quite extensively whilst outside and this also provided problems for the camera focus as the object was tiny compared with the sky around.

All that was filmed is a silvery/white dot. When a star or triangular shape appears on screen this is due to the camera moving in and out of focus. At times the object seemed to disappear, then reappear. It is hard to know if this was just because of its near invisibility due to extreme height against a bright sky. It moved very slowly indeed (and probably would have been in view for an hour or more all told if the entire sky were clear and its full passage witnessed). It moved in effect north westwards.

Investigation established that the object did move with the prevailing wind. Tests with a silvered novelty balloon showed that they produced a near identical effect - the disappearance and reappearance being caused by the fact that one side is silvered and the other not and these reflect the sunlight differently as the balloon rotates during its motion. Whether such a toy balloon could be seen at a great enough height to enter clouds (at about 2500 feet) is hard to say, but the object could have been a high altitude weather balloon instead - thus bigger, but at, perhaps, 50,000 feet.

Certainly, this excellent investigation leaves little doubt that this piece of video film does indeed show a balloon - not a UFO.

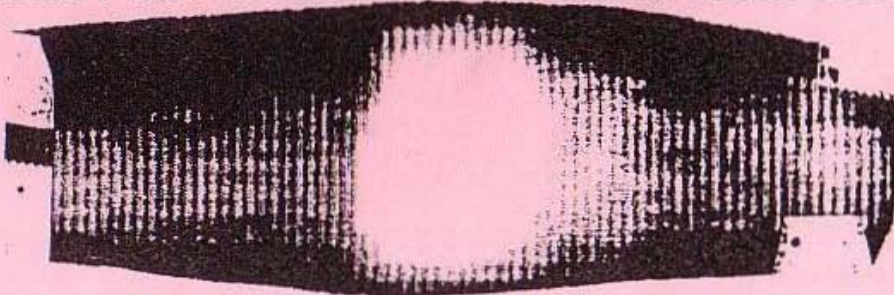
CASE HISTORIES

The lights of Louth Pt 3 Peter Gregory, Mike Morley, Mike Beadle, Rosie Oakes

At 05.30 one spring morning in 1993 an object was seen by the microwave tower at Sutton on Sea. A ball of light rose from the mast into the sky, exploded into a flash of brilliance that lit the countryside then vanished at huge speed across the sky. Many odd sightings were to follow.

On 16 April at 02.30 a small glowing ball of light was seen about 2 miles further north along the coast at Mablethorpe. Then, on the wolds near South Elkington, just north of Louth, a young couple in a car saw a large orange ball that changed into a cigar shape. They pursued it for some miles but it vanished.

However, the most impressive case of all during summer 1993 was Peter Gregory's dramatic encounter on 21 June, also at Mablethorpe - the morning he snatched a short section of video that vanished without trace.



The video film disappeared but a still frame was captured before then. On the colour original the Mablethorpe object is a rich blend of reddish/orange and yellow/white.

Peter was awoken by a bright light filtering through the open window and reflecting onto the bedroom wall. He moved aside the net curtains and was amazed to see a beautiful red mass with a shimmering yellow centre. It hovered there, changing in the middle from gold to yellow and back again. He likened the shape to a 'giant stingray floating delicately in the ocean' and even felt it was a living creature 'not from this world'. Despite the lack of any sound, given its proximity and open window, he did feel 'a very powerful vibration pulsing through my head and body all the time'.

After overcoming the first shock he recalled his camcorder on the cabinet by his bed and pointed this, still shaking, at the thing. He took four seconds of film before the object shot away at great speed, leaving a white trail of light and then nothing but dark, empty sky. He claims that this left him feeling 'alone and emotionally drained' and with time stretching out 'and my own consciousness with it'. He adds; 'I spent the rest of the night awake trying to put what I had seen into some perspective but it was useless... within the space of a few moments it had drastically altered my beliefs on existence forever.'

Certainly the still image above suggests that the video must have been amazing, particularly if it showed the vanishing of the object - a pity, then, that it was taken from him in so mysteriously. Also from the still, more than a little resemblance to the Hessdalen UFOs is evident.

FINAL WORDS

Upcoming is the big conference, this year being hosted by FUF0IG/LAPIS in Blackpool. It runs over two days on Sat 27 & Sun 28 August 1994 at the Station Hotel. Should be a fun weekend by the sea. Lecturers include Albert Budden, Dr Serena Roney-Dougal, (Sat) and Lucy Pringle, Arthur Tomlinson and myself - plus others (including a guest who 'because of the sensitivity of his material has asked for his identity to be concealed until the day') (Sun) Ticket holders get free admission to the cosmic folk band 'Storyteller'. Admission is £5 for each day, £9 for both days. Cheques to LAPIS c/o 15 Knaresboro Ave, Marton, Blackpool FY3 9QW or call 0253-356821.

Local groups throughout the northern region

SPI	(Scotland)	41 The Braes, Tullibody, Clackmannanshire	FK10 2TT
SRUFO	(Scotland)	129 Langton Vw, East Calder, West Lothian	EH53 0RE
SEMR	(Scotland)	35 Fountain Rd, Bridge of Allan, Stirling	FK 9 4AU
NUFORI	(North East)	14 Longhirst Dr, Wideopen, Newcastle, Tyne	NE13 6JW
NLUFOIG	(Cumbria)	89 Bare Lane, Morecambe, Lancashire	LA 4 6RN
LAPIS	(Lancashire)	293 Devonshire Rd, Blackpool, Lancashire	FY 2 0TW
NARO*	(North West)	6 Silsden Ave, Lowton, Lancashire	VA 3 1EN
CONNECT	(West Yorks)	5 Stocks Hill, Menston, Ilkley, W. Yorks	LS29 6ND
PRA	(Derbyshire)	12 Tilton Grove, Kirk Hallam, Ilkeston	DE 7 4GR
GREEN DRAGON	(Staffs)	24 Nab Hill Drive, Leek, Staffordshire	ST13 8EE
PARA-SEARCH	(W. Midlands)	79 Sandringham Rd, Stourbridge, W. Mid	OY 8 5HL
LUFOIC	(E. Midlands)	PO Box 308 Leicester	LE 3 9AH
NUFORC	(Northants)	46 Occupation Rd, Corby, Northants	NN17 2EF
HURG	(Hereford)	6 Whitehouse Dr, Kingstone, Herefordshire	HR 2 9ER

* NUFON archive files held in central Manchester are accessible c/o NARO T:0942-604265

You can visit the files by tram getting off at the St Peter's Square Station in the Manchester City centre. Bona fide researchers are welcome but calls in advance to the above number are essential.